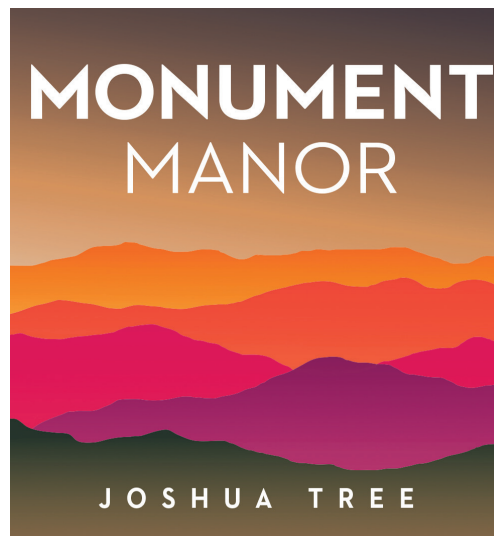


MONUMENT MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



WELCOME PACKET



MONUMENT MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (MMNA) would like to welcome you to the neighborhood! To make your transition to the Monument Manor of Joshua Tree as smooth as possible, the MMNA has created this welcome packet. Additional info is available at www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com

OVERVIEW

MONUMENT MANOR covers two square miles, 260 parcels, 217 owners, 194 developed properties and eight miles of well-maintained dirt roads. It is a safe neighborhood with beautiful views, native vegetation, gorgeous dark night skies where wildlife can coexist with residents. It is a place where residents proactively work together to support a true sense of community.

DARK SKIES One of the amazing attributes of our area is the dark the night skies. However, without proactive efforts, dark night skies are becoming rare. They are important not only for stargazing, but also to wildlife who can become disoriented by lights at night and it can affect the ability of predators to catch their prey.

In 2021, San Bernardino County passed a Dark Night Skies Ordinance focusing on the prevention of light trespass onto neighboring properties and protection of dark night skies. In addition to the SBC Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, Monument Manor is a Dark Sky friendly area where lights are to be turned off at night when possible. Residents try to manage/mitigate light trespass from indoor lighting as well. *(Additional info in this packet.)*

DIRT ROADS One of our main missions is to maintain and manage our roads. Weather events, traffic (especially heavy trucks and vans) exact a disproportionate toll on our fragile roads. Supplemental contributions to the MMNA to our road fund go a long way to help maintain our dirt roads.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. We look forward to meeting you! Additional information and a membership form is available in this folder as well as online at monumentmanorneighborhood.com

Monument Manor Neighborhood Association is solely supported by volunteers and your donations. Donate online or by check along with the membership form.

Our recommended donation is \$100 for the year. However, any and all donations are a tremendous help to this volunteer-supported group.

DARK NIGHT SKIES – SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY OUTDOOR LIGHTING REGULATIONS

Dark night skies are important not only for stargazing, but also to wildlife who can become disoriented by lights at night. In 2017 Joshua Tree National Park was designated as an International Dark Sky Park in recognition of its important contribution to maintaining dark sky areas.

To protect this valuable resource, in 2021 San Bernardino County passed the Dark Night Skies Ordinance to prevent light trespass onto neighboring properties and protect dark night skies. A summary is as follows:

- **CURFEW:** Outdoor lights must be turned off by 11 PM or when people leave the area. They may also be on a sensor that shuts off after five minutes of activation.
- **SHIELDING:** All outdoor fixtures must be shielded to direct light downward.
- **LIGHT LIMITS:** There are limits on the brightness of lights. In the desert and mountain regions the light trespass limit is 0.1 foot-candle at the property line, as measured by a light meter. This equates to very little light – Think of the light cast by a candle one foot away from it.

USE OF RODENTICIDES

Rodenticides are toxic chemicals that are used to kill rodents. The reality is that these poisons kill more than their targeted victims.

There are two main types of rodenticides: anticoagulants and non-anticoagulants. Anticoagulants work by preventing blood from clotting, which can lead to internal bleeding and/or death of the rodent. Non-anticoagulants impact the rodent's nervous system resulting in respiratory distress and death.

Rodenticides can be harmful through direct poisoning, where wildlife ingests the poison, or secondary poisoning, where wildlife eats rodents that have ingested it. Rodenticides can kill local wildlife including coyotes, bobcats, roadrunners, hawks, and owls.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE, PETS AND CHILDREN FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF RODENTICIDES BY:

- Utilizing non-toxic methods to control rodent populations, including exclusion, repellants, and trapping.
- Ensuring that you are not creating artificial rodent habitat around your property such as standing piles of brush or other materials.
- If you use a pest control service, ask them to use alternative methods to rodenticides.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

One may assume that dirt roads are “off road.” To the contrary, SBC does not allow for off-road vehicles to ride on private property without the owner’s permission (which includes our dirt roads). Riding on a non-street legal vehicle on our roads or cross country is illegal unless the rider has the permission of each property owner whose property they cross and they have a permit from them in their possession.

Our dirt roads are owned by the property owners. Per the County ordinance, no person can operate an off-highway vehicle on private property, even their own, if it disturbs the peace of the neighborhood or another person. Additionally, off-road vehicles can cause property and vegetation resource damage.

BURN PERMITS

You **MUST** obtain an open fire permit to conduct burning of residential or agricultural vegetation waste within the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. Please use the county’s online burn permit application to obtain a permit. For additional information, contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 909-386-8400.

OPEN FIRE STATUS

ALL open fires (except for fires fueled solely by natural gas or propane) must be extinguished during Red Flag or Fire Weather Watch Conditions, when local winds exceed 10 miles per hour, or when directed by Fire District personnel.

FLASH FLOODS

Our normally dry desert roads can quickly become raging torrents of water during summer monsoons and early fall tropical storms. People have lost their lives trying to cross them. It is best to wait until the flood subsides as it’s usually over fairly quickly.

Our roads can be badly damaged during flash floods. Flash floods can create deep ruts in the upper part of our roads and they can deposit deep sand, which is sometimes not passable to two-wheel drive vehicles. Fortunately, with your contributions, MMNA contracts with a local equipment operator to bring in dirt to fill the ruts and to remove the sand. Sometimes, after a flood it can take a week or more for the equipment operator to respond, due to the fact that all or much of the area can be impacted.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Burrtec (Trash collection) (760) 340-2113

Joshua Basin Water District (760) 366-8438

To report water leak, call and select menu option to report water leak.

Give street name and nearest cross street.

Southern California Edison (800) 655-4555

Joshua Tree Fire Station (760) 366-8423

County Fire Non-Emergency (909) 387-5974

Hi-Desert Medical Center (760) 366-3711

Snake Wrangler Danielle Wall (707) 696-4691

Relocates rattlesnakes at no charge, but a tip is appreciated.

Sheriff Local Office (760) 366-4175

Sheriff Non-Emergency Dispatch (909) 387-8313

California Highway Patrol (760) 366-3707

Joshua Tree National Park (760) 367-5500

JTNP Superintendant Jane Rodgersor (760) 366-1855

Email: Jane_Rodgers@nps.gov

Joshua Tree Post Office (760) 366-8192

Code Enforcement (909) 884-4056

Short Term Rental Complaints (833) 722-7871

San Bernardino County Land Use Services Dept.

Code Enforcement Officer, Sherry Rotruck (760) 366-4110

CSA (County Service Area) (760) 366-8415

Covers Section 6 (adjacent to Section 5 which is BLM), Frank Haggard

Sounding Reporting 760-830-9222

Marine Corps Base in Twentynine Palms has a sound reporting system.

Include time, date of the sound occurrence, where you were when you heard the sound and the type of sound heard (artillery, aircraft, other sound)

RAVENS, TRASH CANS AND THE WIND

Overflowing trash cans provide food for ravens. They pick through trash for leftover food items. Human food subsidies from trash have caused raven populations to dramatically increase in the desert, which has been devastating to the native desert tortoise. Ravens prey on young tortoises (up to about 10 years of age).

It can be very windy here. If your trash can is overfilled or the lid is not secured, they can be blown open by the wind, trash can be strewn across the neighborhood, sometimes traveling a quarter mile or more.

A simple fix is to place a softball sized rock on the lid of each can, and of course, not to overfill them. *In many areas, virtually no tortoises are making it to adulthood due to raven predation, and populations are dying out.* You can help reverse this trend by not overfilling your trash cans.

NATIVE PLANT LIFE

Our local plant communities are Joshua tree woodland and creosote scrub. If you look closely, there are dozens of perennial plant species. Joshua trees can live several hundred years, and one is estimated to be 1,000 years old! Along with amazing rock formations, this iconic desert vegetation is part of the scenic beauty of our area.

Keeping as much of the native vegetation in place stabilizes the soil, reduces blowing dust, and provides habitat for numerous wildlife species, ranging from bobcats, coyotes, and rabbits, to numerous bird species.

If you are planning to landscape portions of your property, consider native plants. Some have very showy vegetation and flowers, and they typically need little to no supplemental watering once they are established.

NATIVE WILDLIFE

We have a broad spectrum of wildlife in the neighborhood. Even bighorn sheep have been spotted on the rocky hillsides surrounding the neighborhood. There has been one reported mountain lion sighting in the last 11 years.

Desert tortoises frequent portions of the neighborhood. They are state and federally protected and cannot be handled or collected. They are most active in the spring. They dig burrows and hibernate in them starting in late September or October when the ground temperature drops to 60°F. Hibernation can last 4–6 months. When they are active, they may rest in the shade under the tires of vehicles.

Watch for them in the roads and also do a quick check under your vehicle's tires before driving can save a tortoise's life.

There are a number of snake species you may encounter. The rattlesnake is the only venomous one. If not provoked, they are normally passive. For rattlesnake removal, call our local snake wrangler whose number is listed in this guide.

A vaccine is available which protects your dog, if bitten. It must still be taken to an animal hospital for further treatment. There is also snake aversion training for dogs. A quarter inch mesh around the perimeter of a yard will help keep snakes separated from pets.

Other snakes you are likely to encounter are harmless and beneficial to the surroundings. They eat rodents, such as mice. Wildlife, especially snakes warming themselves, may be in our roadways or on nearby paved roads. Snakes are hard to see on dirt roads so drive slowly and watch for wildlife.

Feeding wildlife, with the exception of birds, is not recommended. It can result in an unusually high population of native rodents, which can be destructive to the environment, e.g., denuding native vegetation, and to people – woodrats for example will get into vehicle engine compartments and chew on wiring, sometimes causing several thousands dollars of damage. It's a good idea during spring and summer to check under your hood for evidence of woodrats, i.e., droppings and stick nests. Leaving your hood open during calm weather and spraying concentrated peppermint spray can help deter them.

If you feed birds, it is recommended that you limit it to sunflower, thistle seeds, suet, and hummingbird liquid. Common mixes that contain milo (typical bird seed) in some years will cause milo to germinate and spread into wild areas – it can be invasive.

DESERT TORTOISE

If you see a tortoise in the wild, it is important not to pick it up. A tortoise will “void” its bladder if frightened. This could have life-threatening consequences for the animal if it is not able to replenish its water supply.

The only reason for picking one up is when the tortoise is on or near a road and is in imminent danger of being struck by a vehicle. If you must move one, grasp it firmly with two hands, keep it just low to the ground, and move it off the road in the same direction in which it was headed. Place it gently back on the ground (preferably in the shade).

Arguably the most-studied animal in the park, the tortoise was placed on both the California and Federal Endangered Species Lists in 1989 and 1990, respectively. Its status is “threatened,” just one notch below “endangered.” Several factors conspired to diminish the population of the desert tortoise. As more people moved into the western deserts, the resultant loss of habitat made a serious dent in the number of tortoises.

With more people came more ravens, large birds with a keen appetite for hatchling tortoises. The number of ravens has exploded in recent years, due in large part to their ability to thrive in developed areas, using open trash bins to forage for food.

It is estimated that desert tortoises have existed for 15 to 20 million years. Perhaps this long stint on Earth has given them plenty of time to consider wise living strategies, such as careful, slow-paced locomotion; a healthy diet full of greens; resting during winter and summer, the desert’s most challenging seasons; and water conservation.

Its stumpy legs end in sharp claws, which are adapted to walking in sand and to digging dens or burrows used for both hibernation and estivation (summer “hibernation”). Tortoises construct dens up to 30 feet in length—in general, summer burrows are shallower and shorter. Because they are cold-blooded, tortoises are not able to regulate their body temperature internally. Burrowing is an adaptation that mitigates the effects of the desert’s temperature and moisture extremes, and protects animals from predators.

In warmer months when tortoises are out, it is important to check under your tires before driving off. They sometimes hide in the shade and rest under cars.

OUR NATURAL DESERT TREASURE: CRYPTOBIOTIC SOIL

Cryptobiotic soil is the glue that holds the desert together. It gives plants a safe sturdy place to grow. Biological soil crusts under a shrub or bush provide shelter from the sun and the wind as well as water erosion. It is important not to disturb the crust with leaf blowers or vehicle tires or even trampling the fragile soil.

Soil crusts that appear to be dried out seem to come alive when doused with water. Dry and grey when found, a sprinkling of water causes it to become metabolically active again.

Undisturbed desert soils are often protected by a woven mat of organisms including fungi, moss, and bacteria, called cryptobiotic soils. It gives plants a safe, sturdy place to grow. Biological soil crusts under a shrub or bush provide shelter from the sun and the wind as well as water erosion. It is important not to disturb the crust if it can be avoided. Vehicles are especially impactful. Keeping them in place prevents blowing dust, an important attribute. Biological soil crusts look like a dark, drab crust on the soil when dry, but portions can turn green when wet. If you find them and can leave them undisturbed, your property will benefit from them.

Drive and ride on designated roads and trails and steer clear of roadside vegetation. Blowers and raking around Joshua Trees, creosote and other plants also disturb the fragile crust. When hiking, walk on marked trails or other durable surfaces, such as rock or in sandy washes.



Thank you for taking the time to read this.

*Additional information and membership forms are available online at
monumentmanorneighborhood.com*

MMNA is solely supported by volunteers and your donations.

Donate online or by mail with a check.

*Our recommended donation is \$100 for the year. However, any and all donations
are a tremendous help to this volunteer-supported group.*

MONUMENT MANOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. A high level of membership and participation is achieved.
 - Develop and apply new strategies to increase membership and funding.
2. MMNA roads continue to be maintained and necessary repairs and improvements are completed in a timely manner. (Monument Manor roads are NOT maintained by San Bernardino County).
 - Make improvements to manage drainage to reduce erosion.
 - Manage and remove sand build-ups and address storm damage repairs in a timely manner.
 - Erect and maintain needed signage.
 - Provide, maintain, and replace mailbox structures as needed.
3. Promote a well maintained neighborhood through active resident involvement.
 - Inform residents of issues that may impact the community, including county meetings that address light pollution, noise, short-term rentals, off-highway vehicle use, and protection of desert vegetation.
 - Provide information on property management, covering topics such as how rodenticides impact wildlife, identifying and eliminating invasive plants, and using fencing and landscaping techniques to maintain natural habitats.
4. A sense of community is fostered through social interaction.
 - Hold annual neighborhood social events, e.g., annual potluck, holiday party.
 - Hold work parties for road repair and drive projects such as seed collection and planting native plants.
 - Invite specialists to provide presentations that benefit the community.
5. MMNA is a well-managed organization with an effective board and engaged membership.
 - Recruit board members with a wide range of talents matched to the needs of the organization.
 - Implement processes for efficient operations of the organization.
 - Establish committees as needed that operate efficiently with a clear purpose.

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www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com

We would like to thank those who contributed last year to the Monument Manor Neighborhood Association (MMNA). If you have already sent in your 2025 contributions, Thank You! **We need your support to keep our Monument Manor roads in good shape, including making storm repairs.** If you wish to learn about the projects MMNA has done this past year, please visit: www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com.

To **update your ownership and contact information**, print and fill out the form below and mail it with a check for your **2025 contribution** to the address below, or give it to one of the board members. Or, fill out the form online at: <https://forms.gle/unEbnQhHfC9hmG3Y9>. If you have used this form before, please click on the link: "Edit your response" to update your information.

Please **make check out to** Monument Manor Neighborhood Association and **send check to:**

Monument Manor Neighborhood Association
PO Box 892, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

OR, enroll in **Zelle** through your bank’s app (then use our email address: monumentmanorna@gmail.com), select amount you would like to send, add memo -donation for roads, and click confirm. **OR**, you can show your support by making a **donation online** by using our **PayPal** button on our website. Select your donation amount and either use your existing PayPal account or enter your credit card information. Go to the MMNA website: www.monumentmanorneighborhood.com. Find the yellow “Donate” button. If you donate online, please email your complete contact information and resident status, as asked for in the form below to monumentmanorna@gmail.com.

Phone: _____

I want to help keep the Manor roads in good condition: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other \$

I am/we are: ☐ *Owner* ☐ *Renter*

Property is a: ☐ Full-Time Residence ☐ Part-Time Residence ☐ Short-Term Rental

I'd like to volunteer to help work on the roads: ☐ Yes

I prefer to receive communications from MMNA electronically rather than by snail mail: ☐ Yes

FIGHT LIGHT POLLUTION.

Starry Starry Nights

Help keep our night skies dark.
Remember to turn your lights out at night.

Joshua Tree National Park was designated as an
International Dark Sky Park in 2017.
Artificial light at night harms the viewing the natural environment
and disturbs the nocturnal sleep patterns of animals.

DIANE KUNTZ DESIGN