

# The Aliso Adviso

Homeowners Community Newsletter

Winter 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

## The Recent Fires

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We are grateful to the many men and women who valiantly fought the Sesnon fires this past month. A "thank you" award was created consisting of two framed photos of the fires with a surrounding matte where those wishing to convey their written thanks did so.

In addition to the award, residents contributed \$1,250.00 to go to the *L.A. Firemen's Relief Widow and Orphans Fund* as a small gesture of our appreciation for all that was done to safeguard our community.

The award and donations were presented to the firefighters at the Nov. 4th Community Appreciation Picnic hosted by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa at the Holleigh Bernson Park in Porter Ranch.

Vince and I spoke to Greig Smith's chief of staff prior to the picnic, and

he liked the award and what we did so much that he decided to add it into the program. I was brought up on stage to present a special community award. I explained what we had done and presented the award to Mayor Villaraigosa, Police Chief Bratton, Councilman Greig Smith, and the Fire Chief. It was the one moment in all the speeches that the press swarmed the stage to take photos of the group.

The mayor told us that he'd like to hang the award in the Rotunda at City Hall for a while before finally moving it to the Firemen's Museum in Hollywood.

We were there almost 2 hours prior to going onto the stage, but it was the highlight of all the presentations, which made it very worthwhile.

- Anthony

## HOA Meeting Update

We've had two Board meetings since our previous newsletter. The proposed amendments on which homeowners were asked to vote Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> did not pass due to Scott Wild of K. Hovnanian failing to submit ballots for its four unsold homes. You should have received a letter from Euclid Management by now explaining how the proposed amendments which received approximately 90% homeowner support still wound up failing.

Also at this meeting, your current Board of Directors was appointed:

**Scott Wild**, *President* (K. Hovnanian)

**Drew Jones**, *Vice-President* (K. Hovnanian)

**Paul Niumata** (K. Hovnanian)

**Anthony Guthmiller**, *Secretary* (Homeowner)

**Gabriel Assor**, *Treasurer* (Homeowner)

At our most recent HOA meeting on October 29, the Board reviewed and approved the proposed HOA budget for next year (which you will be receiving this month). K. Hovnanian updated us on their projected time frame for turning over responsibility to the HOA and also on their current home sales. Other regular HOA business was also discussed.



## Neighborhood Watch Program Update

The Devonshire Police Station covers our area including a number of other communities. There are a total of 5 police cars that patrol an area of 50 square miles from Balboa to the county line on the west. The Devonshire Station is being asked to take on additional territory to cover and it will now extend from the 405 to the county line with NO additional police cars. This may mean that response time to any calls from our neighbors may be delayed.

There was a problem with our area NOT appearing on the Police Dispatcher maps. This caused delays in the police responding to calls from our area. Working with Sergeant Santos of the Devonshire Station this been fixed and confirmed on October 8, 2008.

If one of our neighbors needs the police for an emergency, be sure to stress to the 911 operator to have the police cars enter the area off of Sesnon Blvd. This will avoid officers attempting to enter at the south end of Longacre and will delay the response. If you call for the police and there is no response, don't be afraid to call back.

Our area is susceptible for crime because we are on the "fringe" of the territory covered by the Devonshire station, we are in a secluded area and we are close to freeway access. Be suspicious of solicitors, anyone who seems "out of place" or anyone asking for someone who does not live in your

home. These are signs that a suspect may be "casing" your property.

There has been a rash of crimes targeting items left in cars parked outside. Do not leave any valuables in your cars and be sure you keep your garage doors closed. These are preventative ways to deter crime.

Racing on Sesnon Blvd as well as "off-roaders" on our local mountains continue to be a problem. A fire was started by an off-roader recently and Sesnon was closed for about 2 hours while the Fire Department put out the flames. If you see this activity, don't hesitate to call the police about this. There is an officer by the name of Mark Cronin who focuses on these issues and he may be reached at the Devonshire station (818) 832-0692.

Both Senior Lead Officers were surprised that our community is not gated. Both officers live in gated communities and both indicated that it gives them "peace of mind." We will continue to investigate what it would take to gate our community.

It is very clear that police resources will be stretched even more and this will cause response time delays. If we want to continue to have a safe community, it will take all of us to be watchful neighbors

Questions regarding neighborhood security can be set to Vince Buenrostro, our Neighborhood Watch Captain at [vbuenr6991@aol.com](mailto:vbuenr6991@aol.com), or you can call him at (818) 488-1502.

## K. Hovnanian Sales Update

Your builder reports that there are only three unsold homes available now: Lot #21, Model 1 (Lot #41), and Model 3 (Lot #42). K. Hovnanian projects that they will complete our

community within the next 2-3 months. Don't forget that if someone you recommended purchases a home, you can receive \$5,000 if all conditions are met!

### *Did you know?*

*The TV series Knots Landing was filmed in a Granada Hills cul-de-sac. Footage of the ocean was cleverly spliced onto overhead shots of Granada Hills to create the opening shot in the credits.*

### Decline-in-Value Update

Some of your neighbors successfully petitioned the L.A. County Assessor to lower their property taxes for 2008, as allowed under Proposition 8 (from 1978).

One homeowner recently had his bill reduced 25% when the Assessor granted him a \$524,900 devaluation to his lot!

The Decline-in-Value form can be found at the Assessor's website:

<http://assessor.lacounty.gov/extranet/guides/prop8.aspx>



## Are You Ready for the Winds?

We've had 20 new families move in since last year. Welcome to Aliso! The neighborhood is looking great. Now that you're settled in, it's time to warn you about our special annual season from October to March: *WIND*.

Yes, winter = wind in Aliso. What...the sales office didn't tell you about this? *Bummer!* We had a small taste of these gusts in October, and there is much more to come! (Luckily, we don't have to worry about more fires being blown our way since there's nothing left to burn in the canyons.)

Hopefully the winds won't be as severe as they were last year (some gusts exceed 80 mph), but don't count on it.

Here are several tips to help you weather the winds here at Aliso:

- Double-stake all trees, using at least two ties on the leeward side and

three on the windward side. Consider using metal posts instead of wood, and anchor them with concrete.

- Tie up your palms.
- Retract your pool cover.
- Put all cushions, pool floaters, lighter outdoor furniture, BBQ covers, etc. into a secure area (like your garage or side yard).
- Tie down or anchor all outdoor furniture, even the grill if it isn't built in.
- If you're currently landscaping or undergoing additional construction, secure all building materials.
- **Please don't put your trash cans out the night before!** If you do, you may never see them again. Your bins will get blown down Longacre Ave, causing damage and littering the yards of your poor neighbors at the bottom of the hill.

Since so many of us have dogs, we'd like to feature a couple of our neighborhood poochies in each issue. This will help if you happen to see one wandering around, having escaped its owner's yard! And it's a wonderful ice-breaker: go ask your neighbor for a doggie play date!



*Lot 5's Argelia, Omar, and new puppy Hope wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year!*

### ***Did you know?***

*The school scenes from Walt Disney's Hannah Montana TV show are filmed at Granada Hills High School.*





## Featured Back Yard – Roma & Leandro

Our featured back yard is the home of Roma and Leandro Miguel who live in Lot #6. They purchased their home in January of 2007 and moved in a month later from the high desert area.

They selected the Aliso development because of the spaciousness of the lots and the openness of the surrounding areas. "The million dollar views of layered mountains is one of the highlights of this community," shares Roma. They love the rural

feeling, even though the city is just around the corner.

Their L-shaped pool was inspired by a design they found in a magazine. (It was also fitting considering the first letter of Leandro's name.)

The pool was built by Southland Pools and completed in a record 45 days. The lush, tropical landscaping was inspired by Leandro's Cuban heritage.



### **Did you know?**

*The scene in Jurassic Park II: The Lost World where the T-Rex trashes a gas station was filmed at the Union 76 Station on the corner of Balboa Blvd and Rinaldi St in Granada Hills.*



## Watering Restrictions are In Effect

By order of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, no watering of hard or paved surfaces is allowed, and no grass/landscape watering is permitted between 9:00am and 4:00pm on any day of the week.

Furthermore, water cannot be used to clean, fill, or maintain decorative fountains unless the water is part of a recirculating system.

Finally, your irrigation should not be run if it's raining.

If you see violations, you may call the DWP at 1-800-342-5397 (DIAL DWP) or write [waterconservation@ladwp.com](mailto:waterconservation@ladwp.com)

For complete details, please download the following Acrobat file: <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp009868.pdf>

## Got Rodents? Check Your BBQ!

Since the fires, several homeowners have discovered rodent infestations in their built-in BBQ islands.

If you find pellet-sized droppings in the storage space under your grill, in your drawers, on your burners, or on the ground around your grill, then you probably have a problem.

You should also look for a substantial nest that looks like it could have been made by a bird, possibly hidden on an internal shelf, such as the one supporting your side burner.

Cover all holes with fine mesh, no matter how small the opening. (These rodents only need a nickel's worth of

space to get in.) Make sure you keep the grill very clean to avoid attracting curious critters, and have your pest service set traps and/or poison.

Bait stations are very effective at controlling the rodent population, but you take the risk of your pet(s) indirectly ingesting the poison if it finds a dead critter and feasts on it.

An animal dying from your neighbor's traps, or from the poison Euclid has placed on the public slopes, can live long enough to enter your yard before it actually dies, which exposes your pets and children to danger, so please supervise all outdoor activity.

## Reminder About Trash Cans

Please remember not to put out your trash cans before 6:00pm on Sunday, per city ordinance. Also, make sure to bring in the emptied trash cans by dusk on Monday.

Our CC&Rs require that All rubbish and trash storage facilities, including

garbage cans, must be kept screened and concealed from view.

Remember to check for high winds before putting out the trash. If possible, wait until Monday morning. Otherwise, your trash bins may wind up at the bottom of Longacre!

### *Did you know?*

*"Granada" in Spanish means "pomegranate"*

## GHNNC Announcements

Your Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council ([www.ghnnc.org](http://www.ghnnc.org)) will meet again on December 22, 2008 at Van Gogh Elem. School at 6:30pm.

Currently, Eric Rosenberg from Lot 9 represents us on the Council, having been nominated and elected in September.

## Doggone Interesting

Do you know why your dog does the things it does? If your pet has an unwanted behavior, do you know how to correct it humanely? Is your pet happy? Do you worry that you're being too hard or too easy on Fido when he misbehaves?

There are many resources available for answering these questions (one of the best being Cesar Millan's "The Dog Whisperer" show on the National Geographic Channel), but hopefully this article can help resolve at least a few basic questions in a short amount of time.

Before discussing specific behaviors, let's examine the meaning of "dominance" as it pertains to dogs. Being dominant over a dog does *not* mean that one should be cruel, unsympathetic, or overbearing. Quite the contrary; the reason a person is dominant and earns the position of "pack leader" is because the human makes his or her pet feel safe and content. A dog who feels this way is free from stress because it trusts its owner to always provide adequate protection and food.

A dog who acts dominant over its human owner does so out of a perceived necessity because it doesn't believe you will be able to provide the necessary leadership in unexpected situations. Symptoms may include your dog barking when the doorbell rings, growling at anyone who attempts to remove food or a prized toy, disrespectfully putting its paws on you when it wants something, or lunging at and/or biting visitors.

While many dogs will bark at the doorbell as a loyal warning to their master, a well-trained and balanced dog will stop the moment its owner gives a command. For owners who would prefer their dog not bark at all, this is easily accomplished when your dog has a fundamental trust in your ability to judge whether or not an "intruder" is friendly or a threat.

When an owner doesn't provide consistent boundaries and discipline,

a pet will quickly learn that *it* makes the rules and will assume the position of "Alpha" out of necessity. It's not that your dog has "gone bad" or become inherently dangerous; rather, the living environment has forced Fido to take charge so that he can deal with the unexpected situations that frighten and confuse him.

A very difficult concept for many owners to grasp is that petting, comforting, giving sympathetic attention to, or feeding a dog when it is misbehaving only reinforces the bad behavior. Dogs learn how to behave by testing boundaries and seeing which action results in a positive reaction.

If your dog frequently barks at others while in your arms and you try to calm it down by petting it and cooing, the dog is actually learning that aggressive barking results in petting and attention – you've just made the problem worse! But if you take the dog away from the stimulus (perhaps by putting him in a bathroom for a short time with the door shut) and ignore it, your dog will learn that aggressive barking results in isolation and unhappiness. Balanced dogs will always choose to exhibit the behavior that consistently gives them a positive result, such as affection or food.

That having been said, the opposite is *not* true - that whacking dogs with newspapers or kicking them has any positive effect whatsoever. An owner who resorts to these types of techniques is demonstrating to the dog that he or she is the imbalanced one, *not* the dog. This may actually lead the dog to display more dominant behavior since it doesn't feel safe or content, but rather in danger from the very person who is supposed to be protecting it.

Let's examine some specific behaviors that we see all the time:

1) Sniffing each other's butts is how dogs say "hello" and should never be discouraged. A dog that sits down

when other dogs approach is saying, "don't come near me" and may be insecure or dangerous.

2) A dog's tail between its legs means the dog is fearful and uncertain. If it's a strange dog, turn sideways and stop approaching because a dog in this state can quickly turn aggressive.

3) Frequent urinating on a walk is marking territory, not going to the bathroom. (You should always correct this behavior because your dog is asserting dominance by doing this, implicitly denying your leadership.) One large bathroom break with no smaller follow-ups is the real thing, but make sure your pet does this on *your* property so that you don't upset neighbors by killing their grass.

4) A dog rolling on its back is displaying submission, meaning it accepts the dominance of you or another dog. This is a great time to give a belly rub and show affection because it reinforces that healthy mindset.

5) Barking typically is a territorial response or cry for attention (due to frustration or loneliness), not "talking" as some people incorrectly believe. While dogs who are playing sometimes bark, this is no different from us yelling "hooray!" when our team scores during the Super Bowl. The playing pups are not having a meaningful conversation, they're just unable to contain their excitement.

You may also hear the occasional yelp followed by a quick self-imposed time-out if one dog accidentally crosses the line by being too aggressive. This is normal and does not indicate that the dogs aren't getting along; it usually means one dog took a tumble or was caught off guard by an unexpected nip or paw.

6) A dog that is yawning, purposefully looking away, licking its lips or nose, moving slowly, circling, sniffing the ground, acting "distracted," sitting, lying down,



## Doggone Interesting (*continued*)

shaking as if trying to dry off after getting soaked, or giving you guilty puppy dog eyes may be attempting to diffuse a conflict or manage a threatening situation. If you are approaching a dog that is doing this, it's giving you these calming signals to indicate that it doesn't want to fight even though you're making it nervous. Just stop, turn sideways, crouch, and avoid eye contact. Eventually, the dog will either walk away or approach to sniff you.

**7)** If you see a dog with its ears pinned back close to the head, eyes narrow and fixed intently, lips drawn back with the muzzle wrinkled back, tail straight back, stiff legs, and fully dilated pupils, then it's time to turn around and leave it alone. (If it's your own dog doing this to you, then you've got some serious problems!)

**8)** If you're not sure if two dogs are fighting or playing, look for play bow, wagging tail, ears up or forward, mouth open in a grin but with lips over their teeth (not drawn back in a snarl), pawing the air, nipping at each other's ears, and an overall relaxed and happy look. If that's each dog's state of mind, then they're just having fun.

**9)** A dog licking another dog's mouth is asserting dominance, not grooming. If the dog being licked isn't resisting, then it is probably submissive to the one doing the licking. There's nothing wrong with that, but it may help you determine the pecking order of your pack.

**10)** One front leg up (a "pointer" stance) may indicate its hunting instinct has been triggered. This is harmless if you're playing with a catch toy, but potentially dangerous if the dog isn't acting friendly towards you or a child.

**11)** A dog laying flat with an object between its paws has laid claim to that object. If it's your dog, you should be able to take the toy/object away without the dog

growling or taking it in its jaws; it should just accept that the object is yours and you've been magnanimous enough to let your dog borrow it. If a strange dog is in this position with something you own, you take the object at your own risk, even if the dog doesn't otherwise appear excessively possessive.

**12)** Dogs jump up on people because they want to be face-to-face with you. The best way to greet unfamiliar dogs is to crouch down calmly, show the dog your side, and don't make eye contact. This indicates that you are not trying to encroach on its territory and that you wish to avoid conflict. After the dog gives you a thorough sniffing, it will either walk away satisfied that you aren't a threat (a good reaction, but one of avoidance which means you shouldn't follow), nudge you with its nose to get some affection (a subtle assertion of dominance, which you should ignore), or sit and look at you for guidance as to what comes next (the best reaction because the dog is looking to you for leadership).

**13)** No one knows why dogs lick people. Seriously! Some people believe it's a grooming instinct, others assert that dogs like the salty taste of your skin (especially when sweaty), and still others believe it's the dog equivalent of kissing. Whatever the reason, if your dog continues to lick after being told to stop, then it could be a sign of unwanted dominance.

**14)** In California and in your CC&Rs, there are very specific laws and rules that govern dogs, and you should be aware of them so that you can avoid ever having to defend yourself in court due to a complaint from your neighbor or HOA:

Aliso CC&Rs § 5.13:

"...No pets shall be allowed to make an unreasonable amount of noise or otherwise to become a nuisance...The

Board shall have the right to require the removal of any pet which, in the Board's opinion, constitutes a nuisance or unreasonable annoyance."

LA County Code § 10.40.065:

**"A.** Any animal...which...is repeatedly at large, damages and or trespasses on private or public property, barks, whines or howls in a continuous or untimely fashion, shall be considered a public nuisance.

**B.** Every person who maintains, permits or allows a public nuisance to exist upon his or her property or premises...after reasonable notice in writing from the department of animal care and control has been served upon such person to cease such nuisance, is guilty of a misdemeanor. The existence of such nuisance for each and every day after the service of such notice shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense."

LA County Dept of Animal Care & Control Laws & Ordinances: *Barking Dogs.*

Any pet owner or custodian who allows a dog to bark continuously or for an extended period of time in a manner that annoys the neighbors and disturbs the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood may be guilty of allowing a public nuisance and can be punished with a fine of up to \$1000 and/or six months in jail. (CA Penal Code 373A & LA County Code Sec. 10.40.065)

LA County Dept of Animal Care & Control Laws & Ordinances: *Providing Proper Shelter.*

A dog must be provided access to shelter from extremes of heat or cold and rain at all times.

LA County Dept of Animal Care & Control Laws & Ordinances: *Inhumane Treatment.*

The law forbids the mistreatment of any animal. These laws provide that no animal may be deprived of proper food, water or shelter. Violation of these laws can result in felony charges.

For information on how to stop your dog from barking, check out this very informative web page from LA Animal Services: [http://www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani\\_bark.htm](http://www.laanimalservices.com/aboutani_bark.htm).



## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

**Aliso Sales Office**  
(818) 832-8161

**Euclid Mgmt.**  
- Glenda Kurtz -  
(661) 294-5270 ph  
(909) 608-2288 fax  
gkurtz@euclidmanagement.com

**Emergencies: 911**  
**Non-emergency: 311**

**Dept Water & Power**  
(818) 342-5397

**The Gas Company**  
(800) 427-2200

**City Hall**  
(818) 756-8121

**Animal Control**  
(213) 485-8405

**Editor**  
- Anthony Guthmiller -  
(818) 488-1502  
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## Doggone Interesting (*continued*)

If you have a barking problem that you can't resolve with your neighbor, you may contact Euclid Management at (909) 981-4131, the West Valley Animal Shelter at (888) 452-7381, or submit an online complaint via the LA County Dept of Animal Care & Control website at [http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/Animal\\_Complaint\\_Form.asp](http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/Animal_Complaint_Form.asp).

We ask all homeowners with dogs to ensure that their pets do not bark whilst outside, especially between 9:00pm and 8:00am. If you have difficulty controlling your pet's behavior, we recommend you proactively contact your neighbors to apologize for the noise. A little outreach goes a long way towards keeping the peace, and many people will be very understanding while you're trying hard to fix the problem.

If your neighbor's dog regularly disturbs you, we recommend bringing over a friendly gift of dog treats for him to use while teaching his pet to stay quiet outdoors. If your neighbor refuses to help solve the problem, or if you just can't get a hold of him, then follow up with Euclid Mgmt, the City, or the County. Make sure to document the disturbances, preferably via a recording.

**15)** Having a dog—no matter how well-trained you think it is—doesn't guarantee you're safe from a burglary or home

break-in. Just watch a relevant episode of "It Takes a Thief" on *The Discovery Channel* to see how quickly and quietly a professional burglar can subdue or befriend a "vicious" pet.

Also, a dog that barks all the time can't serve as a reliable "burglar detector" since your neighbors will never know the difference between your pet's regular midnight barking and its territorial challenge to a potential thief. Under those circumstances, you're more likely to have the police called for the constant intrusive noise than for a burglary!

We understand that some residents choose to have a dog patrolling their property at all times as a source of security, but this doesn't excuse an owner from giving the dog the required amount of attention, shelter, and sustenance, nor from keeping the peace by preventing unnecessary and excessive barking.

In conclusion, this article is not meant to take the place of professional guidance, training, or pet rehabilitation. But hopefully you've gleaned some useful information out of it! Always consult a veterinarian, certified trainer, or qualified dog psychologist if you're having trouble with your pet because no single newsletter article can encompass everything you need to know.

