

HIDDEN TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

Comings and Goings: In mid-January Becky Burchard replaced Jenna Sullivan as our property manager at Menas Realty. Becky has many years experience as a property manager, and we look forward to her help in managing our HOA. Becky can be reached at rburchard@menas.com, (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270 – 7870 x 14.

Our Swallows Will Return Soon: Legend has it that the swallows return to Mission San Juan Capistrano on St. Joseph's Day, March 19th. The date is fairly accurate, but they actually return a week or two earlier. A few of us have homes that offer just the right sun exposure, just the right proximity to nearby flying insects with good aerial access, to make ideal homes for swallows. Unfortunately, as they construct their mud nests, and exit their homes while raising their chicks, they leave mud specks and "whitewash" stains on the ground, wall or windows beneath the nests. Some of us accept and enjoy this proximity to nature (they're really cute, and eat about 2,000 flying bugs per day). But others are less forgiving.

To discourage the nests, you can wash them down daily while under construction (it is a violation of federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act to damage a nest holding eggs or fledglings, so once it's built you have to leave it until after the birds leave.) Some homeowners have found that they can discourage nesting by placing a fake owl on the roof. The owl needs to be placed as soon as possible, before the birds return from South America, otherwise they'll start building their nests in early March. The birds then leave in early September. Call the California Department of Fish & Game for additional ideas.

Web Site: Check out our community web site! <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com>. To see the documents, go directly to <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com/documents.htm>. Email the webmaster with web comments or suggestions. webmaster@hiddentrailshoa.com.

Home and Yard Improvements: Be sure to submit the appropriate application to our property manager, Becky Burchard, prior to starting your project. If in doubt you need to submit an application, or what to include in the application, please review the Rules & Regulations, and Architectural & Design Guidelines. If you still have questions, please call Becky, or attend one of the monthly DRC meetings.

Cats & Dogs: While many of us are animal lovers, there can be too much of a good thing. HOA Rules allow a maximum of two cats and two dogs per property.

Soccer: The Escondido Soccer Club is now registering for its spring season. Contact information is posted on a sign hanging near the entry to Ryan Park.

Foreclosures: It appears that the number of foreclosures in our community is holding steady. Plus, the yards seem to be better taken care of (or maybe that's just due to the regular rains we've been receiving). If you notice an abandoned home that's starting to look bad, please contact Jenna so that she can address it with the owner/bank.

DRC Meetings – New Location: The DRC initially started meeting in 2002 at Coco's on East Valley Parkway, until it closed several years ago. It's been meeting at Rubio's most of the time since then, but Rubio's can get pretty noisy, which makes it hard to conduct business. So starting with January, the DRC will be trying out a new location, Soprano's Italian Restaurant, located at 360 Midway Ave., about 100 yards south of Valley Parkway. If you plan on attending, please confirm time/location with co-chair Marcus Harrell (760) 740-9131.

Access Driveways: The Design Review Committee approved a small number of "access driveways". Access driveways are those extra wide driveways built by removing a portion of the homeowners' lawn, to allow homeowners to move vehicles and/or equipment to the rear yards. Typically, a condition of approval for each of these access driveways is "no parking or storage" on the access driveway. In most cases, parking on these access driveways is a violation of community rules.

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 (760) 740-9131 & Darryl Turner. Adjunct members: Rick Wood, Dennis Van Rumund, Herb Kolodner. Meetings typically held 6PM, second Tuesdays at Soprano's Restaurant, 360 Midway Ave. (about 100 yards south of Valley Parkway). *Call Marcus to confirm meeting info.*

Property Manager: Becky Burchard, rburchard@menas.com, Menas Realty (760) 942-2667 or (858) 270-7870 x 14. Visit www.menas.com for contact info regarding billing or repairs.

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

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

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

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

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

Website: <http://www.hiddentrailshoa.com> ; webmaster@hiddentrailshoa.com.