Newsletter for
May 11, 2018

Palo Verde

A weekly publication for the Palo Verde Graduate Housing Community. E-mail submissions to PVinquiry@uci.edu by Tuesday before 3:00pm - http://www.housing.uci.edu/pvpress/index.html

Sprinkler Testing - No Entry Required
Bldgs. 1100 - 6300 on May 22nd, 23rd, 24th

The University’s Environmental Health and Safety employees will be conducting the required testing and inspection of the fire life safety systems to certify the sprinkler system. The testing will take place during the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00pm. The repairs will produce sound and disturbances around the buildings and possibly in your apartment. The test should produce an alarm sounding off for less than a minute per test. We request that you take actions that will mitigate any problems. We will give you more information as the dates gets closer.

If you have any questions please contact the office at 824-8918. Thank you for your cooperation.

Tips for Clogged Drains - Have you discovered a clog in your sink or tub drain? Do not panic, it happens to the best of us! A clogged drain is one of the issues that we receive daily calls about. Many are easy fixes with home remedies you can try in order to dislodge the clog. Be sure to take a step back if you feel the job requires more attention then you can give.

Using A Plunger in Your Sink or Bathtub: If your bathtub or sink is clogged beyond what you can clean, it might be time to pull out the big guns: the plunger! This may come as a surprise to those of us who only call on this device when we have got a clogged toilet, but yes, you CAN use it for other clogs. If it is your sink that is giving you issues, fill it about halfway, and if it is your bathtup, stick to about four or five inches. This method, although effective, can be messy, so be prepared!

Using A Natural Remedy: Before you reach for the Drano, consider trying a more natural alternative home remedy to unclogging a drain. You will need 1 cup of baking soda, 1 cup of vinegar. Wait for ten minutes and flush it with boiling water. Do Not Put Anything Down the Sink - One of the best ways to prevent slow or clogged drains is to be careful about what you put into them. The only things that should be going down the sink are water and the light residues from soap, toothpaste, and the like. Coffee grounds, lotions, and other creams or liquids could clog up the pipes. Chemicals and even chemical cleaning solutions that you use for your basins and faucets can end up causing a clog…or worse, they could corrode your pipes and cause a leak.

Cover It Up - Simple drain covers can go a long way to keep out clog causers such as hair, bits of string, food particles, and more. You will need to clear out your drain screen regularly, otherwise your sink will drain slowly.

Keep Pop-up Stoppers Clean - The pop up drain stoppers that are most likely in your bathroom basins are major clog causers. They can accumulate a build-up from soap scum and other residues and collecting hair balls and other things that are sure to cause major clogs. Pull up these pop-up stoppers as far as they go and clean them off on a regular basis.

Keeping an Unclogged Drain: Now that you have gotten rid of that nasty clog, you will want to keep your drain nice and clean, so it is not a repeat offender. Follow up any clog removal efforts with a full scrub down of your sink. Remember to keep your sinks clean and free of debris. In the kitchen, make sure you really scrape off your plates before rinsing them in the sink.

GOODWILL DONATION BINS IN PALO VERDE - Goodwill will be placing new donation bins around the community on May 29th which will be located next to the laundry rooms. These bins are for clothes and small items only. No furniture is to be placed near these bins. When you donate your items to Goodwill, you create opportunities for individuals in your community looking to find a job and build skills, including veterans and military families, single mothers and many others.

Backpack Give Back
Transportation and Distribution Services is excited to launch our annual “Backpack Give Back” outreach program, designed to encourage the pursuit of higher education by disadvantaged youth in Orange County. Contribute by donating a new or slightly used backpack to any parking information kiosk, the UCI Libraries, Anteater Recreation Center, or School of Medicine through June 29th.

All backpacks will be donated to South County Outreach, a provider of vital services and assistance to low income families, seniors and individuals in South Orange County.

You may donate to any collection bins at:

•All parking kiosks
•Ayala Science Library
•Langson Library
•Main Transportation Office

DO YOU WANT TO DO MORE?
In addition to participating in this backpack drive, there are many other ways to get involved. The South County Outreach is always willing to receive donations of goods, time, and money. Volunteers to work their various programs are also welcome. Let’s show our Anteater pride and let them know how we can help!

For more information, please contact Erika Hennon at (949) 824-5951 or email engage@pts.uci.edu.

Thank you for your support of this worthwhile community project.

“ Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life.”

~ Dr. David M. Burns
Approved Air Conditioning Units

Window air conditioning units are NOT allowed in Graduate and Family Housing. Room type air conditioning units may be utilized with prior approval from the Palo Verde Office.

Installation of room type air conditioning units must comply with the following:
• Units must be contained within the apartment with no portion protruding from the windows or other openings.
• Window screen must remain in place and intact.
• Units are to be 120 volt, not to exceed 15 amps.
• Student Housing is held harmless from any liability arising from installation.
• The installation must not damage the property of the building or the property of its residents.
• Upon vacating Graduate and Family Housing, it will be the responsibility of the resident(s) to have the fan or room air conditioner removed and the apartment returned to its original condition.

Please note that all air conditioning units are subject to inspection for safety and liability assessments.

AVOID LATE FEES!!! In order to help you avoid late fees, please note the following:

Rent payment is due on the 1st (first) calendar day of each month and becomes “Past Due” on the second day of the month. Rent is considered “Delinquent” after the 10th (tenth) day of every month. If the 10th (tenth) falls on the weekend or a holiday, then late fees are assessed the next business day. Your rent is NOT paid in full unless the “Unpaid or Unapplied” column for that specific charge indicates a zero balance ($0.00). Once you have made a payment or received financial aid, confirm that each housing charge has been fully paid.

If not paid as expected, please contact the Student Housing Accounts Counselor at shac@uci.edu before the delinquent date for assistance.

Contact the Student Housing Accounts Counselor at shac@uci.edu if you have any questions regarding your housing charges, housing payments, or cannot make your payment by deadline. Please include your full name and Student ID number with any correspondence.

For non-housing related charges on your ZOT Account, contact Campus Billing Services at 949.824.2455 (UCI BILL) or cbs@uci.edu.

Concrete Work - We will be working on the grinding of the sidewalks that may be considered a safety hazard through out the community. The work will take place starting May 21st for approximately 9 business days.

Part of the process for these projects will require the use of power equipment. There will be workers, noise, dust, and vehicles around the complex during the work period.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to maintain and improve our community!

A simple houseplant can do wonders for your health

Eating plants is not the only way to reap their benefits. Studies have shown that adding plants to any workspace or living environment actually does help to reduce stress. There are obviously therapeutic effects of caring for plants and gardening has been shown to decrease blood pressure and reduce stress. Certain plants have been found to specifically clean the air of toxic chemicals. Here are some houseplants that are good for you:

Golden pothos removes chemicals like benzene which is in glue, paint, and detergent. Sold as philodendrons, which are related plants that are equally good at removing formaldehyde. This plant tolerates low-light conditions and irregular watering.

Boston Ferns remove more formaldehyde than any other plant. They’re also highly efficient at removing other indoor air pollutants, such as benzene and xylene. This plant tolerates low-light conditions and irregular watering.

Philodendrons are related plants to the Golden Pothos and are equally good at removing formaldehyde. This plant needs some sunlight and a moderate amount of water.

English Ivy has been found to filter out formaldehyde and is the number one air-filtering houseplant. It is especially good for people who are sensitive to smoke. This plant prefers indirect light, and you shouldn’t let the plant dry out.

Peace Lily is one of the best plants for removing formaldehyde, it also removes benzene and certain VOCs that are emitted by harsh cleaning products. This plant prefers indirect light near a window. Water it only when the soil is dry, and be careful not to over-water.

Ferns can increase air humidity. This boost of moisture can help make sure your air and your skin don’t get too dry. This plant prefers indirect light near a window. Water it only when the soil is dry, and be careful not to over-water.

Spider Plant are good at fighting pollutants. One type of spider plant - the Chlorophyllum comosum - can specifically absorb 90% of formaldehyde and carbon monoxide, two chemicals found in cigarette smoke. This plant needs access to indirect light and only needs to be watered once a week

Advice from a Tree - Stand tall and proud. Go out on a limb. Remember your roots. Drink plenty of water. Be content with your natural beauty. Enjoy the view. ~ Unknown

Before Moving, Remember to Forward Your Mail - It seems simple, but forwarding your mail can easily become forgotten amidst all of the other tedious, time-consuming tasks you need to take care of when you move:
• Update the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) at least two weeks in advance of your move if possible. Change your address in person at any US Post Office or go on-line at USPS.com.
• Change your address with the Palo Verde Office.
• If you have a friend living in Palo Verde receiving your mail, include “c/o” and the name of person along with the address to ensure delivery to a PV address.
• Mail will not be delivered to unknown names.
• Send change of address notices to any vendors, accounts, or for magazine or other subscriptions.

Post and/or Search for Sublets, Furniture, Off-Campus Housing, and More!

The Anteater Housing Network, provides easy access to on and off-campus housing listings for students, and is a great place to advertise a sublease or search for a sublease and reach other UCI students. The site includes properties for rent and sale, as well as message boards to find roommates, sublets, buy/sell furniture, and more.

To place an advertisement on the Anteater Housing Network visit http://offcampus.housing.uci.edu/. You will need to log-in with your UCI NetID and password to view listings. Guests access to the site is granted for a limited time for prospective students and other campus affiliates.

DO YOU HAVE FURNITURE FOR NEW RESIDENTS? Do you have book shelves, a desk, chair, or other furniture or small kitchen appliances that you do not need or want to sell?

Save a trip to the thrift store or recycling center by advertising it in the Marketplace on Zotportal at https://portal.uci.edu/UPortal, or send an email to pvinquiry@uci.edu for a one-time posting in the Palo Verde Press.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a charge upon move out for removal of any items left behind by vacating residents.

FREE Yoga For Graduate and Family Housing Residents

Every Wednesday from April 4th - June 6th at 6pm in the PV Community Room

Palo Verde and Verano residents, partners, and friends - get a great, convenient way to get your workout in with your busy schedule.

These sessions are brought to you FREE of CHARGE as a part of PVRC’s and VRC’s community programming! Bring along an exercise mat or towel and a water bottle. Be sure to come early as space may be limited and for your first session to sign a waiver for the ARC.

Feel free to contact pvrc@uci.edu with any questions. Like PVRC on facebook at facebook.com/PaloVerdeResidenceCouncil

It is easier to perceive error than to find truth, for the former lies on the surface and is easily seen, while the latter lies in the depth, where few are willing to search for it. ~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

https://amp.businessinsider.com/houseplants-that-are-good-for-you-2017-11

https://portal.uci.edu/
Announcing the 2018-2019 Palo Verde’s Residents Council Candidates!

Hina Arora - I am a first-year graduate student at UCI. As a PhD student, I understand how stressful and demanding academic life can be. It is important that you can call the place where you live, home and feel a sense of community. If elected here are a few things I plan to implement:

• Events on a regular basis to get students and families involved
• Conference room availability increased
• More vending machines/ food dispensing machines

I have experience as a member of a student housing board and I will strive for a better life for students and their families at Palo Verde.

Paulina Castellón - I have been a resident of Palo Verde for the last three years. The 2017-2018 academic year I was pleased to be part of PVRC. It has been a great experience and, although we have made progress in many aspects, there are still many others to improve.

I am not a student, I am a wife and mother of two children and my family and have been very happy living in PV. However, there are several issues needing to be addressed. For example that those of us who are not students need more attention within the housing, whether having access to computers in the computer lab, or when putting a working order. This is going to be an important goal.

Another goal for the year is to considerably improve the cleanliness of the laundries, corridors, stairs, playground and common places. I know this is a big concern in the community and it is essential to improve this because living in a clean place dignifies and we do not deserve less.

This, among many others, represent some of the ideas I have to make PV a better place to live. It would be my pleasure to represent you and make easier the communication between the residents and the office. I am sure that with your help, we will be able to improve our quality of life.

Amy Shine - I have lived here in PV for 2 ½ years and am running to represent you because I know I can effectively reach the UCI administration with our needs as grad students and as Palo Verde residents.

During my time as VP for Social Affairs, CTSA rep for Associated Grad Students (AGS) council, and as the liaison within my joint UCI-UCSD program, I’ve worked with UCI administration and our graduate students both individually and in collaborative groups to secure support and funding for the needs of my constituents, bringing to light our students’ pressing issues.

One of those demands we’re currently facing is securing and maintaining safe and affordable housing. Housing guarantees are being shortened, forcing incoming students to leave their apartments before the last year of their program, one of the most stressful years of grad work. Because access to affordable housing is becoming more difficult, I will work with community leaders and UCI administration to find and create new and more housing units for graduate students, both current and incoming.

I’ll also work to address other important issues here in PV— inclusive and equitable housing assignments, maintenance accountability, playground rehabilitation, regular upkeep of safety equipment and lighting—always looking to you, my neighbors and peers, for additional ways I can advocate for you to make your lives here a little easier.

I hope you’ll elect me as a council member so that I may expand my work on behalf of our students.

Connor Strobel - I am running for reelection to PVRC. I am a fourth-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology. My work during the past two years on PVRC coupled with a track record of representative experience, bringing substantive ideas, and community building would make me an ideal member of the council.

This year on PVRC I was the Internal Liaison. I met regularly with staff in the PV and UCI housing offices to raise the concerns of residents. I consistently lobbied on issues such as the cleanliness of stairwells and laundry rooms, the problems with rodents and cars, the maintenance of the playground. I am a tireless advocate and it has been a privilege to serve.

At UCI, I have held several representative positions that give me directly transferable experience. I am a VP Internal in AGS. I have also been the co-chair of the sociology department’s social committee and its union representative, and have experience creating appealing events for graduate students and families. I was an RA for two years, and have experience building inclusive, vibrant, and safe residential communities.

Some of the substantive ideas I will work to implement as a member of PVRC include:

• Improve the communication between PVRC, conduct an audit to make sure Housing is following all disability accommodations and codes.
• Improve Housing and PVRC’s budget transparency, more family-friendly events, and working with the PV Housing Office to conduct surveys to better satisfying the community’s expectations.

Anna Hogeland - I’ve lived in Palo Verde for three years and love living here, and I feel very invested in this community.

I served on PVRC for the 2016-2017 year as the External Liaison. My role included coordinating and advertising meetings and other upcoming events to the community (including yoga). I also met monthly with the Coordinated Graduate Governance to discuss policies that particularly effect PV; at these meetings, I often voiced concerns about the vague and complicated nature of these policies, particularly those concerning pets, parking, rent raises, and housing guarantees. I advocated for more transparency and communication between the housing officials and residents, and I fought punitive measures for violations of unclear policies. I also communicated residents’ concerns to the housing office. After hearing from parents at public meetings about the lack of shade, cleanliness, and safe toys on the playground, I advocated for the housing office to make playground maintenance a higher priority, to allocate funds to safe toys, and to add an umbrella for shade (which was installed last spring).

I very much enjoyed serving on PVRC, and I hope to be re-elected so I can continue my work. In my second term, I hope to improve the laundry room libraries and implement a service that matches residents interested in care taking jobs with families looking for a babysitter, house sitter or pet sitter.

Sara Villalta - I am running for the Palo Verde Resident Council in this coming election for a second term. I am a third-year in the Department of Sociology and have been a resident of Palo Verde for the past three years. I am also a member of the DECADE (Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience) council and I am looking to continue to broaden my advocacy for diverse graduate students to include our residential community.

As a member of the PVRC this past year, I have been actively committed to enhancing our residential experience, however, more work can always be done! If re-elected, I will support and enrich the PVRC mission in the following ways:

• Promote family-friendly events but also implement more activities for single graduate students and couples without children.
• Schedule more programming that represents the cultural diversity of our community.
• Greater transparency between PV staff and residents regarding important changes like rent increases and facility maintenance projects.
• Expand our residential activities like free fitness classes, social events, and game nights.
• Focus on sustainability to help the housing office and residents identify ways to catalogue and reduce our collective waste.

I’m also interested in hearing what ideas and feedback you have for the community, since our different views are what make Palo Verde a great place for all residents!

For more information, please visit: http://www.housing.uci.edu/housingOptions/Palo_Verde.html