

OCTOBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

HOA Officers (*all are volunteers): President: Brian D. Swanson (760) 739-5451; Vice-President: John Lindsay; Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Esther. (Terms expire 6/07)

Design Review Committee: Chair: Brian D. Swanson; Rick Wood, Karen Burns, Angel Martinez, David Milne, Ellie Montalvo.

Property Manager: Fabiana Lansner (flansner@menas.com), Menas Realty (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270-7870. Please visit web site www.menas.com for information on who to contact for billing or repairs.

Escondido Police Department: 911; non-emergency = 839-4722 (includes dog barking)

Escondido Fire Department (Fires, fireworks, kills rattlesnakes in yard): 911; non-emergency = 839-5400 (Call Brian and he'll remove your rattlesnake without killing it.)

Henry Avocado (grove issues...loose dogs, broken sprinklers, noisy workers): 745-6632

City of Escondido, Public Works (Ryan Park, streetlight issues): 839-4668

City of Escondido, Code Enforcement (graffiti): 839-4650

Valley High School (kids in neighborhood during school hours, etc.): 291-3275

East Valley Community Center: 2245 East Valley Parkway, 839-4382

Broken sprinklers in HOA landscaping: Menas Realty (760) 942-2667

Notices of Violation: Fabiana Lansner (see above for contact info)

LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS:

+ **Rear yards.** Presently there is no requirement to landscape our rear yards. Most of us have done a wonderful job, but some have left their yards full of weeds. At the December quarterly meeting the Board will consider adopting a requirement that all rear yards submit applications and have landscaping completed within a certain time period.

+ **Many changes, including changes** to front landscaping, installing shed, pools, or sidewalks from the driveway to the rear yard, or many other improvements require written approval from the Design Review Committee prior to starting work. The process is easy and painless if you follow the rules. Failure to obtain the required approval may result in fines and expense changes to your landscaping.

+ **Unauthorized improvements.** The rules apply to all homeowners. Most of us submit the required applications, but some homeowners have made improvements without submitting the required application or obtaining written approval before commencing work. If this is you, the recommended course is to submit a complete application package as soon as possible, rather than waiting to receive a violation notice.

+ **Satellite dishes.** Approval must be obtained prior to installation. Generally, with written DRC approval, they may be installed near the rear corner of the house, on the fascia board, within 6 – 8 ft. of the corner and no more than 8 – 10 feet from the ground. Not on the front of the house, not on the peak of the house, not in the center of

the roof, etc. It may be costly to move them if installed in an inappropriate location, so best to do it right the first time.

New Community Park? Reed Reservoir, the large water tank on Hidden Trails Rd., is almost 50 years old. It has been slated for replacement for 10 years, but the funds keep slipping to other projects. The plan is to underground the tank, and perhaps install a small neighborhood park on top. With community support this becomes more likely to happen. Imagine if all 294 homeowners sent an email or letter to Mayor Lori Pfeiler? We might get some action.

Traffic on Valley Parkway: Escondido traffic engineering advised me first that the lane closure and signal problems would be completed by 9/7. Now I'm told that it should be done by the time you read this. However, the stretch of road between the fruit stands and Lake Wohlford Road will remain one lane, resulting in traffic backed up to Hidden Trails. If you think it's important, please send Mayor Pfeiler an email (**lpfeiler@escondido.org**), encouraging the city to complete this project and thereby removing the bottleneck that causes us so much wasted time while sitting in traffic.

Crime: The very best way to prevent a break-in or theft of your car is to park it in your garage. Escondido police advise us to report all suspicious vehicles (like trucks dumping garbage in the groves, cars parked by the groves (to steal avocados, etc.), prowling cars, etc. They will respond to our calls. If we don't tell them about suspicious vehicles or persons, they can't do anything about it. If you see a homeless person who lives in the groves, walking down Hidden Trails to Meadow Creek and into the groves, call it in. We can still use a Neighborhood Watch chair.

Tools were recently stolen out of the back of a truck parked overnight on a driveway. The bad guys are always prowling, often while we sleep. Keep valuables in your garage/house. If you hear something funny late at night or early in the morning, take a look, turn on your porch light, maybe call the police.

Dogs: Respect your neighbors

- + Control nuisance barking.
- + Clean up after Bowser. On a neighbors' lawn, on our trail, or even on the nearby parks or open space, clean up after your pet. The entrances to the trails, like at the bottom of Oak Valley Ln., are disgusting. Day after day owners let their dogs dump, without cleaning up. Take responsibility. If you see someone walking without an obvious poop bag, remind them of their duty to clean up after their pets.
- + Never let your dog run loose in the neighborhood. Nearby Mayflower Park is a leash free zone; Solona Beach has a dog park on the beach open during the winter months.

Trash Cans. Out the night before pickup, in before dark day of pickup. Not out all week. Don't overstuff your cans or the ravens will scatter trash on the street. If trash is on the street after pick up, please clean up. Don't wait for the neighbors to do it. Cans must be kept out of sight, in the garage or rear yard (not on the side of the house).