



G · C · H · N · A

Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Annual Picnic/Potluck
September 16th

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.gchna.com

22nd Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic/Potluck September 16, 2012 3:30 to Dusk



neighborhood- the Big Yellow Barn. Be sure to read the article in this newsletter.

Harvest Potluck - Bring a favorite main dish to share (no desserts needed.). GCHNA will provide beer, wine, tea, soda, and dessert. Thank you Flour Garden for providing the cake. Please bring your own place settings (non disposable eating utensils and plate - we're going green!), A chair won't be necessary this year as we'll have chairs for you.

3:30- 4:30 pm Happy Hour and Music provided by Stepside.
This local band organized by Steve and Lynn Rutherford plays music for everybody - country dance, classic rock and roll, and a little blues. They've played most recently at the Nevada City Farmers Market. Steve plays guitar and sings. Lynn sings and plays violin. Steve Borgnis is the drummer. Michael Kesti plays bass and Bob Sheffer plays lead guitar.

4:45 to dusk Dinner and Program
■ Update on issues
■ Community input about the future of GCHNA Now is an important time for GCHNA. After accomplishing so many things in our 22 years, where do we go from here?

Come join the "GCHNA gang" for this wonderful yearly event.

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Here's the Deal!

By Jeanette Clark

Here's the deal as I see it. When turning a corner in life, the view changes completely. It is not like a crossroads, where you can get a view of all paths to a certain distant horizon. A corner is a corner and the sights of the venue are very specific and the perimeters and perspectives are limited to that path. So, here I am trying to say "goodbye" to GCHNA and its members. I do wish to say, I appreciate each and every member and resident within GCHNA's sphere of influence. I have enjoyed the time,



The Big Yellow Barn
10141 Cedarsong Rd , Nevada City
Access to Cedarsong Road is off Hwy 49. Travel 2 miles past the Willo Restaurant. Turn right on Cedarsong (look for balloons). The Big Yellow Barn is a short distance on the right. There's plenty of parking.

MUSIC! SOCIALIZING with neighbors, old and new! EATING and DRINKING! Planning GCHNA's future!! Everyone is invited to join your neighbors at this year's potluck "inside" a new venue on the west end of our

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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.

energy, and passion spent on different challenges that have faced us here on the hill. But it is time to encourage our members to STEP UP and take the helm, and guide the ship, crew, and passengers on the way to a spectacular journey. GCHNA (as well as other neighborhoods) will be facing wonderful opportunities and challenges as our neighborhood, environment, and county become ever increasingly "gentrified." It will take recruiting, collaborative problem-solving and active involvement of each member, property owner, and/or resident to come to viable and optimum win-win conclusions for all of us. For me, it is time to devote time, energy, and passion on my ever increasing family. So, the corner is willfully and happily turned and it's time to say a very fond farewell. Thank you so much for letting me serve you through GCHNA. Jeanette

Firewise Communities Certification

Hey You Out There!!!! – GCHNA has done it again! Because of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association has earned FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

GCHNA worked with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Cal Fire, OES of Nevada County, and the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. GCHNA members and non-members then worked together to implement the plan.

To receive Firewise Communities/USA recognition, GCHNA met a rigorous

set of requirements. Our association completed the following activities:

- Worked with our NCCFD, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Nevada County Resource Conservation District to remove flammable vegetation from around neighborhood homes and structures.
- During annual picnics, provided informational tables from various agencies in Nevada County where Firewise information was not only available but distributed.
- Participated in the Firewise Council of Nevada County's Scotch Broom pulls within GCHNA's sphere of influence.
- For spring events, provided Fire Safety Advisory Training for members and non-members of GCHNA.

According to Firewise Communities/USA, "Achieving Firewise recognition is not a quick or easy process. GCHNA has done an outstanding job of creating a Firewise Task Force and implementing Firewise principles," said Michele Steinberg, support manager of the Firewise Communities program. "By preparing homes, structures, and landscapes before a wildfire occurs", GCHNA has dramatically increased the chance that homes and structures will be protected when a wildfire occurs.

In the future, each member and non-member of GCHNA can take up the task to be absolutely ready for a wildfire after event. To quote Joanne Drummond of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County..."It's not a case of if a wild fire event occurs, it's the case of when will the neighborhood be ready".

New Big Yellow Barn Completed On Cedarson Road

By Ellen Hagan

When vintage car hobbyist Christy Barden moved permanently to his property on Cedarson Road, he realized he would need a place to store and work on his collection. The Big Yellow Barn has now become a reality. It was built on a 4,300 square foot foundation and slab and includes a 2700 sq. foot clear span main area 32' high with a 700 sq. foot mezzanine. There are two smaller shops for working on vehicles with a full bathroom, kitchen, etc. The insulated interior is lined with 1x12 rough cut pine from Kubich Lumber Co. Six ceiling fans help keep things cool. Two barn doors on both sides allow a breeze to flow through.

In addition to storing 7 vehicles, Christy is offering this space as a venue for community events. Its first public opening in August, a living history performance about Eleanor Roosevelt done by Susan Marie Frontczak, was attended by more than 100 people. Christy also realized that a place this size could be used for other purposes. He is a patron of the arts and would like local people to use it on a not-for-profit basis. The other problem in the foothills is parking. He cleared an area that will park 76 cars in lined slots. Also, there are separate roads in and out for an easy traffic flow.



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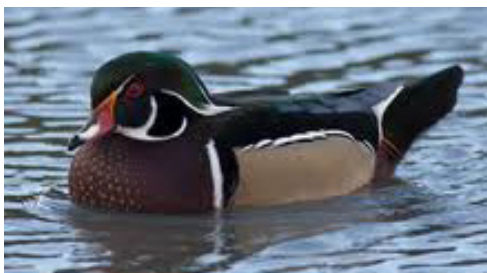
GCHNA will hold its annual picnic at the Big Yellow Barn on September 16. Come see this wonderful new building in our neighborhood. Cedarson Road is on the south side of the hill and is accessed from Highway 49, 2 miles past the Willo Restaurant on the right.

A Neighborhood Gem Needing Protecting...

In an effort to increase awareness, neighbors of Hirschman's Pond and Trail will be writing their thoughts and observations on the wildlife that live there.

Ricki Kartes: We have lived in the Nevada City area since the 1970s and I worked locally for 34 years a wildlife biologist. We purchased our property that borders approximately 1/4 of the perimeter above Hirschman's pond in 1998. Our home and back yard overlook the pond and for the past 14 years we have watched and studied the wildlife that calls the pond their home. The pond supports a variety of species and the following is my observation of just a few.

Prior to the trail opening, about 10 pair of wood ducks nested and raised their young at the pond. From our dining room window, we watched wood ducks battle acorn woodpeckers for the best nesting cavities. We enjoyed their whistle calls and their stunning colorful beauty. Wood ducks require wetland habitat with low human disturbance. In just a few short months since the trail officially opened, the wood ducks left the pond and have not returned. Ever increasing numbers of trail users leaving the designated trail and venturing farther along the pond's edge, coupled with



more floats and boats have left the wood duck with no place to retreat. The western pond turtle is declining throughout its range, primarily due to loss of habitat via urbanization. In California, the western pond turtle is listed as a species of special concern and federally listed as a sensitive species. Often we have peered over our cliff's edge to observe the pond turtles. We have counted as many as 22 turtles grouped together basking on rocks and logs. For the first time in 14 years, female pond turtles made their way from the pond to our property to build nests and lay eggs. What a desperate sight to see them dig for hours in our driveway! We returned six females to the pond. Of the six, two had fallen over the cliff trying to return to the pond and were wedged in the brush. Fortunately, we found them and gently released them at the pond. Should these turtle nests be successful, the return trip for the young turtles will be an impossible task. From my experience, I believe that human disturbance has prevented these turtles from using their previous nesting sites.

The most plentiful residents of the pond were the large numbers of Canada geese. One could set their watch to their daily routine. The familiar honking and landings and takeoffs was always a delight to the senses. Of course many would choose to spend most of their day at the pond. Unlike the geese one might see at a park or golf course, this population of geese is wild. Loud talking and loose dogs scare our geese at the pond. This year

the Hirschman's pond resident Canada geese families with downy chicks were observed leaving the safety of the pond on foot (where they normally would stay until the young were capable of flight) and made a dangerous trek up and away from the pond. The once large numbers of geese at the pond have been reduced to just the occasional few.

To keep our local wildlife thriving at Hirschman's pond will take an environmentally aware public. If trail users stay on the designated trail, refrain from loud noise and swimming, keep dogs on leash or leave their dog at home, and save the floats and boats for larger bodies of water, it may be possible that these and the many other wildlife species that make the pond their home can co-exist.

Eileen Jorgensen: Those of us that supported the vision for the Hirschman's Pond and Trail that Nevada City proposed in 2004 were inspired by the generous nature of the language. The Public Use Vision read: "Although the Hirschman's Pond property was significantly modified by the process of hydraulic mining during the Gold Rush days, the property has rejuvenated to a beautiful, restful, scenic, natural environment.



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Wildlife is abundant and plants and trees have filled every area of the property.” The vision statement goes on to say, “Improvements to the site will be limited to those that facilitate education, observation of natural process, and outdoor recreation activities that utilize an undeveloped environment such as bird watching and hiking. The property will remain primarily in its unmanaged state with no significant development or disruption to the wildlife living there. The property should be viewed as an area for passive recreation, where visitors primarily pass through for a hike or bike ride, but do not remain for long periods of time. Active recreational opportunities, other than bicycles on the trail, are not recommended for this property and the City also does not intend to establish picnic areas, trash receptacles or large changes to the landscape.”

Open to the public for 6 months, this pond and the 2 ½ mile trail that travels along Hiway 49, is already proving a priceless gem which needs oversight protection and care. The wood ducks that spent every day in my pond this spring signaled to me that already habitat at Hirschman’s has been disturbed. Wood ducks had visited occasionally in the past – but not every day.

We are asking the City to consider signage and ordinances that reflect the original vision: no floating, boating, swimming, or hiking off trail and enforcement of the dog-on-lease provisions. We applaud the City’s vision for Hirschman’s and hope that we, as neighbors, can collaborate on management of this unique resource. To this end, neighbors will be offering education articles to help the public understand and appreciate the value of this historic land.

Rattlesnakes

By Ralph Cutter

One of the more common creatures in our hood is the rattlesnake. Our species is the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake which is a subset of a larger group collectively known as the Western Rattlesnakes. It is the only snake in Northern California capable of delivering a venomous bite to humans.

NP rattlesnakes will dine on other reptiles, but they primarily feed on rodents. The noxious gophers in your garden and the flea-infested rats in the woodpile are precisely what rattlesnakes want to eat. Ground squirrels have devised several defense mechanisms against rattlesnakes. Moms with pups will eat shed rattlesnake skins then groom themselves and their young to transfer the smell and camouflage themselves from snakes. Ground squirrels will also engorge the vessels in their flicking tails to increase the heat signature that rattlesnakes use to gauge if the animal is a potential predator or prey.

Rattlesnakes are in turn eaten by other snakes (king snakes and racers), hawks, and mesopredators such as raccoons, foxes and skunks. They are an integral component of a healthy ecosystem.

Rattlesnakes can give birth any time from late spring to early fall. The females store sperm and a single mating can produce a lifetime of litters. They do not lay eggs but birth perfectly functioning offspring with a very visible “button” at the end of their tail and a venom delivery system worthy of respect. A rattlesnake may shed three or more times a year and with each shed, a segment is added to the rattle. There is no other local snake that can be confused with a rattlesnake. The rattlesnake has a thick



body, a broad triangular head, and of course that rattle. Unlike most snakes in our area every scale has a ridge or keel that gives the rattlesnake a rough rather than shiny finish.

Gopher snakes share the similar brown blotched pattern of rattlers and may even vibrate their tail when scared, but can hardly be confused with rattlesnakes because they have glossy scales and a fine tapered tail. Gopher snakes are entirely harmless and should be encouraged to visit your yard because of their propensity to hunt rodents.

Rattlesnakes would rather take flight than fight, but when handled or intimately threatened by a foot planted in front of their face, they will bite in self defense. In the unlikely and unfortunate event of a snakebite, the best first aid is to do nothing but remove any jewelry that might cause constriction if swelling occurs. Call 911, and wait for help to arrive - don’t attempt to drive yourself to the hospital. Don’t panic, even when untreated, the overwhelming majority of snake bite victims have an uneventful and complete recovery. I’m one of them.

If you need assistance removing a rattlesnake from your property, give us a call. We’ll try to catch and relocate it in a remote location where it can continue to play its valuable role. There is no charge. Ralph or Lisa Cutter, 470-0284.



Candidate's Night

On May 9, 2012, GCHNA sponsored a Candidates' forum. About 20 GCHNA members gathered at the Firehouse to hear the 3 candidates for District 1 Supervisor. Nate Beason, Sue McGuire, and Al Bulf spoke about themselves and their vision for County government. Nate Beason, the incumbent, stressed his record of sound fiscal management. Sue McGuire focused on her interest in creating jobs. Al Bulf explained his ideas about rapid transit and energy conservation. It was a very informative meeting.



We thank the following people for their efforts to make this happen. The GCHNA spring event committee was Eileen Jorgensen, Eve Collins, Ellen Hagan, and Susan Wilson. Thank you to Carl Plaza for putting up signs to announce the event. Thanks to our superb moderator Judge Frank Francis and our trusty timekeeper Ted Wiesner.

Nate Beason, who was eventually elected, recognized GCHNA as one of the most effective neighborhood groups in the county. All 3 candidates praised the quality of the questions asked.



Alberta Oates

Alberta Oates and her husband-to-be built their house on Indian Flat Road in 1937. Seventy-five years later she is the heart and soul of her neighborhood, sharing stories of life in Nevada City. You may have seen her at the top of Indian Flat, cane in hand, crossing the street to fetch her mail.



On the evening of July 15th while preparing for bed, the sound of crackling alerted Alberta to a small fire burning on her front porch. She called 9-1-1, grabbed her shoes and hurried outside. Two young men were already there, hosing down the flames. Neighbor Rob in Warner and his friend Kyosha Ellenwood had noticed the fire while driving by Alberta's property. Without a second thought, they pulled into her driveway, located a garden hose and attacked.

Firefighters from the 49er fire station responded to address possible hot spots. These remarkable young men took pains to minimize the impact of the fire on Alberta's home and possessions and treated her with loving kindness.

Sundays find Bill visiting Alberta. Mornings find Ken bringing her newspaper. Richard, Jacquie, Patricia and Joanne frequent her garden to chat. In turn, Alberta is a world-class listener always ready with a smile and a hug. Neighbors caring for neighbors. Such is life on Indian Flat Road. If you care to have a piece of Nevada County history, stop by and introduce yourself to Alberta. She is a wealth of knowledge and loves having company...Amazing at 97 years!

Eddy Sitzer 1946-2012



Our neighborhood has lost one of its beloved members. On July 16, 2012, surrounded by Lew, her husband of 43 years, and children Abe and Hannah, Eddy Sitzer lost her long battle with cancer.

Here is an excerpt from her obituary:

"Eddy was born June 2, 1946. She graduated from UC Riverside. Before moving north, Eddy worked in Watts, Calif. as a social worker, then helped establish Sunflower School in Nevada City in 1971, taught Spanish at John Woolman HS, Middle and Primary School in the Twin Ridges School District and Primary School at The American International School of Bucharest, Romania, before returning home to Nevada County to work with United Way and Child Advocates. She was gifted in art, languages, gentle humor and the ability to accept and love unconditionally. Her life was devoted to her children, her friends, her loving husband, and her flower garden where she spent her best time, accompanied by canning and cooking with family and friends. All who knew her admired her grace in adversity and her genuine homespun qualities." Eddy will be sincerely missed.



New Waste and Recycling Program

By Susan Wiesner

During the months of July and August, many residents of the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood received letters from Waste Management welcoming them to a new waste and recycling program. New garbage carts (35, 65 & 96 gallon capacities) with black lids were delivered depending on existing service levels. At the same time, new recycling carts (all 96 gallon capacity) with blue lids were delivered.

The conversion from the plastic recycling boxes to 96 gallon recycle carts has created a challenge for some neighborhood residents who cannot easily roll a cart to a road or a common collection area for periodic service. The new large capacity carts are too heavy when full or too large to fit into resident's vehicles.

The good news is that Waste Management will replace the 96 gallon carts (38 lbs) with smaller carts which may be handled more easily: a 64 gallon cart (28 lbs) or a 35 gallon cart (18 lbs) empty. You must contact Waste Management to arrange for this exchange. They will switch them out as soon as inventory becomes available.

Another problem that has arisen is that the new carts are designed for easy automated lifting and dumping by the collection truck "arm". This makes for an efficient collection process but leaves the carts vulnerable to bears and other wildlife attracted to garbage.

The bear/wildlife issue may be addressed in one of two ways. If someone would like to utilize a bungee cord on their cart to keep it closed, Waste Management will still service the cart. Just call and request that a



note be placed on your account so the drivers are aware they should remove the cord to service the cart.

A second option is to purchase a bear proof container from Global Industrial which can be serviced by Waste Management trucks. Their "Bear Saver 32 gal. animal resistant Grizzly Poly Cart" is currently priced at \$207.95. Search online under "bearsaver carts" at their website <http://www.globalindustrial.com> or phone them at 888-978-7759.

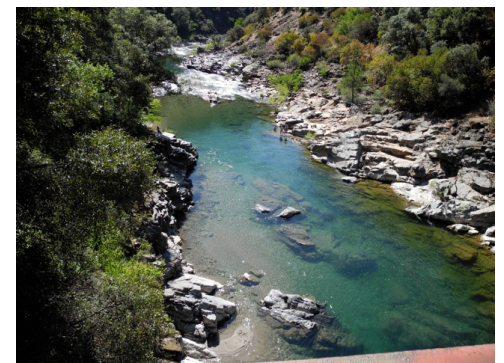
The phone number for Waste Management customer service is 530-274-3090. Because they are rolling out this new service, the wait time may be longer than usual but hang in there and you'll finally get through.



SYRCL to sponsor Greater Yuba River Cleanup

Caleb Dardick, the executive director of SYRCL, spoke at August's GCHNA Steering Committee meeting. He talked about SYRCL's goals and on-going activities and encouraged us to think about ways to work together on issues of mutual concern.

SYRCL is sponsoring their 15th annual Greater Yuba River Cleanup on Sat., Sept. 15, 9am - noon, and we want to help get the word out. . The event is in conjunction with the 4th annual Great Sierra River Cleanup, a program of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. This all-day event includes 35 cleanup sites and five restoration projects from 9:00 am - noon, followed by volunteer appreciation festivities at South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport crossing. In 2011, 643 volunteers—registering as individuals, civic and youth groups, or families—supported SYRCL's Greater Yuba Cleanup removing more than 13 tons of trash and recycling. Be a part of this community-building event and show your appreciation for the Yuba River. For more information, contact Miriam Limov at 530-265-5961 x 201. On-line registration is required. To sign up for a cleanup site, visit www.yubariver.org.



Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership (check your membership status at www.gcbna.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 2012. 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, Skyranth 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.
Susan Wilson susancwilson@cox.susancwilson@cox.net) 265-8575

Central Cement Hill Road

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

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, (nanpaulson@sbcglobal.net) 265-5919

Airport Road

Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road.
Scott Adams, (sadams1635@sbcglobal.net) 470-0273

At Large

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540
Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387
Uli Paulin, (upaulin@ttz.com) 265-4194





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Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

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Who to Contact...

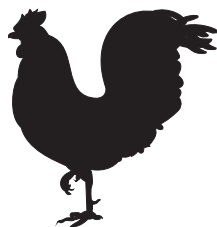
Membership Information
Eve Collins - 265-6540

Ferrellgas Information
Customer Service - 265-5896
ferrellgas.com

The Fire Safe Council
Joanne Drummond - 272-1122

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: Ellen Hagan
Design & Layout: Bill Holman
Copy Editor: Eve Collins & Eileen Jorgensen
And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.

