



HDE NEWS

4488 SE JERRY DRIVE, PRINEVILLE, OR 97754

www.hdehoa.com

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Within the next few months, our documentation work will be completed which will bring to a proper end the mode of “administrative growth” High Desert Estates has been in, and has had no choice about, since 2003. At that point, “New Beginnings”, I’ll call it, will launch the association into a sustaining mode with a minimum goal of maintaining what High Desert Estates is and has become.

From personal observations and conversations, as well as occasional feedback included with water bill payments, it’s clear that residents generally believe HDE is a nice place to live, providing a higher-than-most-places quality of life.

A reality too is that current board members will eventually move on. The challenge will be to recruit replacements to help sustain our current quality of life.

Toward that end, the board will promote and focus on developing a team of people who are willing to help, using the “at-large” board position(s) to do just that.

At-large board members are afforded equal consideration along with voting board members at board meetings and discussions. Clearly additional thoughts, ideas and opinions are meaningful and useful when discussing various topics and solving various problems which come before the board. Along the way, at-large members will gain insight and understanding as to the process of “running” the organization.

What is not common knowledge is the difficulty traditionally elected board members have getting “up to speed”. Voting board members elected from at-large positions would not only be more prepared to contribute immediate, knowledgeable input to decision making, but would also have been exposed to most of the other necessary board business. Without that, incumbent members are obligated to teach all things to new members.

Board meetings are open to all residents. Recent newsletters have encouraged folks to consider attending board meetings, and potentially becoming at-large members. The reality is that making fixed meeting times is difficult. Newsletters provide information to contact our secretary, Helen Willis, who is willing to make sure interested parties are made

aware of upcoming meeting dates and times. Generally speaking, it appears meetings starting at 5:00 or 5:15 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays, fit best with our current board and at-large members.

Since elections for voting board members happens at annual meetings, the board is also encouraging people interested in becoming part of the “management team” to let our secretary know prior to annual meeting time. We would like to know of any prospective board applicants by April 20th, one month prior to the annual meeting; the purpose being to be able to provide information to meeting attendees prior to meeting time. We are willing to accept nominations from the floor at the annual meeting, but the nominee will be asked to tell a little about themselves, including their background and experiences in order for the group to get to know them a bit.

The board believes too, that incumbent voting members in good standing who are willing to accept another term should be unopposed for that position. Other candidates would be accepted into at-large (non-voting) positions.

The future will bring different challenges than what the association has faced since 2003. The work of creating a solid and sustainable foundation will soon be complete. Perhaps the most difficult chore in view will be finding similarly motivated replacements for current team members. For instance, we have been blessed with people who handle our finances who are impeccably honest and trustworthy. People of equal stature certainly exist but have not yet surfaced as potential replacements.

Qualified replacements for other positions are being “groomed” as we speak, but more motivated people must come forward. Please consider having a “go” at helping out. The association will be as good, or bad, as future boards allow. To paraphrase our speed signs: “Only YOU can prevent disaster.”

Al Phillips, President

ANNUAL MEETING OF HDE HOMEOWNERS
WED. MAY 20, 7:00 PM
Meadowlakes Restaurant

Plants that repel pests

From Betsy Mullen for Heraldnet.com

It has been a really mild winter for us in the Great Northwest. It means that we have not had the freezing temperatures we usually get to kill off those pesky ticks and fleas. And have you heard the mosquito forecast for this year? They are saying we will not only be seeing more, but bigger, mosquitoes this summer (AAAAUUUUUGGH!) thanks to our milder temperatures and early (also fairly wet) spring.

Ever think about planting your garden with plants that can help deter fleas, ticks and other pests, naturally?

Below are six favorite plants to have in the yard to help repel fleas and ticks:

- **Sage:** Considered a natural flea repellent, sage can also be used for cooking. There are many varieties to choose from.
- **Mint:** All varieties will help repel fleas, so you can have fun with lots of different mints. Tip: keep different varieties away from each other so they do not cross-pollinate. Mints are very invasive. You can plant them in pots and then plant the pots in the ground or put them on your patio to keep them confined to one area. Plant mint with your tomatoes and cabbages to help get rid of white flies and aphids. You can also use a few mint leaves to flavor your water or you can chew on them to freshen your breath.
- **Lavender:** This plant is also a member of the mint family. It is generally regarded as safe for pets, smells wonderful, and for do-it-yourselfers can be used to scent soaps, make sachets, and flavor your food and water. Check the variety as not all varieties work well for all applications. Lavender is also deer-resistant.
- **Rosemary:** This evergreen herb bush grows well in our area. Besides being known for repelling fleas and ticks, this plant is also said to repel mosquitoes and flies. Another plus, you can use it to flavor your spaghetti sauce and other dishes!

- **Catnip:** (In a study at Iowa State University, researchers found that the essential oil in catnip, nepetalactone, is 10 times more effective than DEET, the chemical used in most insect repellents.) But be careful, you will have all of the cats in the neighborhood visiting your catnip patch!
- **Lemongrass:** Smells wonderful, and can be used to repel fleas and mosquitoes. Lemongrass is also used in some dishes to add a little lemon flavor.

Here are a few more:

- Lemon Thyme
- Lemon Balm
- Garlic
- Marigolds

Some of these are deer-resistant also, but not all of them. You can check online for a list of deer-resistant plants or ask at the OSU Extension office near the fairgrounds in Prineville.

NOTICE! WEBSITE

To access our website (for HDE residents only):

hdehoa.com

User name: **owner** Password: **172lots**

Don't forget HDE residents' breakfast.

First Wednesday of every month

Arrive 8:30 or 9:00am

Meadowlakes Restaurant

Order individually as you arrive.

WATERING SEASON IS COMING UP!

PLEASE REMEMBER WATER CONSERVATION!

**Odd number lots, water odd number
calendar days. Even lots, even days.**

Lot number, not address number!

Your lot # is on your water bill.

THANK YOU!

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board did not get another meeting scheduled in time to announce the date in this newsletter. We will post it on the website.