

MUIR WOODS

November 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Morris Bastian

On behalf of the Muir Woods Board of Directors, I wish you a happy holiday season and thank you for being such good friends and neighbors. Muir Woods is a wonderful place to live. It is an attractive and well-cared for community with wonderful friends and neighbors.

Mark Jaszkowski has done a superb job maintaining the lawns and landscape. Bill Lewis and Dan Taylor have shouldered the Architectural Control Committee leadership. Lee Coulson has chaired Neighborhood Watch and has set up a MWHOA web site. Ann Brown has headed our social events. Cindy Bateman oversees your finances. And Bill Lewis has directed the revision of our Bylaws and CC&Rs. These board members have served you well.



The 2007 Budget provides for a more beautiful entrance at Cloverdale and Victory. We will end 2006 in a good financial position and the 2007 Budget and Reserves are well funded with no increase in dues.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The holiday decorating contest is on again this year. Muir Woods has become a "go to" spot to enjoy the holiday lighting throughout the entire development. So if you like to decorate, join the fun and become part of this tradition at Muir Woods.

Judging will take place on Monday, December 11.

Decorations should be up by Sunday, December 10 to be included.

1st place will win \$100.

2nd place will win \$50.

The results will be posted after the Holidays.



LANDSCAPE SEASON WRAP-UP

BY Mark Jaszowski

Another landscaping season comes to a close and we are in pretty good shape. This is the last year of our three year contract with LawnCo's . We are bidding out our contract again to ensure we are at the best market rate.

Intersection of Victory and Cloverdale — We spent a great deal of time this year working with ACHD and Idaho Power as they widen the intersection of Victory and Cloverdale. Idaho Power was a great neighbor and complied with every request we made to reduce the impact of their work and clean up and restore our property after their work crews. We still have work to do with ACHD and their subs. We are missing some trees that did not get replaced and there are several places where the restored sod did not live, probably due to improper sprinkler system restoration. All in all, ACHD has substantially complied with everything we agreed to, but the details of the finish work need to be ironed out. We will continue to push the bureaucracy for a proper restoration.

Right of Ways — We are continuing to convert our right of ways to grass and have seeded from Eight Mile Creek all the way to Mrs. Gray's dairy farm. This is an inexpensive solution preventing us from having to use expensive herbicides to control weeds. Virtually all this work has been completed by Morris Bastian with the neighborhood providing materials. Thank you Morris! Maybe next year we will get all the way along Cloverdale to Peconic Dr.

Sidewalks — As requested at the last annual meeting, the sidewalk accessing the common area from S. Goshen Way was widened so it now reaches fence to fence. The excavation and filling with concrete was performed entirely by Morris. It ended up costing around \$100 though our lowest bid was about \$1500 for this job. Morris bought, hauled, mixed and poured all the concrete himself. We used concrete because it will stabilize the edge. It was top coated with tar sealer so it looks like the rest of the walkway.

We resealed the walkways this year as we had cracks appearing again from winter soil movement due to freezing. We also finished the electrostatic painting of the final third of the common area wrought iron fence and common area access paths. The great epoxy resin paint we used should last a long time. This completes a three year phased maintenance plan on this fence.

Mulch — This fall we added 20 yards of mulch to the beds in the south end of the common area. We also replaced three trees during the summer that had died last winter. Thank you to Dan Taylor and Morris Bastian who volunteered time to pick up and help plant them

Priorities for next year will be:

- Do needed maintenance on the perimeter wooden fence.
- Extend the grass along the perimeter right of ways
- Ensure ACHD cleans up and the sprinklers perform correctly.
- Provide shrubbery and landscaping on the berms along Peconic Drive similar to the

exterior berms. This will be to improve the visual impact of the facing 6' wooden fences on either side of the street.

- Ensure the new landscape firm has a handle on things.
- Reverse the sprinklers along the southern most access to the common area. They now spray toward the fence and they should spray away from the fence for the long term preservation of the fence.
- Add mulch along the perimeter beds.

Shoulder Season Tree Growth

We normally think of tree growth as spring through fall. This overlooks two very important stages of growth that are at least, if not more vigorous, and that is the tremendous root system activity that occurs in the shoulder seasons. From the fall of leaves until dormancy, your trees undergo dramatic root system growth that sets the stage for the next summer. One of the best things you can do for your favorite tree is fuel it now, at Thanksgiving. A good balanced tree fertilizer (Not an unbalanced lawn fertilizer) will provide the nutrients for root system developments and pull vital nitrogen up into the tree where it will remain ready for spring budding and leafing out. Avoid the temptation to over do it with the fertilizer as this can promote growth that is too rapid. Pushing rapid growth can causing the bark to crack giving insects and disease an avenue to invade. It can also produce weak joints especially in trees prone to wind damage. Easy does it, and very nicely. Your trees will love you.



Foundation Vents

If you are one who closes your foundation vents for the winter, now is the time to do so. Closed foundation vents will reduce energy bills and the chance of freezing hose bibs or water pipes in the crawl space. If you are on a very wet lot or have dampness in your crawl space, you may want to leave them open and find out why it is wet under there.

MUIR WOODS BOARD of DIRECTORS

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F Y I ...

Here is what has been happening since the last newsletter:

- Efforts are being made to stop the cut-through traffic (using S. Fern Creek to get from Cloverdale to Victory), by closing the Victory entrance to the subdivision.
- See page one for the holiday lighting contest.
- Approximately \$2500 to \$3500 was saved by doing our own sprinkler work again this past summer.
- Grass and flowers along Cloverdale (before and after the main entrance) was widened, sealed and beautified.
- Sidewalks, including entrances to the common areas were resealed.
- The sidewalk entrance to the commons from South Goshen has been patched, widened, sealed and beautified.
- Dead trees (3), bushes (3), and shrubs (2) in the subdivision have been replaced.
- South Cloverdale entrance has been landscaped and seeded in grass.
- Tuesday Activity Night was implemented during the summer months.

Preventing Winter Desiccation in Your Valuable Landscape

As anyone knows who drives outside the irrigated areas of Ada County, we live in a desert inhabited primarily by sagebrush and desert grasses. The landscaping around our homes is very different than the desert flora that normally survives here. One of the greatest dangers to your trees, shrubs and turf grasses in this high desert is winter desiccation. It is perhaps a greater danger to your trees and shrubs than the summer heat.

Winter desiccation is a common type of winter injury that occurs when the amount of water lost by a plant exceeds the amount picked up by the roots. Cold, sunny days and dry winter wind increase the amount of water loss. If the soil is frozen or is low in moisture due to a previous drought, as we normally experience, roots are unable to pick up enough water to meet the demand of the plant and what is being wicked away. Needles, twigs or as in turfgrass, the crown of the plant, dries out and dies. Evergreen needles may hold their green color until warmer temperatures arrive in spring thus delaying the browning symptoms. Trees or shrubs with thin trunks and branches such as Japanese Laceleaf Maples are particularly susceptible because they have less wood volume to store water over frozen and drought periods. Our cold dry wind accompanying dry periods accelerates water loss from the plant and results in extensive damage or death. Another factor that can contribute to a directional pattern of browning is solar radiation reflected from building surfaces such as brick, concrete, light-colored metal siding or white lava rock mulch. Other factors that can predispose plants to winter desiccation are poorly developed root systems due to new or improper planting, stress due to insects or disease and tree genetics, i.e., trees from a southern United States source.

The key to preventing winter desiccation is to maintain adequate soil moisture now and through the winter. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by mulching a 3-6 foot diameter area around the base of trees and shrubs with an organic material like coarse wood chips. Trees and shrubs should be kept adequately hydrated during dry periods in summer and fall. A tree that has suffered from drought conditions at any time during the year will not be able to withstand dry winter conditions as well as a tree that has consistently received adequate moisture. You should look for periods during winter when the temperature warms above freezing to give your valuable trees and shrubs a long, deep drink. Many people put their water hoses away for the winter, but periodic watering during the fall and winter when the ground is not frozen prevents winter desiccation. Trees and shrubs benefit from slow, deep watering with a hose that has been left to trickle for an hour or so.

Neighborhood Security

Muir Woods Neighborhood Watch chair, Lee Coulson, passed on this information from the Boise Police Department:

What began as a drug bust has turned into what Boise Police detectives are calling one of the biggest mail fraud cases ever in the city. Officers estimate about 200 people in several Boise neighborhoods are victims of theft and possibly fraud after checks, credit cards and other stolen mail were found in a drug house. On Wednesday, Nov. 8th, Neighborhood Contact Officers, patrol and narcotics detectives served a search warrant and inside found meth and related paraphernalia. They also found stolen mail - lots of it. After some investigation, officers believe a woman has been stealing from bench-area mail boxes, taking both incoming and outgoing mail, beginning approximately the week of Oct. 23rd. Officers found hundreds of pieces of stolen mail including checks, credit cards, videos, birthday cards with empty money envelopes, even a coin collection with the coins missing. Boise Police Detectives have turned over the stolen mail to U.S. Postal Inspectors. Postal officials say citizens who had their mail stolen should be notified by the Post Office within the next two weeks.

Officers gave these tips to prevent becoming a victim of mail theft:

- Do not send outgoing mail from home. Place it in a Post Office or other secured collection box.
- Never send cash through the mail.
- When receiving checks or credit cards, have them delivered to a secure location like your bank or place of business.
- Pick up mail from your home box as soon as you can. If you cannot regularly pick up your mail from your home mail box, use a post office box or have the postal service do a vacation hold.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 19, 2007

SNOW REMOVAL AT MUIR WOODS



As required by the City, the Muir Woods Homeowners Association will remove the snow from those sidewalks that are adjacent to common areas. However, paths in the common area will not be cleared on a regular basis and owners should be aware of that in scheduling their walks.

All owners are responsible for removing snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their own properties.