



NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Over the last year the MMS Board of Directors has been working on maintaining the community to its high standards as well as the following activities and projects:

- Road work repair and seal coat (completed summer of 2023) and well as fortifying some edges on Orchid Drive with gravel and road base to increase the longevity of the road.
- Security cameras were installed to monitor Orchid Drive curve. The original delineators were replaced with new ones. “No Parking” signs were positioned at the curve to discourage parking and increase pedestrian safety in that area.
- At the beach, a new gate lock was installed. A support post for the beach stairway landing was replaced and a cliff erosion warning sign was fixed onto the landing.
- MMS rental documents were updated and data was collected from homeowners as to whether the community would like to regulate STRs.
- The MMS financial status remains solid with an increase in total funds (+ \$13,156) compared to July of 2023. The HOA currently holds four CDs and other investments in the bond market. Planned expenditures in the future include repairing the swale on the east side of Orchid Drive and ongoing maintenance to our beach entrance.



Thirty Years of Change

By Reed Jolley

This month Lisa and I begin our thirtieth year of living on More Mesa. We are deeply thankful for the privilege. We came from downtown Santa Barbara with our three children (4, 8 and 10) full of excitement to live in our new home. We have never been disappointed. We give thanks for our home almost every day. The world was a bit different in 1995. Bill Clinton was president, OJ was declared “not-guilty,” a gallon of gas cost \$1.15 and you could buy a house in

our neighborhood for under \$400k! Our house cost \$380,000 and some of the neighbors thought we paid way too much!

Now almost three decades have come and gone. Our children are married and have left Santa Barbara for Camarillo and San Diego. We have been blessed with nine grandchildren whom we love and who are still young enough to want to be with us. Three of our four parents have died. And so on.

When we moved to More Mesa Shores electricity and water were cheap and computer RAM was outrageously expensive. RAM. Do you still remember what that stands for? Initials such as WWW, HTML and even E-mail were hardly understood when we moved to James Road. Y2K, 9/11, VRBO, STR and ADU were far in the future. Back then we shopped in stores with walls and windows. Real ones, made out of brick and sand. Amazon was a river in South America and Google was three years in the future (I “googled” that to make sure). In 1995 there was no such thing as a smart phone and there was a raging war in former Yugoslavia. Times change. James Road has changed too. When we came our paved street looked like it was imported from the majority world. The people living on James Road have changed. There are thirteen houses on our street and over the decades some have moved while others have died. Lisa and I have changed as well. Our yard looks nicer even as our bodies look older. Imagine that! When we came to James Road we were fully employed. Now we are “retired,” going several times a year to Africa and Europe to teach theology and Bible to pastors who have no training.

Almost thirty years in our neighborhood. We are so thankful, and we look forward to more. Hopefully much more. But as the Psalmist writes:

*The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty...
They are soon gone, and we fly away. Psalm 90:10.*

That is the Bible’s poetic way of saying, we live... and then we die. At 71 and 64, Lisa and I realize we have more behind us than ahead of us. We are aware of the brevity of life. The sand is passing through the hourglass. Thankful as we are for 43 years of marriage, for our extended family and for our years in this neighborhood, we know that the sun is setting. But, we have the conviction that the best is yet to come. We are in no hurry, but when the time comes, we are ready...ready to “fly away...” to a neighborhood that will make More Mesa pale in comparison.

The Chumash Indians of Central California

By Greg Novak

I first became interested in the Chumash Indians by reading the many sign boards at Santa Barbara City College. They describe in tremendous detail the many aspects of the Chumash society, but it was the vivid descriptions of the inhumane treatment by Spanish missionaries and white men including the United States government imposing our way of life on their culture. So I began to pursue and research information to write the following.



The Chumash are native American people indigenous to the coastal regions of Central California portions of what is now Kern, San Luis Obispo Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties. The name Chumash means bead maker or seashell people, their rich and diverse cultures thrived in North America. Their trade networks extended into modern day Arizona from which pottery and textiles were traded in exchange for shell beads. They have a history deeply intertwined with the land and sea of their ancestral homeland. The Chumash are known for their intricate way of life which revolved around their relationship with the natural environment. Their territory included the Channel Islands where they developed a distinct maritime culture. They were skilled navigators and seafarers. Their social structure was characterized by a hierarchical system with a clear distinction between commoners and elites with the elites playing a pivotal role in governance and spiritual matters. Spirituality was a cornerstone of Chumash life, they worshiped a pantheon of deities and spirits associated with natural elements, such as the sun, moon, and earth. Religious ceremonies were not only religious in nature but served as social gatherings reinforcing communal bonds and cultural continuity.

The arrival of European explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries marked a significant turning point in Chumash history. The Spanish missions established along the California coast had profound impacts on Chumash society, which led to the disruption of traditional ways of life. The Chumash were subject to social and economic systems imposed by missionization, disease, forced labor, and cultural suppression contributed to a drastic decline in their population and altered their traditional practices. Despite these challenges the Chumash have demonstrated remarkable resilience. In recent decades there has been a resurgence in Chumash cultural revitalization efforts with descendants working to preserve and celebrate their heritage.

Today, the Chumash community is actively engaged in preserving their cultural heritage while navigating the complexities of modern life. They have established organizations and cultural centers dedicated to education and cultural preservation. The Chumash Casino Resort operated by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash

Indians has become a significant economic asset for the community, providing financial resources that support cultural and educational initiatives. Currently a modern museum is under construction in close proximity to the casino resort in Santa Ynez which will contain artifacts, and other culturally significant items.

Improving the Security of Your Home

By Jocelyn Davis



There have been several burglaries in MMS over the last few years. There have also been a few suspicious cars and individuals captured on security videos in our neighborhood. As the plans for thousands of new homes to be built along Patterson and Hollister eventually become a reality, our community will likely have increased vehicle and foot traffic on our roads. The following actions may decrease the likelihood that your home becomes an easy target for a break-in.

Make sure valuables are not visible from the street

Residential burglaries account for about 60 percent of all break-ins in America. If you can see your valuables from the street, so can a burglar. Keep medications, jewelry, electronics, cash, and other valuables hidden away from street view. Consider storing valuables in a safe or safety deposit box. Keep an inventory of your valuables and other personal property in case of theft. You will need to provide this information for the police report or an insurance claim.

Keep garage doors closed and locked at all times. If you park your car in your driveway, lock the doors and remove any valuables that are in view. Lock the gate(s) to your backyard

Do not provide burglars hiding spots near doors and windows.

Large shrubs or trees can conceal a burglar trying to break into your home without neighbors noticing. Keep shrubs and trees trimmed around potential entry points.

Secure sash windows from being pried open using a track lock or similar device. Upgrade doors to window-less solid wood or metal clad. One third of burglars enter a home through the front door. Consider adding extra security by adding dead bolts, reinforcing the strike plates, door jambs and/or frames.

Make sure your home's exterior is well lit. Light up entryways and pathways at night. Consider installing motion-sensor lights and/or using timers with your lights.

Lighting the interior of your home conveys that it is occupied, even if you are not home. Although daytime burglaries account for more than 50 percent of all break-

ins, an unlit house after dark can be attractive to a burglar. Lights that automatically turn on even when you aren't home make your home look occupied. Add an outdoor security camera or consider getting monitored home security. Convicted burglars have reported that they avoid targeting homes with video surveillance. Display yard signs or window decals that state your home is monitored by a security system.

Check who is at the door before opening it (using a doorbell camera, peep-hole or side-light windows). Have an emergency escape plan in the event of a break-in. This includes knowing who you should call first.

Keep tabs on neighborhood break-ins. Often, burglars return to the area of a successful break-in and target similar homes nearby.

Look out for your neighbors and report any suspicious people or activities. Working cooperatively can improve not only the safety of your home, but also the entire neighborhood. Put your mail on hold when you will be away for extended periods of time. You can also have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your mail while you are away.

In the event your home is broken into or burglarized, contact:

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

4434 Calle Real

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Non-emergency dispatch: (805) 683-2724

Office: (805) 681-4100; info@sbsheriff.org

Anonymous tip line: (805) 681-4171; tips@sbsheriff.org

In case of emergency call 9-1-1

Sources: Santabarbaraca.gov, Safewise.com, Dreamstime.com (illustration)