

Handy Helpers

By Janet Roberts

By the time that you read this, it will almost be Fall. However, while I'm writing it, we're in the middle of a heat wave and at the beginning of the fire season with ash drifting down from Northern California fires, skies grey brown during the day and red at sunrise and sunset, and the smell of smoke in the air. We're all hoping for cooler days and clearer skies as Fall comes.

The Handy Helpers are back to providing full services. If your routine maintenance tasks were postponed while we were limiting our services, please give us a call at **916-223-2763** to get them done. For their safety and yours, they will be wearing masks.

Handy Helpers do minor home maintenance tasks in resident homes with the purpose of keeping you in your homes for as long as it makes sense. You shouldn't have to move from your home if you can't climb a ladder to change a light bulb or smoke alarm battery. We're your friends and neighbors who have volunteered and been trained to take on these and other tasks. You can check our website for all the tasks that they do and those that they don't: www.neighborsindeed.org.

Given the heat, you should consider reprogramming sprinkler controllers and checking for runoff if you decide to water more frequently. If its running in the gutter, consider cutting back on the length of time or the number of days. You should also check your thermostat for higher temperatures at night and slightly lower during the day – just enough to keep you comfortable. If you need help reprogramming the controller or the thermostat, call our number to get a Handy Helper to work on those for you.

Many of the routine Fall tasks are coming up, especially changing the furnace filters due to the amount of smoke particles in the air. In addition, if your fall list includes getting the garage door lubed or the smoke alarm batteries changed, give us a call. What else is on your list to be done around the house? If you need help, check to see if the Handy Helpers can do it and if not, we can give you referrals to vendors that have been recommended by fellow residents.

Stay cool, safe, and healthy.

*When you call, please remember that we do not answer the phone. Leave us a message at **916-223-2763** and we will return your call as promptly as possible between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.*