



Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

April
2016

"To Provide Quality Services to the Community"

NEIGHBORHOOD STREET TREES

In spring when conditions are optimal for most trees and plants, rapid growth will get out of control in just a week or two. Tree branches on trees 2 to 5 years old seem to line up perfectly with a person's face and present the most opportunity for removing the lower branches, called climbing up or crown raising. Remember, this is done for our convenience not the health of the tree. Homeowners often remove the lower limbs for pedestrian and vehicular clearance or to let the sun shine in for grass to grow.

Only remove what is necessary to allow proper head clearance. It is also a myth that removing lower branches forces the tree to grow taller. Mature trees, especially evergreens, benefit when healthy lower branches are left intact. Removing large limbs can increase the risk of decay. And over pruning removes many of the energy producing needles and leaves. This can greatly stress and negatively impact the health and vigor of the tree. There are only a few valid reasons to prune a tree in your landscape:

- Promote tree's health
- Reduce hazards to people
- Train a young tree
- Increase or decrease flowers/fruit

Identify the purpose for pruning your tree. Resist pruning if the only reason is because the tree is growing rapidly, or because the neighbors are working on their trees. Understand that pruning always causes a wound and always results in some response in the tree:

- Loss of foliage and ability to create food from sunlight
- Potential entry points for organisms
- An increase in sprouting
- Reduced vigor
- Susceptibility to insect problems

Decide whether the desired benefit will override the negative effect on the tree. In general, pruning has a greater benefit if it is performed while the tree is young. Wounds are smaller and recovery is more rapid. There is no need to prune a newly-planted tree unless branches have been damaged. It has been found that removing tips and buds of young trees slows root growth. If trees are left unpruned, expanding buds and new leaves help root expansion and tree establishment. Damaged branches can be removed at their point of origin, or they can be cut back to a lateral branch that will provide foliage and help establishment the first season.

MUNICIPAL UTILITY REMINDER

If you are an MHCS D utility customer, please remember to keep your contact information current. You may do so by calling the MHCS D at 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.

SCHEDULE OF MHCS D EVENTS

Board meetings and committee meetings are held in the Michael Forbes McGrew Board Room at the CS D 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.

Weight Watchers Community Series

Date: Tuesday's in April
Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Location: Firehouse

Beginning Art Concepts

Date: Thursday's in April and May
Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Location: Firehouse
Cost: \$60
Ages: 5-9

Trendy Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Location: Firehouse

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
For more information please contact Director Lucid at blucid@sjgov.org

Youth Action Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
For more information please contact Director Tingle at btingle@sjgov.org

Restaurant Night

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Central Park

MHCS D Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm

Trendy Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Location: Firehouse

Restaurant Night

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2016
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: Central Park

MHCSD Water Usage and State Mandated Reductions

The month of February brought dry warm weather and it appeared that our chances to avoid a fifth year of drought were diminishing. We had no precipitation in February and the average temperature was 68 degrees with the highest temperatures reaching 76 degrees. In our constant struggle to deliver the state mandated reductions of 25% (from our benchmark usage in 2013) it is always concerning this time of year. The first warm spell of the New Year motivates some residents to turn on landscape irrigation when it isn't really necessary. Usually the warm/dry spell is short lived and it suddenly cools down and rains, however the residents that turned on irrigation fail to turn it back off. This reaction might cost the district up to 10 to 20 million gallons of water in one month. Winter time is the most difficult time to meet the State mandate because we are not watering landscape and solely must depend on reducing personal usage inside our homes. Average savings this cold season (November through February) was only 17.5%, far from our target of 25%. Fortunately the savings we experience from reductions in landscape irrigation (the remainder of the year) offset that low mark and we still ended up meeting our targets. Our current running average is 28%, however, the trend is moving downward so unless we get back on track it may dip below the State mandated 25%.

March water usage data will be collected the first week of April. The trend we are seeing at the time of this article is favorable. The storms that dumped nearly 2 inches of rain the first two weeks of the month reminded residents to quickly turn off irrigation that they had turned on during the dry spell in February. The last two weeks of March will be crucial in deciding if we will be able to stabilize our reductions and hold the line. We will be experiencing warm weather and fewer rain days. Refraining from irrigating landscape until April will help. Please visit the MHCSD website under Resident Services for information on Water Conservation and further Water Restrictions.

KEEP MOUNTAIN HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

It is beginning to warm-up outside, and we'll be spending more time in our beautiful parks and on the creek trail. Please help keep these areas beautiful by cleaning up after yourself. There are several garbage containers located in every park. If you are planning a party in one of the parks, be sure to bring extra trash bags and tie your garbage up to set near the trash cans. Helping to keep our parks and town clean is also a great way for students to earn community service hours. If you or a group would like to organize a Cleanup your Park Day please contact Angel Lamb at alamb@sjgov.org.

MAKE ME A PRO SPORTS CAMP

This year we are bringing Make Me a Pro Sports Camps to Mountain House. Each session is for 1 week and we will be offering a Basketball Camp and a Soccer Camp. Camp is available for kids ages 5-12 and the cost is \$100 - \$150 for the week. To register for camp or for additional information please visit our website: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/mountain-house-community-services-district/>

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: 2nd and 4th Thursday's
Time: 8:00am – 9:00am

Location: Welcome Center

For more information please contact Christina Oh at ohchristinaoh@gmail.com

Family Fit MH Club

Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's

Time: 6:00am and 9:00am

Saturday's

Time: 8:00am

Location: Wicklund Park

For more information please contact Jaime Montenegro at sscjaime@yahoo.com

WSF Spring Fling Auction & Trivia Night

Date: Friday, April 29, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Mountain House Bar

PARK RESERVATIONS

Make and pay for your park and activity reservations online. You are able to reserve spaces in any of Mountain House's parks or classes that are offered, online with a credit card. Just visit MountainHouseCSD.org and click on the blue "Park Reservations" button select the park and the area or the class you want to reserve. Your receipt and permit will be emailed to you once we have received your insurance policy.

INTERACTIVE WATER FOUNTAIN

The interactive water fountain is scheduled to begin on April 1st. The times will be as follows:

April 1 – Memorial Day.....Noon to 5 p.m. Daily
Memorial Day – Labor Day.....10a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily
Labor Day – October 31.....Noon to 5 p.m. Daily
November 1 – March 31.....Fountain is off for the winter season.

Mountain House Community Services District

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