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

Annual Picnic on Sunday September 20th

SUMMER/FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

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

19th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic

Sept. 20th, 2009
2:30 to dusk

Nancy Herrick & Roger Morrison's "The Farmhouse"

13438 Cement Hill Rd. at the far west end Follow signs



Sustaining Our Neighborhood
Everyone is welcome as we celebrate GCHNA's annual picnic on Sunday September 20th. Join us to visit old friends and make new friends at Nancy and Roger's beautiful old farmhouse at the west end of Cement Hill Rd. Follow the signs and enjoy a wonderful afternoon together. We encourage you to carpool as parking is limited. This year we've invited local agencies and enterprises who are endeavoring to sustain our future.

Harvest Potluck
Please bring a favorite main dish to share and your own chair. Vegetarian dishes are most welcome. GCHNA will provide beer, wine, tea, soda, plates and place settings and dessert. Cake has been generously donated by our local Flour Garden Bakery.
This event is partially underwritten by Ferrellgas and membership dues.

Schedule
2:30 - 4:30 PM
Happy Hour and socializing
View the community exhibits

4:30 PM until dusk
Dinner and speakers
Community Service Award to Nancy Weber our NID Director

Guest Speaker: Hank Meals will provide an overview of Cement Hill history. Hank is the author of ***The River***, a blending of local history, geology and trail notes on the South Yuba River watershed. He's an anthropologist by education, worked for the Forest Service, and has a fascination for our cultural history.
See bios of our hosts in this newsletter.

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President Pro-Tem Sez –

By Jeanette Clark

s.u.s.t.a.i.n.a.b.i.l.i.t.y = (n) the ability to be maintained, now, how does that fit into the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association's mission statement and agenda? Sustainability doesn't necessarily apply only to agriculture, energy and other resources. It may be very present in an organization such as ours. Our mission statement has never needed to be changed as it remains very

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Garden Tour and Tea at Terra Flora

By Ellen Hagan

Saturday, May 9th, was a balmy, spring day, perfect for this year's GCHNA "Spring Garden Tour and Tea " hosted by Richard Katz and Patricia Kaminski at their lovely home Terra Flora on Daisy Blue Mine Road. Forty guests strolled past creatively-shaped planting beds, placid ponds, terraced gardens, and secluded places for contemplation. Plants in profusion included vegetables, wild-flowers that are allowed to grow where they "choose", exotic (and not so exotic) herbs, and roses without black spot. We learned about sustainable land use and biodynamic principles of growing, including their composting process to enrich the soil. Richard and Patricia described how they use various flowers to make the essential oils and other floral essence products they sell worldwide. They have catalogued hundreds of plant samples.

After the presentation, there was time to refresh ourselves with tea, sandwiches and sweets. The socializing continued as we enjoyed the lovely harp music provided by GCHNA member Lisa Stine.

Many thanks to Richard and Patricia for sharing their home, their knowledge, and their enthusiasm. Thanks also to the GCHNA organizers and helpers and to all who participated. Personally, being at Terra Flora gave me a feeling of serenity and industry. The experience nurtured my spirit and challenged my brain. I can't wait for next year's offering.



What A Place!



Lisa Stine Provided Relaxing Music.

A Special Story: She Found Me!

In the interest of neighbors keeping in touch with one another, we want to share this rather unusual, uplifting story. Ed Buryn was a Steering Committee Member of GCHNA and is a colorful longtime resident on Wet Hill Rd. Welcome Joanna.
By Ed Buryn

In late 2006 I surprisingly received an email from a stranger in Poland. She saw my personals ad on an online service that I didn't know was viewable overseas. Her name was Joanna, from Warsaw, an editor and typesetter, and amazingly, a Buddhist in an all-Catholic country. I was intrigued, and so we began an increasingly interesting intellectual and spiritual correspondence.

In spring 2007, she traveled to Nevada City to visit me, paying her own way! After three months here, she returned home. And then I learned that I missed her and we were in love! So we mutually agreed to marry and began the fiance -visa process. Meanwhile, in winter 2008, I went to Poland for ten fascinating weeks, mostly in Warsaw but also to Krakow, plus a memorable visit to Straszydle, the village from which my parents came. Afterwards it was a matter of waiting for bureaucratic process. When the visa was approved, Joanna quit her job, sold her car and flat, and disposed of her possessions except for her most valuable books and pictures. She arrived last October and we married a week later. After numerous complex immigration processes, she finally received her permanent residency several months ago. To me, Joanna is amazing. Her English is improving rapidly, her enthusiasm is delightful, and we are both excited about our new life together. We forged mutual love despite differences in culture, history, and personality. Joanna calls Nevada City a "baika" - a fairytale place where dreams do in fact come true!



Ed and Joanna.

President Sez - Continued

viable to each new issue and challenge, "To protect and preserve the rural qualities of our neighborhood by providing a forum for group action as needed."

The two greatest challenges we continue to face are the threat of wildfire and the availability of water. We can report that our organization has been working steadily with NID and the community over the past six years to make treated water a coming reality on Cement Hill. That represents a six-year sustained effort on the part of volunteers who believe in community service. In addition, as a member of the Federation of Neighborhood Associations (FONA) we may now participate in a newly developed chipping program. It was created through volunteer efforts when the free county service was abandoned last year due to lack of funding.

We need you to actively join us and to be our eyes, ears, mouth, and hands in this endeavor. Sitting on the sidelines and cheering us on is great, but how about being on the field and being one of the players, now that's contributing to sustainability. So come to the annual picnic, meet your neighbors and be a part of the community.

Good Deeds are Noticed

Ever drive along Cement Hill Road in the morning and be greeted with a friendly wave by a couple taking a stroll? Well the secret is out, along with getting fresh air and exercise, the Barnickols make it their mission to clean up litter along the road. So here's a big THANKS from all your neighbors.

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

By Susan Wiesner

Saber tooth tigers may have roamed over Cement Hill in pre-historic times, but mountain lions and bears still do consider these parts their home. We share the woods, streams, ponds, and rocky outcroppings of our neighborhood with various predators and we may need a reminder of steps we can take to avoid conflict and allow them habitat. We have chosen to live in a rural area so we must accept the responsibility of learning how to live with wildlife. Here are some suggestions to minimize conflicts which all too often result in the demise of the wild animals.

Reduce residential attractants:

- Store garbage and recycling in bear-resistant containers or buildings and never let garbage accumulate. Put out garbage and recycling just before pick-up.
- Don't feed your pets outside and keep pet food in closed buildings.
- Bird feeders should never be on or adjacent to residences. They lure bears to the premises. If feasible, bring in bird feeders at night.
- Do not feed or salt the deer, it attracts predators to the property.
- Don't let rotting fruit accumulate under fruit trees. Pick fruit as soon as it is ripe.

Be aware

- Green lawns attract deer, bears and other wildlife – especially during the dry season. Consider landscaping with native vegetation and clear hiding cover near your house.
- Free-running dogs and cats harass wildlife and are occasionally prey for owls, coyotes, and lions so don't let your pets roam.
- Chickens, rabbits, sheep, pigs, goats and other livestock attract predators so build a secure pen and/or place them in a secure building at night.

The above advice was excerpted from materials provided by wildlife biologist, Jamie Jonkel.



Cougar Photo by Bob Wiesner.

2009 FONA Chipping Program

Due to the existing budget problems at both the Federal and California State levels, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has been forced to discontinue its popular Free Chipping Program. As a result, FONA has developed a reduced cost program with an outstanding local contractor for residents who are members of Neighborhood Associations such as GCHNA that are members of FONA. Trees Unlimited will give members a 20% discount on chipping services in 2009.

Service Details: The minimum cost per visit is $100 for the first half-hour (regardless of work required). Additional work will be $180.00 per hour, charged in half-hour increments (i.e. $90 per half-hour). [Note: If the work takes only one hour, the total charge will be $180.00.] Charges will be billed directly to the customer by the contractor and no financial obligation will be assumed by FONA or GCHNA. Payment will be due upon receipt of bill. Service will be delivered by a six person crew to maximize the amount of work delivered in any unit of time. The service response time will be within three weeks of receiving a service order. All materials will be chipped on site, and the chips will be left in piles for the customer to manage.

Customers will stack all pruning and cuttings in an orderly pile no higher than four feet tall. All cut ends must face the same direction. Piles must be within 5 feet of roadway or driveway, and either on level ground or the uphill side of the driveway or roadway. This service will not go off the roadway. Each individual piece must be less than 8 inches in diameter, and greater than three feet long (longer is better). Piles must not be pushed or collected by tractors or other mechanized equipment. Materials not permitted include: non-vegetative materials, fabricated wood (2x4's, ply-

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We received the following letter from our NID representative, Nancy Weber. We want to share her thoughts with our readers and encourage neighborhood residents to attend the NID meetings.

August 6, 2009

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

Over the years NID has become a more positive agency than the one that existed before the mid-90's. With some hitches here and there, most changes have been in a progressive direction. I've been one of the major players in the effort to help NID be more user-friendly—to get waterline extensions throughout the District to those who have minimal wells and no adequate alternative water source; to manage NID's financial assets and water supply in a manner fair to all within its boundaries.

I need your help, please. I'm asking that you attend an NID Board meeting to exercise your right as an NID constituent—to keep the democratic process as a visible actuality. Remember that you may be a voting taxpayer even if you don't receive NID water.

As a Special District under California law, NID holds elections for a District Board of Directors to represent the regional areas of Nevada and Placer Counties. It is important that those elected Board members work for the best interests of their constituents. You will help that happen by being present at meetings. It isn't necessary to speak and I'm not asking you to support me. Please just come to as many meetings as you can and get the word out to your friends and neighbors to come with you.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9 am at the NID headquarters on West Main St., Grass Valley across from the Lyman Gilmore School. Agendas are posted on the NID website: (http://www.nid.dst.ca.us/meetings.cfm) and the September meetings are on 9/9 and 9/23. Please check the website for information on water supply, finances, projects—and read the excellent coverage provided on line by YubaNet.

Sincerely, Nancy Weber,
NID Board member representing Division I in Nevada County—Banner Mountain, Cement Hill, Scotts Flat, North Bloomfield, Lake Vera, Newtown Road areas

This Year's Picnic Hosts

By Nancy Herrick -
Born in Detroit, MI and later pursued studies of early childhood development, obtaining a Masters degree in Psychology at Wayne State University. After grad school I discovered my life's work - homeopathy. Went into it 100% and also obtained a physician assistant license. I've been actively practicing homeopathy at Hahnemann Medical Clinic for 34 years. Other pursuits include teaching at our college and lecturing all over the world. Author of two books (Animal Minds and Sacred Plants) researching new medicines from the animal and plant kingdoms such as Dolphins milk, Lion's milk, Lotus flower, and Mandrake root. Married to Roger Morrison MD now for 24 years. Roger and I have our medical practice here in Nevada City as well as in Point Richmond, California. We have a lovely daughter Naomi Marks who is finishing her medical residency in Emergency Medicine at Highland Hospital in Oakland, California. In 1993 we bought raw land on Rock Creek and built a weekend cabin. We fell deeply in love with Nevada City, the people, the land, the Yuba, the wildlife and the highly spiritual nature of the foothills. When we decided to make Nevada City our permanent residence and bring our medical practice here we needed a larger home. This farmhouse on Cement Hill was the perfect setting.

By Roger Morrison -
Born in Rochester, NY and raised in Tennessee, graduating from the University of Tennessee medical school in 1978. I initially worked as an emergency room physician in Tennessee and Mississippi. Following two years abroad under a fellowship at the Athenian School of Homeopathic Medicine, I schemed my way to California in 1984. All goals were achieved when -- upon finishing my fellowship -- I married Nancy Herrick and found my way to California in one fell swoop. We searched for the perfect California town for many years until we found Nevada City and searched no more. We bought our first home here with the proceeds of my first book sales in 1993 and moved to Cement Hill in 2007. We continue to practice and live part-time in the East Bay, partly to remain nearby our beloved, beautiful, brainy daughter, Naomi, who is in her residency at the prestigious Highland Hospital Emergency Department. No we're not proud.

Words cannot fully express how much we both love this land and community. We are committed to contribute all we can to keep this area a paradise for those of us who are blessed to call this home. We look forward to meeting you at our home for the community picnic.



More Photos From The Garden Tour at Terra Flora



A Lesson on Biodynamic Composting.



Patricia Gave us an Informative Tour.



The Start of a Wonderful Day.

Ferrellgas Reminder

If anyone needs to fill up their barbeque tank, they can take it to the Ferrellgas office at 364 Lower Grass Valley Road and get the same low rate that Ferrellgas gives GCHNA members at their home. Just tell the gas operator that you are a GCHNA member.

Homeowners can check the Ferrellgas rate by using the Alta Sierra website http://www.aspoa.org/propane/ . Alta Sierra uses the previous week's wholesale gas prices for pricing, but their margin is the same as ours (43 cents).

FONA Chipping Article Continued

wood, pressboard, etc.), roots, stumps, dirt, pine needles, scotch broom, poison oak, blackberries, vines, or yard clippings.

Interested residents may call Trees Unlimited (530-271-5536) and, at the outset, identify themselves as a member of the FONA/GCHNA Chipping Program. They will check your name against a FONA provided membership validation list supplied to FONA and updated quarterly.

Customers must supply descriptive information of the work to be accomplished including the total number of piles to be chipped (contractor will not chip in excess of amount listed), the pile size (width, length, height), location of material (driveway, county road, private road), and any special precautions to take on the property (e.g. dogs, relevant fence lines, or gates, etc.)

Thanks to Warren Knox and FONA for all their work to promote the fire safety of our neighborhoods.

Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership *(check your membership status at www.gchna.com/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 2009. Enclosed is a check made out to GCHNA.

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

EMAIL _____

Mail check & form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959 ☐ E-mailed (PDF) newsletter preferred

GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

West End Cement Hill
West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.
Tim Hagan, (timhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane
Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road.
Larry Cook, (2cooks@att.net) 265-3088

Gochine Drive
Gochine, including Mr. Auburn Circle.
Carl Plaza, (plaza@ncws.com) 478-1802

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

Sunrock Road
Sunrock Road.
Susan Wiesner: (sawiesner@gmail.com), 265-4824

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road
Augustine Road, including Daisy Blue Mine, Leisure Lane, Lazy Oaks Drive, and Excelsior Ditch.
Marty Pezzaglia, (martypezzaglia@spiralemail.com) 265-3288

Crystal View Heights
Crystal View, including Golden Oaks.
Jean Oliver, (ajoliver@sbcglobal.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, (eileen@themagiccarpet.biz) 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.
Lin Donald, (lin-tom@sbcglobal.net) 265-3334

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

Airport Road
Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road.
(open)

At Large
Julie Cobden, (jcobden@gv.net) 265-5987
Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540
Tom Stone, (tastone@pacbell.net) 478-1295

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Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

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Who to Contact...

Membership Information
Eve Collins – 265-6540

Ferrellgas Information
Customer Service – 265-5896

Neighborhood Ferrellgas Contact
Tom Stone – 478-1295

The Fire Safe Council
Joanne Drummond - 272-1122

Bear or Mountain Lion Problems
USDA Trapper Larry Lane
(916) 239-8978

NID Web Site
www.nidcementhill.com, regarding treated water pipeline

FONA Web Site
www.fona-nevco.org

GCHNA Mission Statement

The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association is chartered to:

- Protect and preserve the rural qualities of our neighborhood by providing a forum for group action as needed.
- Communicate information quickly and efficiently about matters of neighborhood interest to its members and associates.
- Raise funds and supply volunteer labor for projects that enhance or improve our neighborhood.
- Be an organization through which our neighbors can meet and get to know each other in meetings and social gatherings.

Membership Guidelines

Fiscal Period is
January 1st – December 31st

Membership Dues due by
February 1st Grace period to May 1st

Anyone may join anytime during the year but will have to negotiate with Ferrellgas if joining after May 1st.

Newsletter Contributors
Editors: Susan Wiesner & Ellen Hagan
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And a big thanks to all our writers and photographers.