



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

Reflecting
on the
Jones Fire

Summer 2020 NEWSLETTER

<http://www.gchna.com/>

Thank You Firefighters



The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood is profoundly grateful for the efforts of so many who participated in the response to the Jones Fire. Thank you to CalFire! Thank you to the participating regional fire departments and the private firefighters. Thank you to firefighters on the ground and in the air. Thank you to all the support personnel behind the scenes. Thank you to YubaNet, KVMR, and KNCO. Thank you to the County for the Ready Nevada County dashboard. Thank you to those who supported those evacuated and helped care for animals at the fairgrounds. We know there will be more work to be done. We're behind you!



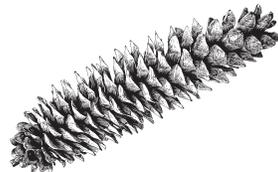
Annual Meeting On Zoom

Monday, Sept. 21, at 7:00pm

The GCHNA in-person annual meeting originally scheduled for this month has been changed to a Zoom meeting due to Covid concerns. Instead, the annual meeting required by GCHNA by-laws will be held on Zoom on Monday, Sept 21, at 7pm.

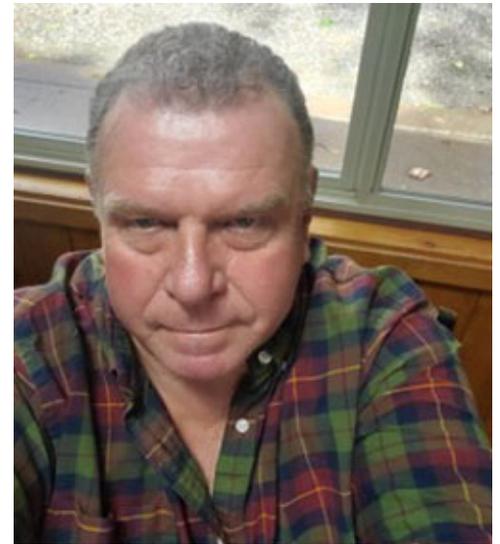
All GCHNA members are invited. Agenda items will include a debriefing of experiences from the Jones fire, calling for candidates and volunteers for our election slate, planning for our annual election later this year, Sugarloaf status, and a report on the meeting with Supervisor Heidi Hall in July. If you have any items for the agenda, please contact Uli Paulin at uli@ulipaulin.com. Are you interested in becoming more involved with GCHNA as a road rep or an at-large Steering Committee member? Are you interested in being part of the Firewise Committee? If so, let Uli know.

Please mark you calendars and join us at the annual meeting!



The President's Message

By Uli Paulin



After four years it is time for me to step down as President of GCHNA. Two decades ago my neighbors Mike and LaVeta welcomed this city slicker to our little street on Cement Hill and taught me about neighborly kindness. They were curious and open to new people and yet perfectly grounded in local history and social life. Mike left a big hole in our neighborhood when he passed on much too early. His collection of mining equipment is still here to admire and I hope to see LaVeta and some of the new neighbors at the next potluck. Hopefully, the need for social distancing will go away sooner than later.

Presidents Message Cont. on pg. 2

This is a wonderful place to call home and it serves us well to remember those who have called this their land for many generations before the rest of us arrived: Our oldest kin, the Nisenan people whose Rancheria was right here until it was torn down a few decades ago. We hope they will find a worthy place to celebrate their history and culture in one of the those open spaces here which await new stewardship.

Our neighbors on the GCHNA Steering Committee made this presidential exercise an easy one. Special thanks to my fellow officers Ellen Hagan and Susan Wiesner. We have continued some great traditions like our Firewise Community status and we keep benefiting from the monumental project of earlier contributors to bring treated and pressurized water to our neighborhood. We updated our by-laws to where we have a better chance to live up to their spirit and work within their framework. The Transportation Commission has plans to calm traffic on Highway 49 and hopefully make our way into Nevada City safer over time. We've also had successes raising awareness and making some improvements of emergency evacuation routes. The location of our fire hydrants is now available online at the NID web site. Nevada County secured the funds for thorough vegetation clearing and fire safety work along Cement Hill Road. We are told that this should happen within the next year or two.

We're slowly moving towards the Internet age with email blasts, electronic newsletters like this, a collaborative member inventory and maybe - hopefully - faster Internet connections to our homes. Thanks to William Mandel for attending to GCHNA's website and email blasts.

One of our biggest challenges and opportunities lies in good stewardship of the open spaces Nevada City owns in our neighborhood: Sugarloaf Mountain, Old Airport and Hirschman's Pond. We need a sustained, multi-agency platform to ensure fire safety, preserve wildlife habitat, and reduce and eventually eliminate invasive species. Nevada County and Supervisor Heidi Hall's staff have been receptive to supporting us in this effort, but one of the challenges will be to find a friend on the City Council of Nevada City who is willing to work with us long-term. Plans to develop a solar field on the eastern part of the Old Airport are still in the making and our requests and preferences have found their way into the requirements document. Thanks to Justin Sternberg's continued efforts and several local agencies, the homeless situation on Sugarloaf mountain and the wildfire dangers that come with that have greatly improved. Somehow I ended up with a gavel that needs a new owner and I encourage every member of GCHNA to consider stepping forward or identify candidates for taking the lead for the next few years. Being presidential is both a high aim and good exercise. I assure you, fun can be had on this job.

Health and prosperity to everyone and as our dear, late friend Daniel Brooks would advise us: Be Happy!



Joy Elson New Rep for Central Cement Hill Road



My husband Tom and I discovered that Nevada City was a place we'd like to live after we began camping at Inn Town Campground in 2016. We completed our move from Davis, CA (where we had lived for nearly 30 years) to Cement Hill Road this year on June 1st. Tom is a retired groundwater engineer, and I am a database manager and IT coordinator still working for two non-profits in Davis. My hobbies include hiking, ceramics, mosaics and photography. Tom is a bicyclist and swimmer and all around handyman. He is now tackling the many fixes and repairs needed at our 60 year-old-home. We have twin daughters, who are both recently married, and three 10-year-old bantam chickens who have adapted to their new coop and the nightly visits from a fox and a skunk. I have enjoyed walking in our beautiful area and meeting so many friendly neighbors. I was thrilled to learn about the GCHNA and when I found out there was an opening for a rep in the Central Cement Hill Road section, I was happy to volunteer to fill that spot. Thanks to Susan Wiesner, Patricia Fuenzalida and Eve Collins for all of your insights, information, history stories, and helping me get started!



Reflecting on the Jones Fire

By Ellen Hagan

My husband and I have been back in our house for over a week now after being evacuated during the Jones fire. We live on Cedarson Road just above Hwy 49 about 1 mile as the crow flies from Independence Trail which burned. I still wake up each morning feeling grateful that I've slept in my own bed.

Thank you to all the firefighters on the ground and in the air who put their lives at risk for us. We're grateful to the bulldozer operators who cleared space around our house and along the emergency access road. A special thanks to Jack Harvey with CalFire for arranging multiple loads of water to assist us in bringing our road to a condition better than before.

When we drive our road and look out our windows now we see evidence of the considerable bulldozer work that was done from above our property to Bodie Ridge Road and from Cedarson Road to the highway. From our dining room window we now see churned dirt and tree trunks on the ground. The firefighters worked hard to keep our home safe.

So, what have we learned? Our evacuation experience reinforced the need for preparation. Our lists worked and enabled us to "keep our heads". I've already added things to my "grab at the last minute" list. Next time I'd grab my good pair of barber scissors. YubaNet and the Ready Nevada County dashboard kept us as up to date as was possible. How can we do better? We have trees to cut down next winter.

What I know is that each of us has to take responsibility for making our home defensible and to be ready to keep ourselves safe. Use the many

resources like the Ready, Set, Go guide and the FireSafe Council website to learn what you need to know. Does your road provide easy access for fire equipment? Decide now what work you'll do this winter/spring to improve your house and property. If you haven't yet had an assessment from the FireSafe Council, call. Beth Enoch and Annette Seabury will be happy to help you. We're out of the woods for the moment, but the threat of wildfire will be with us for a long time. Make a plan for the future.

GCHNA needs your data on work you've done this year to make your property more firesafe.

Please send us your data using the form provided. It's easy! If you drive around our Greater Cement Hill area, you'll see significant efforts to create defensible space. The recent threat from the Jones fire reinforces how important it is that we give our firefighters a "fighting chance" to save our property. Thank you to those who commit time and money to making our neighborhood safer.

In order to maintain our National Accreditation as a Firewise Community, GCHNA must complete an annual report which includes a form called Mitigation and Risk Contribution. It is the way we demonstrate a measurable level of effort per property for reducing wildfire risk. The time is nearing to submit the report. Beth needs your name and address, a description of the work done, and the hours spent or money paid to others for work on fire safety efforts. The form is included here and also on the gchna.com website. Any questions, please call Beth

Enoch at 530-687-5570. At the top of the form, Beth tells you how to get the information to her. Please help!

Do You Have An Evacuation Tag?

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office is providing free "EVACUATED" tags for residents to place in a highly visible place such as a door, reflective address sign, mailbox, fence, or gate as they evacuate their residence during an emergency. These tags will help first responders swiftly identify which homes have been evacuated so they can focus their attention on those who still need help and decrease overall evacuation times.

"In 2019 our community stepped up their preparedness and we are excited to add this new tool to the overall recommended emergency plan. It is a compliment, not a replacement of the best practices we advocate, like having a go bag ready, being familiar with the Hi-Lo evacuation siren, and knowing evacuation routes," says Program Manager, Paul Cummings. These tags are free and may be found at the following locations throughout Nevada County:

- Nevada County Sheriff's Office
950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire District Station 84 640
Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959

For more preparedness tools like Go Bag and Emergency checklists, Defensible Space tips and Evacuation planning visit ReadyNevadaCounty.org



**Have you done work to make your property more firesafe?
Send us your data!**

Submit mitigation numbers to Beth Enoch by October 1st, 2020 by mail or drop off at:
10475 Indian Trail, Nevada City, CA 95959 (or) Email to enochclan@gmail.com (or) Call (530) 687-5570

**Firesafe Mitigation Form
Household Fire Risk Contributions For GCHNA – 2020**

House (hours invested on projects) Risk reduction roof to foundation. Examples:

- Clean litter from roof and gutters
- Screen vents, enclose soffits and eaves
- Clean and clear under decks (flammables and vegetation)
- Fire resistant roofing, siding or decking

Hours _____ # of people _____

0 TO 5 Feet From Foundation

- Replace mulch with gravel and stone
- Remove pine needles and leaves
- Trim back trees that hang over 5 foot areas near foundation.
- Move firewood 30 feet from house and cover with a firesafe tarp

Hours _____ # of people _____

0 TO 30 Feet From House

- Lawn maintenance
- Space trees with an 18' separation between tree canopies
- Reduce all ladder fuels
- Thin and limb up all trees reducing the crowns

Hours _____ # of people _____

Extended Zone 30 – 100 Feet

- Remove all needles within 30 feet of house
- Thin trees and ladder fuels

Hours _____ # of people _____

Money Spent

- Chipper rental, fuel, disposal fees
- Chainsaws (rental or purchase)
- Power equipment, hand tools
- Arborists, landscapers, forestry service
- Green waste removal fees, number of runs

Total \$ _____



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 2020. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA.

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ CELL _____

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, Cedarson Road, and Garesio Ranch Road. Ellen Hagan, (ellenhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road. Elena Rayo (elenarayo@earthlink.net) 265-4125

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, Skyranch Road, and Elysian Way. Jeff Coleman-Hunt (jeff@jhwoodworking.com) 478-9932

Sunrock Road

Patricia Fuenzalida (explorerpatty@gmail.com) 650 302-2202

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road

Augustine Road, including Daisy Blue Mine, Leisure Lane, Lazy Oaks Drive, and Excelsior Ditch. Marjorie McConnell (maggie2@sonic.net) 265-9787 Sue Gregory (swgregory@earthlink.net) 265-0639

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. Joy Elson (joy.elson@gmail.com) (530) 318-0973

Firewise Community Rep

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

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) 415-4732

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 Suuzi Webb (suuzihazen@gmail.com). 913-6611

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) 263-1001 Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387 Susan Wiesner (sawiesner@gmail.com) 265-4824





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Who to Contact...

Membership Information
Eve Collins - 265-6540
Ferrellgas Information
Customer Service - 265-5896
<https://www.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 June 1st.

Newsletter Contributors

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

