



MONTAGE NEWS – July 2012

This is the “slow season” and we have so much news for you!

Those of you that have submitted your Consent Form for receiving electronic communications (if you would like to participate, form available on website below) received advance notice of the lane closures on Gerald Ford and Da Vall for gas line work in the intersection for the week of June 25 – 29th for phase 1, followed by closures July 9-10th for phase 2.

Conserve LandCare (the HOA landscape maintenance company) will be trimming our perimeter and entry palm trees July 2nd and 3rd (work was postponed due to problems with their boom truck). They will be attempting as best as possible to prevent the fronds from falling in the yards of the perimeter homes and cleaning them up if they do get in there. If you discover them in your yard call Jennifer (contact info below) and report it and she will get it cleaned up.

Conversely, Conserve LandCare has requested that when YOUR gardeners trim your landscaping along the perimeter walls they also clean up any trimmings that fall over the wall into the perimeter. Conserve personnel do not clean this up and may throw it back into your backyard for you to dispose of – disposal costs money and is the responsibility of each gardener to cover in the prices they charge.

PALM TREE TRIMMING

The Montage at Mission Hills HOA has scheduled the Association’s palm tree trimming – because it is time. Now it is your turn – if you have not scheduled your palms to be trimmed do it now – your neighbors with pools will appreciate you’re doing the pruning of old frond and new flowers. Be sure that fronds falling outside of your walls on the perimeter are also picked up and carried away by your gardeners. This is important as it is not the perimeter landscape personnel that are responsible of your trimmings. This also applies to the trimmings of hedges and trees.

PEDESTRIAN GATES

By Jennifer Zeivel, Community Manager

I had a call from an owner who walks daily and she reported that the pedestrian gates at both Da Vall and Gerald Ford are being left open, propped open with rocks, or just not completely closed. She says she sees this 80% of the time in the morning when she walks.

This is a serious breach of the limited security the gates provide. Please stop doing it!

GATE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

The Board is evaluating new gate telephone systems; we expect to complete the evaluations in September in time for selection of new systems at the September Board meeting.

We are trying to implement a newer, more capable system that will offer each homeowner with multiple unique access codes for yourself, your guests and your service workers. New systems have the capacity of up to 2,000 codes. Each of our 128 homeowners may have a block of up to 15 codes. Each of those codes may be disabled if there is a problem – like a transponder being stolen or misplaced or cancellation of desired access. Unfortunately, providing this enhanced capability probably will require the purchase of new transponders.

SNAKE SIGHTING IN MONTAGE

In case you didn’t know – the following message was sent to all homeowners that have submitted a Consent Form for email distribution of information. The information was transmitted within 3 hours of the incident reporting. It was also posted on the website:

May 15, 2012; 12:29 PM – Snake on Van Gogh – sidewinder rattlesnake

Nick Nickerson was the resident that first sighted the snake. It was a sidewinder, about 4 feet long. It was crossing the Van Gogh between Nick’s home and Pam Price’s home. It was able to hide

in the shrubs between Pam's home and the Corona's home before Nick could get a rake to capture it. It is still around and extremely dangerous. This is the time of year for them. This is a good reminder not to stick your hands and feet in or under.

He spoke with Animal Control about the snake. They will come and get it if it is threatening life (either pet or person). The telephone number of Animal Control is: (760) 343-3644. Unfortunately, you have to have it in sight before they will respond. They will not come out and look for it.

Note: Ken Niemeyer (Montage resident) works at the Living Desert as a volunteer. In commenting upon the supposed sighting he was assured that sidewinders are not in this area as they need open desert and sand. If a snake was seen here with that general appearance it would have been a gopher snake or some other non-venomous variety. Usually the more dangerous kinds of snakes do all they can to avoid human contact.

The best bet is to leave it alone and call animal control if it is visible on your property.

WELCOME COMMITTEE

By Curt Beyer, Chair – Welcome Committee

Anyone interested in working with a Welcome Committee should contact Curt Beyer. He can be sent an email at CurtBeyer@gmail.com. Even if you have already spoken to Curt, he would appreciate a confirmation email to get contact information toward setting up an initial meeting for the committee. Some of the information to be given to new homeowners has been partially assembled but further work needs to be done. Initially it is planned to provide complete packets of welcome information to all current homeowners and their renters. After the initial distribution these packets and their updates will be given to new residents as they come into our community.

A special night just for Montage Residents at the Mission Hills Country Club is being planned. As our homeowners association dues include a social membership at the club we have additional benefits as homeowners.

If you have ideas as to what you would like to see in the informational packets provided to

homeowners please send a note to Curt Beyer and all ideas will be considered. Please be aware that a great deal of information already exists on the website for our community.

DOG WALKERS

By Curt Beyer, dog walker

It has been noticed that some of our summer renters and even some home owners are still letting their pets use the common areas by the detention basin and owners' lawns to do their business. The CC&Rs as well as common courtesy asks each to prevent this. Some of our infrequent residents are not aware of these rules and a gentle admonition or comment will help us all to be better neighbors. There are fines stipulated in the CC&Rs for repeat offenders that can be assessed if violations are reported.

On the positive side . . . It is often the dog walkers that police our streets of stray trash and are the daily observers of vacant houses and property. Seeing these areas daily it can be very obvious when something is out of place or disturbed. These daily trekkers are also good people to get to know as they can add to our overall security and sense of neighborhood. They can keep an extra eye on things should you be away for even a weekend.

HOURS FOR OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS/GARDENERS

Each homeowner is responsible for observing that no workmen/gardeners begin their work prior to 7:00 AM and complete work by 5:00 PM. That is by city ordinance and our CC&Rs. Hours need to be observed out of general courtesy and should be made clear to those working on your property. The CC&Rs set for disciplinary fines for violations that can all too easily be avoided.

DO NOT CALL LIST

REMINDER: all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls - YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THESE CALLS

To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222. It is the National DO NOT CALL LIST. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for five (5) years. You must call from the cell phone number you

want to have blocked. You cannot call from a different phone number.

<https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>

SOLITORS PROHIBITED

By Pam Price, Chair – Neighborhood Watch

Report received of a white Toyota Corolla License 6PQN764, driver/passenger/sunglasses both female are cruising through Montage, parking, opening gates and knocking on doors.

"Betty" identified herself as a cleaning service.

Please report if you see this duo. "Betty" opened the gate at the Horwitz residence, knocked on her door and Joanne subsequently reported this to me the afternoon of Tuesday, June 26th.

Soliciting is not allowed within Montage.

COPS VOLUNTEERS

By Pam Price, Chair, Neighborhood Watch

If any Montage residents are interested in the Citizens on Patrol (COPS) program call me for an application form. I have done several "drive alongs" and it was an eye opening experience. You can gather many facts to ID suspicious behavior within 60 seconds - including how to ID a car/license plates/other descriptive information.

Many Montage homes will be vacant this summer so be alert.

THEFTS

By Peter Alcuri and Adam Tillotson, homeowners

We just heard from our gardeners that 2 leaf blowers were stolen from their truck a couple of weeks ago while they were working in a house on Monet Ct.

They have been with us for eight years and service many houses in the community. They also told us they spoke to other gardeners who work in Montage who also had items stolen from their trucks.

Perhaps other homeowners would appreciate this info and could give their gardeners a warning about leaving their equipment out.

Homeowners - I've never heard of anyone robbing poor gardeners or construction workers, thought there was some sort of code of the West against that.

A DUCKY TALE FROM MONTAGE

By Steve Clippinger, homeowner



Yesterday after viewing the spectacular yucca bloom, we encountered a large duck dead in the street. 🐼

This morning we found a young man standing along the street protecting this darling little brood of ducklings.



His father soon drove up with a box and a towel so that the babies could be captured and taken to a rescue facility. Knowing how difficult it can be to catch little babies I offered to assist. They seemed content to stay clustered so I suggested the boy hand me the box and he moved in closer with the towel and the babies easily moved into the box and were covered safely with the towel. This entire capture took less than a minute! Living here in the Montage community is always interesting! Have a great day! Steve

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, July 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*

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President - Tom Tousignant

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A & L Committee Chair - Sandy Nips

lilsnip@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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