

What's new in your neighborhood?

Countryside Villas

April 1999

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The Villas Mailbox
4879 W. Doria Drive



BOARD MEETING NOTICE

It's that time again...

When: Monday, April 19, 1999
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Countryside Community Center

A Message from Your DCC&R Committee

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Following the Annual Garage Sale on March 27th, the DCC&R Committee made its "walk-around" as scheduled to note areas in need of basic maintenance. Now that our neighborhood is about 15 years old, it appears that it is due for some "freshening up". Therefore, this year there are more letters than in the past, most of which are requesting small touch-up painting (like utility doors), and some painting projects which are more extensive. This is necessary, folks, if we are going to continue to enjoy living in a well-maintained community. For those of you who have already taken care of your

property maintenance for those who are in the process at this time, we thank you! Please bear in mind that our purpose simply is to bring attention to areas that might not be obviously noticeable yet. Therefore, you might not be aware, but it is our responsibility to prevent obvious disrepair within our community - in the best interests of all. If you receive a letter and have any questions regarding details, paint colors, etc., you can contact one of your Committee members: Ralph Coons - 744-2461, Gene Fanning - 5791671, or Bev Schessler - 579-9898. We will have paint charts available which you may request for your home file. Please refer to these charts before painting. A couple of reminders: scrape the wood before painting and use flat based paint.

PARKING SIGNS

The new signs at the parking areas are an effort to clarify use of these areas. Some visitors hesitate to park in the parking zones, thinking they might be towed! The towing signs are necessary in the event an unauthorized vehicle is using our parking sites for more than an occasional short term, a request needs to be made to the Board or DCC&R Committee. Our appreciation goes to those of you who have done so. This helps to prevent a gradual overuse of the visitor/guest parking we are so fortunate to have available.

TENURES EXPIRING

It's time for some new faces on the CVHOA Team. Let one of them be yours. Volunteer for a committee this year of the new millenium!

Bev Schessler, DCC&R Committee

THANKS

Thanks to all the volunteers who made our garage sale another success. Jack Taylor volunteered for security duties which was a big help to our community. Thank you, Jack, for a great job!

Everyone on the Board worked hard on this project and deserve a big THANK YOU. It wouldn't be possible without everyone's help. Thanks also to Ruth Bolen, who also pitched in.

This is it: BE GRATEFUL!

Ah, So! Isn't life great? I think not. I had a GREAT trip to India...rode lotsa elephants as we were being transported to see live, REAL tigers as close as three feet to our transportation although WE were considerably farther away when one considers how high UP we were. They are about nine feet at the shoulder and two of them had their babies with them so I got to pat, kiss and talk to the little ones who were more interested in the bananas we had!

But then I came home. How come everything happens to me or don't the REST of you, my neighbors, ever report YOUR trials or tribulations?

Bees...that was what I faced - swarming BEES right in the carport, three feet from the back door! We had a swarm forming on the tree in front of 4855 Matilda when I was in charge of Landscaping, but I could not remember who I called, so I called 911 and they transferred me to the Fire Department.

They sent out a fireman who looked into the carport, saw the bees and told me to call an exterminator. I did not realize they can do nothing unless someone was stung and I had not been. I asked who he would

recommend and he said he could not refer any company, but I should to just select one from the telephone directory. I then called a friend and asked who HE would call and he said his station used The BeeMaster whom I then called.

The company asked how the bees were acting, how big the swarm was (which I could not determine because I didn't stand and count them!). Since it was later in the afternoon, he told me to wait until morning and see if they were still there. The employee said sometimes they sent out scouts and sometimes they would try and keep the Queen cool, in hot weather but leave the next morning.

Since I was apprehensive about Sarah, my chocolate Lab, I called my neighbors on the East, who have a dog outside a lot. Then I called my neighbors on the West as their sidewalk was on the side of my carport where the bees had entered my barbecue in a hole in the hood where the rotisserie rod would be.

The next morning they were moving around again and I called BeeMaster. They said they would send out a specialist. Since he was on another job, he did not get to my house until a few hours later. By THAT time, it seemed to me there were fewer than the previous day and not as agitated but I decided I would have the worker come out although they had told me it would be \$50.00 for just the call.

He arrived, donned his 'suit' and went into the carport. He said he thought they were scouts and when he lifted the lid of the barbecue, there was no sign they were forming a hive and they started to fly away. He said, just incase, he would stuff the entry hole...and other holes in the back of the 'cooker' with fiber glass insulation and he also stuffed holes or small open

spaces in the carport between the rafters and below the round, screened air holes. He mentioned they like carports and/or garages.

Since I have two trees between the house and the carport, I said I was worried about some of their cousins coming back and starting a hive in one of the trees. He suggested I buy Oil of Clove, available at a pharmacy, dilute it as directed and spray the trees as bees do not like either the scent or something!

I will state the Oil of Clove concentrate requires a sizeable loan to purchase! And it has to be ordered. I then called both of my adjacent neighbors and told them they could "come out now!". *Ruth Bolen*

MORE ON BEES (For your information only. We are not aware of any sightings in our area.)

History The Africanized honeybee is a temperamental relative of the common garden honeybee. First introduced into Brazil in 1956, they have been steadily moving north. They reached Texas in 1990, and southern Arizona in 1993. The bees entered the Valley in October 1993.

Bee Activity The Africanized honeybee will not randomly sting or attack. However, it will more aggressively defend its hive than the common garden honeybee. Keeping your distance from any beehive will limit your contact with the bees.

Bee Identification It is not possible to identify an Africanized honeybee simply by appearance. Only trained entomologists, using sophisticated equipment, can separate the Africanized bee from the common European bee.

Personal Protection If at all possible, avoid the hives and hive areas. To avoid approaching by accident, be aware of the constant buzzing produced by a colony and look for random flying insects. Know that bees nest in cracks and crevices, such as holes in rocks, hollow trees, meter boxes, discarded tires, etc.

Avoid both bright and dark colored clothing. Wear long sleeves and pants and avoid perfumes, as they may attract bees.

To Minimize Stings If you are stung or attacked by bees, run away quickly while covering your head as much as possible. Swatting only excites the bees. If available, seek shelter in a car or house. Remember, the bees are protecting their hive and will only protect the local area around it. These bees will follow you up to 1/4 mile.

First Aid Do not go to the victim. Encourage the victim to run from the area. This will keep you from becoming a victim yourself. Get out of the area and seek any available shelter. If the victim has been stung many times or is showing signs of allergic reaction, call 9-1-1. The venom of the Africanized honeybee is the same as the venom of the European honeybee. To remove stingers, use the edge of a stiff object, such as a credit card. Do not grab the stinger and pull it out, as this will only inject more venom into the victim.

For further information on Africanized honeybees, visit your local library or contact the Arizona Department of Agriculture.