



## **MONTAGE NEWS – January 2012**

Happy New Year! This is going to be a blossoming new year for Montage. The majority of the perimeter landscaping demolition and preparation has been completed, now it is time for replanting. The landscaping should start looking much better soon. Also, in November we completed the installation of a supplemental drain at the bottom of the detention basin that should minimize the recurrence of “Lake Montage” in the future.

We had a brief period of “Smash and Dash” crimes at the end of November. The targets were owner’s and guest’s vehicles left in driveways and on the streets. In all, it appears the toll was: 1 vehicle stolen on Chagall (later recovered), one vehicle broken-into twice on Da Vinci (personal items stolen) and two vehicles broken-into on Matisse (purse stolen – most of contents recovered from the Gerald Ford parkway landscaping). An alert was sent to all owners on the electronic distribution list and posted on the website. We have not had another occurrence for a month now.

A reminder to homeowners (and their tenants) the HOA Rules encourage resident’s cars be parked in the garages. Also, if you have not completed a Consent Form for receiving electronic documents you should complete the form available on the website and submit it.

At the November Board meeting the Board approved the new 2012 Budget and Reserve Study Update. We also set Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> as the date for the 2012 Annual Homeowners Meeting. The meeting and Pot-Luck will again be at the Children’s Discovery Museum. Mark your calendars. We will be in their new building at the back of the property, much better new parking.

The Board has not drafted an agenda for the January Board meeting. I anticipate security to be a major topic and we intend to address measures to reduce sprinkler overspray.

Pam Price has contributed an article from Neighborhood Watch in this edition. Curt Beyer contributed the article winter gardening tips. You homeowners may also submit article for the Newsletter on items of interest or concern to you.

## **GATE CODES**

We changed the gate codes as scheduled after the change from daylight savings time. Shortly thereafter we found that owners with properties for sale had provided the new Homeowner Gate Code to their realtors for the purpose of providing access for showing their properties. In all, we discovered several different realtors were giving the code to people that called for access. We stopped the dissemination with the threat of a \$100 fine being assessed the property owner for each incident.

In order to prevent this in the future we had PPM establish a Realtor Gate Code that will work from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. If you need to show your property on weekends, call PPM and ask Heidi for the code.

We may never know if there was a connection between this dissemination of the Homeowner’s gate code and the Smash and Dash crime spree. But this is another reminder that our gates are vanity gates, not security gates. Homeowners are reminded that they should take steps they feel are appropriate for protecting their individual property.

There seems to be no stopping irresponsible homeowners providing the homeowner gate codes to their realtors, gardeners, pool men and other service workers.

Once again - our gates are not security gates, only vanity gates. The bad guy can always find a way to get in, but you shouldn’t make it any easier for them.

## **NEW CATHEDRAL CITY POLICY**

I received a notice from my alarm company on December 29<sup>th</sup>. It stated that the City has reversed its policy on non-response to alarms

within the City. Beginning January 1, 2012 the Cathedral City Police will once again respond to alarms.

The notice goes on to say that the City has enacted a permit ordinance that requires people with alarms to obtain an annual permit. The initial permit is \$35 and annual renewals are \$30 paid directly to the City.

There will be a substantial fine if the police respond to an alarm where no permit is current.

I will post a copy of the City ALARM PERMIT APPLICATION provided by my alarm company on the Montage website. You may print it and modify it as necessary before submitting it to the City.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

By Pam Price, Chair of Neighborhood Watch Committee

Invitation to a Home Invasion?

We experienced several car break-ins in November and December. Think about this.

This is what makes it easy for a burglar to escalate a drive by to a home invasion.

1. Allow newspapers to accumulate on your driveway
2. Keep your lights off when you are out of town. Make sure your house is dark.
3. Keep your front gate and side gate unlocked
4. Forget to arm your alarm.
5. Leave your garage door open.
6. Leave your windows unlocked.
7. Leave your car on the street with items in the back and front seat.
8. Allow cars to tail gate when you come through the gate and if they look suspicious don't take down the license number
9. Share our security code with anybody.
10. When you leave town don't tell anybody-keep it a secret
11. If there is an emergency make it difficult for your pod captain to locate you.

I assure you if you make it easy for a criminal to break into your car or home they will return.

Don't put out your welcome mat for home or car invasion.

### **SPRINKLE OVERSPRAY**

There are no storm drains within Montage. All water flows down the gutters to the catch basins at the corner of Van Gogh and Da Vinci, then into the drywell in the detention basin.

Please have your gardeners check your irrigation systems for overspray and make appropriate adjustments. This may require adjusting or replacing the sprinkler heads or emitters. Checks should be done on a continuous basis.

### **WINTER GARDENING TIPS**

By Curt Beyer, Board of Directors

#### **January**

January is usually our coldest month, with pleasant days and cool nights. There's even a chance for frost.

Lawns overseeded with ryegrass need regular moisture and weekly mowing. If yellowing occurs, apply high nitrogen fertilizer.

This is the last opportunity to plant bare-root roses, grapes and deciduous fruit trees. Prune your roses and deciduous fruit trees this month. By now, red bird of paradise have gone dormant. Cut back stems to about 18 inches above ground level.

Plant cool-season vegetables and herbs.

January is the ideal month to make additions or changes in the garden while temperatures are kind. It is a good month to retrofit your garden. (Review previous newsletter December notes.) Now's the time to transplant cold-hardy plants including perennials.

Check tree stakes and ties for support against strong winds common in the spring months.

#### **February**

Warming trends this month set the stage to fertilize citrus trees. Water annuals and perennials diligently. Control winter weeds.

Complete pruning of roses and deciduous fruit trees.

February is an excellent time to plant shallow-rooted ground covers, native plants and other low-water use plants. Hold off planting frost-tender plants such as citrus and bougainvillea until next month, to avoid possible late frost.

Continue to plant winter vegetables. (The time to begin planting a winter garden is mid-September. The soil is warm and cooler temperatures that are soon to come are ideal for growing green leafy vegetables and root crops such as beets, carrots, endive, leeks, lettuce, green onions, radishes, spinach, turnips, broccoli, bok choy, pak choy, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, chard, mustard and pears. This is also the time to grow cool-season garden herbs such as cilantro, chives, parsley, dill and fennel. Planting can be done anytime for short maturing plants until warmer temps approach.)

However, beginning in early February, you can plant many of the warm-season crops – onions, eggplant, sweet or bell peppers, chili peppers and melons. The prime summer herb is basil. Many summer vegetables are handsome plants, and can be mixed into flowerbeds.

Plant seeds or set out young tomato, pepper and eggplant after all danger of frost has passed. In the Coachella Valley the average dates for the last frost can range from late January to early March, but the official date is March 1. Seedlings and plants in 4-inch pots are usually available at local nurseries during this time, ready to plant. A word of caution: don't set out a large number of plants. Just a few plants of most vegetables will produce enough harvests for the average home.

Because intense heat is coming all too soon, plant varieties that are early maturing and heat tolerant. Native varieties of crops, rather than hybrids, often do better. A number of seed companies are now providing desert-adapted varieties of common vegetables.

Check plants for aphids or other pests and control as soon as you notice them.

Begin deep root watering of trees in anticipation of spring growth surge.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be Thursday January 12, 2012 at 3:00 PM at the offices of Personalized

Property Management, 69850 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@ppmlInternet.com](mailto:jzeivel@ppmlInternet.com)

President - Tom Tousignant

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A & L Committee Chair - Sandy Nips

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Neighborhood Watch Chair - Pam Price

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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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