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Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Annual
Renewal Form
and
Envelope
Inside

WINTER 2008-2009 NEWSLETTER

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Steering Committee Sayz..

by Jeanette Clark, Secretary & President
ProTemp

My father was an avid yachtsman on San Francisco Bay and so my lessons of life were learned from adventures on a 38-foot Farallone clipper at a very young age. His main concern for me was to learn to control my youthful impulsiveness and when the waters got rough and winds howled, his words were "Steady the ship." O.K...and that's GCHNA's course for the immediate future. The Steering Committee has contemplated our objectives and goals for next year and they are:

- Continue to monitor the Nevada Irrigation District's Cement Hill Pump Zone Project.
- Negotiate a new and viable Ferrellgas contract that will maintain our low cost for propane for our members, and assist in advertising Ferrellgas' quality product and service. .
(By-the-way – new contract accomplished ... thanks to Marty Pezzaglia, Eileen Jorgensen and Tom Stone – and of course, Ferrellgas!)
- Host a Tea and Tour on May 9 at Flower Essence Society, and organize our 19th Annual Neighborhood Family Picnic on Sept. 20.

- The final project is to assist in publishing a Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide for our constituents and members that will compliment the Nevada County Fire Plan.

Through the maze of all this, and our normal sharing of concerns for the various neighborhoods that encompass the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association at our monthly meetings, we as a Steering Committee do have several representative positions open, and two officer chairs that need to be filled by members of GCHNA. So, come help us chart the course and "steady the ship." Send comments to Jeanette Clark cementhill@aol.com.



Steering Committee sings an ode to the Prez.

Open Space

By Paul Matson

Nevada City shines in the acquisition and preservation of significant areas of city-owned open space. Today the combined total is around 400 acres, much of it in the Cement Hill neighborhood. This is a remarkable achievement for a tiny town of 3,000 residents.

As a follow-up to meeting with you at your annual picnic, I would like to jot down a few additional comments.

The Old Nevada City Airport: Between Cement Hill and Lake Vera Roads, 113 acres, mostly flat, wooded, closed in 1968 for safety reasons. Zoned Agricultural Forestry, it has generated proposals for a golf course, tree farm, winery and a subdivision.

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Open Space Continued

The Deer Creek Environs: A pristine 40-acre parcel on Deer Creek, donated to the city by the Grass Valley Group during their annexation, mid 1980's.



Paul Matson gives us a history on Open Space.

Hirschman's Pond: Purchased for \$480,000, with 2002 state park and recreation funds, this 33-acre site was a hydraulic mine and is now a forested, riparian community. Five additional acres were recently purchased for better access from Cement Hill Road.

Indian Trails: Just west of Hirschman's, the Indian Trails subdivision donated 50 acres running along the north side of Highway 49 in 2004.

Little Deer Creek: Nevada City received 40 acres at the headwaters of Little Deer Creek as part of a settlement with the Deer Creek Park II subdivision developers in 2007.

The Future:

Trails: Nevada City has secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in trail grant funds by partnering with Friends of Deer Creek, the Nevada County Land Trust and others. Trails are now under construction on Deer Creek and Highway 49 and will someday interconnect. If the trail programs continue to grow, eventually it will be possible to walk from the Nevada City

Airport to Hirschman's, from Hirschman's out Highway 49 to Woods Ravine (or a similar route), cut down the ravine to Deer Creek, and then continue on up Deer Creek all the way into town and on to Pioneer Park.

BLM: One key property to accommodate this itinerary is a remnant Bureau of Land Management parcel that lies between Cement Hill Road and the Old Nevada City Airport. The City of Nevada City would be an excellent future owner of this acreage, but in any event, the city has already secured a recorded easement across this site to allow for future access to the old airport.

Property Management: With drier forests and rising temperatures, I believe Nevada City will one day manage these properties as forestlands for improved public safety and continued public enjoyment.

Sugarloaf: It is my hope that Sugarloaf, the traditional backdrop for Nevada City, will also be secured and protected. It and its neighboring sister parcel under the same ownership, Manzanita Diggins, have been in and out of escrow quite recently.

As a former city council member of 20 years, I believe Nevada City's work to preserve open space is unequalled anywhere, based on the small size of our great community.

Editors Note: Our thanks to Paul Matson who spoke at the annual family picnic on open spaces. We appreciate his time and knowledge of Nevada City.



Bad Air Blamed on Backyard Piles, Stoves

By Dave Moller, Senior Staff Writer
Article published in The Union, 22 November 2008

Improper burning in wood stoves and backyards is being blamed for the bad morning air quality in southern Nevada County this past week.

"We're getting a lot of calls about bad air," Joe Fish said Friday at the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District in Grass Valley. "We're getting calls from people with respiratory problems.

"It's because of wood stoves and some outdoor burning," Fish said, but not the controlled burns occurring near White Cloud and Washington during the week.

"People are not operating their woodstoves properly, and these cold morning inversions trap the smoke, and it doesn't lift until 9 or 10 a.m.," Fish said.

Many of the calls came from the Alta Sierra area and Banner Mountain, where residents were conducting private burns, Fish said.

When using a wood stove, people need to steer away from untreated green wood, Fish said. Years ago, he learned to put a green log in his wood stove before going to bed to have hot coals in the morning.

"But all night long, I was sending smoke into the environment," Fish said, so he stopped the practice. "People need to go outside to see what the stove is doing" and not just assume their fire is clean.

Smoke is produced by the moisture in green wood, according to a wood burning handbook published by the California EPA Air Resources Board. Wood smoke can contain cancer-causing substances including benzene and formaldehyde, the handbook said.

Continued on page 3



Bad Air Continued

Those with wood stoves should only use dried, seasoned wood, the handbook said. When buying wood, look for dark cracked ends, light weight and bark that easily strips off.

When starting a fire, open the damper fully for 30 minutes, the handbook said. Start the fire small with kindling and add larger pieces as the fire builds, while turning the damper down.

Composting the yard or property waste is also a good way to use it instead of burning it and adding to the pollution, Fish said.

“Pine needles take time, but you can let them go right back into the soil,” just like they do to rejuvenate the forest floor,” Fish said. Burn piles should also be dry and contain wood material to help them burn and not just smoke, Fish said.

For more information, visit woodheat.org or myairdistrict.com.

To contact Senior Staff Writer Dave Moller, e-mail dmoller@theunion.com or call 477-4237.

Editors note: the Wood Heat Organization Inc. web site, is a nonprofit, nongovernmental agency dedicated to the responsible use of wood as a home heating fuel. The myairdistrict.com web site is the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District web site.

Editors note: Joe Fish is the Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer at the Grass Valley Office of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District.

Fire & Emergency Preparedness Plans

By Marty Pezzaglia

The Template for Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Plans (funded by a grant obtained through Nevada County

OES) is complete and is available through the links below. We are working on publishing a Plan for the Cement Hill Region.

From Tim Fike, Fire Chief, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, 10/15/2008...*I would like to see the next evacuation plan area include everything from Hwy 49, Nevada City to the bridge, North and East to a Hwy 20 line from Nevada City to the District line North near White Cloud. It would include a map of all the road systems in that net area. At this point, will probably look at a mailer next June or so.*

In the meantime, check out our Area Map of the Cement Hill Region on our web site www.gchna.com, and also look at the various links below and print the pages you find most useful. I suggest looking at the Banner Mtn. Plan and printing pages 2-5 & pages 7-9 which will give the written Template without the map and pictures.

Recommended Links on Fire and Emergency Preparedness Enter:

Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Links <http://www.firesafecouncilnevco.com/links.htm>

Nevada County Consolidated Fire District <http://www.nccfire.com/>
Cascade Shores Evacuation Plan http://www.nccfire.com/Word%20Files/Casc_Shores_Evac.pdf

Banner Mtn, Red Dog, Loma Rica & Greenhorn Areas Emergency Preparedness & Evacuation Guide http://www.nccfire.com/Adobe%20Files/Banner_EPG_web.pdf

Editors note: A new Technical Committee has been established within the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County that will oversee the development of Fire & Emergency Preparedness Plans.

Hirschman Trail Update

By Bill Haire

Since receiving notification on May 14, 2008 that the RTP Grant application for the Hirschman Trail Project had been selected by the State Department of Parks and Recreation for funding, the City of Nevada City and the Nevada County Land Trust have been working to meet the Federal Requirements of the grant. The City hired an archaeological consulting firm to complete an Archaeological Survey on the City Property that had not been surveyed; that survey has been completed and submitted to the State, and the report approved as complete. That report as well as the other items required by the Federal Highways Administration has been forwarded to Federal Highways by the State. We were recently informed that Federal Highways funding for the RTP grant has been held up and that funds will not be available to the State until this spring. Projects will be funded in the order that the Federal required information and reports were received. The Hirschman Trail Project is one of the first projects selected for which the completed Federal requirements have been submitted, so it should be one of the first projects funded this spring.

What does all this mean? My best guess is that we will only get the brushing, trail design, and engineering work completed for the project this spring/summer. Actual trail construction will be delayed until next fall after we receive sufficient rain to raise soil moisture for efficient trail construction (dust control and soil compaction requirements) and also to minimize fire danger.

Editors note: Bill Haire is the Trails Coordinator, Nevada County Land Trust



New Ferrellgas Contract

By Tom Stone & Marty Pezzaglia

Preferred Provider Pricing Agreement

Company: Ferrellgas, L.P. (hereinafter referred to as "the Company")
Mailing Address: 364 Lower Grass Valley Road, Nevada City CA 95959

Company: GCHNA (hereinafter referred to as "the Association")
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1343 Nevada City, CA. 95959

1) PROPANE SUPPLY: The Association requests that Company act as a preferred provider of LP gas and service for the GCHNA community and provide for use, at that location, propane containers and related equipment for the use of the GCHNA residents.

2) TERM: This Agreement shall remain in effect for a period of three (3) years from 12-1-08 and of acceptance by signature of both Ferrellgas and GCHNA representatives.

3) PRICE: The price of propane sold hereunder shall be:
a) All propane sold to the Association members shall be \$0.43 over the Bay Area Rack wholesale price.
b) Annual Tank rental fee of \$35.00
c) 50 free gallons of propane for any new customer tank set.

4) MASTER AGREEMENT: All other aspects of the agreement other than price per gallon and tank rental will be as outlined in the Ferrellgas Master Agreement.

Editors note: *The Alta Sierra Property Owners Association <http://www.aspoa.org> has a propane link with weekly variable prices ie. Bay Area Rack Prices.*

NID Treated Water Pipeline Update

By Marty Pezzaglia & Willie Brusin

Our subcommittee met with NID officials and staff on November 20th to discuss project costs to date, and time-line progress.

90% of the project costs will be reviewed in a December meeting as is required by the State. Assuming State approval of Project, and NID Board approval, Bids on the project are expected to go out in February 2009 for an April 2009 Bid acceptance. At this time the plan is to start digging the pipe-line in August 2009 with a completion target 250 days later.



NID is extremely sensitive to the concerns of each and every resident on Cement Hill, and will be sending representatives to discuss environmental concerns, traffic delay concerns, route changes if need be, and a host of other neighborhood concerns in an effort to complete an historic endeavor with a minimum impact on people and the environment during the very long project process.

As of 11-19-08 NID has spent \$963,688.65 in revenue/expenditures toward the Cement Hill Pump Zone project, which is a genuine demonstration of commitment toward a successful project.

Editors note: Questions or concerns, contact Doug Roderick, Senior Associate Engineer, Nevada Irrigation District, (530) 271-6866

2009 GCHNA Membership Renewal Notice

By Eve Collins

Wow, what a year it's been! Let's all hope for a much better year in 2009. Thank you for your support this last year and we hope you continue with us in these trying times. Renewal of your GCHNA Membership is due February 1st with a grace period until May 1st. This past year, as always, brought you two great events, a spring garden tour at Riverhill Farms and the annual family picnic at Chris Owen's place. The treated water project is humming along and our information packed newsletter is a source of pride for us. The Ferrellgas propane contract, available to our membership, is the envy of many. Steering Committee meetings avail everyone the opportunity for a voice in the community, held the first Monday of the month. To renew or join, 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. Thank you again so much for your support and we hope you will continue supporting your neighborhood association in 2009.



18th Annual GCHNA Picnic - a great success!

By Jeanette Clark

If Nevada County had to have a "BEST" in the county for a neighborhood picnic contest, GCHNA's picnic in September would have won hands down. It was one of our most stellar events. We had food, beverages, games, and a brief review of the open spaces in our neighborhood and the trail system that is now being envisioned Bill Haire, from the Nevada County Land Trust, and Paul Matson, Mr. Nevada City, gave informative presentations. Behind, and in front of the scenes, Andy and Jean Oliver along with Carl Plaza and Jeanette Clark welcomed each guest personally at the sign-in booth. Chris Owen again was a splendid and most gracious host. The cake from Flour Garden certainly added

inches to our waist lines and the "pot luck" dishes were greatly enjoyed. Glen Cooley, with his lovely wife Nathalie, reminded us to take time to be thankful for our lives and where we live. Thanks to committee chairs, Eve Collins and Eileen Jorgensen and Master of Ceremony, Tim Hagan. Big thanks to Terry Wagner who provided the fabulous appetizers. The flowers provided by Lin Donald were spectacular and added to a simply great day. The Steering Committee even sang a tribute to our past president, Marty Pezzaglia. We appreciate the support we receive from the neighborhood and look forward to our 19th Annual Picnic.



GCHNA presents a thank you.



Great munchies to share while we schmooze.



Neighbors gather at the picnic.



Consolidated Fire was one of our exhibitors.

NID Corner

By Doug Roderick, Project Engineer, NID

The 90% design and specifications submittal is due December 12th. We will be sending out a notice shortly regarding the date for public review of the 90% design. We should have the public review in early January. We expecting to have the 100% design and specifications by the end of January. We can then submit those to the State for review. We hope to go out to bid by the end of February. Construction could start by late spring/early summer. The start

date will be dependant on how quickly we can obtain the necessary easements and the loan process (final signing of loan agreement, funding of loan, etc).

We are continuing to work on right-of-way procurement to try to minimize any delays, but this project requires easement acquisition from a large number of parcels. We are also looking into possible ways to write the contract documents to include language that could possibly allow work to begin on some portions where we have easements while we continue working to obtain easements on remain-

ing parcels. I am not sure if we can implement that, but we are looking at various possibilities.

You should have the information for the amount of money the district has spent to date from our recent meeting.

Editors note: To date NID has spent \$963,688.65+ on this project.



Snow Removal Schedule

By Marty Pezzaglia

Nevada County snow removal equipment does not go out until approximately 2 inches of measurable snow accumulates on the primary roads. It takes approximately 6 hours to plow 1st Priority roads. Second Priority roads are done approximately every 12 hours.

State highways are maintained by Caltrans crews stationed near Nevada City. Nevada County crews maintain the following roads in the Cement Hill Region.

Airport Road, Second Priority
Augustine Road, Second Priority
Cement Hill Rd. (49 to Augustine), First Priority
Cement Hill Rd. (Augustine to end of county rd.) Second Priority
Indian Flat Road, Second Priority
Lake Vera Purdon Rd, First Priority
Wet Hill Rd, First Priority

Most of the Cement Hill Region is private roads that are maintained by the property owners. Many of us have tractors and snow removal equipment that can/is used during fierce winter storms.

We do maintain a list of neighbors that donate their time and equipment (sometimes for a small fee) in times of emergencies. If you would like your name on a list please contact your Neighborhood Representative with details, or send an email to martypezzaglia@spiralemail.com. If you need emergency service during severe weather conditions call any of our Neighborhood Representatives for assistance.

Time to Pound Acorns

By Susan Wiesner

Cement Hill residents have experienced an abundance of acorns this year and squirrels have been busy hoarding their nut harvest without the competition they

would have encountered 200 years ago. Acorns were a staple for the local Southern Maidu known as the Nisenan; and the California Black Oak acorn, so prevalent in our neighborhood, was the most valued of all.

Acorn nuts, freed from their caps, were gathered in the late fall and early winter and stored indoors in large baskets or outside in granaries. It is estimated that 500 to 600 pounds of acorns were needed to see a family of four through the winter. The nuts were kept for about a year at which time the outer brown shell became brittle and was ready to split under the skilled hands of the tribal women.

Large flat granite outcroppings became the gathering place for women when they focused on acorn processing activities. An acorn was placed, point down in a small indentation on the rock, and struck on the white end with a special cracking rock. The released kernel was thrown into a large basket. Kernels were then placed in the well worn acorn-grinding holes and ground into flour using stone pestles. The flour was refined by placing it into a special flat winnowing basket and with a whirling motion the larger particles dropped over the edge back into the crushing holes for additional grinding.

Further processing included the leaching of the bitter tannins. Water was poured over pine needles into the flour which had been placed in a smoothed out basin of sand near a creek. The porous sand allowed the water to seep through the flour taking with it the bitterness. This process took about 3 hours*. The leached flour was then placed in a cooking basket and more water was added to create a thin soup, preparing the flour to be made into principal foods. Acorn biscuit or cake was thick acorn mush formed into small loaves, wrapped in wild grape leaves or other plant leaves including poison oak and cooked on hot stones. Acorn gruel or soup was cooked in a basket with hot

stones, but usually eaten cold as hot foods were considered unhealthy.

Certain rituals and seasonal celebrations accompanied the gathering and processing of acorns. This annual preparation of nature's bountiful acorns might be considered one of the original "SLOW FOODS" events in our neighborhood.

*observed by Ralph Beals in his 1929 study "*Ethnology of the Nisenan*" Vol 31. No. 6

Other references: *The Campoodie of Nevada City* by Tanis Thorne
Town & Country Dispatch Oct 3, 1985 by Bob Kauk



Steering Committee Representatives

by Marty Pezzaglia

We currently have five **At Large** unfilled positions on the Steering Committee, as well as an **open** position for the Air Port Road area. If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee please contact any one of Representatives listed in this Newsletter.

The requirements for Steering Committee positions are:

Be a member in good standing, and have an understanding of our By Laws. Be willing to participate on Steering sub-committees, and respond to membership area concerns. Be willing to support our Mission Statement and help build a greater sense of community in our neighborhoods. Attend as many Steering Committee meetings as possible.



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, Sky ranch 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, (smlduck@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, ([jacobden@gv.net](mailto:jcobden@gv.net)) 265-5987

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540

Tom Stone, (tastone@pacbell.net) 478-1295





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Member of Non-Profit . Federation of Neighborhood Associations
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WINTER 2008-2009 NEWSLETTER

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

Brush Chipping

Joanne Drummond – 272-1122

Bear or Mountain Lion Problems

USDA Trapper Larry Lane

(916) 239-8978

Newsletter Contributors

Editors: Eve Collins & Eileen Jorgensen

Design & Layout: Bill Holman

Copy Editor: Marty Pezzaglia

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

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.

