

DeForest Neighborhood Flyer

MAY 2015

DeForest Club House @ Harding and DeForest Ave.

Mtg 5/21/15 7 pm

Pres: Dan Pressburg 562-428-7710

Vice Pres: Joni Ricks-Oddie 323-786-8499

Treasurer: Keith Oddie 323-786-8499

Sec. & Newsletter Linda Long 562-619-4167

IT'S BACK

Dine-Out 90805 is a monthly opportunity to showcase eateries in our area that you may be unfamiliar with. Our first of the year will be held Monday, June 1st from 6:30-8p p.m. at Robert Earl's BBQ, 703 E. Artesia Blvd. Yelp them if you have questions as I did and their ratings soar. Please come out and enjoy some great food and commune with your neighbors.

LAST CHANCE

To sign up for DeForest Park Casino trip to Pechanga on Saturday, June 13th \$35 per person includes bus trip, drinks, coffee, donuts and snacks. Please bring cash or check payable to DeForest Park Association. All proceeds will go to the DeForest Clubhouse for balls, board games, and tables and redoing the flooring in our club house building. The turnaround trip bus leaves at 8 a.m from DeForest Park Clubhouse and returns at 5 p.m. Bring your friends...everyone over 21 welcome. Sign-up sheets will be at this month's meeting or call Javier Alvarez @ 562 318-4021.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

John Watkins, the project manager for the North Library Project that is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2016, will be our speaker this month! He will be giving us an overview of the project & sharing some renderings as well as updating us on the status of the construction. If you have questions please submit them to dpna6255@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events in June:

18th: Braden Phillips, Adm. Chief for the Long Beach PD is our scheduled speaker

20th- Spring Clean & BBQ/Potluck fundraiser. We will have a dumpster available from 8a-12p and BBQ Cookout 12:30-4pm. \$2 Donation.

Here is a FREE city service you may not know about!

Notice some illegally dumped items? Call 562-570-2880 or report them using the "Go Long Beach" App

Contact us:
Dpna6255@gmail.com

BEACH STREETS is coming to Uptown!!

Atlantic Avenue will be transformed into a beyond-bicycle-friendly Open Street event on **June 6th**. The street will be temporarily closed from Harding Avenue to Wardlow Road from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. so that people can walk, bicycle, skateboard and socialize without any threat from motorized traffic. **FREE** entertainment will be provided at several sections along the route and the major hubs of Houghton Park, Bixby Knolls, and Scherer Park. The City's Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Marine and the Health Dept. will provide healthy active living activities and information throughout the course.

For more information check out the website:
beachstreets.com

We NEED volunteers to help make this event great!!! Any age or activity level is welcome. If you're interested please contact:
BeachStreetsVolunteer@gmail.com

Join us on **NEXTDOOR** & like our **FACEBOOK** page "DEFOREST PARK NEIGHBORHOOD"

GETTING RID OF CRITTERS : SKUNKS AND RACCOONS

In DeForest Park from Atlantic Avenue to the river, up South Street to DeForest Park, Jaymills around to Chestnut, and from Atlantic Ave down Poppy to DeForest Park and residences in between we get to enjoy a quiet peaceful experience of nature. Possums in our backyards, urban squirrels in the trees, skunks under the house, Raccoons in the attic, bees in the eaves, ants, roaches, bedbugs and termites. All these creatures of nature present a different problem in our urban setting with a different cure. So as the weather heats up and they become more active The DeForest Park Neighborhood Association will provide remedies and cures as our homes are invaded by nature.

Our first article is on "Raccoons and Skunks". I live in the only historic landmark in DeForest Park on South Street. I am less than a quarter of a mile from the "Nature Trail" and get to experience number natural pests. I have had the privilege of taking care of or removing. I have had to be successful as their invasion affects my family and neighbors once we are rid of them because it is only nature that causes them to move next door. In Spring, Skunks and Raccoons forage for food, are unique scavengers and take advantage of every possible situation to survive. The raccoon and skunk population over here is small but they are very nasty and aggressive. They eat our pet's food, dig in our trashcans, tear up our flower beds and bore holes in our lawns. So here are the suggestions that have worked for me and others.

1. Keep trash secured. If your trash can is on the alley, drill a hole and padlock it. This is also helpful for the two legged forager looking for cans bottles and new identities.
2. Keep pet food bowls and containers secured and eating utensils clean. (bowls, dishes etc).

Spring is breeding season for skunks and raccoons. By summer most skunks have their "kittens". Skunks become a nuisance when they decide that under your house or any structure is the best place to live. They may spray a structure or your pet signaling "home" is just a scent away.

3. Many of you have heard LBPd say to "harden your target" meaning protect entry to your home. This means check your foundation screens make sure they are attached and secure.

In spring and fall skunks are eating off the ground and "Grubbing for food". At the same time Raccoons are attacking trashcans and looking for a way to invade your home. Consequently, they both can do a lot of property damage while searching for their next meal. Just the same trapping a skunk is one of the hardest things and may not be the best answer. Raccoons are more nocturnal and follow the path of easiest resistance. They are also creatures of habit so trapping may be easier. There are many humane solutions that may end up being the most effective way anyway. Skunks just like feral cats will spray and mark their territory. One of the ways is to eliminate "Wildlife attracting smells". Better yet is to be preventative by utilizing nature that surrounds your property.

CASTOR OIL

If your property is open more or less the best way to keep skunks out is a fence. Consider digging about six inches down and about a foot in this prevents your animals from digging out and critters from digging in. One of the best ways to keep them from digging, damaging lawns, flower beds and grubbing is to treat areas with Castor Oil. Skunks like Possums are after bugs under outdoor lights, earthworms along with good and bad grubs in your lawn. Castor oil serves as a taste deterrent. The nasty taste typically makes them move on. To keep feces from your yard just place and secure a 1 gallon water jug next to the area you do not want messed on. This also works for dogs and cats. Most large hardware stores sell castor oil with a garden hose applicator. This method is also a way of deterring moles and gophers in the form of a taste deterrent. There are many types of Castor Oil find the one that works best for skunks, raccoons, armadillos and for wildlife digging grubs. You can find them in the pest mole/gopher control section. Liquid Fence Castor Oil repellent or Sweeney's Yellow bottle Castor Oil work best if you double the application.

A NATURAL PREDATOR PRODUCT

Finally, what I have found to work equally well is a product called "**Shake Away**" small animal repellent. This product uses Nature's most natural force that is the skunk's instinct to fear its natural predator. What does all that mean? The strongest force in nature and nature's most powerful repellent is something every skunk or raccoon is **born** with. There is an "**Instinctive Fear of Predators**". Since we are dealing with nature why not go naturally.

Shake Away Skunk Repellent (small animal repellent) is the one and only product of its kind to contain the genuine territorial marking tool of the skunk's most feared predator, the fox. That marking tool is fox urine. This also works for other rodents such as rabbits, rats, mice and armadillos. Yep. It's the real thing, except in shakable, granular form. Outdoorsmen have utilized this secret for years. This can be purchased on the internet and is guaranteed to eliminate the problem. Also note that locally, OSH Hardware has a similar product with the same claims on its products, however, I have not used it yet.

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