



# The Greenbelt

Volume 165  
January 2014

## Christmas Decorating Contest Winner

Neil and Audrey Matteson of 9915 Pampas Path are the proud winners of our recent Christmas Decorating contest. The Lonero's on Arrowleaf Trail took a very close 2nd place. A very big thank you to all of you who decorated your hearths, homes and front yards, making Oak Hills a truly festive neighborhood during the holidays.

## Personal Responsibility, the County Sheriff and the CC&R's

By Cynthia Suverkrop

Inquiries to the board regarding problems in the neighborhood often fall within these three categories: personal responsibility, the county sheriff and the CC&R's. And so it goes that I will address a few of the most recent issues brought before the board and explain the category in which each belongs and how a solution could be meted out.

**Problem 1: the barking dog.** Yes, there are barking dogs in Oak Hills. And now that colder weather is coming, the barking dog issue has morphed from a noise complaint into a "save the dog cries." The board is quite familiar with this kind of complaint. The homeowners' board does not have jurisdiction over this matter; the county has ordinances that address noise and animal control. Your best bet for resolution is to contact the county sheriff. However, a sound complaint is not an emergency, so do not call 911. Call the non-emergency number, 755-5111.

**Problem 2: loud party music.** Sometimes people have parties and they crank up the stereo quite loud; sometimes they even have live bands with amplifiers, making the music even louder. The board has heard, literally, heard this complaint. Again the solution to such a problem is to contact the county sheriff. It may be helpful for you to be able to quantify the sound problem by measuring the intensity of the noise nuisance. This can be done by downloading a sound meter on your smart phone. Next, get a reading, and assuming the noise exceeds the county ordinance which is 85 decibels at 50 feet; you will now have real data that will back up your complaint when calling the police. It may help.

## Checking out the Greenbelt!

Members of the Oak Hills Homeowners Association board spent the morning of Saturday November 23, 2013 locating and evaluating all of our greenbelt access pathways. It was discovered that most easements were clear and accessible. Those that were blocked in any way were noted and homeowners on both sides of blocked access routes will be notified of their responsibility to remove any serious overgrowth, blocking fences or other encroaching structures. Greenbelt access is important for fire fighting access in the event of an emergency. A portion of your Association dues pay the property taxes on these greenbelt access pathways and they are owned collectively by all property owners within the Oak Hills Homeowners Association.

Also during this walking inspection several trees on Association property needing trimming were noted and bids will be solicited for this necessary service.

**Brrrrrr!**

It has been getting very cold out at night in the past few months and will likely to continue for a few more. Please remember to bring your pets inside and night time. You may also want to cover your cold sensitive plants outside so that they may survive the frost in the early mornings.

## Safety Vests Available

Walking may be part of your New Year's resolution to get more exercise. Why not add some safety while walking and make your presence known as part of our community by wearing a "neighborhood" reflective safety vest. There are still some available, one size fits all. If you're interested, call Cynthia Suverkrop, 633-2506.

## Did You Know....

**Did you know** that you can set up Bill Pay through most banks using their online banking system to send you Bi-Monthly Association Dues. When you set up Bill Pay for your dues, please use your street address as your Account Number (i.e. 9505 Brome Trail) and have the check sent to P.O. Box 689 Castroville, CA 95012. Schedule to payments for every two months and you will be set.

**Did you know** that you can have your Bi-Monthly statements e-mailed to you? Go to [www.oakhillshoa.org/documents](http://www.oakhillshoa.org/documents) and click on the link to Receive Statements via email form. Fill out the form and mail it to P.O. Box 689 Castroville, CA 95012. You will then start receiving your statements via e-mail. To view the latest copy of the Greenbelt, go to [www.oakhillshoa.org/documents](http://www.oakhillshoa.org/documents) and click on the drop down box under Current and Past Greenbelt Issues.

## Upcoming Events

California Restaurant Month – Take advantage of special discounts at a myriad of local restaurants. Details at <http://www.seemonterey.com/includes/events/event/1941/>

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Monterey Whalefest Monterey – January 25 & 26, 2014

Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf – [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com)

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