



THE Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Coyote Park Clean-Up
April 27th
see page 2

SPRING 2003

for the latest information about our neighborhood go to www.gchna.com



Gardiner in his studio

OUR NEIGHBORS

Vignettes of GCHNA residents

An Interview with Gardiner McCauley

by Chip Carman

Gardiner McCauley migrated from Berkeley to the Cement Hill neighborhood about two years ago. We were curious what he did before arriving here, what brought him to the area, and how he spends his time here.

Gardiner vividly recalls one summer in Marysville when he was twelve. He stayed at a family friend's apricot and peach farm with an ice house full of hanging venison to help feed the long tables full of seasonal Sikh orchard workers. "I also remember they spoke of a summerhouse in Nevada City."

Some fifty years later he would follow two friends who preceded his move to the Nevada City area. But the journey here was punctuated by his teaching at UC Berkeley, Santa Clara and UC extension SF

Interview, continued on page 3



"The Prez Sez"...

Second Looks and 2nd Units

by Marty Pezzaglia

Seems that since the New Board of Supervisors took over in January 2003, we have been taking a second look at everything from the 2nd Dwelling Unit Pilot program to the Status and Use of Reports Compiled from the Natural Heritage 2020 Study.

The Second Dwelling Unit Task Force has asked for a month's extension before reporting back to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations. There are seven homeowners associations from the Very High Fire Danger areas monitoring the Task Force meetings while supplying valuable input. I will email the final recommendations from the Task Force to our online membership prior to the presentation before the Board of Supervisors.

Prez Sez, continued on page 2

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GCHNA MISSION

To protect and preserve the rural qualities of our neighborhood by providing a forum for group action as needed.

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On a humorous note, Supervisor Drew Bedwell requested the Planning Department (at the February 11th BOS meeting) to provide a presentation on the current status of Natural Heritage 2020. The Report, as presented on March 25th, 2003 can be read on line by going to www.mynevadacounty.com, and reading the March 25th Agenda for the Board of Supervisors, item 33, "supporting documents". The report shows the brilliance of the study...something I doubt Bedwell wanted to see.

Another very important issue that was a campaign "grand stander" in the past BOS elections has been clarified. A report was presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 25th, 2003 by the Planning Department regarding the history of 30 percent slope rule. The report shows that the rule dates back to as early as 1970 and contains an informal survey of several California counties with Steep Slope Standards. In the summary portion of the report Planning Director Mark Tomich states, "Regulations by Nevada County to address impacts from disturbance of steep slopes have been in effect, in one form or another, for 33 years. Most significant are the changes brought by Ordinance 1041 (1981), which prohibited development of areas in excess of 30% slope. This was reaffirmed by the 1995 General Plan, which placed steep slope restrictions as mitigation measures to address environmental impacts of development authorized under the Plan....In order to modify Nevada County's steep slope standards in any significant manner, an amendment to the General Plan would

be necessary, including a revised Environmental Impact Report."

In terms of a second time around it has become necessary to address the blanket mailings and political hit pieces sent by Mr. Terry Robinson regarding this Association. The first time he did a mass mailer the Steering Committee voted to ignore Mr. Robinson. However, his latest mass mailing has brought up issues that require counsel and a possible legal action against Mr. Robinson. For those who do not understand the political method here, I would like to remind everyone that Terry Robinson was/is District 3 Supervisor Drew Bedwell's right hand man, and rumor has it that he is planning to run against Supervisor Peter Van Zant in the next election for the District 1 seat. I am flattered that Mr. Robinson believes the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association carries such enormous political clout in this county that he feels he must attack this Association in order to achieve political goals. This is a luxury of Nevada County politics, and yet I would like to know where he gets all the money for this mischief. Who knows, maybe he has access to Kirk Pharis' mysterious illegal \$28,000 contribution war chest?

So as we take a second look at just about everything the past Board of Supervisors did for this county, and reflect for the second time upon war in the Middle East with Iraq, please remember that we live in a very special place where most, regardless of political persuasion, have a sincere spiritual connection to our rural way of life, and a deep pride in a Constitution that is marveled the world over. Our discussion of perceived Nevada

County problems are a luxury compared to most other places on this planet, and as long as we can agree to disagree agreeably we will do just fine while continuing to take a second look. ■



A Morning at the Park

by Nancy Lakoduk

It's Spring and we are again getting ready for our Coyote Park Clean-Up. The date this year, is Sunday, April 27th, starting at 10:00 am and ending sometime around noon. Please bring some clippers, weed whackers and gloves. Our efforts help keep the trails open, the picnic area trimmed, and the fire hazard held to a minimum. Children are welcome, and some refreshments will be provided.

Our park clean-up is a fun and peaceful way of giving service to our neighborhood. The Park, and Marsh Pond, are located above the Madelyne Helling library, past the baseball field. Park your vehicle in the library parking lot, then a short walk up the hill. ■



Interview, continued from page 1

in the 60's, Lewis & Clark College in the 70's, and was head of the art department at Stephens College in Missouri. While at Lewis & Clark, known for having students spend a semester in a foreign country, Gardiner had the opportunity to chaperone a class in Ethiopia during a time when previously there had only been occasional US tourists in the area. You'll not be disappointed if you ask him about the safe-haven market places where most traders carry handmade 6-inch wide knives, and gallows were not just visual deterrents, or culinary stories of honored guests given fresh "carpaccio", spicy chilies and bright yellow wine, or the time when Emperor Haile Salassie...

In the 70's his wife was offered a job at Stanford University, and he found a job as the director of the Villa Montalvo Center for the Arts in Saratoga, California – the estate of the late Senator James Phelan, California's first popularly elected U.S. Senator and founder of the SF Art Institute – which supports the major creative disciplines and an artists residency program (www.villamontalvo.org). Under



Gardiner talks about his new artwork

Gardiner's direction, the foundation commissioned a book on the history of Phelan and restored some of his library. One book they retrieved, written by Garcia Montalvo, wrote about the domineering black women of the Amazon, masters over their males... Gardiner describes one scene from the book:

"Queen Califia, was being pulled through the sky by griffins... This book was the story that inspired the name of California, and also why Phelan chose to name his estate Montalvo."

Gardiner's wife died from cancer about ten years ago, about the time a friend moved here after her home nearly burned in the Oakland fire. "I would visit and loved the area. Berkeley is a great area but you find people rummaging through your yard, and people often knocking on your door to support one issue or another".

Shortly after moving to Cement Hill, he converted the garage into an art studio. Four huge oil paintings of his work hang on the walls in his home, representative of his

artistic talent and expression over decades. One was created to fill an empty space in a gallery exhibition and was hung on opening night still wet!

Several published children's books (such as *The Lima Bean Monster*) illustrated by his son, Adam, are displayed on the bookshelves. Many artifacts from his adventures in Ethiopia are displayed throughout the house as well as paintings and cards from his ten year old granddaughter on the refrigerator.

Walking into his studio is a surprise. Gardiner has been working for a year on a series of striking pastel art pieces that are completely different from any of his previous work. Soon, he hopes to have a gallery exhibit of this new work.

C: Gardiner, if there was one thing you would change here, what would it be?

G: Improving availability of some food products – a good deli, really fresh fish, and broccolli rape.

C: What surprised you most about the area?

G: The variety of food products; to find La Cucina Cirino deli and the Nevada City Brewery, and then have them both close. ■



Fire Smarts

by Fred Buhler

Fire season is just around the corner. Here are a few reminders of what we might do to prepare our homes and our families for fire season.

Is your defensible space adequate? Defensible space is the area between your house and the vegetation around your house. Defensible space provides an opportunity for firefighters to defend your home. Should a wildfire reach your home before the firefighters arrive, adequate defensible space increases the probability that your home will survive a wildland fire.

The size of defensible space depends on the location of your house relative to the angle or percentage of slope should you live on a hillside or a ridge line. It also depends on the types of vegetation near your house.

The steeper the slope, the wider your defensible space should be. Whereas thirty feet is probably adequate on flat land with grass and light brush, if your house is on a 30% slope and is surrounded by cedar or manzanita, you probably need to clear between 100 and 200 feet.

The Fire Safe Council recommends that within the defensible space area “remove dead vegetation and most brush, eliminate ladder fuels and lower limbs of trees, replace shrubs near the house with low ground cover, reduce continuous, thick brush fields into individual plants or small clusters at least fifteen feet apart and use driveways, paths and trails to break up plant continuity.”

What we are trying to do within the defensible space area is reduce vegetation or fuel, so that a wildfire will not develop sufficient heat or flames close to your house that could ignite your house.

The firefighters at the 49er Fire Protection District are a tremendous source of information on defensible space. If you have any questions, call Battalion Chief David Ray (265-4431).

Have you cleaned your roof and gutters? Over

400 homes were burned during the Los Alamos fire in 2001. Half of those homes could have been saved had home owners cleaned leaves and pine needles off their roofs and their gutters, as well as move light fuels such as leaves and twigs away from the foundation of their homes. However, since they hadn't done that, and even though much of the fire was low intensity, embers were blown onto piles of needles on the roof and near the foundation of the house. The

There are several good websites with information on fire safe practices, including:

www.firewise.org
www.firefree.org
www.firelab.org

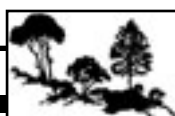


houses eventually caught fire and burned!

Does your family have an emergency plan? If we have a major wildfire in our neighborhood, is your family prepared? Do they know potential escape routes away from your neighborhood? Have you identified a safe-to-stay area where you could survive a major fire if you were unable to evacuate?

If members of your family are away from home when a fire starts and are unable to return, have you agreed on where the family should meet or how they will communicate? Have you identified which important papers or family belongings should be taken if you are given only a few minutes warning to evacuate? Do you have an emergency kit prepared that will provide you with essential supplies if you are evacuated for three or four days? Do you have a plan for taking care of your animals?

A copy of a model emergency family plan is available on the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association website, www.gchna.com ■



GCHNA Board Sends Proposal to County for Cement Hill Road Walking and Jogging Path

February 26, 2003

Mr. Michael Hill-Weld, Director
Nevada County Department of Transportation and Sanitation
950 Maidu Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Hill-Weld:

On behalf of the residents of Cement Hill, The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association requests that improvements be made to Cement Hill Road for the purpose of pedestrian safety.

The entire length of Cement Hill Road lies within five miles of Highway 49 and Nevada City and serves approximately 400 residences. It is safe to assume that no fewer than 1000 vehicles, and probably significantly more, use Cement Hill Road each day.

Due to its high residential density, steep slopes and lack of open space, for all practical purposes there is nowhere for residents to walk, bicycle or jog other than on Cement Hill Road itself. Given the proximity of Cement Hill to Nevada City, it would be natural for residents to walk or bicycle to town. Most residents, however, refuse or are reluctant to use Cement Hill Road for that purpose due to the lack of suitable shoulders on which to walk. Those pedestrians who do use Cement Hill Road do so at considerable risk. Vehicles wishing to avoid pedestrians are invariably forced across the center line and into the oncoming lane.

Accordingly, the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association formally requests that Cement Hill Road be widened to accommodate a four-foot shoulder on at least one side of Cement Hill Road and that it be graded and of suitable material to provide a pedestrian safety zone.

Thank you for your consideration of the foregoing. We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Martin Pezzaglia, President

Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Cc: Supervisor Peter Van Zant

Fire Safe Senior Assistance Program

Currently, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County still has funds available to perform Senior Assistance clearing for low income seniors.

In the hope that there may be seniors in our Cement Hill area who qualify for eight hours of defensible space clearing of their property, we include the following information.

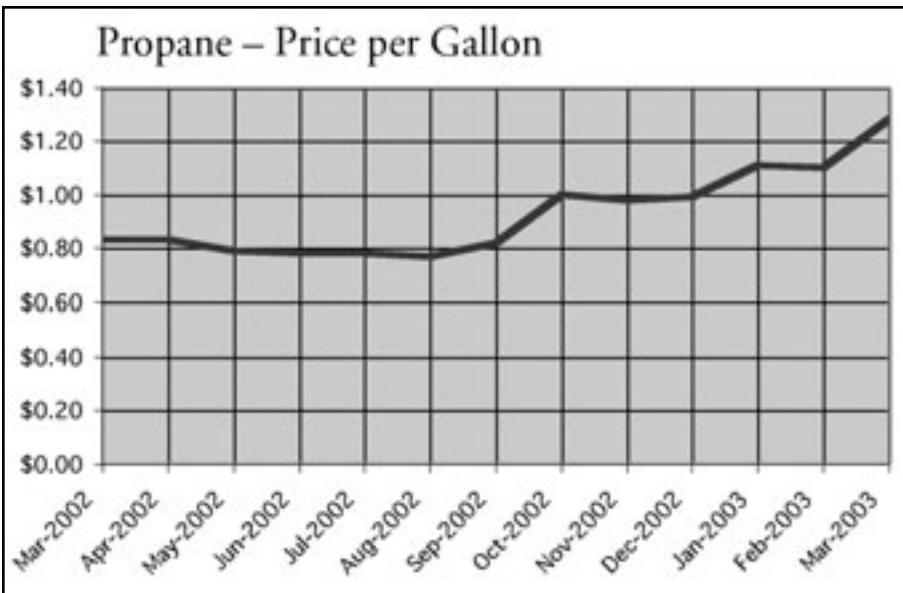
Funds are available for only a short time, so we ask that you please act quickly if you are interested.

Contact: Fire Safe Council
of Nevada County
PO Box 147
Nevada City, CA 95959
Telephone: 470-9193

Summary of qualifications:

- Resident must be age 65 or older
- Family of one must make **no more** than \$1,445.83 per month *or*
- Family of two must make **no more** than \$2,645.83 per month. ■





Propane Prices

by Tom Stone

Propane prices bottomed at 77 cents/gallon in July 2002 and currently are around 1.28 dollars/gallon.

These prices closely follow the price of crude oil and natural gas prices. The Venezuela oil strike and US Mid-East/East cold spells pushed our propane price up to its present prices. Since US cold spells

and the Venezuela strike are probably over, and Saudi's promising high crude oil supplies even with the Iraqi war your propane prices probably will not continue to rise.

500 gallon propane tank filled
March 2002 = \$400

500 gallon propane tank filled
March 2003 = \$640

This is a good time to use your free 50 gallon voucher, saving you \$64 dollars. ■

Free Brush Chipping Program Renewed

by Tim Hagan, CDF/FEMA Field Coordinator

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has renewed its funding of the free brush chipping service we have enjoyed for the last 3 years. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has \$181,000 for the chipping service next year. We will have a new contract with a chipping company in 2003, but the program will work the same as always. You, the homeowner, cut and stack the brush and CDF will have the brush chipped into mulch for you. This service is free, no charge to you and as a bonus, you get garden mulch as a by-product and enhanced wildfire safety for your family and neighbors. The chipper and crew will be in the Cement Hill area the third week of every month. Just call the office (265-2678) when you need the service and your address will be placed on a work order. If you have questions about how to stack the brush or where to stack it for the crew to safely access it, call and I will meet with you. It is not necessary to take the brush out to the roadway. ■



Nominating Committee Needs Your Help!

The nominating committee is looking for a few good names. We need names of GCHNA members who are willing to serve as Neighborhood Representatives on the Steering Committee. Immediate openings are available for the

West End Cement Hill area

(including Sunshadow Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road)

Southside Cement Hill area

(Hy. 49, Columbine Court, Delphine Lane, Shoshoni Trail, Old Faithful Court, Carli Way, Crooked Arrow Lane, John Barleycorn Rd., Frost Court and Cavanaugh Lane)

Applewood Lane

(including Indian Shack Road).

Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. Elections for the new Steering Committee representative will be held by mail-in ballot in June. ■

Contact Willie Brusin at 265-4018 or Marty Pezzaglia at 265-3288 for more information.



GCHNA members gather at the Board holiday party in December.

Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership (check your membership status at www.gchna.com/membership)

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership to GCHNA, we hope you will do so now. Here's my \$20 GCHNA membership fee for 2003. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA.

**Renew by
May 1**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Send check and form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959

NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES

West End Cement Hill

West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.

Ann Seivertson, (balidreamer@earthlink.net) 470-0342

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road.

(open)

Gochine Drive

Gochine, including Mr. Auburn Circle.

George Morgan, (gamorgan@bigplanet.com) 265-5559

Upper Cement Hill

Upper Cement Hill Road, including Pine Tree Place, Diamond Oak Drive, Bodie Ridge Road, Skyranch Road, and Elysian Way.

Willie Brusin, (brusin@inreach.com) 265-4018

Sunrock Road

Sunrock Road.

Donna Uran 478-1656

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road

Augustine Road, including Daisy Blue Mine, Leisure Lane, Lazy Oaks Drive, and Excelsior Ditch.

Marty Pezzaglia, (mpezz@oro.net) 265-3288

Crystal View Heights

Crystal View, including Golden Oaks.

Andy Oliver, (ajoliver@sbcglobal.net) 265-0269

Central Cement Hill Road

Central Cement Hill Road, including Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road, and Fox Hill Road.

Jeanette Clark, (cementhill@aol.com) 265-2680

Lower Cement Hill Road

Lower Cement Hill Road, including West Piper, Deer Crest, Rancheria Court, Red Hill Road, Foster Driveway, Picton, Picton Way, and Foster Road.

Glen Cooley 265-4025

Indian Flat Road

Indian Flat Road, including Country Circle and Robinson King Road.

Eileen Jorgensen, (eileen@themagicarpet.biz) 265-6415

Southside Cement Hill

Highway 49, including Columbine Court, Delphine Lane, Shoshoni Trail, Old Faithful Court, Carli Way, Crooked Arrow Lane, John Barleycorn Rd., Frost Court and Cavanaugh Lane.

(open)

Wet Hill Road

Wet Hill Road, including Sierra Springs Circle, Lower North Bloomfield Road, and Elliot Way.

Nancy Lakoduk, (snlduck@nccn.net) 265-5919

Airport Road

Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road.

Fred Buhler, (ddinmont2@earthlink.net) 265-4878

At Large

Julie Cobden 265-5987

Eve Collins, (collins@2xtreme.net) 265-6540

Cindy Hren, (4hren@ncws.com) 478-0858

Helen McDonald, (mcdonald@oro.net) 265-9218

Tom Stone, (tastone@pacbell.net) 478-1295

Lowell Robertson (lowell@sonictechnology.com) 265-2995

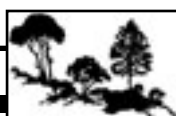
Chip Carman (chip@spiral.com) 478-9005

Alan Haight (afarmer@saber.net) 470-8720

GCHNA Mission Statement

The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association is chartered to:

- Protect and preserve the rural qualities of our neighborhood by providing a forum for group action as needed.
- Communicate information quickly and efficiently about matters of neighborhood interest to its members and associates.
- Raise funds and supply volunteer labor for projects that enhance or improve our neighborhood.
- Be an organization through which our neighbors can meet and get to know each other in meetings and social gatherings.





**THE
G
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A**
Greater
Cement
Hill
Neighborhood
Association

PO Box 1343
Nevada City CA 95959

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SPRING 2003 NEWSLETTER

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

Who to Contact...

- Bookkeeper**
Nancy Lakoduk – 265-5919
- Membership Information**
Eve Collins – 265-6540
- Ferrellgas Information**
Customer Service – 265-5896
- Neighborhood Ferrellgas Contact**
Tom Stone – 478-1295
- CDA/FEMA Brush Chipping**
Tim Hagan – 265-2678
- The Fire Safe Council**
Ed Arnott – 478-9850

Newsletter Contributors

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Copy Editor: Stephanie Hendricks
Coordinator: Chip Carman
And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.



GCHNA Monthly Meetings Steering Committee Meetings

are held on the 1st Monday evening of each month. Call your area representative for the meeting location. Meeting agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the kiosk on Wet Hill and Cement Hill. Non-approved minutes are posted at the kiosk as soon as they are available after a meeting. ■

Favorite Photos

We all have them – funny or charming photos of our children or family pets. Each issue we'll feature the best. Send printed copies to Photos, c/o GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 or email high resolution versions to chip@spiral.com.

Here's our first, of Newton...

