



MISSION RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 23, 6:30 pm, Anchor Office, 215 Daily Drive #10, Camarillo

MISSING RODENT BAIT STATIONS

For many years, Mission Ridge has been successful in keeping rodents at bay by hiring a pest control company to establish a perimeter with bait stations. This perimeter had 30 bait stations lining it which was what kept the rodents from coming into homes.



One or more persons have made that perimeter ineffective by stealing 20 of the 30 bait stations!

The HOA now has to pay at least \$25 for each of those missing stations.

There has been a lot of publicity lately about primary and secondary poisoning of animals from bait stations. Primary poisoning comes when the targeted animal consumes the rodenticide bait and leaves the bait box. They can live for up to 10 days, making the rodent easy prey for wild predators or house pets.

Secondary poisoning occurs when a predator consumes the poisoned prey. We understand the passion some people have about doing away with the bait stations. However, the alternative of having rodents in the community isn't very attractive, either.

That is why the Mission Ridge Board of Directors recently committed to try and keep the rodent population under control by installing at least one barn owl nest box in the community. The box will hopefully become a home where owls nest and hunt rodents from the perch.

The best way to encourage raptor hunters is to provide perching and nesting sites in undisturbed locations. Barn Owls, Kestrels, and Screech Owls nest in cavities, buildings, or nest boxes. The height of the nesting season is January through May. The last babies usually leave the nest by July. Nest boxes in hot sun will not be used in summer months. If a nest box location is favorable, and prey is available, Barn Owls may nest, or use the nest box as a resting place, year round.

Raptors hunt in flight, but they often "perch hunt" as well. A raptor perch is by far the most important tool for keeping hawks and owls where you want them for controlling rodent infested areas.

So far, our nesting box is empty. We are hopeful owls soon take a liking to it so that Mission Ridge doesn't suffer a rodent infestation.

POOL HEATER TO BE FIRED UP AT END OF MAY



As happens each year, the pool heater will be turned on for the Memorial Day weekend starting on May 25th.

If you are an off-site owner, please provide your tenants with a copy of the rules (available on the webpage), as you will be held responsible for their behavior. On-site owners are encouraged to review the rules with their family members and guests.

We ask all residents to keep the pool/spa area secure by not propping the door open, by not letting others inside the gate (they should have a key), and by calling the Police if you witness what appears to be underage drinking or any drug activity.

NOTE: The Board recently approved the painting of the pool & spa fence and the attached wood. It is possible this project will take place when the pool is heated, causing a slight disruption to those using the facilities. Your patience will be appreciated.



MORE PLANTERS TO BE UPGRADED

The Board approved upgrading 6 more planter areas between driveways on El Lazo and Recodo. The work to be done will include the removal of small turf areas below large trees. The mature trees have extensive root systems and create heavy shade which has all but destroyed the turf below. After the turf is removed, succulent plants will be added and wood mulch will be spread around each planter area.

We have no schedule yet for this project, but have been assured it will take place in spring.