

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

Fire News

Fall NEWSLETTER 2022

www.gchna.com

Two Farm Tours at Jacobson's Dude Ranch

September 3, 2022

By Eileen Jorgensen

What an amazing neighborhood we have! Over 40 of us recently explored the two farms that operate at Jacobson's Dude Ranch on Cement Hill. We were delighted at what we found! Heather Luna from Acorn School of Herbal Medicine began her walking tour by telling us of her commitment to sustainable agriculture, ecology and habitat. Heather manages 1/2 acre of established fruit trees, native plants, perennial and medicinal herbs. This is one of the 'classrooms' for the Acorn School where students learn to not only make medicine from plant material but to work with the forces of nature by, for instance, leaving spearmint to flower to the delight of the bees and invite birds to feast on seed pods. With 30 years of experience in herbal medicine, Heather offers 3 year courses certified by the North American Institute of Herbal Medicine culminating in a clinical residency for herbal practitioners. Heather invites us to peruse her website at acornherbschool.com to learn more about this holistic natural approach to providing for all of God's creatures through the holistic use of nature...

It was only mid-morning but the sun was heating up, so we got our chairs and walked to the adjacent Bluebird Farm to sit in the shade and hear Malaika Bishop speak about the production of flowers that she cultivates there. Malaika was born and raised in our neighborhood and is in full bloom herself right now. She cultivates over 100 varieties of high-quality flowers that she offers to the community through a weekly CSA-supported flower share, bulk buckets for weddings, weekly sales at grocery stores, florists and restaurants. This morning she had picked from her vast array of flowers and as we listened, she spoke of each plant's qualities and habits. I enjoyed hearing about her mainstays: the hearty zinnias, the perennial snap dragons, and the mighty sunflowers that needed to be picked. She shared her secrets on how she chooses flowers to produce her fabulous bouquets before inviting us to pick our own.

Bluebird Farm on Cement Hill (bluebirdfarm.net) is one of two farms that Malaika operates. The other is at Woolman at the Sierra Friends Center



Farm Tours cont. on page 4



October 3

Monday, Oct 3 is the next Steering Committee meeting. Come learn about Measure V!

We meet Dec 5 too.

Meetings are held at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room from 7pm to 8:30. Everyone's invited!

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on Jones Bar Road. From these 2 locations, Malaika is growing high quality nutrient dense greens, culinary herbs as well as seasonal flowers. Dedicated to using sustainable growing methods to enhance the health of our soil, she is able to provide delicious and beautiful food and flowers. Check out her web site to sign up for a flower share, U pick opportunity, CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) weekly seasonal vegetables boxes and farm tours.

These farms greatly enhance our neighborhood through the revitalization of soil, the encouragement of helpful pollinators and insects and



the stunning beauty and bounty that each generates. We thank Heather and Malaika and also Dale Jacobson of Jacobson's Dude Ranch, whose studies on soil and how soil can enhance gut health is now available in booklet form. We also thank Eve Collins, Marlene Widmann, Deborah Gutierrez, Lin Donald and Joy Elson for bringing this event to life.

Steering Committee Minutes Summary

By Ellen Hagan, Secretary

Hello, Everyone, Usually this space is taken up by the President's Message. We have no President at the moment, but the Steering Committee continues to meet. Thank you to Joanne Brown for these minutes.

The August in-person meeting was held at the Madelyn Helling Library amphitheater. 37 members attended!! Treasurer's report - Joy Elson reported a balance of \$9923. Membership dues = \$4710.YT-D expenses = \$4194. Membership - 232 paid members as of 8/1/22

Firewise Committee progress report Our Firewise Committee now consists of myself, Joanne Brown, Joy Elson, and Annette Seabury. We're in the 2nd year of our 3-year Action Plan. The education goals have been met. A fuels reduction event which should be held each year did not happen. Insurance could not be obtained for proposed chainsaw/chipping work. Joanne explained the micro-grant program offered by the County (more on page 4). Assistance programs offered by the FireSafe Council are also available. (more on page 3).

Mitigation forms (see pg. 5) which are used to determine the effort and money spent by GCHNA members to create defensible space are due by Oct. 1.

New road rep - Marlene Widmann is the new Sunrock Road rep. New Treasurer - Janet Johnson was unanimously voted in as Treasurer. She's had experience in bookkeeping and accounting since the 70's. We're very grateful to her for stepping up. Spencer LeGate reported that the "Try Slow" signs posted on Cement Hill Road appear to be helping a bit. Survey - 50 people responded to the survey about the May gathering - a very successful GCHNA event. Suggestions for future gatherings included meeting at Sugarloaf or the Old Airport property, a native plant walk on BLM land, and a speaker from the County's Office of Emergency Services to explain the Dashboard.

Reflective Address Sign

Do you have a reflective address sign? Emergency personnel will have a difficult time finding you in the dark if your address sign is not reflective. Precious minutes could be wasted as they try to find you on a darkened road. Get one from the FireSafe Council. Signs are all weather, UV resistant metal, with 1" x 4" numbers. Pre-drilled holes make mounting easy. Go to www.areyoufiresafe.com to order.

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Defensible Space Clearing Help Available

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is accepting applications for the Access and Functional Needs Program through which low-income senior residents, or individuals with disabilities, can receive defensible space clearing services within 100' of their homes.

Defensible space is the first line of defense against wildfire and is created by removing highly flammable vegetation including tall grasses, heavy brush, and tree branches lower than 10 feet off the ground. Defensible space clearing will be performed by Fire Safe Council crews.

Applicants should be prepared to supply proof of residency, medical disability, and income. Income qualifications are based on HUD/HCD criteria. A 2-person household with an income of \$63,000 or less per year is qualified in 2022. This program is limited to property owners (and not renters) at this time. If you think you're close to qualifying, but aren't sure, call the Fire-Safe Council at 530 272-1122. They have room for 450 qualified residents in this program.

Complete the application available on the FireSafe Council website at areyoufiresafe.com and send it to FSCNC (Fire Safe Council of Nevada County) by email or postal mail with appropriate supporting documentation. You are also welcome to drop off the application in person at 143B Spring Hill Drive, Grass Valley, CA 95945. If you need help completing the application, call 2-1-1, or 1-833-DIAL211 (1-833-342-5211).

This program is being funded and managed in cooperation with The County of Nevada, CalOES (California Governor s Office of Emergency Services), FEMA and The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County.

Firewise Committee Report

By Ellen Hagan



Woke up this September morning to the smell of smoke from the Mosquito Fire near Foresthill. The temperature for the past 2 days has been over 100

degrees. We're in the most dangerous part of fire season when fuels are driest and there will be fall winds. Fire season is not over.

So, here are some thoughts to consider.

- How prepared are you to receive a Code Red message? What do you do first? What resources do you use to get information?
- Our zones are: NCO-E311, NCO-E310, and NEV-E305. Go to community.zonehaven.com to find your zone.
- Is your Go Bag complete?
- What evacuation routes are open to you? Those of you at the west end of Cement Hill Road can use the emergency road from Riverhill Farm at 13500 Cement Hill Road. Turn left on Cedarsong Road to Hwy 49.
- If you are separated from family, what's the plan?
- Be vigilant! Pay attention to Red Flag warning days which mean increased risk of fire danger. Listen for planes flying overhead. Keep dead leaves out of the 0 to 5 foot area around the base of your house. Don't use equipment that could create a spark.

The GCHNA Firewise Committee is made up of myself, Joanne Brown, Joy Elson, Annette Seabury and Karen Wcislo. We need your help. Firstly, please submit a mitigation form with the time and money you've spent making your property more firesafe. Secondly, we need your input. What do you see as the greatest fire dangers given where you live? We're asking that you drive the roads in your neighborhood looking for areas of dense vegetation along roadways. Talk with your neighbors about ways you might cooperate on brush clearing projects. At the next Steering Committee meeting, the Firewise Committee will be discussing priorities. Under consideration are safety concerns at the Old Airport Road property, clearing overgrown vegetation and dead trees along the back end of Hirschman's Trail from Woods Ravine, and exploring the feasibility of a shaded fuel break from the Yuba River Canyon along Hwy 49. Next March, we'd like to organize a Scotch Broom pull. Let us know if there's Scotch Broom that should be removed along a roadway near you.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is accepting applications for the Access and Functional Needs Program through which low-income senior residents, or individuals with disabilities, can receive defensible space clearing services within 100' of their homes. Applicants should be prepared to supply proof of residency, medical disability, and income. Income qualifications are based on HUD/HCD criteria. Applications and additional information are available at areyoufire-safe.com.

Measure V

The GCHNA FireWise Committee urges all members to become knowledgeable about this ballot measure

Firewise Committee Report continued page 4



Firewise Committee Report cont. from page 4

and to vote in November. A fact sheet provided by http://www.readynevad-acounty.org is included in this newsletter for your reference. If passed, the proposed 1/2 cent sales tax increase would generate funds allowing the County to do more of the fire prevention work FireWise Communities have been requesting. Measure V will be discussed at the October 3rd GCHNA Steering Committee meeting. Please come and join the conversation.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that our community stays safe for the rest of this fire season.

Micro-Grants Awarded

By Joanne Brown

In July, Nevada County received a \$100,000 donation from the League of California Foundations' Disaster Relief, Recovery and Resilience Funds with support from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.

The funds were to be directed to National Fire Protection Association-recognized Firewise Communities, like GCHNA. They were intended to provide support in the reduction of hazardous vegetation left by the severe storm that struck our county on December 27, 2021, as well as other wildfire mitigation projects.

Our Board of Supervisors contracted with the Sierra Business Council to administer the application process at a cost of \$6400. The remainder of the donation funded 26 \$3,600 micro-grants. Members of Firewise Committees were authorized to submit micro-grant applications on behalf of community members. The money could be spent on increased defensible space around multiple homes, removal of hazardous

vegetation from private property and the clearing of evacuation routes on private roadways.

The Supervisors expressed interest in seeing what areas within the county the applications represented. They considered this an opportunity to gain insights into the location, nature and depth of need citizens had experienced.

A total of 72 applications were submitted county-wide prior to the deadline on August 15th. Five of those were submitted by GCHNA's Firewise Committee. Each of those unique applications was thoughtfully constructed by those hoping to receive a micro-grant. The proposed project goals varied widely. None of the GCHNA applications was funded, but 21 other Firewise Communities, including Banner Mountain, Greenhorn, Harmony, Lake Vera, Scott's Flat and You Bet were recipients. No details were available as to the nature of the projects at this time this article was written.

Woods Ravine / Hirschman's Pond Trail In Need of TLC

By Ellen Hagan

The Woods Ravine Trail begins from the Indian Trails subdivision on Indian Trail Rd. between Woods Ravine Ct and Indian Flat Road. It connects to



Hirschman's Trail. Neighbors are concerned about dense vegetation, dead and dying trees, and debris on the ground which pose a fire hazard. Recently Joanne Brown, Joy Elson, and I walked this section of the trail.



It indeed needs brush clearing, tree thinning, and removal of the dead branches and trees on the ground. This trail is owned by Nevada City. The GCHNA Firewise Committee will propose that improving this trail become one of our priority projects.

Another project that has been proposed is a shaded fuel break along both sides of Hwy 49 from its junction with Hwy 20 to the South Yuba River Bridge with extra focus on the Rush Creek area. This corridor is a critical evacuation route and primary ingress for emergency vehicles. The risk of a fire starting in the Yuba River Canyon is a concern. A shaded fuel break would help firefighters keep a fire from jumping Hwy 49 protecting our community.

We'll be discussing these projects at future meetings. Please join us.









Firesafe Mitigation Form

Making your property more firesafe? Let us know!

Household	l Fire Risk Contributions for Year	Date Submitted _	
	Please submit this form by to: GCHNA, P.O. Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 9595 If you have any questions, send an email	9 or Email to: firewise@gchna to firewise@gchna.com	is also available at gchna.com
Name	Ema	il	
Property Address		Phone	
Zone and Action			Hours, People, \$
Home Ignition Zone - HOUSE - 0 to 5 Feet from foundation (roof to foundation risk reduction) ☐ Clean litter from roof and gutters			Hours
☐ Clean and clear ı	Clean and clear under decks (flammables and vegetation)		# People
 □ 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 		Cost of Materials \$	
Intermediate Zone - 5 to 30 Feet from House ☐ Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks			Hours
☐ Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, dry creeks ☐ Space trees with an 18' separation between tree canopies		# People	
Reduce all ladder fuels, prune shorter trees up to 1/3 of overall tree height Thin and limb up all trees reducing distance to minimum of 18' between the crowns Cluster trees and shrubs to break up the continuity of vegetation to discourage fire flow Tree canopy no closer that ten feet to the edge of structure		Cost of Materials	
Extended Zone - 30 to 100 Feet from House			Hours
 □ Remove all needles within 30 feet of house □ Thin trees and ladder fuels, small conifers growing between mature trees □ Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds □ Trees 30-60 feet from home should have 12 feet between canopy tops 		# People	
		Cost of Materials	
Other Money Spent	☐ Chipper rental, fuel, disposal fees		\$
	☐ Green waste removal fees, number of runs		\$
	☐ Power equipment, hand tools, chainsaws (rental or purchase)	\$
	☐ Arborists, landscapers, forestry service		\$
	☐ Construction (re-siding, re-roofing)		\$
TOTAL MONEY SPENT (Materials and Other)			\$

For more information, please visit http: www.gchna.com/firewise-community



Measure V is designed to reduce the threat of wildfires and improve disaster readiness and evacuation safety to save lives.

As wildfires become more frequent and more destructive, heat events become increasingly common, and climate uncertainties mean more risk of droughts, floods, and extreme weather events, Nevada County must be well prepared for ongoing natural disasters.

Measure V responds to appeals from Nevada County residents for community-wide solutions to better protect their families, homes, and businesses.

If passed by the voters, Measure V would generate approximately \$12 million annually through a half-cent sales tax for critical emergency services and other general government services. A half-cent sales tax would add 50 cents to a \$100 purchase, and the tax would not be applied to food purchased as groceries or prescription medications. All revenue would be locally controlled with funds that cannot be taken by the state. This general sales tax would end after 10 years.

Measure V is responsive to community priorities such as:

Prevent wildfires

Remove flammable brush countywide from our roads, neighborhoods, around our cities and town, and near critical infrastructure.

Improve evacuation routes

Get residents out safely and get first responders in quickly during an emergency - when minutes count.

Enhance emergency communications

Improve early warning and 911 response to guickly notify residents during a natural disaster.

Enforce fire safety laws

Help law enforcement keep our parks, forests, trails, and public areas free of illegal campfires and safe for everyone.

Help low-income seniors and people with disabilities

Assist with emergency preparedness, evacuation planning, defensible space, and home hardening.

Provide green waste disposal options

Expand chipping programs, free year-round green waste disposal sites, and burn pile training.

Provided for informational purposes only. Nevada County does not advocate a yes or no on this measure.



Measure V will raise \$12M annually for high-impact projects such as:

Flammable Brush Removal S8M

- Clear evacuation routes
- Protect communities with large-scale fuel breaks
- Provide free year-round green waste disposal sites
- Assist older adults and people with disabilities to clear brush



Communications and Disaster Resources S3M

- Improve early warning and alert systems
- Enhance local AM/FM radio infrastructure
- Expand shelter capacity for residents, pets, and livestock



Planning and Prevention S₁M

- Create countywide disaster plans
- Expand community education and outreach programs
- Enforce fire safety laws to prevent illegal campfires



Accountability and transparency are built into Measure V.

Priorities Recommended by Experts

A Technical Advisory Committee composed of emergency services and other community experts would recommend funding priorities for Supervisors' approval as part of the County's annual budget process.





Funds Monitored by County Residents

The Board-appointed Citizens Oversight Committee would report annually to the public on the receipt and expenditures of Measure V funds.





Revenue Kept Separate

Measure V revenue and expenses would be recorded in separate accounts distinct from other County general funds and would be subject to independent annual audits.

Information Accessible to the Public

Contract opportunities, awards, and audit reports would be posted on a dedicated website.

Measure V will be on the November 8th General Election hallot.

Learn more at ReadyNevadaCounty.org/MeasureV. Contact us at MeasureV@NevadaCountyCA.gov.

Provided for informational purposes only. Nevada County does not advocate a yes or no on this measure.



How To Stay Informed During Wildfire Season

Check the National Weather Service website for weather watches, warnings and advisories - www. weather.gov/sto/

To get PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff forecasts: https://m.pge.com/ #registration. Register your account and set up your Profile and Alerts. Enter your email and all phone numbers.

Sign Up to Receive Emergency Alerts

CodeRED emergency alerts mynevadacounty.com/ emergencyalerts. (On your smartphone, you can also text READYNEVADACOUNTY to 9941 to be linked directly to the sign-up page. Be sure to complete your registration at the link texted to you.) It's best to create a "managed account." Input your information for all your landline/ cell phone/text/emails. If you need help signing up, dial 2-1-1 or 1-833-DIAL211 for assistance. Then add the following phone numbers to your "Favorites" on your cellphone so you won't think a CodeRed telephone alert is a spam call: CodeRED Emergency Alerts (866) 419-5000; CodeRED Non-emergency alerts (855) 969-4636.

Know your Evacuation Zone Number:

visit community.zonehaven.com and type your address in the search box. Write it down AND save it in your cellphone. Use the Find Your Five plan to create a "buddy system" for friends who will alert you when they hear there's a fire.

Sign up for CalFire text alerts. Visit www.readyforwildfire.org/. In the middle KNOW section, click SIGN UP NOW. On the next page, put your cellphone number and zip code in the SIGN UP box.



Monitor These Local Media To Stay Informed During An Actual Emergency

CodeRED emergency alerts work only when cell phone towers and telephone lines are working. There's no guarantee you will receive an alert during an emergency, and it's easy for misinformation to spread, so it's critical that you also monitor the trusted sources of information listed below. And remember that battery-operated, car/truck and hand-crank radios will still work if electricity goes out.

Internet: the Ready Nevada County
Dashboard (works best with Chrome
browser) will have live-update
information on large wildfire and
evacuation incidents when the
county's Emergency Operations
Center is activated. Put the mobile
version on your smartphone. Also has
a tool for checking wind direction, a
live Twitter feed, and more.

Internet: YubaNet.com https://yubanet.com/ Click on Happening Now.

Radio: KVMR. 89.5FM Nevada County's Emergency Info Station staffed 24/7 reports at the top of each hour and when there's new info.

Radio KNCO 830 AM or STAR 94.1 FM

Internet: the County's ReadyNevadaCounty.org website, during an emergency, will post a link to important evolving event information at the top of every page.

Internet: The Union www. theunion.com

Internet: Facebook - Nevada County Office of Emergency Services and Nevada County Sheriff's Office

Texts:

- Breaking News from The Union: text UnionNews to the number 86677 - Text your zip code to 888777 to get Nevada County Sheriff's Office alerts

Twitter: @NevCoOES; @NevCoSheriff: @YubaNet; @TheUnion; @CAL_FIRE; @ PGE4Me

Cal Fire: www.fire.ca.gov/or (530) 823-4083

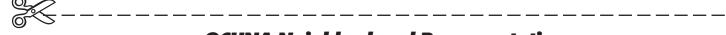
2-1-1 Connecting Point:

https://211connectingpoint.org or dial 2-1-1 on your phone or 1-833-342-5211. A free service open 24/7 for official information on evacuations, road closures, mass care shelters, animal evacuations, social services, etc. Do not dial 9-1-1 just to request information.





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 2022. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA. NAME(s) TELEPHONE CELL EMAIL



GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

To contact GCHNA for membership related questions or to reach a member of the Steering Committee or a Neighborhood Rep, please send an email to: members@gchna.com. If you would like to reach a particular committee member or a neighborhood representative, please include their name in your email.

Airport Road: Annette Seabury

Includes Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane and Sheriff Road

Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership

Applewood Lane: Elena Rayo

Includes Indian Shack Road.

Augustine Road, Daisy Blue Mine Road: Eve

Collins and Jan Wood-Hart

Includes Excelsior Ditch Camp Road, Leisure Lane and Lazy Oaks Drive.

Gochine Drive: Gregg Dwight

Includes Mt. Auburn Circle.

Sunrock Road: Marlene Widmann

Indian Flat Road: Joanne Brown

Includes Indian Trails, Country Circle, Buffington Ct., Woods Ravine Ct. and Robinson King Road.

Wet Hill Road: Open

Includes Sierra Springs Circle and Elliot Way.

Lower North Bloomfield Road: Justin Sternberg

West End Cement Hill: Ellen Hagan

Includes Sunshadow Circle, Cedarsong Road and Garesio Ranch Road.

Upper Cement Hill: Jeff Coleman-Hunt

Includes Pine Tree Place, Diamond Oak Drive, Bodie Ridge Road, Skyranch Road and Elysian Way.

Central Cement Hill: Joy Elson

Includes Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road and Fox Hill Road.

Lower Cement Hill: Brian Waag

Includes West Piper Lane, Deer Crest Trail, Rancheria Court, Red Hill Road, Foster Driveway and Picton Way.

Southside Cement Hill: Debbie Wandro

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.

At Large

Christy Barden Eileen Jorgensen Uli Paulin Susan Wiesner Bill Holman



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Greater Cement Hill
Neighborhood Association

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FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Who to Contact

GCHNA President president@gchna.com

GCHNA Membership Information members@gchna.com

GCHNA Firewise Committee firewise@gchna.com

Ferrellgas

530-265-5896 www.ferrellgas.com

The FireSafe Council

530-272-1122

www.areyoufiresafe.com

Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities
www.nccoalitionfwc.com

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
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And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.

