



The Greenbelt

Volume 163
September 2013

Oak Hills Homeowners Association News

Blocked Sidewalks Equal Safety Problems for Pedestrians

Walking in Oak Hills can be one of the greatest pleasures of living in our country-like neighborhood. However, sometimes our pedestrians face unsafe barriers to their joyous pedestrian treks. They encounter blocked sidewalks due to a car positioned in the driveway, parked across the pedestrian walkway. Such occurrences require our walkers to walk into the street just to get around the illegally parked car.

California Vehicle Code, 22500(f) specifically prohibits drivers from parking in a manner as to “block any portion of a sidewalk.”

Whether our residents walk with a walking cane, or pushed in a stroller or wheelchair, or walk completely unassisted, they deserve the right to walk safely on the sidewalks of our neighborhood streets. So please do your part to help.

Greenbelt Fire Prevention

To help reduce the risk of fire in the greenbelt, the Board had called upon the assistance of Cal Fire and the Gabilan Conservation Camp #38. Gabilan was opened in January 1986. The camp's primary mission is to provide inmate fire crews for fire suppression activities in the Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz County Areas, although the crews may be dispatched anywhere in the State. In addition to fire suppression, the inmate fire crews provide a work force for conservation and community service project areas. The CDF in-camp projects include a Cabinet Shop, Metal Fabrication Shop, and Fire Hose Repair Shop. Products are provided to local tax supported governmental agencies.

The crews from Gabilan spent several days in the greenbelt where they limbed up tree branches, removed dead trees and weeded the grass areas where the mower was unable to reach. They also removed several Myrporum trees that had contracted an incurable disease and were dying. They were able to bring in their chipper to process all of the limbs and branches that were removed. There is still work left to be done and once the fires in state are contained, the Gabilan crews will be back in the greenbelt to finish their work.

The Board would like to thank the crews of the Gabilan Conservation Camp for a job well done. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

Revised Rules for the Pool and Hot Tub Usage

In August, a letter was sent out to all homeowners with a pool card key registered to them. The Board had recently adopted a revised version of the Pool Rules along with new policies pertaining to the pool and hot tub area. In order to ensure that all homeowners are aware of these new rules and policies, the board had established an access key renewal process. All homeowners who have already been issued a pool card key must sign a new copy of the "Rules for Use of the Pool and Hot Tub Access Agreement" form. If you did not sign the new form by the end of August, your pool card key was turned off. Many of you came by in August to sign the new form but there are several homeowners that did not get a chance to come by. If you find that your card does not work, you will need to contact our Administrator, Steve Naslund 633-0103, to schedule a time to sign the new form. Please keep in mind that Steve may not be available on the weekends to take care of this but he will make every effort to accommodate you. If you have lost your pool card key, there will be a \$25 replacement fee to issue you a new card. You may go online to view the new rules: www.oakhillshoa.org

Riled Up Over Roads, Again

Commentary by Cynthia Suverkrop

You know you have problems when a CHP officer chooses not to live in Oak Hills out of "concern over safety on HWY 156." Granted, the line was spoken off the record, so there is not an officer's name officially attached. But bottom line, HWY 156 is dangerous. And plans to build a toll road to solve our highway issues are still just plans that at the earliest would have construction beginning in 2017. So in the meantime, and the meantime is going to be a long time, Oak Hills residents are going to have to cope.

Coping requires us to use the driving tools we have, more carefully. One thing we could be doing to increase safety while accessing HWY 156, is to learn to use the left turn/acceleration lane correctly.

The problematic driving practice goes something like this: drivers pull out into the left turn/median acceleration lane, and pull up towards the end of the lane, allowing, if not encouraging, other left-turning drivers to follow. You end up with an acceleration lane that is stacked with cars waiting to merge with traffic going east.

There are two, dangerously unsafe things wrong with this picture. Because the cars are stacked, there is little room in the lane to accelerate, build up speed and safely merge into the line of traffic. And again, because the cars are stacked, none of the drivers, but the last in the line, has a clear vision of the traffic coming from behind. And driving should never be a guessing game. Drivers must always be able to see traffic from all directions.

TAMC is using a survey of tourists to justify building the Hwy-156 toll road. The Prunedale Preservation Alliance believes locals living near the toll road should also be heard from. So they are conducting a survey regarding the proposed toll road's impact on people living, working, or owning property near it. You may be one of those people so they're asking you to take a short survey. Results will then be provided to CalTrans, TAMC, newspapers, North County community groups and to Facebook pages. Please respond so your voice will be heard by agencies making decisions that affect road safety in our neighborhoods. The survey will close midnight Sept 10th. If you did not receive the survey, please call Ed Mitchell at 663-3021.

Sick Trees in Oak Hills

You may have noticed that many of our Oak Hill's Myoporum trees are dying or already dead due to the tiny "Myoporum thrip". After investigating possible remedies for this infestation and learning of the toxic nature of the possible "cures", the OHHA board is considering removal of the most seriously infected Myoporum's along Charter Oak. The board is also investigating possible replacement trees and shrubs.

September Calendar of Events

Festa Italia

September 6, 7, 8 Monterey Custom House Plaza

This year will mark the 80th annual Santa Rosalia Fisherman's Festival honoring the local fishermen of Monterey, past and Present.

Continental Sports Car Festival

September 7, 8 Mazda Race Way, Laguna Seca

The GRAND-AM Sports Car Series is one of the most competitive professional road racing championships in North America attracting the attention of superstar drivers and universally recognized teams.

CIG Community Safety Saturday

September 7 Capital Insurance Group 2300 Garden Road, Monterey

Free Car-Seat Safety Inspections, Information and Demonstrations by: California Highway Patrol, Monterey Fire Department, Monterey Police Department, American Red Cross, United Way, Monterey County Sheriff's Dept. and many more.

Cherry's Jubilee Motorsports Festival

September 13, 14, 15 Monterey Peninsula (Cannery Row, Monterey, Pacific Grove)

Whether it is the coastal views, the pure beauty of the hot rods, and classic cars, Cherry's Jubilee 2013 will provide a "Jaw-Dropping" good time.

Monterey Jazz Festival

September 20, 21, 22 Monterey County Fairgrounds

The 55th annual celebration attracts all of the top names in jazz, and boasts are exhibits, jazz clinics and seminars.

California International Airshow

September 21, 22 Salinas Airport

This is the 33rd California International Airshow featuring the Patriots Jet Team, Russian Mig-17 Demo, Melissa Pemberton Edge 540 and Wing Suit Jump, Sean D. Tucker and the Oracle Challenger, Metal Mulisha Extreme Moto X Show, Michael Goulian, Salinas's favorite Robosaurus and much much more. Tickets available at www.salinasairshow.com

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Saturday, September 7, 2013
2300 Garden Road, Monterey

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