

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers (*all are volunteers): President: James McNair (760) 743-1386; Vice-President: Bob Dunbar (760) 741-5334; Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Albo.

Design Review Committee: Co-Chairs: Marcus Harrel & Darryl Turner, Rick Wood; adjunct members: Dennis Van Rumund, Ellie Montalvo, Brian Swanson.

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 = (760) 839-4722.

Escondido Fire Department (Fires, fireworks, rattlesnakes in yard): 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-5400

Henry Avocado (grove issues like avocado theft, sprinklers, dumping): 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, dead HOA plants: Menas Realty (760) 942-2667

Newsletter Editor: Homeowner/volunteer Brian Swanson (760) 739-5451.

Board Meetings: We are lucky to have a terrific new Board working hard on behalf of our community. Watch your billings for notices of upcoming Board meetings. All homeowners are invited to attend – mark your calendars. The next meeting will be 7:30PM February 12th, at the East Valley Community Center. The meeting is being held a little later than usual due to (closed door) fine hearings which will precede the Board meeting (open to all).

Holiday Cheer: We all love the holidays, but enough is enough. Please be sure to remove your holiday lights and seasonal displays (think stars, reindeer, elves, snowmen, jolly old men in red suits) no later than January 15 (a couple of weeks prior to receiving this newsletter).

Appreciation Lunch: Remember the article about the “fire heros” who helped save Hidden Trails? On 12/8 HOA Secretary/Treasurer Jane Albo hosted an appreciation lunch for these grove workers. Delicious food including carne and pollo asada, and all the trimmings including home made desserts, was served to a humble and appreciative group of workers, led by foreman Rogelio. A number of grateful homeowners stopped by the lunch to extend their thanks to the workers for their firefighting efforts. Gracias para su asistencia (Thank you for your help)!

New Design Review Committee Member: Dennis Van Rumund joined the DRC in November. Dennis has been a Hidden Trails homeowner for only a few months, and wants to get to know and contribute to our community. He started coming to the Board meetings as soon as he closed escrow. Dennis is a chef at one of the wineries in the Temecula Valley, so besides landscaping design questions you could probably ask him for tips on designing delicious and nutritious meals. If you'd like to join this energetic committee please contact any Board or DRC member. Meetings are typically held evenings on the second Tuesday of each month.

Swallows Will Soon Arrive: The barn swallows will soon arrive from their winter homes in South America. They will begin to build their mud nests under the eaves of fortunate homeowners. These wonderful little birds eat an average of 2,000 mosquitoes and other flying pests each day. Unfortunately, they dribble mud as they build their nests, and leave "white wash" as they enter and leave their nests. Common sense and federal and state laws prohibit the removal of the nests once eggs have been laid. Some homeowners have placed a thin mesh fabric along their eaves before the swallows arrive, and removed it after they leave (Feb 15 – Sept 15 is nesting season for most birds). Others aggressively remove the partial nests each day with a high pressure hose, until the little guys give up and move to someone else's home. Many of us value these birds for their cheerful chirps and selfless mosquito eating. Contact the California Fish and Game Department or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for info on laws and tips on discouraging nesting.

Be A Water-wise Gardener: So far this season we've experienced three sizeable rain events (2.9" of rain January 4 - 7th alone!). Unfortunately, even during the rain I see some of my neighbors' sprinklers running.

It is easy to shut off the control (turn to "OFF"). When the soil dries out, which may a couple of weeks after a good rain, you can turn it back on. This will save water (a valuable resource), money (yours!), and prevent damage to your landscaping from over watering plants and erosion. It also saves electricity (takes electricity to clean the water, then pump it to our homes), land space (less dams needed if we use less water). All of these good things result when we conserve our water. It's a little inconvenient, but so easy. The choice is yours...

Trash Day: Trash containers are NOT a thing of beauty. Please remember to put your trash containers out no earlier than the night before (this includes yard trimmings) and remove them the same day trash is picked up. Do not overfill your containers, or the ravens will tear open the trash bags, sharing your garbage with your neighbors.

Remember to store your containers out of sight.

Community Bulletin Board. Some residents (lost/found pets) and businesses (real estate, yard work, house cleaning, auto detailing) have been using mailboxes as community bulletin boards. This is against both HOA rules and Postal regulations. In addition to this it, leaves tape residue on the mail boxes and their appearance is deteriorating.

The Board realizes that there is a need to promulgate community information (not business news). We will discuss an outdoor community bulletin board at the next meeting (February 12, 7:30PM). If you have any ideas as to how and where we could implement this bulletin board please contact a board member or attend the meeting.

Trails: Many of you have probably noticed the erosion problem on the decomposed granite (DG) hiking trails. The board has contracted with a company to solve this problem. This work may be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. The process will involve loosening the existing DG, adding DG to replace that which has washed away, adding a stabilizer and recompacting the trail. This will result in a slightly firmer trail but one that will not erode.

Landscape Contractor: The board has hired a new landscaping contractor as of January 10. Please let prop. mgr. Fabiana Lansner know if you see any HOA landscaping needing attention.

Fire News: The Board has received a “Notice to Abate Hazard” concerning the dry brush at the end of Oak Valley Lane. Since this is also a riparian area with a conservation easement we need a permit from Fish and Game to do any clearing in this area. We are currently working with both the fire department and Fish and Game to resolve the problem.

Grafatti: Thanks to homeowners Scott Matthews and Brian Swanson for painting over utility boxes in our community. Do not allow your children to mark graffiti on sidewalks or utility boxes.