

Sonoma Village at Ute Creek

Spring 2015 Newsletter



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

With all the rains that have come our way recently, we are now beginning to experience the blessing of green, the warmth of the sun, and soon the colors of flowers. The HOA board wishes you a bountiful spring and summer.

PREPARATION FOR SPRING

As you have noticed, Rock Solid, the HOA's landscaping company has been out doing some spring time work. You will be seeing them out more as the weather warms up. There is potential for a lot of dead trees and bushes this year. The board will be working with Rock Solid to put together a list of removal/replacements. Please see below some information from the C.S.U. Extension

Polar Plunge: from the C.S.U. Extension

The sudden, dramatic temperature drop in early November 2014 will have lingering impacts on trees along the front range of Colorado. Through early and mid-fall, warm temperatures persisted, in some cases setting record highs for that date such as (81-degrees F on October 24). Wild fluctuations preceded the deep freeze in the days leading up to the event, with daytime highs hovering around 60 and nighttime temps in the lower 30's.

In preparation for winter, plants undergo a two-stage process: dormancy and chilling. This cold hardening enables woody plants to withstand winter weather. As day length shortens, deciduous woody plants undergo a process called resorbing, which converts leaf starch, proteins, and other complex molecules into soluble molecules, such as sugars and amino acids, and moves them into storage cells. These storage cells are in the inner bark of twigs, the outer sapwood of the main stem and in root tissues. In spring, the stored nutrients are remobilized and used for the flush of new leaves and burst of growth in other tissues.

Once resorbition is complete, woody plants form an abscission layer between the branch and the leaf petiole. This abscission layer closes off pathways into the leaf, protecting the plant from drying out or invading diseases, and allowing the leaf to fall. Gradually freezing temperatures ensure the plant is cold hardy for the remainder of winter.

On November 10, the high was 58F at 8 am, by 11 pm that day the temperatures had dropped to 16F. Due to the warm, lengthy fall, trees and shrubs had not completed hardening off for winter. When our freeze hit, many plants such as elms, callery pears, and oaks had not completed the hardening off process. Many conifers and deciduous trees and shrubs showed freeze damage immediately with straw-colored needles or flash-frozen leaves. Buds and shoots suffered freeze injury that in some cases resulted in death of buds or the entire plant, however, long-term impact on these buds won't be seen until spring.

Leaves left on trees from the rapid temperature change are known as a "marcescent" fall, defined as "to wither without falling off". There are two types of marcescence, one type occurs naturally on trees such as English Oak, hazelnuts and beech. The other type, which is what happened to some of

the Front Range trees, occurs when temperatures plummet before the abscission layer has formed, killing the leaves but leaving them attached to the tree. Marcescence does not directly harm the tree, but if there is a snowfall while the leaves still cling to the tree, marcescence creates a high risk of limb breakage from snow being held by the leaves. Winds eventually will remove the leaves.

Conifers showed damage immediately. While yellow or brown needles with some green where the needles attach to the branch, are a hallmark of winter damage to pines, symptoms from the intense cold are needle scorching, with tips turning white, gray, silver or straw-colored leaving green fascicles near the branch. Twig dieback can also occur. The freeze burned needles will not green up, but new needles will mask the damaged ones. If you are concerned about the evergreen's health, gently press a bud, found on the tips of the twigs and branches, between your thumb and first couple fingers. If the bud feels soft, it is alive and will produce new growth the following spring. If the bud is dry and brittle, it is dead. Check in several places around the plant as not all buds may have been killed. Monitor your trees this winter and next spring for sign of damage. Look for black, shriveled shoots or buds. Winter watering may help, but care of the trees in the spring will depend on how much freeze damage the trees have sustained. Additional fertilizer in the spring is not recommended. Conifers may grow out of the damage with new growth masking the frozen needles. Deciduous trees may need judicious pruning to remove the dead twigs and branches.

TRASH BINS AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

It has been noticed that homeowners are leaving trashcans out past the day of collection. The board is requesting that all homeowners please mark your trash bins and recycling containers with your address. Spring and summer winds blow them down the street without permission. In addition, if windy, please put heavy magazines or something heavy on your recyclables to keep them from blowing everywhere. Please remember that our new trash/recycle pick up day is WEDNESDAY.

PETS

Pets are allowed in our community, although the owners are responsible to pick up the waste and put it in their own trash cans. Incessant barking should not be allowed and all dogs must be on a leash if outside in the common area. If you see someone not disposing of pet waste, please contact Flagstaff Management with the unit #, so a violation can be sent to the homeowner.

NO SOLICITING

There is no policy in our CCRs that eliminates solicitors from our complex. Since summer is the time we see many solicitors around, the best way to eliminate the 'unwanted visitors' is to display a sign at your door that says "NO SOLICITING" or "NO SOLICITORS". If they still bother you, it is your right/responsibility to call the police. It is against the law to solicit when a sign is posted at your door. The fine can be \$50 to \$300 for them. This does not apply to political or religious groups. Signs can be purchased at many stores in Longmont for anywhere from \$2 to \$10.

GRILLING

Grilling is allowed with small propane tanks 2.5 lbs or smaller. Electric grills are also allowed. Buildings at 2307 Calais, 2321 Calais, 2405 Calais, 2417 Calais, 2435 Calais, 1136 Olympia, 1152 Olympia, and 1170 Olympia, are allowed to grill using the built-in gas connection.

REMINDERS

- Please pick up after your dog!
- Please remember that parking spaces are on a first come first serve basis with one space per resident.
- Please move your trash cans and recycle bins into the garage or house after trash pickup.
- Parking spaces are not to be used to store excess vehicles!
- Please make your checks payable to Sonoma Village HOA.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer Get Together/BBQ: August 7, 2015 at 6:30 PM, pot-luck meal. Please monitor the bulletin boards for details.

Community Garage Sale: September 12, 2015 (Saturday)

Please Note: More details on the above items will be posted during the summer on the bulletin boards which are next to each mailbox. Please read the notices as they are posted.