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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **I**  Hi everyone -   I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather and looking forward to a great Thanksgiving holiday. I want to share some important updates:  1) Fairfax County passed a new noise ordinance last week. See:  <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/new-noise-ordinance-passed/>    The ordinance includes language specifically addressing dog parks and will prohibit:    Using **dog parks Monday through Friday before 7 a.m. or after dusk or before 8 a.m. or after dusk on Saturday, Sunday or the day before a federal holiday**.    The new restrictions become the law on February 17, 2016, but we want you to know about them now so you're not caught by surprise in February.    New signage will be posted at the park  to alert users to the restrictions and we will send out reminders to make sure everyone is aware of the changes. We do not know what enforcement procedures will be used at Westgrove and other dog parks but plan to speak to animal control and the police department to find out. We will let you know what we hear from them.    Note that new noise ordinance also contains language pertaining to animals in the home and prohibits:    **Barking, howling, meowing, squawking or quacking animals between** **10 p.m. and 7 a.m.** when it can be heard inside a home with its doors and windows closed, or if these sounds can be heard **7 a.m. and 10 p.m. for more than five minutes consecutively or non-consecutively during a 10-minute period**.  We have no idea how this second restriction on animal noise will be enforced and understand that County officials will evaluate the effectiveness of this and other changes to the noise ordinance during the 18-month period that follows the new law's effective date.    2) South end closing:  We will be closing the south end of the park on November 30, the Monday after the Thanksgiving weekend. This closure is necessary to protect the turf surface from wear and tear over the winter months. The north end will be available throughout the winter. We are sorry to have to restrict access during winter months but have found this is the best way to protect our investment in turf and ensure the grass comes back in good condition come spring.    3) If you shop Amazon during the holidays - or any time, please consider using their Smile program. Smile Amazon is a program that gives back to your charity a percentage of your total sale.  It's easy to set up; go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com/) and designate Westgrove PACK as your charity.  They will walk you through the process, it's very simple.  It costs you nothing and your dog and Westgrove PACK will thank you.  Click here to take you to Smile Amazon  [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-3875990](http://westgrovepack.us9.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=42fc9da5d75c565382470a619&id=e8a2f644a0&e=1a55cfa5d7)[.](http://westgrovepack.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=42fc9da5d75c565382470a619&id=32e54ac1bb&e=1a55cfa5d7)    That's all for now. See you at the park!  Kathy Seikel  Westgrove PACK | | |