



# Village Voice

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Delayed by a day, the Board met to an almost empty meeting hall, aka Tim & Kim's home! I was absent as well, but the work of the Association went on and here is what transpired.

The ACC extended its thanks to the homeowners who painted and made general improvements. There are still a few homes remaining that need work, but the ACC is confident that these will be moved off the list.

Tree trimming has been completed – so let the summer come. The Board would remind the folks who live on the Village's perimeter to occasionally check their wall(s) and remove overgrown vegetation.

Spring is almost here and so are the ducks at the pool area! Please do not feed them! This encourages them to stay and it creates a mess as well as a health hazard --- so please do not feed them.

Beer bottles are still showing up in the pool/spa area. The Committee is considering taking action via installation of a monitoring system or security lights. It would be cheaper – and a lot less work – if parents just controlled teenage night time parties.

The Board learned that items were stolen from cars in our area and immediately sent out a "Crime Alert" to keep everybody sensitive to suspicious activity. The cars involved were all left unlocked and so became easy pickings. It is unfortunate that we must lock up even in a gated community.

Here's a new one – some folks are taking to coming into the community through the exit gate! Wonder if they also drive backwards! It could be dangerous if not expected by someone in a hurry to go out.

The Board is reviewing options that will slow down speeders on our streets. We want to prevent a collision between some one backing out and a speeder. It is not sure if it is the same people who do not stop at the limit lines. Both problems are most easily solved by the perpetrators slowing down. It will be safer for all of us.

Street sweeping schedule for this year has been set and sweeping will continue on every other Thursday. Please mark your calendars and keep the streets clear of cars on those days. The Board also would remind the few of you who forget to bring in the trash cans on Friday - Saturday - and sometimes Sunday! The rules require that trash cans be taken in by noon the day after trash pick up. Don't you want the area to look its best?

Board reviewed last year's actual vs. budget and found the Association came in \$13,000 under budget and increased reserves by 7%. The Board is to be commended for good house and financial management. No wonder it's easy to cooperate when our leaders show good management and good judgment. Kudos!!!

## Are you Ready?

In the wake of Japan's 8.7 earthquake, the Board thought we should take the opportunity to use this newsletter to remind you that we live along the earth's most notorious slip fault line – the San Andreas. We're told that thousands of earthquakes occur in California every year, but we here are only aware of just a few shakes and window rattling. These same experts tell us we are overdue for the big one. We can't prevent it, but we can be better prepared for it.

Of the many actions we can take for preparedness, one rises above all others:

Make sure everyone in the family knows the location of the gas valve and the main waterline valve - and how to shut each one. Note that in Japan's quake, the devastation was aggravated by fire. Hang a crescent wrench close to the service and tell everybody in the house where it is. Test the valve to make sure it is not frozen in the open position. Knowing how to shut off the gas will prevent homes lost to fire.

Other steps often cited to be taken are:

1. Look around the house and move any heavy objects to lower shelves
2. Secure heavy cabinets, refrigerator, and shelves so they can not fall and injure somebody.
3. Secure heavy pictures and mirrors to the wall to prevent them from flying across the room.
4. Make sure the water heater is securely strapped to a wall stud and the copper pipe connections are flexible.
5. Remove (or isolate) flammable material in the garage.
6. Select an alternate meeting place inside and outside the house for the family to gather if separated.
7. Make a survival kit.

Storing water and other supplies is critical to surviving a major earthquake since, as seen in Japan's quake, all supplies and help may be cut off for days. Water is most essential and it is recommended storing 5 gallons of water per person (pets too). The water should be stored in sealed plastic jugs and replaced every 6 months.

At least 3-5 days of non-perishable food should be stored, e.g., canned goods, dehydrated foods, dried fruits, nuts, crackers, pasta, etc. It has been suggested that important medical information and prescriptions be stored in the refrigerator.

The Survival Kit:

Power may be cut off so be prepared with supplies that don't require electricity such as: Working flashlights and back up batteries, battery or hand-cranked radio, battery or solar operated clock.

Also:

Basic tools such as knife, crescent wrench, screw driver, hammer, garden hose, tape, pen and paper.

Blankets and towels.

Heavy gloves.

Camp stove and fuel, cooking pots and plastic plates, cups, bags, and utensils.

First aid kit with bar soap, rubbing alcohol and water purification tablets.

Don't forget to pack some cash!

We hope this has been helpful. More information can be obtained from the California Earthquake Authority.