



# Montage Messenger

Community Newsletter January 2010

## Newsletter Redesign Debuts Today

### New Bi-Monthly Publication Includes Expanded Features, More News

After official approval at the recent November Board Meeting, the Montage Messenger's inaugural issue begins with this one and continues as a bi-monthly community newsletter for Montage residents.

"We've been hoping to get a more professional-looking newsletter since we first began our homeowner communications program and I'm pleased to report that the redesign is now in place," according to Tom Tousignant, President of the Montage

Homeowners Association.

The newsletter will have all the features included in previous editions, along with articles of interest to the community, beyond just security, landscaping, pet control and rules coverage. This month, for instance, there's an article about the palms trees that line both DaVall and Gerald Ford along the exterior walls of our community. In addition, the newsletter will include important phone numbers, contact information and

the Montage website address.

Adds Tousignant, "I hope everyone enjoys the expanded coverage and more inviting look. We'd love to have homeowner's contribute newsletter input and worthwhile ideas."

The Montage Messenger will appear in January, March, May, July, September and November during the 2010 calendar year. Ideas and suggestions can be emailed to [Newsletter@hmsCreative.com](mailto:Newsletter@hmsCreative.com).

### New Montage Website Coming Late January

We're glad to announce that Montage will soon have its own Website in place. The new Website address will be announced in our next newsletter.

The site has been redesigned and homeowners can access the site without going through the property management company's site first.

Log in to check out the new features and new look of the site. There will be a link available for homeowners to communicate with the Board and the property management company, as well as send us comments and feedback.



### Mighty Palms of Montage Distinguish Our Community

Towering along our perimeter on both Gerald Ford and DaVall are 98 *Phoenix dactylifera* date palm trees, defining the north and east edges of Montage at Mission Hills with great majesty.

They can grow up to 80 feet tall, with crowns spanning 12 to 20 feet across. Only the females bear fruit producing between 176 and 264 lbs. of dates annually, which mature at various times and require several harvests in season. Production trees are pollinated manually, ours are done by bees.



**Next Homeowner's Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2010 at PPM Offices at 3 pm**

# From the Top

Tom  
Tousignant

## President's Memo

Happy New Year to you all. Let's all try to make it a happy and safe one.

Happy and with pride in appearance of our community and individual homes. Sandy Nips and her A & L Committee have been doing a great job of improving the perimeter landscaping and the appearance of our community.

Safe through active participation in the Neighborhood Watch program for self help in making our community safer from the bad guys. Pam Price and her Neighborhood Watch Committee recently sent out packages to all homeowners. I encourage each of you to read the information and complete the enclosed forms. Pam is seeking POD Captains to work with groups of homeowners for their mutual security. They will be contacting each homeowner to collect the forms and discuss the Neighborhood Watch program.

Thank you to Harold and MJ Schwartz for putting together this new Newsletter. They are also working on implementing the new Montage Website. It should be available by February. The Newsletter is also available in

color. The color copies will be distributed via the internet to homeowners that share their email addresses. This is another reason to complete the Neighborhood Watch forms. Our goal is to have all distribution via internet and eliminate the cost of printing and mailing.

At the March 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeowners meeting and Pot Luck we will be opening your ballots for the election of two new Board members. You will be receiving an announcement from PPM shortly seeking candidates for the election. Please consider participating, fresh perspectives and ideas are a good thing. Ballots will be distributed in late January or early February. It is extremely important you complete your ballot and mail or deliver it to PPM or bring it to the meeting. The ballots will be used to establish the quorum at the Annual Meeting. If we do not receive enough ballots the meeting will need to be adjourned and reconvene again at a later date. This would cause significant additional expense to the Community. It costs the Community over \$1,000 to conduct the Annual Meeting and election including the preparation and mailing of the ballots, hiring an Inspector of Elections and rental of the meeting room.

Of course, plan to come for the Pot Luck, we have so many wonderful cooks in Montage. And it provides an opportunity to see and talk to so many of your neighbors at one time. More information to follow as the date approaches.

The next Board meeting is Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at PPM's offices.

## Poop Problems Persist, Fines are Enforced!



It's gotta end, neighbors. Poop perps are not cleaning up after their dogs and now we've found it necessary to step up vigilance to prevent this continuous intrusion on the rights of residents here. Fines are now \$100 for the first incident, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for the third infraction.

Remember: dogs are not permitted to dump or urinate on your neighbor's yard, since it causes yellow stains in the grass. Please walk your dog outside the gates and pick up after it. We are urging anyone who sees an infraction to get a name in a non-confrontational manner and report it to the Board for a hearing immediately!

## SECURITY MATTERS

Pam Price

By now every homeowner should have received their Neighborhood Watch information - it's all organized in the black folder which I urge you to review immediately.

Our next goal is for each Pod to have a Captain, therefore, if you're ready to step up and serve as a Pod Captain, call Pam Price at 760-202-8728. Candy Kaufer and Jim Dunne are the most recent recruits (Pod 12). We also have Terry O'Bannon (Pod 2), Nick Nickerson (Pod 6), Skip Sanchez (Pod 9) and Steve and Linda Lake (Pod 8) signed on as Pod Captains..

During the next month be vigilant about anything in your car that could result in a "smash and dash". This means any property in the front or back seat or the floor-and this applies even if your car is parked on the street or driveway.

I hope 2010 will be a more security conscious and safer year with all of our homeowners keeping "alert". I will have the black and orange "Neighborhood Alert" stickers available at the Annual Homeowner meeting in March..

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# Montage Resident Backs His Humanitarian Beliefs With Dentistry in the Jungles: Meet Dr. Bill Chase

## Just Around the Block in Montage

When Montage resident Dr. Bill Chase, a practicing dentist with a Master's degree tells you he's been to the Amazon, he's not referring to the amazon.com Website. He's referring to the real thing in the jungles of Brazil where he's been more than a dozen times to alleviate the severe dental needs of native peoples indigenous to the region. "There are abnormalities I've seen that you couldn't describe in a family newsletter," Chase comments. "You can't imagine the pain and deformations you see when people have gone a lifetime without fluoride in the water and zero dental care."

His ventures in Third World humanitarian dentistry began with Rotary International's Health, Hunger and Humanity Program. His first experience was in 1984 in the Philippines, where he tended to Vietnamese boat people, doing as many as a hundred tooth extractions a day during a month of 20 hour days on that tour. All without running water or electricity. He left with indelible memories...and an intestinal parasite that took him 3 months to overcome. That lead to a hiatus while he built his Adrian, Michigan practice.

He relented in 1992, with a tour that took him to the city of Santarem in the Amazon Basin, where he's been many times since. His efforts and fund-raising helped facilitate the construction of a modern 6-operative dental clinic. Chase works and trains young volunteer Brazilian dentists to carry out the endless work of extractions, orthodontics, fillings and root canals between his visits.



He is founder of the Amazon African Aid Organization which solicits international volunteer dentists to offer their services in Brazil.

"I have come to realize that helping others and seeing the appreciation emanate from the faces of those less fortunate are much more important than any material possession."

When not attending patients here in the Valley, Chase enjoys tennis at least three times a week. He is a past President of the Michigan Dental Association, where he practiced for more than 30 years before moving to California.

Dr. Chase remains involved in charitable endeavors as President of Palm Springs Sunup Rotary.

The affable and hyperkinetic Chase is also quite civically active, having at least a dozen Op-Ed pieces printed in the Desert Sun.

Another nice neighbor of yours...just around the block in Montage.



### Street Sweeping Thursdays

Our streets are swept on Thursdays. Please make sure all cars, including service worker cars, are off the street. Also, be sure trees are trimmed so they do not interfere with the street sweeper.

### Trash Can Pull-Out and Put-Away

For trash collection on Tuesdays, please do not pull out your refuse containers any earlier than Monday at 4 pm. After the trash has been picked up, please have your cans put away no later than Wednesday at 10 am. Thank you for keeping Montage a beautiful place.

### Next Board Meeting: January 14th

3:00 pm, Thursday, January 14, 2010 at PPM, 68-950 Adelina Road, Cathedral City, CA 92234, just off Date Palm near Vista Chino, almost to the 10 Freeway.

### Contact Corner

**Keep This Information Handy When You Need to Comment or Report an Issue**

Jennifer Zeivel, PPM	760-325-9500
Email PPM	<a href="mailto:info@ppmInternet.com">info@ppmInternet.com</a>
Tom Tousignant, Pres.	<a href="mailto:td2znot@aol.com">td2znot@aol.com</a>
Sandy Nips, A&L	<a href="mailto:sandynips@hotmail.com">sandynips@hotmail.com</a>
Pam Price, Security	760-202-8727
Cathedral City Police	760-770-0300
Police Emergency Only	760-202-2411
Cathedral City Fire	760-770-8200
City Hall	760-770-0340
Graffiti Hotline	760-770-8286
Fire Emergency	Dial 911
Newsletter Input, Comments, Suggestions...	
<a href="mailto:Newsletter@HMScreative.com">Newsletter@HMScreative.com</a>	

Website: [www.PPMInternet.com](http://www.PPMInternet.com)

# Raise Your Company's Profile in One of the Valley's Finest Communities.

**Advertise in the Montage Messenger and Reach a Prime Target Audience**

Realtor to painter, plumber to electrician, landscape service to handyman, if you want to increase your visibility with a community that's loyal to companies that perform, then you should be in our Newsletter all year long. If you're interested, contact MJ Schwartz to get all the details at the email address below.



**For More Information and Our Ad Rates Brochure, Contact MJ Schwartz: MJ@hmsCreative.com**

## Architecture and Landscape Committee

Happy New Year to all Montage Residents from your A & L Committee...Donna, Dotty, Joe, Robert & Sandy.

We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and brought the New Year in with fun-filled festivities. We'd like to congratulate you for the fantastic job you're doing to keep our community looking so beautiful. It's great to see people taking care of their property and maintaining their landscape to high standards.

Congratulations also to all of the residents who took time to decorate outdoors for the holiday season. We had more participants than any other year. Oh what fun!!

As you can see, we have a new look to our newsletter. Another Montage at Mission Hills improvement for our community spirit. Thank you Harold & MJ.

In keeping with the new look, we will be giving you more information about the A & L Committee's functions and members. Also important contact information.

We are a five member committee that meets once a month to discuss various ways to improve and maintain the physical appearance of this community and then submit our recommendations to the Board for its approval. Our members are all volunteers...no salary here for any of us. The current committee has been together for about a year. Some of us have served for 3 or more years.

We also report and review violations within the community as they pertain to landscaping and maintenance of your house. We conduct two walk-throughs each calendar year as a major review of the community. One is the first week of April and the other the first week of November. These violations are reported to PPM (Personalized Property Management) who then officially notifies a resident of an infraction. Sometimes violations are reported directly to PPM by residents of Montage.

We also meet once a month with the HOA gardeners, Nissho of California. We walk the entire perimeter and other common areas and discuss problems that need to be addressed with irrigation, flowers, plant removal, trash pick-up, etc. I want to share one short story with you about our community. In December, a vice-president from Nissho of California visited Montage for the first time. He couldn't wait to tell us what a beautiful community this is and he was proud to have his company be a part of maintaining it! So, keep up the good work Montage residents! We're looking good.

In each succeeding newsletter, we will profile our members in more detail and give you other pertinent information that relates to the committee's functions/responsibilities. Next month, we'll be listing our accomplishments for 2009.

Have a prosperous 2010. As for us, this new newsletter is a great way to begin the year.

## Can You Recommend a Great Company to Your Neighbors?

We're compiling a list of good, dependable people who have worked for Montage residents. Good painters, yard men, plumbers, pool people, maids, whatever. The only catch is you have to provide your name and phone number so people can check them out with you.

If you've got a great tip for us, let us know. Send it to [newsletter@hmsCreative.com](mailto:newsletter@hmsCreative.com) and let's build a good list.

## Got a Good Idea For a Newsletter Article?

We're always looking for interesting new ideas from our homeowners. Got a suggestion for an article your neighbors might find newsworthy or informative?

Email your concept, suggestion or ideas to us at [newsletter@hmsCreative.com](mailto:newsletter@hmsCreative.com) and let us in on it.

