

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

For Ferrellgas
Discount Remember
to Renew Your
Membership

# **SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER**

www.gchna.com

### **Road Safety**

By Vince Lucia

Over the past year, I have noticed an increase of speed not only on the road in front of our home but also at other parts of Cement Hill and Indian Flat roads. In the beginning of my research, it became clear many residents had no idea what the speed limit was on Cement Hill Road until you pass West Piper Road where it is a posted at 35 mph. Beyond that sign, there is one more at Gochine Drive where it is posted at 30 mph. I first spoke to the County by phone and from that call, I was educated and



Safe Speed Continued on page 2

able to understand how speed limits are determined, enforced, and the steps needed to make any changes if a change is necessary.

The speed area I was concerned about, of course, was in front of our home, as many drive well over 40 mph both directions and it is extremely difficult to get out of our blind driveway safely. We have encountered several near collisions not to mention a couple runover pets over the few years we have lived here. We have seen school children walking on Cement Hill from the bus stop at Wet Hill dodging speeding cars, as well as the regular walkers and bike riders. More notably, there is a designated trail from Hirschman's Pond which brings additional walkers and bikers from Indian Flat Road to Cement Hill back down to Hirschman's parking area.

When I first addressed my concern to the county they advised our options and said they would evaluate the situation. After following up, it was determined there were not enough signs posting the speed limit of 25 mph. There is a 25 mph sign at the beginning of Cement Hill Road at Hwy 49 but that is actually Nevada City property. The County Roads team was very approachable and understanding of our situation and I was pleased to get so many timely responses, education, and actions from them. We truly have a great team of people at the county and the customer service was excellent.

## **Big Yellow Barn**



Save the Date - September 20, 2015 "25th Anniversary of our Neighborhood Family Picnic"

The 25th anniversary of our neighborhood family picnic will be held at Christy Barden's Big Yellow Barn

# GCHNA 2015 Meeting Dates

May 4, 2015 July 6, 2015 September 7, 2015 November 2, 2015 7:00pm - 8:30pm Coyote Street Firehouse



It was advised by the County to first place the speed trailer in the area of concern and to update the signage accordingly, which they did promptly and willingly after their own assessment of the road. Enforcement is not up to the county, but up to the California Highway Patrol. We are hoping not to have to request their services to slow our neighbors down.

If you are a resident of the GCHNA area with a similar situation and would like some assistance, I suggest you come to one of the neighborhood meetings and address your concern to the association. Together with the experience I gained,

we can then determine if an evaluation is necessary and take the next steps. Neighbors, we respectfully request everyone in all areas of the GCHNA to please drive safely.

# GREATER CEMENT HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION: 2015 APPROVED BUDGET & 2014 STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES

	APPROVED 2015 BUDGET		2014 ACTUAL		APPROVED 2014 BUDGET	
REVENUES						
Member Dues (& some member donations)	\$	4,600	\$	4,485	\$	4,600
Interest, other income or adjustments	\$		\$		\$	
Total Income:	\$	4,600	\$	4,485	\$	4,600
EXPENSES:						
Picnic	\$	1,400	\$	1,184	\$	1,500
Gifts, honorariums	\$	100	\$	-	\$	100
Spring Event	\$	300	\$	272	\$	200
3 Newsletters (including postage)	\$	2,200	\$	2,070	\$	2,000
Mtg Rm Annual Rent + refreshments	\$	200	\$	150	\$	250
Membership (FONA, Land Trust, Firesafe Council)	\$	500	\$	500	\$	500
P.O. Box Rent & postage (non newsletter)	\$	100	\$	89	\$	100
Consulting - Legal and other	\$	-	\$	-	\$	100
Web site, training & other software/web expenses	\$	750	\$	139	\$	400
Misc: Bank chg. other printing, stationery, supplies	\$	100	\$	31	\$	100
Total Expenses:	\$	5,650	\$	4,436	\$	5,250
REVENUES LESS EXPENSES:	\$	(1,050)	\$	49	\$	(650)
Actual 2014 expenses less than budgeted expenses by:			\$	814		

Submitted and approved March 2, 2015

## Steering Committee Meeting Update

By Ellen Hagan

Attendees: Ellen Hagan, Willie Brusin, Marty Pezzaglia, Susan Wiesner, Uli Paulin, Bill Holman, Alana Lucia, Terry Wagner, Larry Heiniemi, Vince Lucia, Eve Collins, Debbie Wandro

The meeting on March 2, 2015 was lead by Susan Wiesner. She reported on the completion of the 2014 audit by Uli, Nancy, Bob and Susie. No concerns were expressed. Susan submitted the 2015 budget noting increased costs for the newsletter and website maintenance. It was approved.

As a result of Vince's diligence, a 25mph speed sign has been placed at the junction of Cement Hill Road and Wet Hill in the hopes of slowing down traffic.

Delivery difficulties caused the January Newsletter to be late. More time will need to be built in for mailing. Our membership is 134. The annual picnic has been scheduled for Sept 20 (at Christy Barden's Yellow Barn). Using a FireSafe Council formula, GCH-NA's community efforts have translated into an in-kind contribution of \$10,000. Terry reported that planning is proceeding for the arts co-housing

project proposed at the corner of Hwy 49 and Cement Hill Road. Cat Scholz has been hired to maintain our website at a cost of about \$40 per month.

Uli is trying to organize a Scotch Broom Pull along Airport Road. A Steering Committee President and Vice President need to be elected. We invite all interested parties to attend meetings. The next meeting is May 4, 7pm, at NCCFD Station 84, Coyote St, Nevada City. Ellen Hagan



# Firewise Landscaping

It's spring and you've used the winter months to create and maintain your 100 feet of defensible space around your house. You've cleaned leaves from the gutters, trimmed branches 6 feet from the ground, and pulled Scotch Broom.

What else can you do to prepare for a forest fire under these drought conditions?

What landscaping choices can you make to maximize your fire safety? The article reproduced below was written by Stephanie Wagner, a Nevada County Master Gardener.

Firewise landscaping means strategically placing plants that have fire-resistant characteristics around the perimeter of your home, in order to interrupt the spread of fire. You can create a landscape that resists fire by incorporating the following techniques:

- \* Replace flammable plants with fire-resistant plants (download the Fire Safe Council's Firewise Plants for Western Nevada County booklet for detailed lists of fire-resistant plants). Choose plants that have natural differences that make them less flammable than others, including those with a high moisture content in their leaves, and deciduous trees and shrubs that have fewer leaves and open branching habits. But be aware that the selection of fire-resistant plant materials is just as important as how those plants are arranged and how well your landscape is maintained.
- Plant low-growing or compact, fire-resistant plants within 30 feet of structures.
- Plant taller shrubs away from the house in widely spaced groups with



Salvia Plani

low groundcovers or mulch between them. If using mulch within 5 feet of a structure, use colored rock, pea gravel or other less flammable materials for mulch. While mulch is beneficial, conserving soil moisture and suppressing weeds, bark mulches greater than 2 inches deep can smolder and are difficult to extinguish. Carefully choose the location of plants or garden beds that will need mulch.

- Space plants to allow for open areas. Create small, irregular clusters or islands of plants.
- Maintain horizontal & vertical spacing between plants. New plants or small groups should be spaced so branches will not touch other groups when fully grown.
- Choose plants that are the right size and scale, taking into account a plants' size at maturity.
- Use fire-resistant groundcover plants to slow the travel of fire through litter layers, such as sedums or succulents, which usually do not carry fire.
- Irrigate properly and use hydrozoning (grouping together plants that have the same water needs). Properly watered and well-maintained plants do not burn as readily as dry plantings. Obtain accurate irrigation information for lawns and landscapes,



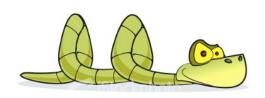
Penstemon Plant

from the University of California website: http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/ Drought\_/Drought\_Gardening\_Tips

Incorporating fire safe methods into residential landscaping is proven to be an effective tool in slowing down the spread of fire. It is one of the most important ways you can help your home survive a wildfire. And, it is one of the most easily modified ways to reduce your risk. For more firewise information, visit these websites: http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/General/Landscaping\_for\_Fire\_Protection/ & www.areyoufiresafe.com



Elephant's Food (Portulacaria afra)





# Mite Might Fight Scotch Broom

The following is an excerpt from an August 2014 publication of the University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra News. We are including it because the mite has recently been seen on Scotch Broom both in the Hirschman's Pond area and along the Cement Hill canal.

Weed scientists, land managers, foresters, botanists, and plant conservationists throughout Northern California are really excited over a tiny insect-like animal. The Broom gall mite (Aceria genistae) which is actually not an insect but more closely related to spiders and ticks has recently taken residence on the invasive plant Scotch Broom, one of the worst wildland weeds.

The good news about the gall mite is that it attacks Scotch Broom by forming small growths on the plant buds which greatly reduces the ability for it to grow and reproduce. In some areas, the gall mite has even killed large stands of Broom. Native to Europe, the mite was first found on Scotch Broom in Western Washington and Oregon. Although the mites are nearly invisible to the naked eye, the small growths that the plants make in response to the mite activity is quite noticeable. The small fuzzy masses occur along the length of the stem and can be quite numerous.



The Broom Gall Mite

In March 2014 it was discovered in El Dorado County and considered the ideal biological control agent due to the debilitating damage they cause to plants and their largely specialized feeding habits. The mite was also introduced into New Zealand in 2007 to try to combat the invasive weed. If you suspect evidence of Scotch broom gall mites, the University of California Cooperative Extension asks that you report it on their website http://ucanr.edu/broomgallmite.



# More Burglaries in Our Neighborhood

Two recent burglaries have been reported in the Greater Cement Hill Area. On Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> a home on Sunrock Road (off Cement Hill Road) was broken into around 2:30pm. The Sheriff surmised that one of the owners may have interrupted the thieves when she returned home and they heard her pull into the driveway.

An earlier burglary took place on Wednesday, Feb 25 between 11:00am and 3:30pm at a home on Country Circle (off Indian Flat Road).

The robbers often enter through sliding glass doors or windows in the back of houses where they cannot be observed. The sheriff's officers believe the suspects may be parking elsewhere nearby and then arriving



on foot. They quickly throw small items - jewelry, cash, silver, camera equipment into pillow cases and then take off.

In one case the robbers also took a computer. Fortunately the owner had recently backed up his data or he would have lost lots of photos that cannot be replaced. Another recommendation he made was not to keep any password information on your computer. Gaining access to that kind of information might compound regular theft into identity theft and access to financial accounts.

On Augustine Road, someone stole 3 driveway reflectors.

So be aware and be alert. Warmer weather is coming. Don't leave your car or house unlocked or windows open, making it easier for intruders to gain access. Again, if you see anything suspicious contact the Sheriff with details.





# A New Suspension Bridge for the Tribute Trail

Have you walked across the new suspension bridge over Deer Creek in Nevada City? If not, you're in for a treat. The bridge is beautiful and gives lovely views up and down Deer Creek. Don't forgo the urge to feel the sensation as you move up and down or side to side. Don't miss noticing the artistry of the rock walls built by the Forest Trails Alliance, a local volunteer organization.



To get to the bridge from Nevada City, walk west on Factory Street, which becomes Old Downieville Hwy. Bear left on Champion Mine Road after walking approximately two-thirds of a mile from the Miners Foundry. Shortly after turning on Champion Mine, look for the Tribute Trail logo which directs you left and leads you down to Deer Creek. After enjoying the view, you can continue across the bridge, climb a bit veering left at the fork, and you'll end up in the residential area on the far side of Deer Creek. Stay left following the signs and you'll end up at Pine Street and back in Nevada City. I would guess the loop is about 3 miles. How fortunate we are to have such a variety of walking experiences so close at hand!

#### **Beware Of Ticks**:

By Ellen Hagan

The warmer months are here and the ticks are out. Because many of us enjoy the outdoors, the precautions offered by Sierra Integrative Medical Center are worth noting.



- Keep your head covered. The ticks that carry Lyme disease are tiny and are more difficult to find when in hair.
- Stay on the trails.
- Wear light-colored clothing that will let you see ticks more easily. Wear a long sleeved shirt and tuck the shirt into pants. Tuck pants into socks.
- Check yourself thoroughly after a hike. Bathe or shower as soon as possible. Parents should check children for ticks under arms, behind knees, inside the belly button, and around ears. Examine gear and pets.
- In heavily wooded areas, use repellents that contain 20%-30% DEET. Follow product instructions carefully. Ticks feed by inserting their mouthparts into skin and taking a blood meal. If ticks are removed less than 24 hours after becoming attached, the chance of getting Lyme disease is very low.

To remove an attached tick, use tweezers to grab the tick as close to your skin as possible. Pull straight out using a firm, steady motion. Do not twist, smother, or burn an attached tick.

Keep yourself safe as you enjoy the forest this spring and summer!

## The Gchna Firewise Community Committee Needs You!

Are you concerned about fire safety in our neighborhood? Are you interested in fire issues?

In order to maintain our status as a Firewise Community, GCHNA must have a committee to coordinate fire prevention activities and present to the community pertinent information on fire threats, best practices, statute compliance, and fire insurance issues. We need GCHNA members to help us fulfill this requirement.



What would it entail? Committee members meet as needed to set goals and complete a yearly Action Plan. They attend the Firesafe Council's Defensible Space Advisory Training and represent GCHNA at the FireSafe Council Education meeting. They would organize events like a winter Firewise Education Day or a Scotch Broom Pull, etc. They would also assist the community to prepare for emergency evacuation.

Working to prevent wildland fire is one of the most important things we can do as a community. Help GCHNA help our neighborhood. If you're interested, contact Ellen Hagan, 530-265-9746.





## Are You On Our List? GCHNA Membership Renewal Reminder

By Eve Collins, Membership Chair

Thank you to the many members who have renewed their membership for the 2015 year. Please check our list in this newsletter for our current 2015 paid memberships to see if you paid this year's dues. Call the Membership Chair, Eve Collins if you have any questions. 265-6540.

Remember, the grace period is over on May 1st. After that date, if you need a fill up with Ferrellgas propane, and your membership has lapsed, you must contact Ferrellgas as they are not bound by contract to give the discount rate to non-members. You can in fact, renew your membership anytime during the year.

As always, membership opportunities include: meeting your neighbors; attending open Steering Committee meetings where you are encouraged to voice your concerns; getting information and representation about issues that may affect our neighborhood; getting a great rate with Ferrellgas; and attending neighborhood events (Spring Event and the Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic).

Again, remember the grace period is May 1st. So, please fill out the membership form in this newsletter or use the form available on our website - www.gchna.com - and mail it with your check for \$20 to GCHNA P.O. Box 1343, Nevada City, CA 95959, by May 1st. Thank you so much for your support this past year and we look forward to your continued support in 2015.

Sallee Allen Joseph & Frances Aragona

**Ed Arnott** Marty Austin

Wallace & Marilyn Bair

Luci Baker Christy Barden Ken & Laura Bigham Sharon Boivin Anna Bousouris **Bob & Edy Britts** 

Michael Brook & Cathy Blake

Ken and Joanne Brown Elke & Alastair Brown

Gary & Margaret Brown

Ed & Ardine Browning

Willie & Sue Brusin

Brian & Ruthanne Buckley

Mike, Karen, Shannon & Amber Busse

Jon Byerrum & Holly Hermansen

Stan & Linda Byrne Denis & Jennifer Cebollero Ernest & Linda Chiappari John & Lisa Christensen Gordon & Jeanette Clark

George Cloud Doug & Eve Collins Barry R. & Jacque Collins Larry & Cheryl Cook

Diana Cooley & Similoni Filikitonga

Charles & Leora Coovert Susan & Ieff Cowitz Robert Crawford

Dale Tom & Sandy Creighton Richard & Joan Davis Larry & Mary Anne Dulmage

Tom Dunham & Terri Beedle

Carl Eckardt & Priscilla Rose-Eckardt Stephen & Deborah Edwards

William & Shirley-Mae Elliot Don & Elizabeth Enoch

Myles & Colleen Ericson Mark & Delora Ferry Diane Fetterly

Jack & Patti Foster Gary & Cathy Fouyer Iill and Ion

Kate Frame

Frank & Fran Francis Mike & Barbara Getz Marion Gilbert Gary Goerz

Jeff & Anna Gold Henry Goodman & Susan Jakubik

Bill & Linda Greig Martin Hachler & Dawa Fitzmau-

Alan Haight & Jo McProud

Stephen Hein

Larry Heiniemi & Carolyn

Sherwood

Howard & Jill Hersh Richard & Susanne Hinman

Bill Holman Bob & Cindy Hren

Terry & Courtney Hundemer

Charles J. Hurst Dale & Diane Jacobson

Betty Johnson Blane & Linda Johnson Steven Jones & Liz Mevers Kevin & Ricki Kartes

Richard Katz & Patricia Kaminski

Tom & Kathleen Kelly Patrick Kleinhammer/Kimberly

Shepard

Ronald & Melanie Kuhnel

Dennis Kurlander David Kyle & Patt Lind-Kyle Suesan & Jeff Larsen

Spencer P. Le Gate Stan & Donna Levin Steve & Sheryl Levy

David & Lorraine Livingston

Art Lynn

Henry & Arabella Macias Dennis & Penny Matthews Craig & Gayle McClelland Rod & Marjorie McConnell

Helen McDonald Iulie & Jav McEnroe Tom & Cara Meinholz James & Sherry Miller

Carla Woodside & Doug Mitchell

Tom and Kathy Mollet

John Morales

Joan Regal & Steve Myers

LaVeta Nevius Bill & Chris Newsom Jim & Janice O'Brien Derek and Maureen Olsen David Painter & Sharon Winegar

David & Linda Palley

John Paul Uli Paulin

Denis & Nancy Paulson Charles & Julieta Phillips Carl & Joyce Plaza Robert & Ruth Racine Saul Rayo & Elena Powell

George & Jo Ann Rebane Christina Reski & Robert Ruschke Anthony & Jacki Kay Richards Lowell & Diane Robertson Doug & Penny Rodrick Dee & Dan Rodriguez Chuck & Janice Schretenthaler

Lew Sitzer

Carson & Miriam Skaggs

Richard & Cherie Simpson

Tim & Candace Segale

Glenn Smith Marilyn Smith Lisa Stine Tom Stone

Norman & Beverly Stout Rick & Mary Street Joel & Rita Sweet Steve & Edyann Switzer

Michael Taylor

Richard & Theresa Thomas Randy & Nahid Thompson Jeffrey & Sue Thomsen John & Bonnie Torres

Robert Trent

Paul & Mary Trethewey Patrick & Gerry Tribble Michael & Nikki Vasquez Patrick & Theresa Wagner Jack & Debbie Wandro Don & Louise Warner

Alan Weisberg & Susan Gregory Ted Smith & Susan Wiesner

Lee Williams

Robert & Susan Willour David & Joyce Yaksick





<b>Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership</b> (check If you haven't joined or renewed your membership to GCH.)	g your membership status at www.gchna.com/membership)			
Here's my \$20 GCHNA membership fee for 2015. Enclosed				
NAME(s)				
ADDRESS				
TELEPHONE FAX _				
EMAIL				
Mail check & form to: GCHNA, PO Box 1343, Nevada City, C	CA 95959 I would like to become involved. Please contact me.			
<b>\$</b>				
GCHNA Neighbork	nood Representatives			
West End Cement Hill	Lower Cement Hill Road			
West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow	Lower Cement Hill Road, including West Piper, Deer			
Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.	Crest, Rancheria Court, Red Hill Road, Foster Driveway,			
Ellen Hagan, Tim Hagan, (ellenhagan@oro.net) 265-9746	Picton, Picton Way, and Foster Road. Alana Lucia alinthegarden@gmail.com 913-9632			
Applewood Lane	aminicgarden eginan.com 715-7052			

Applewood Lane, including Indian Shack Road. Larry Heiniemi, (lheiniemi@gmail.com) 478-0298

#### **Gochine Drive**

Gochine, including Mt. 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

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. "open"

#### Central Cement Hill Road

Central Cement Hill Road, including Whispering Oaks, Merryhill Way, Gold Court, Spanish Quartz, Ragon Road, and Fox Hill Road to Central Cement Hill area. Patt Lind-Kyle (patt@lindandkyle.com) 478-9622

#### **Indian Flat Road**

Indian Flat Road, including Indian Trails, Country Circle, Woods Ravine Ct. and Robinson King Road. Terry Wagner (twags40@hotmail.com) 470-9206 and Bill

Sheatsley (stevieandbill@sheatsley.com) 265-2808

#### Southside Cement Hill

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

Debbie Wandro (1starrydeborah@att.net) 478-1498

#### Wet Hill Road

Wet Hill Road, including Sierra Springs Circle, Lower North Bloomfield Road, and Elliot Way.

Nancy Paulson, (nanpaulson@sbcglobal.net) 265-5919

#### Airport Road

Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road. Open

#### At Large

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540 Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387 Uli Paulin, (uli@ulipaulin.com) 265-4194 Bob and Susie Willour (bobnsusiew@att.net) 265-5754



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Greater Cement Hill
Neighborhood Association

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# **SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

#### Who to Contact...

Membership Information Eve Collins - 265-6540 Ferrellgas Information Customer Service - 265-5896 ferrellgas.com The Fire Safe Council Joanne Drummond - 272-1122

www.areyoufiresafe.com FONA Web Site

www.fona-nevco.org

The Cement Hill CFD Guide Booklet is now on the District's website at the following link.

<a href="http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-">http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-</a> project/cement-hill-cfd-projectdocuments/>http://nidwater.com/ cement-hill-project/cement-hill-cfdproject-documents/

## **GCHNA Mission Statement**

The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association is chartered to:

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

# **Membership Guidelines**

Fiscal Period is

January 1st - December 31st

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

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

Web Master Alana Lucia

#### Newsletter Contributors

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

