



**THE
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A** Greater
Cement
Hill
Neighborhood
Association

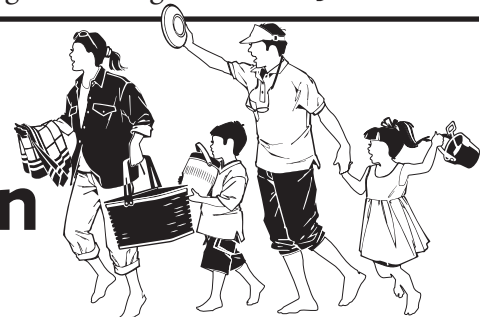


FALL 2001

• for the latest information about our neighborhood go to www.gchna.com

**11TH Annual Neighborhood
Family Picnic & Celebration**

of the emergency access road finally becoming a reality!



Sunday, September 23 at 2pm

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This year's family picnic will be held at the unique and newly acquired homestead of Linda Sloven and Allen Haight, 13438 Cement Hill Road at the west end of Cement Hill – follow the signs. Car pooling is recommended. **Harvest Potluck:** Please bring a dish to share and your own chair. Vegetarian dishes welcomed. GCHNA will provide drinks and dessert. CDF, the Fire Safe Council, our Ferrellegas representative and County Supervisor Peter Van Zant will be on hand to speak with us.

2–6pm: Children's Program

2–5pm: Socializing & self-guided tours of the Old Robinson Ranch

5pm: Gather for circle of informal presentations

6pm: Dinner with guest speaker Peter Van Zant

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 23

11th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic & Celebration. 2 – 7pm, at the home of Linda Sloven & Allen Haight, 13438 Cement Hill Road, Guest speaker: Peter Van Zant.

Sunday, October 14

Coyote Park Fall Clean Up. 10am – Noon. Located above Madeline Helling Library next to the county's Rood Center.



“The Prez Sez”...

Understanding the Chemistry of Fire

by *Marty Pezzaglia*

Mixing Fuel, Heat, and Oxygen in the right proportions creates fire.

Sounds simple enough... Remove any one of the components, and you extinguish the fire. However, it is pretty difficult to suppress the radiant heat of a fire when there has been no defensible space planning or fire break protection around your dwellings. Public Resources Code 4291 explains what is required to reduce fire hazards and create fire break protection around buildings.

Chemistry, continued on page 2

GCHNA MISSION

To protect and preserve the rural qualities of our neighborhood by providing a forum for group action as needed.



Yipping Dogs and Howling Coyotes

by Jeanette Clark

Well, conventional wisdom says, "it comes with the territory." "It" means yipping dogs and howling coyotes. For the sake of conversation, this article will deal with the wild side of the territory.

Basically, if there are yipping/howling coyotes in a pack, it is usually an adult female teaching her litter the fine art of hunting, and your pet may be the prey. Common sense says to feed household pets in the house and/or deck early in the morning. (Although the deck often allows

Yipping, continued on page 3

Chemistry, continued from page 1

However, should you choose to ignore the Code, and a fire comes your way, what are you going to do? California law says it is up to you to know how to evacuate.

Do you know how to escape the area in case of a wildfire? Each Steering Committee member has a detailed map of our area that was produced by the County Department of Transportation. We are recommending that neighbors of "dead end" roads meet and develop a "gentleman's" agreement that addresses this issue in times of emergency.

Our steering committee has spent many months this past year trying to develop an intelligent fire control plan for our area. What they are currently recommending is that you acquire and study a copy of, "Fire Wise Is Fire Safe", developed by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. Copies are available at the 49er Fire Station, and at our Steering Committee meetings and social functions.

Application of water to a fire lowers the fuel temperature and cuts off the oxygen supply. Our Year 2000 Survey indicates piped water to our area as a top priority, yet getting piped water to our mountain range is a complex issue

with what appears to be a very high price tag. Efforts are underway to unravel this complex issue. Your concerns or recommendations can be brought to the attention of our District 1 NID Board member Nancy Weber at NID, 1036 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 1019, Grass Valley, CA 95945, or contact her online at nancy_weber@juno.com.

In other water issues... NID has taken the Red Hill Reservoir out of "abandonment status" due to environmental concerns. This was a positive move by the NID Board of Directors as it gives us time to continue working with NID, the County Board of Supervisors, and concerned neighbors about the future of the reservoir and the canal system that feeds it. Another major focus on the canal system is NID's proposed Lower Cascade Modernization Project, and the citizen's group Save Our Historic Canals. For information, SOHC can be contacted by writing to 228 Commercial St., Box 221, Nevada City, CA 95959, or phone 530-265-8576. Also, Supervisors Peter Van Zant and Bruce Conklin are on the NID formed Citizens Advisory Committee to provide input on the modernization project. They welcome your questions, concerns and recommendations.

During this past year we have strived to increase member awareness and involvement. We have changed our by-laws to a mail in vote, which will extend voting privileges to those who can not personally attend meetings. Since we know that at least 86 of our member households are "on line" with access to email and the web, we will continue to utilize information technology by posting agendas on the web and notices by email, as well as posting at the Kiosk. Also, we will be utilizing the Newsletters to post meeting agendas and election notices. It has been decided that our social gatherings will be celebrations, while the majority of business and political issues can to be handled at the Steering Committee meetings.

As we collectively come to understand the chemistry of fire, we should also embrace the alchemical mystery of the elements that meld together to create a warm-hearted magical neighborhood. Striving for a balance between these elements will help prevent external wildfires and well as promote an internal appreciation of our relationship with each other and our environment. ■



Yipping, continued from page 2

the loving raccoons access to your pet's tidbits!)

However, if you do not want to share the environment and your household pets with the coyotes, and you wish to "hunt" these critters, then you need a hunting license – which means taking a ten-hour "Hunter Safety Class" course. To inquire about the above class, call 916-351-0833. After you have gained the legal right to "hunt", you also have the right to disposal of the carcasses, which can be a nuisance. One method is burial, the other is the buzzards. Buzzards are the cleanest and most practical, as burial of the carcass may mean reburial if dug up by another critter.

Things to remember:

Traps are outlawed (downright illegal) in the State of California. Only federal and county licensed trappers are allowed to set traps.

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within a 150-foot radius of a residence or an out building.

Reassurance:

It is a common belief that when the earth is void of all humans, the coyotes and the cockroaches will still be surviving creatures left on the planet to yip and howl at their leisure! <smile> ■



Fire Planning

by Fred Buhler

Based on the results of the GCHNA survey conducted last year, our members' primary concern is how can we reduce the threat of loss of life and property during a wildland fire.

Earlier this year the Steering Committee held several productive brainstorming sessions on fire planning. Many thoughtful strategies were developed which can be included in our Fire Plan. To consolidate these strategies into a working document Marty Pezzaglia will shortly appoint a Fire Planning Committee of three to five members who will be responsible for writing a Fire Plan. Once appointed, the committee should take six to eight weeks to write the plan. Once the plan has been approved, a Fire Committee will be organized to implement the Fire Plan.

Fire Season 2001 developed early. In our own neighborhood, we have had eight fires since mid June. Had it not been for the quick response of the 49'er fire fighters and other fire agencies, any one of these fires could have developed into a major wildfire. We live in a high-risk fire area. There are preventive measures we personally can take to significantly reduce the threat of damage or loss during a wildland fire.

If you are interested in working on either the Fire Planning Committee or the Fire Committee, give Marty a call (265-3288), or email mpezz@oro.net. ■

2001 Fire Season to Date

By: David Ray, Battalion Chief, 49er Fire District

The 2001 fire season started out with a bang and is continuing to keep all fire personnel very busy. Some local incidents that could have had a disastrous effect were fires in the Indian Flat area. The oak trees have been snapping leading to down power lines. The two small resulting small fires that had potential were quickly extinguished. A camp fire or arson fire was extinguished in the Hershman's Pond area. In addition, a small roadside fire was extinguished on Hwy 49 near the Rood Center. All these fires could have spelled disaster for those of us in their destructive paths.

Our District is just now entering its fire season. Normally, we do not see fires until this time of year. However, this year is far from normal. The live fuel moisture in the trees and brush is below that of kiln dry lumber. This situation leads to explosive conditions. As I write this article, the smoke from the Star fire is choking out the Tahoe Region. Just think about what that fire would do in our area? Is a perimeter around your house cleared from vegetation? Have you helped us to help you? Can we even get to your house? Is it marked? Do you know at least two ways out? What are you going to take with you?

These are questions that you should be asking yourself... When the fire hits, you had better have these questions answered well in advance. ■



On the Road Again

By Ed Arnott

What's up with our Fire Passes?

Do you remember those bright yellow cards that would let you into the Cement Hill area (assuming anyone was being admitted) if there was a wildfire in the vicinity?

The theory was that you would keep one in the glove box of your car(s), and anyone needing assistance would also give one to a designated family member, friend, or caretaker. A long-term guest



could also have one during their stay. If there was a fire, and conditions allowed people in, your highly visible card would speed you past a long string of traffic.

I usually clean out my car's glove box every few years, whether it needs it or not, but it took a phone call from a friend to alert me to a problem with the Passes: They had an expiration date – May 2001.

The Steering Committee has now given me their authorization to reprint the Passes. First, though, I'll contact the Sheriff's office and the California Highway Patrol to see if any improvement should be made. After all, if traffic control officers don't recognize the card, they're of little use.

New cards should be available this fall – this time with no expiration date. In the meantime, if you still have your old card, it's considered valid!! ■

Defensible Space

By Tim Hagan, CDF/FEMA Fuels Reduction Project

15 Reasons Why People Don't Do it

1. Unaware – I didn't know there was a wildfire threat in my neighborhood...
2. Denial – It won't happen to me...
3. Fatalism – It's all fate, when your number is up, it's up...
4. Futility – It won't make a difference...
5. Irresponsibility – It's not my responsibility...
6. Inability – I don't have time or money to do it...
7. No Incentives – If it were important, my insurance company would give me a break on my premium...
8. Opportunity? – So what, my insurance will build me a new house...
9. Unknowledgeable – I don't know what to do...
10. Aesthetics and Function – It won't look good...
11. Unnatural – It's wrong to cut trees...
12. Disposal – I don't have an easy way to get rid of all that stuff...
13. Discomfort – I don't want to because of hantavirus, Lyme disease, poison oak, etc. ...
14. Illegal – My CC&R's, ordinances, etc. won't allow it...
15. Lack of Ownership – Hey, it's not my house, I rent...

The ongoing success of the CDF/FEMA free brush chipping program in the 49'er Fire District removes just about all of these excuses. These services are available free to you through CDF to discuss and plan your Defensible Space Project. We are chipping fire hazardous material 12 months a year and can therefore work with you over several months to get the work done. Call me, Tim Hagan, Field Coordinator, at 265.2678 for information, to schedule an appointment, or a chipping date. ■

Water, continued from page 5

for pipe construction payable over 30 years at 2.8%.

Efforts are under way: (1) To persuade NID to stop threatening those, like myself, who don't or can't buy bottled water, with disconnection of their canal water service, and (2) To work with NID to come up with a plan where the costs for piped water are fair to

both the property owners who will benefit, and NID.

If NID is so dedicated to protecting the rates for its present favored customers, while dismissing service to additional customers who need and are entitled to piped water under the parameters of the Safe Drinking Water Act, then some form of legal action may be necessary. ■



Ferrellgas Update

By Tom Stone

Expect Ferrellgas prices to peak out at \$1.10 / gallon this winter.

The word from Van Anthony, one of our local Ferrellgas representatives, indicates that he expects the Bay Area Rack price for propane to peak at 70 to 75 cents this winter. Since our contract allows for a 35 cent increase above the rack price, the cost to Cement Hill customers should peak at \$1.10 per gallon. Due to peak rates, the worst time to fill your tank is usually December and January. I've created a price chart so you can judge for yourself the best date to "fill up". Also use this chart to check your past bills and make sure you were charged the correct Cement Hill price.

If you are a Ferrellgas customer on September 24th, our contract anniversary date, you are entitled to 50 free gallons of propane. Last year the savings for the 50 free gallons was fixed at \$55.45. This year Ferrellgas has decided to send each Cement Hill customer a voucher for the 50 free gallons. This voucher can be used at anytime for one year after September 24th.

As an added incentive to attract new Cement Hill customers, Ferrellgas will give any new customers, that are GCHNA members, a voucher for 50 free gallons of propane. Therefore, if you sign up as a new Ferrellgas customer before September 24th you'll receive both the 50 gallon new customer voucher, and on September 24th, the 50 gallon anniversary voucher for a total of 100 free gallons. You do not have to deplete the propane in your current tank to change over to Ferrellgas. Ferrellgas will pump any

remaining gas over to your new Ferrellgas tank when you receive it, and return your current tank to the former supplier at no cost.

Do you want to move your tank or paint it? I'll have information on those items at our annual picnic. ■

See price graph at gchna.com/ferrellgas

New Ferrellgas District Manager

By Andy Fellman

As the new Ferrellgas Manager in Nevada City, I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support. My team and I appreciate your business and look forward to serving all your propane needs.

Throughout my professional career, I've developed a strong commitment to superior customer service. That's why I enjoy working at Ferrellgas, a company that puts customers first. I honestly believe that makes all the difference to our customers, and I guarantee I'll work hard to maintain that reputation.

As a reminder, everyone who is a GCHNA member as of September 24th, 2001 will receive a coupon for 50 free gallons of propane.

Also if you are not a current customer and sign up for service prior to that same date you will receive an additional 50 free gallons of propane. **That's 100 gallons of free propane if you become a customer of Ferrellgas before September 24th, 2001!**

Again, we're pleased to have you as one of our valued customers and we want to do everything we can to better serve you. If there's anything you need, or if you have any questions about your service, please call the office at 265-5896. ■

Water, Water... Where?

By Norm Stout

A 1996 Amendment to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was specifically enacted to bring canal water, used for "human consumption", under the requirements of the original Act. According to the amendment NID is to provide treated piped water to its 1100 year-round canal water customers.

Recognizing that there were water companies with long canals servicing very few customers, an exemption was included in the Amendment that allows such entities to have their customers buy bottled water, provided the number of customers solely using canal water did not exceed 15.

Capitalizing on this exemption rather than providing piped water to its largest concentrations of canal water users, (and Cement Hill is a prime example), NID has embarked on a program to get all of their year-round canal water customers to buy "approved" bottled water in order to avoid compliance with the piped water requirement of the SDWA.

In NID's defense it may appear to be economically unfeasible to extend piped water to all of their year-round canal water customers. However, NID has some \$50 Million in reserve and receives about \$4 Million every year through property taxes, much of which comes from people who currently receive no service from NID. In addition, the State Revolving Fund has loans available to NID

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The Artist Celebration: What a Delightful Time!

By Nancy Lakoduk

Saturday, June 23 was a warm, sunny day with a light breeze to cool the air in the beautiful garden setting. It was the perfect day for our inaugural Neighborhood Artist Celebration at Julie Cobden's lovely home. There was an

abundance of delicious food and drinks, and Julie graciously shared some wine from her vineyard. However, the most exciting part of this day was the show of art created by our own neighbors ... such talent!

Are you aware that within our GCHNA neighborhood there are over 25 artists, writers, poets, musicians, and other talented people? Many of these wonderful neighbors came and displayed some of their most recent and creative work. There was a wide variety... paintings, drawings, sculptures, flower arrangements and jewelry to mention a few. Just as impressive were the books and poetry that were displayed and presented. Sitting and listening to the poetry readings was most enjoyable. Poems varied from



Participating artists: Susan Barry, Kathleen Hoy-Bianchi, Mary & Paul Trethewey, Linda Byrne, Edith Britts, Ernest Caballero, Susan Hill, Ed Byrne, Linda Pearson, George Cloud, Mary Street, Sharyn McDonald, Patricia Kaminski, Richard Katz, David Kyle, Patt Lind-Kyle, Stephen & Deborah Edwards, Glen Cooley, Eileen Jorgensen, Jacquie Weills, Sheasa Kenney, Donna Hanlin. Not all are pictured in this photo.

the melancholy to satiric wit, and all present seemed to find them most delightful.

There was an artist sign-in chart which will be displayed, along with photographs taken of this marvelous celebration, at our Fall picnic in September. Some of our local artists were unable to attend but would like to come to a future event such as this. We are planning to have an Artist Celebration event each year in the Spring, most likely in the month of May. We would like to encourage more of you to attend and meet our talented neighbors.

Thanks to everyone, the artists and the GCHNA members, who helped make this day possible. ■

Mark Your Calendars

Coyote Park Fall Clean Up

Helpers needed, all ages
Neighborhood Park Clean Up
(above Madeline Helling Library)

Sunday, October 14
10:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon

Clear trails and picnic area
Bring clippers, gloves, weed
wackers, rakes, and a smile.
Refreshments provided



Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership (check your membership status at gchna.com/membership)

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership to GCHNA, we hope you will do so now.

Here's my \$15 GCHNA membership fee for 2001. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Send check and form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959

NEIGHBORHOOD REPRESENTATIVES

West End Cement Hill

West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.
(open)

Applewood Lane

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road.
Steve Myers, (regalmyers@onemain.com) 470-0426

Gochine Drive

Gochine, including Mr. Auburn Circle.
Chip Carman, (chip@spiral.com) 478-9005

Upper Cement Hill

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

Sunrock Road

Sunrock Road.
Donna Uran 478-1656

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road

Augustine Road, including Daisy Blue Mine, Leisure Lane, Lazy Oaks Drive, and Excelsior Ditch.
Marty Pezzaglia, (mpezz@oro.net) 265-3288

Crystal View Heights

Crystal View, including Golden Oaks.
Andy Oliver, (jaoliver@jps.net) 265-0269

Central Cement Hill Road

Central Cement Hill Road, including Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road, and Fox Hill Road.
Jeanette Clark, (cementhill@aol.com) 265-2680

Lower Cement Hill Road

Lower Cement Hill Road, including West Piper, Deer Crest, Rancheria Court, Red Hill Road, Foster Driveway, Picton, Picton Way, and Foster Road.
Glen Cooley 265-4025

Indian Flat Road

Indian Flat Road, including Country Circle and Robinson King Road.
Eileen Jorgensen, (magicarpet@jps.net) 265-6415

Southside Cement Hill

Highway 49, including Columbine Court, Delphine Lane, Shoshoni Trail, Old Faithful Court, Carli Way, Crooked Arrow Lane, John Barleycorn Rd., Frost Court and Cavanaugh Lane.
(open)

Wet Hill Road

Wet Hill Road, including Sierra Springs Circle, Lower North Bloomfield Road, and Elliot Way.
Nancy Lakoduk, (snlduck@nccn.net) 265-5919

Airport Road

Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road.
Fred Buhler, (ddinmont@oro.net) 265-4878

At Large

Julie Cobden 265-5987
Eve Collins, (collins@2xtreme.net) 265-6540
Cindy Hren, (chren@cwo.com) 477-5414
Helen McDonald, (mcdonald@oro.net) 265-9218
Tom Stone, (tastone@pacbell.net) 478-1295
Jim Vierra 265-4443

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.





**THE
Greater
Cement
Hill
Neighborhood
Association**

PO Box 1343
Nevada City CA 95959

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FALL 2001 NEWSLETTER

ECRWSS

RESIDENT

Who to Connect...

Bookkeeper

Nancy Lakoduk – 265-5919

Membership Information

Eve Collins – 265-6540

Ferrellgas Information

Customer Service – 265-5896

Neighborhood Ferrellgas Contact

Tom Stone – 478-1295

CDA/FEMA Brush Chipping

Tim Hagan – 265-2678

The Fire Safe Council

Ed Arnott – 478-9850

Newsletter Contributors

Editor: Eileen Jorgensen

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Copy Editor: Stephanie Hendricks

Coordinator: Chip Carman

And a big thanks to all our writers.



GCHNA

Steering Committee Meetings

are held the 2nd Monday of the month. Call your area representative for the meeting location. Meeting agendas are posted 24 hours in advance at the kiosk on Wet Hill and Cement Hill. Non-approved minutes are posted at the kiosk as soon as they are available after a meeting. ■



In loving memory of long time GCHNA members

- Dorothy A. Edwards, passed 6/30/01
- Robert Miller, passed 4/27/01

Hi There Cement Hill Friends

Last week the Board of Supervisors completed the redistricting to conform with the 2000 census and I'm proud to have some new friends in District 1, including the Cement Hill area.

I look forward to working with each of you and the Association. Barbara Green and I will be available during the transition, so please feel free to call either of us.

Peter Van Zant,
District 1 Supervisor

