



Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

"To Provide Quality Services to the Community"

January

2016

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREES

Street trees in the parkway strips are critical to the creation of an attractive and harmonious landscape expression in each Mountain House neighborhood.

The Mountain House Community Services District will reach out in the following months and offer some helpful information to perform routine maintenance on street trees. This information will include proper pruning techniques, when a tree should be replaced, when a tree needs pruning, when an arborist should be called and many other helpful hints and guidelines.

Appendix F section of the Mountain House Residential Design Guideline Manual provides the requirements that each resident must follow. This document can also be found on the Mountain House website. Here are some examples of the requirements:

- Those trees that have over extended, dead and unsightly branches, shall be pruned and trimmed. Damage from wind, etc., shall be repaired.
- All trees shall be pruned and trimmed only as necessary to maintain their natural form. **Trees shall not be topped, "hat-racked", "lolly-popped", sheared or pruned in any manner which alters the natural growth habit of the tree.**
- **Trees shall be pruned to maintain a central leader** and to remove branches which form narrow crotches. Prune trees to maintain permanent scaffold branches which have a radial orientation and do not overlay one another. All suckers shall be removed from trees.
- All trees that are located adjacent to street and/or sidewalks shall be pruned and trimmed as necessary to maintain a height clearance of 8 ft. over sidewalks and, 12 ft. over local (inner neighborhood) streets, and 14 ft. over collector (main neighborhood) streets for vehicle and pedestrian safety.
- Trees shall be pruned to allow clearance for street light illumination and to train the trees to eventually rise above the top of the light fixtures.
- Pruning shall be completed while the tree is dormant (after leaf fall in autumn).
- Inspect each tree on a continuous basis for cross branches that may rub, broken branches, and damage from mowing equipment, etc.
- Perform "same day" clean-up of all pruned and trimmed material and dispose of this material off site.
- The watering of the tree, health and welfare is the responsibility of the homeowner.

When utilizing best practices and proper pruning techniques, results will be noticed and achieving our goal of graceful mature tree lined streets will be a reality.

SCHEDULE OF MHCS D EVENTS

Board meetings and committee meetings are held in the Michael Forbes McGrew Board Room at the CSD office. For class and event locations please see below. If you would like additional information on the classes or events please contact Angel Lamb at alamb@sjgov.org.

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

For more information please contact Director Lucid at blucid@sjgov.org

Library Design Public Workshop

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016

Time: 9:00 am – 12:30pm

Location: MHHS Multi-Purpose Room

Youth Action Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

For more information please contact Director Tingle at btingle@sjgov.org

MHCS D Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Incorporation Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

For more information please contact Director Lamb at jlamb@sjgov.org

OUTDOOR IRRIGATION

In the fall and winter months outdoor irrigation is no longer needed. Because of the temperatures and the frequent periods of rain, the moisture content of the soil is adequate to support turf, shrubs and trees that go dormant. The exception might be potted plants however; they will be needing much less than the warmer months. Turning off landscape irrigation will save up to 40% on water usage compared to the top of the season in July. We are still in a drought and every drop counts so please do your best to conserve.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note the Mountain House Community Services Offices will be closed the following dates:

- Friday, January 1, 2016
- Monday, January 18, 2016
- Monday, February 15, 2016

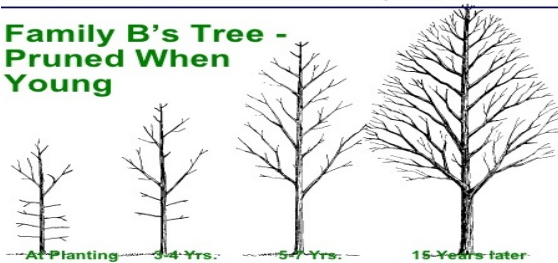
MUNICIPAL UTILITY REMINDER

If you are a utility customer, please remember to keep your contact information current. You may do so by calling the MHCS D at (209)831-2300. Municipal utility bills are due on the 18th of each month and must be received by the due date to avoid late fees.

Family A's Tree - Not Pruned When Young



Family B's Tree - Pruned When Young



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

If your group has an activity open to the community in Mountain House please send that information to Angel Lamb no later than the 10th of the month to be included in the newsletter.

Mountain House Rotary

Date: Every Friday
Time: 8:00am
Location: Firehouse

Mountain House Little League Registration

2016 Spring Registration is now open for more information please visit their website mountainhouselittleleague.org

MHHS VAPA Boosters Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Time: 7:00pm
Location: MHHS Choir Room

Family Bingo Night mhvapaboosters@gmail.com

Date: Friday, January 8, 2016
Time: 7:00pm Doors open at 6:30pm
Location: MHHS Multi-Purpose Room

MHHS Flea Market mhhsfleamarket@gmail.com

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016
Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Location: MHHS

Mountain House Vendor Night

Date: Saturday, January 23, 2016
Time: 4:00pm – 7:00pm
Location: 62 N Alta Dena St

NCPA Winter Percussion Competition

mhhswinterpercussion@gmail.com

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016
Time: TBD
Location: MHHS

MHHS Athletic Boosters Club Crab Feed

Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016
Time: 6:00pm
Location: American Legion Hall

RTD Transit in Mountain House

Previously the Delta Express bus ran between Wicklund Crossing and Dublin BART with 2 pickups daily. That service was discontinued due to poor ridership which translated to a lack of funding. There is another attempt to get a connecting bus in Mountain House. Please take a moment to fill out this survey to show your interest in this bus route.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKW7BK9>

WEBSITE

If you have visited the Mountain House CSD website recently you may have noticed some changes. If you haven't had a chance to check it out please take a few moments to view our updated website. Same url: mountainhousecsd.org

STORMWATER DRAINAGE

When it rains, water washes over roofs, streets, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots, and land surfaces. Along the way, it can pick up a variety of pollutants, such as oil, pesticides, metals, chemicals, and soil. This polluted stormwater drains into the storm system that eventually discharges into our creek and rivers. The pollutants can endanger the water quality of our waterways, making them unhealthy for people, fish, and wildlife. No matter where you live, there's a drainage system in place to help rainwater find its way to the river.

Given the MHCS D's limited budget and staff, MHCS D relies heavily on citizen involvement to help keep streets safe and storm drains clean and to notify MHCS D if a higher level of maintenance is needed at a particular location.

How you can help keep storm drains clean

To lessen street flooding, the MHCS D asks residents and property managers to help clean the inlets and storm drains in front of your properties. Use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the storm drain. Do not put your feet and hands into the storm drain because all kinds of debris collect there that could be dangerous. Do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

The best time to inspect the storm drains in front of your house or business is prior to a rain event and right after a rain. If you cannot clear a clogged storm drain yourself, notify the MHCS D that help is needed. Call **209-831-2300** and report the particular location.

Please do not rake or blow the leaves from your yard into the street. Bag them at the curb in the parking strip and prepare them for curbside pickup by your garbage hauler. For leaves that have fallen into the street, please keep them out of the channel right along the curb, where they will block the path of rainwater. Rake them at least one foot from the curb.

How to prevent neighborhood drainage problems

Water is the most common cause of unstable slopes and erosion. Check your home's drainage system. Maintaining the drainage system on private property is the owner's responsibility. Make sure your drainage system directs water away from your foundation and not on to your neighbor's property.

Clean your gutters and downspouts. Check your gutters once a week during fall and winter. Just one wind or rainstorm can clog a well-flowing drainage system.

Never block any part of the MHCS D's drainage system. Do not put leaves, dirt, grass clippings, or any materials in ditches, culverts, or drains. Doing so can cause flooding.

It is against the law to dump any material into the drainage system. **To report illegal dumping, call 209-831-2300.**

Mountain House Community Services District
230 S. Sterling Drive, Suite 100
Mountain House, CA 95391
209-831-2300
mountainhousecsd.org