

THE GREENBELT

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Board Seeks New Members

The Oak Hill Homeowners' Association needs volunteers to fill two board of directors positions.

Mark Hanna, from the Restrictions Committee, has accepted a job in New Jersey and tendered his resignation. Ken Leja has indicated that he will not seek reelection when his term is up in May.

The board is a volunteer position and members meet once a month to

discuss matters that affect all homeowners. Some of the ongoing projects before the board is the continued maintenance and improvement of the common areas, updating the CC&Rs, creating an association web page and budgetary concerns.

If you would be interested in joining the board, or if you can recommend a candidate, please contact President Michael Trujillo.

Sidewalk Safety

As you may have noticed, a portion of the sidewalk on Charter Oak near Cathedral Oak has been roped off because the ground underneath has eroded causing it to sink.

Please avoid walking on this section of sidewalk as it is unsafe at present.

The board is obtaining bids to replace the sidewalk and is looking into correcting drainage so that the problem doesn't repeat itself.

However, because of continued rains and the water retention in the hillside, actual work will not begin until the ground is drier.

Please exercise care in this area.

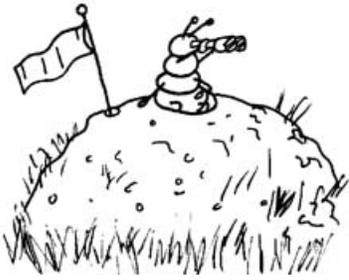
Calendar of Events for 2004

May 4—OHHA Annual Meeting. 7 p.m. at North Monterey County High School

May 8 or 22—Oak Hills Garage Sale. Please contact Suzanne Burr, 633-0514, if you are interested in participating. Notice that the date isn't firm yet.

July 10—OHHA Barbecue and Picnic. Residents wishing to help plan this event should contact a board member.

Best Yard a Bust?



**Looking
for
Help!**

For the last two issues of the Greenbelt, the board has asked for community help with the Best Yard project. Unfortunately, we have received no response.

In order for this project to move forward, we need volunteers for a committee to finalize rules for the award, decide upon what that award should be and offer suggestions to the board for how it could/should be funded, and choose a winning yard six times a year.

This is a last call.

Jim Lucier, OHHA administrator, has

volunteered to be part of this committee, but he cannot do it alone. If you wish to help, please contact Jim or a member of the board.

Participation in this committee will not eliminate you from the running for winning the award, but you would need to abstain from voting if your yard was nominated.

If we do not hear from the homeowners, we will assume that this project has no appeal and drop it, so please let us hear from you.

Tater People—author unknown

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work.

They are called “Spec Taters.”

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.

They are called “Comment Taters.”

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands.

They are called “Dick Taters.”

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. Is it too hot or too cold? Too sour or too sweet?

They are called “Agie Taters.”

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.

They are called “Hezzie Taters.”

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not.

They are called “Emma Taters.”

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.

They are called “Sweet Taters.”

Note from Editor: *This was an e-mail forward that has been around for a while. If anyone knows the author, I will give credit in the next Greenbelt.*

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Quick Garbage Survey

The board would like to know if anyone out there is discovering that the waste bins are not completely emptied on trash pick-up day?

If you have this or other issues with Waste Management, please contact Gerald Gifford at goarg@redshift.com.

Timely Tips – Controlling those pesky weeds!

It's that time of year. Weeds are coming up everywhere. Winter rains and plenty of seeds have caused a mess in your yard and it may seem overwhelming.

Weed control falls into three main categories: organic, physical and chemical.

Organic methods entail the use of mulches, green manuring, and organic herbicides and sometimes even helpful insect control.

Mulches prevent seeds from rooting, maintain moisture and help prevent erosion plus they can make your yard look nice.

Green manuring, also a physical technique, tills the weeds under where they turn to organic fertilizers. This is the main method used by farming.

Organic weed killers (herbicides) are becoming more and more available. Just follow label instructions.

Physical methods may be obvious and they entail several ways: tilling, hoeing, pulling, mulch mowing, line trimming, smothering, or flaming (risky).

Tilling, mulch mowing, line trimming and hoeing are green manuring methods. Almost all physical techniques are time consuming and great exercise.

Chemical methods are the use of herbicides (weed killers) and they generally fall into two main categories: selective and non-

selective.

Selective herbicides kill just certain species of un-wanted plants while non-selective kills (or damages) any plant that it hits.

Sub-categories of each are systemic and top killers.

Systemics enter the weed through the foliage then travel through the xylem and phloem (veins and arteries) and end up in the roots where they begin to kill the weeds from the roots up. It can take one to three weeks, but the weeds won't survive.

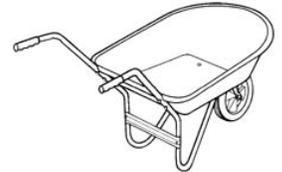
Top killers kill just the surface foliage and they work very quickly. They do not work well on perennial weeds, which will come back up from the roots.

Here is how we (so-called professionals) attack a major weed problem. First we line-trim them down (so the landscape looks better), next we spray them with systemic herbicides, then we maintain the area by physical methods or we use pre-emergent.

A pre-emergent is a chemical (some organics available) that prevents all seeds from germinating and typically last for one year in the soil.

Remember, stop the reseeding and weed control gets easier.

By Steve Jones
Organic Lawn & Garden
633-4769



WEED—
Any
un-wanted
plant.



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Oak Hills Homeowners
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VOLUNTEER!

Feral Cat Control and Care

edited from an article from Julie Engell

Stray and abandoned cats form colonies in Oak Hills. Julie Engell and family, from the "Old Section," are trying to reduce the problem by trapping feral cats and their kittens. After adopting out the kittens, they have the adults tested for leukemia and FIV, neutered, vaccinated and release them.

They've slowed the expansion of the colony, but need help.

This problem is exacerbated by well-intentioned but misguided charity. Many neighbors leave food outside for their own animals, which attracts not only feral cats, but wild animals, like raccoons and skunks.

Feeding wild animals can lead to territorial battles with your pets, injuries and veterinarian bills. Disease is spread through shared water and food. It also keeps feral animals fed, able to successfully breed, and reduces the likelihood of trapping feral cats because they will not enter a trap

unless hungry.

A few weeks ago, the feral cats the Engells trapped started testing positive for both leukemia and FIV. They had to euthanase those affected because to release infected cats back into the population would simply spread disease, both to the cat colony and to the pets with whom they come in contact.

The disease is in the neighborhood. Cats, feral and pets alike, allowed to roam risk being exposed. Food left out for pets and the intentional feeding of feral animals creates a magnet that draws hungry animals into the neighborhood.

Please, make a permanent difference. If the strays you see break your heart, quit perpetuating the problem. Instead of spending extra money over the years on food, trap that stray and give it the veterinary care it needs, and if possible, give it a home.

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Advertisements—Free or Not

If you are a resident of Oak Hills and have a business you would like to feature in the Greenbelt, please contact Sue Jurgens (see pg.1).

While we cannot endorse any product or service, we like to give our residents a little free publicity. One article per business, please.

If you wish to place a paid advertisement, please contact Jim Lucier,

our administrator. The cost is \$25 for the year, - six copies of the Greenbelt - and is the size of a normal business card.

I am willing to create a simple ad for you within the space guidelines.

I have to limit the number of ads to six because of space constraints and Jim will have to tell you when an opening is coming available.