



The Village PIPER

A Community Newsletter for Southern Highlands Community Association

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Making A House Into A Home

Today, people talk about “owning the experience” rather than the item. They want more from life than mere possessions. They want to thrive and feel a part of something more meaningful. The same is true when creating a place to call home. It’s easy to buy a house in a nice community, decorate it tastefully,

maintain it, and forget to go any further. What makes that house a home isn’t the nice furniture inside, the perfectly green lawn out front, or mowing that last mortgage payment. It’s something more. That’s why families that move often crave a place to truly call home. “Home” generally includes more than the dwelling that you live in. It’s also the community that makes the residents living within it feel welcome and excited to be there.

Fortunately, there are many ways to transform your house into a home in a warm, thriving community. Like exercise, it takes some effort and possibly pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone, but the rewards are worthwhile. Here are some ways to start:

- Talk to and get to know the owners of local restaurants, businesses, and shops;
- Attend board meetings to learn what your Association is working on and how you can participate;
- Join a local club or committee with a cause that interests you;
- Meet your neighbors and get to know them well enough to wave “hello” often;
- Walk a different local park once a week to discover its unique features (*Southern Highlands has many*);
- Plan to attend the next community event (*Southern Highlands has a fantastic one planned for May 28—Memorial Day*).

It’s your community, own it. Get involved and experience all of it.



- Shop locally for more than groceries;

Spice Up Spring

This spring consider planting a salsa garden for fresh snacking all summer long. You can easily fit the ingredients in nearly any size planter. Start with Roma, Patio, or standard cherry tomatoes. These variety have more flesh and fewer seeds producing a hardier salsa. Next, plant jalapenos, cilantro, bell peppers, and garlic. You’ll need to plant the cilantro in the shadiest section of your garden in batches two weeks apart for harvesting throughout summer because it grows very fast in our heat, and you’ll want a small handful for each batch of salsa. When you’re ready to harvest, have fun experimenting with the following recipe:

Salsa Fresca

- 4-5 Tomatoes, diced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 garlic, minced
- 1-2 Tbp. Lime juice
- 1 Jalapeno, minced
- 1/4 c. Cilantro, diced
- 1/2 tsp. Cumin or oregano
- Salt to taste

In a food processor, dice all ingredients except tomatoes. Add the tomatoes after other ingredients are well blending and pulse to keep large pieces.

For chunky salsa, cut the tomatoes into small cubes and stir into the other blended ingredients. For a smooth version, blend all ingredients in the food processor at once. Experiment by adding red bell pepper, tomatillos, and chipotle. Enjoy!





Bee Safe and Leave Them Alone

With so many desert flowers blooming in spring and summer, you'll likely see more bees active around your home and pool. Honey bees are fantastic pollinators and generally quite happy to peacefully go about their work. However, occasionally they feel threatened and sting to defend themselves or their colony. Unless you do something like step or sit on one, they'll typically not bother you. It is still a good idea to make children aware of the danger of bees (as well as the positives of their pollenating work) so they can stay alert and avoid being stung.

Practice a little prevention:

- ◆ Be alert of bees coming in and out of the ground, cracks in walls, holes in irrigation boxes, trees, cacti, or sheds.
- ◆ Seal the hole in your irrigation valve boxes with silicon to keep bees from nesting inside.
- ◆ Remove junk piles, old soda cans, an overturned flower pots so they can't become nesting sites.
- ◆ Listen for warning signs. Bees will often fly at your face or buzz around

your head to warn that you've entered their territory.

- ◆ Avoid wearing dark clothing when hiking or in a rural area because bees are attracted to dark colors.

If you encounter bees:

- ◆ Leave them alone. Most colonies will move on to their destination within a day or two.
- ◆ If they remain for more than three days, consider calling a professional bee removal service or exterminator.
- ◆ Go inside. Bees fly 12 to 15 MPH so, most humans can outrun them. If any follow you inside, the cool, dark space will slightly confuse them making it easier to swat or vacuum up.
- ◆ Do not jump into water to get away from bees. They can wait for you to come up. It's better to take shelter inside or cover your face and run.
- ◆ For more information on bees, visit <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/fire/Pages/BeeSafetyTips.aspx>.

Graphics: openclipart.org; upload.wikimedia.org

Properly Draining Your Pool



www.freefoto.com

If you're planning to drain your pool this spring to improve the water quality, the Las Vegas Valley Water District has step-by-step instructions and a video on how to do it properly on their website at http://www.lvwwd.com/conservation/waste_pool.html. Remember, pool water cannot be drained into streets, gutters, storm drains or septic systems. This is a violation of local codes, and you could be cited for water waste. Pool water must be drained into your sewer system's clean-out port so that it can be treated and reused. The drain cleanout port can often be located in the ground and close to your home, often near a water spigot. The port should have a rubber or threaded cap with a square wrench fitting and be about 3-4 inches in diameter (see photos). The Water District can impose fines of up to

\$5,000 for improper draining .

When cleaning your pool filters, don't let water flow into the street—this is also considered water waste. Rinse your pool filters over landscaped areas instead. The fresh water from your hose will dilute the chlorine, so it won't harm plants or grass.



Don't Wait - Every 10 Update

There are expiration dates on nearly everything we buy, but one critical expiration is often overlooked. It's the expiration date on your smoke alarm, and ignoring it could be very costly. FEMA recommends replacing smoke alarms every 10 years based upon the manufacturer's date printed on the back of the alarm. If you haven't replaced the alarms that were already in your home when you purchased it, chances are they're overdue.

You'll probably need to replace all the alarms at once, which can be an investment. Fortunately, most home improvement stores and online retailers offer contractor's packs of 6 alarms for around \$50-70. Before ordering, check your alarms to see if you'll need a hard-wired model (there's still a battery inside) or a battery-operated model. Most homes today have hard-wired alarms.

This is also a good time to assess whether or not your home has enough alarms. Larger homes require more alarms, and every home needs one in each sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected so when one sounds, they all do. If your home is over 10 years old, your alarms probably are too.



Grab the Leash ~ It's Time To Walk Again!

It's spring, and a great time to enjoy the beautiful weather while walking your dog. So it's timely to remind all residents that all dogs must be on a leash (6-feet or less in length) and under the owner's control at all times when he or she is outside the secure confines of your yard. A dog off a leash can be perceived as a threat, no matter how well trained; and many people are afraid of dogs. If your dog enjoys playing off its leash, please visit a dog park in the area. There is a dog park located at the corner of Cactus and Jones Roads and another behind the Fire Station Plaza on Starr Avenue.

Please also remember to pick up after your pet when walking in the commu-

nity. Pet waste left behind is one of the most frequent complaints of many residents. Diseases can be spread

*Forgot your bag at home?
We've got you covered.
You'll find waste stations
located throughout
the Community.*

from exposure to grass or landscaping where feces and urine are present; and children and the elderly are especially susceptible to contracting these diseas-

es. Pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets and properly disposing of the waste in a closed container. For everyone's convenience, there are pet waste stations located on most major walkways throughout Southern Highlands.

Please do your part to keep our sidewalks and landscape clean for everyone to enjoy.



Photos above: oxfamblogs.org; cdn.thingiverse.com



When Every Second Counts

When walking your neighborhood in the evening hours, have you noticed many homes have dark address placard? While most address placards are hard-wired, the bulb inside it must be replaced occasionally when it goes out. If your home is more than a few years old and you can't remember that last time you replaced this light bulb (if ever), there's a good chance your light is out. When the light is out, emergency response units (medical, fire, police, etc.) may have a harder time finding your home, wasting precious time. A dark address plate can also hamper your neighbor's ability to give your address

when calling for help should they spot someone suspicious near your home while you're out of town or smoke coming from it.

*Would you be able to give
first responders your
neighbor's street address?*

If you find that your address placard is not lighting at night, you should first try replacing the bulbs. They are readily available at local hardware or

home supply stores. If the placard still won't light, you may have corroded wires and need a new unit or help from an electrician. Home supply stores sell the most common lighted address placards for around \$40. You'll also find many options online. The key is to replace the unit with another unit that matches the original. If you decide to use a new unit with a different look and style, remember to submit for architectural approval from the Association before installing it.

Photo: upload.wikimedia.org

Reporting Graffiti



Graffiti is a \$30 million dollar per year crime. If you see graffiti in Southern Highlands, please report it immediately to the **Patrol Dispatcher at 702-614-1006**. Before the Association's maintenance staff remove the tag, an officer will photograph the vandalism and forward it to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police for tracking. When Metro can prove a track record of graffiti, the felony charge it carries can add up to more than a year in jail.

Graphic: openclipart.org

What is a Root Barrier ?

Not many yards in Las Vegas could be described as expansive. Most are on the smaller side making tree placement a bit of a challenge, and that's where root barriers come in. Root barriers are designed to minimize the damage that a tree's roots can do to your walls, patios, home, and other hardscape structures. When installed correctly, they redirect roots down and around structures. In Southern Highlands, root barriers are required on all trees planted within 6 feet of any hardscape or structure, and the barrier must be buried at least 36 inches deep and at least 10-feet wide.

Solid root barriers, like those found in most Southern Nevada nurseries, are panels made of corrosion-resistant metal, fiberglass or plastic that create an impenetrable wall roots cannot get through. Permeable barriers use a mesh screen designed to allow water and small roots to pass through, but prevent

larger roots from damaging structures.

Experts recommend that it's best to install a root barrier when planting your tree, to avoid damaging the tree's root system. They also recommend installing a continuous root barrier that's the length of the tree's anticipated diameter at maturity plus 2 feet along the length of the hardscape structure closest to the tree. The barrier should also extend above the soil's surface and any mulch to ensure that tree roots cannot grow over it. Increasing the depth of your tree root barrier increases the chance that tree roots will grow beneath it. You'll find more information on Southern Highlands' root barrier requirements in your Design Guidelines.

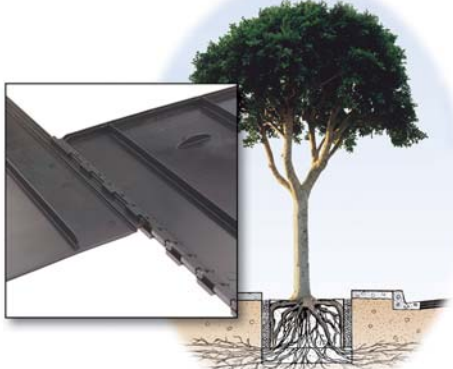


Illustration: forestry_supply.com

Root photo: upload.wikimedia.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Apr 10 Compliance Hearings

Beginning at 6:00 pm

Apr 12 Board Appeal Hearings

Beginning at 8:30 am

Apr 25 Compliance Hearings

Beginning at 9:00 am

Apr 26 Board Appeal Hearings

Beginning at 8:30 am

May 1 Compliance Hearings

Beginning at 6:00 pm

May 10 Board Appeal Hearings

Beginning at 8:30 am

May 23 Compliance Hearings

Beginning at 9:00 am

May 28 Memorial Day Celebration Association Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day*

June 5 Compliance Hearings

Beginning at 6:00 pm

June 7 Board Appeal Hearings

Beginning at 8:30 am

*When the Association Office is closed, homeowners may drop off payments or correspondence in the HOA Drop Box located on the west side of the Corporate Center building at 11411 Southern Highlands Parkway.

[http://www.](http://www.southernhighlandshoa.com)

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