



Newsletter

MAY 2024

POISON IN THE AIR:

Despite the ban on electric and battery powered leaf blowers on all Hidden Hills City parkways, roadways, streets, and trails, and the total ban of gas-powered leaf blowers throughout the entire city, City staff continues to receive numerous weekly complaints about the use of leaf blowers in prohibited spaces.

All leaf blowers, but especially gas-powered blowers, are a significant source of air pollution in California. Even though their gas engines are small, they are significantly more polluting than passenger cars and just one hour of use creates as much air pollution as driving 1,100 miles! They release fine particulate matter (such as dust, pollen, and mold spores) into the air which travels and can penetrate deep into the lungs and can cause and exacerbate all kinds of respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis, and cardiovascular diseases. These airborne toxins are stirred up at a much greater rate in Hidden Hills with our dirt parkways and the City takes these health and safety risks seriously.

My landscaper uses a gas leaf blower, what can I do?

Purchase a battery powered leaf blower and leave it charged and ready for your landscaper to use on the day of your service. If they protest, let them know it's a legal City ordinance and fines are being levied. The reality is electric blowers are every bit as powerful as gas blowers and the battery life is long enough for your yard. SEED Landcare, the landscape company of the HOA, prefers electric blowers. They confirm they are just as powerful as gas blowers and appreciate how much quieter they are. But remember, electric and battery powered leaf blowers are still prohibited on parkways, roadways, and trails.

How to Report Violation

If you see a gas leaf blower or improper use of an electric or battery-powered leaf blower, please contact City Hall at 818-888-9281 or send an email to staff@hiddenhillscity.org, with the date, time, and address for the improper use. Complaints may be made anonymously.

The form may be found at: www.hiddenhillscity.org/leafblower-form



THE TRUTH ABOUT GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS



EMISSIONS
of 1 hour of leaf blowing =
Driving from Hidden Hills to Denver.



20X
more toxic than gas cars.



NOISE INTENSITY
of 90 to 100 decibels, which can cause hearing loss and tinnitus.



HEALTH RISKS
Exhaust contains carcinogenic compounds such as benzene and formaldehyde.



FIRE HAZARD
The high-speed of the air flow can inadvertently spread sparks and ignite fires.



DISRUPTS ECOSYSTEM
intense force disturbs soil and decomposed granite, displacing beneficial insects and harming small animals.

COUNCIL CREATES NEW ROLE TO UNIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY STRATEGIES

As an example of the City's commitment to public safety, the City Council recently created a new Public Safety & Emergency Services Manager position and appointed Michael Grant to lead these efforts. Grant has an impressive set of credentials, including having been a Chief of Police with over 30 years of law enforcement experience. He's also a skilled instructor in all aspects of C.E.R.T. programming and is trained in California POST Crisis Response, Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Grant has authored government agency emergency response plans and has experience in equestrian and domestic animal evacuations. His law enforcement career includes being a commander of numerous critical incidents, including fires and mass casualty events.

We had the opportunity to ask Michael a few questions:

What do you plan to accomplish in your position as the Public Safety & Emergency Services Manager?

The community of Hidden Hills has an untapped resource to combat crime and assist in emergency and disaster preparation; its very own residents. My experience has proven that when we organize, train, plan, and educate as a community, we can build an autonomous force that can effectively respond to natural and human-made disasters. A perfect example is a well-organized, structured, and trained Community Emergency Response Team or C.E.R.T. Once 1st responders arrive on scene (fire department, police, etc.), a C.E.R.T. can then support them in a myriad of ways. My goals are to build, structure, train, and then deploy a Community Emergency Response Team for Hidden Hills which is at the core of my disaster preparation plan. However, if trained properly, C.E.R.T. can also combat crime by acting as the eyes and ears of the community, observing, and reporting information, performing patrol checks on properties, and engaging in a wide variety of other proactive activities.

What relevant experience has prepared you for this position?

During my 30 years as a police officer to the rank of chief of police, I have experienced many critical incidents, mass casualty events, and disasters. More important I think, is how I used that experience to motivate me to participate in community emergency preparation. While serving as a sergeant and then chief of police in a roughly 16-square-mile community with around 3,000 residents, I acted as a C.E.R.T. leader and instructor. Our team's training was tested on many occasions during wildland wildfires, a mass casualty incident, and many planned community events. I observed on all those occasions the absolute necessity of community teamwork and resident volunteers. We were an asset and not a liability to emergency services,

deploying quickly and working together effectively. In comparison, Hidden Hills is roughly 1.7 square miles, with approximately 1,700 residents. Imagine, with the commitment of Hidden Hills citizen volunteers, what we could accomplish together!

What quick advice would you give Hidden Hills residents right now?

Firstly, safety from crime is not just about fortifying your home and your community. Those are certainly important aspects that should be addressed immediately. However, your personal safety when you are out and about is paramount. Your mindset when you leave your home should be one of vigilance and observation. Learn what to look for in human behavior. There are many pre-attack indicators that become easy to read once you are tuned in to your environment and know what to look for. I do plan on providing some street safety classes for the Hidden Hills community. Secondly, you must prepare yourselves and your family for disasters with sufficient food, water, medical supplies, and sources of power generation. This is especially true if you plan on becoming a citizen volunteer. If you are going to respond to assist the community, you must first ensure that your family and home are self-sustaining.



HOMEOWNER INSURANCE CRISIS TOWN HALL WRAP-UP

On April 6, the California Department of Insurance hosted a Wildfire and Disaster Insurance Town Hall regarding the state of insurance in California and how it relates to insurance carriers dropping many residents in high fire zones- including many residents who live in Hidden Hills.

The town hall was hosted by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, and the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments.

Insurance Commissioner Lara briefed attendees on the current insurance market and commented that "it's going to get worse for homeowners before it gets better." Many insurance companies in major regions of California have stopped issuing new homeowner policies, while others continue to insure, with skyrocketing rates, leaving homeowners without many options. There is legislation being introduced in Sacramento to help bring carriers back to California and help with premium costs, but until that happens, for residents unable to obtain private insurance coverage, the California Fair Plan is being offered as the insurer of last resort.

California State Fire Marshal Chief Daniel Berlant presented fire prevention programs and home hardening and wildfire prevention tips, and the meeting concluded with a question-and-answer forum with suggestions to help homeowners keep their fire coverage in the future. The town hall was recorded, and you can watch it at: www.hiddenhillscity.org/insurance-town-hall.

If you have questions, please visit the California Department of Insurance's website or call 800-927-4357.



Sheriff's Blotter March 2024

	CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0
Robbery				
Armed	0	0	0	0
Strong-arm	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	0	0	0
Burglary				
Residential	0	1	0	1
Business	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (locked)	0	0	0	0
Theft				
Grand (\$950+)	0	0	1	-1
Petty	0	0	0	0
Vehicle (unlocked)	0	0	0	0
Grand Theft Vehicle	0	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence / Felony	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence/ Misdemeanor	0	1	0	1
Trespassing Calls for Service	1	3	7	-4

Noteworthy Incident:

- On March 17, a male transient was arrested for trespassing on El Dorado Road.

FIESTA

FRESH IDEAS WANTED!

City Hall is kicking off planning for the most anticipated Hidden Hills event of the year! As a reminder, this year's celebration will take place on September 14 and 15. As part of our preparation, we're on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers, new faces, and fresh ideas to make this Fiesta the best one yet. From coordinating entertainment and food to organizing games and activities, every idea and detail counts and we know our residents have the passion and creativity to play a vital role in shaping Fiesta into a truly spectacular event.

If you've got a little bit of time and a lot of passion, volunteer for a Fiesta committee as create an unforgettable celebration for the entire community. Call or email City Hall at 818-888-9281 or staff@hiddenhillscity.org.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

At its meeting of April 8, 2024, the Hidden Hills City Council voted unanimously to suspend the City's utility undergrounding efforts and discontinue the pursuit of the Fiber-to-the-Home project as the City has been unable to obtain the needed easements from the Hidden Hills Community Association (HHCA). The City remains committed to the principles of both capital improvement efforts and looks forward to working with the HHCA in the future to obtain the necessary easements.

The Council also approved a two-year extension to provide crossing guard services to Round Meadow Elementary for the continued safety of our students, parents, and school staff.

The next City Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 13. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. and can be watched on Channel 3 (Charter/Spectrum Cable) or web streamed via the City's website.

DON'T FALL VICTIM! Sheriff's Warning About New Scam

The L.A. County Sheriff's Department is warning the public of scammers posing as Sheriff's Department officials through spoofed phone calls, displaying official numbers on caller IDs.



Reports continue to come in about scammers claiming to be Sheriff's personnel, demanding payment for allegedly missing grand jury duty. These scammers coerce victims into making electronic payments, threatening arrest if payment is not made promptly. Remember, legitimate law enforcement agencies do not contact individuals by phone regarding warrants.

In an effort to help you remain vigilant, here are tips on how to avoid falling victim:

- If you receive what seems to be a suspicious call, text, or email, verify the identity of the contact through an independent source such as an agency online website, online search engine or phone book directory.

- Do not feel pressured by the threatening caller until you have verified their identity and story. You can ask the caller for their name, employee identification number, callback number, and a reference number for the matter they are calling about. This information can be used to contact the organization directly to determine the validity of the request.
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department or any government agency would never ask for any type of payment over the phone or banking information.
- All financial transactions are typically handled in person at the courthouses and custody facilities.
- Never send money or give bank account details, or other personal information to anyone you don't know or trust.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department urges the public to remain safe and reach out to the Lost Hills Sheriff's station at 818-878-1808 if you feel you have been a victim of these crimes.

City Council Meetings

May 13, 2024, 5:30PM
Hidden Hills City Hall
6165 Spring Valley Road

City Council

Mayor Eniko Gold
Mayor Pro Tem Larry G. Weber
Council Member Laura McCorkindale
Council Member Joe Loggia
Council Member Adam Wasserman

City Staff

Interim City Manager Marcella Marlowe, Ph.D.
City Clerk Deana L. Gonzalez, CMC
Accounting Specialist Theresa Hernandez
Administrative Analyst Aaron Williams
Interim City Attorney Michael Jenkins
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
Building Inspector Steve O'Hara