



Montage Messenger

Community Newsletter March 2010

Newsletter Welcomes Advertising

Advertisers Anxious to Reach Upscale Target Audience in Montage

With this issue, the Montage Messenger begins a new era. After more than a year of planning, our community newsletter now features advertising from businesses who have done work in our neighborhood or who want to raise their awareness here in Montage.

From carpet cleaners to hair salons, security providers to environmentally sensitive products, we're attracting companies interested in your business.

Several advertisers are already on board for our upcoming issues ready to join this month's advertisers.

According to Montage advertising manager, MJ Schwartz, "Advertisers recognize that Montage is a first-tier community with homeowners who take great pride in their homes and keep them in tip-top shape. Companies want to reach that target audience."

Adds Tom Tousignant, our HOA

President, "This additional revenue stream will help defray the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, which preserves Association funds for other community purposes. Every little bit helps."

Advertisers should contact MJ at (760) 770-6677 or email requests to Newsletter@HMSCreative if they are interested in becoming an advertiser in the Montage Messenger.

Montage Community Website Is Now Online

We're glad to announce that Montage's new and independent website is now up and running at <http://www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com>. The site has been redesigned and homeowners can access a full range of information and news about our community 24/7.

On the site, you'll have access to an official documents archive, security information, past newsletters and other information related to life in Montage. There are links available for owners to contact PPM and Tom Tousignant, plus a list of vendors for typical homeowner needs. Send us comments and feedback after you have a chance to check it out. And feel free to send us your best service vendors names, too.



Annual Homeowners Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch March 20th

This is the big annual meeting for Montage and we urge you to circle your calendar for Saturday, March 20th to join your neighbors for some good food, friendly conversation and important business. It will be held from 11 am till 2 pm at the Children's Discovery Museum on Gerald Ford.

Bring your favorite ready-to-serve salad, entrée, appetizer, side dish or dessert and a healthy appetite. After the buffet luncheon, we'll address some major Homeowners Assn. business, including the election of two new Board Members to fill positions up for election.

For more information or suggestions on which dishes we may need more of, contact Donna Tousignant at (760) 321-9271.



Bookmark Our New Website Address: www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com

From the Top

Tom
Tousignant

President's Memo

March is a very important month for Montage. The key event will be our Annual Homeowners meeting. We are planning presentations on home security and on Neighborhood Watch, along with our traditional pot luck luncheon. You must come to taste the products of the great cooks here in Montage. That event begins at 11 am.

The most important event is our election of two Board members. Be sure to mail, deliver to Personalized Property Management, or bring your ballots to the Annual Meeting. The ballots received by the start of the meeting will be used to establish a quorum for an official meeting. If we do not obtain ballots from over 50% of Montage Homeowners, the meeting will have to be adjourned and

reconvened at a later date. The meeting and election costs the HOA over \$1,000. Please make sure you submit your ballot or have a neighbor deliver it at the meeting, it is very important. There may have to be a Special Assessment to all Homeowners if the 50% requirement is not met. Ballots were mailed in February to your Official residence per PPM. If you did not receive one please contact me at td2znot@aol.com or Property Manager Jennifer Zeivel at jzeivel@ppmineternet.com or 1-760-325-9500.

The Annual Meeting is also the perfect venue to meet many of your neighbors and provide feedback to the Board on issues that concern you. We'll be seeking your opinion on the importance of refreshing the Da Vall entrance street surfaces at a cost of about \$8,500. Based on homeowner feedback, the Board will decide whether to proceed with that project later this year. It is your best opportunity to provide input on how your money should be spent.

There will be a regular Board meeting at 9:00 am, Saturday, March 20th, immediately prior to the Annual Homeowners meeting, at the Children's Discovery Museum on Gerald Ford near Bob Hope Drive.

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Just Around the Block in Montage

Just Don't Call Me Doctor! The Very Accomplished Life of Terry O'Banion, Ph.D.

If we were to enumerate in detail each of the noteworthy achievements in Dr. Terry O'Banion's distinguished career in higher education, more than half of this month's newsletter might be needed to cover his accomplishments, honors and accolades. So impressive is his resume, that *Change* magazine, a respected educational journal, named him one of 11 "Idea Champions," *who set the agenda for all of higher education*. And O'Banion was the only community college executive on that influential list of higher education luminaries.

Hailing from LaBelle, Florida, his southern charm is still apparent both in his accent, his genteel demeanor and certainly in his marvelous culinary acumen. More on that later.

From "Distinguished Fellow" to "Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence," "Extraordinary Faculty Award" to "Lifetime Achievement Award," to dozens more distinguished honors, institutions of higher learning across the nation and internationally have recognized O'Banion's prodigious contribution to academia.

He has consulted for more than 800 community colleges over nearly 5 decades in the profession, and currently serves as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

During his career, he has served as a college professor and numerous other executive positions, including Vice-Chancellor, President, CEO, Chairman and Board member. He's been the keynote speaker at dozens of conventions, as well.

He is most proud to have been the President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College for 23 years, where he was



instrumental in cultivating corporate and foundation involvement that resulted in over fifty million dollars in funding for their efforts to raise standards in higher education on a broad spectrum of initiatives. Three separate national awards of excellence bear Terry O'Banion's name, two of which are awarded by Microsoft Corporation and the Educational Testing Service. Not to mention the 14 books and nearly 150 scholarly papers he has had published. He still maintains a rigorous schedule of consulting and writing in a regimen that belies the word "retirement."

Yet that's just the tip of the iceberg for this eclectic and multi-faceted neighbor of yours. He defiantly and humbly insists that even students call him Terry vs. Doctor. He is an avid gardener, whistling happily as he tends a backyard full of fruit trees, from fig to apricot to several varieties of citrus, plus berries and vegetables for good measure. He periodically has a box full of lemons out on his driveway, with a sign inviting passers by to grab a few.

In the culinary arena, he is an award-winning baker of gourmet-quality pies and a master at staging sumptuous meals for his frequent guests. (Though these days, he's more and more inclined to simply let Costco provide the victuals.)

With the thousands of colleagues and former students he maintains contact with, as well as a plethora of children and grandkids, he and his wife Yolande may indeed entertain more guests throughout the year than any other couple in our community.

For respite, the O'Banions escape as much as possible on week-long cruises, generally to the Mexican Riviera, "Just to get away from all the calls and company, to simply chill out and enjoy the calming solace of the sea," says O'Banion. "We don't even go ashore anymore."

A jack of all trades - and master of each. Another great neighbor of ours, just around the block in Montage.

SECURITY MATTERS



Pam Price

PARTICIPATE IN YOUR PROTECTION!

The Security Committee continues to forge ahead with Pod organization. A community security meeting was held on Sunday, January 31st with the objective of confirming and recruiting Pod Captains, and to gather contact data from our Captains. We have twelve Pod Captains to date, with 2 more to be appointed for Pod numbers 4, and 15.

It is the captain's responsibility to obtain and keep the Pod Contact Information Forms updated for residents in their Pods. As a homeowner you only have to determine your "Key Contact Person," who will have your CONFIDENTIAL contact information, so we can reach you if there is an incident at your residence. This is not "Shared" information. It is used only when you are away. Case in Point: a suspicious car with blacked-out windows was "casing" a home while the resident was out of town. We had a completed "Pod Contact Information Form" which allowed us to contact the resident. It was determined she did not recognize the vehicle. The Pod Captain reported the license number to the Cathedral City Police Department. The vehicle identification is currently being investigated.

This is exactly what we all can do to reduce home invasions and burglary. Contact Pamela Price (760) 202-8728 if you can volunteer for one of the open "Pod" positions. Again, I urge all residents to maintain their alarm systems and consider home surveillance cameras at strategic points around your home. Check out Radio Shack for the camera systems. Together we can make Montage at Mission Hills a safer community and watch each other's back.

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Montage: Bird's Eye Viewing

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Here's a look at your very own Montage site.

Gerald Ford is at the top. Can you spot your home in the photo?



\$100 Fine!



They're Still At It Daily!

Poop Perps are walking their dogs after dark and very early, rudely letting their dogs do their business on neighbor's lawns. Will you please stop and pick up after your dog?!

Architecture & Landscape Committee Continues Major Slate of Projects

From the DaVall entry drive to a number of colorful landscape projects, the A&L group had a very productive year in 2009, which continues into '10. Thank you to the committee members who put in the time and effort to make it all happen to keep Montage looking good and property values high.

1. Removed overgrowth on DaVall
2. Enhanced Christmas lighting
3. Added boulders and plants to the perimeter; ongoing project
4. Cleaned mailboxes of residue, saving HOA \$550.00
5. Reduced number of violations for garage lights by distributing more switchlocks
6. Recommended additional stop signs at gates, which were installed
7. Recommended light covers for date palm spotlights; installation has started
8. Reduced gardening service monthly service fee
9. Selected new gardening service, Nissho Landscape Care
10. Recommended and oversaw refurbishment of Gerald Ford entry
11. Refurbished areas for seasonal color
12. Refreshed rock in entry flower beds
13. Began refurbishment of curbside landscape



Update reported by Sandy Nips, A&L Committee Chairperson

Remembering Lars



We are very sad to report that Lars Hansen passed away on Sunday night, January 31 of complications from liver cancer. May he rest in peace.

As many of you know, Lars was the President of our association from 2005 to 2007 and did an excellent job. He was a very "gentle giant" with a very positive attitude. He remained active in the association even

after he and his partner Tony moved over to Palm Springs.

When he became the Director of the Braille Institute he provided the Institute's meeting room and kitchen facilities to our association – free of charge.

Lars had a very distinguished career in Cultural Arts Management and received many notable industry awards for his accomplishments and dedication. While here in the desert, he volunteered countless hours to Cathedral City in the development and promotion of Measure "L" for the financial stability of the city. He was also a very active member of the Palm Springs Rotary Club.

He is survived by Anthony Amendola, his partner of 21 years and husband since 2008, as well as his brother, Ralph J. Hansen.

Funeral services were held in the Los Angeles area and a memorial service is being planned for the near future. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of Lars Hansen to The Palm Springs Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 171, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

An excellent account of his accomplishments can be found at http://losangeles.broadwayworld.com/article/Arts_Leader_Lars_Hansen_Passes_Away_At_Age_60_20100201

Lars will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Thanks Donna For Exemplary Service

After more than six years as a member of the A&L Committee, Donna Tousignant stepped down last month. We want to express our thanks for her generous and conscientious service in helping Montage maintain its well-kept appearance and curb appeal through the years. Now she's collecting advertising payments for the newsletter. We never let the real workers here retire.

Contact Corner

Keep This Information Handy When You Would Like to Comment or Report an Issue

Jennifer Zeivel, PPM	760-325-9500
Email PPM	info@ppmInternet.com
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Sandy Nips, A&L	sandynips@hotmail.com
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