

# High Country West

Rancho Bernardo, California

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2011

### Club Hours

Open Monday thru Sunday 8:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
Pool/Showers/bath close 30 min (Spa 15 min) before closing  
See Calendar for Activity Hrs

Club Manager: Mike Lutz  
Club Office: (858)451-0725  
Fax: (858)683-0316  
E-mail: [manager@highcountrywest.com](mailto:manager@highcountrywest.com)  
Web Site: [www.highcountrywest.com](http://www.highcountrywest.com)  
Address: 16003 Turtleback Rd

### President's Corner

#### THANK YOU

I would like to begin my first column by thanking all of you who voted for my return to the Board of Directors. I appreciate your confidence in me and will work hard to justify your faith in me. It is an honor to be back on the Board of Directors serving the community as its President.

I'm dedicated to keeping High Country West a safe and beautiful place to live and I am prepared to work with all of the residents to make it happen.

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank my predecessor, Doug Cohee, for his service as President this past year. I am happy to say that he will continue to serve on the Board to help me assimilate back into my role.

#### BUDGET

One of the first things the new Board will do is hold a Special Board Meeting to determine the goals and objectives for the Board during the next 12 months. Special attention will be paid to the high cost items in the budget. We will be looking into ways to further reduce costs. For instance, although a lot has been done already, the Board will continue to search for ways to be more effective with water usage and plantings in the communal areas. We will also continue to work on the residents priority list based on the "Residents Survey 2011" feedback and addressed by the President in the May 2011 HCW Newsletter.

#### UPGRADE TO LANDSCAPE

The Landscape Committee has proposed a 3 phase upgrade of the grounds along Camino del Norte. Once complete, the grounds will look much different than they do today. The First Phase will be by the traffic light on the west side of the bus stop and will be implemented as soon as possible. Next month we will have more information on phases 2 and 3. The timeline for total implementation of the plan will depend on available funds, cost and expenses.

Continued on next page



### What's Up?

#### ⇒ Picture Corner



### Fund Raiser

- Fund raising movie scheduled for Saturday September 10 at 7:30 PM. for Marine and HCW resident David Smith injured on July 31<sup>st</sup>. David went out for motorcycle ride to enjoy a beautiful day. At 12:30 PM he was hit by a drunk driver from behind while waiting at a red light on Bernardo Center Drive. The person arrested had fled the scene and had been over the blood alcohol legal limit. The injuries are major. Any donation amount will be appreciated.

Brian Westre

858-692-0085

Brian@BrianWestre.com

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## REFURBISH DYING SLOPE AREAS



This is a good time of year to inspect slope areas and see what condition they are in. Ice plant needs on going yearly care. Weeds should be trimmed down to no higher than 6 inches. Where dead woody growth is found, replant these sections with new plugs. Remove dead areas, add some good soil to area, and plant the new plugs spacing 6-8 inches apart so they fill in sooner. Ice plant loves to be fertilized. Seek assistance from the landscape store pros to show you what fertilizer to use and application instructions. The cost involved to do a planned replacement of small sections of the slope yearly is much lower than an entire slope replacement at one time. Investigate the addition of low growing bushes that will provide a good root base on the slope.

Looking ahead-October is known to be our fire season in San Diego. Hot dry winds come our way. Clean up dead pine needles, leaves, weeds, & gutters at roof areas. Trim branches & other vegetation off home walls and out of eave areas. **Dead palm fronds need trimmed.** Make sure no dry fire wood, junk items, or clutter is stacked against the home (anything that can catch fire).

**If you have pine trees to trim; plan ahead-pines are trimmed in the winter months in San Diego, usually December, January, February months.** Clean up dead needles from sidewalk areas, these are a slip concern for our walkers.

### Continued from Presidents Corner:

#### ACTION ON DELINQUENT DUES

During these difficult economic times, more and more residents are becoming delinquent with their monthly dues. The Board is looking at ways to proactively remind residents who are falling behind, so that they will be able to catch up easier. They hopefully will be able to pay their dues before it escalates to an amount where the Board is forced to take legal action (lien on their home; small claims courts, etc.). Legal action is always costly for both parties - the association as well as the resident involved. If dues are not being paid, the remainder of the residents who ARE paying their dues may have to cover this loss of income. Since the Association is working on a budget with a zero profit, a loss of income (dues) will result in an overrun of costs. Thus far the Association has managed to keep the dues at their current level for the last 3 Years.

Sincerely,

Don Bertsch

### HCW Board of Directors:

President:

**Don Bertsch**

Vice President:

**Brian Westre**

Treasurer:

**Igor Levin**

Secretary:

**Evelyn Dobson**

Directors:

**Doug Cohee**

Board Email: [directors@highcountrywest.com](mailto:directors@highcountrywest.com)

#### Next Board Mtg:

**September 14 6:30 PM.** At the HCW Club. Agenda will be posted at the club. Or call us.

Some of agenda items are:

- Board goals
- Landscape improvements
- Facility use fee changes
- Spa project

### Resident's Corner

If you find yourself with a project that requires more room for disposal than our normal weekly garbage cans can hold here is an alternative. The Bagster. It is offered by Waste Management Services and is the most affordable method I have found for myself and my clients to remove unwanted trash and items from the home. I purchased three of these from Ace Hardware in 4S Ranch. Home Depot and Lowes carry them too but not in our local stores yet. They cost approximately \$30 for the bag itself which is rather small and easy to store. It unfolds to the filled size of 8 feet by 4 feet by 2.5 ft high and holds 3300 pounds of junk. It costs \$99 to pick up and you can schedule the pick up online. Both of the bags I have used were picked up next day! This is a much less costly alternative than calling a hauling service and much easier if you don't have enough to spend minimum \$400 on a regular metal dumpster. If you have any questions visit [www.thebagster.com](http://www.thebagster.com) or give me a call at 858-692-0085

Brian Westre, a local realtor & HCW Resident since 1992

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (NW)



I came across the following article on the internet:

### **4 Things you might not have known about your Cell Phone**

For all the folks with cell phones. (This should be printed and kept in your car, purse, and wallet. Good information to have with you.) There are a few things that can be done in times of grave emergencies. Your mobile phone can actually be a life saver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things that you can do with it:

#### **FIRST (Emergency)**

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an Emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly, this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

#### **SECOND (Hidden Battery Power)**

Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys \*3370#. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell phone next time.

#### **THIRD (How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?)**

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, call your service provider and ask how to access the number on your phone. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones. *And Finally....*

#### **FOURTH (Free Directory Service for Cells)**

Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: **(800) FREE411** or **(800) 373-3411** without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now.

This is sponsored by McDonalds.

Found on the internet and submitted by Galen Peterson, NHW Area Coordinator for HCW