

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 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.

FIRE SAFETY – Hold on to your Palapa: Many of our neighbors are Jimmy Buffet fans, and have decked out their yards with refreshing pools and waterfalls. Part of the backdrop includes having palm trees and a palm-covered palapa (shade structure). If you or your neighbor have created your very own Margaritaville, then be sure to trim those dead, dry palm fronds. While you're at it, be sure to verify that your palm hut has been built with fronds that are fire-safety treated. Natural palm fronds are very combustible, and with the high Santa Ana winds we will soon experience, a winddriven ember could easily light the palm fronds, which could ignite your fence or house. All Design Committee approvals require palapas to be treated with fire-proofing.

Take a Walk - Naturally: There are numerous local organizations which offer free interpretive walks to the public. The “granddaddy” of these groups is the venerable San Diego Natural History Museum, which offers walks every weekend from September to July. Log on to their website at www.sdnhm.org to view the Canyoneers hikes. These hikes are offered at different places around the county, including a number in North County. No reservations, no fees (sometimes parking fees), just show up for a slow paced, 1.5 hr. walk/hike. Desert and mountain walks are longer and more strenuous.

Other organizations leading free walks (some also offering lectures at their monthly meetings) include Palomar Audubon (www.palomaraudubon.org which meets in Rancho Bernardo), San Diego Audubon (www.sdaudubon.org which meets in Clairemont) and the San Diego Native Plant Society (www.cnpsd.org which meets in Balboa Park), the Friends of los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve (www.penasquitos.org, located off I-15/Mercy Road), the Friends of Daley Ranch (www.fodr.org in Escondido) and Friends of Hellhole Canyon (www.hellholecanyon.org located in Valley Center).

New Neighbors: You might share a copy of this newsletter with your new renter neighbors. It will help them feel part of our community, and point them to where they can find a copy of the Rules and Regulations, so they know the basics of what standards residents are expected to live by.

Road Kill: Zipping by pets, or kids on the sidewalk, 35MPH seems too fast to many of us.

Speeding Through Hidden Trails: 35MPH is the *maximum* speed in our community, but 25 MPH seems more appropriate. Please be very careful to drive slowly through our community. It has been reported that on the Willow Tree Lane hill, there have been many speeding cars (mostly going downhill). Also, sometimes in the afternoon when the sun is setting, people are speeding down the hill with their hands up trying to shield their eyes from the glare. Imagine how scary that is to pedestrians! Imagine how you'd feel if you hit a child! Please be aware of this and maintain the speed limit at all times.

Slow down even more when the sun is in your eyes, or it's dark or rainy. There are many people and children within our community. Please do your part and keep everyone safe by following the rules. Slow down a little and you might also let some of our rabbits or coyotes live a little longer (someone even killed a turkey last year!). Call Dead Animal Removal at (619) 390-8204 if you see dead animals on the street.

Butt Out: Litter, large or small, is trash. Some smokers continue to toss their cigarette butts in the gutter. All cigarette butts tossed in the street end up in the storm drain. From there they go to the ocean. Then, birds, fish and turtles eat them, thinking they're something tasty. Unfortunately, a really bad stomach ache, or even death, is often the result. You might gently remind smokers to clean up after themselves. If the problem persists, contact our property manager for HOA follow-up.

Lawn Care: November marks the end of Daylight Savings Time, with shorter and cooler days. This is the perfect time to attend to your lawn. Consult your local nursery regarding seasonal fertilizing and repairing those brown spots. *Soon it will also be time to adjust our sprinkler timers, since our yards won't need as much water during the winter (especially when the soil is damp from rainfall) as during our hot, dry summers.*

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 (760) 740-9131 & Darryl Turner; Rick Wood. Adjunct members: Dennis Van Rumund, Herb Kolodner. *Call to confirm meeting info.*

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.