



John & Margaret Toal

Snapshot

**Lemon Wood Community
Ventura, CA**

Lemon Wood gets beautified!

“...to enhance the beauty of Lemon Wood through community involvement by assisting and supporting management in enhancing the beautification of the common areas.”

This is the Mission Statement of Lemon Wood’s Beautification Committee. Founded by resident Mary Dietz in 2006, the committee’s 11 members perk up the appearance of the community’s common areas and help residents make over their individual spaces. Members volunteer two to four hours per month, in addition to attending a monthly meeting. They adopt islands in their cul-de-sacs and keep them planted and maintained. The committee painted the property’s 148 black light poles white. Every month, they weed the areas surrounding the community’s lake.

The Beautification Committee has been an integral part of bringing Lemon Wood together. The representation on the committee is from various areas of the community, which helps spread the word. Many residents are not knowledgeable about landscaping. “But knowing that there is a Beautification Committee allows them an opportunity to ask someone who can direct them down the right path,” John Toal, resident manager, explains. Patio tours are one such opportunity. A few members open their yards and patios to their neighbors, offering landscaping suggestions, and planting and flowering ideas. “What we accomplish is a great addition to the overall appearance of the park and the results have been that more individuals have upgraded their own homesites. It has a contagious effect.” The committee also contributes monthly articles to Lemon Wood’s newsletter, with tips on gardening and weed and pest control, along with committee updates.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month, run by two chairpersons. The agenda includes a manager’s report on various property endeavors and a committee project update. “This committee is pro-active,” asserts John. Members bring sug-

gestions to the meetings for further improvements to the property.

“Management is 100% behind the committee as it fills a need,” John stresses. He and his wife, Margaret, also a resident manager, are active members, and provide the funds for the plants and supplies used in projects. “The effort has been great and the areas have been improved,” recognizes Bill Schweinfurth of Vedder Community Management. “It is a win/win situation and everyone is delighted about it.” ☀

