

The HOA Board wants to bring to attention of the community items, regarding safety while walking and jogging outdoors. Besides the normal road safety considerations, also add mosquito bites and dog incidents to your list.

Mosquitoes are most active during the early evening hours. Mosquitoes can carry a number of infectious diseases including west Nile virus, dengue, and chikungunya. Wearing long sleeve shirts and long pants can reduce your chances of getting bitten by mosquitos. Applying over the counter insect repellant can also help reduce the chances of getting bitten by mosquitoes, but check for allergic reaction to the insect repellant before applying.

There are number of actions all the home owners can take to reduce the mosquitoes in the neighborhood. Drain any standing water around the house. After a rain or even heavy morning dew, water collects in plastic containers, empty pots, and around the gutter spout, if you see any standing water drain it right away, mosquitoes breed in standing water, reducing standing water reduces the chances mosquitoes will breed in our neighborhood.

Concerning dogs, there have been a number of incidents, reported and unreported, in our area and surrounding neighborhood. If you are taking a walk, jogging or walking your dog, be aware of your surroundings. Most dog owners are conscientious; they train and manage their dogs very well. Dog owners treat their dogs like members of their own family. But nevertheless, incidents happen all the time. The dog gets out through a door left ajar, the dog leash slips out of the hand, or fence picket becomes loose and dog manages to get out side. Once the dog is outside or not in the owners control, any number of things can happen, it may just approach you sniff and leave, it may go on a barking spree, or try to chase another animal like another dog, a cat or a squirrel, it will depend on the dog's "personality" and "mood". If you are uncomfortable around dogs or are terrified of a dog attack, carrying a pepper spray might be a good idea when walking or jogging outside.

There are number of things that dog owners can do to keep the neighborhood safe for everyone using public streets and at the same time avoiding any legal issues. Dog owners should train their dogs, keep them on leash when walking them, if possible install an electronic invisible dog fence to keep the dog on their property.

So let's go for a walk, but let's also be careful.