

MHC Quarterly Newsletter

Issue Q4 - 2020



A Community Group of the Mount Hermon Residents

Welcome neighbor!

Mount Hermon Community (MHC), is an independent organization for the purpose of friendship, communication, and safety/security serving the nearly 450 homes on the grounds. If you are a resident of Mount Hermon, you are a part of this group.

The Mount Hermon Association (MHA), owns and manages the grounds, whom we pay the quarterly fees to for Roads, Trails, and Bridges (RTB) and Water.

For more information about MHC, email mail@mounthermoncommunity.com. For MHA information, see the last page of this newsletter.

Letter from Mount Hermon Association

Here's a letter from Mount Hermon Association that just came out last week to residents.

Mount Hermon - A Unique and Special Community

The Past

- In 1906 a group of laymen and ministers from the Bay Area purchased these 400 acres in order to establish a Bible Conference Center on the West Coast. The beauty of the area, abundant water supply, and access to the railway attracted them to this location.
- Within the first year, the Mount Hermon Association agreed to subdivide one half of the property into 1,100 building lots, varying in size and price, ranging from \$35 to \$450.
- After a calamitous fire in 1921, which destroyed the Zayante Inn, the tent cabins used by guests became MH's Redwood Camp where thousands of elementary and junior high age children have come each summer for a week and on weekends throughout the year.
- Ponderosa Lodge, a facility designed with teenagers in mind, was built in 1969 in order to provide them with a fun-filled week and introduce them to the message of God's love for each one of them.
- New buildings and facilities have been built throughout the years thanks to the generosity of loyal donors and friends.

The Present

- Since early March, the Conference Center and Camps have been almost eerily quiet, without guests in the hotel units, eating in the dining room, or meeting together, due to the health restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As we all recover from the threat of the CZU fire, we are very grateful to everyone who has worked hard to increase the amount of defensible space around their homes. The Mount Hermon Association continues to intentionally accomplish these same goals.

The Future

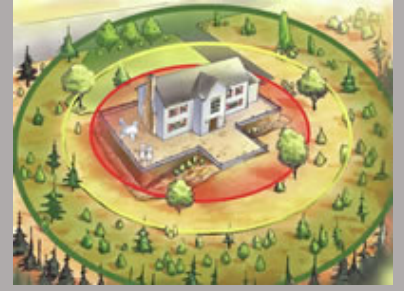
- We look forward to once again hosting overnight guests at the Conference Center, Redwood Camp, and Ponderosa Lodge as soon as the mandates from the County and State will allow us to safely do so. Certainly, we are praying that this will happen early in the new year, but at this time, the timing and subsequent planning remains an unknown to everyone.
- Thank you for all that you do and will continue to do, as residents in the Mount Hermon Park, to welcome these guests and to enjoy the beauty, safety, and pleasures that we share together. May you also find peace, community, and renewal as you make your home here.

Erosion Control

What Property Owners Should Consider If They Have Soil Erosion or Slope Instability Concerns on Their Properties

By Rich Cassale

Rich Casale is a natural resource specialist and a Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist. He has assisted many communities and hundreds of property owners throughout California with post-fire and post storm restoration needs and information throughout his 45-year career and post career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



- ⇒ **Get help from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or other professionals** that are certified, registered and/or licensed before treating a soil erosion or slide area, including any planned slope disturbances, and/or selecting and installing treatment measures.
- ⇒ **Respect the laws of nature.** Land restoration can be quicker with longer term benefits when you design with nature. Remember, when you control water (runoff) you control nature which can have disastrous consequences.
- ⇒ **One size does not fit all.** Every property has unique features and circumstances requiring a site specific evaluation and corresponding treatment. One more reason not to do what your neighbor is doing, besides they might not know what they are doing.
- ⇒ **Minimize soil/slope disturbances.** Disturbances such as vegetation clearance, grading, terracing or installing landscape drainage ditches/drains can have a detrimental effect on potentially unstable slopes especially if the disturbance is done during the rainy season and if not done according to a plan prepared with professional assistance.
- ⇒ **Look beyond your property lines and work with your neighbor.** Runoff, erosion & debris flows have no respect for property boundaries.
- ⇒ **Prevent roads from going to ruin.** Private roads and long driveways require constant maintenance. Many road drainage facilities may need to be replaced, re-located, and/or re-sized depending on whether or not they contribute to surrounding slope issues or concerns. Proper drainage controls are critical.
- ⇒ **Emergency/temporary measures typically have a high risk of failure.** They can cause more serious problems if and when they fail and often provide a false sense of security especially plastic sheeting which should almost never be applied to a failed slope.
- ⇒ **Remember the M & Ms.** All existing and any planned treatment measures require regular and perhaps constant Monitoring & Maintenance especially during the winter.
- ⇒ **Say “No” to Yes.** Sometimes doing nothing or doing less is best. Give nature a chance.
- ⇒ **There is NO silver bullet.** Have an emergency plan to get out of your home and leave your property when it's not safe. Have 2+ exits, even by foot.

Nine Inexpensive Ways You Can Prevent Erosion

BY JOSH PETERSON, PLANET GREEN | HOWSTUFFWORKS.COM

1. Use a rain barrel or other form of water catchment system. Divert water to the garden or store it.
2. Plant trees and shrubs especially near slopes. These plants can reduce runoff by 50%.
3. Grow plants on slopes. Grass does not stop erosion on slopes.
4. Plant a rain garden to soak up excess moisture and stop runoff.
5. Use mulch whenever possible.
6. Empty spots in your yard or garden are bad news. Cover them with mulch and get something growing there ASAP.
7. Build terraces or a retaining wall. Any mid-yard structure will do a good job of stopping water and soil from leaving your yard.
8. Plant native plants with absorbent root structures.

Resources:

Please find more helpful resources with links below containing further information.

Ready – Landslides and Debris Flow

<https://www.ready.gov/landslides-debris-flow>

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County – Home Drainage Guide

<http://www.rcdsantacruz.org/images/brochures/pdf/HomeDrainageGuide.v25.pdf>

Central Coast Greywater Alliance

<https://centralcoastgreywater.org/>

California Native Plant Society (Santa Cruz Chapter)

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

Neighborhood News and Reminders:

- ❖ **Calfire News Release** CAL FIRE CZU's Emergency Command Center is proud to provide a Text to 9-1-1 option for San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties. The texting service is for emergencies when people cannot safely call 9-1-1, and for those with hearing and/or speech impairment. Go to this link for more information.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/13ae4c7f701/fab11440-e0bb-4979-b14d-e55660a31d82.pdf>

- ❖ **Smoke Hazards and Wood-Burning Stove Replacement** Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) is excited to offer the residents of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties an opportunity to participate in the 2020 Wood Stove Change Out Program (WSCOP). Smoke from woodstoves and fireplaces contain many different harmful air pollutants, including particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds, which can be emitted at unhealthy levels both inside and outside of our homes. In an effort to reduce these pollutants from wood burning smoke, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) in conjunction with California Climate Investments (CCI) are providing incentives for homeowners who replace their wood burning heating devices with a cleaner burning alternative. The WSCOP is part of a state Wood Smoke Reduction Program, with funding provided by the California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts Cap-and-Trade dollars to work. Please, be sensitive to your neighbors since the air quality is not limited to only your property...It affects everyone around you. Go to the link below for all the information.

<https://www.mbard.org/wood-stove-change-out-program>

- ❖ **Firewise Community** Anyone interested helping get this initiative started and organized please contact Adam Hensleigh on Nextdoor. The more participation the better so our community can increase fire safety and defensible space around your homes. To learn more about Firewise Communities please visit the following page:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Become-a-Firewise-USA-site>

- ❖ **Speeding** Use caution and reduce your speed while driving within Mount Hermon. Due to the current shelter in place orders, many residents are now walking on our beautiful community streets. Please obey the rules of the road and significantly reduce your speed.

- ❖ **Nextdoor.com** Please consider joining Nextdoor.com. This social media platform not only provides updates from Mount Hermon Association but from all of our local agencies as well. It's a resourceful tool to have in order to connect and communicate with your neighbors and surrounding communities. MHC and MHA use this platform frequently for updates to our community including but not limited to events, road closures or maintenance, water maintenance and updates and accessibility of Mount Hermon amenities.

- ❖ **Get Involved** Consider becoming an Area Representative or Officer for Mount Hermon Community. MHC Officer elections will be held in April, 2021. Please contact Reggie at MHC for information regarding Area Representatives or nominations for Officers.



Useful Contacts >>>

MHC Contacts:

President: Reggie Coates
Vice President: Ron Taylor
Secretary: Maria Demarest
Treasurer: Cheri Andrews

Contact: mail@mounthermoncommunity.com

MHA Contacts:

Road and Water Questions:

Dale Pollock
(831) 430-1204 dale.pollock@mounthermon.org

Property/parcel Questions:

Bryan Hayes
(831) 430-1205 bryan.hayes@mounthermon.org

Homeowner Billing Questions:

Accounting Office
(831) 430-1222 water.dept@mounthermon.org

MHC Area Representatives

AREA	REP	STREETS
1	Reggie & Sherri Coates:	Prospect, Mound, Lakeside, Lake Lane, Azalea, Manzanita Springs, Park Way, Conference Drive (West of Post Office)
2	Ron Taylor:	E. Zayante Road, Highland, Redwood Circle, Woodmill Lane
3	Cheri Andrews:	Buckeye, Manzanita, upper Pine Avenue, Madrone, Ridgeway, Pine Lane
4	Aubrie & Adam Hensleigh:	Grandview and Terrace Way, Summit, Forest, Plaza, Graham Hill Road
5	Kimberly Miller:	Woodwardia, Liliac, Acacia, Canyon, Bucklein Way
6	Diana Bond:	Glen Alpine, Conference Drive (East of Post Office)
7	Maria Demarest:	Lower Pine Avenue
8	Kerry Phibbs:	Mount Hermon Association Staff Residents