

# President's Message

By Ron Hascall, Forster Highlands Board President

I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to get out and enjoy the summer as often as they can. We have been visiting the pier, the Dana Point Harbor area, downtown San Clemente and other coastal communities (Del Mar) between here and San Diego frequently. Regardless of your available free time, just a walk around the neighborhood and a few evenings in the backyard is enough to remind you why you chose San Clemente as your home.

Unfortunately, not all of us have the luxury of spending a nice quiet evening in the backyard with the family. Our neighbors within close proximity to our community pool report almost nightly gatherings, both in and around the pool area, of young adults and teenagers. Due to their loud vulgar language, drinking, and smell of drugs these neighbors find it necessary to not only keep their family indoors, but to keep the windows closed as well. This goes on both during and after pool hours throughout the night. Drug dealing and open sex acts have been witnessed as well.

Our pleas for your help in controlling your family and friends have had no impact. In fact, this year is the worst yet. The flagrant wild parties being held by your teenagers, young adults and their friends are costing all of us thousands of dollars a month in repairs and replacements. We have replaced the pool keys, heightened the fence, beefed-up the gates and replaced the locks. Each time they `suds' the spa (6-8 times a month) it costs us about \$500 to drain, clean and refill. Then there's the removal of the pool furniture, umbrellas and other items from the pool after these 'events'. Add on the cleanup costs for the broken glass and cigarette butts, the removal of graffiti and the repair/replacement of our broken equipment and you have a VERY expensive party palace, courtesy of Forster Highlands.

Recently we included a flyer advising of this problem and asking for your devoted support. We also advised that we are implementing a "Zero Tolerance" enforcement policy. This policy includes

additional, sporadic, guard patrols. The guard has been instructed to call the Sheriff on any and every infraction of our pool rules. As of this writing, (during the first two weeks of July) we have caught and turned over eighteen young adults and juveniles to the San Clemente Police for prosecution. We DO intend to pursue the criminal prosecution of every case. We also intend to bill the homeowner responsible/allowing entrance and use of our facilities for the cleanup and repair. Landlords and tenants allowing this misuse/abuse will be held liable as well. This "Zero Tolerance" policy will be applied without exception! Violators will be prosecuted and only lose their pool access privileges. I encourage you to GET INVOLVED and stop this abuse of our community property. Here's what you can do...

- Obey all pool rules, including limiting guests to 4 per household.
- Close the gate securely each time you enter/exit.
- DO NOT allow anyone in the pool area without a working pool key.
- DO NOT prop open the gate. This is also a violation of city & county ordinances.
- Report missing pool fobs. They will be deactivated and reactivated if found.
- Report any suspicious activities to:  
Sheriff's Department 949-770-6011  
Nordic Patrol 714-751-0347  
PCM 949-465-2223, after hours: 949- 580-2028

I am sorry to have to bring you this disappointing news, but it is up to us all to protect our beautiful neighborhood. For those of us who choose not to, whatever the reason, your unwillingness to involve yourself will come at your expense.

Also, again this year we do not have enough ballots turned in to hold an election. Of the 618 homes in our community, just 88 have returned their ballots. By law we need a 50% return rate. As such, by law, the election must be 'postponed/continued' until such a return is met. This only costs us all money in additional printing and mailers. Please return your ballot to PCM, so that we may end this needless expense. Thank you.