

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

By Morris Bastian

Every effort is being made to make Muir Woods an attractive and enjoyable place to live. Each month the board talks about what needs to be done in order to maintain and improve the quality of life in Muir Woods. Mark has done an excellent job of overseeing and improving the landscaping; Russ has headed efforts to make Muir Woods a safer place to live by implementing Neighborhood Watch; Ann has directed our social programs (Easter Egg Hunt, Fourth of July, Christmas Lighting Festival, etc.); Lee has set up a website to keep homeowners updated and current on subdivision activities, policies, and important phone numbers (www.mwhoa.org); Steve, Scott and Karen (ACC) have helped homeowners stay within the subdivision covenants and guidelines; and Cindy has helped insure that we stay within our budget and income. I am proud of the board and the important service they render. I am also proud to be a resident of Muir Woods. Thanks for being such good neighbors and friends. The Bastians can't think of a better place to live.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Russell Strader, Director

One of the goals of the Board of Directors is to develop an effective Neighborhood Watch Program. We believe a Neighborhood Watch Program will help deter crime in our community and help us all become better neighbors. The Board has made several attempts to recruit community members who will serve as block captains to distribute crime prevention information and help educate their neighbors on crime prevention strategies. We have 5 people in the community that currently serve as block captains, each representing about 10 homes. Therefore we have about 50 of the 135 homes in the community covered under the program. If you are interested in serving as a block captain, please contact me. Remember, Neighborhood Watch programs are most effective when everyone participates, so please don't assume someone else will volunteer for your block.

Everyone in the community should consider themselves part of the Neighborhood Watch program even if there is no captain for your block. To help prevent crime in our community:

- Become acquainted with your neighbors and learn to recognize unusual activities. Keep their phone numbers handy.
- Let your neighbors know when you will be away from home.
- Be alert and be suspicious.
- Lock up and light up.
- Maintain a household inventory list.
- Use an engraver to mark your property.
- Communicate suspicious activities to your neighbors and to the police.

Everyone can help prevent crime, and we all benefit by keeping crime out of the neighborhood. **Please be vigilant, and please contact me if you are willing to serve as a block captain.**

Russell Strader

RussellStrader@cableone.net

NEWCOMERS

Newcomers at Muir Woods include the **Bruce & Valerie MacMahon** family at 2621 S. Mayflower Way and the **Jason & Cari Moodie** family at 12553 W. Suffolk Court. Please extend a welcome to all newcomers, including those who are renting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Morris Bastian

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Neighborhood Watch: Russell Strader

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NEIGHBORS

KYLE NEWSOM was involved in a serious accident. His head was fractured and his ear was almost severed, but he is doing fine now and is on the mend.

DEAN BOWER, a former resident of Muir Woods passed away mid-August. He and his wife moved to Richfield, Idaho. Our sympathies are with his wife and family.

TUESDAY ACTIVITY NIGHT

Tuesday Activity Night ended August 21 with a closing social for the kids and their families. For two straight years activity night at Muir Woods has been a wonderful social event for kids in our subdivision. Participation ranged from 22 to 60 people. The 65 foot water slide seemed to be the kid's favorite activity. The final event was well attended with a wiener roast with all the fixins - grapes, watermelon, chips, cupcakes, etc.

Thanks to the many parents who helped with refreshments, games, home-made ice cream, etc. A directory of owners helps Morris Bastian in contacting residents and their children, but if you were missed, please let Morris know.

Teen Workers

Over the last two summers, the Muir Woods Homeowners Association has occasionally recruited neighborhood teens to accomplish maintenance and landscape projects. This gives the teens work and helps the association save money that would otherwise go to outside vendors. If you are a teenager who has some skills in maintenance or landscape, you may express an interest in such work for the association by contacting Morris Bastian at 229-6352 or morrisbastian@juno.com.

**For Muir Woods Information:
www.mwhoa.org**

4th Quarter Assessment—\$120

At the 2007 Muir Woods Homeowners Association Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors indicated that it would attempt to hold down expenses so that 4th Quarter assessments could be reduced. You will recall that the entire 2006 4th Quarter assessment was waived last year.

This year, the Board has worked hard to hold expenses down and will come in under budget in some areas. Unfortunately, there have been a few items that have increased costs or for which the costs are not yet identifiable. The most significant of these unusual expenses is City water. Irrigation water was turned off early throughout the valley, so City water is being accessed at Muir Woods in order to maintain trees, etc. Also, with the changing economic conditions and decreased housing market we are experiencing more homes paying late or missing payments.

Therefore, the board will maintain the 4th Quarter Assessment at its approved level of \$120.

LANDSCAPE

By Landscape Chair Mark Jaszkowski

Another landscaping season comes to a close as the water went off on September 1st. We had some rough times keeping the grass green during the hottest June in a long time. The smallest sprinkler hiccup produces a brown spot fast in the kind of heat we had. Overall, though we kept all the trees healthy and they are really coming along and starting to show strong annual growth. This was the first year we are really beyond the re-grading of the north common area. There were very few weeds; and annual grass and other growth is starting to fill in nicely. Morris Bastian extended the drain tile system in the bottom of the basin and we have pretty much dried out the last of the standing water.

We have been working to get caught up on adding bark and have another 40 yards being delivered this fall to the berms along Cloverdale and Victory Roads. We also had all the perimeter wood fences and the common area access wooden fences oiled, many for the first time.

On August 31st, work started on the new garden beds atop the berms lining Peconic. This new bed will tone down the appearance of the 6 foot high wooden fences on either side of the street. It will feature some conifers for winter cover and low bushes that will help the fences disappear behind the landscaping. The trees, shrubs and grasses we selected will match existing beds in the berms along Cloverdale to give continuity on look across the new and existing beds.

We also got grass started along all of the open right of way areas on Cloverdale Road. We have a pretty good stand of grass for a first year on the newly seeded areas. This fall and next spring should go a long way toward filling in and thickening the stand. We are pleased with this look compared to the weeds that existed previously or the rocks that were used in other neighborhoods. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, it is a much greener solution than applying herbicides in a right of way that drains to Eight Mile Creek and ultimately the Boise River. It is also less expensive to mow grass than buy and apply chemicals.

SPRINKLER BLOWOUTS

October 19

\$32.00

LawnCo has again offered to conduct sprinkler blowouts in the neighborhood. The cost will be \$32 per home. You can be included by calling LawnCo and giving them your address and asking to be included in the Muir Woods blowouts. The number is 323-0234. The blowout will take place on October 19th. Please leave a gate unlocked and keep territorial dogs inside. LawnCo does stand behind their work and repairs water damages in the spring if you had them winterize your system.

WATER IS NOW OFF

The irrigation water is out of the canal and the pumps are off. Some homes are aligned such that when the pressure from the irrigation pumps goes off, city water is automatically supplied to your lot. This is a bit of a dangerous practice because so long as the valve is open from the irrigation main, city water can come through your meter and flow back into the irrigation main. In short, you will supply and pressurize the entire neighborhoods irrigation system via your water meter. United Water does not forgive large bills because of improper valve alignment. If you pressurize your system with city water, be sure the supply valve from the irrigations system is closed.

Winterize home and garden now...

Now is the time to think about winterizing your home. Renew seals, caulk windows, check that your furnace filters are clean, and if you are so inclined, close foundation vents. Deciduous trees will soon be entering one of their most important and vigorous growing seasons, the time between leaf loss and dormancy. This is a time of vigorous root growth. Fertilize your trees now with a balanced fertilizer (16-16-16). This will set the stage for growth next spring as the root system expands and nutrients are pulled up into the tree to await spring budding. This is probably the most important time of the year to feed a deciduous tree. Don't overlook watering. Though the water is off, trees need water now. Give them at least an occasional hose. Lack of water going into winter is one of the biggest factors in creating winter desiccation vulnerability in the dry winter winds and frozen soil that will come shortly.

MUIR WOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
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Information from your Muir Woods Homeowners Association