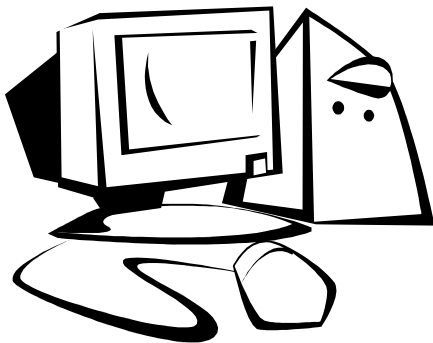


VISTA RIDGE *Newsletter*

Website Update

The new Vista Ridge Website is currently under construction and almost completed. The photos are being taken, text is being written, and forms are being updated, scanned, and uploaded online. The goal is to have the site up and running (with some pages being a work in progress) by early February. Anyone with any digital photos of our Vista Ridge neighborhood is encouraged to send them to vistaridgehoa@hotmail.com. Suggestions or ideas about the formation of the website are also welcome!



One Less Check To Write

A reminder to homeowners that Vista Ridge has direct withdrawal available to pay monthly dues. You can set this up by going to <http://www.hoabankers.com/pdf/forms/achsignup.pdf> and downloading the form (you'll need Acrobat Reader to download), or call Brenna at Crown Management, at 661-799-1135 ext. 208, and she will mail you the form. Once you have the form in hand, fill it out, attach a voided check and mail to the address provided. Union Bank will send you a confirmation letter letting you know when automatic withdrawals will start.

From The Board

Dave Laughlin and Terry Williamson, the President and Vice President of the VRHOA respectively, have resigned from the board. We would like to sincerely thank them for their service to our community. Being on the Board can be a thankless job at times and we wish them the best.

In light of their leaving, the Board will be appointing replacements at the upcoming meeting. Those homeowners interested in serving on the Board are asked to write a paragraph or two stating his or her reasons for wanting to serve on the Board. Please send to Crown Management, P.O. Box 55099, Valencia, CA., 91355. The remaining members of the Board will meet with each person individually in Executive Session*, and then take a vote to appoint two new members. We look forward to hearing from interested homeowners.

*FYI - What is an Executive Session???

Question: Why does the board adjourn a meeting and go into an "Executive Session"?

Answer: An Executive Session takes place when the board has to consider litigation, matters relating to the formation of contracts with third parties, member discipline, or personnel matters. All other matters are discussed in front of the homeowners at regularly scheduled Board meetings.

Board Meetings

The scheduled Board meetings for 2004 will take place on January 28th, March 24th, May 26th, September 22nd (Annual Meeting), and November 10th at the Old Orchard Clubhouse. The meetings will start at 6 PM except the May meeting which will start at 6:30 PM.

- The next meeting will take place on January 28th at 6 PM at the Old Orchard Clubhouse. The Board will immediately adjourn to Executive Session to appoint new Board Members, discuss third party contracts, etc. The general meeting will begin at approximately 7 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!



I want to add-on to my house. What do I do?

If you'd like to add on to your home or make any changes requiring architectural review according to the CC&Rs, the first step is to meet with the Architectural Committee to discuss your plans. The Architectural Committee is very interested in working closely with homeowners while they are still in the thinking stage and before they go to any expense of having an architect draw up plans. The Architectural Committee meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Please call Nora Mainland, at 661-254-4375, to schedule a time on the AC agenda.

After an initial meeting with the Architectural Committee, the second step is to request an architectural change form by phone or in writing from Angie at Crown Management. She can be reached at 661-799-1135.

Finally, submit the completed form with the appropriate documentation (plans, drawings, photos, etc.) to Angie at Crown Management P.O. Box 55099 Valencia, CA 91385. She will forward the homeowner request to the Architectural Committee for review. You will receive a response in less than sixty days.

Suggestions

We love suggestions! We want to make our Association the best it can possibly be. If you have any ideas that will further this, please email us at vistaridgehoa@hotmail.com. The board is looking forward to hearing from you.



Have a birthday, anniversary, birth announcement, etc. that you'd like published in the newsletter???

Drop us an email at vistaridgehoa@hotmail.com. The more the merrier! Any other ideas for the newsletter are certainly welcome.

Important Numbers

Crown Management

Please call 661-799-1135 and select one of the following extensions listed:

Nancy O'Neil	Manager	210
Janice Lohman	Asst. Manager	225
LaToya Wallace	Escrow	213
Fran Shupe	Acctg & Billing	207
Nancy Shamrock	Maintenance	206

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



What do I do if I want to paint my house?

There is a book of approved paint samples available at the Crown Management offices. Homeowners can pick it up there and take it home. There is also a copy kept in Vista Ridge by Nora Mainland. You can call Nora to coordinate a pickup at 661-254-4375. There is an additional book kept at the Dunn-Edwards store in Stevenson Ranch that cannot be taken home but can be viewed in the store. You will also need a paint request form. These are available at Crown and from Nora. After picking your colors and filling out the request form, please drop it off or mail it to Crown Management, P.O. Box 55099, Valencia, CA 91385. You will receive a response from the Architectural Committee within sixty days.



Neighborhood Watch Update

Due to a personnel change at the Sheriff's Department, the formation of the Neighborhood Watch Committee has been delayed. Dan Grayot will be contacting the volunteer block captains in February to schedule a meeting.



The Easter Egg Hunt is on...

The Easter Egg Hunt is in the planning stages. We're looking for a big turnout this year! Anyone interested in helping out should contact Melissa Lee at 287-9684.

Holiday Light Contest Winners

Special congratulations go out to all the winners of this year's holiday lights contest. One winner was determined on each street in the neighborhood, with two streets having two winners this year! (It was a tough decision folks) Members of the Recreation Committee toured the neighborhood and gave out prizes to the most festive displays of holiday cheer. Special thanks to Tim Herles and Melissa Lee for their pre-judging BBQ at the pool.

The winners this year were the Cruz Family on Vista Hills, the Swallow's and Kelly's on Vista Ridge, the Pascolla's on Cariz, the Nordhagen's on Farrow, the Sayegh's on Altos, the Teagle's on Via Dolorita, the Rushing's and the Etheredge's on Fortuna, and the Meyer's on Via Accorde.

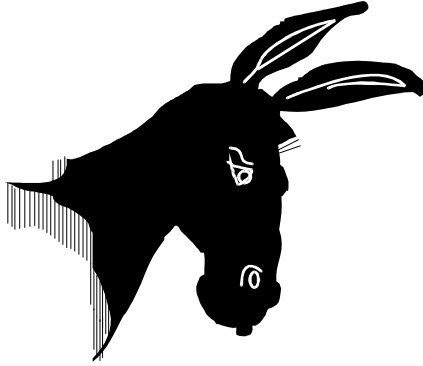
Thanks to everyone who participated for making Vista Ridge look great this year!

I Can't Find a Babysitter...

The Holbrook Family, who live on Fortuna, can help you out with this one. Madison and Sydney Holbrook are available for babysitting duties. Madison is 15 years old and is available weeknights until 10 PM, Friday nights until Midnight, and all day Saturday until Midnight. Sydney is 12 years old and is available weeknights until 9 PM, Friday nights until Midnight, and all day Saturday until Midnight. The girls are not available on Sundays. Their rate is \$3.00 per hour. Give them a call. 253-0877.

Genius is ninety percent perspiration and ten percent inspiration. - Thomas Edison (1847-1931)





The Donkey

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do.

Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well.

At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up.

Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up! Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

SHAKE IT OFF AND TAKE A STEP UP!

