

# HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

**HOA Officers (\*all are volunteers):** President: James McNair (760) 743-1386; Vice-President: Bob Dunbar (760) 741-5334; Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Albo.

**Design Review Committee:** Co-Chairs: Marcus Harrel & Darryl Turner; Rick Wood. Adjunct members: Dennis Van Rumund, Karen Di Pasquale.

**Property Manager:** Fabiana Lansner (flansner@menas.com), Menas Realty (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270-7870. Please visit [www.menas.com](http://www.menas.com) for info on who to contact for billing or repairs.

**Escondido Police Department:** 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-4722.

**Escondido Fire Dept.** (Fires, fireworks, rattlesnakes): 911; non-emergency = (760) 839-5400

**Henry Avocado** (grove issues like avocado theft, sprinklers, dumping): 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, dead HOA plants:** Menas Realty (760) 942-2667

**Newsletter Editor:** Homeowner/volunteer Brian Swanson (760) 739-5451.

**Website:** <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com> ; [webmaster@hiddentrailshoa.com](mailto:webmaster@hiddentrailshoa.com).

**New Community Website!** See article in April 2008 newsletter, or visit website (above).

### Really Simple Syndication (RSS)

It is easy to use your web browser to stay informed of news concerning Hidden Trails and Escondido. Steps:

1. point your browser to the address of your favorite online feed
2. click the Orange RSS icon to add the new feed
3. agree to subscribe to the feed (actually steps will vary on the type of browser being used)

A couple of local feeds

- <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/smf/index.php>
- <http://www.nctimes.com/?rss=/news/inland/escondido/>

**Community advertising:** There have been a number of inquiries from homeowners wishing to advertise their business in our newsletter. The Board is not prepared to accept ads for the newsletter, however, on a trial basis residents can place a simple business ad, identifying their service or product, name and contact information on the HOA website (see the Classification section of the Hidden Trails Online Bulletin - <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/bulletin.htm> ).

**GROVES FOR SALE!!!** Well, you'd have to be blind not to have noticed the large signs that went up March 10<sup>th</sup>, advertising that our beautiful groves are for sale. About 300 acres total, composed of about seven parcels, can be purchased in whole or in part.

The 30% cut in water use may have something to do with the decision to sell. With a water cut of 30% there is the possibility that a portion of the groves will die.

The groves really are what make our community unique. Beautiful, quiet, sheltering; home for those noisy red shouldered hawks, and the haunting great horned owls; the source of loud crashes as 2 lb. avocados drop to the ground and roll, day and night.

Let's hope that the new owners continue to manage the groves productively while keeping them healthy and green.

**Water conservation:** We should all be considering ways to reduce our water use. The easiest way is to shut off the irrigation when it's raining. Waterwise gardening is another option to consider. Xeriscape or low water use gardening can be beautiful, and doesn't just mean cactus and rocks. Lately it seems that there are articles on xeriscape gardening and water conservation in nearly every magazine or newspaper we pick up. Best to start learning more about it now rather than after the city mandates no watering of lawns (as has happened in some communities).

**DRC Meeting:** Planned for May 13 at Rubios Restaurant, near Home Depot, East Valley Parkway. Contact Co-Chair Marcus Harrell at [mharrel@pacbell.net](mailto:mharrel@pacbell.net) to confirm.

**Comings and Goings:** The Design Review Committee has lost two valuable members. The DRC wishes to thank homeowners Ellie Montalvo (Meadows) and Brian Swanson (Groves) for their commitment to our community. Ellie had been a member for a couple of years, and was instrumental in developing a map of our community which shows all of the addresses. This is particularly helpful when evaluating applications and trying to determine impacts on adjacent properties. Brian had served on the DRC since its formation nearly six years ago.

The DRC welcomes Karen Di Pasquale (Vineyards) to the Design Review Committee. Karen and her husband Rick have been homeowners for several years. Karen has a background in design, and brings new ideas and energy to the DRC.

**Lyon Homes Contact Information:** Many of us have had problems with our homes, and need to contact the builder to get them fixed. Last the old phone number, email and mailing address for Lyon Homes' Customer Service stopped working. Doris Spielman and her supervisor, Cindy, are no longer employed by Lyon Homes, and the Rancho Bernardo office was shut down. When my calls were not being returned I stopped by the office, after the "layoff" and just before it closed. I learned that San Diego's customer service was being merged with Orange County, and obtained new contact information. Joseph Whittemore, Dir. Of Warranty Service, 4490 Von Karman Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660. (949) 476-5294; fax: (949) 252-2594. [joe.whittemore@lyonhomes.com](mailto:joe.whittemore@lyonhomes.com)

**Community Hike:** Several homeowners took a hike at Daley Ranch on Sunday 3/9. Pleasant weather made our energetic outing enjoyable. Lots of wildflowers: deer weed, wild lilac, blue Dicks, monkey flower, milk maids, wild cucumber, chaparral pea, chia, and black sage were but a few of the types of flowers that we saw. We hiked to the ranch house and viewed a very old persimmon tree and the outline of a rattle snake on the side of the old red barn. Everyone had a great time.

Editor: Brian Swanson