



Spanish Lakes News

A Publication of the Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

Spanish Lakes Homeowner's Association

President
Victor Pickering

Vice President
John Fazio

Treasurer
Paul Nevosh

Secretary
David Fender

At Large
Roger Zolldan

Editor
Lynn Crawford

Mark IV
P. O. Box 1988
Atascadero
CA 93423-1988
(805) 466-6275

Water Board Update

In the absence of a quorum at the water board meeting, an election of new members was not possible; consequently, current members will stay on another year and new members will be appointed. Bernie Kempker was appointed as a new member for this year, and will join President Pat Munks, Tom Lawson, and Jim Hagen. Craig Thomas has volunteered to do research on the cost of replacing tanks, pumps, and other items in an effort to plan for future expenditures from reserve funds. Currently, it seems that there may be adequate reserves to cover future expenditures. The Water Board has been granted a tax-exempt status. Since this tax free status is retroactive, the Board will seek taxes paid in the past.

Board's Report

Gate Monuments

You have received a packet from Mark IV with drawings and description of the proposed gate monuments. Your input will help us make the right choices.

Renting the Open Space Triangle

From the last Newsletter, you will remember the possibility of renting use of the "PGE triangle" by an owner of the adjacent land. It turns out that the owner prefers to rebuild the fallen fence so his stock cannot wander into our space. We will watch for some progress on this front.

Drainage Abatement

Many of the drainage problems now have been repaired. After the rainy season is over, the Board will determine if there are other drainage problems that need to be addressed this summer.

Work Day

In May, there will be a workday to clean up our open space. The Pickerings will treat volunteer workers to a free lunch. Roger Zolldan

will organize the event and get the particulars to us soon. Come one, come all—it should be fun.

Speeding

Speed humps were once again discussed, but it was decided to add a few strategically placed signs instead. In the event these do not slow the traffic, speed humps will once again be considered. There have been complaints that cars have almost mowed several of us down. The concern here is not only for our wildlife, and walkers, but also for children who enjoy light traffic. Many steep driveways lead out to main streets, and children aren't always cautious about their downhill bike or skating speed.

Gate Code Change

The gate code will change on March 15. There will be two codes, one for residents and one for contractors. Please use the contractor's code for infrequent visitors and the owner's code for your immediate family. The contractor's code will be changed more frequently. A copy of the two codes is enclosed.

Landscaping Pump Houses

We are asking the water company to soften the appearance of the pump house at the intersection of Laguna Del Campo and Calle Los Charros. Only native vegetation will be used and access doors will not be restricted. Since the other two pump houses are less obtrusive, it was decided to leave those as they are for now.

Weed Control

Recently an inspector visited us from the U.S. Dept. of Natural Resources. With regard to weed abatement she recommended mowing or string trimming instead of using chemical herbicides. Surface scraping around the lakes was particularly discouraged, as this contributes significantly to erosion and eventual sedimentation of the lakes. Please make an effort to comply with her directive that under no cir-

cumstances should owners do any surface scraping in common areas.

Repeat Offenders

Unfortunately the Board is wasting considerable time sending and resending warning letters to CC&Rs violators. It was unanimously approved that owners who have received previous notification of violation of section 6.04 be subject to an automatic \$75 fine for further violations that occur for more than 60 hours during any 14-day period. Section 6.04 is reprinted below:

6.04 Temporary Structures, Boats, Commercial and Recreational Vehicle Restrictions: No structure of a temporary character, trailer, camper, mobile home, recreational vehicle, boat, inoperable automobile, or similar equipment shall be permitted to remain on any area within the Project, including the development envelope, without the prior written consent of the Committee. No noisy or smoky vehicles shall be operated on the lot. No unlicensed motor vehicles shall be operated outside the development envelopes.

Lake Viewing Chairs

The association has acquired two Adirondack chairs for use by homeowners and their invited guests. We will place these chairs by the lake adjacent to the park. If you have any thoughts on their placement for optimum viewing, please let us know. Enjoy.

Editor's Report

Tom's Picks

Tom Lawson reports particular satisfaction with two vendors. The first is Garry Larson of "Landscape Lighting." He proved to be very thorough and neat (544-1436/801-1652 cell).

The second vendor is Mike Valenzuela of "ProTech." Mike runs a one-man business specializing in computer and Internet services located five minutes from Spanish Lakes. He installed a wireless network in Tom's home and performed other computer-related tasks. Mike is very reliable and an excellent communicator (239-0584/296-8631 cell).

Back Away, Don't Run

There was a mountain lion report in Orcutt near a child's swing set. Children must not run away from a big cat as this behavior triggers a predator-prey instinct. Rather, they should yell, throw things, look as tall as possible, and slowly back away from the animal watching it at all times. There are descriptions and videos of mountain lions and other animals on the Desert USA web site. The URL is "<http://www.desertusa.com>"; from the home page, click on "Animals & Wildlife" under the "Desert Directory," once there click on the animal of your choice.

Spanish Walkers

The Spanish Lakes Walking group has been stepping out in style with great success. All are welcome to join. They meet Monday and Friday at the park at 9 A.M. and Wednesday at 8 A.M. rain or shine and often go out for coffee afterwards. Slow down so you don't run over them.

Plants That Don't Care If It Gets Real Cold

The Western Garden Book, available at most nurseries for reference, lists our area as Zone 7. The nurseries, however, sell plants for Zones 8 and above also, for people who live in more temperate zones. Here are some plants that may survive freezing nights:

Coyote plants; Rosemary; Colorado Gold Gazania; Rockroses; Strawberry bushes/trees; Live Oaks; Olive trees; Pyracantha; Holly; Firs, Redwoods; Cypresses; Phormium; New Zealand flax; Toyon; Butterfly Bush; Manzanita; Grevillia; Euonymus.

Many of the plants that look dead such as the California fuchsias will come back; so don't yank them quite yet. By the way California fuchsias are highly invasive, so it is a good idea to plant them in a contained area if you don't want them to spread. Most of the lavenders will not die completely; only look unhappy in the cold. If you have plants to add to our list that did well in your garden, let me know and I will add them to the next newsletter.

Focus on Our Wildlife

The Roadrunner at our Gate...

I hope you have seen this unmistakable bird scooting across the field near the Creston gate. It is an omnivore, and eats insects, rodents, snakes, and small birds. It makes its nest on the ground or in low bushes.

This unique bird is 23 inches long, has a long, solid beak, and even longer tail that it often flicks upward. The head has a bushy crest, and its color overall is brown with some white striping. It is a member of the cuckoo family. The roadrunner is a ground dweller and seldom flies. It got its name by running across and along roads to escape rather than by flying. Unlike the beep-beep the coyote and roadrunner cartoon features, this bird has a cooing sound going down in pitch. Even so, when I see it, I smile and inadvertently mutter, "Beep beep."



Brew coffee and you won't get hurt...