



G · C · H · N · A

Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

GCHNA Annual
Membership
Meeting Sept. 9

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

www.gchna.com

GCHNA'S Annual Membership Meeting Is Coming Up!

You're invited!

WHEN: Monday evening,
September 9
5:00pm - 8:00

WHEN: The Madelyn Helling
Library

The outdoor reception will be held at the Marian E. Gallaher, M.D. Amphitheater just to the right of the entrance to the Library, 980 Helling Way in Nevada City

5:00 - 6:00 An outdoor reception with time to socialize with neighbors. Appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks, then pizza will be provided.

6:30 Our speaker this year will be Cal Fire's Division Chief Jim Mathias who will answer questions about fire preparedness.

7:00 - 8:00 Dessert and a short business meeting including election of officers. Members can contact Uli to have an item added to the agenda.

Come with neighbors you know and to meet neighbors you don't yet know. Come to express your interest in issues that affect our neighborhood. See you there!



November 4th Steering Committee Meeting

If you can't make the September 9th meeting, you can still join us on Monday, Nov. 4. 7pm at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room. Come to let us know you want to be involved.



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President's Message

By Uli Paulin

It's that time of the year again – we'll hold our annual membership meeting in combination with a social event on September 9. Come and enjoy the presentations and the opportunity to mingle with your neighbors. The meeting will include the election of officers and board members, i.e. Steering Committee. Our by-laws call for regular rotation of candidates, especially for the officers. We plan to form a nominating committee to identify suitable candidates. Please let any of us know if you would like to step forward.

This August newsletter is our first newsletter to be published electronically only, not in print. About 90% of our active members have access to email so this makes a lot of economic sense for us. Not to worry, there will be a printed newsletter sent each January and those without email access will receive important notices and announcements the old-fashioned way. The direction is toward digital publishing.

Some of us at GCHNA instigated NID to copy El Dorado County and put the location of fire hydrants online. Here's the result: <https://nidwater.com/water-service/fire-hydrants-locator/>. Just click on the link for the locator map.

The Nevada County Transportation Committee continues to work on plans to calm traffic along Highway 49 from the intersection with Highway 20 past Cement Hill Road. Initial plans propose roundabouts and chicanes at the intersections in that area including at Cement Hill Road and Hwy 49. Their contact info is at www.nctc.ca.gov.

Last not least, there was a very interesting piece of critical, investigative journalism by ABC Channel 10 about the connections between wildfires, utilities, money and politics called "Fire – Power – Money". It's a series of three one-hour programs, available in full online. You can find the first episode at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tog0s8qnSc and go from there or search for it on YouTube. Happy binge watching and stay safe!

Cal Fire Drill Experiences

The June 9th Fire Drill, hosted by the Firesafe Council, brought nine fire engines to bear on multiple practice scenarios in Greater Cement Hill that could occur during a fire disaster. From "hose lays" into Hirschman's Pond trail, "injured firemen" from a roof fall, a "wounded officer" in a mock robbery evacuated by helicopter, to a "burn over" of an evacuated residence, the drill brought drama, critical information, and a new level of civic engagement to our neighbors. Additionally, rookie first responders were given an opportunity to practice their skills before being faced with an overwhelming crisis. Animal rescue personnel, police officers, volunteer homeowners, and Firesafe advisors all contributed to the event, emphasizing the need for a broad-based effort to confront fire danger. Following the drill, Cal Fire personnel held a thorough debriefing, responding to homeowner's questions.

Volunteer homeowner Katrina Schneider from Country Circle, along with Kristen Stinnett-Brown, detailed her experience, one shared by many, and is outlined here.

"One fire truck visited our land off Country Circle on June 9th during the mock fire drill. The engine pulled up to our home and immediately simulated the actions they would take if a fire was approaching from the Yuba Canyon direction (to the west of our land, and opposite the driveway point of entry). One firefighter set up hoses to our water storage tank, while another walked the perimeter of our garage and home dwelling. We had some loose timber behind the garage and under a stairway, which was thrown out and away from the dwelling. They noted where large ladders could be found on the land, as well as location of any ladder fuels.

Once their assessment was complete, we gathered the neighbors and the firefighters shared their observations and answered questions. Recommendations/Notes:

- Remove pine needle piles and be sure all wood materials are moved away from buildings.
- Aim for 100' clearance for Manzanita and any ladder fuel.
- They encouraged trimming the limbs of a black oak that came near the home to 10 feet away from the roof.
- They were asked about the wood chip ground cover near the house, but didn't seem overly alarmed.
- We have a lot of windows on the south and western side of our home. They posed the question – can the

Cal Fire Drill Continued Page 3



windows sustain the heat? Consider storm shutters for windows. Fires generate 30-40 mile per hour wind and intense heat.

■ They noted any little holes in house siding, or other gaps (i.e, where wood awning meets siding) and suggested caulking any gaps.

■ We have a large holding tank, yet we need to be sure to have a fitting on site for a 2.5 inch national hose to attach.

■ Leave signs for firefighters if you leave the premises. Leave leaf blower accessible and visible or leave a note on garage saying i.e., "leaf blower in garage full of fuel"

We had a perimeter of stacked fire wood on the south side of our driveway, yet far from the house. They noted they would not want to park a fire truck next to any fire fuel that would be between the truck and the likely direction of the fire. Suggested we find a new wood storage area. We did!

Other notes provided to me from others on the tour:

■ "Fire access to xxx" signs help. White sign red letters. 17000 gallon sign. Blue sign with white letters. Ideal 4.5" to 2.5" cap.

■ Create a community map

■ Evacuation sites: Willo, Rood center, Fairgrounds, solar panel field.

■ Paradise fire internet and cell became useless.

■ Register your animals.

■ Typical winds. Up canyon. Up slope. South southwesterly.

Thanks so much to all who helped make this fire drill happen!!



Another Fire Drill Comment

By Sue Gregory

Although no fire engines were able to come to our home, a group of neighbors gathered on the lawn and discussed fears and concerns about fire season.

Two very committed reps from Animal Rescue came by and educated us about their services. The Fire Safe Council also came by with some useful and practical information about defensible space.

Although disappointed about the actual drill not occurring at our location, it was a worthwhile afternoon spent with neighbors who all acknowledged the value of the thought, planning and education that went into the event. We all hope to try for it again next year.

Sue Gregory

Road Rep for Daisy Blue Mine Rd

We joined GCHNA about 20 years ago when the big issues were avoiding hydrolic mining at Hoyt's Crossing and Wild and Scenic status for the Yuba. Fire was not a large concern until the 49er fire in 1989 which brought home the reality of where we live.

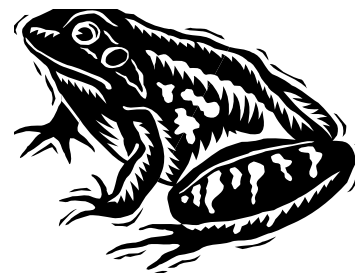
Through the years, I have appreciated the yearly neighborhood picnics, the negotiated Ferrellgas price, Scotch Broom clean up, the Newsletter that keeps us all connected and the Steering Committee that organizes it all and makes GCHNA viable.

I joined the Steering Committee after Paradise because working with my neighbors seemed an important way to stay safe and I live near Eve Collins who has volunteered so much heart to GCHNA She inspires me.

I love where I live both the physical beauty of it and the kind, friendly people that share our road.



Goats Eating Brush along Hwy 49



Augustine Road Slide Area Addressed by County

By Shaun Havard

Backstory: For years, the Augustine Road slide area has been of concern to those whose main access to Cement Hill Road and town passes through it. This past winter, several slides took place in this area. Portions of the hillside above and below the road slid down, along with trees and shrubs. A few times the slide debris partially obstructed the road, requiring mud and downed trees to be cleared from the roadway. The drainage culvert was also impacted, causing water to drain off the hillside from above onto the road during heavy rains.

In April, the GCHNA Steering Committee sent a letter to Trisha Tillotson, PE, Director of Nevada County Public Works, requesting the county address neighborhood concerns about access to lower Augustine, Excelsior Ditch Camp, Indian Shack, Leisure Lane, and Lazy Oaks roads. As a follow up to the letter, Steering Committee members met with District Supervisor Heidi Hall and Ms. Tillotson to discuss, among other items, the Augustine slide area.

Update: The County contracted with Blackburn Consulting, an Auburn geotechnical engineering firm, to evaluate the slide area. According to Director Tillotson, the road itself is showing no signs of failing. The slide we see is the movement of unstable material above the road and on the surface of the downhill side of the road.

In late July, Nevada County Public Works road crews began work on the slide area to attempt to mitigate the uphill and downhill sliding. Dirt and debris have been cleared from



the uphill portion and placed on the downhill portion of the slide. These areas have been graded to further stabilize the hillside. The drainage culvert has been cleared and portions of the existing retaining wall have been reinforced. At the bottom of the uphill side of the slide, behind the retaining wall, a French drain is being installed to capture water and divert it to the drainage culvert, preventing water from draining across the road. Once the work is completed, the county will continue to monitor the roadway and hillside.

The Excelsior Ditch Camp Road Improvement Project

KUDOS to all those involved!

Excelsior Ditch Camp Road was seen as a possible evacuation route for people in the Augustine/ Daisy Blue Mine Road area. As it was, it was impassable for most cars. With the leadership of Marjorie and Rod McConnell, Shaun Havard, Sue Gregory, and Scott Muir who organized neighbors, the tractor expertise of Hal Davis, and contributions from the community and GCHNA, the road has been improved. There were disappointments along the way and the condition of the road is not "ideal", but a boulder was removed and a load of gravel has been recently added.



Bad Behavior at the Old Airport

By Annette Seabury

I went out to the abandoned airport on a Saturday morning when we had drones flying over our property and making a ruckus. After I asked them to stop screaming and flying drones over private property at 8am on a Saturday, I found these fireworks. They were about 20 feet from the gate off Airport Rd. The larger bottle rockets were already spent. The smaller ones are still live. I texted the Chief of Police these same pictures and he sent patrols out.

It should also be noted that the Nevada City police have cleared out 2 camps full of people living on the abandoned Airport property within the last 3 weeks and I am told patrols will remain active throughout fire season. I spent a morning with Nevada City police and Chief Ellis several weeks ago in their ATV. We drove all over and I showed them assorted campfires, camps, and other disturbing evidence of humans living out there.

I want everyone who has adjoining property to sleep well at night. This will be possible with more patrolling and diligent neighborhood involvement of what is happening quite literally in our backyards!



The GCHNA Newsletter Goes Digital

If you're reading this newsletter, you know that the spring and summer GCHNA newsletters are now being sent to members digitally. You'll receive an email informing you that it can be downloaded from our website. This change will save us a considerable amount of money. The upcoming winter edition will be snail

mailed as before so we can ask for your membership dues and provide an envelope. As you renew, please make sure we have your correct email address.



Have you done work to make your property more firesafe? Send us your data!

If you drive around our Greater Cement Hill area, you'll see significant efforts to create defensible space. I see clearing along Cement Hill Road and I hear people talking about the work they've done. Thank you to those who have stepped up to commit time and money to making us more firesafe.

The time is nearing for Beth Enoch to make our Firewise Mitigation and Risk Contribution to keep our National Firewise Accreditation. It is our way of demonstrating a measurable level of effort per property for reducing wildfire risk. Please submit your Mitigation Contributions to her. We have a minimum or threshold to meet of \$19,296. A form is included here and one is also available at gchna.com. Look under Info - Fire Safe Tips - Matching Funds Fire Risk Contributions - Household Fire Risk Contributions for GCHNA. Any questions, please call Beth at (530) 687-5570 or email her at enochclan@gmail.com.

Many thanks to those eighteen households who have already submitted their Firewise Mitigation and Risk information.

HOUSEHOLD FIRE RISK CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GCHNA – 2019

HOUSE (hours invested on projects) Risk reduction roof to foundation Examples: Clean litter from roof and gutters

Screen vents, enclose soffits and eaves

Clean under decks (flammables and vegetation) Fire resistant roofing

Hours _____ # of people _____

0 TO 5 FEET FROM FOUNDATION

Replace mulch with gravel and stone

Remove pine needles and leaves

Trim back trees that hang over 5 foot areas near foundation Move firewood 30' from house and cover with a firewire tarp

Hours _____ # of people _____

5 - 30 FEET

Lawn maintenance

Cluster trees with spaces between

Reduce all ladder fuels

Thin and limb up all trees reducing the crowns

Hours _____ # of people _____

EXTENDED ZONE 30-100 FEET

Remove needles leaving no more than a 3" layer Thin trees and ladder fuels

Hours _____ # of people _____

MONEY SPENT

Chipper cost (purchase, fuel, disposal fees) Chainsaws (rental or purchase)

Power equipment, hand tools

Arborists, landscapers, forestry service

\$ _____

VEHICLE MILEAGE

Slash drop-off, dump runs. \$ _____



Join GCHNA or Renew Your 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 2019. 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, Cedarson Road, and Garesio Ranch Road.
Ellen Hagan, (ellenhagan@oro.net) 265-9746

Applewood Lane

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

Gochine Drive

Gochine, including Mt. Auburn Circle.
Gregg Dwight (gcd57@att.net) 478-5663

Upper Cement Hill

Upper Cement Hill Road, including Pine Tree Place, Diamond Oak Drive, Bodie Ridge Road, Skyranch Road, and Elysian Way.
Jeff Coleman-Hunt (jeff@jhwoodworking.com) 478-9932

Sunrock Road

Patricia Fuenzalida (explorerpatty@gmail.com) 650 302-2202

Augustine Road / Excelsior Ditch Camp Road

Augustine Road, including Daisy Blue Mine, Leisure Lane, Lazy Oaks Drive, and Excelsior Ditch.
Marjorie McConnell (maggie2@sonic.net) 265-9787
Sue Gregory (swgregory@earthlink.net) 265-0639

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.
Christina Reski (chrisreski@gmail.com) 470-6015

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.
Randall Newsome (ranjack58@comcast.com) 415-4732

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
Don Enoch (enochclan@gmail.com) 687-5570

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
Suuzi Webb (suuzihazen@gmail.com). 913-6611

Airport Road

Airport Road, including Tower Hill Road, West Airport Road, East Piper Lane, and Sheriff Road.
Annette Seabury (netsnuthouse@yahoo.com) 925-642-3799

At Large

Eve Collins, (collins@theunion.net) 265-6540
Uli Paulin, (uli@ulipaulin.com) 265-4194
Christy Barden, (ChristyBarden@cs.com) 263-1001
Bill Holman (bholman@succeed.net) 265-8387

Firewise Community Rep

Beth Enoch (enochclan@gmail.com) 687-5570





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Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

Member of Non-Profit . Federation of Neighborhood Associations
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Who to Contact...

Membership Information
Eve Collins - 265-6540
Ferrellgas Information
Customer Service - 265-5896
ferrellgas.com
The Fire Safe Council
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 June 1st.

Newsletter Contributors

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

