

# Meadow Oaks Leaflet

SUMMER/FALL 2020



## Your Board

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## Next Meeting

October 26, 2020  
4:15 p.m.

## Our Website

[meadowoakshoa.homestead.com](http://meadowoakshoa.homestead.com)



**NEXT PYMT DUE DATE OF  
HOA FEES:  
October 1, 2020**

### NEW WEBSITE

Many of you may not realize...Meadow Oaks now has a website at <http://meadowoakshoa.homestead.com/>. You can pay your HOA fees there as well as submit applications for improvements, look up governing documents and check out old Meadow Oaks Newsletters. Be sure to check it out.

### SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

As the home owner, you're responsible for maintaining your septic system. Some people don't realize that you need to periodically inspect your system and pump out your septic tank on a regular schedule (normally every 3 – 5 years) for it to work properly. A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield (aka leach line), and the soil. Microbes in the soil digest or remove most contaminants from wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater.

The septic tank is a buried, watertight container typically made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. It holds the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out (forming sludge) and oil and grease to float to the surface (as scum). It also allows partial decomposition of the solid materials. Compartments and a T-shaped outlet in the septic tank prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area. Newer tanks generally have risers with lids at the ground surface to allow easy location, inspection, and pumping of the tank.

The wastewater exits the septic tank and is discharged into the drainfield for further treatment by the soil. The partially treated wastewater is pushed along into the drainfield for further treatment every time new wastewater enters the tank. If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in plumbing fixtures and prevent treatment of all wastewater.

To prevent buildup, sludge and floating scum need to be removed through periodic pumping of the septic tank. Regular inspections and pumping are the best and cheapest way to keep your septic system in good working order. Four major factors influence the frequency of pumping: the number of people in your household, the amount of wastewater generated (based on the number of people in the household and the amount of water used), the volume of solids in the wastewater (for example, using a garbage disposal increases the amount of solids), and septic tank size.

Some makers of septic tank additives claim that their products break down the sludge in septic tanks so the tanks never need to be pumped. Not everyone agrees on the effectiveness of additives. In fact, septic tanks already contain the microbes they need for effective treatment. Periodic pumping is a much better way to ensure that septic systems work properly and provide many years of service. Your drainfield is also an important part of your septic system.

Here are a few things you should do to maintain it: Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the drainfield. Don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system. Doing so can compact the soil in your drainfield or damage the pipes, tank, or other septic system components. Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the drainfield. Flooding the drainfield with excessive water slows down or stops treatment processes and can cause plumbing fixtures to back up.

Water conservation is another way to help maintain your system...but that is an article for another day. I made a few calls to some local septic pumping companies. One company called me back immediately, Juan from Honey Doo Wagon Pumping Service. He stated that he does service the plateau area. He recommends having your tank pumped every 2 – 3 years, depending on the size of your tank and the number of people in your home. He has found that the average size tank runs 1,200 – 1,500 gallons in size. Some of these larger homes in our area can range from 2,000 – 3,000 gallons. He charges \$350 to pump a \$1500 tank. Fees for the larger tanks run \$450 - \$550. These prices assume you know where your tank is located and have easy access to it. If he can service two or three average size tanks on the same trip, he will discount each home owner \$50. I asked him if he had any recommendations for us septic tank owners and his strongest suggestion was to NEVER flush baby wipes! Advice we should take seriously. If your tank hasn't been serviced in a while, perhaps you should consider giving Juan or another one of our local pumping companies a call. Honey Doo Wagon Pumping can be reached at 951-235-1605. Let him know you heard about him in the Meadow Oaks Newsletter.



## EDITOR'S NOTES



I hope our residents find some of our newsletter articles helpful. I am always open to suggestions for future tips & tricks. Please feel free to email me any suggestions you may have. And if there is any topic you would like researched....just let me know.

To say the least, 2020 has been an interesting year. And the challenges have been unique. It is times like these that really force you to sit back and examine what is really important and how fortunate we are to live in this little paradise we call Meadow Oaks.

I love the feel of our community. It's so nice to meet up with the hikers, dog walkers and horseback riders. We have a great group of residents and I get the sense that most of us would like to continue to develop our community unity. With Covid knocking on our doors, it may not be possible to hold a holiday get together this year...but I would love to also hear other ideas you may have to see us work and play together in the, hopefully, near future. Everyone please take care!

*Suzan*

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## Important Numbers

Ralston Management (951) 296-9030

Gary Grieve (Gate House) (951) 698-1536

Lake Elsinore Sheriff (951) 245-3300

Local Bear Creek Fire Station (951) 698-8338

Edison (800) 655-4555

Rancho CA Water (951) 296-6900

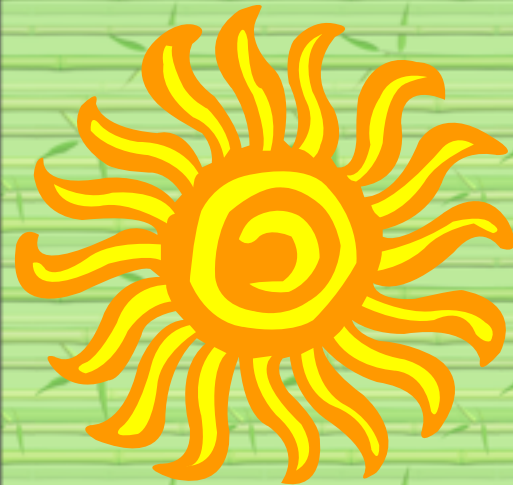
Frontier (800) 921-8101

CRR Waste Mgmt. (800) 826-9677

KC Propane (951) 757-6756

24 Hr. Small Animal Emergency  
(951) 600-9803

Honey Doo Wagon Septic Pumping  
(951) 235-1605



Will pick up rattlesnakes (alive)  
Dave Zeldi 951-972-2039  
and Kate Edwards 413-446-3108

Wildlife Removal Services  
Remove bats, squirrels, birds in  
vents, skunks, etc.  
(951) 793-4454

Nearest Hospital with Emergency  
Inland Valley Medical Center  
(951) 677-1111  
36485 Inland Valley Drive  
Wildomar

Poison Control  
(800) 222-1222