Happy St. Patrick's Day to All!!!   3/17/2016

Dear Neighbors and Residents -
In the past several days, a number of issues have come up regarding our lovely neighborhood. Rather than send several separate memos, I will try to combine the latest items for your information.

Ray Newton, at 941 Lupine Lane, has a huge crop of Iris this year, which he would like to share with other Iris lovers. All that is necessary is that you contact him at 541-9625 to make sure they are home (so they can let you know where to dig) and that you do your own digging! Sounds like a good deal, so don't wait!

The Spring Garage Sale (as noted in the last mailer-card) will be on Saturday, April 30th. Due to travel plans, Nikki will be unavailable for phone call notifications of your intentions to participate between 4/10 and 4/22. The Courier must be notified by Tuesday, 4/26, so please put your name on the list at your earliest opportunity. Jim Zimmerman (at 713-0542) will also take your information. Any unsold items you have at the end of the day may be place at your curb and will be collected by Stepping Stones Charity, beginning about 4:00 PM.

We have spent some time recently updating our website. Please take a few minutes to check it out. If you have items that could be posted, feel free to pass them along. We have also posted recent Board Meeting Minutes.

Thanks again to all who have paid their dues in recent weeks. We have almost reached 200 members!

Many of you ask me to send emails to notify everyone about specific items which you deem extremely important. Lost and Found Pets seem to lead the list. It is gratifying to know that so many of you are concerned about the precious pets which are either lost or found. However, sending an email to the entire neighborhood may not be the most efficient action. In these circumstances, it is imperative to get the word to the right people as quickly as possible. (I am not always around the send 400 emails at the drop of a hat!)

One of our neighbors, Brooke Wolterstorff, sent me information about HomeAgain Pet Rescuers. It appears that you can post information about lost/found pets, noting microchip numbers, photos, and other pertinent information. HomeAgain is a part of MyPet and is on facebook and twitter social media. They have a 24/7 recovery center at 1-888-466-3242. Check out **petrescuers/homeagain.com** online for information about how to help lots pets. Making sure your pets have a microchip and a collar with identification is extremely important. Call either the Animal Shelter or Animal Control if you have found a pet, depending on the details of your particular situation.

If there is someone who would like to volunteer to be a clearing house for lost and found pets strictly in our neighborhood, please email **pinonoaksfolks@cableone.net** We could then send one informational e-mail, and post that on our website. (A negative is that the volunteer also has a life, and might not be an available contact.)

In any case, thanks for caring, and sharing news of our pets.

Also about animals, but this time about Feral Cats!!! I received the following letter from another homeowner who asked that this information be sent out to residents:

Dear Friends and Pinon Oaks Neighbors,

The purpose of this email is to bring to your attention a potential problem in our neighborhood relating to stray or feral cats. Did you know it takes only one unspayed female cat to produce twelve kittens a year and 180 over her lifetime? Those kittens can potentially produce hundreds of thousands more cats! Yikes! The following paragraphs are from the Yavapai Humane Society website and explains what can be done to prevent our neighborhood from being overrun by feral cats.

What is a Feral Cat?

Feral cats live and thrive in the outdoors and are typically wary of humans. Feral cats' needs are not met by an adoption process. The antiquated approach for animal control efforts across the nation was catching and killing--a method that is endless and cruel, not to mention ineffective. When feral cats are removed from a location, new cats move in and survivors breed to capacity (this is called the "vacuum effect"). In addition, feral cats play an important role in rodent control. So how can our community humanely approach feral cats?

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) benefits the cats and the community. Cats are spayed or neutered, eartipped (the universal symbol of an altered feral cat), and then returned to their outdoor home. The colony's population stabilizes--no more kittens! TNR improves their lives and the relations with their neighborhood--the behaviors and stresses associated with mating stop. TNR is the humane, effective approach for feral cats. When TNR is employed effectively, all the feral cats in a neighborhood are trapped, sterilized, and returned to the area where they were trapped. They are returned under the care of a Colony Manager. The Colony Manager is a trained volunteer in the neighborhood willing to feed, water, and care for the colony and watch for any new cats. Once the colony cats are all neutered, new cats tend to be recently abandoned domestics that can be captured and placed for adoption.

- The population will be controlled with no new litters
- Annoying behaviors of mating like howling, fighting, and marking territory will stop or decrease dramatically
- It's the right thing to do

Where can you go for help?

If you are aware of a feral cat or colony in your area, please call Sheri Lang at 623-297-8754 or myself at 949-683-1664. Sheri has several years experience working with ferals and the Yavapai Humane Society TNR program. She does this out of the kindness of her heart for the animals and there is no charge to you. She even provides the traps and does the trapping, if needed. Shari has personally assisted me in trapping eleven ferals this past year. So we know there are feral cats in our neighborhood. Working together, we can solve the problem before it gets serious and do it humanely. Please help!