



G · C · H · N · A

Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Annual
Picnic
on
Sunday
September
19

SUMMER 2004 NEWSLETTER

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14th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic

Sunday,
Sept. 19th
3pm to Dusk

Chris Owen's
"Terra Sol"

13620 Bodie Ridge Rd.
at the far west end
of Cement Hill Rd.



"The
Prez
Sez"...

Vote Early! Vote Often

by Marty Pezzaglia

Chicago is the city famous for coining the phrase, "Vote Early! Vote Often"; and the phrase has been used everywhere, as a joke, or as a serious way of reminding citizens to be involved in their election process. We have a new Clerk Recorder in Nevada County, and we have a complicated ballot in this next November election. So, I am going to try and be of some help here.

Landmark legislation, AB2600, the "Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act of 2004", (See Elizabeth Martin's article in this Newsletter), will create the Sierra Conservancy which will bring more money to our region, and it will give local residents unprecedented influence in how those funds are used. In order to target those revenue sources toward recreation, we really do need to have

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Honoring Community

Everyone is invited to share and celebrate the various life styles that make up our neighborhood. This year our picnic will be held on the beautiful Chris Owen Estate on Bodie Ridge Road, with the focus on Community, and the pure enjoyment of being together and meeting new friends... so call your neighbor, car pool if you like, and prepare to enjoy a wonderful afternoon and evening.

Harvest Potluck

Please bring a favorite main dish

Picnic, continued on page 2

Prez Sez, continued on page 2

GCHNA MISSION

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

Prez Sez, continued from page 1

a vehicle to receive those monies; and that means a “Yes” vote for the Nisenan Park and Recreation District in our area. It also means a “Yes” vote for the special tax for most property owners. Please do your own research, but a “Yes” vote is highly recommended.

In terms of Voting Early, on September 3, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, our Fire District, will mail a ballot requesting property owners to vote on a new Benefit Assessment. Residents are being mailed a ballot and have up to 45 days to respond. The issue will not be on the November ballot. Please read the article by Fred Buhler in this Newsletter titled, “Fire District Needs Our Support”. Additionally, the GCHNA Steering Committee overwhelmingly supports a “Yes” vote on this Benefit Assessment.

As to the candidates and issues at the Federal, State, and Local levels that will be decided in November, please take the time to study each in advance; talk to friends, know the type of ballot system you will be using, and then be sure and vote well in advance if Absentee, or on Election Day at your proper polling place. And remember, a clean ballot, clearly marked, at the proper polling place, will certainly help make our new Clerk Recorder’s first election in Nevada County a successful election...and that is no joke, it is very important that this complicated ballot be counted a smoothly as possible. ■

Picnic, continued from page 1

to share, and your own chair. Vegetarian dishes are welcome. GCHNA will provide tea, soda, beer, wine, place settings and dessert.

SCHEDULE

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Happy Hours and Socializing. There will be teen helpers available for children. However, children are responsible for their parents’ behavior!

5:00 p.m.

Gather for Circle and introductions, and begin dinner. A few brief speeches on items of interest by the Prez.

5:30 p.m.

Dinner Speakers – Ron Nelson, NID General Manager; Tim Fike, Consolidated Fire District, and Retiring District 1 Supervisor Peter Van Zant. ■

Hirschman’s Diggings Purchased by Nevada City

by Eileen Jorgensen

In August, the historic Hirschman’s Diggings at the intersection of Indian Flat Road and Cement Hill was purchased by The City of Nevada City with Prop 40 Park and Recreation Grant monies. The park is 33.5 acres with a 5 acre pond that is fed from the drainage of the historic hydraulic operation and the wetlands around the Cement Hill area.

Hirschman’s Diggings is a gem in the rough. The site was purchased in 1866 by Henry and Moses Hirschman after their cigar store on Broad Street burned down on July 19, 1856. The first hydraulic site on American Hill had already been worked over, and the move was northwest to Oustamah Hill (on Wet Hill Rd) and the Hirschman Brother’s claim. Hirschman’s Pond, as it is known to locals, is approximately 5 acres of lake and is surrounded by some of the best examples of hydraulic mining in the area. The pond is surrounded by high bluffs, relics of hydraulic gold mining operations, at the north side of the lake and is ringed with timber.

Besides the historic importance, the site is environmentally fascinating because of its natural ambience and gradual recovery after years of abuse.

The City plans to focus on the historic and environmental attributes of The Diggings and looks forward to the day when interpretive trails can tell the story of this pristine piece of Nevada City’s history. ■



Tobiassen Park Fall Clean-Up

As our days get shorter and our nights get cooler...it reminds us that it is that time again. We hope you will come to help clean up our special neighborhood park.

There are blackberries to cut, trimming to be done, and some weed-wacking and raking too. Bring your tools and your smiles, as this is a great opportunity to meet and see other neighbors.

Our date is Sunday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. till noon. All are welcome. See you there!

The clean-up area is located above the Madelyn Helling Library, just past the Pappy Brimhall Ball Field part of Tobiassen Park, and begins with the trail-clearing around Charles Marsh Pond. The major clean-up work takes place at the area known as Coyote Woods just past the pond.

This may be the last time GCHNA leads the volunteer effort to keep this park maintained. If the vote is positive for the Niesnan Park and Recreation District this November, our Spring clean up efforts may be coordinated through a new District Board. ■



Gourmet Dining in My Neck of the Woods

by Jeanette Clark

Living on Cement Hill and gardening can be a qualified challenge. What with irrigation and the lack thereof; plus soil that literally eats up the soil amendments and the herds of deer that enjoy dining at its best, most would call it quits. But with our little piece of "heaven here on earth," we plow through all the specifics and each spring we start again. This year was a winner. Somehow we managed to see beautiful blooms in the flower garden.

Our flower garden is located at the bottom curve of a figure eight driveway and is about three feet wide and 25 feet long. We prepared the soil and prior to placing new amendments, we place a weeping hose about three inches deep. Our annuals were already in place in a lazy snake. We use iris, daffodils, Shasta daisies, lavender, dusty miller, firecrackers, and daylilies.

Somehow we manage to keep the deer away (barking dog announces to the herd it is time to eat) from the daylilies. Our soil amendments are products sold at local nurseries. The vegetable garden is also

at the bottom of that curve and takes up the other upgrade side of the curve. We add the same soil amendments, have a weeping hose buried, add a phosphate mixture, comes in a box, and have a collapsible fence that we place around the area.

Both the flower and vegetable garden receive at least eight hours of full sun.

We plant tomatoes, eggplant, different types of pepper, summer squash, zucchini, and pumpkins. This year was a very good harvest, especially the yellow pear tomatoes. Keep it simple and guard it with your life. Don't go on vacation...the marauders will dine to their gourmet delight. ■

2004 GCHNA Ballot Results

by Eve Collins

Thank you to all members (96) who returned ballots for this year's one third rotation of Steering Committee Representatives up for election. The results were almost unanimous. Steering Committee Representatives for 2004 are as follows: Jeanette Clark, Andy Oliver, Tom Stone, Helen McDonald, Chip Carman, Eve Collins and Lin Donald. Myles Ericson was appointed representative of the Applewood Rd. area.

The election of our officers was held at our last Steering Committee Meeting. The results are: President – Marty Pezzaglia, Vice-President – Chip Carman, Treasurer – Margie Buhler, Secretary – Jeanette Clark, and Membership Chair – Eve Collins ■



Meet Myles Ericson

Applewood Lane

New Applewood Lane Representative

Hello neighbors! My name is Myles Ericson. My wife is Colleen and we have two boys Logan and Luke. Our family lives in the "round house" on the corner of Cement Hill and Applewood Lane. I noticed that the association lacked a representative from Applewood Lane and have therefore volunteered to fill this vacancy. In doing so, I will be able to act as liaison between the GCHNA and the Applewood Association. There are a number of subjects that I take an active interest in, including water issues, fire prevention and pedestrian walkways. In addition, other areas of interest include excessive speed on Cement Hill, Truck noise ("Jake Brake" use), and bear proof trash collection facilities. Cement Hill is an exceptional area that retains a timeless country quality that we all cherish. I look forward to actively participating in the GCHNA so as to help our exceptional neighborhood realize it's full potential. ■

Meet Lin Donald

Crooked Arrow Lane

New Southside Cement Hill Representative

Fourth generation Lin Donald, began life in Berkeley before migrating to Tahoe and Carmel in the 1970's. An avid adventurer, she spent four years traveling around the world and returned home to Lassen Country where she lived for 7 years. While there, she helped start 7 rural health clinics that spanned northern California. Their emphasis was family planning.

In 1984, she moved to Nevada City and started Lin's Plant Parenthood – an organic landscape, consulting, and installation business. In 1994, she fell in love with a local boy, Tom Manuel, and together they bought Indian Hill Ranch on the top of Crooked Arrow Lane. Cover cropping, amending the soil and hard work has produced a healthy organic flower, produce, and gourd farm. Lin sells her produce every Wednesday after 3 p.m. across



the street from the Nevada City Post Office from now till the frost. Buckets of flowers and special orders can be picked up at the farm for weddings and special events.

Lin guides landowners toward a gentle stewardship of their land so that birds and wildlife can nest and eat while landowners enjoy observing and sharing in their lifecycle. Tom Manuel has designed birdhouses to attract dozen of species of birds especially huge families of the Western Blue Birds.

Tom and Lin's farm is indeed special and is open for tours and classes for attracting birds and learning their holistic farm techniques.

We welcome Lin to our Board. Call her for more information at 265-3334. ■

Ferrellgas Contract Incentives

by Tom Stone

Last year we signed our third three year contract with Ferrellgas which began on September 25th. We will enter into the second year of the contract on September 25th, 2004, with the existing parameters continuing as is. The rate for liquid propane stays the same at thirty five cents a gallon above Bay Area Rack Price. It is important to remember that you must be a current member of our association on September 25th, the contract anniversary date, to be eligible for the contract enhancements. Then on your next tank fill up after September 25th your driver will give you

25 free gallons of propane. You will not need to use a voucher. Also, the tank maintenance fee will continue to be \$35 per year for most members. I say "most" members, as you must understand that your personal Ferrellgas contract requires you to purchase 2 times the tank volume per year to receive the negotiated \$35 tank "rental" price. If you have trouble purchasing two times you tank volume, ask for a smaller tank. The tank fee is \$35 no matter which size tank you use.

So, if you are not currently a Ferrellgas customer you may want to give Andy Fellman a call at 265-5896 and discuss you current carrier's package with him, and compare the difference. ■



Sierra Nevada Conservancy Moves Forward

by Elizabeth Martin,
The Sierra Fund

The Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges are California's last great reservoir for clean water, blue oak woodlands, working ranches, wilderness and recreation. This 400-mile-long mountain range, covering 31% of the state, is source for more than 65 percent of California's drinking water.

Despite its importance to all the people of California, there is no state program to coordinate the restoration and protection efforts so desperately needed for this "range of light." This year the California legislature is considering a bill, AB 2600 by authors Assembly member Tim Leslie and John Laird, to create a Sierra Nevada Conservancy. This Conservancy, like the Coastal Conservancy and the Tahoe Conservancy, will be housed in the State Resources Agency.

If passed, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will help protect and restore the region's physical, cultural, and historical resources; provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation; protect water quality from degradation; and assist the local economy. Its boundary will include the entire Sierra Range, most of the Cascade, the Modoc Plateau, Mono Lake and the Owens Valley.

The Conservancy will give an important new seat at the table for Sierra residents and other Californians interested in protecting the natural resources of the range. It will help coordinate

more than a dozen existing federal and state programs investing in water quality and water quantity improvements, watershed restoration, working ranches and farms, recreation and education. The Conservancy will have no regulatory authority.

A thirteen-member board, composed of six County Supervisors and seven representatives appointed by the legislature, will govern the Conservancy. Congress and the State can appropriate money directly to the Conservancy from sources ranging from the US Department of Agriculture to bond monies from Propositions 40 and 50.

The bill was introduced earlier in the year, partly in response to newly elected Governor Schwarzenegger's interest in creating a Sierra Nevada Conservancy. It had already passed the Assembly, and on Monday 23 August 2004, the California State Senate passed Assembly Bill 2600, the "Laird-Leslie Sierra Nevada Conservancy Act of 2004."

In crafting the historic bi-partisan compromise, several amendments were accepted to AB2600 in the Senate Appropriations Committee. These amendments mean that AB2600 will be heard once more on the Assembly Floor for final approval. Previously, AB2600 passed the State Assembly on a bi-partisan vote of 52 to 20.

On Wednesday August 25, the Assembly passed AB2600 by a vote of 64 to 14. It has until September 30 to be signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. ■

To learn more about AB 2600 contact The Sierra Fund, sponsors of the bill, at (530) 265-8454 x 11, or visit www.sierraconservancy.org

Stop Nuisance Barking

by Marty Pezzaglia

Reprinted from our
Summer 2001 Newsletter

Sheriff Keith Royal recently stated that the number one "crime" reported in Nevada County was "Barking Dogs". Our Year 2000 Survey comment section on noise registered heavily with barking dogs as an irritant. I have had to personally deal with this issue with my own barking dogs.

I use a dog collar called the Bark Limiter, from Tri-Tronics. The cost is a little over one hundred dollars, uses a battery, and shocks the dog on the third bark. It is available at 1-800-465-4343, or check out their web site at <http://www.tritronics.com>.

Another approach is the citronella anti-bark collar. When the dog barks, the collar sprays a light mist of citronella scent in front of his nose. Dogs don't like the smell, figure things out quickly, and stop barking. This type of collar is a little over one hundred dollars. It can be researched at Placerville Veterinary Clinic at their web site at <http://www.placervillevet.com> ■



Fire District Needs Our Support

by Fred Buhler

On September 3, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District (NCCFD), our Fire District, will mail a ballot requesting property owners to vote on a new Benefit Assessment that will enable the District to hire additional firefighters and continue funding salaries for the Fire District's existing personnel. Although few of us are interested in increasing our tax burden, this Assessment request is important to all Greater Cement Hill residents and deserves your serious consideration.

NCCFD provides vital emergency services to 34,000 residents in unincorporated areas of Western Nevada County, including all of Greater Cement Hill. The District employs twenty-seven full time firefighters, nine seasonal firefighters and thirty-five paid call firefighters (volunteers). Currently, four stations are staffed with two firefighters, twenty-four hours a day and two stations are staffed with two firefighters only twelve hours a day with no staffing at night. Five stations are totally dependent on volunteer response. In addition, the District operates two jointly staffed stations with the Grass Valley Fire Department and the Nevada City Fire Department.

With limited resources, NCCFD has done a remarkable job in responding to 2,475 medical emergencies, 542 fires and 327 traffic accidents in 2003.

Impact on the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood

Firefighters from the fire station on Coyote Street and Highway 49

are the first to respond to emergencies in our neighborhood. Until last October, this station was part of the 49er Fire District. Last year's merger between 49er Fire and NCCFD has helped to improve response time up to 50% in most of our neighborhood. Furthermore, because of the merger, when firefighters from the station on Coyote Street are dispatched on a call, a back up unit from another NCCFD station immediately moves to Coyote Street. Should there be a second incident on the heels of the first, a staffed engine will be in place, ready to respond.

Two years ago, the 49er Fire District asked voters to approve an increase in the fire tax from \$59 to \$113 per parcel. The measure failed to pass by only 74 votes! The additional funds were required to provide twenty-four hour coverage at the Coyote Street station for our neighborhood.

NCCFD is now requesting your approval of a Benefit Assessment of \$89 for improved parcels.

The proceeds from the Benefit Assessment will replace existing fire taxes and will be used to fund daily emergency operations, including firefighter salaries. This additional funding will enable the district to continue providing twenty-four hour coverage at the Coyote Street station.

Proceeds from the assessment will also be used to hire additional firefighters to provide twenty-four hour coverage at the Tammy Way fire station in Alta Sierra as well as a station that will provide much needed coverage for the Banner Mountain/Cascade Shores area. This will also benefit our neighborhood because when there is a

major emergency in the Greater Cement Hill area, engines from all NCCFD stations will respond, if needed.

Whether it is a burning house, a heart attack or an automobile accident, I hope you will agree that quick response by the fire district is critical for saving lives and property.

Consequences if Assessment is Not Approved

If the Benefit Assessment is not approved, revenues will decline 28%. Without the funding provided by the Benefit Assessment, improved coverage and response times in Alta Sierra and Banner Mountain/Cascade Shores will not be realized. Nine firefighters will be laid off. Two fire stations will be closed. Older emergency equipment will not be replaced and the present level of emergency services will be substantially reduced throughout the entire District.

I hope you will agree the increase from \$59 to \$89 per year is money well spent. Your yes vote is needed to ensure this Benefit Assessment request is approved. The ballots will be in the mail soon. Let your friends know how much we all need their YES VOTE as well on this critical issue.

Let's keep small fires from becoming wildfires! ■

Fred Buhler became interested in fire prevention when he retired in 1998 after a thirty-three year career as an international banker. He is a member of the GCHNA Steering Committee and served on the Board of Directors of the 49'er Fire District prior to last year's merger with NCCFD. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Nevada County Fire Safe Council.



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 2004. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Mail check & form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 E-mailed (PDF) newsletter preferred

NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES

West End Cement Hill

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

(open)

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road.

Myles Ericson, (ericsonfamily@earthlink.net) 478-5788

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, (martypezzaglia@direcway.com) 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@themagiccarpet.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.

Lin Donald 265-3334

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

Margie Buhler, (margie95959@earthlink.net) 265-4878

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

Julie Cobden 265-5987

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

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

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

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.





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**Greater Cement Hill
 Neighborhood Association**

PO Box 1343, Nevada City CA 95959

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Leo Kottke



Tuck & Patti



Over 800 people attended

On August 21, Leo Kottke and Tuck & Patti performed at the Nevada County Land Trust's benefit concert, *Stars at the Ridgetop*, on Chris Owens' property.

SUMMER 2004 NEWSLETTER

Who to Contact...

Membership Information
 Eve Collins – 265-6540

Ferrellgas Information
 Customer Service – 265-5896

Neighborhood Ferrellgas Contact
 Tom Stone – 478-1295

**The Fire Safe Council
 Brush Chipping**
 Erin Taylor – 470-9193



**GCHNA Bi-monthly
 Steering Committee Meetings**

are held on the 1st Monday evening of every other 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. ■



**Private Road
 Association Agreements**

A panel discussion and workshop, was presented by the Federation of Neighborhood Associations, to a standing room only audience at the Superintendent of Schools Office on June 29th. Seated at the far left is GCHNA President Marty Pezzaglia. Standing is FONA President and facilitator of the panel discussion, Joey Jordan. Other panel members are Jeff Dunning, Dave Palley, and Nancy Weber. ■

Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Eve Collins & Eileen Jorgensen
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And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.

