



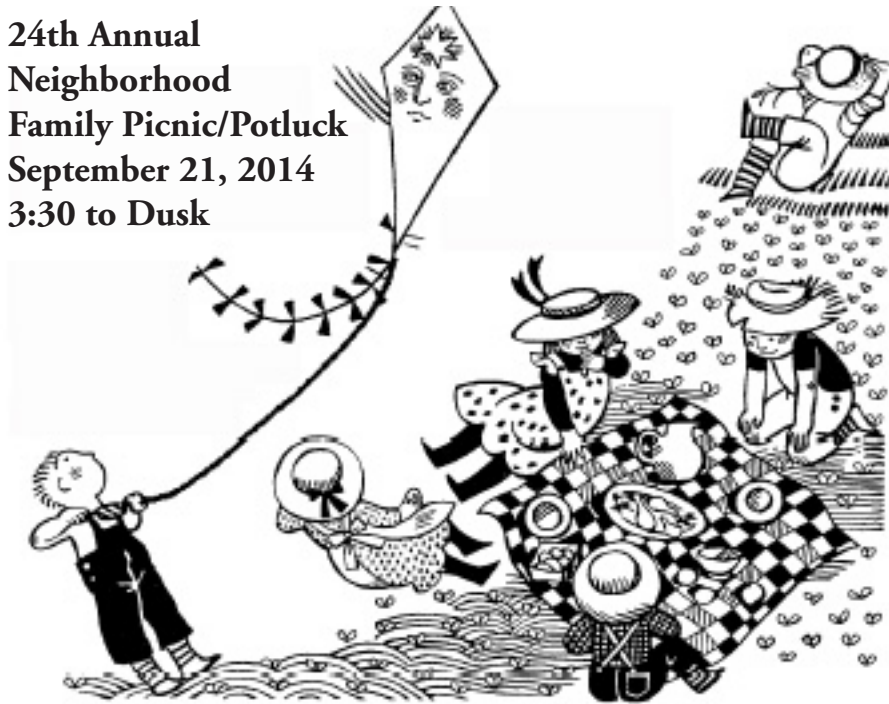
G · C · H · N · A Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Annual
Picnic/Potluck
September 21

SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

www.gchna.com

24th Annual
Neighborhood
Family Picnic/Potluck
September 21, 2014
3:30 to Dusk



24th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic/Potluck

“The Farmhouse”

13438 Cement Hill Rd
Far west end of Cement Hill Rd

It's picnic time again! Time for GCHNA members to gather together and celebrate 24 years of community involvement! Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 21st, 2014. Join us to visit old friends and make new friends at the beautiful old farmhouse of Nancy Herrick and Roger Morrison at the west end of Cement Hill Rd. Follow the signs.

3:30 to 4:30 - Happy hour and

socializing with music by our own
Lisa Stine and Anna Gold

4:30 until dusk Dinner and program
Our theme this year is “Fire Prevention
in a Drought Year” and our speakers
include our County Supervisor, Nate
Beason, Joanne Drummond from the
FireSafe Council, and NID Director,
Nancy Weber.

We encourage you to carpool as
parking is limited. Please pay attention
to the parking attendant as you
arrive before the driveway. Special
consideration will be available to
those who have trouble walking a
distance.

Harvest Potluck Please bring a
favorite main dish to share (no

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desserts needed), your own chair,
and place settings (non-disposable
eating utensils and plate preferable).
Vegetarian dishes are most welcome.
GCHNA will provide beer, wine,
coffee, tea, soda, and dessert. Cake is
generously donated by our local Flour
Garden Bakery.

Come join us for this wonderful yearly
event!

Farmhouse Gives Insight to Local History

By Susan Wiesner

The site of this year's neighborhood picnic has special significance as it is one of the very early farmhouses built on Cement Hill. Tracing the history of the land is a slow process but becomes meaningful through the stories that arise. The current farmhouse sits on a 10 acre parcel which includes two outbuildings, a pear orchard and a small cottage. For many years it was part of larger 80 acre tract of land and included what is now River Hill Farm and another adjacent property.

The first transfer record identified for this property was for land earlier claimed by the DeBernardi Quartz Mine but later abandoned for mining. When J. DeBernardi (a Nevada City charcoal dealer) passed away in 1883, the "ranch" and other acreage was inherited by his widow Catherine who then sold it to Manuel Jose Bernardo (M.J.).

M.J. Bernardo immigrated to the U.S. in 1864 at age 27 from the Portuguese Azore Islands. After his Portuguese wife, Mary, joined him in 1881, they chose to settle and raise a family on Cement Hill. They may have learned about property from the other Portuguese settlers who lived in this area: Anton Costa, Manuel S. Davilla and Manuel Ignacio. M.J. Bernardo bought the subject land for \$300 in "gold coin" in 1886. In this same transaction for 80 acres, he acquired the water rights of "that certain Ravine called Know Nothing Ravine, and that certain ditch known as the Kistle Ditch." The ditch and flume system, first built for mining purposes, had been extended and expanded to allow for agricultural uses. Above the house you can still see the remains of



a ditch and pond used to store water for household use.

The Bernardos raised five children on the property: Manuel, Joseph, Mamie, Annie & Francis. On official documents, M.J. showed his occupation at times as a miner and at other times as a farmer. He probably cleared much of the land for agricultural purposes constructing some of the rock walls and cairns

which stand to this day. The family most likely built the original farmhouse or expanded an existing building to accommodate their family as it grew. M.J. also acquired adjacent land to the south, increasing his holdings to over 160 acres by 1897. County assessment records from 1906 cite that his land had "improvements" valued at \$150. That was in addition to the value of a wagon \$20, harness \$10, 2 horses \$50 and 2 cows \$40!

Farmhouse continued on page 6



Local House Guttled by Fire

On June 14th at 3:30am Nevada County Consolidated Fire Engine 84, Nevada City Fire Engine 5482, the Grass Valley Fire Duty Chief and Cal Fire were dispatched to a vegetation fire in the area of Gochine Drive and Mt. Auburn Circle below Cement Hill Road. Arriving at scene, the firefighters found a well-involved structure fire rather than a vegetation fire, said Grass Valley Interim Fire Chief Mark Buttron.

Firefighters immediately called for a structure fire response, bringing two additional engines, and a second alarm due to fire conditions. Firefighters were faced with a large, well-involved structure fire, along with a small vegetation fire, Buttron said.

Firefighters briefly entered the structure to combat the fire and search part of the structure, before a roof collapse resulted in the removal of firefighters from the building. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the structure with limited vegetation involved and no damage to additional buildings. The home owner was away and fortunately no injuries were reported. Deputy Fire Marshall Terry McMahan has subsequently confirmed that it was an accidental electrical fire caused by rodent activity. The fire investigator told the homeowner it was the biggest rat he had ever seen, the size of a large cat!

A Gochine resident said that neighbors were very grateful for the nearby fire hydrants that gave the fire fighters a readily available water source and helped to prevent the fire from spreading beyond surrounding vegetation.

One takeaway lesson is the importance of maintaining a list of close neighbors' names and their mobile phone numbers and email



addresses as well as their landlines. Another suggestion was that an alternate emergency contact with a mobile phone number be maintained by neighbors. Do you know your neighbors and do you keep this information where it can be accessed quickly? Come to the annual picnic in September and meet your road representative.

Other good advice is to read the Fire Season Guide which includes the 2014 Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide. If you didn't already receive your copy, you can pick one up at the local fire station on Coyote Street. Emergency planning for the Cement Hill area is incorporated into the Bloomfield Plan and is available online at http://www.nccfire.com/Adobe%20Files/Bloomfield_EPG_web.pdf

We are well into fire season now so remember:

- Keep gutters and roofs clean of leaves and pine needles.
- Don't park your vehicles in high dry grass or leaf piles which could be easily ignited.

- Maintain your vehicles with more than a half a tank of gasoline.
- Remove all dead or dying plants from around your home.
- Move any wood piles at least 10 feet from your home.
- Keep an evacuation checklist.
- Register your cell phone for local emergency notification

Bluebird Farm

Our local Bluebird Farm is a permaculture farm and right now is a good time to meet Farmers Tom and Renee Wade to learn about permaculture.

Bluebird Farm is offering a weekly produce stand on Tuesdays from 4pm to 6pm. Stop by for ripe raspberries, shishito peppers, trombone summer squash, and an array of tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, potatoes, and other goodies. Stroll through the farm and check out the Labyrinth while you are here.



Possible Insurance Cost Savings

A new benefit of living in our Firewise community has been announced. On May 5th California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones announced the approval of a set of rate changes submitted by USAA that includes a 5% premium reduction for their customers living in a recognized Firewise community.

USAA, which provides a full range of financial products and services to the military community and their families, has been working with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for several years pursuing the possibility of providing incentives for residents of wildfire-prone areas to take steps to create safer, more fire-adapted communities.

The 5% discount will be applicable after October 1st, 2014 and upon renewal of a USAA homeowner's policy. So be sure to check your policy packet to see if you will benefit. Hopefully other major insurers take notice of what Commissioner Jones calls "USAA's enterprising decision" to address wildfire risk reduction and provide a comparable discount.

GCHNA Steering Committee At Work

By Ellen Hagan

The last Steering Committee meeting was held on July 14, 2014, from 6 to 8:30 at the NCCFD Station 84 in Nevada City. Attendees included: Ellen Hagan, Bob and Susie Willour, Debbie Wandro, Eve Collins, Terry Wagner, Uli Palin, Bill Holman, Susan Wiesner, Alana, Vince, and Amara Lucia, Carl Plaza, Willie Brusin, and Bill Sheatsley. We have 211 members at this point. Picnic planning continues. The picnic

committee includes: Eve, Susan, Terry, Debbie, Carl, and Ellen.

GCHNA was a sponsor of the FireSafe Council's annual fundraiser. Susan will submit to the FireSafe Council an amended map describing the boundaries of the GCHNA community. Terry, our FONA rep, reported on the issues discussed at their last meeting which include: Measure S and the proposed changes to the marijuana ordinance now in place, regulation of events like weddings in residential areas, and Consolidated Fire District's Fire Chief position.

Alana has researched usage on our website and reported that there had been 366 views since Sept 2013 and provided us with a graph of the data. Improving the website to allow posting of the newsletters was discussed, and a motion to provide funds to have this done was passed unanimously.

Hazardous vegetation abatement ordinance: An ordinance adding article 7 to Chapter IV of the Nevada County General Code was presented to the BOS April 22 (first reading). We recognize that this will have a financial impact on our neighborhood and more information needs to be gathered. Nate Beason will be asked to address this issue if he's able to speak at our picnic.

Our next meeting is Sept 8, 2014, 7pm at the NCCFD Station 84, Coyote St., Nevada City. The final meeting of the year will be Nov. 3.

Land Management Plan for Hirschman's Pond

At a recent Nevada City Council meeting, the Land Management Plan developed by Sierra Streams Institute got full support and approval. Its purpose

is to guide management of the Nevada City-owned 85.34 acre Hirschman's Pond Property, with the goals of maintaining a healthy forest in perpetuity, improving recreational opportunities, and preventing catastrophic wildfires. Sierra Streams will begin, hopefully by next spring, to obtain funding to implement the plan.

This plan will reduce forest fuel loads through the removal of highly flammable woody understory and invasive species, such as Scotch Broom, and through thinning and re-location of high concentrations of woody debris and ladder fuel species. It will prevent potential water quality impacts to Woods Ravine, a tributary of Deer Creek, by preventing erosion that ensues after catastrophic fires. Forest habitat for plants and animals will be improved and that will contribute to increased water quality in Woods Ravine and Deer Creek.

Sierra Streams scientists have assessed the forest resources, wildlife and habitat, soils, and water resources, and have developed management goals and strategies. They will continue monitoring bird, mammal, amphibian, and reptile populations. Quarterly measuring of water quality will take place at Woods Ravine. For detailed information about this management plan contact Sierra Streams Institute at www.sierrastreamsinstitute.org.

GCHNA appreciates the efforts of Sierra Streams to ensure that Hirschman's Pond will remain a healthy habitat that nurtures the plants, animals, and people of our community for a long time to come.



NID Shares Concerns on Water, Drought, Climate Change

An audience of about 250 turned out on July 24 to learn about challenges the Nevada Irrigation District faces regarding the current drought and our changing water future.

The two-hour NID Water Summit included presentations on the district's water system and operations, issues involving water rights, changing rules and regulations, and the water supply impacts of climate change.

"The district's water storage is not currently adequate to endure back to back dry years," said NID Water Operations Manager Chip Close, who noted the region is now in its third dry year. "Our system relies heavily on the water in the snowpack."

NID General Manager Rem Scherzinger said a changing and warming climate is bringing less snow and more rain. He said more rain and less snow at higher elevations will impact the district's ability to collect water. "Most of our reservoirs are up at the higher elevations; we need to look at more mid-range storage," he said.

NID legal counsel Jeff Meith explained the pre-1914 and post-1914 water rights the district uses to supply its customers. The district's post-1914, or "junior" water rights to divert water have been suspended under the State Water Board's May 27 curtailment order, but the pre-1914 "senior" rights remain unaffected, he said. "I'm from the old school that says water rights are property rights," said Meith. He recounted a series

of drought actions taken at the state level this year, from the governor's drought emergency declaration on Jan. 17 to the state board's emergency water use regulations of July 15. He said the state rules have been confusing and difficult to enforce for local agencies.

Scherzinger said NID service areas in Nevada and Placer counties are getting through the drought with customers doing a great job of water conservation. NID has asked all customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20 percent. "Our urban water use is down 16 percent over the past four months," he said.

The general manager drew rounds of applause when he said, "We don't sell our water outside the district; we keep it here where it performs for us," and when he talked about NID's unique project to remove Gold Rush-era mercury from the Bear River watershed while reclaiming valuable water storage space.

Scherzinger said NID is studying a range of opportunities for increasing water storage. These include sediment removal from existing reservoirs, raising Rollins Reservoir by five feet and considering new storage sites. "When it comes to new water storage, it's not a matter of if, but when," he said.



Jean Oliver

GCHNA is sad to hear of the passing of Jean Oliver who was a longtime member of our community and a former Steering Committee member of GCHNA. While surrounded by loved ones, Jean passed away peacefully at Hospice of the Foothills in Grass Valley, Calif. on May 7, 2014.

Jean Mearl Cannom Oliver, daughter of Pasadena artist Alzada (Knutson) and Lawrence Cannom, was born Nov. 9, 1921 in Highland Park, Calif.

After graduation from Pasadena High School, Jean attended Pasadena City College, graduating in the class of 1942. She married Richard Atckison, a WWII pilot and professional singer from South Pasadena in 1944. In 1975 she married Andrew Oliver of Newport Beach, Calif. They later settled in Nevada City. Jean and Andrew traveled extensively to such destinations as Russia, Scotland and Greece. Jean was an avid square dancer, gardener, artist and loved to sing.

Jean was an inspiration and we will miss her.





Mary Jorgensen died peacefully on July 23, 2014 in her Cement Hill home surrounded by her loving family. She was 98.

A Quaker-style memorial service will be held Sunday, September 14th, at 3 p.m. at the Sierra Friend's Center (John Woolman School) 13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City.

Mary was energetic, conscientious and active in many aspects of community during her long life. She was a social justice activist, a lover of nature and a great dancer and gardener. She especially loved GCHNA's annual picnics which she attended every year.

Rainbow Market Is Now A Village Post Office

People living in the greater Cement Hill neighborhood now have a new place to find postage and Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and envelopes. The Rainbow Market is at 16797 Highway 49 across from the Willo.

In 1914 M.J. transferred title of the primary 80 acres to his son Joseph.

By the time M.J. Bernardo died in 1922 the land had passed to Astiace Luigi Silicani. Born in Lucca, Italy, Astiace immigrated to the U.S. in 1899 and lived for several years in Humboldt County operating a "donkey" steam engine in the logging industry before he moved to Cement Hill with his wife Carolina and their three children: Arnold, Messalina ("Lena") and Homer ("Tito"). Their ranch was described as a dairy farm and he considered himself a farmer on census records but he also worked as a mine superintendent. The Silicani must have felt quite comfortable joining the Orzallis, the Agostinis, the Garesios and other Italian families who had previously settled in the area. It was not uncommon to have gatherings for holidays or celebrations. One such occasion turned to a tragedy and has been recounted over the years by several descendants of the original Italian families.* The Silicani family and friends had gathered under the large fig trees (still growing near the farmhouse) for a picnic. Carolina decided to bake cookies for the group and crossed the field below to gather fresh eggs from the chicken house. A bull she had raised like a pet unexpectedly turned on her and trampled her to death. Shocked neighbors later gathered to mourn her passing and Mary Morales recalls as a child carrying two large platters of ravioli to the farmhouse with her mother, May E. Orzalli.

Astiacce Silicani continued to live in the area but moved to a smaller cabin on Cement Hill near the Applewood area. In 1942 the ranch property was sold to Mervyn N. Robinson (M.N.) and his wife Ann who arrived from Niland, California, with their adopted

daughter, Elizabeth ("Betty") Ann. Betty Ann loved to ride bareback through the lower fields on her Palomino horse named "Tom" holding only the mane as reins - no saddle, no bridle! The Robinsons farmed on a larger scale than the other Cement Hill neighbors. In addition to the local acreage they owned farmland in the Imperial Valley where they grew cantaloupes, tomatoes and squash. While many neighbors grew grapes and made wine each year for personal consumption, the Robinsons outdid everyone else with a huge tank in the basement for processing grapes and storing large quantities of wine. On the local property they also had a sizeable pear orchard and in late summer the pears and grapes were hauled to Colfax for sale. A large rock and masonry outdoor oven was constructed near the house for baking. To help with farm work and act as caretakers, a Mexican couple from the Imperial Valley lived in the nearby cottage.

Since those times, the house and property have passed through several other owners. Parts of the extended property were sold off and during one period the house fell into neglect. More recent additions and major renovations to the original house have been made to increase the size, modernize the kitchen and add an office. While the original stone foundation work, the wrap around covered porch and the hefty original wooden beams keep the "flavor" of the historic home, the added rooms and modern amenities allow the current owners to continue a tradition of welcoming guests to the property.

*The author appreciates the oral histories and some of the stories provided by Mary Morales (previously Mary Orzalli Peard) and her son Burnell Peard - both of whom still live in the area.



Join GCHNA or Renew Your Membership (check your membership status at www.gcbna.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 2014. 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 ☐ I would like to become involved. Please contact me.



GCHNA Neighborhood Representatives

West End Cement Hill

West end of Cement Hill Road, including Sunshadow Circle, Cedar Song Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.
Ellen Hagan, 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 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, Skyranche 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

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. **Open**

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.
Scott Adams, (sadams1635@sbcglobal.net) 470-0273

At Large

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540
Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387
Uli Paulin, (upaulin@ttz.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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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.

<<http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-project/cement-hill-cfd-project-documents/>>
<http://nidwater.com/cement-hill-project/cement-hill-cfd-project-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

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Copy Editor: Eve Collins.

*And a big thanks to all
our writers and photographers.*

