

Pets bring responsibilities for owners

Many, maybe most, Market Heights neighbors enjoy pet ownership. Pets tend to become members of the family.

Pets also bring responsibilities for the consideration and safety of others. Many of these are outlined in some of the city ordinances dealing with animals.

Animals: Ordinance 505.19 and 505.20: In an area zoned residential, no person shall be permitted to own, possess, harbor, or keep more than five dogs or cats or any combination thereof. No person shall keep or harbor any dog which frequently and habitually barks, howls, yelps, or creates unreasonably loud and disturbing noises. Any person who allows any dog to habitually remain is guilty of a second-degree misdemeanor.

Ordinance 539.16: No person being the owner of, or having charge of, any dog shall allow it to run loose upon any park property of the City. (In our neighborhood, this would be Roshong Park.)

Ordinance 505.17: The owner or person in charge of every animal shall be responsible for the immediate removal of any excretion deposited by this animal or animals on property, public or private, not owned or possessed by such person. Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

Keeping the housing crisis at arm's length

Market Heights is a lovely neighborhood. You need only walk out of your door and admire the spring beauty that surrounds us. We have many caring homeowners who take pride in ownership. That being said, the sad reality is that we, too, are seeing the impact of increased foreclosures within our boundaries.

So what can we, as good neighbors and good citizens, do about the foreclosures in our neighborhood? We can be extra vigilant at maintaining our homes and yards. Let's not let a few neglected properties influence the rest of the neighborhood. We want to promote home ownership. Eventually these foreclosed, neglected properties will be sold.

It is in our best interest to keep the neighborhood property values up. Spring and warmer days tend to bring out homebuyers. Let's be vigilant at keeping litter to a minimum. Put trash out and bring empty containers in at the appropriate time (see codified ordinances for reference).

Keeping our homes, yards, and sidewalks well maintained will only keep our property values high and invite home ownership.