



A Newsletter for Crest

Volume 8

November/December 2007

Number 9

Crest Club House opens its doors During Firestorm 2007



What a month in Crest! The Crest Club House received its final inspection for occupancy Friday, October 19, four long years after being burned in the

2003 Cedar Fire. Three days later, the Club House opened its doors for its first official activity -- a Fire Disaster Communication Center for the Crest Community.

As fires spread across San Diego County, the Crest Clubhouse was open and staffed with volunteers to answer questions, provide support, and to assist with voluntary animal evacuation information. The clubhouse was opened and staffed from 8:00 am until 9:00 pm. During this time, the East County Fire Protection District staff was in constant communication, providing pertinent and accurate information to the Crest community. Residents stopped by (some times several times a day) to check out the fire maps, share concerns, and to sign up for the Crest Emergency Notification System (One Call Now). This automated telephone call system implemented by the Crest Fire Safe Council, proved to be a valuable resource by keeping residents informed as to the status of the fires. Over 200 additional names were added to the system throughout the week as the word spread that this was a great source of information.

The 44-CREST phone number rang constantly as volunteers disseminated valuable information to help keep the Crest residents safe from harm's way.

Residents dropped by to provide food and drinks for the volunteers and fire fighters.

Word quickly spread by word of mouth and TV media, and soon the Crest Center and the 44-Crest line became a main source of dependable information for East County.

The Crest emergency siren system was in place ready to alert the community in the event of a mandatory evacuation. Luckily it was not needed as Crest never moved to a mandatory evacuation status.

The Firestorms proved to be a long and stressful week for Crest. However, I can not imagine any event that could better show the spirit of the Crest community at work. Crest is truly a remarkable place to live!

Take time to support your community by becoming a member of the Crest Community Association (CCA) and volunteering within your community. More information on the CCA membership as well as other organizations of interest can be found in this newsletter.

TEST OF EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM

There will be a test of Emergency Siren System Saturday, November 10, at 10:00 a.m. The first test will be held on a Saturday so residents will be home to check to see if the siren reaches their location. This test will be repeated the following three months on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am barring any active fires in the County.

Proposition E Passes

As most have probably heard, the Proposition E Ballot has been ratified. Out of the 4,684 registered voters in this district 1,740 voted. 73% of the submitted ballots were in favor of Proposition E.

This proposition insures that the Crest community will continue to receive fire and medical emergency services. The fire district was in jeopardy of closing its doors due to lack of funding.

Based on this funding, the East County Fire Protection Board can now explore options for continued long term service in the Crest area.

Proposition E will assess \$250 per parcel (with structures) and \$125 for vacant parcels. Homeowners will receive a supplemental tax bill in the next few months. Additional information will be forthcoming.

If you are one of the many Crest residents that have multiple parcels, you can join these parcels together to reduce the impact of the assessment. If you want to consolidate your parcels to avoid paying multiple assessments, you can fill out a one page form at the San Diego County Assessor's office in El Cajon: 200 S. Magnolia Ave. El Cajon, CA 92020. There is no cost for this service.

<u>Wish to advertise?</u> \$35 – Full Page \$20 – ½ Page \$10 – ¼ Page \$5 – 1/8 Page “For Sale” ads	<u>The Crest Sun is available at:</u> Crest Foods Crest Library** Lenardo Pizzeria Rainbow Farms Send info to editor
Please Support our Advertisers! They bring you the Sun ** Donations for the paper can not be accepted at the Library due to policy but feel free to drop by your local store and donate.	

Crest Sun Editors:

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Webmaster: Karin Weiss (579-3951) - thecrestsun@cox.net

***Next Crest Sun Deadline:
December 20***

The Crest Sun welcomes information from the Community and community input. Thanks to all our loyal readers and supporters. Your donations and your patronization of our sponsors provide the funds to print the newsletter. This is our only expense. We have no paid employees. The newsletter is not responsible for problems that occur as a result of information in this newsletter. We assume information to be accurate as given to us.

The staff of the East County Fire Protection District Station 18 - Crest wishes to thank residents for their generous donations of food and time during the recent fires.



Events and Contacts

Crest Calendar of Events		
11/06	1:00	Crest Historical Society Meeting - Library
11/06	7:30 pm	Fire Board Meeting Crest Station
11/11	Shoe Boxes Due	Operation Christmas Child Crest Community Church
11/12	10:00 am	Crest Garden Club 1110 Old Mt View Rd
11/19	6:00 pm	Kiwanis Meeting St Louise Parish Hall
11/10	10:00 am	Test of Crest Siren
11/12	7:00 pm	Sub-Regional Planning Group
11/17	8:30-3:30	Obstacle Training Class South Lane Park
11/20	7:00 p.m	CCA Meeting – Clubhouse
12/04	1:00 – Crest Library	Crest Historical Society Mtg – Library
12/04	7:30	Fire Board Meeting – Crest Fire Station
12/05	10:00	Test of Crest Siren
12/10	10:00 a.m	Crest Garden Club ClubHouse
12/10	7:00 pm	Sub-Regional Planning Group
12/14	6:30-8:00	Santa Clause Pot Luck - Clubhouse
12/17	8:30	E-Crest-rians Obstacle Training Class South Lane Park
12/18	7:00	CCA Meeting – Clubhouse
12/24	6:00 pm	Kiwanis Meeting St Louise Parish Hall
12/20	5:00	Deadline for Sept/October Crest Sun advertisements
4/7		Padre Landscape Contest Deadline
<p>Crest Websites: www.thcrestsun.com – Crest Community website. Publishes Crest happenings as well as copies of this newsletter. www.crestschoolpta.com – Crest School PTA website www.cajonvalley.net/crest - Crest school website</p>		

Crest Community Contacts		
CCA	Noelle Carranza	447-6269
Community Church	Anna Johnston	442-3736
Cornerstone Church	Pastor Dennis	579-5633
Crest Black Board	Friends of Crest	44-Crest
Crest Clubhouse Rent	Leave message	44-Crest
Crest Garden Club	Arlene Palmer	441-0187
Crest Historical Scty.	Dorothy Miller	444-0968
Crest Kiwanis	Andy Knutson	442-3349
Crest Library		442-7083
Crestridge Ecological Reserve	Cathy Chadwick	749-5767
Crest School	Office	588-3128
Crest Newsletter	Linda Hjelle Chris Seebold	440-8540 447-5826
Crest Sun Website www.thcrestsun.com	Karin Weiss	579-3951
E-Crest-rians	Kandhy Franklin-Collins	444-4996
East County Fire Dept	Business	579-6034
Friends of Crest		44-Crest
Sheriff	Dispatch (858) Business	565-5200
Snake Removal Svcs	Graham (cell)	444-7797 784-4671
St Louise Church	Father Justin Languille	444-3076
Sub-Regional Plan.	Judy Bowen	440-0783
Stores		
Crest Foods	Tony	444-8132
Lenardo Pizzeria	Sam	444-1389
Rainbow Farms Mrkt	Mark	444-7504
Advertisers		
Arbonne Int'l	Kia Maize	518-9504
George Bowby Electric	George Bowby	440-3051
Jim Kelly Realty	Rayna Mack	922-2524
Kathy Kuts	Kathy Kaderback	447-1945
L & M General Engineering Contract.	Matt Johnson	588-8806
Office Tech	Karin Weiss	249-4469
Piano Lessons	Amanda Shadrick	588-8862
Right Hand Ladies	Marie	328-1157
Simply Marvelous Org	Risa	231-1113
Sullivan Brown Properties	James Neal	440-1030
Terry's Pools	Terry Shimamoto	992-3091
TNT Carpet Care	Troy Billet	208-2708
W3U	(800)	644-0305
Xango		328-1157

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TO ORDER CALL
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444-8132



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HAM W/ROAST BEEF	5.99
TUNA	5.99
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Crest Community Association

Hello to All,

After four long years since the Cedar Fire and a very long three years rebuilding the Crest Club house, it is with great pride and pleasure that we can notify the community that the club house has passed the final occupancy inspection. At this



time we would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Phil Goettsch and his ever ready dependable volunteers. Many, many thanks for getting the building to this stage.

We still need to finish the fence and the landscaping among other small things before it is totally finished. **PEOPLE, WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FINISH THE JOB.** If there is any way at all to give up a few hours on Saturdays to get us over this hump, PLEASE, PLEASE help us out. It is always the same people every weekend that have been carrying the load. Remember, this is a meeting place for all, not just a few.

The building will be available to rent starting December 1st. To make arrangements call **44-CREST** and leave a message. Someone will get back to you within 3 days.

Spaghetti dinners will resume after the first of the New Year. Interested in helping - call **44-CREST**.

Santa Claus will arrive at the club house via the fire truck on Dec. 14th, at 6:30p.m. till 8:00p.m. Bring a dessert to share. The CCA will supply the drinks and all else needed. A flyer will be sent out, at the school, for the children to take home as the date gets near and it will be posted on the chalk board. Of course, CCA members and non-members are invited.

Groups meeting at the club house will be the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Kiwanis, Sub-Regional planning Group, CCA board meetings, as well as general meetings which are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

The CCA is looking for people who are in the membership to volunteer to be on a nominating committee for the elections of new officers. Is

there anyone out there that would be interested in doing this? This is not a big job that goes on forever. It is for two or three meetings only. We are going to have our elections in January. If there is anyone out there who is a member that would like to be nominated for an office, please step forward. To hold office and be involved in things that are good for the community is very rewarding. Call **44-CREST** if you are interested.

Did you know that the 4th of July is a fund raiser for the CCA? Income from this event, the spaghetti dinners, and the rentals of the building are what keep the building up and running! Did you also know that Kandhy Franklin is the person you can thank for almost single handedly arranging for all that happens on the 4th? After many years doing this tremendous job Kandhy is going to step down. If the community wants the 4th of July events to continue to take place, we need people to step forward. **How about it members?** Non-members are able to help as well. Remember **44-CREST** is the phone number to call.

What else would you like to see happen in the community and at the club house? Come to a meeting and bring your ideas. We would love to meet you and hear what you have to say. Mark 11/20 at 7:00 p.m. on your calendars.

CCA is a membership run organization. We are a not for profit group and are here for the good of the community. The CCA is always looking for new members. For those who have not renewed their membership we will always welcome you back. Membership information can be found on the following page.

Respectfully,

The Crest Civic Group Board

Dan Wilson, President

Sally Bruner, Vice-president

Susan Lee Cooke, Secretary

Jackie Grace, Treasurer

Noelle Carranza, 5th Board, Past President

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Composting



Compost is one of nature's best mulches and soil amendments which can be used instead of commercial fertilizers.

Compost is the end product of a complex feeding pattern involving hundreds of different organisms including bacteria, fungi, worms, and insects that break organic (living) matter down into its basic components. The process requires "browns" (drier material: leaves, straw, wood chips, newspapers) and "greens" (moist materials; grass clipping and kitchen scraps). It also needs air, moisture, and heat to complete the process of breaking down original materials into compost.

The advantages of composting:

- + Compost is cheap (free) and helps to creatively deal with yard waste and decreases what is put in landfills. It's a way of recycling kitchen and yard waste that would otherwise be thrown away and end up in the land fill.
- + Compost is one of nature's best mulches and soil amendments. You can use this rather than commercial fertilizers.
- + Compost improves soil structure, texture, and aeration and increases the soil's water holding capacity.
- + Compost loosens clay soils and helps sandy soils retain water, improves soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants.
- + Don't want to create your own compost? The Miramar landfill creates compost from the City's curbside greenery recycling program or greens (yard waste) that are dropped off from gardeners and landscapers. Self-loaded compost is free!

How to make a Compost Pile

- + You don't need special containers to compost.
- + Kitchen scraps are typically high in nitrogen, which help heat up the compost pile and speed up the composting process. Egg shells, coffee grounds, fruits and vegetable peels and scraps are all outstanding material to add. (Don't add meat, fish, oil, feces).
- + Bigger is often better. Heat builds up with a big pile. However, you don't want to get much bigger than about 3 feet by 3 feet.
- + Keep your compost aerated. Be sure to mix up the contents so that the pile gets oxygen and can break down effectively.
- + Don't let the compost completely dry out. A compost pile needs moisture to get the composting process active. However, don't let the compost get too wet or it will get soggy and smell bad.
- + Too much of any one material will slow down the composting process. If you have all leaves, grass clippings or an overload of any other single type of material, it can throw off the balance of the pile. In general its good to keep a mix of "green" and "brown" material.

California Friendly Landscape Contest

Is your yard water-efficient? If so, enter the Landscape Contest sponsored by Padre Dam Municipal Water District and you could win \$500 in prizes.

Fall is the perfect time to make changes to your landscaping. It also gives your landscape a few months to grow in before entering the Landscape Contest.

Deadline is April 7, 2008.

For more information, call Melissa at 619-258-4680 or visit

www.landscapecontest.com



SDCL Crest Library

**105 Juanita Lane, EC 92021
619-442-7083**

Times: Tuesday 12-6 Wed.-Thurs. 10-6
Friday 9-5 Saturday 10-3

November 2007

❖ **Children's Programs**

Rosi's Coloring Table

Every Tuesday during open hours

PJ Story time

Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 pm

Baby Story time

Wednesday, November 21 at 10:30 am

**Read to Burnie: Stop by anytime
to read to a big friendly stuffed dog**

**The In-N-Out Burger Reading Program
ends Saturday, November 24!**

❖ **Teen Programs**

"Make It and Take It Crafts"

*Every Saturday at 11:00 am
free supplies provided*

❖ **Programs for Adults**

Mystery Book Club *discussing*

**Dead Man's Island by Carolyn Hart
*Thursday, November 1 at 12:00 pm***

Free Computer Classes

Thursdays at 11:00 am call Rosi for appointment

❖ **Saturday Family Programs at**

11:00 am:

Ribbon Jewelry, November 10

Soap Making, November 24

**Celebrate Native-American Month
Sharon Clifton presenting Native American
Circle Stories & Craft
Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 pm**

*All Library Programs are subject to change or
cancellation without notice.*

*Todos los programas de la biblioteca son sujeto a
cambio o cancelación sin aviso*

December 2007

Happy Holidays @ Crest Library!

Children's Programs

❖ **Rosi's Coloring Table**

Every Tuesday during open hours

❖ **PJ Storytime & Craft**

Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm

❖ **Baby Story time**

Wednesday, December 19th at 10:30 am

❖ **Read to Burnie: Stop by anytime
and read to a big friendly stuffed dog**

**Check out our multicultural
doll Exhibit!**

Teen Programs

❖ **"Make It and Take It Crafts"**

*Every Saturday at 11:00 am free supplies
provided*

❖ **Play Station Games fun!
December 1st to 15th**

Adult Programs

❖ **Mystery Book Club *discussing***

**Set Sail for Murder by Carolyn Hart
*Thursday, December 6th at 12:00 pm***

Saturday Family Programs at

11:00 am

❖ **Soap Making December 1st**

❖ **Make a CD clock!
December 8th & 15th**

❖ **Origami December 29th**

❖ **Free Computer Classes**

*Thursdays at 11:00 am
Call Rosi for appointment*



Heartland Fire Dispatch Fire Statistics by Incident Type From 07/01/07 to 10/01/07 for Fdid 37020- East County Fire

Incident Type	Est Loss Property	Count	Incident Type	Est Loss Property	Count
100- Fire, other	500	3	463- Vehicle accident, general cleanup	0	1
111- Building fire	2,500	5	500- Service Call, other	0	5
112- Fires in structures other than in a building	0	1	510- Person in distress, other	0	3
113- Cooking fire, confined to container	0	1	531- Smoke or odor removal	0	1
118- Trash or rubbish fire, contained	0	1	541- Animal problem	0	2
131- Passenger vehicle fire	1,000	4	550- Public service assistance, other	0	2
142- Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	0	1	551- Assist police or other governmental agency	0	5
143- Grass fire	0	1	554- Assist invalid	0	2
150- Outside rubbish fire, other	0	1	561- Unauthorized burning	0	1
160- Special outside fire	0	2	571- Cover assignment, standby, moveup	0	4
300- Rescue, emergency medical call (EMS), other	0	305	600- Good intent call, other	0	4
311- Medical assist, assist EMS crew	0	53	611- Dispatched & canceled en route	0	19
321- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident /injury	0	2	631- Authorized controlled burning	0	1
322- Vehicle accident with injuries	0	14	651- Smoke scare, odor of smoke	0	3
323- Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV ped)	0	3	652- Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	0	1
355- Confined space rescue	0	1	653- Barbecue, tar kettle	0	1
381- Rescue or EMS standby	0	1	661- EMS call, party transport by non-fire agency	0	1
400- Hazardous condition, other	0	1	700-False alarm or false call, other	0	18
410- Flammable gas or liquid condition, other	0	1	711-Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	0	2
411- Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	0	1	730-System malfunction, other	0	2
412- Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	0	3	733-Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	0	1
441- Heat from short circuit (wiring), defect/worn	0	1	911- Citizen complaint	0	1
445- Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	0	1		=====	=====
460- Accident, potential accident, other	0	1	Totals	4,000	488

Total number of records: 46



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Food for Thought

(Article submitted by Lori Johnson, Crest Resident)

In Praise of Pumpkins



For as long as I can remember pumpkins have marked the beginning of the winter holiday season. The appearance of pumpkin patches all across town is a signal to children [of all ages] that it's time to get ready for winter celebrations. Over the years the annual trip to the pumpkin patch has grown into an all day event replete with pony rides, petting zoos, face painting, and even merry-go-rounds.

Where did this fascination with pumpkins begin? Pumpkins have been documented for centuries. Ancient Greeks called them pepon, meaning large melon. The French later changed this to pompon. The English version of the word was pumpkin; and the American Colonists changed this to pumpkin. The pumpkin, though generally treated as a vegetable, is a fruit. It's a staple food around the world and can be prepared in a multitude of dishes from the traditional pumpkin pie to breads, cookies, puddings, soups, or roasted with vegetables; and let's not forget the seeds are a yummy snack food.

Pumpkins are not only delicious, they're nutritious as well. They provide us with iron for building red blood cells, zinc to support a healthy immune system, potassium essential for heart function, and magnesium needed for proper muscle and nerve function. Recently, pumpkin has also been linked to improved prostate health. The orange color of pumpkins comes from massive amounts of lutein and carotene, which is turned into vitamin A in the body.

Of course the most popular use for pumpkins in the United States is the Jack-O-Lantern, based on an ancient Celtic custom that was brought to America by Irish immigrants. The holiday of Samhain (pronounced sow-ain), meaning 'summer's end, celebrated the end of the Celtic calendar year, as well as the harvest. On this night gourds were carved out with burning

coals inside to light them up; this was done to welcome the spirits of deceased ancestors who might bestow favors, and to ward off malevolent spirits, particularly one called *Stingy Jack*...hence the name Jack-O-Lantern.

This holiday season whether you're carving pumpkins into Jack-O-Lanterns or baking them into breads, pies, or pancakes, be sure to share the fun with friends and family. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Traditional Pumpkin Bread

3 c. sugar 1 c. oil
3 eggs 2 c. canned pumpkin
3 c. flour 1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cloves 1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg 1 c. walnuts (optional)
1/2 tsp. baking powder 1 tsp. soda

Blend oil, sugar and eggs. Stir in pumpkin. Add sifted dry ingredients. Stir in walnuts (optional). Put in greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Allow to cool.

Pumpkin-Walnut Flapjacks

(Favorite of Deanna Witherow, Crest resident)

1 1/4 c. buttermilk 1/4 c. sugar
3/4 c. canned pure pumpkin 4 large eggs
3/4 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter melted

1 1/3 c cake flour 1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda 1/2 tsp salt
1 3/4 tsp pumpkin pie spice

Vegetable oil or butter 1/2 c finely chopped walnuts
Pure maple syrup

Wisk buttermilk, pumpkin, eggs, sugar, and vanilla in a medium bowl to blend; wisk in melted butter. Wisk flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl to blend. Add dry ingredients to buttermilk mixture and wisk to combine. Lightly oil or butter heavy skillet over medium heat. Pour batter (1/3 c) in skillet; cook until bubbles form (about 1 1/2 minutes); turn and cook until second side brown (about 1 minute). Move to plate and sprinkle with nuts. Serve with syrup.

Crestridge Ecological Reserve

2007-08 School Programs Up and Running:



Our education program for the current school year launched in late September. Currently, About 2,500 students, mostly in grades

4-6, are scheduled to participate this year. All activities are tied directly to required curriculum standards so the Reserve is truly an outdoor classroom. About 1,500 of the scheduled students will be from the Cajon Valley Union School District. More volunteers are needed to support this exciting and innovative program. See below!!

Volunteers needed at Crestridge: Volunteer at our own ecological reserve in Crest. Come be a part of changing the world in your own backyard.

- **Interested in working with children?** Volunteers are needed to share your love of the outdoors with children. Enjoy doing hands-on projects with curious student to help them learn more about ecology. Volunteers are needed to be field instructors or assistants. No experience is necessary and training is provided.
- **Interested to helping maintain our beautiful reserve** by planting, watering or working on special projects?
- **Interested in learning more about our natural habitat** through ongoing training with a variety of experts?

See contact information below. We need you!

Final Management Plan Hearing:

Crestridge, like all reserves, must have management plan that addresses its ecological value and plans for maintenance and restoration. The original Crestridge

Management Plan was brought to the Crest community before the Cedar Fire. The final draft considers input from the first community meeting as well as changes needed since the fire. The final hearing on the plan will take place this winter. A copy of the plan will be available at the library for at least 30 days before the meeting. Watch the chalkboard for dates.

Plant Sale: Thanks to all who came to the native plant sale in early October. We saw lots of new faces, which means more yards with natives... Great for the habitat and all the creatures it supports, as well as your water bills and water conservation in general. Lots of people also took home various composting systems - another great way to recycle, save money, and take care of the planet. Watch for dates for the next sale in the spring, or get in touch. We can arrange to get you plants all year 'round!

Questions? Call Cathy Chadwick (619) 749-5767 or chadgroup@cox.net.

Free Trees

If you would like to take advantage of the county's free tree program, please go to www.sdenergy.org and click on the topic "for the home". Then click on "Cool Communities Shade Trees". This program offers several kinds of free trees to homeowners, planting and care seminars, etc. There is an online brochure and application that you can download, or call Adrienne McCrumb at 858 244-1181 to have one sent to you.

Fire Related Disaster Relief Organizations and Websites:

- ✚ **Salvation Army** -
www.sandiego.salvationarmy.org
1011 E. Main Street El Cajon, CA 92021
Tel: 619-440-4683
- ✚ **Red Cross** – San Diego Division
www.sdarc.org PH:858-309-1200 Email:
info@sdarc.org
- ✚ **FEMA** - www.fema.gov/ Call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362).
- ✚ **Volunteer San Diego**
www.volunteersandiego.org
- ✚ **211 Disaster information** -
www.211sandiego.org/ - Dial 211

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Kathy Kaderabek

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Kathy@KathyKuts.Com

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PREVENTING FIRE WHILE SERVING TIME: CAN COUNTY INMATES CLEAR BRUSH IN FIRE-PRONE AREAS?



SAN DIEGO— Facing extreme fire conditions in the San Diego County Backcountry, the Board of Supervisors is investigating whether County inmates can help clear dangerous brush to better protect communities from wildfires.

At the request of Supervisor Dianne Jacob, the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department and Cal Fire, formerly know as the California Department of Forestry, will begin to analyze the proposal right away.

Under the direction of Cal Fire, State prisoners already clear brush and even help fight larger wildfires in the region. Jacob said State crews could benefit from the assistance of County inmates because Backcountry fuel loads are extremely heavy and tinder-dry.

"There is an immediate need to reduce the fuel that will feed the next destructive wildfire, like the recent blaze that threatened Julian. If the possibility exists that local inmates can pitch in, we owe it to property owners to find out," Jacob said.

"Of course, we have to keep public safety top-of-mind," Jacob added. "High-risk, violent felons should be excluded from brush crews."

Jacob said there was a time when County probationers served on special crews at a number of fire camps in the Backcountry.

"Given the record dry conditions in our wildland areas, it's time to look at the program again," Jacob said.

After the infamous Cedar and Paradise fires of 2003, San Diego County instituted a number of measures to better manage brush in Backcountry. The County has stepped up efforts to educate property owners about defensible space around structures and removed thousands of dead and diseased pine trees from communities at high risk of fire.

Most recently, the County continued funding a telephone hotline designed to nab people who carelessly toss cigarette butts from vehicles.

Sincerely,
Dianne Jacob

It's Free in San Diego!

There's much to do in San Diego without spending a dime. Here's just a few ways to occupy your fun time.

Downtown

- ✚ The downtown branch of ***The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego*** is always free to the public.
- ✚ You can fish free of charge from any municipal pier (that is, if you bring your own pole). Fishing license is not required.
- ✚ Centre City Redevelopment Corporation's Downtown Information Center gives [bus tours](#) two Saturdays a month

Balboa Park - All the museums in Balboa Park are open to the public without charge one Tuesday a month.

- ✚ 1st Tuesday of each month: *Natural History Museum, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Model Railroad Museum*
- ✚ 2nd Tuesday: *Museum of Photographic Arts, Historical Society Museum*
- ✚ 3rd Tuesday: *Museum of Art, Museum of Man, Mingei International Museum, Japanese Friendship Garden, Museum of the Living Artist*
- ✚ 4th Tuesday: *Aerospace Museum, Automotive Museum, Hall of Champions Sports Museum*
- ✚ The *Timken Museum of Art* is always free
- ✚ Free 1-hour Sunday afternoon organ concerts year-round at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

Old Town:

- ✚ A 1-hour walking tour of Old Town is conducted twice daily.
- ✚ There's free entertainment (mariachis and folk dancers) at the **Bazaar del Mundo** on Saturdays and Sundays.

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Information...It's all in a Number..

There are special abbreviated dialing telephone numbers within the North American Numbering Plan, which allows access to special services. San Diego has seen increased use of some of these numbers over the past year.



211 – Community Information

211 is the new national dialing code for free, 24 hour community, health and **disaster information**. Like 911 for emergency service, 211 have been set aside by the Federal Communications Commission for the public to easily access community information. Phone specialists can answer questions about a variety of nonprofit services and agencies and can also help callers find out where to go to volunteer or donate to their favorite cause. The associated website for San Diego is www.211sandiego.org

411 – Directory Assistance

For decades, most of the United States has used 4-1-1 as the telephone number for local directory assistance. Up until the early 1980s, 411 calls used to be free in most states. In recent years, 4-1-1 has also been used for long distance directory assistance in most areas. The traditional long distance directory assistance number is 1-area code -555-1212. 411 land line service is generally provided by a local telephone company. Since deregulation, the price of using 411 has increased to an average of \$1.25 per call.

511 Travel Info

511 is a free phone and Web service that consolidates the San Diego region's transportation information into a one-stop resource. 511 provides up-to-the-minute information on traffic conditions, incidents and driving times, schedule, route and fare information for San Diego public transportation services, carpool and vanpool referrals, bicycling information and more. 511 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 511 phone service is available throughout SD County on nearly all landline and cellular phones. 511 is managed by a partnership of public agencies led by SANDAG, the CHP, the CA Dept of Transportation, Metro Transit System (MTS), North County Transit District and San Diego SAFE. The associated website for 511 is www.511sd.com.

911 – Emergency Services

In all areas, the emergency number is intended to be used only in an emergency. Routine and non-urgent calls as well as hoax or prank calls to emergency services numbers waste the time of both dispatchers and emergency responders and can endanger lives. False reports of emergencies are often prosecuted as crimes.

Reverse 911® - Emergency Notification System - Alert San Diego

During the recent fires, a Reverse 911 system was used by the County to notify residents of a mandatory evacuation. The Alert San Diego Emergency Notification System allows the county to rapidly send telephone notifications to all residents and businesses in an affected area in the event of an emergency. An operator using the system can identify the affected neighborhood or region of the city and record a message that describes the situation. The system will automatically call listed and unlisted telephone numbers (including TTY/TDD) within the affected area and deliver the recorded message. If phone lines are busy, the system will attempt to redial those telephone numbers to make contact. If an answering machine picks up the call, the emergency message will be left on the machine. **Cellular or Voice over IP (VoIP) phone numbers are not currently in the system database.** If you would like to be contacted on your cell or VoIP phone, you must register those phone numbers at the following website: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/> and click on Alert San Diego Cell phone registry link or go directly to this link by typing:

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/oes/ready/signup.html>

School Calendars

Cajon Valley Union School District Crest School Holiday Schedule 2007-2008

<p>08/20 First Day of School</p> <p>9/3 Labor Day</p> <p>11/12 Veterans Day</p> <p>11/21-11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p>12/15 – 01/06 Winter Break</p> <p>01/21 Martin Luther King Holiday</p>	<p>02/11 President's Day (Lincoln)</p> <p>02/18 President's Day (Washington)</p> <p>03/15-03/30 Spring Break</p> <p>05/26 Memorial Day</p> <p>06/12 Last Day of School</p>
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Grossmont Union High School District Granite Hills Holiday Schedule 2007-2008

<p>08/20 First Day of School</p> <p>9/3 Labor Day</p> <p>11/12 Veterans Day</p> <p>11/22-11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p>12/24 – 01/04 Winter Break</p> <p>01/21 Martin Luther King Holiday</p>	<p>02/11 President's Day (Lincoln)</p> <p>02/18 President's Day (Washington)</p> <p>03/17-03/28 Spring Break</p> <p>05/26 Memorial Day</p> <p>06/05 Last Day of School</p>
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# More Ways to Recycle:

Submitted by Linda Chase

**1. Appliances:** *Goodwill* accepts working appliances, [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org), or you can contact the Steel Recycling Institute to recycle them. 800/YES-1-CAN or [www.recycle-steel.org](http://www.recycle-steel.org).

**2. Batteries:** Rechargeables and single-use: Battery Solutions, 734/467-9110, Radio Shack in Blossom Valley also accepts all batteries (except car batteries) [www.batteryrecycling.com](http://www.batteryrecycling.com).

**3. Cardboard boxes:** Contact local nonprofits and women's shelters to see if they can use them. Or, offer up used cardboard boxes at your local [Freecycle.org](http://Freecycle.org) listserv or on [Craigslist.org](http://Craigslist.org) for others who may need them for moving or storage. If your workplace collects at least 100 boxes or more each month, [UsedCardboardBoxes.com](http://UsedCardboardBoxes.com) accepts them for resale.

**4. Clothes:** Wearable clothes can go to your local Goodwill outlet or shelter. Donate wearable women's business clothing to Dress for Success, which gives them to low-income women as they search for jobs, 212-532-1922, [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org).

**5. Compact fluorescent bulbs:** Take them to your local IKEA store for recycling: [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com).

**6. Compostable bio-plastics:** You probably won't be able to compost these in your home compost bin or pile. Find a municipal composter to take them to at [www.findacomposter.com](http://www.findacomposter.com).

**7. Computers and electronics:** Find the most responsible recyclers at [www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html](http://www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html).

**8. Eyeglasses:** Your local Lion's Club or eye care chain may collect these. Lenses are reground and given to people in need.



**9. Foam packing:** Your local pack-and-ship store will likely accept foam peanuts for

reuse. Or, call the Plastic Loose Fill Producers Council to find a drop-off site: 800/828-2214. For places to drop off foam blocks for recycling, contact the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers, 410/451-8340, [www.epspackaging.org/info.html](http://www.epspackaging.org/info.html)

**10. Ink/toner cartridges:** [Recycleplace.com](http://Recycleplace.com) pays \$1/each. Staples also recycles cartridges.

**11. Oil:** Find Used Motor Oil Hotlines for each state: 202/682-8000, [www.recycleoil.org](http://www.recycleoil.org).

**12. Phones:** *Donate cell phones:* **Collective Good** will refurbish your phone and sell it to someone in a developing country: 770/856-9021, [www.collectivegood.com](http://www.collectivegood.com). **Call to Protect** reprograms cell phones to dial 911 and gives them to domestic violence victims: [www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com). *Recycle single-line phones:* Reclamere, 814/386-2927, [www.reclamere.com](http://www.reclamere.com).



**13. "Technotrash":** **Project KOPEG** offers an e-waste recycling program that can help you raise funds for your organization. Use Project KOPEG to recycle iPods, MP3 players, cell phones and chargers, digital cameras, PDAs, palm pilots, and more. Also, easily recycle all of your CDs, jewel cases, DVDs, audio and video tapes, pagers, rechargeable and single-use batteries, PDAs, and ink/toner cartridges with GreenDisk's Technotrash program. For \$30, GreenDisk will send you a cardboard box in which you can ship them up to 70 pounds of any of the above. Your fee covers the box as well as shipping and recycling fees. 800/305-GREENDISK [www.greendisk.com](http://www.greendisk.com)

**14. Tennis shoes:** Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring. [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com). One World Running will send still-wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti. [www.oneworldrunning.com](http://www.oneworldrunning.com).

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## About Crest...



## Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone truly is the church around the corner. Located on Lento Lane, across from the Crest School, we offer a contemporary, family oriented service on Sunday at 9:30 am. We've got Sunday school classes for infants through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and hope to start a Junior High and High School group soon. On Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm, we meet for prayer and worship. For those who love the open road, we also have a motorcycle club. Every year we go on a Missionary trip to Mexico. We would love to have you join us! If you have any questions, please call Pastor Dennis at (619)647-5120.

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# South Lane Park News



Submitted by Kandhy Franklin-Collins

**November 17th Crest's Obstacle Training Class** for minis and horses. Registration is at 8:30, classes begin at 9. All practice sessions will end by 3pm. **Helmets must be worn by all riders.** There are a few available for use. Lunch will be sold by the E-Crest-Rians for \$5.00. Fee is \$10.00 for the whole day. Cost will cover trainers and insurance. Any questions call 444-4996. Please RSVP if possible.



South Lane Park was the location of two recent fun filled horse events for the Crest Community. The September 8 Crest Country Celebration and the October 20<sup>th</sup> Crest Fun Show had plenty of horse related activities that included a health fair, an obstacle course for trail trials, instruction on queuing, and plenty of fun show events. Food was provided by the Kiwanis. These types of events are a great way to introduce kids to fun horse activities and provide instruction on queuing and communications.

The goal is to rebuild an equestrian base for future horse camping, riding, and trailering to the Cuyamaca Mountain and other nearby places.

Proceeds from these events will be used to pay for insurance for the horse ring and provide funds to improve the South Lane Park. Bids are being obtained to purchase a trailer to be used as an announcer's booth. The facility will also be used as a secondary communications center for the Fire Safe Council and as a location for amateur ham radio enthusiasts. Meetings are being conducted with SDG&E to install a temporary (and eventually a permanent) power pole at South Lane Park. In addition to fund raising, a meeting is also planned with Supervisor Jacob to investigate grant opportunities to expedite the process.







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## Pizza

|                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Medium 14" | Large 18"                              | Giant 28" |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Cheese Only</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                              | \$8.99     | \$12.99                                | \$19.99   |
| <b>One Topping</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                              | \$9.99     | \$13.99                                | \$21.99   |
| <b>Vegetarian</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                               | \$13.99    | \$15.99                                | \$24.99   |
| (Mushroom, Onions, Green pepper & Olives)                                                                                                                                                             |            |                                        |           |
| <b>The Works</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                                | \$16.99    | \$19.99                                | \$28.99   |
| (Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Onions, Mushrooms, Green Peppers, Olives, Pineapple and Jalapeno)                                                                                                |            |                                        |           |
| <b>Greek Pizza</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                              | \$12.99    | \$15.99                                | \$25.99   |
| (Mozzarella cheese, feta cheese, gyro meat, fresh tomatoes & basil)                                                                                                                                   |            |                                        |           |
| <b>Calzone</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$8.99     | (with Mozzarella, Ricotta, & Parmesan) |           |
| <b>Additional topping:</b> .....                                                                                                                                                                      | \$1.00     | \$1.50                                 | \$2.50    |
| Choose from: Pepperoni, Ham, Italian Sausage, Salami, Canadian Bacon, Onions, Green Peppers, Black Olives, Mushrooms, Tomatoes, Pineapple, Jalapeno, Anchovies, Peppercini, Extra Sauce, Extra Cheese |            |                                        |           |

## Pasta

**All Pasta served with 2 pieces of garlic bread**

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Lasagna.....                  | \$5.99 |
| Spaghetti with Meatballs..... | \$5.99 |
| Meat Ravioli.....             | \$5.99 |
| Cheese Ravioli.....           | \$5.99 |

## Subs & Sandwiches

**All Subs served w/Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Peppercini, & Italian Dressing**

|                                                           |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Ham & Cheese.....                                         | \$4.59 |
| Turkey & Cheese.....                                      | \$4.59 |
| Italian Sub (Ham, Salami, & cheese).....                  | \$4.59 |
| Club Sub (Turkey, Bacon & Cheese).....                    | \$4.99 |
| Roast Beef Sub.....                                       | \$4.99 |
| Corn Beef Sub.....                                        | \$4.99 |
| Meat Ball sub.....                                        | \$4.99 |
| Italian Sausage Sub.....                                  | \$4.99 |
| Lenardo's Special Sub (Roast Beef, Turkey, & Cheese)..... | \$5.49 |

## Combos

**All Combos are served w/Fries & Salad**

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| ½ Hamburger Combo.....      | \$4.99 |
| ½ Shrimp Combo.....         | \$5.49 |
| Fish & Chips.....           | \$5.99 |
| Chicken Sandwich combo..... | \$4.99 |
| Fried Chicken Combo.....    | \$4.99 |
| Philly Steak Combo.....     | \$5.99 |
| Gyro's Combo.....           | \$5.99 |
| Hot Wings Combo.....        | \$5.99 |

## Side & Salads

|                                                                                |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Garden Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Green Peppers, Olives & Peppercini)..... | \$3.99 |
| Antipasto Salad (Same as Garden plus Ham, Salami & Cheese).....                | \$5.50 |
| Green Salad (Same as Garden plus Red Cabbage, Feta Cheese).....                | \$5.50 |
| Chef Salad (Same as Garden plus Turkey, Ham & Cheese).....                     | \$5.50 |
| French Fries.....                                                              | \$2.10 |

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# About Crest.

## St Louise de Marillac

The original parish was founded by Bishop Charles Francis Buddy in April of 1942 and named St. Louise de Marillac. Louise de Marillac was a Frenchwoman who lived in Paris. She was a wife and mother who was widowed at age 34. She was also a nurse, educator, and social worker who went on to found the Religious Order of the Sisters of Charity and worked very closely with the well-known Frenchman and champion of the poor, Vincent de Paul, who was also later named a saint.

To serve the French population of the San Diego area in a township originally named "Suncrest Hill," (present-day Crest) the first pastor was a French-speaking Vincentian priest, Father Frederick Coupal, CP. The original "church" for the parish of St. Louise de Marillac was a temporary structure, a clubhouse, and the first religious service (Catholic Mass) was celebrated on April 19, 1942.

With the growing concern for a more adequate church, the Catholic Diocese purchased a small house on a parcel of land at the corner of Suncrest Boulevard and Eucalyptus Avenue. The house was quickly converted into a chapel and remained the "parish church" until August 27, 1950 when Bishop Buddy broke ground for an entirely new structure. The present structure of St. Louise de Marillac Church remains at this location, the corner of Suncrest Boulevard and Crest Road. The site was dedicated upon its completion at the Christmas Midnight Mass, 1950. To date, there have been 31 priests assigned as pastor or administrator of the Church of St. Louise de Marillac

### Welcome Fr. Justin Langille

Fr. Justin Langille is the most recent pastor of Saint Louise de Marillac Church in Crest as of June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Justin grew up in a Navy family. His father, Justin (Jack), was a Naval Officer for 36 years, and his mother, Madeleine, was a nurse and accomplished artist. Although his family moved quite frequently, San Diego was always home. Justin attended college seminary at Saint Francis Seminary on the campus of the University of San Diego and completed his undergraduate degree in Philosophy at USD in 1976. He was ordained a diocesan (parish) priest on July 11, 1980. He completed five years of theological studies in Louvain, Belgium, and Rome, Italy with advanced degrees in spiritual direction and discernment, and contemplative spirituality. He has served eight parishes over the past twenty-seven years that include Our Mother of Confidence Church in University City, Ascension Church in Tierrasanta, Sacred Heart Church in Coronado, St. Thérèse Church in Del Cerro, and Santa Sophia Church in Spring Valley. Fr. Justin also served as a support priest to the historic Mission San Diego de Alcalá Basilica Church for nine years, and St. Agnes Church in Point Loma for two years. Justin enjoys teaching and taught as a professor of Theology at the University of San Diego for over ten years. In the late 1980's he served as Director of Vocations as well as Spiritual Director of the Diocesan College Seminary for three years. In 1996, Justin stepped away from full-time parish ministry to serve Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. for 12 years. Justin has served on the Board of Trustees for Contemplative Outreach and continues to serve as co-chair of the Retreat Faculty for this global network. Locally, Justin has been the coordinator and spiritual director for Contemplative Outreach of San Diego (COSD) for the past 15 years and was its founding regional coordinator. For the last six years, Justin has traveled throughout the United States and Canada giving contemplative retreats, workshops, days of prayer, and presentations on the richness of the Christian spiritual heritage, offering practical ways to enjoy a spiritual life while promoting greater peace and compassion in the world.

Justin is finding it a great delight to live in the picturesque foothills of Crest and serve the delightful community at Saint Louise de Marillac Church. Justin will be the 31<sup>st</sup> priest and of pastor of this wonderful, gracious community. As recreational pastimes, Justin enjoys mountain biking and hiking in the foothills and mountains of beautiful San Diego County.

# Cheap Get-Aways

## ANZA BORREGO DESERT

*Submitted by Barbara Atkins*

With more than 600,000 acres, 500 miles of dirt roads and 110 miles of hiking trails, Anza-Borrego Desert State park offers visitors endless opportunities to experience the wonders of the desert.

The park features washes, wildflowers (which usually begin to bloom in January-February and peak in March-April), palm groves, cacti and sweeping vistas. You may even see roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer and bighorn sheep as well as desert iguanas, chuckwallas and rattlesnakes.

First timers to the desert should stop by the underground visitor's center and museum on Palm Canyon Drive for some basic pointers from the ranger before venturing off. There's also a slide show and many other exhibits to give you an understanding of the desert's history and its natural beauty. While at the visitor's center, take the nearby trail down to Palm Canyon and check out a small oasis with a waterfall and palm trees.

Also, be aware that only street-legal vehicles are allowed in the park. There are two large developed campgrounds in Anza-Borrego at Borrego Palm Canyon and Tamarisk Grove campgrounds as well as the Vern Whitaker site for campers with horses. All have flush toilets, showers and campfire rings. Call (800) 444-7275 for reservations and more information.

Primitive campsites also are available and a great option when the three main sites are full. Camping is permitted in most of the park as long as you park one car length from the road, but be sparing while driving over vegetation. To be on the safe side, check with park staff before starting your camping adventure. They will inform you of any updates or changes that are going on within the park.



Another thing to remember with primitive camping: Whatever you pack in, you need to pack out, including fire ashes. Bring your own metal container and firewood, since no fire rings are provided and no wood gathering is allowed.

Contract information:

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park  
200 Palm Canyon Dr. Borrego Springs , CA 92004  
760-767-4205

Hours:

Oct-May open daily 9 am-5 pm, Weekend hours only most of summer (call for details).

*Cheap Get-Aways is submitted by Barbara Atkins, a Crest resident. Barb has worked in the Hospitality Industry for 25 years and grew up in a Bed and Breakfast on Nantucket Island. Barb travels whenever she can (mostly for business) and always searches out the top places to visit everywhere she goes. Camping and road trips are still Barb and Tony's favorite getaways.*





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## Critters in Crest

### Pill Bugs and Sow Bugs

By Stanley A. Shelton



Pill bugs, roly polys, sow bugs, potato bugs, they are known by various names, but there are distinctly different types. Pill bugs are rounder, with a deeper body and are darker than sow bugs. Pill bugs can roll up into a tight ball for defense, but sow bugs cannot. Sow bugs are grayish in color and have a flatter body. Both are crustaceans like crayfish, lobsters, shrimp and crabs, but are adapted to living on land. They have modified gills that allow them to breathe air. These gills are located on the underside next to the last two pair of their seven pairs of legs. They are not related to insects or spiders.

Because they breathe through gills, they must live in and near moisture or high humidity. They will die if there is no moisture because their exoskeleton is porous and they lose moisture rapidly. They are often seen in groups. This has the added advantage of helping them to retain moisture. They are more active in drier areas and so will search out areas with more humidity and moisture, where they act much more sedentary.

Pill bugs (this name is usually applied only to the genus *Armadillidium*) and sow bugs (*Oniscidae*) are of the order *Isopoda*. There are over 3000 species ranging all over the world and are all commonly called woodlice (plural) or woodlouse (singular), probably because of where they are usually found. They eat decaying organic material, including moist decaying wood. They aren't usually a threat to our plants except when they exist in large numbers, as in green houses, where they also nibble at small young plants.



They all have three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen with one prominent pair of antennae and one inconspicuous pair. They have simple eyes and seven separate segments on the thorax, which equals the number of their pairs of legs. They have paired appendages at the end of the abdomen called *uropods*. I'm not sure what they are for, but they have them.

Females have leaf-like growths at the base of most of their legs that are pouches used to brood and hold developing eggs and embryos. They hold up to 100 eggs at a time in these "pouches". When ready, the young *appear* to hatch into small pink reproductions of their parents, when they can fend for themselves. The first two appendages on the male abdomen are modified as elongated reproductive organs

As woodlice grow, they must progressively shed their shell. The molt takes place in two stages; the back half is lost first, followed two or three days later by the front. Woodlice are the only arthropods to molt in this way. All others shed their cuticle, or shell, all at the same time.



Very recently, I saw a shiny black ball on our bathroom carpet (the inspiration for this article). I thought it might be a ball bearing from something, but then it uncurled and started walking. It was a pill bug! How it got in the house, I'll never know! But then, I can't explain the scorpion on the bedroom wall a few years ago, the lizard in my office a few months ago, or even a caterpillar in our master bedroom more recently... or maybe I can. It must be the grandkids! Those little girls are having fun with the bugs that their grandpa showed them.

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# East County Fire Protection District News

**Donations to the East County Fire Protection District.** – We are happy to report that the Friends of Crest raised \$116,000 to help the Crest Fire Station pay its bills for June-September (payroll only). If it takes a village to raise a child, it certainly takes one to keep a fire station going. Thanks for all of your support.

*A few names were inadvertently omitted from the last issue's list of donors to the Fire Station. The Friends of Crest wish to thank all of the people who donated to the Crest Fire Station Fund*

*Linda Chase, President  
Friends of Crest.*

**Rhodes, Brian  
Meredith, P  
Crissman, Richard**

**Devery, Jackie  
M.J. Ratzlass, Inc.**

---

## Arts & Crafts Group

The Arts and Crafts Group that used to meet in the Salvation Army trailer in Nancy Jane Park is starting up again. For information, contact Judy Becker at (619)820-4463. All are invited - old and new.

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## CCA Gift Items for Sale

The Crest Image Committee has some wonderful items for sale that would make great gifts for the upcoming holiday season or for use at home. Come to the CCA meeting to order and pick up the "Image" items needed. Proceeds from these sales support community activities.



|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Crest Mugs                  | \$10.00 |
| T-Shirts                    | \$10.00 |
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➤ For more information call 44-Crest or email us at [crestcca@yahoo.com](mailto:crestcca@yahoo.com)

# Our Backyard..

**By Christina Seebold**

In this issue of the Crest Sun, I'd like to address a couple of community concerns from the last newsletter. We also find ourselves at the four year anniversary of the Cedar fire. Many residents have built new homes, and fall is an optimal time for getting new plants for the landscape established, but we are also in the middle of a multi-year drought, and on the brink of new water shortages. Some residents are nervous about plantings around their homes, and the danger of fire. Other communities have similar concerns about clearing native plants from around and near their properties. The San Diego Native Plant Society has made information available from fire prevention research that points out the features of your home that are the biggest risks in a wildfire. Guess what? The plants surrounding your structure are not your biggest problem.

According to Kay Stewart, landscape architect, **Fire Lab specialists estimate 60-70% of the risk of a house igniting is due to two things: ember penetration through one of many poor building features, embers that travel up to a mile from a fire front; and windows with design features that fail in the minutes they are hit by superheated winds of a fire that may be hundreds of feet from a home.** Fix those things, and risk is reduced greatly. Risk is brought down another 20-30% more in the thirty to fifty feet out from the house, by keeping plants and trees free of dead stuff, and eliminating everything that could ignite including any fabric and flammable wood furniture, fences, or other structures. The remaining smallest amount of risk is reduced by pruning and thinning plants growing out to 100 feet from the structure. Unfortunately, this least amount of risk is what seems to get the most attention. Kay urges everyone to instead learn, and carry out, the most effective actions that could save lives and property. One source of this information is a training program developed at the San Diego Natural History Museum, which is available to groups on a fee basis.

One thing that amazes me, is the attention given to the design and construction of new

structures with fire sprinklers, and fire resistant materials, when the homeowner then proceeds to surround their beautiful new home with a perimeter of kindling. A wood fence would fall under that 20 – 30% risk factor of flammable materials surrounding your structure. Green fencing (plants) and or rock, metal, concrete, or stucco would make a much more fire resistant enclosure. It is interesting that the county will enforce fire sprinkler installation, and weed abatements, but allows homeowners to have dry wood fences, and piles of flammable materials on their properties. This practice not only endangers your home, but the homes of your neighbors as well.

**Being a good neighbor** is what makes this a good community. Living in a community where people have consideration for others is like having a wonderful extended family.

In the last issue there were concerns expressed about consistent dog barking and dangerous driving behaviors. Other residents echo these concerns, and I have personally experienced similar thoughtlessness. No one wants to have bad feelings about their neighbors. If you have done nothing but stew in your anger and frustration, little will be accomplished, and you are likely to have increasingly negative feelings. If you can talk to the person(s) involved, with a positive approach, you may hopefully enlighten someone, or even make a new friend. If that is not possible, perhaps you can get the phone number of the barking dog's owner, call during the time of day or night when the pet is especially noisy, and alert them to the problem. If you are being awakened in the night, call your neighbor, and ask them kindly to call their pet in. If a phone call is not possible, leave a kind, but firm note in their mailbox. Let them know the specific inconvenience and stress the noise is causing you and your family. People tend to be a bit self-centered. Sometimes we all need wake up calls. When people were driving fast and dangerously on our narrow, curvy access road, my daughter wrote a politely serious note regarding how much she valued the lives of her neighbors, and the members of her family, and

asked everyone to be more cautious in their driving. She placed a copy in everyone's mailbox, and they seemed to get the message. It feels good to take control of the situation and to try to solve your problems yourself. Otherwise, you simply feel like a victim, which is not a pleasant feeling. If all else fails, you can ask your government to take a step for you. Call the county of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use – Code Enforcement for the unincorporated area. This is the department to contact for noise problems, and illegal grading. Their number is (858) 694-3741. Be prepared, by having the address of the offending property owner. You will need to leave a message regarding your problem, and they will call you back within 24 business hours. I have had personal experience with this procedure, and it works. When they call you back, you must give them the nature of the problem, and the address of the offense. The office will send a warning letter to them and a copy to you. Your name will not be revealed to the offending party. The letter will state that the county has received notice of a noise disturbance arising from their property. It will ask the offender to take care of the problem immediately. This usually works. If there is a continued problem, the county asks that you confer with your neighbors, and ask them to call the county as well. Everyone concerned should then keep records of the date, time and duration of the disturbances, in case you need to further establish evidence of the violation. This step is usually not needed. The letter from the county is often enough to make most rational people take action.

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### **Crest Garden Club News:**

The first official (post Cedar fire) Crest garden club meeting was held at the home of Sylvia Cavins, on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Sylvia lost her house in the fire, and has since rebuilt a fabulous, whimsical, southwest influenced home on her view property off of Mountain View. As I drove up to park my car, I was greeted by a roadrunner crossing the drive. Beautiful cactus and well established drought tolerant plants lined the path. The steps, paved with terra cotta and Mexican hand painted tiles, led the way to a beautiful home with a comfortable porch, surrounded by a curving terracotta colored stucco walled courtyard and a waterfall set into a natural boulder outcropping. Since the fire, Sylvia has made it her mission to scour the swap meets here, and in Santa Fe for the folk art collectibles, and antique furnishings

that make the inside of her home so warm and welcoming. We made plans for upcoming meetings while we nibbled on Sylvia's homemade treats. Arlene Palmer brought interesting plants to see, and other plants were made available for sharing. The next garden club meeting will be held at the home of Pat Ulm (1110 Old Mountain View Rd.) on **Monday, November 12, at 10 am.** If you have plants or cuttings to share, please bring them. The Christmas Meeting will be held at the Crest Clubhouse on December 10 at 10 a.m. It is to be a potluck and tree trimming event. The garden club will be purchasing a live tree for the clubhouse, and attendees are asked to bring homemade ornaments for decorating. The tree will be raffled, and the winner will be able to collect it after the holiday.

For Garden Club information please call....Arline Palmer 441-0187

### **Crest Critters:**

Resident, Stan Shelton has been kind enough to share his insight regarding the animals who share our Crest home. I live in south Crest on the east and south facing canyon edge. Since the fire, we have had a bobcat in our courtyard in broad daylight, the coyotes are frequently howling nearby, and most recently we have been having regular visits from a female mule deer. My friend, who lives south of me on the same canyon edge, had first seen a young deer last year, in the evening at the edge of her yard. A couple of weeks ago, my daughter heard a loud rustling under our oaks, so she grabbed a flashlight, and shined it on the trees. First she saw two huge eyes staring back at her. Shining it on the rest of the body, she realized that the animal was a doe. Quickly, she extinguished the light, so as not to disturb it any further. I inspected the area in the daylight, and found many acorns on the ground around the tree. A short distance from the trees was a scattering of deer droppings. I guess she comes to feed on the acorns. My husband reminded me, that often where there are deer, there are also mountain lions. I have heard that someone puts out hay for deer they have seen. This can kill a deer. Deer are browsers, not grazers. Please don't leave food out for them. Even the best intentioned human interference, can create unexpected, and often regretful consequences for wildlife.



# Letters to the Crest Sun

## Barking Dogs

In the last issue there was a letter concerning dogs barking and disturbing the peace. Well this really hits home for my family, we have had to deal with dog issue for years. If it is not the ever lasting loose aggressive dog, it is the constant barking twenty four hours a day. This may sound over exaggeration but believe me come stay at my house for the week and you will know the aggravation that we feel every day of our lives. I ask, is it okay for your neighbor's dogs to bark at all hours for no reason with the neighbors at home, just because they get no attention, and no one but I scold them to be quiet. Or is it okay for people to let there dogs run free to terrorize the neighborhood as they wish. I don't think so. If you paid attention to and controlled the creatures that you bring home to live in your house, our community would be a lot better place to live. But if you continue with the non-stop negligence of animals, then don't be upset when animal control is called to control the situation. It would be nice if everyone would take care of their own and then others wouldn't have to complain.

Thank You,  
Janice Christensen

***The Crest Community Association and the Crest Fire Safe Council would like to thank all that provided food and drinks to the fire fighters and volunteers that staffed the Center during the recent fires. Thanks also for those that donated to help support the Emergency One Call System. You are great!!!***



## Check Your Property Tax Bills

Check as far back as your records go (my over-charges started in '04 and continue through our current bill).

It has been made painfully clear that our tax assessor is less than honest. Starting in 2004 I've received numerous unethical/illegal charges on my tax bills including two violations of prop 13 - which limits the annual increase to 2% per year. (In 2004 it increased 29.8%, and in 2006 3.54% - both of which eventually got corrected.)

Also charges for non-existent things - for example: being taxed on an additional \$70,000 for completed construction of my home - even though it isn't complete. And being taxed on thousands of dollars worth of non-existent air conditioning - which the assessor has first-hand knowledge of not existing.

I also have documentation of the assessor lying under oath at my hearing.

Both a nearby neighbor and I have had our new construction assessed at levels far above market value (the whole point of assessment). The assessor has lied to me many times and used unethical techniques to attempt to cover her tracks.

Contact me if you find anything that looks suspicious. I'm not a tax expert, but have learned more than I previously wanted to know. I am looking into filing a class-action lawsuit. Don't be intimidated by the Assessor's office - they have to follow the California Constitution.

Brian Cobb  
275 Highline Trail  
619-579-1355  
briancobb@hotmail.com

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Hello Neighbors!

As Real Estate changes there are things you need to be aware of so you don't end up in a bad situation.

- CHECK YOUR CURRENT LOAN RATE/TERM AND PROGRAM
- IF YOU HAVE A VARIABLE RATE LOAN YOU NEED TO REFINANCE BEFORE PRICES GO DOWN MORE AND LEAVES YOU IN A BAD SITUATION.
- RATES ARE STILL AT AN ALL TIME LOW
- DON'T FORCLOSE, TRY TO DO A SHORT SALE BEFORE GIVING UP, YOU MIGHT HAVE OTHER OPTIONS
- KEEP YOUR HOUSE IN GOOD CONDITION, TIME AND WEATHER CAN DEPRECIATE A HOUSE'S VALUE VERY QUICKLY
- FREE CONSULTATION AND EVALUATION
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Born from the ashes of the Cedar Fire, Crest Kiwanis formed so that it could be of service to our community. Many of our members lost their homes and Kiwanis offered mutual support and focus for rebuilding our community. During the last 4 years we have reached out to our neighbors and schools fulfilling the Kiwanis motto: Changing the World One Child and One Community at a Time. Four years later we have honed down and geared up with a solid and reliable group of Kiwanis friends.

One of our goals is to encourage our youth to develop leadership skills and be of service to the community. We currently sponsor two "Kiwanis Builder's Clubs", Los Coches Creek Middle School and Greenfield Middle School. They are a great group of kids and we enjoy working with them.

A few of our Kiwanis events, Partners and Service Projects:

- 🚩 Boy Scouts, " Soap Box Derby"
- 🚩 Crest School: PTA
- 🚩 Children's Hospital Radiothon
- 🚩 Crestridge Ecological Reserve
- 🚩 Crest Community Association
- 🚩 Crest Community Church Car Wash
- 🚩 Crest Fire Safe Council
- 🚩 Clearing Brush at South Ln Pk.
- 🚩 Collect aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- 🚩 E-Crest-Trains: horse show cook out
- 🚩 Friends of Crest: Pancake Breakfast for Fire Station Fund
- 🚩 Friendship Connection: singing for the elderly
- 🚩 Greenfield Cultural Fair
- 🚩 Girl Scout " Mini Horse Show" for disabled children
- 🚩 July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and celebration: float and food
- 🚩 Kiwanis Mock Court of the US Constitution for San Diego County Schools
- 🚩 Los Coches International Festival
- 🚩 Meals on Wheels
- 🚩 Miracle Mile of Quarters for Children's Hospital
- 🚩 Partners Equine Children's Program
- 🚩 " Wildlife Rescue" and demonstrations: Graham Smith
- 🚩 Weighorst Museum, volunteers, and Western Days Celebration
- 🚩 "Sports Night" Los Coches Creek
- 🚩 Special Olympics
- 🚩 St. Louise Catholic Church: Toys to Tots in Mexico

New officers for 2007/2008 are Don Halte, President, Aaron Valdez, Vice President, Linda Chase, Secretary and Barbara Halte, treasurer. **Please contact us if you are interested in joining our team. 619-444-4503**



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# Crest Happenings

## *Crest Community Church- Operation Christmas Child*



Merry Christmas!!! OK so it's really, really, really early for that... Too early!!! But it's not too early to be thinking about **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**. In fact we have got to get busy! OCC is one of the projects of Samaritans Purse (SP), an international, nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Franklin Graham (Billy Graham's son) has been President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse since 1979 and they are active in over 80 different countries. OCC brings hope to impoverished children all around the world at Christmas time and in some cases, besides the clothes on their backs, the "shoe box" and the items inside, become their only possessions. Operation Christmas Child is an easy opportunity for us, the people of Crest, to get involved with a "hands on" outreach to needy children all around the world.

Here's what it takes: 1) Find a shoe box, (the plastic ones are best because they can handle the weather and they lasts longer for the child – great ones at the 99¢ Store) 2)decide if you want to help a girl or boy and the age in group of either 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. 3) Make a check out to Samaritan's Purse for \$7 to help with shipping costs for each shoe box. 4) Take a trip to the 99¢ store/Wal-Mart etc. to fill the box with neat stuff such as small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, t-shirts, ball caps, hard candies. (more ideas and details on the website.) 5). **Drop off your shoe box(es) to the Crest Community Church before November 11<sup>th</sup>**. This can be a really fun adventure for your family and it will brighten the day/year for a needy child. Samaritans Purse is a qualified 501 (c) (3) and all the financial disclosures are on their website:

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/>.

We, at Crest Community Church, hope you will participate with us and get that warm fuzzy feeling when we give a child hope. For all the details, you can call us at (619) 442-3736. Our office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to noon (Crest time). And of course you can get more details from the Samaritans Purse website.

Thank you, from all us here at Crest Community Church and Merry Christmas!!! (in advance, way far, too soon, in advance)

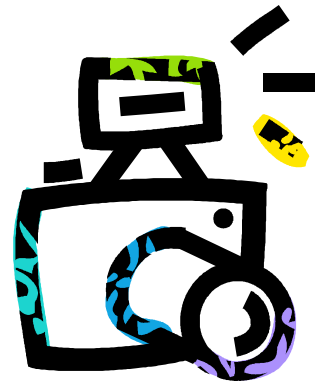
Pastor Dave

**Why make this a community event? Besides it being a great cause, Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, was one of the first (if not the first) to respond to our community crisis during the 2003 Cedar fires. They had a trailer in Crest for three months and assisted the community through our three local churches. Now it's our opportunity to give back.**

# Using Digital Photography to Document Your Home

Submitted by Linda Hjelle

Crest residents know all too well the potential of losing valuables to fire. Items should be inventoried for insurance purposes in the event of theft or fire. However, finding the time to do so is not always easy. Using your digital camera is an excellent option to solve this problem.



A digital camera helps you document your valuables quickly and easily. Hundreds of pictures can be saved onto a CD, DVD, or photo media card that can be stored in a safe location. You don't need a computer to accomplish this task. Just use the services of your local digital developing center such as Costco, Wal-Mart, Longs, etc and have a CD made for under \$3. The CD then can be stored in a secure location off-site, such as a bank safety-deposit box.

How to?

- First, take overall photos of each room. A good way to document a room is to build a series of overlapping digital photos. Simply stand in one place and rotate around the room snapping pictures that overlap by 15 percent. This will give you a detailed view of items in each room. Don't forget your closets, storage cabinets, garage and outdoor patio areas.
- Go through your home, and make a list of items that are of greatest financial and sentimental value to you. Take individual pictures of these important items. Take pictures from multiple angles. Take pictures of any identifying marks like serial numbers, watermarks, or specific detail on a piece. This can be done by using the camera's zoom or by putting your camera in macro mode (usually this mode is indicated by a flower icon) which allows you to take pictures at distances of less than two feet. On items where the serial number is not easy to photograph, write the number on a card and place it next to the item when taking the photo.
- While many cameras have a video mode, video files are typically much bigger than regular image files, so you may be limited by the capacity of your camera's memory card. It is also more difficult to locate individual images from a video.
- Once you have taken these photos, you are ready to take your memory card to your nearest digital photo developer and have a CD (or two) made. If you are computer savvy, you can burn your own CD.
- If you want a more detailed inventory, you can take this project to the next step and go to [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org) and download free home inventory software that will allow you to sort items by rooms and add value and descriptions to each of your pictures before burning a CD.

Kids...One more thought! Short on cash and looking for the perfect Holiday gift? For just a few dollars and a couple hours of your time, give your non-techie parents, friends, or family the gift of security and peace of mind.



## Happy Holidays Mom and Dad

*This is a gift certificate for peace of mind. I will take pictures of your belongings and make a CD so you will have a record for your files.*

*Love you,*