



Mountain House Community Services District Newsletter

March
2016

"To Provide Quality Services to the Community"

STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

Every year with the first burst of blossoms from the Purple Leaf Plums and Flowering Pears appear it reminds me that spring is just around the corner. Following the show of blossoms the first set of new buds open pushing out new leaves to collect the sun's rays. Unfortunately for the tree, a host of organisms are waiting to take away what the tree worked so hard to produce. The largest organism that causes the most damage is the human. Our superior intellect over many of life's smaller organisms provide us with the ability to damage or eventually kill the tree in hours rather than in months and years. There is hope however, that even though we can harm trees, we can also learn to nurture and support trees, something that other organisms cannot do.

In this article we will cover several afflictions that trees live with, and might even die from. Some are insects and some are fungal related. Diagnosing is important in determining if your tree is infected with these issues so remedies can be administered quickly.

Aphids: These tiny parasitic insects usually attack young growth that emerges in spring. From afar it appears nothing is wrong. If you look closely at new leaf growth, it will reveal tiny light green insects about the size of a pinhead. They will be clumped together sitting stationary. They seem harmless; however, what they are actually doing is sucking the fluids from the new growth causing deformities in the form of curled stunted leaves. As the aphid digests the fluid, they excrete it causing the "honeydew" to fall upon lower leaves and branches causing a shiny appearance and sometimes sooty mold to form. On extreme cases the sidewalk, street or even cars will become sticky and appear dark or wet. Corrective measures include the use of insecticidal soap or just letting it run the course. Ladybugs offer a natural solution and the presence of the aphids will attract them.

Scale: In some cases scale is difficult to detect. This is a parasitic insect that is protected by a hard shell. It appears as dark brown or black bumps slightly larger than a pinhead and is tightly attached to the bark of younger branches. In some cases it may appear like tiny cotton balls. These bugs also produce the honeydew similar to the aphid. One of the most interesting facts is the scale excrement also provides food for ants. In return, ants transport scale eggs to other parts of the tree to increase the colony thus providing more food. Corrective measures may include using horticultural oil and ant insecticide.

Anthraxnose: This is a fungal infection spread by spores and is most prevalent in Sycamore and London Plane trees. It is also found coexisting with California native trees throughout the San Joaquin Valley. It has a white powdery appearance on leaves. In advance stages the leaves turn fall colors and eventually drop. As new leaves are produced the cycle repeats itself year after year. The only corrective measure that exists is in the form of widespread applications of fungicides. This is an expensive venture and only yields temporary results. The best solution is to replace the tree with a resistant variety that looks similar.

SCHEDULE OF MHCSO 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.

Weight Watchers Community Series

Date: Tuesday's in March

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: Firehouse

Beginning Art Concepts

Date: Thursday's in March, April and May

Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: Firehouse

Cost: \$60

Ages: 5-9

Trendy Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Firehouse

CIP/PMP Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Boardroom

Library Design Public Workshop III

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2016

Time: 10:00 am – 12:30pm

Location: MHHS Multi-Purpose Room

Youth Action Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

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

Restaurant Night

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Central Park

MHCSO Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

Incorporation Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm

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

Trendy Tuesday

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Firehouse

Restaurant Night

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Central Park

Phytophthora root rot: Many ornamental trees are susceptible and can develop root and crown rot, particularly if the soil around the base of the plant remains wet for long periods of time. Typical symptoms of a root disease are apparent on infected plants. The leaves will appear drought stressed and may die quickly as the weather warms in late spring or early summer. Leaves will appear drought stressed, sometimes turning dull green, yellow, red, or purple as they wilt. Infected trees may survive a few years before the disease kills the whole plant. The bark around the soil-line may appear darkened. Cutting away some bark should reveal red-brown discoloration in the wood underneath it. Root rot-causing Phytophthora fungi can survive in the soil for years, as long as moist conditions persist. It can spread through splashing rain, irrigation water, and runoff water. Disease fungi can spread through contaminated soil and garden equipment as well. Rot is more likely to spread in early spring and late fall during cool, rainy weather. But symptoms are more likely during stress periods of low rainfall. Flooded and saturated soil conditions for 6–8 hours are especially conducive to the spread of root rots. Wounds are not required for infection. Corrective measures include improving water drainage and prior to planting; make amendments to the soil composition to help manage drainage away from tree roots. Don't allow water to pool around the collar or root system. You may also raise the planting site to avoid poor drainage and prevent pools of standing water from forming around the base of the tree and never plant trees deeper than they were planted at the nursery.

For more information on plant health, please visit your local nursery or research on line. And always remember, you may find complete tree pruning guidelines on our website under Mountain House residential Guidelines Appendix F.

MUNICIPAL UTILITY REMINDER

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

DO YOU FLUSH GREEN

When it comes to garbage, it belongs in the trash not in your toilet.

Toilets and drains are not trash cans. The wastewater from your home and business (toilet, shower, kitchen sink, etc.) is carried by sanitary sewer lines to the Water Pollution Control Plant, treated and discharged to local waterways that flow into our Rivers. Disposing of anything other than toilet paper in the toilet can cause sewer line blockages and result in Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). SSOs are also caused by putting cooking grease and oil into drains. These items can severely impact your plumbing system, the city's sewer system, and the processes at the treatment plant.

Disposable sanitary wipes, toilet cleaners, and similar products that are labeled "flushable" can cause toilets and sinks to back up, clog underground sewer pipes and be a costly repair for the homeowner.

Rethink what you flush ...Flush Green!

SCHEDULE OF MHCSD EVENTS CONTINUED

Art & Play Camp

Date: Monday, March 28 – Friday, April 1
Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm
Location: Central Park
Cost: Free
Ages: 1st – 4th Grade

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2016
Time: 7:00 pm
For more information please contact
Director Lucid at blucid@sjgov.org

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: Firehouse
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

MHHS VAPA Boosters Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2016
Time: 7:00pm
Location: MHHS Choir Room

MHHS Family Bingo Night

mhvapaboosters@gmail.com
Date: Friday, March 4, 2016
Time: 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30pm
Location: MHHS Multi-Purpose Room

NCPA Mountain House Invitational, a Percussion Competition

mhhswinterpercussion@gmail.com
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016
Time: 5pm
Location: MHHS
Admission \$10 for 13+, \$5 for 6-12 years old, FREE for 5yrs old & under

WATER SOFTENERS IN MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Per Article 4 Section 4.04 Paragraph O:

Water Protection. The storm drainage system for the Community drains into adjacent waterways. For this reason, no waste materials, sewage, garbage, petroleum, antifreeze, or other chemical product shall be permitted in the storm drainage system or in streets or gutters that drain into the system. There shall be no disposal of petroleum, chemical products or the salts from soft water systems within the Community.

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