



NEWSLETTER

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YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Meetings: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (except holidays) at 7:30pm, at the Vista del Valle Clubhouse.

“Water, Water Everywhere and not a drop to drink”

As anyone on the lower Pad can tell you, turning on the faucet or flushing a toilet and getting water is not always a sure thing. Unfortunately, getting upset with board members or workers solves nothing. The frustration people feel at times like these is understandable. Sadly, however, as the old saying goes, “Stuff happens!” In our most recent problem, we had “Stuff Happens, times three.” The board did their best in preplanning this event, as well as, forewarning homeowners to prepare for water being off for 24 hours. Unfortunately, as many Homeowners are well aware, it lasted longer than that, due to circumstances beyond anyone’s control. Now, if you want to get mad at someone, get mad at the developer who initially built our complex. Going bankrupt, they clearly cut the quality of materials and work. You should also save some anger for the City inspectors who signed off on this shoddy workmanship. Unfortunately, the statute of limitations has long run out on the builders and inspectors who allowed this crime to go unpunished. Did the builders and inspectors know that by the time the problems they failed to correct were found, they would be safe from prosecution? If these problems could have been discovered within the legal timeframe, you can rest assured that hefty lawsuits would have been filed and with any luck at all, some of these people would have paid for this seemingly criminal act.

Understandably, this may not be the last time water will have to be cut off for a wide area. However, during our last disruption, our plumber installed a new shut off

valve that will preclude the necessity of turning off the water to the entire area.

Now, if the water is turned off for a lengthy period of time again here are some helpful hints to get you through the trying times. On some of the larger jobs, time off is hard to predict, however rest assured that water will never be off for more time than is absolutely necessary),

- Store bottled water you will need for the entire family for a couple of days for cooking and drinking
- Fill sinks and bath tubes for wash water.
- Save your used wash water (aka “grey water”) to flush toilets. Pour just enough *grey water* into the toilet bowl to activate the flushing action. NOTE: You do not have to use the handle.
- Use paper plates and plastic utensils for eating. Saves water use for washing dishes.

Incidentally, these hints work well for after earthquakes. Refer to Earthquake Awareness info pamphlets for additional water usage ideas during a crisis.

Let’s hope we do not have many more of the plumbing problems like we had recently. But if we do, remember, anger does not help the situation, understanding, patience and tolerance do.

The Holiday Season Is Upon Us

Time flies when you’re having fun. Seems like only yesterday we were celebrating Memorial day and the Fourth of July. Now before we know it we will be saying goodbye to 2006 and hello, 2007.

Decorations

With the holidays closely approaching we should remind homeowners about holiday decorations. Spreading holiday lights over trees, bushes and shrubs is a very festive gesture; however, they do prevent the gardeners from trimming the trees, bushes and shrubs. The Association tree trimming is scheduled to begin around December 4. Decorating the bushes and shrubs in your own patio is OK; the gardeners don’t trim these plants. Decorations should not be mounted on the flat roofs in a manner that puts holes in the roof, inviting leaks.

Safety Reminders

A reminder about safety and awareness and then we’ll put scrooge out to pasture.

Remember to be very aware during your shopping trips to the mall, when going from the car to the mall and back. Always have your keys ready to open your car door, so you can enter the safety of your vehicle quickly.

If you feel you are being followed by a suspicious person, head back to the mall and request assistance from mall security.

It is always best to shop with a friend. And ladies, when walking to or from the mall always keep your purse between you and your friend, or significant other. This makes it more difficult for a mugger to grab your purse and valuables. One more safety tip! DO NOT carry a wallet full of credit cards when you shop. Carry only one or two at the most. And your driver's license should be carried separate from the credit cards.

OK, just a few more. We are constantly reminded not to leave packages, etc in the seats of your vehicle, yet every year someone has precious Christmas gifts and other items left on the seat, in plain view are often stolen from their vehicle. The pain of the loss of valuables is bad enough, but then you have to add the hassle of having to deal with your insurance company to replace a broken car window.

One last item; use care leaving the drapes, etc., open to display that beautifully decorated tree; especially with a number of decorated gifts spread under the tree. To some nefarious individuals, this is an open invitation to a home burglary.

Now For Some Lighter Faire.

Want some neat decorating ideas? Visit your local crafts store and talk to one of the clerks. They have many great ideas; from the simple to the extreme. Cooking ideas? Check out your local super markets or stores like Sonoma Williams. Lots of delicious ideas here, including the gadgets you need to prepare the culinary delight.

Want someone else to do the cooking? Check out your local markets and restaurants. Some do the hard stuff; cooking the Turkeys, Ham, etc. and you do the easy stuff; set the table and eat.

BBQing the Christmas Dinner

If you don't want to heat up the kitchen when you do the turkey or whatever, try baking it in your BBQ. If you have a dual burner, preheat your BBQ by lighting one side of the BBQ then when the BBQ has reached, say, 350° F, place your bird or ham on the end away from the flames.

Using briquettes, again place them at one end of the BBQ and wait until they are nice and grey, then add the meat to the other end of the BBQ (you may have to add additional briquettes for a large bird or ham). Want to add some real flavor to the meat? Use a smoker box (Sears, Home Depot or BBQ's Galore). Soak the wood chips thoroughly and place the smoker box over the heat near the meat. Wa La! Hickory smoked meat just like grandpa used to make.

Fixing Up the Place

Some of you may be aware that we are in the process of fixing up a few things. Currently we are preparing to repair the streets in the lower pads (they are in the worst shape) and looking to do the same for the upper pads in 2007.

We are also looking at painting the complex in 2007. This will be a big ticket item. At present time we feel

that a special assessment is in order to complete this work. Our last special assessment was over twenty years ago – not bad. We will be informing all Association members (if you are a homeowner you are an Associate member) so they may be aware of what is being considered. Your board of directors will keep you informed of any information regarding this process in a timely manner. When we have determined what this assessment will be, we will inform the membership and if necessary, hold a special meeting to discuss the situation. We plan to make it as easy as possible for everyone and still perform the necessary to preserve our property values and keep our community looking nice.

Being Bothered by the Loud Drumming at Canyon High School

At several meetings with the Principle and staff members of Canyon High, we have asked the Band director if they can practice in an area that does not disturb the quiet enjoyment of our community. To date we have had little or no improvement. The drum practice area is in an alcove that acts to amplify the drum noise towards our community. We have been advised that the school has already had to move the place of practice because they were disturbing the neighbors on the east side of the school. Guess those of us on the west side don't count. While we applaud the high school's initiative to add extra curricular activities in the arts, consideration must be given to the school's surrounding neighbors. The pounding of the drums may not be bothersome to some people, but to others, it can be a serious source of ongoing irritation.

So, if you are one of those who deem this drum noise to be a nuisance, you can help reduce this problem by calling the high school and complain or call your local school board member, or do both. When talking to the High School we claim we speak for many members of our community, however, we need the extra voices to back up our claim.

Prez Corner

As some homeowners have already noted, we had some real problems with our water system recently, Murphy's Law³ was severely tested and proven in spades. As it goes, "If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong and at the worst possible time." As the old saw goes, "Plan for the worst and hope for the best." As our community gets older the problems become more complex. Yelling at workers or board members does not improve the problem, it only makes it worse. Also remember that foul, abusive or obscene language, for any reason, against a vendor, management company personnel or board member is in violation of Section 1.7 of the Rules and Regulations, and subject to severe fine assessments.

Let's move on and look forward to a happy holiday season. We can all now plan to add exercise to our 2007 New Years resolution; to remove all the pounds we gained devouring all the hard to resist holiday goodies.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE; STAY SAFE