

# SUMMER 2018

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## President's Update



**Summer is in Full Force** and Greer Ranch residents are taking full advantage of the beautiful weather! We have just replaced most of our pool umbrellas with beautiful new umbrellas that brighten up our Pool area! And, we are looking at having a Community Movie Night on Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> in the Clubhouse parking lot (subject to weather/heat conditions).

During this time many of us are spending a great deal more time in the outdoors. We are out walking, biking, walking our dogs, spending time in our yards, and also enjoying our Community Pool. Some things to keep in mind here at Greer Ranch as you are enjoying the summer are:

- ✚ **Drivers watch your speed, and stop at ALL stop signs.** There are many more pedestrians out on the streets of our community right now.
- ✚ **Be Responsible with your Dog.** Don't leave your dog out in the heat. Make sure that they have access to fresh water. Also, remember that dogs must be on a leash at all times when not in the confines of your home or rear yard. Please be sure to pick up after your dogs and properly dispose of their "droppings".
- ✚ **Community Pool Area. There is no lifeguard on duty.** Please remember that the Pool area is for the use of residents and their guests. There must be one (1) resident present for every four (4) guests, and guests may not be left in the Pool area unattended. Entry to the Pool area is by FOB only. The Pool Monitor and the Management Office are not authorized to provide entry. Children who are not potty trained must wear a pull-on swim diaper. Disposable diapers are not allowed in any of the pools. Children must be supervised at all times (including when using the restrooms). Children under the age of 14 must have adult supervision by someone who is at least age 18 or over. Please remember to clean up the area that you have used. Tables with umbrellas should not be moved, as it can damage the umbrella and umbrella stands. Use of glass containers and alcohol is prohibited in the pool area, as well as smoking and pets. A complete list of Pool Rules can be found in your Rules and Regulations, or viewed at [www.mygreerranch.com](http://www.mygreerranch.com).

**And speaking of the Pool** – if you are having difficulty accessing the pool because your FOB is not working, please drop by the Management office and they will be more than happy to take a look at it. FOBs are also necessary to access the pedestrian gates. If you do not have a FOB and wish to purchase one, they are available for purchase at the Management office.

***With Greer Ranch being located in a natural canyon area*** that is brimming with various forms of wildlife (including rattlesnakes), the following is some general information as well as dos and don'ts regarding rattlesnakes in Riverside County:

### **Be Rattlesnake Safe**

With the coming of spring and warmer weather conditions, snakes of many species are through hunkering down, making human encounters with these elusive creatures more likely. Although most native snakes are harmless, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommends steering clear of the venomous rattlesnake – and knowing what to do in the event of a strike. Rattlesnakes are widespread in California and are found in a variety of habitat throughout the state from coastal to desert. They may also turn up around homes and yards in brushy areas and under wood piles. Generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes will likely retreat if given room or not deliberately provoked or threatened. Most bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing.

On rare occasions, rattlesnake bites have caused severe injury – even death. However, the potential of encountering a rattlesnake should not deter anyone from venturing outdoors. The California Poison Control System notes that the chances of being bitten are small compared to the risk of other environmental injuries. Most bites occur between the months of April and October when snakes and humans are most active outdoors, but there are precautions that can and should be taken to lessen the chances of being bitten.

### ***The dos and don'ts in snake country***

Rattlesnakes are not confined to rural areas. They have been found in urban areas, on riverbanks and lakeside parks and at golf courses. The following safety precautions can be taken to reduce the likelihood of an encounter with a rattlesnake.

- Be alert. Like all reptiles, rattlesnakes are sensitive to the ambient temperature and will adjust their behavior accordingly. After a cold or cool night, they will attempt to raise their body temperature by basking in the sun midmorning. To prevent overheating during hot days of spring and summer, they will become more active at dawn, dusk or night.
- Wear sturdy boots and loose-fitting long pants. Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through brushy, wild areas. Startled rattlesnakes may not rattle before striking defensively.
- Children should not wear flip-flops while playing outdoors in snake country.
- When hiking, stick to well-used trails. Avoid tall grass, weeds and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see. Step on logs and rocks, never over them, and be especially careful when climbing rocks or gathering firewood. Check out stumps or logs before sitting down, and shake out sleeping bags before use.
- Never grab “sticks” or “branches” while swimming in lakes and rivers. Rattlesnakes can swim.
- Be careful when stepping over doorsteps as well. Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.
- Never hike alone. Always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
- Do not handle a freshly killed snake, as it can still inject venom.
- Teach children early to respect snakes and to leave them alone.

- Leash your dog when hiking in snake country. Dogs are at increased risk of being bitten due to holding their nose to the ground while investigating the outdoors. Speak to your veterinarian about canine rattlesnake vaccines and what to do if your pet is bitten.

### ***Keeping snakes out of the yard***

The best protection against rattlesnakes in the yard is a “rattlesnake proof” fence. The fence should either be solid or with mesh no larger than one-quarter inch. It should be at least three feet high with the bottom buried a few inches in the ground. Slanting your snake fence outward about a 30-degree angle will help. Keep vegetation away from the fence and remove piles of boards or rocks around the home. Use caution when removing those piles – there may already be a snake there. Encourage and protect natural competitors like gopher snakes, king snakes and racers. King snakes actually kill and eat rattlesnakes.

### ***What to do in the event of a snake bite***

Though uncommon, rattlesnake bites do occur, so have a plan in place for responding to any situation. Carry a cell phone, hike with a companion who can assist in an emergency and make sure that family or friends know where you are going and when you will be checking in. In the event of a bite:

- Stay calm but act quickly.
- Remove watches, rings, etc., which may constrict swelling.
- Transport the victim to the nearest medical facility.
- For more first aid information, please call the California Poison Control System at (800)222-1222

### ***What you should NOT do after a rattlesnake bite***

- DON'T apply a tourniquet.
- DON'T pack the bite area in ice.
- DON'T cut the wound with a knife or razor.
- DON'T use your mouth to suck out the venom.
- DON'T let the victim drink alcohol.

### ***Greer Ranch App for your Phone!***

With our busy lives and schedules, many of us have downloaded the DwellingLive App to our phones so that we can easily access our electronic visitor entry system. Did you know that there is also an App for Greer Ranch! You can actually access the Greer Ranch website on your Smart Phone. You can view important documents, contact the Association, notify us of problems or concerns, check out the calendar and set it up to receive important alerts. Just go to [www.mygreerranch.com](http://www.mygreerranch.com). The links for the App are on our home page.

Finally, *summertime* is a great time to get to know your neighbors, especially new ones. We have had quite a few new neighbors join us in the last couple of months; please join us in welcoming them to the community!

Have a safe and happy Summer!

*Jonathan Ingram*

President, Greer Ranch Community Association