

Bollinger Hills Homeowners Association
Post Office Box 449
San Ramon, California 94583
www.bollingerhills.org

Volume 5 - Issue 2
May 2010

Bollinger Hills

Neighborhood News

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Neighborhood Watch in Bollinger Hills!

“A Community Action and Problem Solving Program”

Are you a good neighbor? Are you involved in your neighborhood? A Neighborhood Watch group is an effective way to keep crime out of our neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch relies on the best crime fighting tool ever invented...

GOOD NEIGHBORS!

See inside for more...

Next Board Meeting

May 12, 2010 @ 7:30pm
Bollinger Hills Cabana

Future Meetings Held

7:30pm 2nd Wed/Month

All homeowners welcome!

(check www.bollingerhills.org for any date changes)



GETTING YOUR GARDEN READY FOR SPRING

The most beautiful time of the year are the weeks following our rainy season when the hills turn that gorgeous emerald green and the wildflowers are bursting with color. Our home gardens also having had a few months to drink up the rain and recharge their root systems, are also looking their best.

How quickly that look fades into the “golden hills” California is famous for, which is another way of defining the dry season. In order to keep our home gardens in tip top shape well past the rainy season, here are a few things to do now as the rains taper off-

Garden Tools ✂ Clean and sharpen garden tools such as spades, shovels, mower blades and pruners. Clean and sharp tools make for clean and healthy plant cuts.

Fertilizers/Herbicides: Inventory fertilizers and garden chemicals. Be sure everything is closed and safely stored away from heat sources. Safely discard unused chemicals during hazardous waste drop-off days.

Lawn care ✂ Topdress and overseed bare spots in the lawn, fertilize, dig out large weeds rather than using herbicides.

Weeding ✂ Remove weeds by hand or trowel rather than using harsh chemicals. Weed removal is best done when the soil is damp. Hand weeding is good exercise, and healthier for your yard and the surrounding open spaces and creeks by eliminating chemical runoff.


Clean up ✂ Remove fallen branches and debris. Prune large trees before new growth starts to emerge. (see last month’s article on tree pruning)

Mulch ✂ add a fresh layer of organic mulch such as shredded redwood or nitrified mini bark, throughout the garden. This will help suppress weeds, add nutrients to the soil and conserve water.

Garden planning ✂ Think about areas in need of replanting and consider using drought tolerant plants. Another water saving tip is to remove excess underutilized lawn areas that use lots of water. Plan a vegetable garden and purchase seeds and starts.

As with anything, having a plan is half the battle. Try and do a little at a time. Enlist the help of family members, friends or neighbors. Organize a neighborhood cleanup day and share the cost of a load of mulch or other materials. When the neighborhood looks good – we all benefit by keeping our property in good shape and property values strong.

Feel free to contact Susan with any questions, concerns or landscape architectural needs...

 (925) 806-0643

Neighborhood Watch

Continued from Page 1

Starting a neighborhood watch group is only the beginning. It can be the basis for ongoing dialogue and cooperative relationships with the police and other affiliated agencies.

Neighborhood watch is all about getting to know each other, taking time to care about each other and work together in a program of mutual assistance. At your first neighborhood watch meeting your group will be trained on how to recognize and report suspicious activities in your neighborhood. You will learn various Crime Prevention Strategies on protecting your home, your self and your children.

Neighborhood Watch is an imperative program to be involved in since we do not have the ability to have an officer on every corner. You and your neighbors are the ones who know what is going on around you and working together with the police department and each other, we can help fight crime in our community before it starts!

Your **San Ramon Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist, Darlene Kittredge** can provide you with all the information you need to get started. She will facilitate your first meeting and train your group on crime prevention tactics. Give her a call today to start one in your neighborhood.

You can reach Darlene Kittredge at (925) 973-2796 or dkittredge@sanramon.ca.gov.

Currently there are no 'official' neighborhood watch groups formed for our Bollinger Hills neighborhood. It is encouraged to form multiple groups as we are a large development with many different areas in need of a watchful eye.

Getting Started...

- ▶ Get started by checking with your neighbors or friends in the neighborhood. Ask if they're interested in forming a watch group with you.
- ▶ Set a time to meet with the SRPD/Officer Kittredge. Plan your regular meeting times.
- ▶ Let BHHOA know of your group. If a neighbor inquires, we can connect them with your group.
- ▶ Contact the BHHOA Board and the SRPD about installing a neighborhood watch sign.

Who knows... you may even meet new neighbors in the process!

Once you've formed your neighborhood watch group, please feel free to contact the Bollinger Hills HOA to let them know. We can support your efforts by including articles in the Neighborhood News, notifications on the BHHOA website/calendar, etc.

A neighborhood watch program benefits all of us. Please consider starting a group in your area.

Signage like this can be obtained after your group has their second meeting and maintains one annual meeting per year.

Sign-up today to get yours!



Bollinger Hills CC&Rs

Your Association is obligated to enforce compliance with some very basic covenants, conditions and rules to keep your neighborhood looking attractive and property values high when compared with all other areas in San Ramon. Your dues are used to pay for surveying the neighborhood to insure compliance.

As we drive around the neighborhood, we notice some recurring violations for which we would like to ask all homeowners for compliance. The following includes the specific language from your CC&R's that you agreed to comply with when purchasing your home:

VI 4 (b) Dogs must be leashed and otherwise under the supervision and restraint of their owners at all times. Owners and residents must pick up after their pets if the pets defecate in the Common Areas or on any property of others visible from the streets.

VI 5 (b) No boats, jet skis, campers, house trailers, recreational vehicles, or trailers shall be stored in such a manner as to be visible from the street or adjacent streets. Structures erected or covers to hide violations will not be considered proper compliance.

VI Section 7. Trash. All garbage and trash shall be placed and kept within sanitary containers and shall be kept from public view except when placed out for scheduled pickup.

VI Section 8. Prohibition on Fixed Basketball Standards. No fixed basketball standards may be attached to any building or element of the Lot or Common Area. Portable basketball

standards may be used so long as they are not left in the street and do not create a nuisance or fall into disrepair and constitute a safety hazard or an eyesore

VII 2 (b) Landscaping. Each Owner shall be responsible for all landscaping located within his Lot. Landscaping on portions of a Lot visible from the streets adjacent to the Lot shall be maintained in a neat and orderly condition. Each Owner's landscaping responsibility shall include pruning, mowing, weeding, cleaning of debris and trash, fertilizing and regular watering. No landscaping shall be allowed to encroach on sidewalks. Any weeds, and diseased or dead lawns shall be neatly mowed and trees and shrubs shall be neatly trimmed. Dead trees shall be removed promptly. The Architectural Control Committee is authorized to adopt, revise, and enforce minimum landscaping standards to provide guidance for compliance with this Article.

The above rules are self explanatory, but we receive complaints and observe violations of all of them on an ongoing basis.

- ✓ You should take a plastic bag with you when walking your dog to pickup droppings.
- ✓ You have agreed to not park recreational vehicles and vehicles with signs on them in the neighborhood.
- ✓ You have agreed to keep your trash containers out of sight before and after trash pickup days.
- ✓ You have agreed to maintain your landscaping in a neat manner.

Please make the job of enforcing the rules easier by reading the above and other rules in the documents adopted by your Association. They are easily accessed by going to our website at www.bollingerhills.org.

Thanks for helping us make Bollinger Hills a beautiful neighborhood for everyone.

www.bollingerhills.org

Bishop Ranch Fence Removal

The East Bay Regional Parks recently organized volunteers from the Orinda Hiking Club to remove old barb wire fence from the Bishop Ranch Regional Preserve. The primary focus was abandoned fence on the perimeter of the park near the Bollinger Hill's homeowners. Volunteers started from the bottom of Morgan Drive and worked uphill on one day. On another day, they started from the top of Derby Drive and worked downhill. The group plans to return in the near future to the areas not reached during the first two days effort.

All equipment including wire rollers, post pullers, and other tools were hand carried into the park due to limited access along the park/homeowner boundary. All debris such as fence posts and wire was also hand carried out. Limited access makes this volunteer effort more difficult when the distance to carry materials increases.

We recently volunteered access through our property on Derby Drive to allow debris to be moved from the park to the street. This allowed the park ranger to easily haul off the debris. Additional one-time access is needed from homeowners towards the middle of the park to complete the fence removal. If you would like to volunteer access, or for additional information, please contact **Gregg Holtmeier** (Bollinger Hills resident) or **Kevin Fox** (Las Trampas Park Supervisor). Their contact information is listed below.

Gregg Holtmeier
(925) 803-5804
holtmeier@comcast.net

Kevin Fox
Las Trampas Park Supervisor
1-888-EBPARKS



Volunteers on Derby Drive in January with fence debris ready for haul off

CERT Update

By Jack Robertson
BHHOA Resident and CERT Team Leader

We had a good turnout for the Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) class on February 17, 2010. Thanks to those of you who took this 3-hour class geared towards helping you and your family prepare before an earthquake, survive during the quake and recover quickly after the disaster. As a reminder, the cabana has been reserved on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to hold a local evening class for Bollinger Hills residents, if we can register enough participants (a minimum of 5). Check your calendar and plan to get prepared. Pre-registration is required, so if you are interested in a PEP class please send an email to Paul Turner at pturner@gtl.net.

Our Bollinger Hills CERT program was highlighted in the new San Ramon Patch online news site. It's nice to get recognition for the work we've done so far. You can read more about the CERT program at <http://sanramon.patch.com/articles/cert-prepares-residents-for-emergencies>.

To register for a CERT class, please send an email to cert@srvfire.gov. For more information, please visit the updated Bollinger Hills CERT website at <http://www.bollingerhills.org/cert.htm> or the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District website at http://www.firedepartment.org/community_outreach/cert/overview.asp.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you are interested in getting involved please contact us at cert@bollingerhills.org.

The Fire Department is offering the following CERT classes this year:

CERT Class #30 (6:00 PM - 9:30 PM)

05/04/10 - Orientation, Preparedness
05/11/10 - Terrorism, Fire Safety
05/18/10 - Disaster Medical Operations
05/25/10 - Light Search and Rescue
06/01/10 - Incident Command System
06/08/10 - Course Review, Drill

CERT Class #31 (6:00 PM - 9:30 PM)

09/09/10 - Orientation, Preparedness
09/16/10 - Terrorism, Fire Safety
09/23/10 - Disaster Medical Operations
09/30/10 - Light Search and Rescue
10/07/10 - Incident Command System
10/14/10 - Course Review, Drill

CERT Class #32 (Weekend Series)

10/22/10 Friday - 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Orientation, Preparedness & Terrorism
10/23/10 Saturday - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Fire Safety & Disaster Medical Operations
10/24/10 Sunday - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Light Search and Rescue, ICS & Drill



— Neighborhood Bulletin Board —

Purrrfect Petsitting

by Mason & Shayna

Dogs, cats, birds & more!

Dog walking & playing

Pet feeding

Plant watering & taking out trash

Retrieve mail & newspapers



Complimentary ads available for
"kids' businesses"
(babysitting, dog walking, lemonade
stand, etc.)

Contact Renee Rovai for details
'rrovai@netscape.net'

Pet-sitters!

If you are a pet owner and are going on a vacation where you can't bring your pet, you will need somebody to take care of them. We fit the bill. No matter what kind of pet you have (as long as it's reasonable), we can take care of it. We've even given an iguana a bath!



So if you need a pet-sitter, or want more information,

Call

We will be at your service!



www.bollingerhills.com

Check it out!

Go Green

If you would like to see your
Bollinger Hills Neighborhood News
in your 'email box' instead of your
U.S. Mail box, let us know!

info@bollingerhills.org



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