

NEWS VIEWS

Country View HOA

July 2016

www.cvhoa.org

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NEXT MEETING

August 2, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Country View
Tennis Courts

Professionally managed by: Community Association Management

www.HOAsManagement.com

Patti Hoster, Association Manager

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COUNTRY VIEW HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Still Have a Lawn? The heavy rains of El Nino were not what we hoped for and now we are heading into the long dry season still in drought conditions. If you have a lawn, now is the time to consider a labor and water-saving lawn conversion project. Besides retiring your mower and saving money on your water bill, a conversion project can change a boring lawn into a beautiful and unique landscape. A process known as “sheet mulching” makes conversion relatively painless because it spares you the hard work of tearing out the lawn. The first step is to put down a layer of newspaper and cardboard, which kills the lawn and suppresses further weed growth while improving soil nutrients and structure and encourages favorable microbial activity. The sheet mulch is then covered with three to five inches of compost to create the actual growing environment for the plants. A great resource that explains the process in detail is available at **lawntogarden.org**. This site also has design resources, local material vendors, tips for success, and “before and after” photographs to inspire your creativity. Another invaluable resource for selecting low-water native California and Mediterranean plants is EBMUD’s *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*. You can order a copy from EBMUD – shipping is free and customers receive a \$5.00 discount. Never mow another lawn and enjoy a beautiful, un-thirsty garden! Be sure you get approval from the HOA architectural committee before you start your conversion process. Architectural Improvement Forms can be downloaded from the Country View Website at www.cvhoa.org.

New Pet Waste Station – The first “poop” collection station proved a bit hit with dog walkers so a second station has been installed in the open space on Barbados Drive between Tahiti Drive and Samoa Court. With two conveniently situated locations to dispose of pet waste, dog walkers have no excuse for inconsiderate behavior. Nobody wants to step in “stuff” left on the sidewalk or streets. Pet waste also has the potential to spread disease to humans or other animals. Be sure to stop by with your favorite canine pal and “fill a bag”.

Summertime is Vacation Time – Make sure your home doesn’t become a burglar magnet while you are away. Stop your mail and your newspaper and reschedule any package deliveries you might be expecting. Also ask a neighbor to check your driveway and front porch while you are gone because the delivery people are known to make mistakes and nothing says “I’m not home” more than packages or newspapers left uncollected. Also use light timers to mimic your normal nighttime activities. Modern timers can turn lights on and off at random, or within a specified time band to make the sequences more realistic. Another inexpensive and useful gadget is Fake TV, an electronic device that mimics the flashing of a television screen. Just set it next to your real TV and the effect, when viewed from outside, suggests the occupants are home enjoying their evening programs. Easy ways to make your house looked lived in!

What Every Pool Owner Should Know About Electrical Shock – Swimming pool electrocution can happen if precautions are not taken to ensure your pool is in good working order. Water conducts electricity and will deliver a shock to anyone who touches the water or metal fixtures such as pool ladders. The shock can cause unconsciousness leading to drowning or death and can leave you paralyzed. Signs that a person is being electrocuted are they turn blue, begin to twitch and are unresponsive.

Ensure your pool lighting is upgraded to modern safety standards. Look for pool lights that are flickering or performing erratically and have all your electrical components inspected by a licensed professional. Keep electrical devices such as TV's and radios along with extension cords at least five feet away from the edge of the pool. By exercising common sense, following safety guidelines and making sure your pool meets all safety standards you can minimize your risk of being electrocuted.

2016 Board Meetings

August 2, 2016 – Country View Tennis Courts
October 4, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – Country View Tennis Courts
December 6, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. – San Ramon Community Center