

# Emerald Hills Review

*Emerald Hills Homeowners Association Newsletter*

*October 21, 2009*



## Thanks for making the 2nd Annual Emerald Hills Community Picnic a success!

There were over 145 residents in attendance, and all who attended enjoyed an afternoon of sunshine, friends, music, games, and good food.

Like last year, the children of Emerald Hills enjoyed a great day at the park and we hope that word of this truly family-friendly event will continue to spread among our residents.

We are grateful to *all* of our volunteers and contributors (please see page 8) as everybody who participated was rewarded not only with the success of the event, but with the opportunity to meet new neighbors, make new friends, and (re)discover why Emerald Hills is one of the best communities in the Bay Area!

The EHHA Board would like to thank the Emerald Hills Lodge / Elks Lodge #1991 for allowing us to use their wonderful facilities for our second annual Emerald Hills Community Picnic. Thank you!



## The Role of the EHHA

Michael Mangini, EHHA President

Recently, the Association received an unsigned letter from a concerned resident regarding some construction that was underway in their neighborhood. In the letter, the author asked "with all the rules and regulations put in place by the association, how does a contractor get away with [a variety of alleged code violations]?"

This question raises another question that needs to be addressed:

### What is the role of the Association?

In past years, EHHA Boards lobbied County government to enact specific laws regarding zoning and building permit regulations. Some of these "rules and regulations" became a lightning rod of concern for area residents who believed that the EHHA had strayed from its original mission of community service.

The current Board, however, operates under the following mission statement: *"The mission of the Emerald Hills Homeowners Association is to develop a sense of community by sponsoring events of common interest and providing a collective voice for communication among Emerald Hills residents with government and other organizations."*

### What the EHHA CANNOT Do

As a result, the Association cannot interject itself as the referee between residents and their neighbors. If the EHHA were to take sides on one community issue or another, it would lead to a divisiveness that the community has plainly declared it cannot and will not tolerate.

### What the EHHA CAN Do

In keeping with its mission, the EHHA can provide the concerned letter-writer with information about the proper authorities to contact and the appropriate course of action to take in pursuing their complaint. (Of course, the concerned resident would have to sign his or her name to the letter and specify the address of the alleged violation.) However, in the spirit of bringing the community together, it is always best—as a **first step**—to introduce yourself to the individuals or contractors involved, and politely explain your concerns. By keeping in mind that this person may become (or remain) your neighbor for years to come, you may find that most issues can be resolved through cooperation rather than conflict.

The EHHA Board will continue to keep residents informed and supply them with the contacts and tools they need to work together. In this way, we believe the Emerald Hills community will continue to grow and thrive.

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reducing the impact you have on the  
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Roughly 80% of a home's natural gas use goes toward heating space and water. As much as half of the energy used in the home is wasted sending nearly four tons of green house gases into the air each month. Efficient heating and cooling is the solution.

Call us at (650) 366-3400 and mention that you are a member of the EHHA for a free heating or cooling system check.

Green Mechanical & HVAC, INC Lic #907402  
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### The Cost of Color

It just might surprise you!

Over the past year, Emerald Hills residents have noticed a distinct change in the Association's newsletter, the *Emerald Hills Review*. What began as a four-page, black-and-white bulletin, sent out "now and again," is now an eight-page, illustrated, full-color community magazine published on a quarterly basis.

The Board has made these changes for two main reasons:

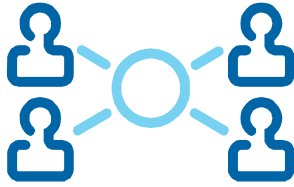
1. The cost for producing the full-color, higher quality publication was found to be virtually the same as it was for producing the small black-and-white notice; and
2. The new publication delivered enough value that advertisers became interested in supporting it, thereby making the newsletter a more financially sustainable activity.

Part of the mission of the EHHA is providing a continuing, reliable source of community information to residents. The *Review*, together with the website and targeted email communications, is how the Board is fulfilling that portion of the mission. (Continued on page 8)

**San Mateo County "News and Notes"**  
by Marshall Wilson,  
Public Communications Manager

**Getting Connected**

San Mateo County now offers a free and easy way to receive the news and information you want from your county government. From the County's home page ([www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us)) just click on "E-Subscribe" near the top of the page to open an e-mail subscription account.



You can then sign up to receive agendas, news release announcements, and a host of other information from County departments and the Board of Supervisors. The list includes jail-planning updates from the Sheriff, Planning and Building Department public hearings, employment opportunities, surplus property sales, public health alerts, and more.

Subscribers can sign up to receive news and information from more than 100 different sources. The service is available day and night.

You can also check <http://smcnews.wordpress.com/> for updates and information about unincorporated San Mateo County. This recently launched site has information about Board of Supervisor items of note to the residents of the unincorporated areas. Recent updates include news stories, links about parking changes throughout the County, and road projects.



**Building Tips**

San Mateo County's RecycleWorks Green Building program offers a series of free presentations on simple and practical actions homeowners can take to improve energy efficiency and save money. The "**Taste and a Talk**" series is held on select Thursdays from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood City Council Chambers, 1017 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. Free refreshments are provided.

**Dates and topics:**

- September 17:** Creating Comfortable and Efficient Homes
- October 1:** Maximizing Your Home's Performance
- October 15:** Improving Your Heating and Cooling
- October 29:** Get Hot Water Quicker
- November 11:** Building a Zero-Energy Home
- December 3:** Save Energy and Get Paid for It

The Green Building program is sponsored by RecycleWorks and Redwood City. For details, e-mail [greenbuild@recycleworks.org](mailto:greenbuild@recycleworks.org) or call program coordinator Jeffrey Liang at (650) 363-1485.

**Prevent Falls**

The San Mateo County Fall Prevention Task Force has scheduled several activities in September to highlight to help seniors reduce the risk of falling. In 2006, there were 27 deaths and 1,573 hospitalizations due to falls in San Mateo County for residents 65 years and older. For more information about fall prevention, please visit <http://www.smcfallprevention.org>.



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS**

**Park Reservations**

The new San Mateo County Parks Department on-line reservations system is now live. Picnic areas and campsites can now be reserved by clicking on the "Parks Department" from the County home page: [www.co.sanmateo.ca.us](http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us). If you need help or would like to speak to someone, please call (650) 363-4021.



**SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBRARY**  
share the world  
[smcl.org](http://smcl.org)

**New Library Director**



The San Mateo County Library has announced the appointment of Anne-Marie Despain as the new Director of Library Services. She is a library professional with more than 25 years of experience in all aspects of public library service and management.

The San Mateo County Library is a Joint Powers Authority that includes numerous cities and the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. The twelve branches, one bookmobile, and website (<http://smcl.org/>) provide innovative, dynamic library services designed to connect diverse communities with opportunities for individual growth and enrichment.

**Do You Have a Question about San Mateo County Government?**



Please contact Deputy County Manager **Peggy Jensen** at [pjensen@co.sanmateo.ca.us](mailto:pjensen@co.sanmateo.ca.us) or (650) 363-4598 or Public Communications Manager **Marshall Wilson** at [mwilson@co.sanmateo.ca.us](mailto:mwilson@co.sanmateo.ca.us) or (650) 363-4153.

## Your Neighbors are Learning Emergency Preparedness... Are YOU?

### What is CERT?



The Federal Emergency Management Agency began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994 from the model created by the Los Angeles Fire Department. Since then, hundreds of CERT programs have been established in communities across the country. The purpose of CERT is to train people living in the community to take care of themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a disaster.

### Why do we need CERT?

After several large-scale disasters like 9/11 and the Loma Prieta earthquake, there was a realization that not all emergency services personnel will be able to reach everyone right away. By attending CERT training classes, you will learn the skills to help save lives and protect property.

### How does CERT help the community?

Once a disaster strikes, CERT team members are encouraged to check on their own families and home first, then assemble at a pre-designated area and break up into teams. These teams fan out into the neighborhood and look for people to rescue and treat, fires to put out, and utilities to shut off. CERT team members work in teams of two, as safety is the most important issue when working in a disaster zone. Team members are taught to not enter collapsed buildings or other dangerous environments.

### CERT Training

CERT members are taught by Redwood City Fire Department personnel in basic fire suppression, utility control, light search and rescue, and disaster medical. Other topics include disaster psychology and disaster incident management. This training consists of interactive training, lectures, and concludes with a hand on training exercise.

### Emergency Preparedness

Let the **Redwood City Fire Department** teach you how you can prepare your family and home for a disaster. September 11th and, more recently, Hurricane Katrina, have taught us that being prepared can make a big difference in how effectively we can respond to emergencies. As Californians, we also face the potential for large earthquakes, floods, and fires. The CERT series will help you prepare for disasters of all kinds. **The next CERT series will likely be offered early next year, so check back for further information!**



## Too Toxic To Trash?

**Household hazardous waste (HHW)** is considered to be any leftover or unused portions of chemical products you use in your kitchen, bathroom, garage, automobile, or yard. Household hazardous waste can pass through treatment processes or storm drains and get discharged into creeks, the Bay, or the Pacific Ocean. For safety and environmental reasons, it is illegal to dispose of HHW in the garbage, sewers or storm drains.



### Problems with Improper Disposal of HHW

- Contamination of our waterways and drinking water
- Physical injury to sanitation workers
- Contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets
- Present hazards to children and pets if left around the house
- Harm wildlife and the environment

### Properly Dispose of HHW

Please visit [http://www.flowstobay.org/cs\\_too\\_toxic.php](http://www.flowstobay.org/cs_too_toxic.php) for a list of drop-off locations in San Mateo County.

**Save Your Money and Save the Planet!**  
Go solar today and save up to 50% off the systems cost.\*

**Tap into the power of solar energy.**

- Build equity in your home, while reducing your monthly bills.
- Protect against future utility rate increases.
- Contribute to a cleaner greener world.

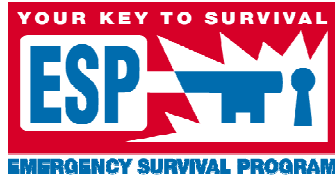
**REC SOLAR**

Call for a free site evaluation.  
[www.recsolar.com](http://www.recsolar.com) **888.OK.SOLAR**

\*Savings are based on available California State rebates and Federal Tax Credits.

## SEVEN STEPS TO EARTHQUAKE SAFETY

The information provided below is from materials created by the Emergency Survival Program (ESP) (<http://www.espfocus.org/>) in 2006, and based on "The Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety" in the handbook, *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country*. To download your own copy of the handbook, please visit <http://www.earthquakecountry.info/roots/>.



### PREPARE

#### Step 1: Secure it now!

Reducing and/or eliminating hazards throughout your home, neighborhood, workplace and school can greatly reduce your risk of injury or death following the next earthquake or other disaster. Conduct a "hazard hunt" to help identify and fix things such as unsecured televisions, computers, bookcases, furniture, unstrapped water heaters, etc. Securing these items now will help to protect you tomorrow. For more information, please visit <http://www.daretoprepare.org/>.



#### Step 2: Make a plan

Planning for an earthquake, terrorist attack, or other emergency is not much different from planning for a party or vacation. Make sure that your emergency plan includes evacuation and reunion plans; your out-of-state contact person's name and number; the location of your emergency supplies and other pertinent information. By planning now, you will be ready for the next emergency.



#### Step 3: Make disaster kits

Everyone should have disaster supplies kits stored in accessible locations at home, at work and in your vehicle. Having emergency supplies readily available can reduce the impact of an earthquake, a terrorist incident or other emergency on you and your family. Your disaster supplies kits should include food, water, flashlights, portable radios, batteries, a first aid kit, cash, extra medications, a whistle, fire extinguisher, etc.



#### Step 4: Is your place safe?

Most houses are not as safe as they could be. Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, there are things that you can do to improve the structural integrity of your home. Some of the things that you might consider checking include inadequate foundations, unbraced cripple walls, soft first stories, unreinforced



masonry and vulnerable pipes. Consult a contractor or engineer to help you identify your building's weaknesses and begin to fix them now. Please visit <http://earthquakecountry.info/daretoprepare/> for more information.

### PROTECT

#### Step 5: DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON!

Learn what to do during an earthquake, whether you are at home, at work, at school or just out and about. Taking the proper actions, such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On", can save lives and reduce your risk of death or injury. During earthquakes, drop to the floor, take cover under a sturdy desk or table, and hold on to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops.



### RECOVER

#### Step 6: Check it out!

One of the first things you should do following a major disaster is to check for injuries and damages that need immediate attention. Make sure you are trained in first aid and in damage assessment techniques. You should be able to administer first aid and to identify hazards such as damaged gas, water, sewage and electrical lines. Be prepared to report damage to city or county government.



#### Step 7: Communicate and recover!

Following a major disaster, communication will be an important step in your recovery efforts. Turn on your portable radio for information and safety advisories. If your home is damaged, contact your insurance agent right away to begin your claims process. For most presidentially declared disasters, resources will also be available from federal, state, and local government agencies.



### When Does the EHHA Board Meet?



The EHHA Board typically holds its monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the conference room (lower level) of the new Woodside Fire Station 19 at Jefferson Avenue and Wilmington

Way. Meetings are open to the community, and we invite you to attend. The meeting schedule is available on our web site [www.emeraldhills.org](http://www.emeraldhills.org).



## Woodside Fire Protection District Urges all of its Residents to Check Their Smoke Alarms

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued the following press release on July 9, 2009. The Woodside Fire Protection District urges all of its residents to check their smoke alarms for brand name, model number, and date of manufacture. If you have one or more of the recalled smoke alarms, follow the instructions given in this press release (below).

### Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms; Can Fail to Warn of a Fire

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following products. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Kidde Model PI2000 Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms

**Units:** About 94,000

**Manufacturer:** Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C.

**Hazard:** An electro static discharge can damage the unit, causing it not to warn consumers of a fire.

**Incidents/Injuries:** The firm has received two reported incidents of smoke alarm malfunctions involving electro static discharge during installation. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** This recall involves Kidde dual sensor smoke alarms model PI2000. The alarms can be identified by two buttons, "HUSH" and "PUSH AND HOLD TO TEST WEEKLY," which are located on the front/center of the alarm. The model number and date code are on the back of the smoke alarm. Only date codes 2008 Aug. 01 through 2009 May 04 are included in this recall.

**Sold at:** Retail, department, and hardware stores and through electrical distributors nationwide from August 2008 through May 2009 for between \$30 and \$40.

**Manufactured in:** China

**Remedy:** Consumers should contact Kidde immediately to receive a free replacement smoke alarm.

**Customer Contact:** For additional information, contact Kidde toll-free at (877) 524-2086 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com).

## Builder and Neighbor Since 1959



It all started fifty years ago with a commitment to solid craftsmanship and a drive to perform the job better than anyone else.

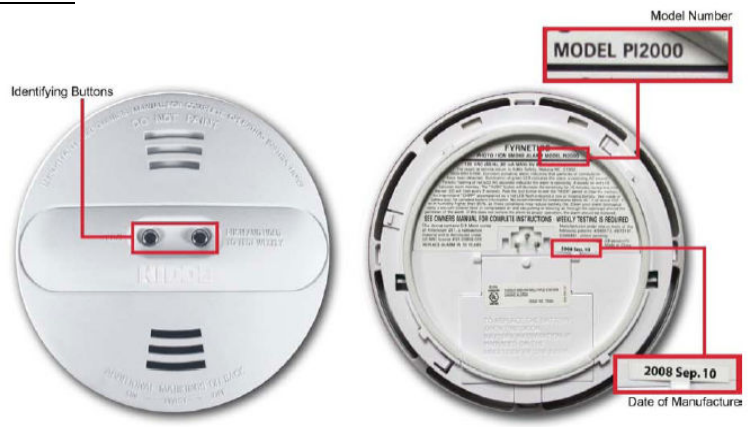
So, if you are planning a new home, a simple or complex remodel, green building, a kitchen or a bath, Springs Construction is ready to help you expedite your building process. Whether you simply have an idea, or have plans ready for building, call us at (650) 298-9300. We are here to help.



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### Imagine Your Ad Here!

To help cover printing and mailing costs, the *Emerald Hills Review* is now accepting ads from local service providers.



Let the 1,700 households in  
Emerald Hills know you are  
there!

For more information, contact  
Newsletter Editor Adriana Botto  
at (650) 368-5678 or send an  
email to [board@emeraldhills.org](mailto:board@emeraldhills.org).

## Thanks for Your Continued Support A Message From EHHA Treasurer, Tim Farrar

I am pleased to report that so far this year the Association has recorded donations totaling \$4,180 from 72 residents, and in addition, has secured \$2,750 in advertising to support the costs of producing the newsletter. At of mid-September 2009, we had \$6,534 in the bank (compared to \$3,230 at the end of 2008), and expenses to date for the year have been \$4,650 (mainly related to the newsletter), although around \$1,500 of picnic costs are still to be paid. We were very grateful to receive \$944 from meal and raffle ticket sales at the picnic, which has helped to offset the roughly \$2,200 cost of the event (somewhat higher than last year because of the food costs we incurred this year). As noted previously, we economized on our other expenditures, including expenses for the annual member meeting back in March, and as a result, we are hoping to be in a slightly better financial position at the end of this year compared to the position at the end of 2008. However, we would be very grateful for further donations and we still need to



secure additional adverts to help cover the cost of upcoming newsletters. For any local merchants or realtors out there, please consider advertising in the newsletter: it is a very cost effective way of reaching our community, and we know from residents' feedback that it is widely read, and does not just go straight in the recycling.

As previously mentioned, the EHHA will give away high-quality polo shirts embroidered with the Emerald Hills logo *or* caps embroidered with the Emerald Hills logo, to supporters who donate \$100 or more to the Association. If you would like a polo shirt or a cap, please include a note indicating your choice (and be include your shirt size, if applicable) with your donation of \$100 or more. We would very much appreciate your contribution.



Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a donation envelope, which you may use to send contributions, with checks payable to the EHHA. If you receive the newsletter electronically, then you may send donations to us by mail at EHHA, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 620449, Woodside, CA 94062, or you may donate by PayPal via the website at <http://emeraldhills.synthasite.com/donate.php>. Thank you.



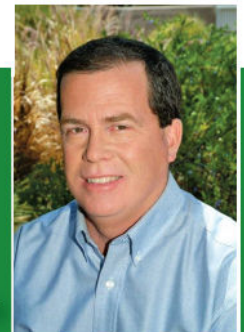
Perhaps my favorite image of the Emerald Hills is from times spent on back decks during winter rains. But, maybe it's a summertime swim at Lower Emerald Lake, a hike around Edgewood Park, or a Bleu Swiss Burger at the Canyon Inn. Whatever it is, it's these unique feelings that make the Emerald Hills a very special place to live.

Please give me a call, write or visit my website at [www.TheEmeraldHills.com](http://www.TheEmeraldHills.com) if you have questions on any real estate topics. If you are considering selling your home, I'm happy to provide a no obligation valuation estimate. If you have friends, family or acquaintances looking to enjoy the beauty of the Emerald Hills, I'm never too busy for any of your referrals.

Best regards,  
*John Sieling*



**John Sieling**  
Broker Associate  
Phone: 650-610-6460  
Cell: 650-465-6355  
[john@johnsieling.com](mailto:john@johnsieling.com)  
[www.TheEmeraldHills.com](http://www.TheEmeraldHills.com)  
CA DRE #00898568





**Yes! I want to contribute...**

- I would like to contribute \$35.
- I can spare a bit more. Here is my donation for \$50.
- Here is my contribution for \$100.  
I would like a cap  *or* a polo shirt .
- My shirt size is  Ladies'  Men's  
 SM  MED  L  XL
- I am a resident of one of the most desirable neighborhoods on the Peninsula, and I want to keep it that way! Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

- My check is enclosed.

If you would like to donate via credit card, please visit  
<http://emeraldhills.synthasite.com/donate.php>  
*Your personal information is kept confidential.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Emerald Hills, CA 94062

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address (optional, but requested)

- Please send the email newsletter instead of print, to help preserve the environment *and* save the Association money.
- Please send me both the print and email newsletter.

You can make donations online at  
<http://emeraldhills.synthasite.com/donate.php>  
or you can mail your contributions to:

**EHHA, PO Box 620449, Woodside, CA 94062**

*Please note that donations to the EHHA are not tax deductible.*

**Contact the Board of Directors**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Tom Brouchoud <sup>1</sup> ( <i>Vice President</i> ).....         | 366-7890 |
| Tim Farrar <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Treasurer</i> ) .....                | 642-5195 |
| Joe Foraker <sup>1</sup> .....                                    | 868-7495 |
| Michael Mangini <sup>2</sup> ( <i>President</i> ).....            | 365-4449 |
| John Raleigh <sup>2</sup> .....                                   | 743-4111 |
| Jay Roses <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Corr. Secretary</i> ).....            | 766-7425 |
| Mike Sherman <sup>1</sup> ( <i>Webmaster/Database Mgr.</i> )..... | 544-0896 |
| Carl Touhey <sup>2</sup> ( <i>Community Picnic</i> ).....         | 368-2216 |
| Marline Underwood <sup>1</sup> .....                              | 224-1214 |

<sup>1</sup> Term expires at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Members  
<sup>2</sup> Term expires at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members

**VOLUNTEERS**

- ❖ Mary Bernier
- ❖ Andrew Blum
- ❖ Adriana Botto
- ❖ Tom Brouchoud
- ❖ Wes Craddock
- ❖ Tim Farrar
- ❖ Joe Foraker
- ❖ Don Horsley
- ❖ Michael Mangini
- ❖ Nancy Mangini
- ❖ Jan Molvar
- ❖ John Raleigh
- ❖ Svetlana Raleigh
- ❖ Carla Rayacich
- ❖ Jay Roses
- ❖ Andrew Schuil
- ❖ Sandra Schuil
- ❖ Mike Sherman
- ❖ John Sieling
- ❖ Carl Touhey
- ❖ Marline Underwood

**MERCHANTS**

- ❖ Budget Signs
- ❖ Canyon Auto Service (Maurice Taniós)
- ❖ Canyon Cleaners (Ken & Kathy Hunnicutt)
- ❖ Canyon Coffee Roastery (Brent Goeway)
- ❖ Canyon Inn (Tim Harrison)
- ❖ Cielo Salon (Alma Kingery)
- ❖ Chic Nail Salon (Tsui Pham)
- ❖ DAD'Z Band
- ❖ Daylight Sales LLC
- ❖ Emerald Hills Lodge & Golf Course/Redwood City Elks Lodge #1991
- ❖ Emerald Market (Eddie Herro & Chris Dabit)
- ❖ Marline Underwood
- ❖ Momo the Clown (Muneebah DeBruyns)
- ❖ SFPUC (Maureen Barry)
- ❖ Snap Fitness (Susie McKee)

*("The Cost of Color" continued from page 2)*

So what does it take to publish the new and improved **Review**?

- A skilled and dedicated editor who is able to design, layout, and format;
- A steady and reliable source of articles delivered to the editor on time;
- A reliable, affordable, and quality print service;
- A number of advertisers to help offset costs; and
- A team of volunteers who can spend several concentrated hours, four times year at a mailing party, to fold, seal, and apply address labels.

And finally it still takes contributions from the community because whether we print the **Review** in color or black-and-white, postage and mailing costs are always subject to unexpected increases. And although many residents have opted to receive the **Review** online, most readers prefer to receive their community news the old fashioned way—in an attractive, readable, color publication that can be kept and read around the kitchen table or tacked to the refrigerator door.

So enjoy the new and improved **Review** and let the local merchants you patronize know that you think it is a perfect window into this beautiful area where we all live and this vibrant community we all enjoy.