

COVID-19
ONLINE EDITION



THE ROUND UP

Where the HHCA News Gets Penned

Volume 27, Issue 5 | May 2020

THE ROUND UP

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May 2020**

IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/4** Theater Committee Meeting | **10:00am**
- 5/4** Architectural Committee Meeting | **7:30pm**
- 5/11** Gate Committee | **6:30pm**
- 5/12** Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting | **11:00am**
- 5/13** ESC Committee Meeting | **6:30pm**
- 5/19** Board Executive Meeting | **5:30pm**
- 5/19** Board Meeting | **6:30pm**



Thank you to Hidden Hills residents Andrea Ashley and Lilian Darling Holt for their photography and photos throughout this edition of 'The Round Up'.



COVID-19 UPDATE

We hope you are all staying safe and enjoying spending time with the family during this trying time. We wanted to give you an update on what's happening at the Association.

Recreational Facilities

In accordance with County directives, the playgrounds have been closed. The County of Los Angeles has closed the pool and tennis courts for the time being. We will let you know when the status changes. And while the cleaning crew is sanitizing handles and surfaces daily, residents using any of the facilities are encouraged to carry disinfectant wipes and use them before and after touching any handles, knobs, faucets, etc.

Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market will continue on Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. as long as permitted by the State and County and as long as demand is sufficient to draw the vendors. The Market vendors are also preparing orders for pick-up and, for those of you who are 65 and over and/or infirm/disabled, orders will be delivered to your homes. Watch your email at the beginning of each week for a new order form.

Events

Except for the Farmer's Market, all community events have been canceled for the foreseeable future.

Construction Projects

Many people have asked if the Association is going to continue to allow construction vehicles to enter the community. As of now, State and County directives allow construction to continue. We are currently allowing construction to continue and will continue to monitor this situation and make changes as the situation necessitates.

Meetings

For the time being, all meetings will be held via Zoom. You can check the meeting schedules on the website (www.hiddenhills.org) under Events. If you're interested in receiving an agenda and attending any of the committee meetings via Zoom, please contact the committee chair. The agendas for Board meetings will be sent out the Friday before the meeting as always, and will include a Zoom invite for any resident to join.

Staff

Staff is back in the office, but the office is still closed to visitors. All staff contact information is on the website under "Contact Us." Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance at all.

Please stay safe, everyone! We will get through this!

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

At its meeting of March 10, 2020, the Board of Directors reviewed two proposed rule changes regulating private security cameras and the removal of mature trees. **See below for details.**

These proposed rule changes will be discussed at the May 19, 2020 Board meeting. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email Shannon@hiddenhills.org. **Thank you.**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS RELATING TO INSTALLATION OF PRIVATE SECURITY CAMERAS

In response to a recent increase in the installation of residential security cameras, the Association is proposing to amend the Architectural Standards to address the aesthetics and privacy impacts of those improvements, as noted below (additions are in bold and green, deletions in strikeout):

ARTICLE III. DEFINITIONS.

59. Structures

d. Miscellaneous Structures. This type of construction covers those items not covered under A, B, or C and includes, but is not limited to, tennis courts, swimming pools, security cameras not attached to a dwelling, and all metal, wood, or plastic structures, such as the prefabricated type, exceeding forty-eight (48) inches in height. Improvements under forty-eight (48) inches in height are not considered structures.

60. Security Cameras. Security Cameras include any camera or video recording device, wired or wireless, meant to view, capture and/or record pictures or video images in or outside of a building.

IV. SITE STANDARDS.

1. Approval.

No dwelling, accessory building, swimming pool, sports court, sports court fence, enclosure, or other miscellaneous structure or grade shall be erected, constructed, or altered on any property unless approved by the Committee.

Definitions:

Security Camera: Any camera or video recording device, wired or wireless, meant to view, capture and/or record pictures or video images in or outside of a building.

Site Standards:

1) Security Cameras:

a) Security cameras attached to the primary residence or attached to an approved accessory building shall be mounted to be as inconspicuous as possible. Cameras shall not be mounted above the eaves. Cameras may not be mounted to roof structures or chimneys nor to poles attached to buildings above the eave line. Committee approval is not required for cameras attached to said buildings meeting the above requirements.

b) Any Security Camera not attached to the primary residence or accessory building requires Committee review and approval. Security Cameras may be mounted in established trees on a property or on poles installed for mounting the cameras. The cameras should be as inconspicuous as possible and every attempt shall be made for the installation of poles and cameras to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The Committee shall review the aesthetics and the locations of the proposed camera installations including but not limited to the size, height, material and color of the poles as well as the color of the cameras.

c) Security cameras' field-of-view shall be directed so it does not unreasonably infringe on the privacy of surrounding homes

d) The Association retains the right to view the recording field-of-view of the cameras to ensure the privacy of surrounding homeowners is protected. Inspections may be carried out, upon a mutually agreed appointment, by the Association architectural inspector or security agents hired by the Association.

e) There will be no fees for the review and approval of proposed Security Cameras.

f) The Committee will make every effort to expedite the review and approval of proposed security cameras and may make such approval outside of the scheduled monthly meetings.

PROPOSED NEW ARCHITECTURAL STANDARD ARTICLE IV.13.B REGULATING AND PROTECTING NATIVE TREES (PLEASE BE AWARE FORMATTING MAY CHANGE IN FINAL ITERATION):

Trees native to California are of significant aesthetic, ecological and historical value for the Hidden Hills Community Association and the preservation of this unique plant life is in the common interest of the Association residents. The purpose of these rules is to provide heightened scrutiny to ensure the protection of these trees against indiscriminate removal, and to maintain the community's distinctive character and allow for development in a manner consistent with the welfare of all residents, while also maintaining and improving property values and retaining our open rustic country feeling. Nothing in this Standard shall in any way limit the existing power and authority of the Architectural Committee and the Board to protect other trees (both smaller trees and other species) through the plan approval process, including the denial, delay or conditioning of approvals for the protection of such other trees as the Committee and the Board shall deem appropriate or the requirement that additional trees be planted.

Definitions

- 1.** "Protected tree" means a tree of a "native species" as defined below that meets any of the following criteria:
 - a. Is fifteen (15) inches or more in diameter as measured three (3.0) feet above mean natural grade.
 - b. In the case of a tree with more than one trunk, has twenty (20) inches or more in combined diameter for any two trunks as measured three (3.0) feet above mean natural grade,
 - c. Is a "replacement tree" as defined below.
- 2.** "Native species" means any of the following:
 - a. Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), and any other species of the oak genus (*Quercus*) indigenous to California, but excluding the Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*), or
 - b. Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), or
 - c. Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), or
 - d. California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).
- 3.** "Damage" means any act causing injury to the root system or other parts of a tree, including, but not limited to, cutting, nailing, burning, applying toxic substances, operating equipment or machinery, or by paving, changing

the natural grade, trenching, excavating, or building within (i) the dripline plus five (5) feet or (ii) fifteen (15) feet of trunk, whichever is greater.

- 4.** "Certified arborist" means any person with at least four (4) years of experience in the business of transplanting, moving, caring for and maintaining trees and who (a) has earned the ISA Certified Arborist credential from the International Society of Arboriculture, or (b) is a registered consulting arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists.
- 5.** "Replacement tree" means any tree required by the Architectural Committee to be relocated on the property or otherwise planted pursuant to paragraph 3.a of the Findings and Decision paragraph below.

Protected Tree Permit Requirement. No person shall alter, destroy, disfigure, remove, relocate, or otherwise inflict damage to any protected tree on any lot or parcel of land in Hidden Hills, without first obtaining approval from the Architectural Committee in accordance with these Native Tree Protection provisions.

Exemptions. The provisions of this Standard shall not apply to:

- 1.** Cases of emergency caused by a protected tree being in a hazardous or dangerous condition as determined by a certified arborist.
- 2.** Emergency maintenance by a public utility necessary to protect or maintain an electric power or communication line or other property of a public utility.
- 3.** Routine maintenance intended to ensure the continued health of a protected tree, including the trimming of branches (1) under 3 1/2 inches in diameter or (2) for larger branches under the supervision of a certified arborist.
- 4.** Any protected tree planted after the adoption of this Standard, other than a replacement tree, for a period of twenty (20) years from the date that tree is planted on a lot or parcel of land in Hidden Hills, as approved by the Architectural Committee and reflected in the Association's property file for the lot or parcel of land.

Permit Application

- 1.** Consideration of any action described in this Standard shall be initiated upon the filing of a plan and application to the Hidden Hills Community Association Architectural

**Proposed New Architectural Standard Article
IV.13.b Regulating and Protecting Native Trees
CONTINUED**

Committee by the owner of the subject property or the owner's authorized representative.

2. Applications shall be submitted on a form provided by the Association and shall be accompanied by an appropriate tree report prepared by a certified arborist, unless that report is waived by the Committee. An application shall not be accepted unless it contains all the information required by the Committee and this Standard and the required permit fee has been paid.

Review of Application by Architectural Committee.

When a complete application and plan have been received by the Architectural Committee, the Committee shall review the proposed work as part of its regular business. If the tree application is filed concurrently with a development application of any kind, the tree application shall be considered concurrently with the review of the development application.

Findings and Decision. Upon review of the application and consideration of the written and/or oral evidence received at the Architectural Committee meeting, the Committee shall render its decision. The application shall be approved if the applicant demonstrates and the Committee affirmatively finds any of the following for each protected tree involved:

- 1.** The proposed removal, relocation or extensive pruning of the tree is necessary because continued existence of the tree at its present location frustrates the planned improvement or proposed use of the subject property to such an extent that either:
 - a. Alternative development plans cannot achieve reasonable development of the property or the cost of that alternative would be prohibitive.
 - b. Location of the tree precludes the reasonable and efficient use and/or the safety of the subject property for a use otherwise authorized.
 - c. The tree interferes with utility services or a street or highway either within or outside the subject property and no reasonable alternative to such interference exists other than the proposed removal, relocation or extensive pruning of the tree.
 - d. The tree has a seriously debilitating disease or is danger of falling, and such condition cannot be remedied through reasonable preservation practices.
 - e. The tree will not be harmed or damaged by the proposed

construction within (i) the dripline plus five (5) feet or (ii) fifteen (15) feet of the trunk, whichever is greater, and any construction on the property can be accomplished without endangering the health of any other protected trees on the subject property.

2. Removal or relocation of a protected tree shall not be permitted if it will result in soil erosion through the diversion or increased flow of surface waters that cannot satisfactorily be mitigated.

3. The approval of any application under this Standard may be subject to such reasonable conditions as will promote this Standard's purpose, including, but not limited to:

a. Replacement of a removed tree, if feasible, with trees of a suitable type, size and number, and at an appropriate location. In general, replacement trees shall be at least a thirty-six (36)-inch box, or larger, and shall be placed at a ratio of four (4) new trees for each tree removed, unless otherwise specified. In considering whether replacement trees should be required, the Architectural Committee shall consider, in addition to any other relevant factor: the vegetative character of the surrounding area; the number and size of any protected tree(s) to be removed; the number and size of any protected trees to remain on the property; and the viability of replacement trees.

b. Preparation and implementation of a plan for protection of trees on the subject lot or parcel of land during and after proposed development, including: installation of fencing; limitations on the type of equipment to be used near trees; corrective measures to remedy defects in trees; adequate supervision by a certified arborist; and the posting of a bond to the satisfaction of the Architectural Committee and Board to guarantee the survival of trees to be replaced or relocated for a period of three (3) years from the date those trees are replaced or relocated, including the replacement or relocation of any such replacement trees.

Enforcement. If any property owner or resident or their tenants, workers or invitees, damages one or more protected tree(s) without first obtaining the Architectural Committee and Board approvals required by this Standard, then, in addition to such action as the Board may otherwise take for violation of the Architectural Standards, including, but not limited to imposition of fines, the Board may also (i) require the owner to undertake those steps, including the planting of replacement trees, as would have been required to obtain approval, or (ii) in cases where approval would not have been granted, such actions as the Board deems appropriate to (a) mitigate the loss to the community resulting from the damage of such protected tree(s) and (b) act as a deterrent to future violations.

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULE CHANGE – POOL & TENNIS COURT USE

As was reported in a notification last week, the Board met on Tuesday, April 28th to discuss reopening the pool and tennis courts following the expiration of the City's COVID-19 closure order. The Board voted to open both of those facilities with restrictions. This vote constitutes a temporary emergency rules change, which must be sent out to the membership within 15 days of being adopted. Accordingly, following is the text of the change to Appendix II of the Hidden Hills Community Association's Rules & Regulations, which remains in effect until further notice.

APPENDIX II, SECTION 3 SWIMMING POOL

3.1 Use of Swimming Pool. The Association's swimming pool is to be used solely by adult residents (16 years of age and older) for lap swimming only. A maximum of three (3) swimmers are permitted in the pool/pool area at one time and compliance with the County's social distancing guidelines is required at all times. Residents under 16 years of age are not permitted in the pool area. .

3.2 Assumption of Risk. Except during the Summer Program hours, **NO LIFEGUARDS ARE ON DUTY.** Residents are cautioned that the use of the swimming pool is at their own risk and that they assume full responsibility for their own safety. Tampering with or using any of the safety equipment, including but not limited to the lifeguard ring and spine board, is strictly prohibited except in the event of an emergency. Residents are advised that the pool area, gate, handles, showers, etc., are not being disinfected throughout the day.

3.3 Hours of Operation. Pool hours are 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Residents may gain access to the pool by obtaining a card key from the office.

3.4 Keep Area Secure. When entering and exiting the pool area, residents must make sure the gate closes behind them and that they do not admit anyone who does not have a valid card key. Propping the gate open is forbidden.

3.5 Communicable Diseases. Persons with skin diseases, open sores, inflamed eyes, nasal or ear discharges, or any diseases which are readily communicable may not use the swimming pool until such time as the disease is no longer communicable.

3.6 No Glass. So as to prevent injuries, glass containers of any kind are prohibited in or around the swimming pool.

3.7 Sand. Sand must be washed off feet before entering pool.

3.8 Running/Diving. Running is not permitted in the pool area. Diving is permitted only in the deep end of the pool.

3.9 Clean Up. Residents must clean up after themselves, their children and their guests.

3.10 Mobile Devices. Mobile devices such as iPods, tablets and cellular phones that play music may be used with earphones.

3.11 Proper Swimming Attire. Appropriate swimming attire must be worn. Cut-offs, jeans and Bermuda shorts are not allowed.

3.12 No Diapers. Diapers are prohibited in the pool.

3.13 No Rough Play. Boisterous conduct and rough play are prohibited.

3.14 Toys and Rafts. Inflatable rafts and inner tubes are not allowed.

3.15 Pool Furniture and Equipment. The pool furniture is unavailable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.16 Animals. Animals are not permitted in the pool at any time.

SECTION 5 TENNIS & SPORT COURTS

5.1. Use of Tennis Courts and Time Limits. Except as provided below, the following basic rules apply to all of the Association's tennis courts:

a. The Association's tennis courts are to be used solely by Residents who are members of the same family/household unit playing tennis. Children under 16 are permitted only with parental supervision.

b. Priority is established on a first-come, first-served basis. Courts cannot be reserved.

c. Play is limited to one hour if others are waiting to use the court. Those who are waiting to use the court must abide by the County's social distancing requirements.

d. Proper attire and shoes are required at all times. No hard-soled or black-soled shoes are allowed on the courts.

e. Nets may not be dismantled, removed or altered without the express written authorization from the Hidden Hills Community Association.

NEW Association WEBSITE!

We are very excited to announce the launch of our newly designed website.

Need to know the date of a committee meeting so you can sit-in and learn about your community?

Yearning to get the email address for one of your wonderful board members?

Looking to read the Minutes from the last Board meeting?

YOU CAN FIND IT ALL & MORE

on www.hiddenhills.org



If you were registered on the old site but haven't yet registered on the new site, enter your username and click "forgot password." The office will confirm your residency status and email you a link, which will enable you to log on and create a new password. As always, call us if you have any problems! Please take a look, get familiar with the new sections + be sure not to miss the RESIDENT portal.

We will be updating the site WEEKLY! ~ Information *will* be current.

Spread the word and get into the habit of going to your new site as the first place you look for answers + information.



WANT TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE?

Do you have a desire to get more involved in your community? Or just want to help out where you can? Well, why not join a committee? Let us know if you're interested in serving on, and have relevant experience to offer, any of the Association's committees.

Email Shannon@hiddenhills.org with the committee you'd like to join, along with a brief description of the education/experience you have to share. There are currently openings on the Equestrian Services Committee and if there are residents wanting to serve on the other committees, vacancies will be coming up at the Annual Meeting.

Note: new legislation eliminates most qualifications for running for the Board of Directors, so you no longer need to serve on a committee for a year before running. The Association's governing documents are in the process of being revised, and that requirement will be removed. So join because you want to! It's a fun and rewarding experience, one that truly makes Hidden Hills such a special place to live.



PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG POOP!

Given the stay at home order, there are many more people walking their dogs. As a result there is much more dog waste on both the parkways and trails.

Please may we remind residents to always pick up after their dogs. This is especially important now as the rain season comes to an end and it begins to get warmer.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

California law requires Associations to send out certain information via US Mail unless members have consented to receive them via email.

Having the ability to disseminate documents via email would save the Association a great deal of staff time, copying expense and postage, which translates to reduced HHCA budgets! And we have the annual budget reports and reserve study to send out next month, so we urge you to provide your consent to receive these documents via email.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon@hiddenhills.org. If not, please either print the Consent form, fill it out and send it in, or just email us indicating your consent. We appreciate your help!

HIDDEN HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEMBER CONSENT FOR RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I declare that I am an owner and/or trustee of the trust that owns the property listed below ("the Property"). I consent to receive all Hidden Hills Community Association ("HHCA") documents, notices and disclosures permitted or required by law or the HHCA governing documents by electronic delivery to the designated e-mail address below, and waive my right to other means of individual notice or delivery pursuant to Civil Code §4040. I understand and agree that to the extent HHCA is only required to provide general delivery or notice pursuant to Civil Code §4045, HHCA may, but is not required to, provide electronic delivery. I agree to promptly HHCA in writing of any changes in my e-mail address. I understand that my consent to receive notice by electronic transmission can be revoked by me at any time by notifying HHCA management in writing.

In the event more than one person on title, I declare that I have the full authority to bind all owners of the Property by signing this Consent Form, and that I am authorized to receive HHCA documents on behalf of the other owner(s) listed on the title. I will advise and forward to the other owners all correspondence I receive from HHCA pursuant to this Consent.

I understand that HHCA will send its documents, notices and disclosures to the email(s) listed below and not any other e-mail address that it may have on record associated with the Property.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree that I have read and understand the terms in this Consent form.

.....
Property Owner/Trustee Listed on Title: _____

Property Address(es): _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Secondary E-Mail Address (optional): _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

United Outreach Foundation (a 501c3 non-profit organization)

Dear Neighbors,

Due to the recent pandemic and business closures, many of our local community have been unable to work and for the first time finding themselves facing food scarcity. Can you help?

Our efforts are focused on providing immediate help, as is it urgently needed!

Our local \$4 Feeds 4 fundraiser helps to provide four meals to four people.

Please visit our website at www.unitedoutreach.org for more options or to make a donation online.

Our food drive is targeted to provide 4 food items that our local food pantries have deemed the most essential at this time.

These items are:

Peanut butter
Pasta
Tomato sauce
Canned Tuna

The local community pantries are overwhelmed trying to meet the increased demands. Many report going from serving 2000 individuals per month, to an unprecedented 11,000. They need our help!

Please leave food donations at the Hidden Hills Community Center. They will be picked up on Saturday, May 9th at 4pm. We are also happy to provide "safe distance" pick up at your home.

Please call us at 818-217-1441 and we will be happy to assist you!

Whether we are aware nor not, we all know someone in need. Together, as a community we can all make a difference.

We sincerely appreciate your support!

United Outreach Foundation

United Outreach is a 5013c non profit organization. Our focus is on supporting food scarcity in local communities, homeless youth (ages 12-25) and activities that support a healthy planet. We are 100% volunteer driven. Our funds go directly to supporting each cause.

PROPOSED AND EMERGENCY RULE CHANGES TO BE DISCUSSED

Just a reminder that at the May 19, 2020 meeting the Board will be reviewing the proposed Native Tree Protection rule and the proposed rule regulating private security camera systems. Additionally, the emergency rules put into place on April 28, 2020 restricting use of the pool and tennis courts will be up for discussion. If you need copies of any of these documents, please contact shannon@hiddenhills.org or click the following links.

Mature Tree Protection Rule:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9g95n5nhtidj7/Native%20Tree%20Protection%20Regulations%20Rev%202020-03-06%20Clean.docx?dl=0>

Proposed Security Camera Rule:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/l8dzdx8ocgs0xbv/Security%20Camera%20Proposed%20Wording%20v2%20%282%29.docx?dl=0>

Emergency Rule Re Pool and Tennis Courts:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r9jcla6h0yl945f/notice%20of%20rule%20changes%20re%20pool%20and%20tennis%20courts%20for%20may%2019%202020%20meeting.doc?dl=0>

NEIGHBORS

All of us want to keep our Hidden Hills SAFE for our families and their horses and other animals. Especially while we're all here 24/7 minding our "stay-at-home" orders, for safety, please take note of this: There have been many reports of danger risks because of forbidden bicycle, scooter and motorized vehicle-riders on our trails. As noted by well-posted signs, our trails are exclusively for the use of pedestrians and equestrians.

PLEASE, as is documented in our HH Rules and Regulations (Section 3.2), share with your families and particularly your children this pertinent part of our Rules:

"Operating any motorized vehicle, including but not limited to motorcycles, automobiles, trucks, go-karts, go-peds, golf carts, gas-powered scooters, on the bridle trails is . . . strictly prohibited unless expressly permitted by the Association . . . Riding a bicycle on any bridle trail is prohibited in all instances."

Thank You for your anticipated cooperation. Be safe

BE ALERT: SNAKES

Many residents have seen an increase in snakes hanging out in their gardens. Most snakes will just pass through and altho they may hang out in the shady area in the heat of the day it will move along when it cools off.

If there is a rattle at the end of of the snake call **ANIMAL CONTROL** and have the Rattlesnake removed and relocated.

Most of the garden variety snakes will not harm you or your pets so its best to just leave them alone and they will go their merry way soon enough. Most snakes you want in your yard as they are another hunter of rodents so they will naturally keep your area rodent free.

Here are some of the good snakes you may start to see in your garden that one **NO THREAT** to you or your pets.

Gopher Snake - Non Venomous

California King Snake - Non Venomous

Striped Racer - Non Venomous

Red Coachwhip - Non Venomous

Two Striped Garter Snake - Non Venomous

Black Head Snake - Mildly Venomous

Southern Pacific Rattlesnake - Highly Venomous



Gopher Snake



California King Snake



Striped Racer



Red Coachwhip



Two Striped Garter Snake



Black Head Snake



Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

If in doubt please
call **ANIMAL
CONTROL**



BE ALERT: SPIDERS

Folks are uncovering some of their garden furniture and finding large spiders. These are The California tarantula is a very docile native spider. Tarantulas are not poisonous to humans, though like all spiders they have venom that is effective on small arthropods for subduing their prey. While female tarantulas can live for up to 25 years, the average lifespan of the male is only seven or eight years. breeding season is in August so you may start seeing these guys out and about looking for mates. If one is in your home **HIGHLY UNLIKELY** just scoop him up and place him outside. If they are around your furniture please leave them be and they will leave soon enough. They dont stick around and will not harm you or your pets.

Garden Orb Spiders - These Spiders weave **LARGE** round webs in your trees to and are not harmful, they will **NOT** go inside your home. They eat Mosquitos and other flying insects. Residents could see more orb weavers this year than they have in years.

That's because spiders - including orb weavers - have more little bugs to eat this year because the region had a lot of rain, which created more vegetation and insects overall. They are fascinating to watch and the webs are really large and most web in trees higher up but I for one have walked face first in to a few last year so please don't kill these guys just leave them be and they will do their thing and leave when the season ends.



HIDDEN HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

EQUESTRIAN SERVICES TIP OF THE MONTH

IT'S RATTLESNAKE SEASON!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Now that the weather is turning warmer,
our slithery friends are emerging!**

Horses are curious grazers and tend to get bitten by snakes on their muzzle or legs. Bell Boots, Polo Wraps and Splint Boot coverings are very helpful precautions, as well as watchful eyes and ears. If your horse is bitten, call your vet immediately for advice on whether the vet should come out to you or whether your horse should immediately be taken to a hospital for supportive care. Because horses can only breathe through their nose (not their mouth), snake bites on the muzzle can be particularly risky. If your horse is bitten on the face, monitor the swelling on his or her nose closely. The horse's nose can swell up quickly (within minutes to an hour), rendering him or her unable to breathe. If your horse is bitten while riding, prevent the horse from stopping on top of the snake and also from looking down to avoid a second bite. Keep the horse as calm as possible and slowly move towards the closest, most accessible evacuation point so that a vehicle can get to your horse. If the bite occurs at home, keep the horse still and calm until the vet or trailer arrives.

Remember, the harmless gopher snake looks a bit like a rattlesnake. Some distinguishing characteristics of the Rattlesnake are: wide angular head, thick rough scales, elliptical pupils and, of course, a RATTLE at the end of a fairly thick tail.

**If you find a rattlesnake at your home and need assistance,
call the Fire Department at (818) 222-1107**



Avoiding Unintentional Poisoning

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The use of anticoagulant rodenticide poison to control rodents in your yard, neighborhood and community can result in exposing your pets and local wildlife to this deadly poison. Regardless of who distributes the poison -- homeowners, professionals, or your HOA -- your pets and local wildlife are at risk of exposure.

Death from anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning takes longer than you might think. Rodents that consume anticoagulant poisons do not die immediately. The poison is designed to block the vitamin K cycle which is important in clotting the body's blood, often resulting in a slow death. It can take up to 10 days for the rodent to die by internal bleeding, if it is not eaten by another animal first. Rodents filled with toxic anticoagulant rodenticide poisons continue to move around in the environment and as they start to feel the effects of the poison they begin to move slower and become easy targets for your cat, dog and our native predators such as bobcats, hawks, owls, coyotes etc. Research has shown that anticoagulant poison moves up the food chain and eating a poisoned animal can lead to secondary poisoning of dogs, cats and many wild animals.

HOW ARE PETS AND WILDLIFE GETTING POISONED?

Unintentional Poisoning

Non-target species are poisoned through primary, secondary and tertiary poisoning.

Primary Poisoning of non-target animals may occur when a bird eats the pellets broadcasted on the landscape or pellets that fall out of the bait box. Domestic dogs have been poisoned when they eat bait from boxes or get into unsecured packaging in their homes.

Secondary Poisoning of non-target species occurs when

predatory animals eat poisoned animals, therefore ingesting the poisons secondarily. For example, a bobcat eats a poisoned gopher, exposing the bobcat to the poison, creating a secondary exposure to the poison. Your cat could be at risk too. If your cat ventures outside it will likely catch or try to catch a small mammal, if that mouse, rat, squirrel or rabbit has eating poison your cat is at risk of secondary poisoning.

Tertiary Poisoning of non-target species occurs when a predatory animal eats another predatory animal that has been secondarily poisoned. For example, a mountain lion eats a coyote with secondary poisoning that ate a poisoned squirrel.

Anticoagulants move through the food chain.

RESEARCH DISCOVERS RODENT POISONS MOVE UP THE FOOD CHAIN

Wildlife affected in our local Southern California neighborhoods:

Scientific research on local wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area and surrounding fragmented habitats has detected startling evidence on how many of our native carnivores are exposed to anticoagulant rodenticide poisons. This research has shown that secondary poisoning from anticoagulant rodenticides is a wide spread problem throughout our local landscape. Testing results from the 3 carnivore species (bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions) monitored in this study found that most of the animals in the study were exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides.

Results from tested bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions, and exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides during NPS study:

Bobcats - 92% of bobcats exposed to anticoagulant poisons.

Coyotes - 83% of coyotes were exposed to anticoagulants and it was the 2nd leading cause of death during study.

Mountain Lions - 94% of mountain lions were exposed to anticoagulant poisons, including a 3 month old kitten.





Lethal Dose: Rat Poison & Local Wildlife

Local residents may inadvertently be poisoning wildlife. National Park Service researchers have found a direct link between exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly known as rat poison, and the deaths of wildlife in and around the Santa Monica Mountains. How rodenticide works its way through the food chain:

1 Targeted rodents

Rats and other rodents who eat rodenticide do not die right away and may even become lethargic as they approach death, making them easy prey for larger predators.



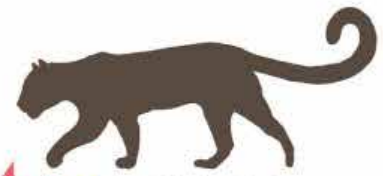
2 Predators

Raptors, snakes and larger predators consume poisoned rodents.



3 Top of the food chain

Mountain lions feed on smaller predators laced with lethal poison.



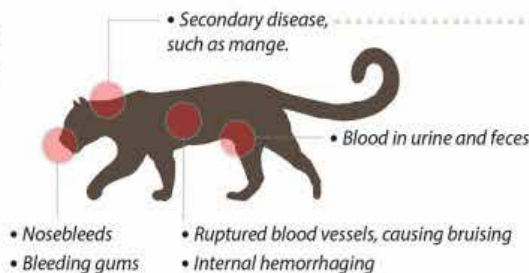
Unintended victims

- In the Santa Monica Mountains...**
- 12 of 13 mountain lions tested positive for exposure and two died from poisoning.
 - 93 of 105 bobcats tested positive for exposure and 70+ died from related secondary disease.
 - 20 of 24 coyotes tested positive for exposure and 12 died from poisoning.

As of November 2015

How anticoagulant rodenticide kills

These compounds interrupt blood-clotting, which leads to uncontrolled bleeding and death. They may also suppress the animal's immune system, making it susceptible to other diseases. **Symptoms include:**



What is mange?

A microscopic mite that burrows into the skin and causes...

1. Extreme itchiness and skin lesions.
2. Fluid and nutrient loss through the skin.
3. Infection, starvation, hypothermia or other complications, eventually leading to death.



Check the label

Here are the most common anticoagulant compounds:

- Bromadiolone
- Brodifacoum
- Diphacinone
- Difethialone



SOURCES: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area research, L.E.K. Serleys, UrbanCarnivores.com

CREDIT: National Park Service <http://1.usa.gov/1SuhsXv>

WILD LIFE UPDATE

I have received a few calls regarding baby birds that fell out the nest very young and were luckily found on the ground.

If you find a baby bird with no feathers on the ground, first thing to do is see if a nest is visible. If you can see the nest, put on a pair of gloves and gently put him back in the nest. If there is no nest or the nest is destroyed, gently place them in a shoe box with holes in the lid. Then, please give me a call or contact the office. Baby birds this young require lots of feeding throughout the day and have to be fed a warm baby bird formula via a feeding syringe. Of the 3 baby sparrows found, that I had to hand feed, 2 have been released and flew away without issue and 1 passed away shortly after being found.

BANDIT THE BABY SQUIRREL

Bandit arrived 3 weeks ago and was still a little young to be on his own. He was very friendly and became instantly attached to my son Noah. He's in great condition and is looking good.

We started to handle him less and less and eventually we opened our window and faced his open cage toward the outside so he could explore. He manages to stay out longer each day and continues to explore further away from our care. He does come back at around 5:30pm every night and we find him nestled in his hammock or box.

Our hope is that he will one day venture off and just not come back when he reaches full maturity.



SCREECH THE OWL

Screech the Western Screech Owl was dropped off at 7am April 30th. He was found on the road at Twin Oaks and Long Valley having been attacked by a posse of larger crows. The Katz family towed him quickly and brought him to me.

I checked him over and didn't find any injuries, he had all his flight feathers and he weighed in at 120g. I put him on a log in a nice dark crate and gave him a moment to rest. I then offered him fresh mice meat and he consumed it like a champ. He took a defensive posture and spread out to blend with the branch and gave me his best click (that's an "I'm aggravated" sound!). I checked on him every few hours and at midnight he casted out a nice sized pellet.

Owls throw up what they can't digest in a pellet form and that signals that they are ready to eat again. I fed him some more and in the morning I offered him a live mouse and covered his crate. He seemed to eat on his own fine, so I will attempt to release him at night at the location he was found. Screech Owls mate for life and stay close to their mothers for up to a year, so I'm hoping all goes well and he is reunited with his owl family. Screech Owls eat small rodents, bats, lizards and insects like moths.

As a reminder please do not use any rat or rodent poison at your home as it will also poison an owl when they ingest the dying and poisoned rodents.

GRANDCHILDREN HAVE OUTGROWN... SO...NO LONGER NEED

Oeuf White/Walnut Mini Library PD \$678

59w x 42h x 14d

Slightly "Grandparent Visits" Used.....MAKE OFFERS

Deborah Diamond 818.884.5790

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melissa@melissazwallace.com 310-560-5757

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Contact Bob 818-207-6379



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ALL MY BEST
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NANNY AVAILABLE

Are you looking for an extra set of hands during the day?
Would you like to have a great night's sleep while your baby is cared for? Experienced (20 years), trusted night nurse and babysitter, with ages from newborn to teenager.

Currently available for night nursing and some day care.
Great references available.

Contact Megan 818-857-9494



WILD LIFE ALERT!

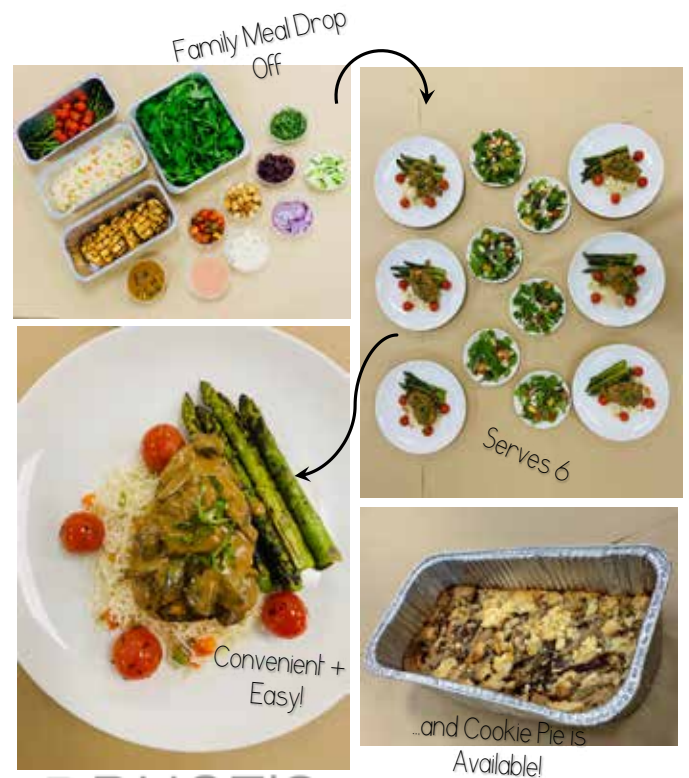
RED TAILED HAWK BREEDING SEASON

Pairs either build a new nest or refurbish an old nest. Nests are constructed of two to three foot long branches that are usually less than half an inch thick. Both the male and female take part in nest building. When building their nests, redtails are secretive, and if disturbed, may abandon the site. Nest sites vary depending on available habitat, but in general they are open from above, and have a good view of the surrounding landscape.

Redtails lay a total of one to five eggs with roughly 48-hour intervals between eggs. The incubation period is 28 to 35 day begins shortly after the first egg is laid. The female does most of the incubation, and during this period the male feeds her. After the eggs hatch, the female broods the nestlings for 30 to 35 days, and the male continues to provide most of the food. Although both parents will bring prey back to the nest, only the female feeds the chicks. The young fledge at 44 to 46 days of age, and the parents continue to feed their fledglings for another four to seven weeks. During this time, the young gradually move farther from the nest, improve their flight abilities, and begin to hunt on their own. Some individuals remain with their parents for as long as six months after fledging.

We are heading into the fledgling season in May and June. When a fledgling comes out of the nest it can take up to 2 weeks before they can fly and are very vulnerable and most fledglings are injured or killed during this time.

If you see a fledgling or hawk on the ground please keep all pets and livestock away from the bird, do not attempt to handle or catch the bird yourself and if in need of immediate assistance call the office or Jennifer Zuiker 818-912-6902



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CATERING & EVENTS

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24549 long valley road * hidden hills, ca 91302
phone: (818) 227-6657 * fax: (818) 888-6113