



MONTAGE NEWS – March 2012

Well it is almost time for our Annual Homeowners meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th at 11:00 AM at the Children's Discovery Museum.

This meeting is very important for the Community. First it is an opportunity to cast your votes on issues important to the Community. Second it is an excellent opportunity for homeowners to meet and discuss ideas for improving the Community. Third, it will be another opportunity for all the great cooks within Montage to demonstrate their talents at the Pot-Luck luncheon. And finally, it is a legal requirement of the California Civil Code.

You all should have received your Annual Meeting Package in the mail by now. It was mailed to your official mailing address on record with Personalized Property Management. If it has been sent there and not here or visa versa, contact me or Jennifer and we will get you another package (email addresses at bottom of Newsletter).

There is an error in the package. The ballot correctly states "Each unit is entitled to One (1) vote." The Secret Ballot Voting Instructions contain the error referring to three positions and three votes – it is one position and one vote. Sorry for any confusion.

Admittedly, this year's ballot is not very exciting but please complete and return it. The count of the ballots returned is the surest way we have of obtaining a quorum required to conduct the Annual Meeting. We need 65 homeowners participating to hold the meeting. By my rough count we have 73 full time residents within Montage, 23 with other homes within Southern California, 25 Snow Birds with homes outside of Southern California and 7 leasers of their Montage homes. It will be very difficult to have enough homeowners show up at the meeting. The count of the ballots will provide evidence of participation.

You received the draft agenda for the meeting in your package. The Board decided to focus this

years meeting to soliciting community feedback and future direction setting. We will be looking for input on what you would like to see in the future of Montage.

PAID PET CARE

I received a request from a homeowner asking if there is anyone within Montage interested in providing paid pet care. They know about pet care services from the phone book, but would be interested in finding someone within the community to provide the service. If you have an interest, please contact me or Jennifer.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Pam Price, Chair of Neighborhood Watch Committee

2012 Pod Captain Information in Operation

Thanks to a conscientious, caring Montage resident our 2012 Montage Neighborhood Watch information has been thoroughly updated and Distributed:

Joe Silva, Pod 1
Joann and Alan Horwitz, Pod 2
Marc Salomone, Pod 3
Wayne and Margot Schweifler, Pod 4
Pam Price, Pod 5
Nick Nickerson, Pod 6
Steve and Linda Lake, Pod 5
Alexander and Barbara Pierce, Pod 8
Dennis Goodman and Jerry Stamper, Pod 9
Steve Clippinger and Gene Urich, Pod 10
Hyland and Becky Hogan, Pod 11
Jim Dunn, Pod 12
Chuck Spence and Burt Peachy, Pod 14
Michelle Madison, Pod 15

Each Neighborhood Watch file has the Community Site Map and the Contact List which I advise each resident to keep current.

I was fortunate to be in a Ride Along with the Palm Desert Citizens on Patrol with Lieutenant Dennis Mulkey. Security must run in my family DNA as my cousin is part of this volunteer organization which is affiliated with the National Association of

Citizens on Patrol. He briefed me on the Ride Along.

During my 2 ½ hours I learned a few things that I would like to pass on to all of us living in Montage. Should you, while you are driving or walking here see anything unusual, from a group of people loitering at the retention pond or an unidentified vehicle which looks suspicious (maybe it has been parked in the same place for a few weeks), or a loud noise (i.e.: someone at 4 AM smashing a car window) do not approach the person but call the Cathedral City Police Department.

If you see newspapers accumulating on a driveway, notify your Pod Captain.

Tailgating is another issue we have to solve at some point.

There are all kinds of theft, even cable theft. It is up to you to be on the Alert.

TAILGATING

EDITORIAL Response: Following is the response I have provided homeowners that have asked me questions about tailgating. First remember our gates are vanity gates, not security gates. And there is not enough money in the world to make them security gates.

There is not much you can do to stop vehicles from following you through the gates. The gates have a sensor in the middle of the gate that will prevent it from closing when there is a vehicle present. This prevents it from closing on vehicles that are moving slowly.

My suggestion, if you have concerns about a vehicle that has followed you through the gate, is to follow that vehicle, write down a description and license number and report it to your Pod Captain, Pam Price or me. If any problem occurs we will have a place to start looking. Also, if the vehicle operators see you following them and writing down their license number it will discourage them from doing anything.

SPRINKLER 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.

SUCCULENT CONTAINER GARDENS

Book Recommendation . . . Curt Beyer

Whether an experienced gardener or a novice, once one moves to the desert we become quickly aware that doing things in the desert is completely different than what we find in many of the popular gardening magazines, books and how-to TV shows. As one that is trying to learn this new horticultural mecca . . . I am always on the lookout for information and resources. Therefore, I am recommending a book - Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin.

The book jacket into states: With their colorful leaves, sculptural shapes, and simple care, succulents are beautiful yet forgiving plants for pots. In portable gardens, these dry-climate jewels – which include but are not limited to cacti – can be brought indoors in winter (if necessary – my experience is that here in the desert it may be a matter of moving the pots into a bit of shelter from the sun) and so can thrive anywhere in the world. In this inspiring compendium, the popular author of *Designing with Succulents* provides everything beginners and experienced gardeners need to know to create stunning container displays of exceptionally waterwise plants. The extensive palette includes delicate sedums, frilly echeverias, cascading senecios, edgy agaves, and fat-trunked beaucarneas, to just name a few. Easy-to-follow, expert tips explain soil mixes, overwintering, propagation, and more.

Define your individual style as you effectively combine patterns, colors, textures, and forms. Discover how top designers interpret the dramatic options, in ideas ranging from exquisite plant-and-pot combinations to extraordinary topiaries and bonsai. Expand your repertoire with plump-leaved plants that resemble pebbles, stars, and undersea creatures. Short on space? Create vertical gardens and hanging baskets, and use daisy like rosettes in wall displays.

Each of the more than 300 photographs offers an inspiring idea. A-to-Z descriptions cover 350 of the

best succulents, plus companion plants. Whether your goal is gorgeous potted garden for a sunny windowsill or outdoor living area – or simply making great gifts – this is a comprehensive primer for creating vibrant, living works of art.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 9:00 AM at the Children's Discovery Museum 71701 Gerald Ford Drive Rancho Mirage, California, 92270. Before the Annual Meeting, come early and see your Board in action.

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

President - Tom Tousignant

td2znot@aol.com

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...

TD2znot@aol.com

Website: www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com