

CMR-RCA Newsletter

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CMR Upgrades to a "Weather-Based" Irrigation System for Conservation

In an effort to save water and money, the Board recently approved converting the existing irrigation control system to a "weather-based" system. This conversion, which has just been completed, included replacing the existing controllers as well as installing the Rainbird ET Manager.



The 'Smart' or weather-based irrigation controller is an effective technology for reducing water usage outdoors. Unlike a standard automatic timer that turns on the sprinklers at set intervals, a 'Smart Controller' uses weather-based data and site information such as plant type and sprinkler output to adjust watering times and frequency.

The Board unanimously approved participating in this program for the following reasons:

1. Fiscal Responsibility—CMR-RCA was awarded a grant of nearly \$18,500 for installation of 37 controllers and 738 stations. Additionally, while water rates increase, the Smart Controllers are expected to save on the Association's monthly water bills.
2. Environmental Responsibility—As Southern California faces the prospect of drought conditions and water rationing, we are doing our part to responsibly conserve this precious resource.
3. Regulatory Compliance—AB1881, passed by the State Legislator in September 2006, will require weather-based controllers by 2012.

INCREASED RODENT ACTIVITY



Spring is coming, which brings lots of warm weather and outside activities, however it also brings increased rodent activity due to the breeding season. The pest management vendor for CMR RCA has stated that they are expecting large litters of rodents this year, which of course, means more activity in the foliage.

Please remember not to leave any food or water outside. If you feed your pets outside, remember to put away their dishes afterwards. This will help to keep the rodents out of your yard.

TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

- Although your lawns must be watered to keep them from drying out, please do so at the minimum. Experts suggest 2 minutes per cycle 2 days a week is sufficient for a lush, green lawn in San Diego.
- Make sure your toilets are working efficiently. The average American home loses 14 percent of all water due to leaks.
- When washing vegetables, use a dishpan or bowl of water instead of letting the tap run. You can then pour this water over your house plants.
- Simple adjustments in household routines can conserve thousands of gallons of water each year.

Trespassing on the Golf Course

The Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club is concerned about the rising number of trespassers on their property. It appears that trespassers are primarily residents in the Carmel Mountain community. Residents are most often seen taking walks on cart paths. There are several issues that arise from this sort of trespassing. First, it is not safe for people to be walking on the golf course, as there are golfers hitting balls in excess of 150mph. Secondly, due to the risk of possible injury to these trespassers, golfers are forced to wait until the trespassers are gone until they can take their turns. This, in turn, causes golfers to grow impatient and unsatisfied. The additional time spent waiting also slows the golfers rate of play, causing the golf course to lose business as less people are able to play the course. Finally, if a trespasser is injured on the Country Club's property, legal action may be taken against the Club by the injured party. The Country Club does not want to assume these risks.



Next, residents frequently walk their dogs on the course. This action assumes the same consequences as the previous examples. Unfortunately, there are also owners who unleash their dogs on the course, causing damage to many areas that are costly to repair (especially the greens).

There are also MANY children and youth who illegally come to play in the golf course sand bunkers, ride their bicycles, and play sports. A tremendous strain is brought on the County Club financially as these sorts of activities tend to cause a great amount of physical damage to their course and, in turn, create a huge eyesore for customers who pay for pristine views and conditions.

Please be cognizant of the negative impact of trespassing on the Country Club grounds. The CMR Community is lucky to have such a beautiful resource, but please be respectful of the fact that it is private property. Your cooperation is certainly appreciated.

Using Native Plants for Backyard Plantings

As much as 60% of residential water use goes to maintain outdoor landscaping, but there are easy ways to conserve water by using native and drought-resistant plants in your landscape. Contrary to the belief of some, not all native and drought-resistant plants are unattractive shrubs! In fact, many colorful options can be found.

So, as you plan out your Spring and Summer gardens, THINK NATIVE! For more information on native and drought-resistant plants, visit your local nursery. For more information on helpful tips about landscaping water conservation, visit www.sdcwa.org.



Spring has arrived—longer days, increasing temperatures and lots more time for play! Please be mindful of the children when driving around Carmel Mountain Ranch.