



G · C · H · N · A Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Renew Your
Membership

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

www.gchna.com



Steering Committee Officers and Reps

The annual election of Steering Committee Officers and Representatives was held on Oct. 1. 24 ballots were cast and the results were unanimous. Uli Paulin will continue as President, Susan Wiesner as Treasurer, and Ellen Hagan as Secretary. Road Reps and Reps At Large are given on page 7 of this newsletter. Be sure to take note of who represents your area. Thank you to Gregg Dwight, Randall Newsome, Annette Seabury, and Don Enoch who have joined the Board this year.

Mark your calendars!

Steering Committee Meeting Dates For 2019

All meetings are at the Community Room of the Madelyn Helling Library at the Rood Center off Hwy 49 in Nevada City at 7:00pm .

Monday, February 4
Monday, April 1
Monday, June 3
Monday, August 5
Monday, September 9 This will be our membership/election meeting.
Monday, November 4

You're all invited!



There's always good news. We had a good turnout, participation and fun at the annual membership meeting and we're happy that several new members joined the Steering Committee. See the updated list of neighborhood representatives at the end of this newsletter. Some may contact you directly to discuss emergency escape routes in your immediate vicinity. Knowing about these routes and improving their condition are obvious goals before the next fire season starts. There is also good news on our Ferrellgas agreement and our finances. Read Susan Wiesner's article and join me in congratulating her for the progress made. To keep us on that good fiscal track we ask for your \$20 in dues again for 2019. If you can contribute more, don't hesitate. And help us identify new neighbors who may not know about us yet or old ones who have fallen off the list. Let's do our part to make sure 2019 will be a good year and a safe year for our neighborhood and community.

GCHNA Membership Meeting Held In October

The GCHNA Annual Social & Membership Meeting was held on October 1 at the Madelyn Helling Library. Our new by-laws require us to have this meeting to elect the Steering Committee and Officers. The social time from 5 until 6:30 was held at the outdoor amphitheater. Lisa Stine and Gale Peach treated us to lovely background music allowing for conversation between neighbors. Pizza and refreshments were provided including a delicious cake donated by Flour Garden Bakery. The mood was casual and welcoming. New members and four new neighborhood representatives were introduced.



times to call for river rescues at the river where cell phone reception has been notoriously scarce.

Ricki Heck, was introduced as our new NID Director replacing Nancy Weber. She has lived in Nevada County for 37 years and brings with her private sector experience as well as an interest in water issues. While we will miss Nancy, we welcome Ricki who will keep us informed about NID projects in the works including a Raw Water Master plan.

Marty Pezzaglia was honored for his dedicated leadership to GCHNA and community activism. He is missed. Thank you to Eve for her presentation.

Thank you also to Uli Paulin for being the emcee and to the event committee: Debbie Wandro, Terry Wagner, Eve Collins, Susan Wiesner and Ellen Hagan.

We encourage all members to attend next year!



Heidi Hall, our County Supervisor, addressed our concerns about fire safety. She explained that the County is collaborating with Consolidated Fire and other organizations to address fire risks. As a result, positive changes have been made at the Yuba River at Hwy 49. A box has been installed that allows quick connection to 911 in the event of an emergency and it has already been used several

Randall Newsome



Randall (Randy) and Blair Newsome purchased their home on Cement Hill Rd in 2012, and became permanent residents there in May of 2018. Randy was a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for 28 years and currently is a mediator and arbitrator with JAMS. Blair was a stockbroker with Morgan Stanley until April of 2018. Randy and Blair are glad to be out of the city and in the country, and look forward to integrating into your new community.



Propane Agreement Finalized

By Susan Wiesner

Each year GCHNA has worked with the local Ferrellgas office to arrive at a discounted propane price for our members. While it may not be the most important reason to join our neighborhood association, it is definitely the most quantifiable benefit. We recognize and want to thank the Ferrellgas team for their longtime relationship with our neighborhood. We are pleased to report that in November we finalized an agreement covering the next three years. The retail price we pay for propane delivered to our homes is based on the wholesale propane (also called - LPG liquified petroleum gas) price for the San Francisco Bay Area plus a fixed margin or "spread" added by Ferrellgas. The wholesale cost is variable and changes weekly depending on supply and demand.

In the contract ending November 13th the Ferrellgas spread was 52 cents per gallon. The new contract calls for a spread of 54 cents per gallon for one year, increasing by 2 cents each year for the two following years. The tank rental remains at \$35 per year. This new contract gives us the assurance of a continuing discounted price for our membership and covers some additional costs Ferrellgas has incurred to comply with the Clean Air Act. Working with Ferrellgas was an educational process that I want to share with our newsletter readers. Having come from a more urban and suburban environment I was accustomed to natural gas delivered by pipeline directly into my home - providing a more efficient and less expensive fuel. Please note the following safety issues which come with propane use. Propane is colorless and odorless but the manufacturers deliberately add a chemical to give it a distinctive smell which can be detect-

ed in the case of a leak. The vapors are heavier than air and may accumulate in low-lying areas.

Always take action if you smell a foul odor. When appliances are operating properly propane burns with a blue flame. If you see yellow flames, or notice significant amounts of soot on any equipment, the gas may not be burning completely and this can create carbon monoxide.

Don't run out of gas. Your tank is "filled" to a maximum 80% of capacity. Monitor the gauge on your outside tank to ensure the fuel does not drop below of 30%. This will allow time to schedule a delivery. Ferrellgas offers a free automatic delivery option where they are responsible for filling the tank and you will not be charged if a delivery is required on a weekend or holiday.

Maintain a clear path for the delivery of propane. Keep the area around your tank free of flammable undergrowth or overhanging branches. Don't hide your tank or enclose it in a flammable lattice screen which makes access challenging and creates a fire hazard.

You may request a Ferrellgas Installation Review (FIR) if you have recently moved into the neighborhood. The FIR is a 27- point inspection of your outside propane system. It is provided free of charge to all new customers, periodically to existing customers, and upon request.

Ferrellgas has a very informative booklet available to customers so don't hesitate to stop by the local office at 364 Lower Grass Valley Road, say hello to General Manager Chris Hall or the friendly staff who provide our service and ask for the safety booklet. Delta Armtrout is the customer service specialist responsible for our neighborhood program.

Beth on Fire

By Beth Enoch

Mitigation Efforts 2018



The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association is one of twenty-two communities in Nevada County designated as "Firewise" under the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). To maintain our status as "Firewise," the NFPA requires us to demonstrate a measureable level of mitigation effort equal to \$24.14 per household, or \$16,294.50 as a community, to stay in "good standing."

Many thanks to the forty-two households that responded to the risk form in the Greater Cement Hill newsletter. Thanks also to Sierra Stream and their volunteers who partnered with us in efforts to reduce fuel load through a forest health grant, all of which helped us easily achieve our goal of meeting demonstrable efforts to keep us in good standing.

I am extremely pleased to report that our 2018 investment was \$195,230.94, far greater than the minimum requirement of \$16,294.50. With only forty-two households responding, we can only imagine what that number might have been if all 675 homes responded.

*Mitigation Efforts 2018
Continued Page 4*



Every little bit helps, from cleaning gutters to clearing property 30 to 100 feet around your house. For every hour that homeowners spend raking, hauling, limbing up branches, our association receives \$24.14 per hour credit. Every tool you purchase or arborist you hire is counted. Now is a great time to look at your property and assess your defensible space. Now that trees are dormant and the likelihood of spreading bark beetle is reduced, cut, thin, and limb trees within 100 feet up 10 feet. Trim back all trees from roof eaves, especially around chimneys.

But most importantly, utilize the household risk form for the 2019 fire season and submit it to me before Nov. 1. The form is available at gchna.com <<http://gchna.com/>>. Look under Recent Posts on the right. Click on Matching Funds for Fire Risk Contributions, then click on form.

BREAKING NEWS! The recent Paradise fire tragedy has caused at least one fire insurance provider to file for financial insolvency, perhaps an indicator of others that may follow. While this unexpected action forces their clients to quickly find another fire insurer, we all may be facing a new, and very challenging, fire insurance reality here in northern California.

Steering Committee Discusses Evacuation

35 people attended the GCHNA meeting December 3 at the Madelyn Helling Library. There was considerable discussion about fire safety and concern that

*Meeting Discusses Evacuation
continued page 5*

“Hardening” Your Home Against Fire

A nearly new house that meets all the current fire code regulations, an interior sprinkler system, fire resistant cement siding, asphalt roofing, 100 feet of defensible space raked and limbed up, 5 feet of gravel around the entire house, underground utilities on a wide paved road, even a pressurized fire hydrant in the front yard...why would I worry about fire insurance? Yet, we've been dropped twice in the last two years, and our current insurance provider is more than triple the premium from two years ago. Fire insurance in California is a brave new world and not one for the feint of heart. Below are the things you can do to help keep your insurance and help prevent fire from causing a tragedy.

Reprinted from Sierra, the national magazine of the Sierra Club by Connor McGuigan.

1. Proof Your Roof

Embers from nearby wildfires often land on roofs, where they can ignite a blaze that quickly envelops the whole home. “A flammable roof will make the difference of your house being destroyed and not being destroyed, regardless of what else you do,” says fire scientist Jack Cohen. The best possible protection in this case? A roof constructed from nonflammable materials like asphalt shingles, metal, slate, or tile. While wood shingles are the most common flammable roof covering material, homeowners who don't want the hassle of reroofing can treat their wooden roofs with fire retardant, or install a rooftop sprinkler system. However, experts warn that such solutions may be inadequate—so you might want to consider changing materials altogether. “A nonflammable roof is easy to achieve,” says Steinberg. “If you get a typical asphalt shingle

roof with a good installation, you really don't have to worry too much.” Also note that leaves and pine needles that collect in gutters make for a dangerous ember landing bed. Make sure to clean your roof's gutters regularly.

2. Keep Embers Out

Houses are inevitably filled with flammable materials (carpets, shades, furniture) so if embers have the potential to blow inside, virtually no home is safe. Thus, a second axiom to guide your fire-protection measures: Keep embers out. Cover any exterior vent openings with 1/8 inch hardware cloth. If you have a doggy door, make sure it seals properly, and leave it closed during fire season. Embers often penetrate through rooftop openings, so replace missing shingles or tiles, and caulk any cracks.

Windows are another wildfire weak point. Radiant heat can melt plastic skylights and cause glass windows to crack or even burst, allowing embers into the house. Double-paned and tempered glass do a better job of withstanding high temperatures.

3. Secure The Perimeter

Once you've focused on protecting your roof and keeping embers at bay, you should start to consider the five feet surrounding your house. After all, something catching fire alongside a home can be as disastrous as a mattress burning within it. “From the fire's point of view, if it's attached to or touching the house, it's part of the house,” Steinberg says. Firewood stacks and propane tanks are an obvious danger—the NFPA advises moving them at least 30 feet away from the house. If you have any materials from building projects lying against the house, move those away, too.

“Hardening” Your Home Against Fire continued page 5



“Hardening”Your Home Against Fire continued from page 4

Those tips may seem obvious, but homeowners often miss less conspicuous combustibles. “Anything organic is a fuel source,” Steinberg says. Mulch is a common culprit, as embers can easily set fire to the organic fertilizers that often line house-adjacent planting beds. The NFPA recommends replacing any organic mulch within five feet of your house with gravel or stone mulch products. Plants containing oils and resins, like juniper and pine, are also particularly dangerous. In general, make sure to regularly water and maintain any plant life near the house. The NFPA recommends separating wood fences from the house with a masonry or metal barrier. After all, if wooden features attached to a home ignite, they will carry fire to the main structure. If you have a wooden deck, make sure to clear it of debris, and to regularly clean out any dead vegetation underneath.

4. Create A “Defensible Space”

The “home ignition zone” encompasses the house itself and everything up to 100 to 200 feet around it. Radiant heat from a severe wildfire can ignite a house from up to 100 feet away, and if there’s enough combustible material in the way, the flames themselves can quickly travel that distance. So if you happen to live in a wildfire-prone area, safeguarding just your home and the five feet surrounding it leaves significant risk on the table.

The area between 30 and 100 feet of a home is a property’s front-line defense against a wildfire. The principle guiding your preparation in this zone should be to create a “defensible space” that can prevent flames from approaching your home, and give firefighters a safe place to combat the blaze. Cal Fire and NFPA have great resources that outline the creation of

a defensible space. For instance, once you remove fuel sources from the area immediately surrounding the house, the area between 30 and 100 feet out should be maintained as a “reduced fuel zone.” In this zone, plants should be spaced out, low-hanging tree branches should be pruned, and all vegetation should be watered regularly.

Steinberg notes that some homeowners go overboard when creating a defensible space by clearing the area surrounding their home of all vegetation. It seems counterintuitive, but well-spaced plant life can actually block wind-blown embers from reaching your home. A defensible space completely devoid of vegetation creates a “bowling alley” for embers, warns the California Chapparral Institute.

5. Work Together

Even the most well-prepared home is in serious jeopardy in the event that neighboring houses ignite. If you live in a densely populated area, your home is ultimately only as fire-proof as your neighborhood’s weakest links. “Some people are closer than 100 feet to the next neighbor, and you don’t necessarily have control over that,” Steinberg says. “In that case, the stuff in my yard or in my house is gonna affect whether or not your house ignites.”

Meeting Discusses Evacuation Continued from page 4

what happened in Paradise might happen in our neighborhood. Possible evacuation routes were discussed including the emergency access road from the far end of Cement Hill Road at Riverhill Farm west to Cedarsong Song Road then south to Hwy 49. This route is shown on the map on our website gchna.com. It was suggested that the access road entrance from Cement Hill Road could be marked. The route from Augustine to Excelsior

Kudos To Rainbow Market



Kudos to Maggie Maloney and her husband Jeff Rutherford who own Rainbow Market on Hwy 49 and provided meals for needy folks this Thanksgiving. This was their 15th year of giving to their community in this very meaningful way. Meals-to-go were provided as well as a place for people to eat on site. 240 meals were served this year! Jeff is “grateful to the community. It’s a two-way street.”

Ditch Camp Road to North Bloomfield was also mentioned, but it’s believed it’s not passable for cars with low clearance. Uli explained that the County GIS system doesn’t show informal emergency exits. Members working with immediate neighbors to find alternate escape routes would be useful. There were also concerns about overgrown vegetation along some County roadways. Randi Pratini explained how she’d made a complaint to the County about brush along the lower part of North Bloomfield. Last year GCHNA wrote to the County asking that maintenance be done along our roadsides, but we received no response. Traffic safety along Cement Hill Road particularly near West Piper Lane continues to be a concern. GCHNA members have attended meetings to develop specific recommendations. All Steering Committee meetings are open to all. Please attend and get involved.



2019 GCHNA Membership Renewal Notice

Wow, one more year and it will be 2020! But for now, time to renew your GCHNA membership for the year 2019. Thank you for your support this last year and we hope you continue with us 2019. Renewal of your GCHNA membership is due February 1st with a grace period until May 1st. This year included an annual meeting beside the county library and our information packed newsletter that is a source of pride for us. The Ferrellgas propane contract, available to our membership, is the envy of many. Steering Committee meetings held bi-monthly avail everyone the opportunity for a voice in the community. To renew or join, please fill out the membership form in this newsletter or use the form available on our website - www.gchna.com - and mail it with your check for \$20 to GCHNA, P.O. Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959. Thank you again so much for your support and we hope you will continue supporting your neighborhood association in 2019.

Marge Addleman
Richard & Catherine Alderman
Sallee Allen
Joseph & Frances Aragona
Chip & Peggy Arenchild
Ed Arnott
Marty Austin
Wallace & Marilyn Bair
Roger & Carolyn Baker
Ken Bales & Maria Hetherington
Christy Barden
Jeff & Gina Barton
Jorgen & Mary Berglund
Mike & Jane Betts
Ken & Laura Bigham
Malaika, Gordon, Amari & Oriah Bishop
Thomas Blanchard & Heath Hodge
Tom Anderson & Eileen Blodgett
Sharon Boivin
Anna Bousouris
Molly Breen & Mike McRae
Brian & Jennifer Breiling
Elizabeth Locicero
C.E. Blake & M. Brook
Carin & Gerald Brooks
Ken and Joanne Brown
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Elke & Alastair Brown
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Willie & Sue Brusin
Brian & Ruthanne Buckley
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Mike, Karen, Shannon & Amber Busse
Jon Byerrum & Holly Hermansen
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Denis & Jennifer Cebollero
Ernest & Linda Chiappari
John & Lisa Christensen
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Richard & Nancy Colby
Martha & Jeff Coleman-Hunt
Doug & Eve Collins
Diana Cooley & Similoni Filikitonga
Chuck & Lorry Coovert
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Robert Crawford
Dale Tom & Sandy Creighton
Ralph & Lisa Cutter
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Arlene Douglass
Larry & Mary Anne Dulmage
Tom Dunham & Terri Beedle
Gregory & Carolyn Dwight

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Stephen & Deborah Edwards
Shari & Pietro Elia
William & Shirley-Mae Elliot
Joy & Tom Elson
Don & Elizabeth Enoch
Myles & Colleen Ericson
Alan & Mollie Feeney
Greg & Susan Fenner
Mark Ferry & Delora Devine
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Gary & Cathy Fouyer
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Frank & Fran Francis
Kenneth & Lori Frank
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Richard Geroux
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Marion Gilbert
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Bill Holman
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Rod & Marjorie McConnell
Helen McDonald
Julie & Jay McEnroe
Don McIntyre & Gail O'Malley
James & Sherry Miller
Allison Miller
Nancy Mintz & Martin Holden
Carla Woodside & Doug Mitchell
Tom and Kathy Mollet
Dick Mooney
John Morales
Roger Morrison & Nancy Herrick
Scott Muir & Elizabeth Fries
Joan Regal & Steve Myers
LaVeta Nevius
Bill & Chris Newsom
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John Paul
Uli Paulin
Nancy Paulson
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Marty Pezzaglia
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Randi Pratin
Terry & Robin Prechter
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Laural Hawk
Gabriel Ross & Claire Leve
Joe & Diane Rossi
Christina Reski & Robert Ruschke
Karen Rynberg
Shelley Salvatore or Eligio Salvatore
Chuck & Janice Schretenthaler
David Schwendeman & Leslie Edwards
Annette Seabury
Tim & Candace Segale
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Susan & Jack Wilson
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Kevin & Sharon Whitlock
Susan Wiesner
O. Lee Williams
Robert & Susie Willour
Stu & Vera Wright
David & Joyce Yaksick
David & Shirley Yeager
Kirsten Young & Jonathan Robinson



Join GCHNA or Renew Your 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 2019. 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 I would like to become involved. Please contact me.



GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

West End Cement Hill

West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow Circle, Cedarsong Road, and Garesio Ranch Road. Ellen Hagan, (ellenhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road. Larry Heiniemi, (lheiniemi@gmail.com) 478-0298

Gochine Drive

Gochine, including Mt. Auburn Circle. Gregg Dwight (gcd57@att.net) 478-5663

Upper Cement Hill

Upper Cement Hill Road, including Pine Tree Place, Diamond Oak Drive, Bodie Ridge Road, Skyranche Road, and Elysian Way. Willie Brusin, (wjbrusin@gmail.com) 265-4018

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

Central Cement Hill Road

Central Cement Hill Road, including Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road, and Fox Hill Road to Central Cement Hill area. Christina Reski (chrisreski@gmail.com) 470-6015

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. Randall Newsome (ranjack58@comcast.com) 415 785-47323

Indian Flat Road

Indian Flat Road, including Indian Trails, Country Circle, Woods Ravine Ct. and Robinson King Road. Terry Wagner (twags40@hotmail.com) 470-9206
Don Enoch (enochclan@gmail.com) 687-5570

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. Debbie Wandro (1starrydeborah@att.net) 478-1498

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. Annette Seabury (netsnuthouse@yahoo.com) 925-642-3799

At Large

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540
Uli Paulin, (uli@ulipaulin.com) 265-4194
Christy Barden, (ChristyBarden@cs.com) 530-263-1001

Firewise Community Rep

Beth Enoch (enochclan@gmail.com(530) 687-5570





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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
272-1122
www.areyoufiresafe.com
FONA Web Site
www.fona-nevco.org

The Cement Hill CFD Guide Booklet is now on the District's website at the following link.

<<http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-project/cement-hill-cfd-project-documents/>><http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-project/cement-hill-cfd-project-documents/>

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

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

