

THE STATE OF THE ESTATES

SNAKE WATCH/SPEEDING TICKETS/ VINCE NEWS/ SAY NO TO VERMIN/SIDEWALK HIEROGLYPHICS

Woodridge Estates Homeowners Association Newsletter

May 2021

NEIGHBORS: Welcome to the new Woodridge Estates HOA newsletter! After a Covid hiatus (Covid gets blamed for everything, and we are okay with that), the HOA newsletter is returning. We are not claiming it is better than ever, nor claiming it returns with a vengeance, just letting you know it is here and shall continue until it doesn't.

Put it this way—of all the newsletters you ever received from the Woodridge Estates HOA, this is the most recent.

SNAKE WATCH

Rattlesnake season is upon us this year, numerous sightings known in just one Woodridge cul de sac alone so far this year.

Snakes love foliage and seem to have special affection for hedges that back up to a wall, of which we have plenty in our neighborhood. But every once in awhile they venture out on sidewalks and driveways. They say that snakes are more afraid of us than we are of them, to which I say "Yeah, right."

So watch where you tread, especially doing yard work and especially near hedges, and don't hesitate to call Ventura Fire Department if you spot one enjoying your patio more than you—VCFD will come if they can and "relocate" the little darling to end its sad fear of us oh-so-scary humans.

COP WATCH

Ventura police have been spotted in our community with greater frequency of late. Why? Because the city is making some serious money off us from **tickets!** Yes, speeding on Sunset Hills from the 23 freeway exit and right through the gate into our neighborhood apparently is proving lucrative for our fair city and its finest: At least three speeding tickets and one stop for a no-stop at a local stop sign (go ahead, diagram that sentence, I dare you) have been issued in the past 5 weeks. Those electronic Speed Meters on Sunset Hills are not there for no reason—the "radar patrolled" signs mean what they say. Motocops also are lying in wait on Erbes, another hot spot for tickets of late. Newsflash: Those who Protect and Serve us say that "Stop" signs are not merely suggestions . . .

Hint: If you follow the speed limit on Sunset Hills, it takes exactly 13 seconds more to get from the front gate to Morning Ridge than if you are going 10 miles/hour over the marked speed limits. That's a ticket waiting to happen of about \$10 per second. You don't voluntarily give the government extra money when you pay your taxes, do you? So why give them more money for a few extra seconds of your day?

In short, our local Adam 12s say, “Just slow the heck down and stop at Stop signs, m’kay?” *They really are watching.*

VINCE WATCH

Hey, remember when you got that new car and Vince affixed a brand new transponder to your headlight so you can use the “Resident Only” side of the front gate and feel like a VIP? Remember how you gave Vince your temporary license plate number to get that transponder? No? Well, those memories probably all have gone to the same place that new car smell did, and so it is time to let the friendly folks at the Gatehouse know your permanent license plate number on that beautiful not so new anymore vehicle. That way the whole “Get In The Gate Free” thing will continue to work only for those of us who pay for that convenience.

Seriously, we pay for gate security, so let’s keep it working as designed. **Let the Gatehouse or PMP know your permanent license plate if you got a new vehicle with a temporary plate in the last several months**, and remember to do that again the next time you come back from the Thousand Oaks Auto Mall with less money in your pocket. It’s a security and safety thing.

RAT WATCH

The Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and Squirrels R Us all thank you for your desire to keep our local flying and grounded critters fat and happy during the drought, but nevertheless *beg* you to **take down your feeding stations**.

Turns out our local hillsides have a lot of rats and mice (see Snake Watch, above) who also love themselves some nuts and seeds and all those other little crunchy things some of us are known to put out for Chip and Dale and Heckle and Jeckel. Once the rats and mice finish up the mix you leave out for Rocky (RIP Bullwinkle, you are missed) and Tweetie, the rats and mice have a tendency to move on to car hoses and wires and into all those comfy storage boxes in your garage (you know, the stuff you don’t remember you have filling up that place where your car used to fit?). And they do not limit themselves to *your* feeders—they hit up your neighbors’ cars and garage boxes even though they are not the ones putting out the feeder invitations. Your neighbors join the ASPCA in asking you to **stop feeding the local critters**, they really are doing quite well on their own.

Our local newspaper of record, The Acorn, features a “Squirrel of the Month” photo every week. Every one of those lucky varmints uses his/her/their 3 minutes of fame to mention she is doing fine with what it can scrounge for themselves on our abundant hillsides. S/he/it really doesn’t need your help out here in the land of the rabbits. *So please don’t feed the critters—the next carburetor wire that gets chewed up could be yours.* Or maybe worse, your crazy neighbor’s. He knows where you live.

UFO WATCH

Turns out those sidewalk hieroglyphics and little flags that have popped up all over the ‘hood are not tiny alien landing zone markers. (Whew!) No, they are secret signals to **AT&T crews** about where not to

dig as they go about installing **fiber optic cable** throughout the community, which as of this writing should last about 3 more weeks (give or take 6 months). How will this improve your life? No idea. But that is AT&T's promise "To Serve Mankind." Hey, wait a minute . . . (Extra credit if you catch that reference.) Okay, so maybe all that paint and those flags *are* alien signals, we don't really know now that everyone is acknowledging UFOs as real. (Kinda knew that—just couldn't, and still can't, identify them. That is what puts the "U" in "FO.") But we DO know that a couple good power-washes will get rid of the hieroglyphics, so as of July 1 get your nozzle on and spray those urban crop circles away.

*That's all s/he/it wrote for this month. **Don't forget to check out the HOA website at www.woodridgestatesresident.com for more information and a list of useful numbers.** (Meantime, here is this month's non-useful number: 1-800-getlutefisk.)*

NEXT HOA BOARD MEETING: June 17 via ZOOM (watch your inbox for invitation with call-in information)

TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THIS APPROXIMATELY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, WRITE:

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TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER, WRITE: stinkyfish@getlutefisk.com