



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

25th Annual
Picnic/Potluck
Reflecting on GCHNA's
25 Year History

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

www.gchna.com

It's a Special Year! Our Silver Anniversary!

Everyone is welcome to gather together for a Hoedown at the Big Yellow Barn and celebrate 25 years of community involvement! Join us to visit old friends and make new friends. Wear your cowboy hats and boots! Christy Barden is our host this year. To get to The Big Yellow Barn, take Hwy 49. Drive 2 miles past the Willo Restaurant. Turn right on Cedarsong Road. Look for the sign on the right. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 20th, 2015.

Door Prize This year GCHNA has purchased a day of weed-eating (a \$250 value) from All Phase Land Clearing as a door prize. You should already have received a postcard in the mail. Bring that postcard which will be placed into the cowboy hat for the drawing. The winner must be present at the drawing to claim the prize.

3:30 to 4:30 - Happy hour and socializing with music by Runnin' 4 Cover. Three of its members live in our neighborhood. Band members are Ken Bigham -electric & acoustic guitar, vocals and harmonica, Mark Thielen - drums, David Cosby - bass, Kelly Nevius - keyboard and vocals, and Paul Siese banjo and vocals. Their country tunes are danceable and timeless. Be ready for fun!

25th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic Hoedown at the Big Yellow Barn

**The Big Yellow Barn
10141 Cedarsong Rd.**



**Sept. 20th, 2015
3:30 to dusk
Celebrating
25 Years!**

4:30 until dusk Dinner and program. Our speakers will be Nevada County Supervisor Nate Beason and Joanne Drummond from the FireSafe Council.

Harvest Potluck Please bring a favorite main dish to share (no desserts needed) 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!

What's Inside

2. GCHNA's History
3. FireSafe Signs
3. Sheriff Bob Jakobs
4. Kudos for Gochine Rd.
4. Firewise Community
5. Fire Hydrants
5. Nextdoor Program
6. Meeting Dates
6. Scotch Broom Pull



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

Reflecting on GCHNA's 25 Year History .

By Eileen Jorgensen and Ellen Hagan

During this 25th year anniversary, GCHNA reflects on its accomplishments while celebrating the neighbors that came together to make it all happen. Let's look back....

In 1990 we organized to represent our neighborhood at the 1990 Nevada County General Plan update. We created a survey with more than half of our neighborhood responding which helped to represent our interests during the County's update. At that time we produced our first newsletter.

Since then GCHNA has:

- Hosted annual Neighborhood Picnics and we're celebrating our 25th this year
- Developed a data base of residents and local officials to help us keep in touch with approximately 500 neighbors and community leaders
- Negotiated a contract with Ferrell gas proving beneficial to many of us
- Created the gchna.com web site
- Given community input during the establishment of Coyote Park and provided seasonal clean-up until 2005
- Worked with Nevada City and the Nevada County Land Trust to create Hirschman's Trail
- Worked with the FireSafe Council to become a Firewise Community and continued to educate our community about fire safety to maintain that status

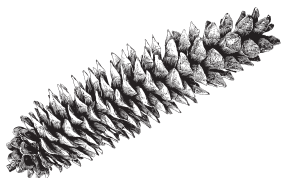
■ Partnered with NID and the County to create a Community Facilities District to bring 11 miles of treated water pipeline and 55 fire hydrants up Cement Hill Road. GCHNA continues to follow the issues pertinent to our neighborhood and acts as a voice for neighborhood concerns and a forum for group action as needed. Our achievements have shown what can be achieved when neighbors work together. We welcome your energy in participating with your neighborhood association. Join us.



Don't Burn Down Our Town"

As part of their campaign to discourage burning by people camping illegally, the Firesafe Council has provided GCHNA with signs that say "Don't Burn Down our Town - Hot sparks and campfires put everyone at risk." They need to be placed where there is illegal camping as a reminder that campfires at this time of year are a terrible risk.

Are you aware of any spots in our neighborhood where people are camping illegally? Please let a GCHNA rep know and we'll arrange to place a sign. One has been placed at the entrance to Hirschman's Pond. Another has been placed on West Airport Road where GCHNA did the Scotch Broom Pull because there was evidence of camping there. Where else?



Sheriff Bob Jakobs Speaks to the Steering Committee

By Ellen Hagan

Over the last few years, a number of burglaries have been reported at GCHNA meetings. The GCHNA Steering Committee invited a Sheriff's Office representative to our May meeting to address our concerns about burglaries in our neighborhood. Here is a summary of Sgt. Bob Jakob's talk.

In the last year, there have been 4 validated burglaries where someone has entered a dwelling or structure and 3 thefts where something was stolen, but no entry was made. This is actually a low crime rate compared to other areas of the county, but Sgt. Jakobs encouraged us to be diligent. He provided us with a map showing the locations of the burglaries within the year and shared information on several specific crimes. He explained the Sheriff's Dept. process of looking for evidence and canvassing the neighborhood. He discussed the issue of the steak salesman who caused concern by doing door-to-door sales. When questioned by the Sheriff's Office, it was found that he worked for a legitimate company in Reno.

Sgt. Jakobs' recommendations for discouraging burglaries include anything that would make it more difficult for them to do what they do. Making your house visible from the street, gates, dogs, and home-surveillance/ alarm systems or motion-activated cameras are useful. Neighbors being aware of who is in the neighborhood and communicating with other neighbors or having an organized neighborhood watch group is very effective.

Sgt. Jakobs explained that at the present time economic constraints have caused the Sheriff's Dept. to be

understaffed and officers are sent out on a priority basis with violent crimes answered before burglaries. Burglaries often go hand in hand with drug use.

In the event of a burglary, homeowners should call 911.

Recently, a free private online network called Nextdoor Cement Hill has been established where members share safety concerns. Some GCHNA members have joined the program. Those interested in more information should check out the website www.nextdoor.com.

GCHNA encourages all our members to get to know their neighbors and share contact information. Be diligent in communicating with one another about suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Watch out for one another.



Large oak struck by lightning on Cement Hill Rd earlier this year.



Gochine Rd & Mt. Auburn Circle Receive Kudos for Fire Preparedness

By Susan Wiesner

Another road association within the Greater Cement Hill area has taken positive steps to promote Fire Safe education and review the Defensible Space of their properties. In April Jeff Dunning, a guest speaker from the Fire Safe Council, inspired residents of Gochine Road / Mt. Auburn Circle to take action and arrange for Advisory Visits from the Fire Safe Council. The results are impressive. Warren Knox, an experienced volunteer Fire Safe Advisor, visited with participating homeowners, inspected their properties and shared these comments: "For any purposes that you may have, this has been the very best prepared neighborhood I have ever inspected. Folks have done a very impressive job of fuels management, and in many cases have gone well beyond the PRC 4291 requirements even for steep slopes. House construction issues are in hand, and everyone seems to be well aware of the hazards and paying attention."

However, there is always room for improvement and one recurring fire risk was identified. "A lot of folks here are hell bent on hiding their propane tank, usually behind a surrounding wooden fence. Leaves and needles are left to accumulate around and under the tank, creating a very significant threat in case of wildfire. In some cases these tanks are close to or abutting an out building creating an ever greater hazard."

To address this issue Joanne Drummond of the Fire Safe Council suggests the best option for those concerned with landscape aesthetics is to use fire rated building materials to screen the propane tank. In some

communities such as Lake of the Pines and Lake Wildwood they have actually revised their CC&Rs to require fire rated material. Eventually, all the wood lattice will be replaced with hardy plank type siding, leaving a ventilation gap at the base which also provides for blowing leaves/needles out. Alternatively, homeowners could plant English Laurel or Photinia at a 10' distance and provide a Firewise vegetation screen that does not propagate fire...but of course, the leaves and needles must be raked or blown from under the bushes.

GCHNA is pleased to recognize this specific neighborhood as well as several other neighbors who are doing their part in pruning, clearing and constant maintenance required to reduce fire risk. As we hear the helicopter and spotter plane fly over our area during fire season we may take some comfort that many properties have been tended to significantly reduce their fuel load.

Help Gchna Maintain Its Firewise Community Status

By Ellen Hagan

Each year active Firewise Communities are asked to calculate their annual per capita investment to reflect community education and preparedness work. This year GCHNA has continued to use our newsletter to inform and educate about fire safety, sponsored a Scotch Broom Pull, and will highlight fire preparedness at our annual picnic in September. Each hour of volunteer work is worth \$23.07 toward our in-kind investment.

Right now, because we collect no data, we get no credit for the time individual homeowners spend making

their properties more firesafe. We get no credit for the amount of time you pay a contractor to improve your defensible space. We know you responsible GCHNA property owners have removed trees, brush, and grass from around your structures. You have cleaned gutters of debris. You have removed tree limbs less than 6 feet from the ground around structures.

GCHNA needs a way to track your investment. We need property owners to tell GCHNA what type of work they've done and the number of hours of effort spent this year. For example, one Cedarsong Road property owner paid a local contractor for 3 hours of mastication. Three hours times \$23.07 equals \$69.21 of in-kind investment for our Firewise Community. Each year Gochine neighbors hire a person to weed-eat at a cost of \$350. Numerous properties along Cement Hill Road have been cleared of brush. All these efforts can be quantified and used to show that our neighborhood is working to mitigate the threat of wildfire.

So, how can you as a GCHNA member help? Tell GCHNA what you've done to make your property more firesafe. Go to our website www.gchna.com. Along the bar at the top, click Contacts. Give us your name, email, and in the message box, write Firewise Community data. Tell us the approximate date of your project, the type of work done, and the number of hours worked. Then submit.

Every little bit helps! Your effort will help GCHNA meet its annual per capita investment and insure our status as a Firewise Community.



A Primer on Fire Hydrants

By Susan Wiesner

One of the major benefits of bringing NID treated water to several Cement Hill areas was the inclusion of fire hydrants in the project. As we see smoke in the air and listen to fire spotting planes fly over the ridge during fire season it is comforting to know that many properties now have the additional fire risk protection afforded by those bright yellow water hydrants visible along so many of our neighborhood roads.

Have you ever wondered (as I have) who is responsible for maintaining those hydrants? A phone call to Joanne Drummond at the Fire Safe Council provided the following answer from an article by our local Fire District Deputy Director Terry McMahan.

In Western Nevada County water for the fire hydrant system is supplied by one of three water agencies, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID), City of Grass Valley (GV) and the City of Nevada City (NC). All of the systems are designed to gravity feed water to its respective customers.

The public fire hydrants in our neighborhood are maintained both by NID and Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. The interworking valves and piping of the hydrant are maintained by the water agency while the painting, lubricating of the caps and clearing around a hydrant are completed by the Fire Department. At times a property owner may be notified and requested to remove such things as landscaping or a fence built too close to the hydrant. A minimum three foot clearance around the hydrant is required by code. With the exception of the past few drought years, NID



completes a flushing program for water quality. In addition to improving water quality by flushing the system it also allows the crews to exercise the hydrant valves as well as the valve in the road.

You will notice that fire hydrants are several colors. The color coding tells us (and fire officials) several things such as the amount of gallons per minute available and if it is a public, private or drafting hydrant. The barrels of public hydrants are usually painted yellow while the private hydrants (installed and maintained by property owners) are painted silver. Drafting hydrants (which use fire engine pumps to draw water from a tank or body of water) are identified by red, black or a sign indicating a drafting hydrant.

The top and caps may be painted certain colors to indicate how much water is available. Blue is over 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm), green is 1,000 to 1,499 gpm, orange is 500 to 999 gpm and red is less than 500 gpm. The hydrants provided during the water system installation were painted all yellow but according to Terry McMahan they will be painted in the future to conform to the above standards as needed and as time allows. We are fortunate to have good pressure in our system and hopefully with rain permitting we will have the water available to fight fires.

So What is "Nextdoor Cement Hill"???

By Susan Wiesner

Starting in April of this year some of you may have received an email invitation or a postcard to join Nextdoor Cement Hill. Well, here is the scoop...



Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighborhoods in the United States. It is based in San Francisco and allows users to connect with people who live in their neighborhood and nearby neighborhoods. It is not sponsored by or connected with the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association. However, over 50 neighbors have signed up and are using it to communicate in a timely way about very local issues such as bear activity, garage sales or house burglaries.

It competes with other social networks such as Yahoo Groups, Yelp, Facebook and Google Groups but differentiates itself by limiting access to posts to the people in each neighborhood or those nearby such as the Great Champion Neighborhood or Nevada City. You may adjust your account settings to limit notices to the Cement Hill area only. If you are interested in learning more, google and read the New York Times article dated March 3, 2015.



GCHNA Scotch Broom Pull April 9, 2015

By Ellen Hagan

The yellow Scotch Broom was dense covering both sides of West Airport Road. There was way too much, a fire danger because it burns so hot. Denis and Jennifer Cebollero, along with their neighbor Uli Paulin, had already cleared their property, but were concerned that the neighboring property owned by Nevada City, was creating a fire risk and would spread the seed back on their land. A GCHNA team worked one morning last spring to make the road a little more firesafe. Our hearty team consisted of W.Airport homeowners Denis and Jennifer Cebollero, Susan Wiesner, Eve Collins, Ellen Hagan, Paul Trethewey, and Eileen Jorgensen. With the help of the weed wrenches provided by the Fire-safe Council and relatively soft ground, the job went well. Denis and Jennifer were most appreciative. I believe each of us on the team felt a sense of accomplishment after our strenuous morning.

In some ways it was a small effort, given that Scotch Broom covers so much of Nevada County, but Paul reminded us that small steps can lead to bigger change. Nevada City took on the responsibility of hauling away the debris.

Thank you so much to those who participated. A Scotch Broom Pull each spring is part of GCHNA's action plan to maintain our Firewise Community status. Please consider joining us next year.

Also, remember that keeping our properties free of Scotch Broom is one thing each homeowner can do each spring to mitigate the effects of a wildfire. Weed wrenches are loaned by the Firesafe Council to GCHNA members.



GCHNA 2015 Meeting Dates

September 7, 2015
November 2, 2015
7:00pm - 8:30pm
Coyote Street Firehouse



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 2015. 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, (ellenhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane

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, 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. Alana Lucia
alinthegarden@gmail.com 913-9632

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





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

Member of Non-Profit . Federation of Neighborhood Associations
P.O. Box 1491, Nevada City, CA 95959

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 68
NEVADA CITY, CA

SUMMER 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.

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

