



Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

February
2011

RACCOONS IN MOUNTAIN HOUSE

One of the Master Plan amenities in Mountain House is the Mountain House Creek. The creek serves as a recreational amenity and is also maintained as a natural wildlife habitat. All of the plants in the creek are indigenous to the area. The creek also acts as a wildlife corridor between Old River and the foothills to the south of town. However, for every amenity there comes some responsibility. The wildlife habitat in the creek and surrounding agricultural lands are also home to many indigenous species.

One of the indigenous species from the creek that has been seen in neighborhoods recently is the raccoon. Raccoons are mostly nocturnal and feed opportunistically. Raccoons will raid waste containers and climb fruit trees for dinner. Pet food that is left outside is a favorite target of the crafty raccoons. Serious attacks on humans by raccoons are extremely rare and are almost always the result of the raccoon feeling threatened. Raccoons usually do not prey on domestic cats and dogs, but individual cases of killings have been reported. Raccoons like to climb and depend on vertical structures to climb when they feel threatened.

The San Joaquin County Animal Control Department does not regulate wild animals and will not respond to calls regarding raccoons in your yard. It is unlawful to kill or trap raccoons without a proper State license.

So, what do you do when you have a raccoon in your area?

- Keep all food sources closed tightly and out of the way.
- Keep access to places they can burrow into closed off, such as the garage.

Since raccoon will feed at night, if you find a family living in your garage, make sure to close off the area when they leave to feed so that they cannot return. Also, raccoons are very susceptible to loud noise or bright light. Rather than confronting a raccoon with your pet dog or a walking stick, bang on pans and flash a light. When they run away, close off any space they were using. It is important to prevent raccoons from adapting to the comforts of your garage.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

The following are samples of the Board's actions at the January 12th Board meeting:

- Amended the Legal Services Contract to change the District Counsel to Mr. Daniel J. Schroeder (due to the recent passing of Mr. Michael McGrew)
- Terminated an agreement for Bond Counsel Services
- Approved an increase in the solid waste fees
- Amended the Board's Rules of Procedure
- Appointed two Board members to the Bond Authority JPA
- Assigned committee appointments
- Provided feedback regarding recent community events

There were informational items, as well as a discussion item on the Mariposa Energy Project.

The Board meetings are open to the public (unless designated as a Closed Session) and you are welcome to call the MHCSO offices if you have questions regarding agenda items. The agendas are available 72 hours prior to the Board meetings.

MARIPOSA ENERGY PROJECT

Mountain House residents are encouraged to attend the upcoming licensing hearings for the Mariposa Energy Project. The project is a proposed new energy production facility that will be located approximately 2.5 miles west of Mountain House, in Alameda County. Residents are encouraged to attend the hearings and let the State of California Energy Commission (CEC) know their thoughts regarding a new power plant in this proximity.

A Prehearing Conference will be conducted on:
Tuesday, February 1, 2011 – 10:00 am

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The Evidentiary hearing will take place on:
Monday, February 7, 2011 and (if necessary)
Tuesday, February 8, 2011 – 10:00 am

Byron Bethany Irrigation District
7995 Bruns Road
Byron, CA, 94514

For more information you may visit the CEC website at:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/mariposa/index.html>

You may also contact the MHCS Development
Manager, Morgan Groover, at 209-831-2300

HOLIDAY LIGHTING

As we recover from all the holiday festivities and put the year 2010 behind us, the thought of having to put away the holiday decorations leaves us reaching for the nearest box of leftover chocolates for consolation!

Residents should remember that all holiday lighting must be removed from the exterior of houses by the end of the first weekend in February. The Master Restrictions requires residents to remove holiday lighting promptly and no holiday lighting may be left installed for periods exceeding forty-five (45) days.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our next Community Meeting will be held on Thursday, **February 17, 2011**, at 7:00 pm. More information will be announced on our website, and a postcard will be sent to each household in advance of the meeting. For those who have not attended any of the previous meetings, please mark your calendars and plan on meeting other residents and neighbors at this informative event. As in previous meetings, the agenda will include topics that are current and of interest to residents, and the Q&A portion of the meeting is your opportunity to ask questions that are important to you.

The December 16th Community Meeting included a great presentation regarding the Mountain House Creek Project and an informational presentation by the San Joaquin County Assessor, Ken Blakemore. Our local law enforcement professionals gave updates and answered questions from the audience.

Please be on the lookout for your postcard, which will announce the specific topics that will be covered on February 17.

SPORTS IN MOUNTAIN HOUSE

MH Tennis Club and MH Golf Club (divisions of MH Flag Football) are sponsoring monthly group tennis lessons (Central Park) and golf lessons (in Tracy) for kids. To register, or for more information, go to www.mhflagfootball.com.

MH Tennis Club is hosting its 1st Tennis Tournament! April 2-3, 2011. To register, or for more information, go to www.mhflagfootball.com.

MH Golf Club is hosting its March Golf Tournament (these will be monthly)! Sunday, March 27 at Roddy Ranch in Antioch. To register, or for more information, go to www.mhflagfootball.com.

MH Tennis Club is hosting monthly tennis socials. First Saturday from 9-11 am. No cost. For more information, go to www.mhflagfootball.com.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Youth Action Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: MHCS Board Room

MHCS Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: MHCS Board Room

MHCS Community Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 17, 2011
Time: 6:30 Refreshments, 7:00 pm Meeting
Location: Bethany School

**Mountain House
Community Services District**

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Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
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