

# Oakcreek Sr. Cohousing – ICE and ANTS

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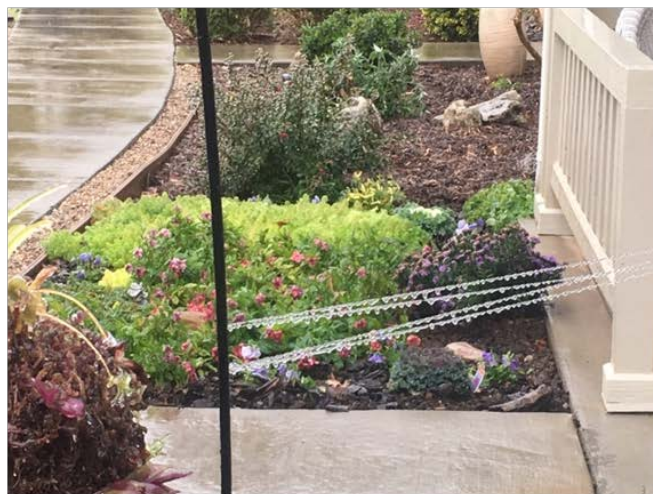
[www.OakcreekStillwater.com](http://www.OakcreekStillwater.com)

## Fall Newsletter December, 2020



Having grown accustomed to the extra warm fall temperatures, the community was surprised to awake to heavy ice one morning in late October.

Spiky ice after an unseasonably early October ice storm.



Beautiful -- until fresh rain falls on the ice, weighing down the limbs, which begin to pop like firecrackers throughout the morning. Surveying the damage, Mark starts making plans for the cleanup:



Oakcreek schedules monthly workdays just for occasions such as this. It seems there's always SOMETHING that needs attention, so best that we just have the Saturday morning workdays on the calendar.







Chainsaws  
started early  
and buzzed  
for hours.

There was  
even some  
hand sawing.



Until finally, all of us, complaining of tired backs and feet, carted all of the broken limbs to the street, where the City will be kind enough to haul them away. This was a job that might have been overwhelming (and expensive) for any one of us in a traditional, single family home, but was actually fun when 15-20 co-house-ers tackled it together. And it provided a safe, socially distanced physical activity. (Not that we want to repeat it within the next few years.)







October brought new neighbors to Oakcreek. There was help of all kinds on moving day -- from transporting the boxes, to strolling the sleeping grand baby.



Each new resident begins an orientation process, including invitations to the Team meetings, schedule of all activities, phone and address list for all neighbors, safety and emergency instructions (fire and weather warnings), and opportunities to begin participating as soon as they'd like.

Now in our seventh month of near-lockdown, we each search for ways to get some exercise and fresh air. OSU's Botanic Garden provides trails and an ever-changing landscape. In normal times, there are concerts on the lawn -- but these aren't normal times. So long walks and enjoyment of the fall colors supply the distraction.









We're often amazed to discover more unexpected benefits of living in close community. When Donna noticed these critters on her back porch, she was immediately concerned that they were destructive ants of some kind.



On the outside chance that a neighbor may have experienced a similar infestation, she emailed the photos to the community. Just coincidentally, Mark & Tracy's son Chad was visiting from MN and apparently is a student of insects, reporting that these are:

**'Crematogaster cerasi. Highly sought after by ant keepers. They are having a late nuptial flight. Those are all new queens off to mate and try to found new colonies.'**

Within a couple of days, they disappeared -- as quickly as they had appeared. No harm done. And no call to exterminator required!



Being pandemic-stranded with more time for (distanced, masked) visits, we've had more time to hear about and enjoy little known interests of our neighbors. Bob, our expert COVID statistician, is also a metric fanatic. Following some discussion, and good natured joking, about this, he supplied all 24 homes with metric rulers - which we use to translate cm to inches!!



You may be picking up the theme of our past few months: Since we need to be semi-isolated, what can we do to stay connected, entertained, useful, and healthy?

The Oakcreek Community Well Being Team and the Social Team have used their creativity to provide opportunities. There have been Zoom Conferences of Gratitude, distanced Bring Your Own Dinners in the meadow, and three outdoor concerts.







“What I’m  
thankful for  
in 6 words”  
feathers.





# Gratitude in 6 Words

OAKCREEK STILL  
THRIVING, EVEN IN  
PANDEMIC. Bob

A CARING AND  
SUPPORTIVE  
COMMUNITY. Helen

RELATIVELY GOOD  
HEALTH; FAMILY &  
FRIENDS. Nelda

WE STILL CONNECT,  
THANKS TO ZOOM. Bob

THANKFUL FOR DIRT;  
PLANTS WILL GROW.  
Tracy

ALWAYS SOMETHING TO  
DO; LIFE'S GOOD. Doug

OAKCREEK COMM. AND  
CRAZY POD. Chuck

THANKFUL FOR THE  
SALAD BAR.

YOU'RE THE BEST. NOT  
FLATTERY. FACT. Anne

WITH TWO HEATERS,  
OUTSIDE MEALS  
CONTINUE. KAY

The Deer

FOR WONDERFUL  
FRIENDS IN ALL TIMES.  
Sidney

THE BRIGHT SIDE IS A  
BLESSING. Frank

COHOUSING  
NEIGHBORS-THEY'RE  
THE GREATEST! Ronda

BICYCLE, BOOMER LAKE,  
PEDAL AROUND...  
REPEAT! Mark

COOKIES SHARED  
WARMING HEARTS.  
STRETCHPANTS ONLY.  
Pat D

LOOKING >2021, WE  
WILL GATHER AGAIN.  
Carma

SOLITUDE AND  
COMMUNITY.  
COVID CANT WIN!

GOOD TENNIS  
WEATHER, TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY, SATURDAY.

THAT I'VE NEVER BEEN  
HUNGRY/HOMELESS.  
Donna

Marilyn

Pat & Steve

In order to extend the usefulness of the Common House patio, a couple of heaters have been added -- to facilitate small informal visits during cooler weather.





Though our normal travels have been curtailed, with extensive planning, quarantining, and testing, some have managed to safely escape for a few weeks. We all look forward to the time when we can easily visit family and friends again. In the meantime, we'll find enjoyment in the beauty around us, and observe the holidays as we can. We hope that you can do the same, and we remain thoughtful of those who've experienced severe loss this year.

Peace to All.



**Sorry No Vacancies**  
**All Oakcreek homes are occupied**

**We are glad to put your contact information on  
our Interested List.**

**Call number below if you want to be notified  
when a vacancy occurs.**

**405-880-3703**