

The Vista Ridge VIEW

December 2004

SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

ANNUAL Garage Sale & BBQ

If you were around on Saturday September 18th, you noticed neighbor after neighbor peddling their wares at our annual garage sale. Fitting with Vista Ridge tradition, the annual BBQ followed the garage sale at the pool. This year's BBQ was catered by Stonefire Grill. Neighbors flocked from blocks around enjoyed each other's company and some good food.

Thanks again to Melissa Lee, who coordinated the BBQ. Special thanks to those ever-reliable volunteers, who helped set up and tear down. These events cannot be successful without your help – Thank you!

XMAS Decorating Contest

Come one, come all! It's that time of year to dust off your Christmas decorations and join in on the season's festivities. Those spirited households who decorate their homes will be automatically entered into our Holiday Decorating Contest! Judging for this year's contest will take place on the evening of Saturday December 18th. Committee members will welcome hot chocolate and bribes in the event of inclement weather! Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Vista Ridge RAP is Coming!!

Missed a board meeting lately? Tired of waiting for the Annual BBQ to visit with your neighbors or meet & greet new neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood?? Well, this is your chance to bridge the gap between board meetings and the Annual BBQ! The first Vista Ridge RAP will be held at 10AM Saturday January 22nd at the pool/tennis court area. Our first RAP will be a "tailgater" with coffee and refreshments! Be a neighbor - bring coffee &



snacks to share. Kibitz with the board of directors, committee chairs and your fellow neighbors. Share news & views, ask questions or just come by for a Cup 'o Joe and some neighborly conversation!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Board of Directors annual meeting was held at 6PM Wednesday October 27th at Old Orchard Clubhouse. As there were not enough members present for a quorum, the election was postponed until Wednesday, November 3rd.

Your 2005 Board of Directors are:

- Nora Mainland – President
- Terry Williams – Vice President
- Steve Blain – Secretary
- Kent Fortin – Treasurer
- Gary Bertz – Member at Large

Many thanks for a job well done to the outgoing board members: Dan Grayot, Mark Meegan, Bill Steck and Mona Witkowski.

Next Board Meeting: January 27, 2005

- 7:00 PM at Old Orchard Clubhouse

Financial Year End Report:

- Water & Landscape bills were down \$800/Mo.
- This year's financials showed a reserve!!
- Monthly dues will not go up!

Slope Committee Year End Report:

- Inventoried slope area (trees & ground cover)
- 729 trees planted by the builder (210 remain)
- Ground cover-most mature, some bare areas
- Plan for maintaining slopes in work

2005 Committee Volunteers:

- Architectural Committee – John O'Connell
- Neighborhood Watch – Mona Witkowski
- Slope Committee – Dave Carleton
- Social Committee – Melissa Lee
- Communication – Mona Witkowski

Volunteers Needed!

All of our 2005 Committees are actively soliciting volunteers. If there is a committee you would like to be involved with, let us hear from you!

Vista Ridge Website

Visit our VR website at: <http://www.vistaridge-hoa.com>! Thanks to Mark Meegan for getting it up and running. With her duties on the board behind her, Mona Witkowski will take over the reins. Content updates will be forthcoming and future newsletters will soon be available on-line. If you've got some suggestions, please email Mona at wits4golf@yahoo.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

Crime In Vista Ridge



In light of the recent increase in crime in our neighborhood, it's important to educate homeowners about the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Vista Ridge Neighborhood Watch Committee was established last year and staffed with block captains to facilitate dissemination of information. While the effort got off to a good start, it was overcome by events and lost steam during the year.

In January, we will assemble the block captains and meet with the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Department, to arm ourselves with tips and techniques to make our homes and community safer. Block captains will be coming to your door in the near future, to expedite this highly important function in our community.

The following are your block captains:

Committee Chair-	Mona Witkowski
Altos -	Gabe Sayegh
Cariz -	Gary Bertz
Farrow -	George Bibaz
Fortuna -	Tom Deardorff
Via Accorde -	Andrew Barbano
Via Dolarita -	Donna Kellar
Vista Hills -	Pauline Schulman
Vista Ridge -	Bill Neal

Watch Your Mail !

One homeowner has within the past month had mail stolen from his mailbox. It was only after he was greeted by a Sheriff Deputy upon returning home, that this resident learned that a homeless man has been living in the easement between Vista Ridge Drive and the retirement homes. Apparently this bum has been going through mailboxes, looking for money and checks that he can cash. Residents are encouraged to keep their eye open and report any suspicious activity to the Santa Clarita Sheriffs Department.



It is up to all of us to remain vigilant to protect our neighborhood. We must not only be vigilant for our own needs, but also for those of our neighbors as well.

Let's work to make our community safer!

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Architectural Committee plans on reviewing and revising the approved paint colors in the coming year. Recommended changes/additions are welcome and encouraged from our members. Several residences have recently made improvements, be it paint or exterior enhancements such as a new roof or remodeled entry paths. Any homeowners thinking about making improvements to the exteriors of their homes are reminded to meet with the Architectural Committee beforehand, to ensure consistency and harmony in the neighborhood. The Architectural Committee meets once per month to process homeowner requests.



"Ever had work contracted out that may not have gone as smoothly as you might have wished?"

Reminder: CC&Rs prohibit the placement of any signs for advertisement during work of any kind. Please remind your contractors that signs in your yard during a job are in direct violation of our CC&Rs. Your assistance is appreciated by both the board and your fellow homeowners.

SLOPE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Slope Committee has been hard at work, determining how best to deal with the Association Slopes. Recent activities have dealt with homeowner concerns and “crisis management”. The Slope Committee has met with several homeowners lately to address concerns as requested through Crown Management.



While addressing individual concerns is important, it is the goal of the Slope Committee to develop a comprehensive plan to deal with the slopes. A draft plan has been developed and discussed with Sunset Landscaping, our new contractor. The plan addresses how to deal with slope issues on a slope by slope basis. Maintenance (planting / trimming etc...) would be done on a regular basis, as each area came into the queue. Implementing a “plan” will enable all slopes to be proactively maintained and dealt with on a regular basis, rather than by homeowner complaint alone.

The Slope Committee has inventoried all 26 acres of Vista Ridge slope areas and will present their plan to the board of directors in the January time frame. Please bear with us as we try to transition towards implementing the plan. As always, homeowner concerns will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

REMINDER

Automatic Withdrawal for Dues

Vista Ridge has direct withdrawal available to pay monthly dues. Download the form from: <http://www.hoabankers.com/pdf/forms/achsignup.pdf> or call Brenna at Crown Management, at 661-799-1135 ext. 208.

WHO'S WHO IN VISTA RIDGE?

How well do you know your neighbors? This resident was captured here kissing a seal at the San Diego Zoo! Name this month's Who's Who in Vista Ridge, get yourself a prize and earn yourself bragging rights for a month!



First correct answer to Wits4golf@yahoo.com wins!! If you've got inputs for Who's Who, please email them to Mona for the next newsletter. If I don't get suggestions, you may see me out and about, capturing YOU with my digital camera!

Feedback

Having a party? Is there a Birthday, Anniversary, Birth Announcement, or other event that you'd like to call out in the newsletter? Need a Housesitter or Babysitter?? Drop me a line & I'll include it in the next issue!

I'm committed to get the newsletter out once a month. Please let me know if there's anything else you'd like to see in the monthly issue! Drop me an email at witsgolf@yahoo.com. This email will soon be replaced by a general HOA address, but this will do for now.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Crown Management: 661-799-1135

Janice Lohman	Manager to the Board of Directors	X 225
Linda Jagjoe	Maintenance Calls and CC&Rs	X 215
Roz Hansen	Dues, Collection and Escrow	X 208
Joan Arbanas	Accounting	X 203

Santa Clarita Sheriff's Department	661-255-1121
Fire Department	661-259-2111
City of Santa Clarita	661-259-2489
Animal Care and Control	661-257-3191



DID YOU EVER WONDER?

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Why is it that to stop Windows 98, you have to click on "Start"?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

When dog food is new and improved tasting, who tests it?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

- *Courtesy of <http://www.short-funny-stories.com/>*