



## **MONTAGE NEWS - April 2009**

Hi! And thank you for all the homeowners that who came to the Annual Homeowner's Meeting March 21<sup>st</sup> and the copious and delicious food you contributed to the pot luck. The "bring your favorite dish" instructions from Donna resulted in an extravaganza of delights. No body went away hungry. I made the mistake to be one of the last pigs at the trough and missed out on several of the most popular dishes (I normally don't make that mistake, and promise I won't do it again.) We have some great cooks in Montage.

The questions asked were pointed, such as when the gates and entrance surfaces are going to be refurbished? Answer: the gates are scheduled to be re-painted in 2010 and there is no current plan to refurbish the gate paving surfaces. The Board referred these issues to the A & L Committee to develop proposals for the May Board meeting.

Another question was, an owner heard that there had been 16 break ins within Montage, has there been any pattern to the crimes? First, there have been 3 home intrusions, 2 prowler reports and 8 car break ins reported within Montage. Pam Price is waiting for a report from Cathedral City Police to look for patterns. Pam Price, Chairperson of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, provided a presentation on security. See her article below.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Thanks to an excellent presentation by Jacques Lefebvre of Citizens on Patrol Service (COPS) at our March 21<sup>st</sup> HOA meeting, homeowners have first hand advice on how to improve security. Jacques noted that homeowners should never leave anything in their cars as this is an invitation for a "smash and dash".

Here are 10 more recommendations to make you house safe, for those who didn't attend:

1. Know your neighbors
2. Organize an email database in order to share information
3. Secure all windows, doors, lock side gates, and make sure there is no knot at the end of your garage door string.
4. Keep cell phone and car key next to your bed, using the car key as a panic button.

5. Stop all newspapers as they accumulate on your driveway and put your mail on hold.
6. If you are away from home, have a friend check it periodically.
7. Trim bushes, they provide a hiding place for criminals.
8. Put your lights on timers-use several and set for different times. Motion detector lights are recommended.
9. Arrange for someone to put your trash out and return it after being emptied.
10. Arm your security system and display their sign on your lawn.
11. Join COPS, get involved. Call 770-0300 for information. There are monthly meetings at the Cathedral City Police Department.
12. If you have any questions/recommendations contact Pam Price at [pamprice57@gmail.com](mailto:pamprice57@gmail.com)

### **FRONT YARD LANDSCAPE LIGHTS**

At the Board meeting, prior to Annual Homeowners meeting, the Board approved adding the maintenance of the developer installed front yard landscape lights to our current perimeter lighting maintenance contract. Desert Properties Light Maintenance will begin monthly inspections and repairs of the lights and their photo cells. This is felt to be a benefit to all homeowners. It will eliminate owner's periodic need to change bulbs and fixtures in their front yards. It will also improve the total lighting and security of the development.

If you have replaced the developer installed lights in your front yard you will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of those lights. Also, the garage lights will continue to be the responsibility of individual homeowners. If you did not receive a Switch Lock for the switch at your front door that activates the garage lights photo cell, contact Sandy Nips.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Homeowners at the Annual Meeting expressed concerns about several "near misses" at the intersections at the gates. The Board directed the A & L Committee to investigate the cost and appropriate procedure for changing the stop sign controls to stop traffic on Matisse and Da Vince instead of Artisan at these intersections. This will involve installing new posts for the stop signs within

the utility easements for homes on the approaches to the intersections on Matisse and Da Vinci.

### **WEB SITE**

Log on to ppminternet.com, click on Access My Association Website and enter Montage. Current news, security alerts, and gate codes are available to registered homeowners. Register online in the Special Services pull down icon.

We are looking for a volunteer Montage webmaster to work with Jennifer to keep the website up to date and expand its capabilities to provide email alerts of security problems to all registered homeowners.

### **PARKING**

Enforcement of the parking rules is now going on in earnest. Flagrant violators are being scheduled for hearings with the Board, potentially resulting in assessment of fines beginning at \$100 and up to \$500 for repeat offences. Three home owners were assessed fines in February; more are scheduled of Board hearing in March for their opportunity to explain why they should be allowed to ignore the community rules.

On street parking is only allowed for temporary parking by service workers and guests. Residents (including tenants) are expected to park their vehicles in their garages, with the garage door shut. Parking in the driveway is permitted, however it is not as safe as the garage.

### **STREET SWEEPING**

Our streets are swept on Thursdays between 10 AM and 12 Noon. Please make sure all cars are off the street during that time frame.

### **ARCHITECTURAL & LANDSCAPE**

The A & L Committee is asking for donations of "babies" (off-shoots of desert plants) to beautify the retention basin and to replace plants that might have died from frostbite in our perimeter areas. Contact us at sandynips@hotmail.com and we'll make arrangements to collect your generous donations.

The A & L Committee will perform its semi-annual walk-through of the community on Saturday, April 4th. We'll be looking for shutters, gates, garage doors and dark colored stucco that need a coat of fresh paint. Remember, our desert environment is very harsh on painted surfaces. Dark colors can fade quickly. Please check the lights over or on the side of or above your garage door to make

sure both of them light up at night. We would be ecstatic with not having to send any violations letters. We'll also be checking to see if you have an excessive amount of weeds in your desert landscape or flower beds. Maybe some of your trees or bushes could use a trim too. Please check your sprinklers to make sure there isn't excessive overspray or run-off into the street. Remember the goal is to keep our community looking pristine. Everybody has to do their part to make that happen. Thank you in advance.

### **DOGS**

Please, if you think you need to walk them to do their "business" other than in your yard - walk them in the street or outside the gates. If any homeowner observes dogs on peoples yards please try to identify the home of the dog and report it to Jennifer at PPM. A \$100 fine will be assessed the homeowner. Urination on lawns causes large yellow (dead) spots.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 3:00 PM at Personalized Property Management 68950 Adelina Road, Cathedral City.

Check the community message board on the wall by the retention basin or the web site for the agenda. It will be posted at least 4 days before the meeting.

**Tom Tousignant, President**