

Forest Glade Estates Newsletter

May 2014 - www.forestgladeestates.org



FGE Annual Meeting (and Party)

The FGE Annual Meeting (and summer party) will be on the 7th of June, from 4 to 7 pm in Jean Shuler's driveway (1804 Old Tower Road).

The nominal reason for the Annual Meeting is to elect five new FGE Directors. However, we always use this time of year to have a party with complimentary food, drinks, music, and an invited speaker. So put this important event on your calendar.

This year we are fortunate to have Shari Wentz, a Master Gardener who specializes in "responsible gardening" as our speaker. See a short article by Shari at <http://acmg.ucanr.edu/files/152695.pdf>.



FGE Annual Meeting 2013

FGE Directors Election Process

The current FGE Directors have named a *Nominations Committee* consisting of a Board member and two homeowners to identify residents who are interested in an opportunity to sit on the FGE Board of Directors.

The existing Board Members and two new candidates will be listed on the election ballot. The candidates for FY2014-2015 include:

Tim Barry
George Farquar
Jim Mackanic
Wayne Miller
Jean Shuler

Enda Sterne
Irving Stowers
Paul Thompson
James Wang

FY '14-'15 Budget and Homeowner's Dues

Our Treasurer James Wang has reported that the FGE Budget for next year will be similar to this year and the homeowner's dues will NOT need to be changed for this coming year.

The exact budget will be discussed and voted upon at the next Board of Director's meeting and then a copy will be distributed to homeowner's along with the Election Ballot.

Low Water Consumption Plants

Our resident gardener (Len Abert) has suggested the following colorful annual plants that require less water (but still must be watered):

Profusion Zinia; Annual Vinca; Portulaca; Verbena (garden type); Coreopsis; and Dianthus.

The spent flowers need to be removed (deadheaded) to keep the plants blooming.



Profusion Zinia

Possible Tree Removal

A Cedar tree in the large island on Old Towers Road is not doing well. The Board has decided to have the dead branches pruned, add fertilizer and water suf-

ficiently for several months to determine if the tree can be saved before moving forward with any decision on its possible removal.

Livermore Water Use Restrictions

Due to continuing drought conditions and water supply shortages, the City Council adopted an emergency drought ordinance on May 12, 2014. This includes both Livermore Municipal Water or California Water Service Company customers.

The City calls for all water customers to **cut outdoor water use in half** while continuing to minimize indoor water use.

Properties with **odd street address numbers** are allowed to water no more than **twice a week** on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays; **even street addresses** are allowed to water no more than **twice a week** on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturday. No watering is allowed on Sundays.

Trees in our Neighborhood Livermore's Policy on Trees

As we all know - one of the attractions of this neighborhood are our beautiful trees. There are many large trees with a remarkable diversity. These large trees do require a certain amount of care and maintenance and in the last year there have been two Eucalyptus trees removed.

The Board has contacted the city to determine their policy on ancestral trees and we want to share some information with you. Also we would like to encourage homeowners to continue to plant new trees to preserve this distinctive feature of our neighborhood.

For information on the city's policy on trees go to: <http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/pw/maint/landscape.asp>

The city has put all trees into two categories: **California Native** and **Non-California Native**. On the city website you can get a short list of native trees with almost half being various Oak and California Sycamore. As you may have suspected, our Palm and Eucalyptus trees are not on the list of California Native trees.

Removal Restrictions: A tree is considered **Protected** and **cannot** be removed without a City permit if it meets the following criteria:

California Native trees with a circumference of 24" (or 7.6" diameter) when measured 5 ft above the ground.

Non-California Native trees with a circumference of 60" (or 19" diameter) when measured 5 ft above the

ground.

The city will evaluate the specific situation concerning a tree to decide to issue the permit or not and under what conditions. The policy states that if the tree is being removed because the City has determined that it poses a hazard or is unhealthy then it does not have to be replaced.

However, if the tree does not pose a hazard or is not unhealthy, then the City will require "mitigation" by the homeowner, which usually requires the planting of new trees on the property with a minimum 15 gallon size.

Garden Work Party



Garden Work Parties are planned for the second Saturday of each month at 8:30 am. Volunteers should meet at the tennis court. The next work parties are planned for June 14 & July 12.



Stu Gary (Vice City Mayor) speaking to FGE Annual Meeting in 2013



Portulaca