



## MONTAGE NEWS – September 2010

Well as you can see we are back to the "old format" Newsletter. I do not have the capability to provide all the pizzazz that Harold and MJ Schwartz did in the Montage Messenger. I thank them for all the effort they put in for the first half for this year.

I am looking for help in producing the Newsletter. A volunteer editor, contributors of articles, life events of homeowners, gossip, roomers, etc. for the Newsletter. If you would like to participate contact me (see Important Contacts below).

During July the company that did the refreshing of the Gerald Ford entrance removed the skid marks from the new surface. Their crew doing the work used the wrong chemicals and they ended up repainting the entire entrance. It is nice and new again (at no cost to the Association). Please tell your guests and service workers to not skid their tires, the marks are nearly impossible to remove.

We still have problems with a few residents that habitually park their cars on the street. The Board is going to become more aggressive in tagging cars parked on the street with notices of potential towing. Once a car has been tagged it legally may be towed the very next time it is observed parked on the street.

## ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

Signed Consent Forms for Electronic Distribution of Documents have been received from 88 homeowners. That means that 40 homeowners still have not consented to receive information and documents electronically. If you have not submitted a form please do it today. The legally required Consent Form is available as a WORD fill in form on the Montage Website under General Information. Fill in the form, print it, sign it and submit it.

If you received a copy of this Newsletter electronically you have already submitted the required form. If you received it in the mail, you need to complete and submit your Consent Form.

## NEW HOMEOWNERS AT MONTAGE

Welcome to our new neighbors:

David Busick & Larry May 36321 Monet, Mar 18<sup>th</sup>  
Cyndy Zaech 69920 Matisse, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Joseph & Lucia Silva 36379 Artisan, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Ian & Arlene Weatherdon 36087 Da Vinci, May 19<sup>th</sup>  
Blair & Hillary Walker 36224 Chagall, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Robert & Anastasia Rose 69871 Matisse, July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Peggy Baker & Rogene Sears 36386 Dali, July 28<sup>th</sup>

## ARCHITECTURAL & LANDSCAPE

The A & L Committee is reminding all homeowners that September is the primary month for trimming deciduous trees. All trees should be trimmed by the semi-annual walk-through which occurs in October. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

For those homeowners with lawns – Coachella Valley Water District has scientifically determined in their test plots at the UC Riverside campus that the ideal time to re-seed lawns is the six week period September 27 to November 7. For that period they will be adding a 50% increase in the "water budget" to allow for additional water usage during the re-seeding and germination period.

## "Eight reasons not to top trees"

Submitted By,

Jay Powell, PWLC II, INC.

**Certified Arborist Certificate #WE-8893A**

(NOTE: PWLCII is a Montage vendor, they did our community palm tree pruning this past June)

1. **Starvation:** Good pruning practices rarely remove more than one-fourth of the crown, which in turn does not seriously interfere with the ability of a tree's leafy crown to manufacture food. Topping removes so much of the crown that it upsets an older tree's well developed crown to root ratio and temporarily cuts off its food making ability.
2. **Shock:** A tree's crown is like an umbrella that shields much of the tree from the direct rays of the sun. By suddenly removing this protection, the remaining bark tissue is so exposed that scalding can result. There may also be a



dramatic effect on neighboring trees and shrubs. If a tree thrives in the shade and the shade is removed, poor health or death may occur.

3. **Insects and Disease:** The large stubs of a topped tree have a difficult time forming callus. The terminal location of these cuts, as well as their large diameter, prevents the tree's chemically based natural defense system from doing its job. The stubs are highly vulnerable to insect invasion and spores of decay fungi. If decay is already present in the limb, opening the limb will speed the spread of disease.
4. **Weak Limbs:** At best, the wood of a new limb that sprouts after a larger limb is truncated is more weakly attached than a limb that develops more normally. If rot exists or develops at the severed end of the limb, the weight of the sprout makes a bad situation even worse.
5. **Rapid New Growth:** The goal of topping is usually to control height and spread of a tree. The resulting sprouts (often called water sprouts) are far more numerous than normal new growth, and they elongate so rapidly that the tree returns to origin height in a very short time, and with a far denser crown.
6. **Tree Death:** Some older trees are more tolerant of topping than others. Beech's, for example, do not sprout readily after severe pruning, and the reduced foliage most surely will lead to death of the tree.
7. **Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with its regrowth, it never regains the grace and character of its species. The landscape and the community are robbed of a valuable asset.
8. **Cost:** To a worker with a saw, topping a tree is much easier than applying the skill and judgment of good pruning. Therefore topping may cost less in the short run. However, the true costs of topping are hidden. These costs include reduced property value, the expense of removal and replacement if the tree dies, the loss of other trees and shrubs if they succumb to changed light conditions, the risk of liability from weakened branches, and increased future maintenance.

### COMMUNITY LANDSCAPE LIGHTS

During June we completed covering all perimeter landscape lights with Roto-Life protective covers.

There should be little chance for future damage due to vandalism. If it occurs, the Roto-Life covers are "guaranteed for life" and will be replaced at no charge.

The next inspection of the perimeter and developer installed front yard landscape lights will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. The inspection is normally the first Wednesday of every month. If you notice a light out, notify Jennifer, she will inform Desert Properties Light Maintenance to look for that light in their next inspection.

### STREET SWEEPING

Our streets are swept on Thursdays. Please make sure all cars, including service workers, are off the street. Also, be sure that trees are trimmed and don't interfere with the street sweeper.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, September 9, 2010 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*

### Important Contacts

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

Property Manager - Jennifer Zeivel 760-325-9500;

jzeivel@ppmInternet.com

President - Tom Tousignant

td2znot@aol.com

A & L Committee Chair - Sandy Nips

sandynips@hotmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Chair Pam Price

760-202-8728

Cathedral City Police 760-770-0300

Police Emergency Only 760-202-2411

Cathedral City Fire 760-770-8200; Emergency 911  
Newsletter Input, Comments or Suggestions...

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