



### **MONTAGE NEWS – March 2013**

The most important event of the year is approaching – The ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS MEETING. Please plan to attend and discuss items of importance to YOU in our community. This is your opportunity to provide feedback and suggest direction to the Board. It is your best opportunity to meet and socialize with your neighbors old and new during the Pot Luck Luncheon. And you will be able to commiserate with other community members on your frustrations with the implementation of the new gate entry system. Come early and see the Board in action at the Board Business meeting beginning at 9:00 AM.

Whether you plan to attend or not the Board requests that you complete and return the ballot that has been mailed to you. The returned ballots are used to establish a quorum. A quorum is required to be able to conduct the meeting. The last time we did not achieve a quorum all homeowners were assessed a \$10 special assessment to cover the cost of reconvening the meeting.

The 2013 perimeter landscape improvement projects are in progress. These should wrap up the work on rejuvenating the perimeter of Montage. The Board is planning to have the streets seal coated again this summer. And the Reserve Study will be updated by a professional consultant by the end of the year.

Again, mark your calendars for the Annual Homeowners Meeting and pot luck luncheon scheduled for 11:00 AM Saturday, March 23rd at the Children's Discovery Museum. Also, mark and mail your ballots.

### **ARCHITECTURAL & LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

By Robert Fouyer

Some of you may have noticed a lot of activity around our perimeter and in the detention basin the past couple of weeks. We are in the final phase of our perimeter rejuvenation project and it is nearing its completion and should be by time

you read this. The addition of new DG (decomposed granite) throughout the perimeter and curb sides makes our trees and shrubs "pop" greatly enhancing the appearance of our landscaping. We have also added new plants where needed in some areas. The yellow lantana on the east side of the detention basin that was in bad shape has been removed and new plants added as well as new DG to refresh the old.

### **SALE OF LIGHT BULBS**

By Tom Tousignant

Did you notice that the lights on the perimeter palm trees have been upgraded? The old compact fluorescent bulbs and the relatively new light emitting diode bulbs have been replaced with new LED bulbs. Those "old" Par 20 LED bulbs are going to be auctioned at the Annual Homeowners Meeting. They cost the HOA \$25 each + tax wholesale in April 2011. They were installed in June 2011, so they have used approximately 10% of their expected life. There are 13 bulbs available.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

By Nick Nickerson

Hello Neighbors. Recently we had several incidents in our community involving either a trespasser or burglary. The trespassing incident involved a man going from door to door requesting money. When told no, from what I have been told, got rather pushy and demanding. There is a rumor going around that "several" involved residents called the Cathedral City Police Department and were told that the Police do not respond to non-emergency incidents. While this may or not be true, a trespasser is not considered a non-emergency incident. In fact, the Police did respond to the call received. The Police Department's dispatch records indicate that a call was received at 5:26 p.m., an officer was dispatched at 5:29 p.m. and the Officer arrived at Montage at 5:33 p.m. The officer drove around our community and was unable to find the suspect. The Officer spoke to several residents on the street while he was looking for the suspect. The officer left the

community at 5:42 p.m. after he was unable to locate the suspect.

The burglary incident involved the entry into an unlocked home in which money and other valuables were stolen. Again, the rumor was that the Police were called and the owner was advised that the Police Department does not respond to non-emergency incidents. This is simply not true. The Police never consider a burglary of any type to be a non-emergency. The resident in this case did not call the Police, or at least there is no record of the incident on the department's dispatch record.

First, always call the Police when you or yours are being threatened. All of the property within our community gates is considered "private property". As such, anytime anyone enters illegally and threatens or "gets pushy" with a resident, it is considered a trespassing event and the Police will respond to the incident. The same goes with burglary, no matter how small you may perceive the incident; you should always call the Police and report the crime. An Officer will be dispatched.

Second, in today's economy there are individuals out looking for an easy score. Leaving your home unlocked and unprotected is never a good idea, even for a short time while you walk the dog, run to the store, or pop in next door. All of us have to make every effort to protect ourselves and watch out for our neighbors.

### **REMINDER ON TRASH**

At the request of a frustrated homeowner Please make sure when you dispose of fine materials like shredded papers or foam packing peanuts you put them in sealed bags before the items are placed in your trash cans. If not, the trash trucks will potentially fling the materials all over the neighborhood

### **REMINDERS ON "OLD" ITEMS**

By Sandy Nips  
Within the past 3 years, we have had a large turnover in home sales. With so many new residents it becomes necessary to put reminders in our newsletter.

For those of you who have been here since the beginning, we know it's boring to see some of the same old things in print.

However, those "old items" seem to be the ones that are consistently problems the board deals with most often.

So, here we go again:

1. Please keep your trash can stored out of sight as much as possible. We prefer they are stored behind your side gate. If that is not possible, perhaps you can hide them with a shrub or hedge.
2. Your garage lights are part of our street lighting. They are required to be on at dusk. Most of you have a photocell and switch that controls them. Please leave the switch in the on position. If you like, the Board can provide you with a switch lock so that your switch is not accidentally turned off by visitors or service workers. Please contact the A & L Committee.
3. **PLEASE** fill out a Variance Request Form and wait for approval before making any changes to your landscaping and/or appearance of your home!! You can get a form from the Montage website, Jennifer Zeivel at PPM or a member of the Architecture and Landscape Committee. This is **EXTREMELY** important!!
4. Pets are not allowed on other residents' property. The only place they may walk inside the gates is in the street. If your dog is seen anywhere but in the street, you will be subject to a hearing and possible fine. You must pick up after your pets. Please inform your guests who walk their dogs of these rules.
5. The water detention basin is not a "dog park" or "playground". While it is common area for our community, please do not allow your dogs to dig there or your children to ride skateboards, scooters, bikes, etc. down into the basin. This is a liability factor for the community should someone get hurt.

Thank you for your continued cooperation to make our community one of the most sought after places to reside in the area.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 9:00 AM at the Children's Discovery Museum.

It will be followed by the Annual Homeowners Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon beginning at

11:00 AM also at the Children's Discovery Museum.

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**

Property Manager - Jennifer Zeivel 760-325-9500;

[jzeivel@ppmlInternet.com](mailto:jzeivel@ppmlInternet.com)

President - Tom Tousignant

[td2znot@aol.com](mailto:td2znot@aol.com)

A & L Committee Chair - Sandy Nips

[lilsnip@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:TD2znot@aol.com)

Website: [www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com](http://www.MontageMH.Wordpress.com)