

- Melody Ranch HOA -

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2012

A continuing challenge that our HOA faces is how to handle dogs that live in the homes of residents. We have a large number of homeowners who have dogs and a large number who do not have dogs. It's important that a common respect be given to everyone so that we can live in harmony. Currently, our Melody community is dealing with dogs that run free off leash during the day against our HOA regulations and an excessive amount of dog poop left by dog owners who choose not to clean up after their dogs on the Melody pathways and open spaces and alongside our streets. For all of us to live in harmony with dogs, we need to abide by the following.

Non-Dog Owners need to understand that they live in a neighborhood that allows people to have dogs. They should expect to hear the occasional barking, see people walking their dogs down the street and on pathways, and see people playing with their dogs in their yards and in the open space. If they see dogs roaming off leash or being a nuisance, they should contact GTPM for a course of action. In some situations, the HOA can take action and in some cases the complaining property owner will need to call the County dog catcher. Non-dog owners should not have to pick up after dog owners - especially in their own yards or on the roadways in front of their homes.

Dog owners need to understand that they live in a neighborhood that has rules for ownership and that not everyone enjoys dogs as much as they do. In Melody, dogs are required to be kept restrained. This means that if you let your dog out, it must be restrained in your yard with fences or other means. Dogs should never be let out without being restrained. When walking down the street, dogs should be on a leash or under strict verbal command and should not be permitted to run through other residents' yards. If your dog does not come back to you when first called, it is not under strict verbal command.

A significant problem that Melody continues to face relates to poop left behind by irresponsible dog owners when walking their dogs on the pathways and our roads. The HOA has spent money to install signs and mutt mitt stations with poop bags along the pathways. Dog owners are required to pick up after their dogs every time their dogs poop whether the dogs poop on the pathway, beside the pathway, in the open space, or on the roads and must throw the poop bags in the garbage containers located at the mutt stations. We ask that dog owners fulfill this important responsibility and be respectful of our beautiful community and other residents. If the current situation persists, the HOA will be left to consider enforcement of its dog rules through fines and other methods. In addition, at the request of many families, the small park at Chickadee Circle is designated as a "dog free" park. That community rule should be respected.

The scoop on poop:

- Dog waste on the ground poses a greater environmental threat than poop that is disposed of safely in the trash. Poop left on the ground will flow directly into our lakes, ponds, and streams. Leaving poop near water, on sloped ground, or on pavement is irresponsible and will result in water pollution. It can carry viruses and bacteria and increase the growth of damaging algae and aquatic weeds in our local waters.
- Letting waste decompose "naturally" is not a good solution. Natural decomposition is a slow process. With the large number of dogs using off-leash areas, poop accumulates faster than it decomposes. This accumulation exposes pets to harmful parasites and our shoes, cars, and homes to unpleasant poop contamination.
- Disposing of poop in biodegradable mutt mitts is safe and environmentally friendly. The bags used in the mutt mitt dispensers are non-toxic, biodegradable and decompose with or without sunlight. They are safe in landfills or incinerators and the decomposition starts as soon as the mutt mitt is used.
- With 10,000 dogs in our area, it is imperative that people pick up after them. This effort should begin in our neighborhoods and in our backyards.

Loose Dog in Melody Ranch - Please Call the Dog Catcher at 733-2331

SPRING CLEANING

Please do not sweep dirt into the streets at Melody Ranch. The only sections that will be swept this spring are the entrances (Bus Stops) and intersection.

DIRT BIKES & MOTORIZED VEHICLES

It has come to the Board's attention that kids have been riding dirt bikes on roads throughout Melody Ranch. This is not allowed per CC&R's. Section 6.8 states the following "...All trailers or vehicles used in the course of business and all recreational vehicles, boats, campers, snow machines, camper-trailers, and similar recreational vehicles, trailers or equipment, shall be parked, stored or kept in enclosed garages of suitable size at all times."

CURRENT HOA BOARD OFFICERS

Rich Bloom (1 year remaining)

Bob Hammond (2 year term)

Andy Salter (2 year term)

Kristine O'Brien (3 year term)

Nancy Hoffman (3 year term)

IMPROVEMENT SERVICE DISTRICT & VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT OF CERTAIN WATER RIGHTS

Reminder: If you have not done so already - the Board is asking that you sign and return to us in the self-addressed envelope both the signature page to the petition for organization of Melody Ranch Improvement and Service District and the consent to petition for voluntary abandonment of certain water rights. We just need a few more petitions to reach the required amount.

HOA PAYMENTS

All correspondence and payments should be mailed to:

**The Meadows at Melody Ranch
PO Box 4337
Jackson, WY 83001**

All checks need to be written out to:
The Meadows at Melody Ranch

or pay online at:

<https://www.paymentservicenetwork.com/login.asp?acct15968>

Be sure all emails are sent to:
info@melodyranchhoa.com

Please contact Cynthia or Tina at GTPM to address all inquiries. They can be reached at 307.733.0205

MARK YOUR CALENDAR....

Typically the Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday (April 17th) of each month at 5:00. Please call GTPM for the exact date and time, as they are sometimes moved to accommodate peoples' schedule.

Every second Thursday (April 12th) of each month the Architectural Review Committee meets at 4:30. All items need to be turned in by noon the Friday prior to the ARC meeting.

VACANT LOT OWNERS PLEASE READ

Starting June 2012, Melody Ranch HOA will have Wyoming Landscape Company start spraying the 32 vacant lots for annual and noxious weeds. It will cost each vacant lot homeowner \$150 for 3 sprayings throughout the summer. The Board will give homeowners until May 30th, 2012 to opt out of this service. If a homeowner chooses to opt out, then the homeowner will need to send in a copy of a receipt showing their lot has been sprayed - and/or a commitment from them or a service provider to treat their vacant lots throughout the summer.