

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Annual HOA Meeting: Our annual meeting was held 6:30PM Wed. June 4th at the East Valley Community Center (address above). About 50 homeowners waited patiently, some calling neighbors, some even going home to roust neighbors for the necessary quorum. Finally, at 8PM, the last owner necessary for our quorum arrived. This is an annual requirement, and an annual ordeal. We all owe a big “Thank you!” to those owners who mailed in their proxies or attended the meeting. This saved the HOA the money that holding another meeting would have required. Next year *please sign and return your proxy statement to our property manager beforehand.*

Bird News: If you are lucky (or unlucky) enough to have swallows nesting in your eaves, here’s some information. They consume about 2,000 winged insects daily, including flies and mosquitoes. They arrive about March 15, and depart by late August. Once they lay their eggs state and federal laws prohibit disturbing the nest. To prevent nesting, some owners install fake owls on their eaves. Another installed rubber snakes hanging from the eaves from fishing line on hooks. These must be removed after the swallows leave for the season.

Common Birds of Hidden Trails: Here’s a dozen of the most common, with a brief description.

Black Phoebe: Black and white, hangs out near lawns, perches on branches or roofs and catches bugs on the wing.

House finch: Small sparrow-sized bird, males have a red chest and sing from dawn to dusk. Like to live near people, comes to feeders.

Bewick’s wren: Small, busy brown bird. Hunts in your bushes for insects. Will nest in small bird houses with a 1” opening.

Red shouldered hawk: Commonly heard screaming its heart out as it flies overhead. Eats rodents.

Common Raven: Large black bird, very smart, will tear open your trash bags if they are sticking out of the trash bin. Call is a loud “onk, onk”. Usually found in pairs.

American Crow: Medium-large bird, also very smart, often in large flocks, call is “caw, caw”.

For more details, please consult a Peterson’s Field Guide, or the internet.

Legal Information for Young Adults: Many of us have children who have recently or soon will turn 18, and consequently become adults in the eyes of the law. The State Bar of California, the regulatory agency/professional association for California attorneys, has published “When You Become 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers”. It discusses rental agreements, contracts, driving laws, voting, working and taxes, crimes and consequences and other useful topics. This free publication is available in Spanish or English. Send your order to 18@calbar.ca.gov, and specify number of copies request, language, and mailing address.

Paintball in the Groves: From time to time several teenagers/young adults are seen entering the groves, or the open space area between Meadow Side Place and Ryan Park, dressed in camouflage and carrying paintball guns. Their colored paint splashes can be found on many of the beautiful boulders and oak trees where they play. Unexploded paintballs are hazards to wildlife and passersby. It is illegal to fire guns within the City. It is illegal to vandalize private or public property by digging holes and placing trash (pallets, couches, etc.) on private property. The police will respond if called.

Volunteers: Your community needs you. Although we are all busy people, *it seems that the busiest people are the ones who get the most done.* Consider giving back to your community. Several people volunteering a couple hours a week can make the difference between a good association and an excellent one. The Board's terms expire in early June 2009. The Design Review Committee has room for in interested homeowner or two. Have a knack for editing? Our newsletter editor would be happy to help you get started. It would be nice to have a community party (Labor Day?)...if someone is interested in chairing such an event, or would like to volunteer in some fashion, please contact any Board member.

Local Dining –My favorite Escondido restaurants are Bamboo House (Midway Avenue, quiet, excellent food and service, family owned), O'Sullivan's (Grande Avenue, noisy, excellent pub-style food and drinks), and La Tapatia (Grand Avenue, quiet, good food and service). O'Sullivan's and La Tapatia offer live entertainment on some nights. Visit <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/bulletin.htm> to see how our neighbors rated these and other local restaurants, and to provide your own comments.

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 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.

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