

NorwalkReflector.com Front Article

Man attacked by dog in Monroeville

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MONROEVILLE - No charges have been filed after a 78-year-old man was attacked and bitten by a dog in the village Monday.

Lynn A. Clemons, 78, of Bellevue, was found by Monroeville police officer Troy J. Kimball lying in the parking lot of a Ridge Street business with his head on the sidewalk. The report indicated Clemons had a laceration on his left arm above his wrist.

Clemons told Kimball the dog in the vehicle next to him had bitten him.

The dog, which was a 80- to 90-pound large black lab, was owned by James E. Morrow, 76, of 249 Monroe St., Monroeville.

Clemons said he was finishing up his business at the local bank when he saw Morrow getting out of his vehicle. Clemons said he thought Morrow was going to fall off the running board so he started to approach him for help.

Before he could help Morrow, the dog jumped out of the vehicle and grabbed Clemons' left arm and knocked him to the ground. The dog was contained by Morrow and placed back in the vehicle.

Morrow said he didn't see Clemons coming because he had his back to him. Morrow said the dog pushed him aside, jumped out of the vehicle, biting Clemons' arm and knocking him to the ground.

Morrow said in the report the dog was up to date on its shots, but had bitten another person about a year ago.

Kimball contacted the county dog warden who stated the dog would need quarantined for 10 days.

Clemons was transported to The Bellevue Hospital by North Central EMS.

Ironically, this is National Dog Bite Prevention Week, an annual event designed to provide people with information on how to be responsible pet owners while increasing awareness of a public health issue.

“Warm and wonderful relationships are shared between more than 72 million pet dogs and their owners in the United States,” said Dr. Gail C. Golab, director of the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Animal Welfare Division. “To protect those relationships, everyone must take responsibility for preventing dog bite injuries.”

“Any dog can bite,” Golab added. “Even the gentlest dog, if it is physically or mentally unhealthy, is in pain, feels threatened, or is protecting its food or a favorite toy, can bite. Not only is it important to understand how dogs behave, it is important to understand how our behavior may be interpreted by a dog. To prevent dog bites, we need to find a common language. Finding that common language is the focus of effective dog bite prevention educational efforts.”

“Half of all children will be bitten by a dog by the time they’re high school seniors,” said Dr. Alison Tothy, chair of the committee on injury and poison prevention of American Academy of Pediatrics’s Illinois chapter. “It’s so important for parents to supervise young children around dogs at all times, and it’s just as important for children to be taught from an early age how to keep from being bitten.”