



JULY 2013

. . . It's what happens when you make other plans . . .

We saw the palms trimmed with some timing snags, and we also witnessed a couple of the street unraveling areas repaired. There are more street repairs to come before the slurry coating later this year. No matter how tightly we try to schedule these things . . . Problems with equipment, materials and etc. can still occur.

We still have runoff problems from lawn watering that some homeowners may not even be aware of as they leave that to their gardeners. This is the primary reason for the street unraveling and the cost of the repairs.

A few things brought to my attention by homeowners in the Montage . . . Cars not properly parked with wheels up on the curb or parked overnight on the streets rather than in the garage or driveway. Also, I keep seeing and hearing of pets being allowed to use other people's lawns and landscaping as places to urinate, etc. Even though **'most'** pick up after their pets there are a few that continue to disrespect the neighborhood properties and Montage rules. We have been making efforts to verbally encourage compliance, but for some of our neighbors we may have to start sending letters and possibly levying fines.

We have new owners and renters in the Montage. Please, say hello, make them welcome and help them feel at home. If you are renting your property . . .

Remember, you have a responsibility to notify the management company as well as to make sure copies of the CC&Rs and Rules are made available to your tenants. We have had problems with parties and other disallowed activities at some homes, and this affects us all.

Crazy Ants and Critters . . .

Here at the Montage we are pretty well on top of pest control. Yes, we have ants but they are routinely routed. In speaking with the experts I was surprised when they said, "The fire ants are not really a problem but . . . CRAZY ANTS are on their way."

I was intrigued so I did a web search on crazy ants. He was right to be concerned. The crazy ants feed on the insulation around wiring and are seemingly immune to all control chemicals at this time. It is relatively easy to keep them out of our homes, but think of AC units and all of the wiring around the outside of our homes and you begin to see the problem.

At present they are south of us along the gulf coast, but knowing how these little guys get around . . . They may be here in the near future.

RATS are the other concern. We used to live in the San Fernando Valley. It is covered with ivy and thick ground covers. If you add that to fruit trees and etc., you quickly see a prime habitat for these critters. If you look around here . . . It is much the same. We have the pest control people service a couple of bait

boxes at our property. We have had months in which all of the bait has been eaten and months in which there was evidence of only a few nibbles. We have no ground cover nor any fruit trees. And, yes, we have seen more than a few of the expired critters as a result of our bait boxes.

Rats can get into our homes in holes as small as a quarter. Think then also of mice, etc. and it raises ones awareness as to how attractive our homes are to these little ones. I would urge any and all of you to have bait boxes added to your pest control measures around your homes. They are pet safe and add an additional layer of protection for your property. I know of other homeowners in the Montage that have found these unwelcome visitors in their homes. We are not alone!!!!!!

Report from the A & L Committee, Robert Fouyer, Chair

Well, this is not the A & L Committee's favorite time of the year. Aside from the heat, it was that time of year again when our palm trees needed to be trimmed. We have a total of **145** palm trees in Montage, including 103 date palms around our perimeter, another 8 in our detention basin and 34 Mexican fan palms in our Gerald Ford and DaVall entries. This year, unfortunately, our landscape contractor had equipment problems that caused our planned date for the trimming to be delayed by a week. Actually, it had to be done in two installments, partly by one man climbing and manually trimming each tree, and several days later the second installment done with the use of a cherry picker. My hat goes off to the guy that had to climb each tree some 50-75 feet high to do

this—particularly at over 100 degree temperatures. Aside from the delay in getting under way however they did a fine job.

As we do every year, we had a few complaints from residents about the falling debris. Unfortunately this is unavoidable. Thanks to gravity there is only one way for the fronds and fruit to fall, and that's down. It is unrealistic to expect the workers to remove all the debris from all of the 128 homes, but the effort is made just the same. In addition to concern about damages to our homeowner's landscape, the A & L Committee also had to be concerned about the beautiful perimeter landscaping we finished up refurbishing last year. Those fronds and heavy fruit can do a lot of damage if they fall on a plant. It appears we avoided any serious damages.

We thank all of our homeowners for their patience and understanding during this messy process.

Speaking of palm trees, a couple of years ago we reported that our palm trees are nearing their end-of-life stage and it is likely Montage will incur some major expense in the coming years. A couple of years ago we added 5 Mexican fan palm trees to replace those that we had lost since they were planted when Montage was developed. Thankfully we haven't lost any recently.

Our entrance gates on Gerald Ford and DaVall are in need of re-painting and we are in process of obtaining estimates. We are also considering a possible change of color that will complement the wall and signage colors we changed awhile back.

Lastly, there are still some homeowners that need to have their trees trimmed/pruned. Please look and see if yours are in need of pruning. Keep in mind the longer you let them go without trimming the more prone they are to blowing over in the wind, which will then be expensive to remove and replace with another. Further, we need to provide for adequate clearance beneath the trees for our street cleaning company that comes every Friday and to provide adequate vehicle clearance.

Members of your A & L Committee are as follows: Dennis Goodman, Steve Clippinger, Terry Palmer and our newest member, Tom Schmitt

**News from Neighborhood Watch/
Emergency Preparedness and Welcome
Committee,
JoAnn Horwitz, Chair**

The next meeting of this committee will be in late July. Discussions will be focused on area wide emergency preparedness and the steps we in Montage are urged to be more prepared for in the event of a major quake that may be in our future. An agenda for the meeting will be posted on the bulletin boards at the corner of DaVinci and Van Gogh Rds.

The neighborhood watch pods need to reconfirm the pod leaders for each of the 14 pods within Montage. Current pod leaders are urged to call JoAnn and/or attend the meeting later this month. This commitment is not a time consuming responsibility as much as an information coordinating and safety contact for a smaller group within the Montage. Our neighborhood is much more secure and safe if we know our neighbors and pay

attention to the comings and goings in our areas.

There are many things that we can do to make our community more secure and less attractive to possible theft, etc.

Helpful hint

If your car should become a victim of getting fresh blacktop spray or tar on its exterior, here's what to do: Spritz the tar stain with laundry prewash spray and let it sit for one or two minutes----then wipe it clean with a soft cloth. Your car will be tar-free.

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.

Curtis Beyer, President (Newsletter Editor)
CurtBeyer@gmail.com

Property Manager - Jennifer Zeivel 760-325-9500;
jzeivel@ppmInternet.com

A & L Committee Chair – Robert Fouyer
chateauf@aol.com

Neighborhood Watch Chair – JoAnn Horwitz
JoAnnWLV@aol.com

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...
CurtBeyer@gmail.com

Website:
www.MontageMH.Wordpress.comNeighborhood
Website: **www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com**