

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Web Site: Be sure to check out our community web site! The Hidden Trails Rules & Regulations, and Architectural & Design Guidelines, are now available online at the HOA community web site: <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com>. To see the documents, go directly to <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/documents.htm>. Email the webmaster with comments or suggestions re our website.

Wildfire Season: The majority of large wildfires in San Diego county start in the last week of October. It's the point when our native vegetation is driest, just before the winter rains begin. The 1993 Guejito Fire, the 2003 and 2007 wildfires all started during this time period. With so much burned last year, the threat is greatly reduced. Nevertheless, you might want to stay alert for signs of fire.

Graffiti Concerns: In early Sept. taggers painted dark blue paint along the tan masonry wall along Hidden Trails Rd., between Meadowside and Meadow Creek. A neighbor used a "sanded tan" spray paint to quickly and easily cover it up, without it looking like a cover-up. It is essential to remove graffiti as soon as possible --- the next day is best. Property owners are responsible for removing it. If you paint it out immediately there is no reward to re-tag our neighborhood. Taggers often have paint on their pointer fingers. If you think your teen has been out tagging, contact the Escondido P.D. for advice on intervention.

Design Review Committee: Marcus wants to thank the members of the DRC committee who have worked hard this year to volunteer a little time to help out in our community. Thanks to Darryl, Dennis, Rick and Brian, and thanks in advance to Herb who moved to Hidden Trails earlier this year and just joined the DRC. We could always use a few more folks on the committee. We meet once a month, usually the second Tuesday at 6:00 pm at Rubio's (near Home Depot) for a short meeting to review applications and discuss what's going on in the community. Come and join us. Give me a call if you have any questions: Co-chair Marcus Harrel 760-740-9131.

Advance Notice: Hidden Trails Homeowners Association Board of Directors Election: The terms of the current Board expire in June, and the election will be held at the annual meeting in June. It's not too early to start thinking about joining the Board. Ask any current or former Board member regarding the challenges and rewards from serving your community as a Board member.

Toxic Waste: Batteries, tire and fishing weights, and even pennies contain heavy metals. When they leach into the soil and water and are ingested by animals or people, neurological damage can result. As an example, when you toss pennies into a fountain or pond, or drop them on the ground, you are depositing hazardous waste. Our pennies are

98% zinc, with a thin copper coating. I've stopped tossing pennies, and begun pick up pennies or batteries when I see them. The best way to dispose of batteries is to collect them in a plastic container and take them to a hazardous waste collection event.

Doggie Poop! Yuk!! We've all seen it. Some of our neighbors take their dogs for a walk (or worse, just let the dogs out on their own), without the benefit of carrying a poop bag. This is especially a problem along our walking trail, and at the entrance to our open space areas. Over a short time, the poop builds up and really gets to be disgusting, then goes into ponds and creeks (poor pollywogs!). The first weekend in September I noticed a light blue, four-door Buick Century with a damaged rear lights, parked on the entry to the pond road, below Meadowside Place. The dog's mistress was allowing her German shepherd-like dog to joyfully do its business beside the pond, and left it behind. Yuk!

New Neighbors: With all the turmoil in the economy, including job losses and foreclosures, we're losing some old friends and gaining some new ones. Try to be thoughtful and supportive for those in our community who are struggling. When a home changes hands, be sure to give our new neighbors a warm welcome --- make them feel like part of the community. A thoughtful card, maybe some flowers or home-made cookies, goes a long way towards making new friends. Earning "brownie points" can be a good thing!

Weeds: Most of the plants on our "Not Approved" list are invasive, spreading quickly. Some are deposited by the wind, some by birds. I've noticed a number of clumps of pampas grass, tamarisk and palm trees sprouting around the neighborhood, the owners blissfully unaware of these invasives. Everyone knows what a palm tree looks like. Tamarisk is a tree with frilly pink flowers. If you're not sure what pampas grass or tamarisk look like, try a google search.

Keeping up Appearances: Please do not use the area outside your gate for storage.

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, Herb Kolodner.

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

Escondido Police Department: 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-4722.

Escondido Fire Dept. (Fires, fireworks, rattlesnakes): 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-5400

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

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

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

Website: <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com> ; webmaster@hiddentrailshoa.com.