



# Rossmoor

April 2016—Issue XL

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## INTRODUCING ROSSMOOR WILDLIFE WATCH!



*Wildlife Watch was successfully implemented in Irvine, CA as well as other communities to address concerns regarding wildlife*

### *Neighborhood Watch, meet Wildlife Watch!*

Rossmoor is not a city, but an unincorporated County area. As a special district with limited powers, the Rossmoor Community Services District does not have jurisdiction over wildlife management. To manage citizen concerns regarding the urban coyote population, the RCSD, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Orange County Animal Control, and Rossmoor Homeowners Association collaborated and agreed that a highly organized and well coordinated strategy was needed. That is how the idea for Rossmoor's Wildlife Watch was born.

Special guest Tim Whitacre, 2nd District Representative with Orange County Supervisor Steel's office, led the discussion surrounding coyote related public safety concerns at the [March 8, 2016 RCSD regular board meeting](#). The Department of Fish and Wildlife and Rossmoor Homeowners Association also reported to the board on the launch of the new Rossmoor Wildlife Watch program. To view the March 8, 2016 board meeting click [here](#).



*Tim Whitacre discusses the coyote issue at the Tuesday, March 8, 2016 board meeting*

Wildlife Watch is a comprehensive program developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which utilizes the cooperative efforts of RHA, OCAC, OCSD, existing neighborhood watch philosophy and community volunteers to accurately report and respond to coyote sightings and encounters. Several California cities, including Irvine, Seal Beach and Huntington Beach already have successful Wildlife Watch programs in place. A coyote management plan has been drafted for Rossmoor. Now volunteers are needed to implement the plan.

The first community training session will be scheduled sometime before summer. Professional training and conservation coaching will be provided. Volunteers are a vital part the success of Wildlife Watch. Ideal candidates are anyone interested in a safer community, those who are active outdoors, either jogging, dog walking, exercising, etc., those who are active on social media and students interested in a career working with animals (*especially wildlife*) also make good candidates. Stay tuned for more updates on Wildlife Watch. For those interested in volunteering, please sign up at <http://www.Rossmoor-RHA.org/ww>. It's up to everyone to get involved!

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### [BOARD MEETINGS](#)

2nd Tuesday of each month  
@7 p.m. in the Rush Park Auditorium. Aired on LATV3.



### **RCSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President Tony DeMarco
- 1st VP Michael Maynard
- 2nd VP Ron Casey
- Director Bill Kahlert
- Director Dave Burgess



**Staff:** General Manager J.D. Ruth—Admin Assistant E. Deering—Accountant K. Bell—General Clerk J. Verduzco—Park Superintendent O. Perez—Recreation Superintendent. C. Argueta—Maintenance/Rec. J. Zaldana—Tree Consultant M. Kingman



# EXECUTIVE MATTERS



James D. Ruth  
General Manager

It's time to spring ahead into the warm sunshine and take time to smell the clean fresh air and flowers in our lovely community. The spring season is synonymous with the renewal of life—in all forms—including coyotes, who give birth to between 4 to 7 pups in March and April. Be on the alert for sightings during the hours of dawn and dusk and take proper precautions. We encourage Rossmoor residents to join the Rossmoor Wildlife Watch team in order to help educate and empower the community to work with the designated wildlife professionals toward a functional and effective coyote management solution. Stay tuned for more information.

The Kempton Mini-Park Landscaping Demonstration Project was approved by the RCSD Board of Directors at its [March 8, 2016 meeting](#). The new landscape design will feature native and drought tolerant plants and other exciting elements. We look forward to enjoying the completed project by summertime. Speaking of summertime, our Movies, Concerts and Shakespeare in the Park will begin in June, July and August. See page 3 for details. Don't forget the Rossmoor Community Festival on Sunday, May 1st from 10 am to 4 pm. We hope to see you there enjoying the long and lazy summer days of local family fun.



## The Social Benefits of Trees

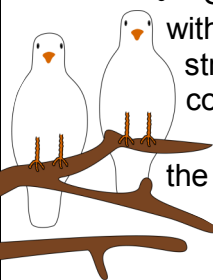
One question I get asked often is, 'Why do I have to have a tree in my parkway'? Many residents just don't want the responsibility of caring for and watering a tree. Or they're worried about the mess the leaves and flowers or maybe even seed pods will produce. Some are afraid of root damage and others think they are being environmentally smart - we are in the midst of a drought after all! While, these are all common and understandable concerns, the benefits of trees far outweigh any problems associated with them. While social and communal benefits of trees aren't always obvious, several studies have proven that trees can indeed provide significant, long-term advantages to a community. Here are just a few:

- People who live with a lot of trees around them feel less stressed.
- Recovery times are shorter for people in hospitals that see trees outside their windows.
- Property values increase and crime is greatly reduced in communities with a large tree canopy.
- Trees block noises, dust and other pollutants from nearby freeways.
- Children who play in a forested urban area, show quicker development of social and cognitive skills, improved academic performance and concentration and a reduction in symptoms of ADD and ADHD.
- Trees protect children from ultra-violet light and can reduce exposure by 50%.
- Studies have shown that people who live in urban areas with a more natural and greener environment develop a strong sense of pride, belonging and attachment to their community.

### Quarterly Quote:

"But Hopes are Shy birds,  
flying at a great distance,  
seldom reached by the  
best of Guns."

John James Audubon



If residents work together and do their part by caring for the parkway trees, the Urban Forest can continue to thrive and provide Rossmoor residents with continuous benefits that help make this community a wonderful place to live.



# KEMPTON MINI-PARK DEMO GARDEN PROJECT



Owen Pierce, with Troop 658, presented an overview of his Eagle Scout Project to the Board of Directors at the [March 8, 2016 regular meeting](#). Owen plans to transform the existing sandbox at Kempton Mini-Park, into a beautiful drought tolerant succulent demonstration garden with species identification markers on each plant. He will also be installing four concrete garden benches within the center of the sandbox. The design also consists of the creation of divided walkways of decomposed granite and bender board with groundcover in between each walkway. This is part of a larger Kempton Park landscaping renovation project headed by RHA President Mark Nitikman and resident Erwin Anisman. Owen will have a fundraising booth at this year's Rossmoor Community Festival on May 1st. You are welcome to stop by and learn more about this educational and worthwhile contribution to Rossmoor. The project has been scheduled to begin from Mid-June of 2016 to the end of August 2016.

## SUMMER FUN HAS ALMOST JUST BEGUN!



Sunday  
May 1  
10-4:00  
Rush Park

The first Sunday in May is not far away! Don't miss the [2016 Rossmoor Community Festival](#). This annual event has so much to offer for the entire family: Mouthwatering food, terrific music and entertainment, a variety of vendors, the classic car show, the spectacular dog show, rides and activities, and it all happens here in beautiful Rush Park in Rossmoor. Join us!



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! [Shakespeare by the Sea](#) presents Othello on Saturday, July 23rd and Cymbeline on Sunday, July 24th. Performances begin at 7 pm and are free to the public. The ultimate reality drama plays out right before your eyes under starlit night skies! (*Shakespeare says it better, we promise!*) Bring comfortable lawn chairs.



**Sat, Jul 23 at 7pm**  
An emotionally gripping thriller, where gossip turns friendships rancid, and rumor brutally murders innocence. Othello is as unflinching in its power as it is in its heartbreak.

**Sun, Jul 24 at 7pm**  
An action-adventure-fairy-tale-romance! Shakespeare tells an epic romantic tale filled with magical potions, dastardly villains, ghosts, gods and lost princes.



[Movies & Concerts in the Park are back](#)—or should we say—back-to-back this year which means two for one fun for everyone! The evening kicks off with a live concert beginning at 6 p.m. immediately followed by an outdoor movie beneath the stars. Popcorn, picnics, family, friends, music and cinema! Good times! Did we mention that it's all free?





## AN AMERICAN TREASURE—THE BLUEBIRD

Bluebirds are songbirds that are only native to North America. They are perching birds and secondary cavity nesters that benefit from people putting up birdhouses. In fact, nesting boxes are an increasing factor in the spread of the species. Bluebirds are closely related to Robins, which are also members of the Thrush family Turdidae. These beautiful blue, rust and white colored birds are often seen at Rush Park and thrive in the Rossmoor community due to the variety of mature trees. Audubon recently designated the Western Bluebird as Climate Threatened. Researchers believe that the bird can adapt to new areas, but it will be important for us to preserve forest and tree health to ensure that habitat is available.

## BE PREPARED—EMERGENCY PREP MEETINGS



We live in a world filled with uncertainty—Earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and terrorism. **Don't be caught off guard!**

Mark your calendars for the RHA's Emergency Preparedness Committee Meetings held every 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Rush Park in Rossmoor. **The next meeting takes place on Thursday, April 21st.** For more information please contact Rhonda Boggess at [rha@rossmoor-rha.org](mailto:rha@rossmoor-rha.org).

## BE INFORMED—WATCH RCSD BOARD MEETINGS

RCSD Board meetings are televised on LATV-3 and on our Vimeo Channel. Be sure to subscribe. Meetings are also available for viewing 24/7 on our website. For questions pertaining to board meetings, agendas and speaker requests contact the Administrative Assistant.

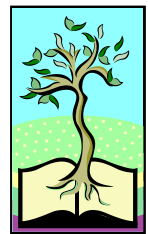


## SAVE A TREE

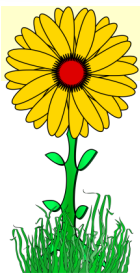
LITERALLY!

Sign up to receive your newsletter

ELECTRONICALLY



[rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org](mailto:rcsd@rossmoor-csd.org)



## KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

At its March 8, 2016 Board meeting, the Rossmoor Community Services District presented a Proclamation in Memoriam to Russ Lightcap's daughter Candace Carver. Ms. Carver thanked the RCSD Board and staff, remarking that her father had a passion and dedication for public service. Mr. Lightcap donated his time and energy to many Rossmoor civic projects. Russ Lightcap served the District and the community for many years as a volunteer consultant on major capital projects and acted in the capacity of the District's civil engineer on the design elements of the I-405/I-605/SR-22 Improvement Project. He also served as the volunteer District's Engineer on the reconstruction of the Montecito Center parking lot. Russ was a guiding force in the reconstruction of the Rossmoor Signature Wall and served with distinction for many years as an executive with Caltrans leading many highway transportation projects. Russ Lightcap was a true gentleman and will be truly missed.



Candace Carver accepts a Proclamation in Memoriam on behalf of her late father, Russ Lightcap



Instructor Fernando Molina

At  
Rossmoor  
Park

## SERVING UP THE BEST SUMMER TENNIS CAMP IN SO CAL!

**Youth Lessons: \$70**

Starts June 13th—Ages 7-14  
M/W/F—9-11am (2 hrs)

**Adult Group Lessons: \$70**

June 22nd—July 13th &  
July 20th to Aug 10th  
Wed—6-7:30 pm



Fernando is available year round for private lessons. He has been teaching at Rossmoor Park for 32 years. Contact him at 562-209-3648.