

CUMMINGS VALLEY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Quarterly Newsletter #20, October 5, 1995

Buddhist Retreat/Temple.

Neither the County Planning Department nor Owen Menard, the Buddhist's hired facilitator, has any information about the Buddhist group's plans.

Santa Fe Pacific Gasoline Pipeline.

The project is stalled while Santa Fe Pacific is trying to obtain the necessary commitments from the company who would be using the line.

Two Boys Farm Application for General Plan Amendment, Zone Change and Conditional Use Permit.

The requested changes by Dave DiRado of Two Boys Farm on Banducci Road in Brite Valley would change the Zoning of his 20 acre parcel from A (20 acre minimum parcel size) to A-1 (2.5 acre minimum parcel size). His object is to make legal the retail nursery he is currently operating in violation of the zoning ordinance.

The CVPA Board does not oppose the nursery (He does a good job of keeping it looking nice), but we do oppose the zone change which would open the door for subdividing this, and other properties, into 2.5 acre homesites, particularly if the nursery fails.

We wrote to the Planning Department expressing our opposition and suggesting alternatives which would allow the nursery without a major zone change. These alternatives were discussed with Supervisor Steve Perez.

In response to our concerns about increased density, the Planning Department Staff have recommended another alternative consisting of a mitigation measure to make minimum parcel size five acres as exists both to the East and West.

Our Board and Board Advisory Committee met on October 3 and agreed that this is acceptable provided the mitigation is recorded in County records so it will be revealed in any future title search. A letter has been sent to Planning expressing our position with a copy to Steve Perez.

CVPA Annual Barbecue.

Our September 16 barbecue at Horsethief Park in Stallion Springs was a huge success. The featured food item, ostrich burgers, drew a record crowd of 102 people. The few who shied away from the ostrich had barbecued hot dogs. Almost all who tried the beef-like ostrich commented favorably or enthusiastically about it. Other edibles included "Outlaw beans" donated by the Summit Restaurant and Saloon, salads, cookies and watermelon. Lemonade, iced tea, and coffee were provided.

The list of people to whom thanks are due is very long, and apologies are offered at the outset to some who will be surely be overlooked. Major thanks to Lucy Gaglione who with her helpers, Carol Wein and Helen Huff, organized, procured, “begged, borrowed, and stole” to insure the success of the event. Another major thanks to Les Hansen who, along with Terry Tytens of the Summit, arranged for the donation of the ostrich meat by the California Ostrich Association. Les, Terry and his wife Diane spent a long afternoon over the fire cooking and serving the burgers. Many thanks to Bob Roedel of Springs Emporium and John Allen of Papa’s Pizza for the use of the mobile propane barbecue kitchen, all the ice, and many other items. Thanks to Albertsons for an 80 percent discount on the watermelons.

In the raffle department we want to thank the following for their generous donation of prizes: Bob Roedel - bottle of wine, John Allen - large pizza, Hachapi Tees - three T-shirts, Sky Mountain Lodge - dinner/brunch gift certificate, The Summit Restaurant and Saloon - two dinner gift certificates, Java Hut - two cappuccinos, Witts - memo pad holder, Johnnies Take and Bake - large two-topping pizza, The Subway - three-foot sub sandwich, Merle Norman Cosmetics - travel make-up kit, Nature’s Pantry - months supply of vitamins, Mike and Cathy Hensler - 5’X7’ area rug.

We thank, also, all of you who came to share the beautiful day with us. The barbecue is intended primarily to inject a bit of fun into the normally serious business of CVPA and to offer non-members an opportunity to get acquainted with us. By virtue of so many generous donations it became a very nice fund-raiser with a net of about \$435.

CVPA Partnership with Cummings Valley Elementary.

Our Board and Board Advisory Committee reached the decision to establish a working relationship with Cummings Valley Elementary School. We believe this partnership will further the goals of CVPA in that the students, and their parents in many cases, will become aware that people should care about the rural environment and quality of life we enjoy. We hope to increase their appreciation of nature and the beauty of our area while contributing to students’ learning experience.

The enclosed volunteer form lists a variety of ways in which CVPA members can contribute to the excellence of education at CVE. We hope that you will consider carefully your ability to contribute to the education of these students while demonstrating that CVPA has a constructive and positive agenda.

Yellow Starthistle.

This thorny invasive weed is trying to take over the Tehachapi area and has moved into Cummings Valley, Bear Valley Springs, and Stallion Springs, not to mention Brite Valley and Alpine Forest Park.

Yellow Starthistle is rated as the number one bad weed in California.

The CVPA Board decided that the weed must be eradicated in Cummings Valley and if possible, Brite Valley. They voted to commit up to \$1000 to the eradication effort. CVPA members have mowed, weed-whacked and pulled much of this years’ growth and are preparing for herbicide spray programs in subsequent years.

Thanks to Les Hansen for the use of his tractor and mower. Thanks also to members Dorothy Woods, John Mester, and Chuck McCollough for their efforts. Thanks too to farmers and ranchers - Bill Shader and his workers from Superior Sod, Cody Palance, Bill Duncan, and Vern Cook.

As a result of CVPA's letters to State and County road agencies, with copies to Supervisor Steve Perez, as well as news articles, Supervisor Perez sponsored a workshop on Yellow Starthistle control on October 4. The program featuring experts from the University of California Cooperative Extension and the California Department of Food and Agriculture was very informative and was attended by over 100 people. Mr. Perez has shown a strong commitment to supporting efforts to control or eliminate this weed from our area.

Trashy, but...

Please join us Saturday, October 21st for CVPA's first effort in keeping our beautiful Cummings Valley area --beautiful and litter-spotless.

We will be meeting at the Old Schoolhouse on Pellisier at 10:00 a.m. for proper vest, trash bag and work glove attire handouts.

We thank Paul Benz in advance for his donation of a trash bin, which will be located at the Old Schoolhouse, where two of our CVPA members will be driving the Bear Valley Springs-Stallion Springs route periodically picking up trash bags from our busy trash-gatherers and emptying them at the schoolhouse site. The pickup truck drivers will also be equipped with refreshment for our dedicated workers.

We will be having teams of people, depending on our turnout, two to three per team. We will be needing a minimum of 20 people to cover the main roads from Bear Valley's gate to the entrance of Stallion Springs. It is imperative (and important, too!) that I get phone calls from all willing participants so we can set up our teams ahead of time. Please make this a priority and give me a call soon.

Children under 18 will not be allowed to join us this year, as we are in the pioneering stages of this pickup and want to be sure that picking up along these busy roads is not too hazardous traffic-wise. Please wear good walking shoes as we will be walking fairly long stretches -- and also long pants (jeans) to avoid getting pricked and punctured by all the growth along the sides of the roads.

Our CVPA signs are being painted with all our catchy, litter-picking-up limericks, which will be displayed at various intervals along the main roads. We are County approved, and will also be displaying safety signs warning drivers to please slow down, et cetera.

Please join us!! I look forward to hearing from you SOON!!! **CAROL WEIN 821-1819**

Membership.

Members who have not yet paid their 1995-1996 dues will find a reminder notice in their newsletter. Please help us out by sending your renewal now. It is vitally important that we keep our membership count high in order to be effective.

November Meeting.

Our vice president, Chris Grimes, has agreed to be our November 2 speaker. telling us about eathquakes in our area.

The meeting will be in the multi-purpose room of Cummings Valley Elementary School. starting at 7:30 pm.



Cummings Valley Protective Association

18835 Old Ranch Road • Cummings Valley
Tehachapi, CA 93561 • (805) 822-3478 • (805) 822-1376

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