

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

March 2007 NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers (*all are volunteers): President: Brian D. Swanson (760) 739-5451; Vice-President: John Lindsay; Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Esther. (Terms expire 6/07)

Design Review Committee: Chair: Brian D. Swanson; Rick Wood, Karen Burns, Angel Martinez, Ellie Montalvo, Darryl Turner, Marcus Harrel.

Property Manager: Fabiana Lansner (flansner@menas.com), Menas Realty (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270-7870. Please visit web site www.menas.com for information on who to contact for billing or repairs.

Escondido Police Department: 911; non-emergency = 839-4722 (includes dog barking)

Escondido Fire Department (Fires, fireworks, kills rattlesnakes in yard): 911; non-emergency = 839-5400 (Call Brian and he'll remove your rattlesnake without killing it.)

Henry Avocado (grove issues...loose dogs, broken sprinklers, noisy workers): 745-6632

City of Escondido, Public Works (Ryan Park, streetlight issues): 839-4668

City of Escondido, Code Enforcement (graffiti): 839-4650

Valley High School (kids in neighborhood during school hours, etc.): 291-3275

East Valley Community Center: 2245 East Valley Parkway, 839-4382

Broken sprinklers in HOA landscaping: Menas Realty (760) 942-2667

Notices of Violation: Fabiana Lansner (see above for contact info)

Lyon Homes: For builder issues (windows, doorbell or house number light out, etc.)

QUARTERLEY MEETING: Next meeting of the HOA Board (all are invited) is 6PM Wed. March 7th at the East Valley Community Center (address above).

ANNUAL MEETING: Calendar this important meeting, and plan to attend. 6PM Wed June 6th. Your new Board will be elected at this meeting. Candidates are being sought – please contact property manager Fabiana Lansner to get on the ballot. Contact any Board member for details/questions. Watch for ballots as we get closer to the election.

Board Positions: The most important qualities for any candidate for the Board are leadership experience, good customer service skills (the ability to coordinate and work well with others), organization, the ability to read and understand our governing documents, and to apply them in a fair and consistent manner. It is particularly helpful to have a background in accounting or finance (especially for the Treasurer), so as to be comfortable reviewing balance sheets. An eye for detail is also helpful.

Homeowners elect the Board members, then the Board itself elects the officers from the Board.

Cat Care: Someone is missing their kitty. In early February the body of a large grey cat was found beside Meadow Creek Lane. It had apparently been hit by a car. Consider keeping your cat indoors...better for their health. Mousers could go out at night, and avoid killing the birds and lizards which we all love to see about our yards.

Design Review Committee: New members. Homeowners Darryl Turner (Meadows) and Marcus Harrel (Groves) have joined the Design Review Committee. Homeowner David Milne has left the committee. Thank you for sharing your time and talent on behalf of our community.

Drive Carefully and Be Alert: Another couple of accidents were reported to me recently. In one, a speeding car plowed into a parked car on Hidden Trails during the middle of the night. Fortunately, an alert neighbor heard the crash and was able to get the driver's information before the could escape. The second incident happened when a homeowner jumped the curb and plowed into the brick wall near the entrance to the Meadows. The driver is having the wall and entry sign repaired.

Frost Damage: We had a cold snap that set a record. The several very cold nights in January played havoc on our tropical landscaping. Common victims have been hibiscus, banana and bird of paradise, the trumpet vines planted by our builders, citrus, smaller palms and numerous other warm weather plants. Please take a look around your yard, and make a point of replacing them when you do your spring gardening.

Swallows: Watch for these legendary little birds which arrive in early March, around St. Joseph's Day (3/19). While many of us love to see them about, and although they do catch about 2,000 flies, mosquitoes and other winged insects daily, some of us dislike the mess made when they next over your doorway, window or patio.

One effective method is discourage their nesting is to hang plastic snakes from the eaves of your house. The birds see this and know to avoid nesting there.. Birds leave in August, so snakes should come down by Sept. 1st, to go up again no later than March 1st to be most effective. Perhaps installing brass hooks on the eaves, and using an extension pole to place the snakes (on thin rope or fish line with a loop on the end) would be the safest route, to avoid climbing on tall ladders.

Hope to see many of you at the upcoming meetings. Your vote for June election is especially important.