

# Whitney Oaks Community Association

## Newsletter

May 2016

[www.whitneyoaks.net](http://www.whitneyoaks.net)



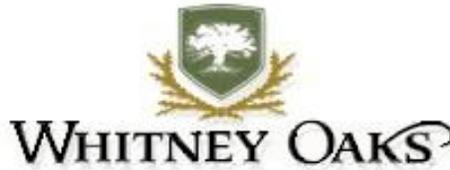
### THANKS TO COMMITTEES!

The Whitney Oaks community has several committees that help accomplish the Association's goals on an ongoing basis. At this time there is a Landscape Committee, a Trails Committee, a Finance Committee, an Architectural Committee, and a Speed Task Force. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those of you who serve. Your input is really appreciated! We also would like to let you know that there is currently an opening on the Landscape Committee. Do you have some experience with plants/gardening and want to help keep your community looking great? This committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 PM (to approximately 6:30 PM) to look at and to discuss landscaping and landscape-related items.



### AROUND TOWN

We would really like to make your Newsletter more interesting and upbeat, and would like to include some homeowner interest stories. Did the High School sports team win the playoffs? Are you aware of something really cool taking place in your neighborhood? If you have any ideas, please send them to Vicky in the management office. Thanks so much!



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Rick Jordan  
Vice President: Chris Krajewski  
CFO: Bonnie Laderman  
Secretary: Sharon Theofelis  
Director: Bob Jones

#### MANAGEMENT

**The Management Trust  
Northern California Division**  
P.O. Box 1459, Folsom, CA 95763  
Phone: 985-3633  
Fax: 985-3744

**After Hours Emergencies:**  
866-324-3704

**Community Association Manager:**  
Vicky Langer, CCAM  
[vicky.langer@managementtrust.com](mailto:vicky.langer@managementtrust.com)  
Ph. ext. 121

**Assistant Manager:** Nikki Williams  
[nikki.williams@managementtrust.com](mailto:nikki.williams@managementtrust.com)  
Ph. ext. 143

**Architectural Applications Admin:**  
Keya Pomerantz  
[keya.pomerantz@managementtrust.com](mailto:keya.pomerantz@managementtrust.com)  
Ph. ext. 142

**Accounting Inquiries:**  
[accounting@kocal.com](mailto:accounting@kocal.com) Ph. ext. 122

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### TREE TALK

The Architectural Review Committee has been getting many requests for removal of front and backyard trees by homeowners, so the committee has been talking about how to encourage your trees to grow deep roots rather than surface roots. A member of the committee who is a Landscape Design Architect, Paul Marcillac, has put together the enclosed very informational article about trees planted in lawn areas. Please remember that landscape conversion projects and tree removals and/or plantings require approval from the ARC. You will need a site plan showing the trees, caliper (diameter) size from 5' from the ground, general heights, photos of existing trees and conditions, and replacement tree type, size and quantity. A list of recommended "street trees" and other trees can be found in the Association's Design Guidelines. Thank you!

### PROPOSED CHANGES IN PAINT COLOR PALETTE

After reviewing the current paint palette for areas outside of Springfield and Units 39/44 and discussing it with the Architectural Committee, the Board has decided to move forward with updating the approved palette per the ARC's recommendation. The changes include removal of some colors from the Kelly-Moore "Historic Lifestyles of The West" brochure and the addition of several new colors in the "Exterior Classic Colors and Custom Combinations"



brochure. If you have any comments, please be sure to submit them before or attend the Board Meeting on May 4th to make them heard.

## WATER USE RESOLUTION



In 2014, the Board of Directors adopted a policy regarding lawn and landscape maintenance related to watering and the Governor of California's Executive Order issued on April 25<sup>th</sup> (2014) as follows:

*RESOLVED, that Whitney Oaks will temporarily suspend enforcement of provision B-14(d) of the Rules & Regulations that require irrigation systems to be fully maintained in good working condition to ensure continued regular watering of landscape areas, and health and vitality of landscape materials, so long as the Executive Order noted above remains in effect. Homeowners are encouraged not to let their lawns, plants, and/or trees die if possible to do so while complying with any local agency or governmental restrictions. However, Homeowners are required to keep any dry or dead lawns trimmed short in accordance with weed abatement rules of the Association and the City of Rocklin, and Homeowners are required to remove any dead shrubs or trees within 30 days. Finally, Homeowners are required to restore/replace any dead lawn areas, plants, and/or trees within 90 days of the lifting of the Governor's Executive Order.*

**PET FOOD:** We have received a request to remind all owners not to leave pet food outside. It attracts rodents and stray cats. Thanks!

## FENCE STAINING

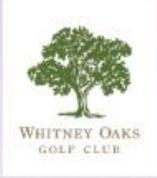
All of the fences on Abby Court, Sterling Drive, Kensington Court and Lawton Court have recently been stained by the Association and look beautiful! The homeowners in these areas pay for this work that is done by the Association (in their Unit 39 and/or 44 dues). The Association's rules state that all fencing must be maintained in a good sound structural manner, and, unless otherwise exempted in the Design Guidelines, stained/painted periodically so it does not appear shabby or unkempt. Please kindly take a look at your fences and stain your fence if needed to maintain a neat and well-cared for appearance. The approved fence color for newer wood fences in Whitney Oaks is: Preserva Wood (product), Sequoia color, available at the Rocklin Kelly Moore store. For older fencing, however, it is recommended that you use a semi-solid stain that best matches your existing fence color. Any other colors require architectural approval. Thank you!

## MAY MEETING AGENDA

Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at The Oaks (2801 Springfield Drive) at **6:00 P.M.** Agendas are posted four days prior to meetings on the bulletin board at the Hillcrest Pool, at The Gables in Springfield, and on the Association website – [www.whitneyoaks.net](http://www.whitneyoaks.net). Here are some of the items that will be on the **May 4<sup>th</sup>** Board Meeting Agenda for discussion:

- Whether to Establish Annual Scholarship Award
- Proposed Paint Palette Update
- Gate 13 (Black Oak Drive at Pool) Magnetic Locks
- Hillcrest Parking Restrictions – Implementation Update
- Open Space Tree Removal Requests
- Barrier/Bollards at Crest & Park Drive (Accident Site)
- Asphalt Repair, Recoat, and Restripe Proposals
- Entry Monument Sign Bids

## GOLF CLUB HAPPENINGS



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# TREE TALK



## Are you thinking about removing your tree because of surface roots?

Recently, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has received many applications to remove existing mature trees. Some want to remove completely (not replace) or replace with very small trees. Before submitting an application to the ARC we strongly encourage owners consult with a Certified Arborist to review the tree's condition and see if the tree can be managed differently.

## Why Preserve Mature Trees in Whitney Oaks?

The replacement price of a mature tree can exceed \$10,000, so you need to do everything you can to protect trees during a turf conversion or before considering removal. Also, they are expensive to remove and replace. A large, mature shade tree is the most valuable asset of any landscape and provides many important benefits. Trees reduce energy use by providing shade and evaporative cooling. They also add beauty, provide wildlife habitat, **decrease air and noise pollution, provide human psychological and physical benefits, and mitigation of heat, glare** and sequester carbon. Not only is it smart to preserve these valuable trees to maintain Whitney Oaks unique community character and value, but it is the responsibility of the community to protect these high value assets.

## Who is Responsible for Maintaining Tree Health?

While the financial responsibility is to the property owner, it is still the responsibility of the HOA to ensure that the community's character is maintained. The landscape application to the ARC is the mechanism through which we meet our responsibility to maintain a healthy community of trees and uphold the tree preservation in the community.

## Tree Removal Guidelines

- The tree poses a substantial hazard to people or property
- The tree is dead, dying or has short life expectancy
- The tree is seriously diseased
- The tree is part of a group that is overcrowded
- The tree has caused extensive utility damage (sewer, water main, power lines, etc.)
- The tree has caused extensive concrete or property damage
- The tree has been damaged to the extent that it cannot be feasibly restored
- Arborist recommendation

If removed, they should be replaced with another tree or as approved by the ARC and Board. A minimum of one canopy tree in the front yard and a 4" total tree caliper is required. Having only small trees or multi-trunk trees in the front yard will not be permitted unless allowed by the ARC and Board.

## Can I remove exposed tree surface roots in my lawn, or cover them with soil?

Arborists always encourage practices that prevent or minimize injury to roots. Root pruning before or during our hot summer months should be avoided. The demand a tree places on its root system is highest during these months and root regeneration is less likely to occur. If roots must be removed, fall and winter months are best. When roots must be cut, they should be cut in a clean, sharp manner. Jagged, torn, and ripped roots will not regenerate new roots nearly as well as roots with a precise cut.

## Trees in the Lawn

As trees adapt to growing in a lawn environment, they begin to rely on the uniform, frequent distribution of water applied to lawns through sprinklers. Additionally, the lawn and thatch layer help buffer temperature extremes, especially in hot, arid environments. Once established and happily growing in a lawn, any disruption to this environment (i.e. converting turf to xeriscape) can adversely affect tree health leading to stress, insect and disease infections, severe decline and eventual death.

### Root of the Issue

It is paramount that we understand the role of tree roots and the importance of protecting them. Tree roots store the energy needed to produce foliage, absorb water and fertilizer, produce important hormones, and act as an anchor to stabilize the tree. The majority of tree roots growing in urban lawns are found in the top 6 to 18 inches of soil. These roots consist of large perennial roots and small, short-lived feeder roots. The larger perennial roots stabilize and support the tree. The small feeder roots absorb water and nutrients and make up the majority of the root system near the soil surface. Feeder roots extend well beyond (up to 4 times) the tree's drip line (see diagram) and are mixed with lawn roots. What are the consequences of damaged, cut-off tree roots? Water and nutrient absorption is eliminated, the tree's stability is compromised, and the outcome is decline, underperformance, and possible death. **First lesson learned: Protecting a tree's root system is crucial when performing turf to xeriscape conversions.**

### About the Water

However, even when tree roots are left undisturbed, the potential for great loss remains. With the lawn removed, roots left in the soil no longer have a temperature buffer and, more importantly, a water source provided by the lawn's sprinkler system. Many beautiful and valuable shade trees have been lost because the new irrigation system failed to provide the *correct amount* of water to the *correct area* where it could be absorbed by feeder roots. At a minimum, the new irrigation system should provide coverage to 70% of the tree root zone (ideally 100%) to adequately meet tree water needs – remember, the tree root zone may extend 1 ½ to 4 times beyond the tree canopy. **The second lesson learned: Correct water management is not only about how much water is applied but where the water is applied.** The key to success is simple: protect the root system and provide adequate irrigation coverage.

One of the most effective and efficient ways to meet tree water needs and ensure a long post-turf conversion tree life is to use subsurface, inline drip tubing. (For example, Toro, Rainbird or Netifim). The installation of this product is simple, minimizes damage to the existing root system, and provides trees with the right amount of water throughout the root canopy area. Organic or aggregate mulch should be applied, 2-4" deep, after the new irrigation system is installed to improve the aesthetic value of the landscape and to help reduce water loss to evaporation.

### Recommendations for Success:

1. Deeply irrigate trees during the entire conversion process to reduce stress and help ensure a successful transition.
2. Identify and protect major roots near the soil surface. Removal of roots should be kept at an absolute minimum. Trenching under the canopy should be avoided, if possible, to minimize root damage. Consider tunneling under roots if absolutely necessary.
3. Turf in the tree root zone should be removed carefully. This is best done using herbicides, a dethatcher, or a lawn mower to scalp the lawn to bare dirt. Heavy equipment and construction traffic will compact soil, crush roots and cause mechanical damage to the trunk, limbs and roots.
4. If a sod cutter, tractor or other heavy equipment will be used a protection zone or barrier should be set up around the tree canopy root zone to keep equipment at a safe distance.
5. Water the tree to survive! Placing four drip emitters near the trunk of a mature tree is grossly insufficient. The new irrigation should provide water throughout the existing root zone and extend beyond to allow for future growth (ideally at least two times the diameter of the tree canopy). At a minimum, the new irrigation coverage should be 70% of the drip zone to sustain the tree and minimize stress.

Is it critical to protect tree root systems and provide proper irrigation (during and after) when performing turf to xeriscape conversions? Trees provide tremendous environmental, economic, and aesthetic value. Proper protection of and irrigation to the tree root zone is critical. We can conserve water by converting turf to xeriscape **AND** protecting our valuable shade trees.

*By Paul Marcillac, WOCA Landscape Committee*