



... June 2013 ...

**SOME THINGS CHANGE . . . SOME DON'T**

Let's see . . . Where to begin . . .

At the annual meeting we had an election of board members but came up one short. Re-nomination was opened and from that process **Michelle Madison** has been appointed to the board. She is taking the place of retiring Sandy Nips who has served us long and well.

If you see Michelle . . . Thank her for stepping up to the responsibilities board members accept on behalf of all of us. Also, if you see Sandy . . . A big thank you is due her for her tireless efforts not only on the board but also as chair of the A & L Committee. Both were sizeable commitments of time and effort but the quality of her work speaks for itself.

Once a full board (5 members) was in place a reorganization of board positions took place. As noted on the newly remounted bulletin boards on the DaVinci/Van Gogh curve . . .

**President . . . . . Curtis S Beyer**  
**Vice President . . . . Nick Nickerson**  
**Secretary . . . . . Robert Fouyer**  
**Treasurer . . . . . Tom Tousignant**  
**At-Large . . . . . Michelle Madison**

Robert Fouyer will be taking on the chair position of the Architecture and Landscape Committee and JoAnn Horwitz is the chair of the combined

Neighborhood Watch / Emergency Preparedness & Welcome Committees.

The A & L Committee has been reformed with a new group of volunteers. They are, (in addition to returning members Robert Fouyer and Dennis Goodman) Tom Schmitt, Terry Palmer and Steve Clippinger. This is a committed and hard working group and often need to make decisions based on past practice, established guidelines and then often step back and look at the overall effect on our properties as a whole.

Any time you are contemplating a change on or to your property or home, it is **required** you submit a **variance request** (available on line at the Montage website) just to keep everyone informed. This includes any changes to landscaping . . . Including the removal and/or replacement of trees, exterior painting and any other construction, etc.

The Neighborhood Watch / Emergency Preparedness & Welcome Committee(s) is tasked with a lot of work as we get it all going. JoAnn Horwitz has an initial committee . . . Dottie LaPaglia, Mike Gialdini, Phyllis Hueffmeier, Jerry Stamper and Terry Palmer. Others are welcome in the job of updating of contact information and making sure we have reliable lists of homeowners / renters, etc. This is vital in many ways. Once we have it all up to date we will be able to more effectively keep our neighborhood and community a more safe and aware place to call home.

If you know your information has changed since you first submitted it when Pam Price got things started you should call or email JoAnn ([JoAnnWLV@aol.com](mailto:JoAnnWLV@aol.com)). Please thank her for taking on this heavy load for our mutual wellbeing.

### **PALM TREE TRIMMING . . .**

The date palms are scheduled for trimming on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The process will be supervised by Randy and the tree superintendent of ConserveLand, our landscaping and gardening company. Some of us have seen this activity in the past and it can be very difficult for the guys up in the trees to completely direct where the cut fronds will land. Every effort will be made to protect plantings, etc. but . . . errant fronds may fall into your yards, pools and patios. If you have furniture or pots near the drop zones it is advisable to move them out of harms way.

### **ANT/PEST CONTROL TREATMENT DATES . . .**

The pest control company we work with will be spraying/treating the perimeter and common areas of the Montage on June 6, 13 and 20. They will be looking for fire ant hills and the signs of other pests. The fire ant treatment person for the City of Cathedral City will be checking the perimeter and common areas as well on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Many residents are seemingly unaware of rodent problems that occur throughout our valley. Shrubs that have branches all the way to the ground and areas with thick vegetation provide secure pathways for the vermin to move around our properties. If you currently have monthly treatment of your property for

bugs/spiders you may want to ask for a pet safe bait box to aid in the control of these 4 footed pests.

### **VENDOR ACCESS AND HOURS . . .**

I was met by two different homeowners on a recent Tuesday morning at about 6:30 a.m. as I was taking my dogs for their morning walk. A gardener had started work at about 6:30 and by the time I got to him at about 7 he was on his third home in the area.

I had spoken to this particular vendor almost a year ago on the same problem. No vendor should be starting work in the Montage before 7 a.m. Gate access codes for vendors are set to work only between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Vendors gaining access prior to that time are using homeowner codes and are in violation of our rules. City ordinance also can be reviewed on these work hours as well.

It is not uncommon to see pool service people coming in prior to 7 a.m. as well. We have responsible pool companies that do work in the Montage but keys and codes get lost and grant access unintentionally. We all know homeowners that have had pool pumps and equipment stolen in broad daylight. We all are responsible for the safety of our neighborhood and our properties.

We can and will take steps to correct this problem. Each homeowner is responsible for the property access of their vendors. That also means that homeowners are responsible to see that work hours are strictly observed in keeping with the rules of the Montage at Mission Hills.

## **TREES ON OUR PROPERTIES NEED ATTENTION . . .**

As stated previously, I walk my dogs daily and although the majority of the walk is on the perimeter, a different route through the complex on the return has the benefit of being able to see the status of the community at least once if not twice on each street each week.

There are a large number of trees that need pruning/trimming to accomplish better air flow when winds arise. This limits the overall weight born by the branches as the constant watering encourages overgrowth and shallow root development. We have seen a number of trees come down in the last couple of years for these reasons.

Another concern is the clearance needed for the street sweeper to get access to the gutter space on our streets. Keeping these clean and detritus free, allows watering overspray and pool drainage to flow freely toward the detention basin. If the water pools it starts the 'unravel' the edges of our streets as evidenced in numerous places currently.

This trimming can be done by your gardeners, but may be better supervised by an arborist or skilled tree trimming professional. Pruning can protect your investment in your trees and keep them looking their best and enhancing your property.

## **GOOD NEIGHBORS AND GOOD DEEDS**

It may seem obvious and assumed but not everyone is concerned about the neighborhood or how their property is

maintained affects their neighbors. We in the Montage are pretty lucky in this regard. There is seldom an issue that rises to a complaint to the management company or the board. Many of these issues should be solved between the homeowners. Sometimes they are simple things that may have been overlooked and easily addressed.

If it is a matter that violates the few rules and regulations we have in the Montage, then a call to the management company, or alerting a board member if the concern is warranted. None of us want to be enforcers of our guidelines, but we all have a responsibility to keep to those rules that make our community a good place to live.

JoAnn Horwitz, chair of the Welcome / Emergency Preparedness / Neighborhood Watch Committees, is urging all of us to notify our neighbors if we are away if even overnight. Gates to back yards need locks and keys which can be given to gardeners. Access to our homes via back yards can be unseen quite easily, including access to pool equipment and accessories. Front gates, if left open, invite people into our courtyards. If packages or mail has been left at the door . . . It is an advertisement that no one is home and can encourage a quick stop to retrieve a package unattended.

None of this is meant as alarmist, but rather just common sense. Our neighbors . . . Whether good friends or not . . . are our best line of security and watchfulness. Our gates cannot keep out all of the problems that some can bring into the Montage. Even our gardeners have been victims of opportunity. At least one had

his mower, blower and heavy tools removed from his trailer as he worked in a client's back yard.

Being observant, taking quick photos if things look odd or vehicles are not the ones we usually see can be of great value to us all.

## **STREET REPAIR/PRESERVATION**

The board has initiated the Slurry Seal and Pavement Preservation Improvements. This activity occurs every 3 to 5 years in order to preserve and maintain our streets.

This year the work will be accomplished in two stages. The first stage will occur on June 25, 2013, beginning at 7:00 a.m., and will include the repair of the potholes along the edges of our streets at 19 locations. The Contractor hired to perform this work is AMS Paving based in Palm Desert. Nick Nickerson, Board VP, will walk the project with AMS staff on June 14, 2013 to mark each of the locations that will be repaired.

**There are several things we can do to make sure this is a successful project. It is very important that we do not park near or block the marked areas. We should also turn our front water off beginning the morning of June 24, 2013 and keep it off until the end of the day on June 26, 2013. It is also important that we stay off the repaired areas until the contractor removes the barricades.**

The second stage of the improvement will occur in late September 2013 or early October 2013 and will include the application of an Asphalt Emulsion Slurry Seal. The slurry seal will be applied to our

entire street network in an effort to extend the life of the pavement. Maintaining our streets in this manner will prevent us from having to reconstruct our streets before their expected service life ends. Additional information will be provided before the second stage begins in September 2013.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Nick Nickerson at [nnickerson@naiconsulting.com](mailto:nnickerson@naiconsulting.com). You may also contact the Property Manager for additional information.

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be Thursday, July 11, 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 at the DaVinci/VanGogh corner or the web site for the agenda. It will be posted at least 4 days before the meeting.

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Police Emergency Only 760-202-2411

Cathedral City Fire 760-770-8200; Emergency 911

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