

TOCA Oak Leaf



NEWSLETTER OF THE OAKS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Health News

If you need to lower your blood sugar, lose a few extra pounds, or both, we have just the thing for you. Walk Away the Pounds is a group that meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday every week at 10:00 AM to spend a little less than 30 minutes doing a fun workout that is low impact and easy to do. The group currently meets in the clubhouse for these exercises. Starting in about a month or so, we will also be adding water aerobics at least one of the 3 days. It will depend on the weather and the water temperature in the pool. Please feel free to come join us. You will have fun, a few laughs, meet nice people and get healthy, all at the same time! For more information please phone Vicki at 274-0258. There is no charge and you must be at least 18 to participate.

Pet Policy

As many of you know we have a pet policy here in the park. Many of you may be in violation of this policy or may know someone that is. We are once again posting this information and hope that everyone can abide by the parks Rules & Regulations without a monetary fine for enforcement. We have also installed several Pet Waste stations around the park and hope that you will take advantage of them. Please be a good community member by helping keep our park clean.

Rules & Regulations—Pets

- Owners/tenants are responsible for pets of guests.
- Pets (including but not limited to cats & dogs) shall not cause a disturbance or nuisance.
- Pets (including cats & dogs) shall be kept on a leash within the community while not within the fenced yard of residence.
- Pet owners shall be responsible for cleaning up after their pets.
- Clean up in the community areas shall be immediately.
- Clean up of owners' own yard shall be not less than every few days.
- **Not more than 2 (two) pets are allowed per household. The 2 (two) pets shall only be either: 2 cats or, a combination of 1 cat & 1 dog.**
- **EXCEPTION: (i) Current owners/tenants who had 2 (two) dogs prior to January 1, 2003. However, should owner/tenant lose one of the two dogs, the second dog must not be replaced with another dog.**
- Should dog have a litter of puppies, the puppies shall be removed from the property within 60 (sixty) days of birth.
- The maximum dog size allowed is 24 inches at shoulder height.
EXCEPTION: (i) Dogs used to aid disabled, and (ii) dogs acquired prior to January 1, 2003.



Fathers Day is June 15th

Happy Fathers Day!!

The June Board Meeting will be

June 17th at
6:00pm

June 2014

HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE OAKS OFFICE Open Monday-Friday 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

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Snake Safety and Awareness

Spring is here again! The days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting warmer, and many different animals are coming out of winter hibernation, or dormancy.

Upon leaving their winter hideout, snakes will seek shelter just about anywhere they can. So the more "stuff" you have lying around in the yard, the more likely a snake will use it as shelter. And if you have food scraps outside, this will attract other animals, especially rodents, which will attract the snakes. So the best way to avoid an unwanted confrontation is to simply make sure the immediate area around your home is as tidy as possible. Keep the yard trimmed and don't leave things lying around.

Snakes do not want to confront humans. They would prefer if we never even saw them, so they are never going to attack you, unprovoked, and will certainly not chase you. Rattlesnakes use their toxic venom for two things: to kill their prey and as self defense. Since this venom is used to capture their prey, it is not in their best interest to use it unless they feel threatened enough to justify it.

Snakes will be active throughout the summer, but what many people don't realize is that snakes can also over-heat very quickly in the mid-summer heat. Because of this they will be more active at night and seek cool places to retreat during the day. This is often the time when people are confronted with snakes that are just trying to get out of the heat.

By far the most important thing you can do to avoid a potentially serious situation is educate yourself and be aware of your surroundings. Don't put your fingers anywhere before checking and be careful where you are stepping. And never try and pick up or kill a snake. Most people are bitten as a result of either provoking it or trying to kill it. Remember, they would prefer to avoid a confrontation so if you just respect that, you should be fine.

YARD: The easiest way to keep a snake away from your lawn or any part of your property is to make the area unattractive to the reptile. Snakes will look for areas favorable to continued survival. This means the snake will want sufficient shelter and food if it is to become a permanent resident. Unfortunately, many of the landscaping items we like to use as homeowners are also ideal objects for snakes to use for shelter. Keeping snakes out of your yard begins with proper lawn patrol. There are reasons why the snake is in your yard; it may be an abundance of food or an abundance of shelter. Usually an abundance of shelter will mean an abundance of insects, amphibians, and rodents. Snakes like vegetation. Long grass, thick gardens, and over-the-top landscaping are all great ways to entice in a serpent. Because they lack the internal ability to regulate their body temperatures, a property that offers rocks to warm on and shade to cool in will draw in snakes. Shelter is not the only reason a snake wants to be in your yard. Long grasses and lush gardens also mean lots of insects and other food sources. Anywhere a snake can wiggle under and den is a place that needs your attention. If property care is too daunting or not working, snakes can be trapped and removed. You should never attempt to handle a snake if you do not know what species you are dealing with. Not all venomous snakes are colorful, and not all colorful snakes are dangerous. Trapping is best left to an expert or to a glue trap. A few models have received professional endorsement can be purchased online.

HOUSE: How to keep snakes out of your house - Snakes most often enter a home through cracks in the foundation, though some snakes are good climbers. For this reason, holes in the exterior of your home, at all levels, need to be found and repaired. This is not just good snake prevention, but sealing up your home will prevent other nuisance animals from coming in and causing damage. When you have repaired the holes in your foundation, purchase some recommended box traps. These traps are glue-based and have snake attractant dots on the inside. Create a barrier in the home to confine the snake to one room and place the trap inside. If the snake is not living in your home and has happened in through an open door or window, you can remove the snake by gently scooping it into a pillowcase. Handling the animal should only be done if you are confident you know the snake is not poisonous. The majority of all venomous snake bites occur because someone was trying to handle the snake that bit them. If you think the snake may be venomous or if you are not sure, call a professional. A snake trap may not be practical if the animal is in a main area of the home, like the kitchen. Snakes in area like this will also make good use of the underside of appliances. Professional assistance is advised.

