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Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Annual Picnic
on Sunday
September 19th

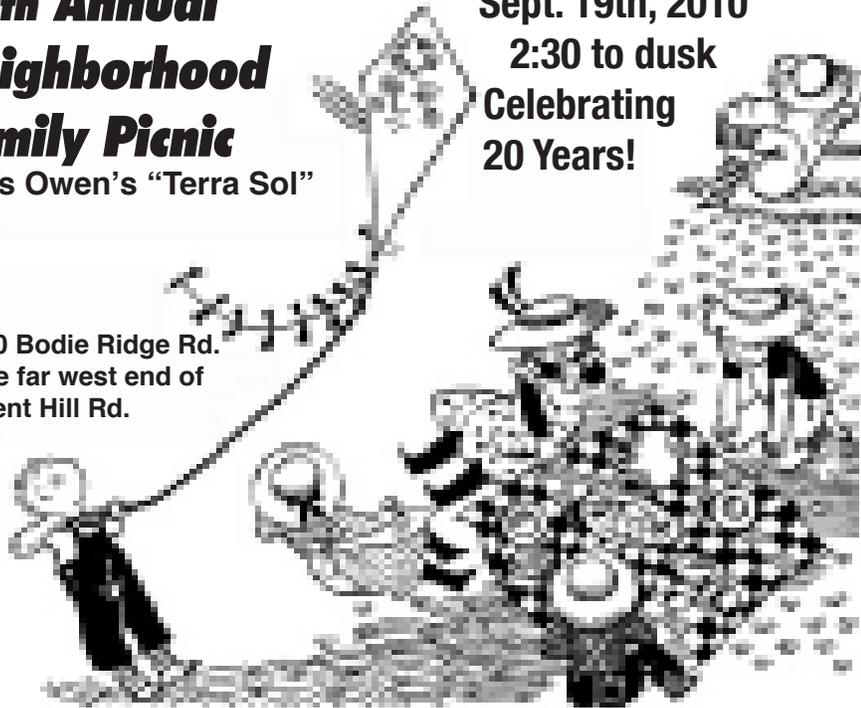
SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

for PDF file copies of our newsletter go to www.gchna.com

20th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic

Chris Owen's "Terra Sol"

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



Sept. 19th, 2010
2:30 to dusk
Celebrating
20 Years!

You're invited to listen on Sunday, Sept, 19th to listen to the music of Country Comfort helping GCHNA celebrate 20 years and come meet the Nisenan of Nevada County. Please join us in this special 20th annual celebration of our neighborhood community. Everyone's welcome to visit with old friends and make new friends at the beautiful estate of Chris Owen on Bodie Ridge Rd. Information of interest to our neighborhood will be available through exhibits by local organizations.

Harvest Potluck – Bring Your Own Place Settings.

Bring a favorite main dish to share and your own chair. For the first time please

bring your own place setting (non disposable eating utensils and plate) – we're going green! GCHNA will provide beer, wine, tea, soda, and dessert. Thank you Flour Garden for providing the cake. Ferrellgas will underwrite the beverages as they did last year. Thank you Andy Fellman Schedule:

2:30 – 4:30 PM

Happy Hour and socializing to the music of Country Comfort

View the Community exhibits

4:30 PM until dusk

Dinner with guest speaker from the Nisenan Tribe of the historic Nevada City Rancheria.

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President Pro-Tem Sez –

By Jeanette Clark

What happened to the lazy hazy days of summer? Your GCHNA Steering Committee has NOT been on vacation. As we go to press with this newsletter edition, the following issues and challenges are facing us.

It is with surprise and deep regret that the GCHNA Steering Committee accepted the resignation of its Treasurer, Tom Stone, of West Piper Lane. Tom not only kept the books, but also helped negotiate the Ferrellgas Contract and provided much needed assistance for our annual picnic. Besides all of that, Tom was also a Representative-at-Large. So, Tom...thank you for everything, especially maintaining your sense of humor while keeping GCHNA financially viable. Welcome to

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GCHNA welcomes home descendants of the original Nisenan of Nevada County. In the mid 1800s, after several forced removals, surviving Nisenan families found a sense of protection on Cement Hill. Settling citizens of Nevada City and surrounding communities helped Chief Charley Cully secure a permanent land base for his Tribe of Indians. Upon Chief Cully's untimely death, Belle Douglas and the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West managed to get this last piece of Nisenan land turned into a federally recognized Rancheria (another name for a reservation). Today, the descendants of these same Nisenan families continue to cultivate their heritage, culture and future. They will share their historic photos and stories with us.

COUNTRY COMFORT, a group of Nevada County musicians, will entertain us at the picnic this year. They play classic country music from the 30's through the 60's. Songs sung by the likes of Hank Williams, Meryl Haggard, Johnny Cash, and Buck Owens.

The musicians include: William Lyons, a Spanish teacher by day, on guitar; Gordon Briggs, a retired machinist living in Rough and Ready, on bass; Lynn and Steve Rutherford, recently married, each on rhythm guitar, and Steve Borgnis on drums. Everyone does vocals.

The band has played at the Crazy Horse, 5 Mile House, and Amigos in Nevada City and the Grass Valley and Nevada City Farmers Markets. They do private events, like weddings, as well. Music at the picnic starts at 2:30.



Uli Paulin who has graciously accepted Tom Stone's seat as representative-at-large. Also we welcome back Bill Holman as a representative-at-large. Bill has been our design and layout person for the newsletter.

The Nevada County Community Development Block Grant (State Contract #09-STBG-6413) seemingly has been withdrawn due to a technical interpretation of the NEPA language and purpose for funding this grant. NID Division 1 Director, Nancy Weber, and Nevada County District One Supervisor, Nate Beason, have been relentlessly working on reversing this decision. Hopefully, by the time this newsletter is in your hands, the Community Development Block (CDBG) has been again funded.

The community education speaker for our October 4th Steering Committee meeting will be Mike Thornton of the Sierra Land Trust. We invite each of you to come and be informed about what is happening in your neighborhood.

Website news...we shall soon have a new look and improved service to our constituents here on Cement Hill. We will be changing over to the website software, WordPress. We are looking forward to better serving you and hearing from you. The logo and address will remain the same. So...here we go.

See you at the picnic on Sunday, September 19th. It is time to celebrate our 20th year in gathering together.



As we go to press, this is where we stand with the Community Block Grant for Cement Hill CFD #2007-1. We begin with a little history.

by Kyle Thompson and Nate Beason

In 2008 the County of Nevada's Housing Division was requested to research the possibility of using CDBG grant fund to assist low-income home owners of the Cement Hill area with the recent Community Facility District assessments. After confirming with State representative, it was understood that assessment assistance was an eligible CDBG project and a grant application was completed and submitted. The grant application had gone through the State's rating and ranking process and in July 2009 the County was notified it would be awarded an \$800,000 CDBG grant from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). \$729,200 would be allocated to payment for special tax liens for low income home owners. The grant contract (09-STBG-6413) was executed on April 13, 2010.

On June 3, 2010, the Housing Division was informed by HCD that the 2009/10 CDBG General Allocation that was awarded would not be funded because they had determined that the identified activity was ineligible. The State claimed that the activity was ineligible because construction by NID began prior to obtaining National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance clearance and other Staff believed (as stated and submitted in the grant application) assisting low-income owner-occupied homeowners with the Facility District assessments was an eligible stand alone activity that was categorically exempt from NEPA. This is based on the fact that the activity is an administrative function and that CDBG funding would not be directly supporting

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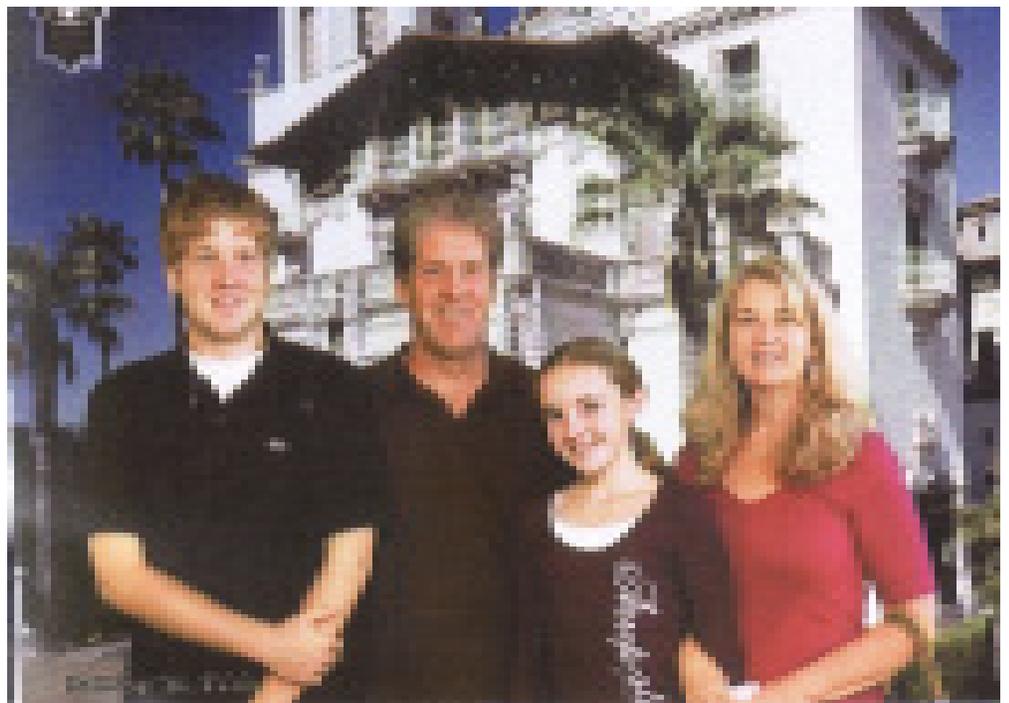
Rainbow Market - A Family Affair

By Ellen Hagan

If you'd stopped in at the Rainbow Market on the south side of Cement Hill on Hwy 49 this summer, you might have found Maggie making sandwiches, Jeff pumping propane, son Collin, back from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for the summer, behind the counter, 14 year-old daughter Kelly making softserve ice cream cones, and grandmother Ruth who had dropped in to chat. That's how it is at this small, friendly, family-run market, 3 miles outside Nevada City.

The Rutherfords opened this neighborhood grocery store in 1996. "We have never regretted moving to Nevada City and getting out of Los Angeles," says Jeff. "We are grateful every single day for this great community. We are pretty certain our 'commute' to work is the nicest in the country".

The store is stocked with a wide variety of items: milk and bread when you run out, sandwiches Mon - Fri for lunch with lunch specials and tacos on Tuesdays, a large selection of wines including local



wines, softserve ice cream, and propane. "We will try to order any special items our customers want."

Rainbow Market hosts an informal country music jam session each Thursday evening in the summer from 6-9 pm under the apple tree and we're all invited. "Bring an instrument to play or sing or bring a chair to sit and listen." Maggie serves great taco dinners. The "regulars"

called the "Apple Tree Gang" started playing music together at Ruth and Wayne's home on Indian Flat Road and celebrated their 10th anniversary this year.

Rainbow Market is open daily from 8:00am-8:00pm Monday through Friday and 9:00am to 8:00pm on the weekends. Stop in for grocery items, get acquainted, and ask Jeff about golf.



New Trail From the Rood Center to North Bloomfield Road.



the construction project. In the development of the initial NID water main construction project, it is believed by the County all Federal overlays and environmental standards had been satisfied and were in compliance.

As of today, Friday, August 13th, the County has had numerous phone conversations with CDBG and Chair of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor of District I, Nate Beason, has submitted letters to Congressman Tom McClintock (copied to Senator Sam Aanestad, Senator elect Doug LaMalfa and Assembly Member Dan Logue) seeking assistance in saving the CDBG grant money. Also, a letter explaining why the County believes the State is not justified in rescinding the grant award was sent to the HUD Regional Environmental Officer. McClintock's staff has been making aggressive efforts to have direct conversations with HUD to elicit action (VS a letter). To date no response. HUD is responsible for establishing and overseeing the State CDBG environmental standards. McClintock's office has contacted the HUD Secretary, Shaun Donovan in Washington DC attempting to seek his involvement to rectify the situation. Boxer and Feinstein have been contacted as well.

The County is very concerned and making every effort possible to save this grant money. It is the hope and desire of the County that all efforts have a favorable outcome and will continue efforts until a final outcome is decided.



Reflecting on GCHNA's 20 Year History

By Eileen Jorgensen

During this 20th year anniversary, GCHNA reflects on its accomplishments while celebrating the neighbors that came together to make it all happen. Let's look back....

In 1990 we organized to represent our neighborhood at the 1990 Nevada County General Plan update. We created a survey with more than half of our neighborhood responding which helped to represent our interests during the County's update. At that time we produced our first newsletter - and have created more than 60 since then! In addition we:

- Hosted our first Annual Neighborhood Picnic and we're celebrating our 20th this year;
- Developed a data base of residents and local officials to help us keep in touch with approx 515 neighbors and community leaders;
- Joined and supported the Federation of Neighborhoods - this continues today.

In the 1990s we represented the neighborhood as the County developed the government center, jail and library. When NID wanted to dispose of the Red Hill Reservoir we convinced NID of its value and to leave it intact. Other accomplishments include:

- Negotiated a contract with Ferrellgas proving beneficial to many of us;
- Worked closely with the Fire Safe Council to become the first neighborhood to receive a grant helping to reduce fuel loads;
- Began seasonal clean-ups of Coyote Park which lasted until 2005.

In the 2000s GCHNA responded to the BLM public land exchange and organized public walks and talks of the area to maintain this open space. Among

our achievements:

- Created the gchna.com web site;
- Worked with Nevada City and Nevada County Land Trust to create Hirschman's Trail;
- We organized clean-ups and hosted Trail's Day 2008;
- We built our membership to a hefty 225 households;
- We partnered with NID and the County to create a Community Facilities District to bring 11 miles of treated water pipeline and 55 fire-hydrants up Cement Hill;

We hosted our first Spring Tea and Tour which honors the beauty of our neighborhood. This wonderful event continues. At present we are working with the County to produce a Fire Evacuation Map and Plan for our area. We continue to follow the issues pertinent to our neighborhood. The above has shown what can be achieved when neighbors work together and we welcome your energy in participating with your neighborhood association. We believe that service organizations such as ours are a key element to a hopeful future. Join us...



Local artist creates a new neighbor on the corner of Cement Hill Road and Augustine Rd.!



We Mourn the Passing of a Remarkable Neighbor...



Nathalie Cooley passed away peacefully at her home on Cement Hill this past Spring. Nathalie was instrumental in the development of the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association and together with Glen, her husband of over 60 years, they together made valuable contributions not only to our community but to the rural quality of all of Nevada County. As a hike leader to the Nevada County Hikers Club and long-time secretary to the Nevada County Environmental Council, The Federation of Neighborhoods as well as GCHNA, Nathalie helped these organizations thrive. We mourn the loss but celebrate the extraordinary person who was Nathalie Cooley.

Living History – An interview with Alberta Oates

By Susan Wiesner

Alberta Oates is one of a few special Cement Hill residents whose roots extend back several generations in Nevada County. Her childhood memories of the immediate area bring alive our rich history. From Columbia Hill and North Bloomfield where her grandparents lived to Selby Flat where her mother was born, her family stories echo the gold mining past.

at home tending her garden a few weeks after celebrating her 95th birthday. She and her husband, Norman, built their simple white wood framed house in 1936 on land given to them by her parents, Annie Marks Robinson and Albert Robinson. They purchased the house materials from an advertisement in the Sacramento Bee. The package included the wood as well as plumbing, a sink, bathtub, and toilet...all for the price of \$400.

Alberta was born in town (Nevada City) in a house on the corner of Broad and Spring Streets she grew up on Lost Hill in the old Sturgis House. As a young child she was familiar with Cement Hill which she called “country” at that time because her father would go rabbit hunting there when he came home from working as a shift boss at the North Star Mine. Her mother’s family, the Marks, purchased property that had been the Daisy Blue Mine after it had played out as a working mine and her parents eventually purchased 18 acres in 1933 in the area where Robinson King Road is now. They kept a pig, chickens and had an extensive vegetable garden but their primary crop was various kinds of berries, especially marionberry and nectarberry which were local favorites.

She met her future husband at old Armory Hall (dance hall / roller skating rink) on Broad Street where families gathered on Saturday evenings. She claims the Nevada City girls all dated the Grass Valley boys since they were more interesting – being from “out of town”. Norman Oates was from Grass Valley so right away he had that in his favor. Alberta could see he had a promising future and indeed he did. They married in April 1937 and began their life together in the Indian Flat Road area of Cement Hill.

In October 1942 the federal government in War Production Board Order L-208 mandated that many gold mines close to free up resources deemed essential to the war effort. So Norman and Alberta



moved with their young daughter to Angels Camp and Norman worked in the nearby copper mine at Copperopolis. But that time away from Cement Hill was brief. After working in the mining industry, Norman later found employment with the Nevada City Department of Public Works. Locals may recall Norman used to start the Fourth of July celebrations with an early morning explosion he set off up on Sugar Loaf.

When asked what the biggest change Alberta has seen in Cement Hill over the past 90+ years she replied “it’s simply the people”. When she moved to Indian Flat Road there were only a handful of families in the area. She remembers neighbors such as Joe Garesio, Ben Tonella, the Orzallis, the Augustinis, the Richards, and the Tobiassens as well as Kitty Williamson, to name a few. She also recalls “Louis Dick” (Chief Kelly), Billy Richards and her father planting an orchard below where the vineyard now stands along Cement Hill Road.

At her recent birthday celebration at the National Hotel Alberta told her friends and family (including grandchildren and great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren) to “take care of yourselves and we’ll do this again in five years!”



Cement Hill Can Become a Recognized Firewise Community!

Ultimately it all begins with each property owner. It takes time and coordination with neighbors and others; but getting started is actually quite straight-forward. The Firewise Communities/USA standards offer our community flexibility in creating the most appropriate plan and actions for our area. GCHNA wishes to explore the concept of becoming a recognized FIREWISE COMMUNITY. We are looking forward to working with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and other agencies to make this concept a reality. In the near future, more information concerning the how-to's will be in this newsletter and available on our website. Or visit www.firewise.org/usa. BE FIREWISE!!

Forest Conservation Program

by Tom Stone

When the Farm Bill was passed in 2008, Congress added an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) that allows the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to grant you partial reimbursement for the costs of reforestation of your property. With government grant money, you can clear the dense underbrush on your property or your neighbor's property with your neighbor's permission. The USDA has some requirements and they make inspections to make sure you comply. There is no minimum acreage requirement. If you wish to see an example of some property cleared under this program, pause at the entry to West Piper Lane and look up hill. To the left is the old forest property and to the right is the cleared property that follows USDA guidelines.

The program is administered locally by



Demonstration Garden at the Rood Center, Compost Classes in Our Neighborhood!.

the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) located at 113 Presley Way in Grass Valley. They are taking application now (deadline November 12, 2010) for work to be done in 2011. You should contact Tony Sunseri, 530-272-3417 X110. You can also check the USDA website at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov. Look for the information under Farm Bill and EQIP.

October 4th Steering Committee Speaker

Mike Thornton will be our educational speaker at the October 4th Steering Committee meeting. Here is a snippet of the information he will bring to the meeting.

The Deer Creek project is a multipurpose study that will be developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Mother Lode Field Office, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California State Water Control Board (Water Board), Central Valley Regional Water Board, California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), the County of Nevada County, California (County) and Nevada City (City). In addition, the BLM is working closely with non-governmental groups such as American Rivers, Friends of Deer Creek (FODC) and the Sierra Fund in the investigation and potential remediation of the site. The intent of the project is to assess, remove and/or mitigate mercury "hot spots" and toxic metals contamination contained within mine tailings, in water, sediment and soils on BLM land adjacent to Deer Creek. In addition, if we receive permission from private land owners, the BLM plans to investigate Hirschman's Pond, Woods Ravine, Champion Mine, Providence Mine, Stocking Flat and the Little Deer Creek Land areas to determine the extent of contamination within the Deer Creek watershed.



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 2010. 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



GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

West End Cement Hill

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

Ellen Hagan, Tim Hagan, (timhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road.

Larry Cook, (2cooks@att.net) 265-3088

Gochine Drive

Gochine, including Mt. Auburn Circle.

Carl Plaza, (plaza@ncws.com) 478-1802

Upper Cement Hill

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

Willie Brusin, (wbrusin@att.net) 265-4018

Sunrock Road

Sunrock Road.

Susan Wiesner: (sawiesner@gmail.com), 265-4824

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road

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

Marty Pezzaglia, (martypezzaglia@spiralemail.com) 265-3288

Crystal View Heights

Crystal View, including Golden Oaks.

Julie Cobden, (jacobden@gv.net) 265-5987

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.

(open)

Wet Hill Road

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

Nancy Paulson, (npaulson@nccn.net) 265-5919

Airport Road

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

(open)

At Large

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

Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387

Uli Paulin, 265-4194





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Greater Cement Hill
Neighborhood Association

Member of Non-Profit . Federation of Neighborhood Associations
228 Commercial Street, #227, Nevada City, CA 95959

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SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

Who to Contact...

Membership Information

Eve Collins – 265-6540

Ferrellgas Information

Customer Service – 265-5896

The Fire Safe Council

Joanne Drummond - 272-1122

Bear or Mountain Lion Problems

USDA Trapper Larry Lane
(916) 239-8978

NID Web Site

Doug Roderick 271-6866
www.nidcementhill.com, regarding
treated water pipeline
[www.marquespipeline.com/
cementhill/](http://www.marquespipeline.com/cementhill/)

FONA Web Site

www.fona-nevco.org

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.

Membership Guidelines

Fiscal Period is

January 1st – December 31st

Membership Dues due by

February 1st Grace period to May 1st

Anyone may join anytime during the year but will have to negotiate with Ferrellgas if joining after May 1st.

Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Susan Wiesner &
Ellen Hagan

Design & Layout: Bill Holman

Copy Editor: Eve Collins &
Eileen Jorgensen

*And a big thanks to all our writers
and photographers.*

