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Renew Your Membership

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Steering Committee Meeting Highlights -Oct. & Dec. 2022

By Joanne Brown and Joy Elson

All GCHNA members are always welcome, indeed encouraged, to attend the bi-monthly Steering Committee meetings at the Madelyn Helling Library.Attendance has dwindled from 37 in August to 19 in October to only 15 in December. More neighborhood participation is needed. Please, join us on February 6th. Not comfortable coming alone? Arrange to ride share with your road rep!

Nevada County Assistant Executive Officer, Caleb Dardick, and Susan Rogers from the Coalition of Firewise Communities both addressed the October meeting. They explained the details of Measure V, which was on the November ballot. The measure, which would have increased the county sales tax by one-half of one percent to raise funds for wildfire preparedness, eventually went down in a narrow defeat.

Our Board of Supervisors representative, Heidi Hall, was also at that meeting. She offered valuable insights on garbage collection issues and the persistent landslide on Wet Hill. Residents may subscribe to her quarterly newsletter at: http://www. nevadacountyca.gov/2517/District-

www.gchna.com

1-Quarterly-Newsletter.And she asked that her contact information be shared with GCHNA members: heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us; http:// www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos/ district1.

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) has asked all of the county's Firewise Communities to submit up to three "Priority Project" forms describing areas within our boundaries that we consider to be potential fire hazards. This subject was introduced at the October meeting and re-addressed in December. GCHNA will submit one form regarding the 80+ acre, city-owned Hirschman property. Other submissions that have been considered are: the Old Airport, a privately owned 17 acre parcel near Applewood Lane, BLM-owned property that straddles Cement Hill and Sugarloaf Mountain.

The future of GCHNA was the focus of the December meeting. We have no president. We are in need of volunteers to become road reps for Wet Hill and Lower North Bloomfield, or one who would represent both areas (about 45 households). There is serious concern that without increased participation, GCHNA will not survive. That would mean an end to this newsletter, our Ferrellgas discount, our yearly social events and possibly even our Firewise Community status. Discussion brought forth suggestions for better communication with members, more social events, providing zoom attendance to the Steering Committee meetings and making the road rep position a one-year commitment. Current road reps received copies of a newly created list of road rep responsibilities with the intent of nudging them to become more involved with the residents in their area.

Steering Committee Meeting Higblights Cont. on Page 2

Come One, Come All!

GCHNA Steering Committee meetings are open to all members!

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Monday of the month at the Community Room of the Madelyn Helling Library at the Rood Center off Hwy 49 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

2023 Steering Committee Meeting Dates

February 6 April 3 June 5 August 7 October 2 December 4 *Come to meet neighbors. Come to share ideas and participate in the betterment of our community. Learn about what you can do to keep our neighborhood firesafe.*

Steering Committee Meeting Higblights cont. from pg 1

The December meeting also considered which annual donations GCHNA should honor again.These included: Bear Yuba Land Trust (\$100), Yubanet (\$240), Uba Seo/Nisenan (\$100) and our Fire Safe Council membership (\$249).These donations as well as the \$120 fee for use of the library's community room in 2023 were all approved by the meeting attendees, and subsequently by a vote of the steering committee via email.

Janet Johnson GCHNA's New Treasurer

I was raised in the midwest - Iowa - but moved to Colorado for college and fell in love with the mountains there, as well as my husband, Brad. We lived most of our married life in Colorado, where we



raised our three children. We moved to California in 2014 to work with our oldest son in his design and build business, first moving to Marin County and then to Nevada City in 2019. We love this town and in particular our Cement Hill neighborhood. We both enjoy hiking and traveling, including trips to Colorado to visit our kids and grandkids there.

I currently do the accounting for our son's design and build business, as well as bookkeeping remotely for a few Colorado clients. I've been doing bookkeeping and accounting for about 40 years now. I'm looking forward to contributing to this awesome neighborhood association as Treasurer.

Hope it's a happy, healthy year for all!

Joy Elson Membership and Webmaster

I am the Road Rep for the central Cement Hill area, which has about 100 households. I've lived on Cement Hill with my husband Tom since



June of 2020, after spending nearly 30 years in Davis, CA. My hobbies are hiking, ceramics, mosaics, being a new grandmother, and tackling the challenges of having a German Shepherd dog. GCHNA has been a great resource for us as new residents, and has helped us meet so many of our neighbors and get a sense of the bigger picture here.

An Informative Local Resource

Jeff Peach is a member of of the Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities Steering Committee, and is also on the Board of Directors of Friends of Banner Mountain. He is behind the informative emails that are sent periodically from each organization.

The emails on behalf of the Firewise Communities alert you to Coalition meetings and agendas, and other timely information about fire safety and local events. Communications from Friends of Banner Mountain include periodic information on issues affecting the Banner Mountain area, including the hiking trails. It is free to join each mailing list.

To sign up and benefit from his communications, visit https:// www.nccoalitionfwc.com/ and https://bannermountain.org/.

Joanne Brown Firewise Community Committee

Joanne is a third generation northern California native. She was raised in Oakland and graduated from UC Berkeley. She and her groom,



Ken, moved to the Walnut Creek area in 1971. They have three adult sons, one furry daughter, one wonderful daughter-in-law AND two young granddaughters.

The first chapter of Joanne's adult life was spent in kindergarten and first grade. She has a plaque which reads, "I used to be a teacher, but now I have no class."

Chapter Two was titled, "Mother/ Volunteer." Little League, PTA, the parish CCD program, and carpools, carpools, carpools.... Joanne cherishes those years, busy as they were.

A two-hour weekly commitment at Ken's dental practice grew into Chapter Three after their sons had fledged. Joanne became the office manager until they retired together in 2005.

Joanne and Ken resettled in Nevada City in 2011.



Yuba River on New Years' Day.



Firewise Committee Report

The Firewise Committee is a subcommittee of the Steering Committee and consists of Ellen Hagan, Joanne Brown, Joy Elson, and Karen Wcislo. Input from GCHNA members is welcome. You can contact us at firewise@gchna.com.

Thank you to all 98 of you who submitted the hours and money spent creating defensible space on your property last year. That number represents approximately one out of every four residences within the GCHNA boundaries. These figures are required by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as part of the annual process for our Firewise Community status to be renewed.

NFPA applies a value of \$28.54 to each hour spent.At that rate, the hours we reported were equivalent to a \$616,007.36 investment.Add to this the cold hard cash we spent, the funds by Nevada City maintaining city-owned land within GCHNA boundaries and the volunteer hours the Bear Yuba Land Trust spent on trails within the Hirschman property, and our total came to a stunning \$1,450,427.94.

So, why is this important? First of all, GCHNA's Firewise Community status has been renewed for 2023 and that might make you eligible for a discount on your homeowner's insurance. Check with your agent. A copy of our certificate is available on the GCHNA website and can be submitted to insurance companies that reduce rates for Firewise Community members. Second, if the county Office of Emergency Services decides to act upon our Hirschman Property Priority Project (see "Steering Committee Meeting Highlights article on page 1), this amount can be claimed as "matching funds" for grant money from other sources.

Please consider starting a list now, recording the time and money you have spent and will spend on fire mitigation between 11/15/22 and 11/15/23.The mitigation form for 2023 is included here.The GCHNA Firewise Committee will be asking you to submit your totals by next fall.

GCHNA needs to sponsor a Scotch Broom or other hazardous vegetation pull to satisfy NFPA requirements.We will be asking members to give a few hours of work in March to help with this event. The following areas are being considered:

City-owned property on Indian Trail

■ The BLM land uphill from Hirschman's Pond

Sugarloaf Mountain

The Old Airport Property.

■ The acres of dead manzanita on the ditch trail at the left spur down to Excelsior Ditch Camp Road.

Completing a Wildfire Hazard Assessment this year will be required to maintain our Firewise Community status in 2024. In the coming months, the committee will be learning just what this entails.We'll share that information with you as it becomes available and we look forward to your assistance.

For now, know that this committee exists. Know that specific hazardous conditions in your area can be reported to the road rep who represents your area. Remember, winter is the prime time for creating defensible space!



Fences and Mulch and Fire



Fences and mulch are common contributors to the spread of fire. This photo from the Camp Fire shows flames that spread from a burning fence to a building 6' away.

When building fences and landscaping their properties, homeowners should keep fire safety in mind. Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) burned residential fences and mulch beds to examine the role they play in spreading fire. They found that fire hazard was higher when combustible objects burned together. Flames rushed along mulch lining the base of fences, and infernos quickly swallowed up pairs of fences when they burned in close proximity to each other. In contrast, stand-alone fences clear of mulch burned at a much slower pace. Fences and mulch can act as bridges for flames to reach buildings and as launch pads for airborne embers to ignite fires far away.

More information on specific studies can be found on the Coalition website in the education section at nccoalitionfwc.com

Be Firewise

By Ellen Hagan

Winter is a great time to plan and start your defensible space work.

Start With Your Exit Routes

Removing fuels from these routes helps you get out and emergency responders get in. Provide space for a fire truck to turn around. According to the Nevada County "Ready, Set, Go! Handbook" you should:

■ Clear a minimum of 10 ft of vegetation beyond the shoulder of driveways and roads,

■ Trim overhanging shrubs and trees to a minimum height of 15' over drive-ways and roads,

■ Create an on-going strategy with neighbors on private roads.

Create Defensible Space

Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the surrounding vegetation. You don't have to turn your landscaping into a parking lot; you only need to manage the type, quantity, and placement of vegetation.

Three things can set a house on fire: sparks that land on needles or leaves on roofs and in gutters, direct flames from bushes close to the house, and intense heat from burning vegetation that causes the house to ignite. To protect your home:

■ Create a no-fuel or low fuel zone 0-5 feet around your home,

Trim back over-hanging branches 10' from your roof,

■ Create vegetation "islands" to break up continuous fuels,

■ Remove ladder fuel which is vegetation that would allow fire to climb from the ground into the tree canopy.

Ladder fuels include shrubs and low hanging branches.

As you remove fuels, be aware that the FireSafe Council provides chipping services. Slash must be stacked properly. Get details at areyoufiresafe.com. Information on burning slash properly is available at nevadacounty.ca.gov. There will be green waste drop offs in the spring.

Ask for a Defensible Space Advisory visit.

A DSAV is a free consultation with a trained volunteer advisor who will help you identify things you can do to improve your home's chances of surviving a wildland fire. Learn more at: areyoufiresafe.com.

Thank you to the Lake Wildwood Firewise Community for ideas included in this article.

Understanding FAIR Plan Insurance

By Joanne Brown

The "FAIR" in FAIR Plan stands for Fair Access to Insurance Requirements. The program was created in 1968 when riots and wildfires caused certain areas to be uninsurable. According to a blog by Marindependent Insurance Services, "The FAIR Plan is an association located in Los Angeles comprised of all insurers authorized to transact basic property insurance in California." You work with your own insurance agent to apply for a FAIR Plan policy.

Many residents within the GCHNA boundaries, like Willie and Sue Brusin,

are turning to the FAIR Plan when their previous insurers decline to renew existing homeowners' policies. The Brusins were insured by a local carrier for 30 years during which they had no claims. Last year they received a letter informing them the all-inclusive policy which covered their Cut and Choose Christmas tree farm, ranch and home would not be renewed because the CDF had determined their property was in a high fire risk district. Going forward they will need separate coverage for their home and the farm.

Ironically, GCHNA member Ray Barri who was an Allstate broker, also has FAIR Plan insurance. Ray wants his neighbors to know FAIR Plan isn't bad insurance, but it needs to be paired with a "wrap-around" policy to round out the coverage. FAIR Plan is a "peril policy" meaning it only covers damage due to specific causes: fire, lightning, internal explosion and smoke.

When applying for FAIR Plan coverage, work with your agent to get "Difference in Conditions" (DIC) supplemental insurance. DIC comes at an additional cost but it can cover water damage, theft, liability, vandalism, malicious mischief, windstorm and hail, riot, aircraft and vehicles. Consumers can also buy a "Comprehensive Personal Liability" (CPL) policy which is stand-alone insurance and does not replace the DIC.

Mr. Barri recommends the following components be included in wraparound packages: Extended Dwelling Coverage which adds an extra 25% to the dollar amount FAIR Plan would pay to rebuild a home destroyed by fire; Rental Coverage for temporary housing while rebuilding; Building Ordinance Coverage for updates in the building codes since the

Continued on page 5



Fair Plan from Pg 4

destroyed building was constructed; Debris Removal to pay for the charred remains to be taken off site.

Those fortunate enough to still have homeowners insurance should not consider changing to FAIR Plan. It is considered a last ditch option and is typically twice the price of commercial policies.Add in the wraparound coverage and the cost can be three times as expensive.When purchasing FAIR Plan insurance, keep in mind there is a maximum benefit payable of \$3,000,000.

One bit of good news-FAIR Plan offers up to a 7% discount for

residents of a Firewise Community (does not apply to either DIC or CPL policies). Other insurance companies offer discounts as high as 20 to 25%. YOU HAVE TO ASK YOUR AGENT TO GET THE DISCOUNT. GCHNA's current Firewise Community certificate can be found on the association's website: www.gchna. com.



Making your property more firesafe? Let us know! Household Fire Risk Contributions for Year _____ Date Submitted ___ Note: Please submit this form by October 1st An online form Mail to: GCHNA, P.O. Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 or Email to: firewise@gchna.com is also available If you have any questions, send an email to firewise@gchna.com at gchna.com Name____ Email Property Address _____ Phone _____ Zone and Action Hours, People, \$ Home Ignition Zone - HOUSE - 0 to 5 Feet from foundation (roof to foundation risk reduction) Hours ____ □ Clean litter from roof and gutters □ Screen vents, enclose soffits and eaves # People ____ □ Clean and clear under decks (flammables and vegetation) □ Fire resistant roofing, siding or decking □ Replace mulch with gravel and stone Cost of Materials □ Remove pine needles and leaves \$___ п Trim back trees that hang over 5 foot areas near foundation □ Move firewood 30 feet from house and cover with a Firesafe tarp Intermediate Zone - 5 to 30 Feet from House Hours _____ □ Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks □ Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, dry creeks # People _ □ Space trees with an 18' separation between tree canopies □ 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 Cost of Materials □ 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 Hours Extended Zone - 30 to 100 Feet from House □ Remove all needles within 30 feet of house # People _ □ Thin trees and ladder fuels, small conifers growing between mature trees □ Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds Cost of Materials □ Trees 30-60 feet from home should have 12 feet between canopy tops \$

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



GCHNA Membership

Thank you to all who supported GCHNA in 2022! This is a good time to become a member, or renew your membership for 2023. Member dues are only \$20 per year, and are due February 1st, with a grace period until May 1st. To join or renew, please mail the membership form in this newsletter to GCHNA, P.O. Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 or pay online on our website.

Membership dues support GCHNA's activities and expenses throughout the year. In 2022, thanks to members' support, GCHNA was able to: publish the newsletters; pay for the website, email accounts and online member management software; have a large neighborhood gathering; host a garden tour; arrange for a neighborhood chipping day; and qualify again as a Firewise Community. In addition, we were able to make donations on behalf of GCHNA to Bear Yuba Land Trust, Uba Seo, Yubanet, and the Fire Safe Council. And, last but not least, members receive a discount with Ferrellgas!

This Winter 2023 newsletter will be the only printed newsletter again this year. The others will be emailed to members, and posted on our website.

Steering Committee meetings are held every other month, at the Madelyn Helling Library. All members are welcome to attend and have a voice in our community!

CURRENT MEMBERS

Dee Alcott-Rodriguez & Daniel Rodriguez Adriel & Misty Alderman **Catherine Alderman** Sallee Allen John Almeida **Joseph & Frances Aragona** Peggy & Chip Arenchild **Bob Aron & Yvette Young** David Augustine & Shanza Baig Margaret Austin & William Mandel Marty Austin Ann & Alan Barbour **Christy Barden Raymond Barri** Mike & Jane Betts Kenneth & Laura Bigham Cathy Blake & Michael Brook Eileen Blodgett & Tom Anderson Steve & Ashley Blonstein James & Mary Booth Anna Bousouris Ken Bradford & Nelle Engoron Molly Breen **Gary & Margaret Brown** Joanne & Ken Brown Joe Brusca & Ursula Conofrio Willie & Sue Brusin Hamilton Brvan II Karalyn Buchner & Aaron Morris Brian & Ruthanne Buckley Jon Byerrum & Holly Hermansen Linda Byrne & David Lee Shepard Scott & Tish Caddell Neal & Patricia Cavanaugh **Denis & Jennifer Cebollero** Ernest & Linda Chiappari Monte & Olga Christie **Gordon & Jeanette Clark Richard & Nancy Colby** Martha & Jeff Coleman-Hunt Jonathan Collier & Erin Bird **Doug & Eve Collins** Meghan Coolbaugh Diana Cooley & Similoni Filikitonga **Chuck & Lorry Coovert** William & Susan Copeland Diana, Ronald & Gus Coronel **Jeff Cowitz Robert Crawford** Dale Tom & Sandy Creighton Kathleen & Robert Curlee **Donna & Jim Darling Richard & Joan Davis JoAnne DeVries Elizabeth Dieter & Kristy Cortright Brian Dilts** Lin Donald & Tom Manuel

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René & Amanda Ringnalda

Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership to GCHNA, we hope you will do so now. Membership dues are \$20/year. Go to www.gchna.com to pay online, or mail this form with your check to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959

Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA for my/our 2023 Membership.

Name(s)
Property Address
Mailing Address (if different)
Phone(s)
Email(s)
How long have you lived in the Cement Hill neighborhood?
Mail check & form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 🔲 I would like to become involved. Please contact me.
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GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

To reach a member of the GCHNA Steering Committee, send an email to members@gchna.com, and include their name in the email.

OFFICERS President: Open Secretary: Ellen Hagan Treasurer: Janet Johnson Membership: Joy Elson

Airport Road: Uli Paulin Includes Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, Sheriff Road

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, 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., Robinson King Road.

Wet Hill Road: Open Includes Sierra Springs Circle and Elliot Way.

Lower North Bloomfield Road: Open

West End Cement Hill: Ellen Hagan Includes Sunshadow Circle, Cedarsong Road, Garesio Ranch Road. **Upper Cement Hill: Jeff Coleman-Hunt** Includes Pine Tree Place, Diamond Oak Drive, Bodie Ridge Road, Skyranch Road, Elysian Way.

Central Cement Hill: Joy Elson Includes Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road, Fox Hill Road.

Lower Cement Hill: Brian Waag Includes West Piper Lane, Deer Crest Trail, Rancheria Court, Red Hill Road, Foster Driveway, Picton Way.

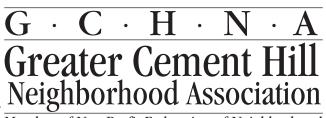
Southside Cement Hill: Debbie Wandro

Highway 49, including Columbine Court, Delphine Lane, Shoshoni Trail, Old Faithful Court, Carli Way, Crooked Arrow Lane, John Barleycorn Road, Frost Court, Cavanaugh Lane.

At Large Christy Barden Eileen Jorgensen Bill Holman







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WINTER 2023 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 *Design & Layout:* Bill Holman *Copy Editor:* Eve Collins *Webmaster:* Joy Elson

And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.

