

NEWS VIEWS

Country View HOA

July 2017

www.cvhoa.org

Board of Directors

Dan Schilling –
President

danschillingcvhoa@comcast.net

Kathy Steigauf –
Vice President

KathySteigauf@aol.com

Carol Rossi –
Treasurer

rossic45@comcast.net

Gladys Ford –
Secretary

Vacancy –
Director

Newsletter editor:

Carol Rossi

Professionally managed by: Community Association Management

www.HOAsManagement.com

Patti Hoster, Association Manager

6088 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566

(925) 417-7100 Ext 206 • fax: (925) 426-7717

patti@hoasmanagement.com

COUNTRY VIEW HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summertime Critters

Warm weather brings snakes to the Tri-Valley area and experts are saying this is going to be a big year for snakes in California due to the amount of rain we received. Rain brings grass, grass brings rodents, and rodents bring snakes looking for a meal. Rattlesnakes, California kingsnakes and gopher snakes are all common in San Ramon. Gopher and kingsnakes snakes can grow quite large but are harmless to humans and pets, and are beneficial because they eat rodents and other pests. Kingsnakes have bright bands or varying colors and are easily identified. Unfortunately, gopher snakes look similar to rattlesnakes, which can be dangerous because they are venomous. Rattlesnakes are generally not aggressive and will likely retreat if given space and room to escape. But they may strike if provoked, threatened, or accidentally touched. Raise your rattlesnake awareness:

- In cool weather snakes seek warmer areas so watch for them sunning on rocks, patios, or trails - especially at mid-morning. During the hot late-mornings and afternoons of summer they seek cool areas such as under rocks or logs, in sheds and garages, or in tall grass and become more active at dawn, dusk or night.
- Avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see and step ON rocks or logs, never over them.
- Never try to touch or catch a snake and teach your children to respect them and leave them alone.
- Do not handle a freshly killed snake. It can still inject venom.
- Keep grass and weeds cut low on your property and keep doors to your home, sheds, and garage closed.
- Set traps to get rid of mice. Snakes will leave if they don't have a food supply.

Warm weather and outdoor picnics also bring yellow jackets, a type of wasp also known as "meat bees" because they forage on foods people eat, especially sweets and meats. You may notice their quick arrival at your barbecue where they will hover around open soft drinks and land on your burgers. They are also attracted to garbage. Unlike honey bees, yellow jackets are aggressive and if a nest is disturbed they may swarm and sting. Take precautions to avoid or control them.



NEXT MEETING

August 1, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Country View
Tennis Courts

Yellow jackets can make their nests in attics, wall voids, crawlspaces, and other areas in your home; in below-ground burrows; or in other handy spots with available openings like wood piles, concrete blocks, or children's play sets. Take care when entering enclosed areas of your home or outbuildings if they have been unoccupied or unopened for awhile. Eliminate food sources by covering food at outdoor meals, and keep your trash bins closed. Don't wear black clothing or perfumes when outdoors – yellow jackets are attracted to both. Inspect lawns, shrubs, and trees before trimming them – if a yellowjacket colony is disturbed they may swarm. If you are stung leave the area immediately. Yellow jackets can sting repeatedly and leave a pheromone behind that attracts other yellow jackets to the threat – in this case you.

If you do discover a nest do not disturb it during the day. Wait until night when it is dark and yellow jackets are less active and the entire colony is present. They also don't see well in the dark and are less likely to sting. Spray the nest openings with a pyrethrin aerosol, wait ten minutes, then dust with a botanical insecticide. The pyrethrin kills the adults on contact and the dust prevents future egg hatch outs. If you are allergic to insect stings (or just plain scared) hire a professional service to undertake this task for you! It is well worth the cost to avoid a swarm of angry yellow jackets.

You can also hang out yellow jacket bait stations which lure them into the traps to their death. But hang these away from your home, especially doors and windows, because you don't want to attract them to those areas.

Dead Trees and Shrubs Our long drought put a great deal of stress on trees and shrubs throughout California, and this is evident in Country View. If you have dead trees or shrubs anywhere on your property you should have them removed promptly. There are a fire hazard and can also topple over and damage your property or your neighbor's property. Dead branches on an otherwise live tree are equally hazardous since they can break and fall. They are also a strain on the tree's health and may hasten it's demise. Have a licensed tree service professional inspect your trees and offer recommendations to trim and shape them. A properly trimmed tree will enjoy a longer, healthier life; allow more sunlight into your yard; and reduce the hazard of falling branches.

Enjoy your summer!

2017 Board Meetings

August 1, 2017 – Country View Tennis Courts
October 3, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – Country View Tennis Courts
December 5, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. – San Ramon Community Center