

CVPA NEWS

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P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581 (661)822-3478

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DUST STORMS IN CUMMINGS VALLEY EXPECTED

The little book about Cummings Valley written in 1992 by charter CVPA member, Gerry Trierweiler, mentions in the introduction “howling east winds send up huge plumes of dust”. And so it is just about every year. On December 18, 2000 the dust storm was so severe that a number of complaints were made to the Air Pollution Control District. We were told that the APCD would meet with those responsible for the dust to explore what measures might be taken to mitigate the problem. A recent check by CVPA indicates such a meeting did not take place. We have therefor sent a letter to the APCD asking that they notify the major dust generators, the farmers and the County Roads Department, that they must employ reasonable methods to minimize blowing dust. It is certainly not our intent to interfere with the agricultural activities, but there may be things they can do without affecting their ability to farm. As for the Roads Department, we don’t understand why they insist on blading the shoulders of Cummings Valley, Bailey and Giraud Roads and leaving them with no dust control. Dust from those roadsides was a major problem last year. Be sure to read the report by Mike McCallion on “Water and Dust” on page 3 of this issue.

CM

OCTOBER 13 IS TRASH PICK UP DAY

Winter is almost upon us. And it is that time again for our end-of-the season trash pickup before all that icky yck-y and unsightly debris gets buried and strewn by the snow and mud and the winter winds.

Saturday, October 13th is the day. The rest, all us loyal trash picker-uppers, should well know by heart: 10:00 A.M. at the Old Schoolhouse on Pellisier with Subway sandwiches to follow at 12:30 at Winnie's barn, so graciously opened to us who have so faithfully and unwaveringly toiled. (Ah..) Please call Carol Wein (822-3155) and let me know you'll be there!!

CW

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

CVPA tries to be pro-active in letting people know where it stands on issues before someone spends time and money on a project that may violate existing ordinances of the County General Plan. The County Zoning Ordinances define very specifically what may or may not be done on properties within each zone designation. They also define what things may be done under an approved Conditional Use Permit. The Zoning Ordinance is the law, People not familiar with

the Zoning Ordinance may spend time and money making plans for something that cannot be approved.

An example would be someone living on a 20 acre parcel in the A (Exclusive Agriculture) or E 20 RS (Estate 20 acre Residential Suburban) zone planning to build additional residences on the property for family members. The Zoning Ordinance clearly states that only one residence is allowed on the 20 acres. With an approved Conditional Use Permit a maximum of one additional residence could be built. Since the purpose of the Ordinance is to preserve the open space and potential for agricultural activities in these zones, CVPA would surely oppose approval of a Conditional Use Permit unless there were exceptional extenuating circumstances.

And what about “Mother in Law Houses”? The same rules would apply unless it could be approved as a “Residential Facility” which means “any family home, group care facility or similar facility, determined by the Director of the State Department of Social Services, for twenty four (24) hour non medical care of persons in need of personal services, supervision, or assistance essential for sustaining the activities of daily living or for the protection of the individual, as provided in

Section 1502, California Health and Safety Code". If a second residence were officially determined to be a "Residential Facility", CVPA would have no say in the matter, but might suggest that it would be appropriate to use a mobile unit that could be removed when the need no longer exists. CM

BARBEQUE REVISITED

September 22nd was a gorgeous afternoon at the Souza Ranch which is now more beautiful than ever with the stunning new gazebo set back behind artistic landscaping. Some 84 members and guests showed up for this annual event to enjoy the company, food, drink, music and raffles. It was also a financial success thanks to all who brought and bought white elephant treasures and to the donations of non-member Ruth

Garaths and a generous but requested anonymous \$100 from a membership. We thus came out \$240 to the good, and also received \$48 from 4 new memberships.

Music by Betty and J.J. was enchanting as always, and a number of couples finished the evening dancing on the new dance floor in front of the gazebo which served as a perfect stage for musicians and announcers.

We just can't thank Bob and Patty Souza enough for their generosity in hosting our annual barbeque. CM

YELLOW STARHISTLE REMINDER

Remember to keep alert to the presence of this weed in your area. It is quite persistent in its growth habits.

NEXT MEETING TO BE NOVEMBER 1, 2001 WITH PROGRAM "LIVING WITH OAKS - A 'HOW TO' WORKSHOP"

Do you realize that oaks and other trees increase your property's value? Does it make any difference how you prune your trees or what you plant under them?

The Cummings Valley Protective Association and Friends of the Oaks are pleased to present a public workshop that will answer these questions and many others about tree maintenance on Thursday, November 1st at 7:30 P. M. The Cummings Valley Multipurpose Room at the new Cummings Valley School will be the site of the information filled forum. Our main presenters will be Glenn Baumann, organizer of the *Trees for Tehachapi* effort, and Al Thibodeau, a certified International Society of Arboriculture arborist. Al 's career has been spent working with the public on best practices for maintenance of healthy trees. A short video produced by the University of California about oaks will be shown, also. There will be ample time for questions following the presentations,

CVPA and FOTO invite the greater Tehachapi community to take this opportunity to get much needed information about oaks and other trees. We are especially hopeful that people employed in tree maintenance, nursery owners, and building contractors will join us. Homeowners will get valuable tips on taking care of their oaks. We will provide information for you to take with you about tree health and maintenance.

To add to the evening's enjoyment, refreshments will be served. **Please** mark this important event on your calendar and do attend.

"Bugs" Fontaine, Program Chair, 821-2055

Costco Wholesale Corporation Supports Local Charitable Organizations

Your newsletter contains a Costco brochure! This is a first for CVPA. Many CVPA members learned that Costco is very interested in charitable organizations in the Greater Tehachapi area. Costco donated four beautifully decorated cakes to Tehachapi Hospital Foundation's recent Roundup and Barbeque also held at the Souza Ranch. They were provided a table staffed by three Costco employees who very graciously cut and served those marvelous cakes to the guests. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time to invite them to CVPA's annual barbeque but we did agree to provide the enclosed brochure to our membership. Next year our dessert will be provided by Costco!

JAH

WATER AND DUST

The recent great increase in agricultural activity in Cummings Valley has prompted some concerns regarding water use and potential dust problems from fallow fields. To address these concerns and to learn more about what may be headed our way we have been in contact with the Tehachapi Cummings County Water District (TCCWD) and the Kern County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). We wrote the TCCWD asking these questions:

1. *Under whose authority were the new wells drilled? Is a permit required?*
2. *Is there a water allowance for each parcel of land being farmed?*
3. *Are the wells metered to assess the amount of water consumed?*
4. *What is the rate being charged for the water consumed?*
5. *Lastly, is the water table in Cummings Valley regularly assessed and measures taken to assure that it is not drawn down too deeply?*

The TCCWD promptly responded to these questions with answers that, in all cases save one, basically assured us that they are conscious of our concerns and are vigilant in making sure that the valley's water supplies are safeguarded. The question that was not answered is the one to do with water meters. Although the TCCWD claims to be keeping a sharp eye on what water is used, to the best of our knowledge no water meters are presently installed.

We have also been in contact with the APCD regarding potential dust problems during the winter. They are aware of our concerns and agree that those concerns are valid. To be of aid to us, they asked that the CVPA provide them a map of those areas felt to be a potential danger and a list of those groups felt to be responsible for them. This would enable them to contact these parties and remind them of their responsibilities concerning dust control. The map has been provided to the APCD by the CVPA.

If you should care to look at the complete correspondence between the CVPA and the TCCWD and the APCD please contact Mike McCallion at 823-1819 or mikemcc@csurfer.net. MM

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Cummings Valley Protective Association offers each member the opportunity to participate in efforts to maintain the quality and beauty of Cummings Valley. The strength of CVPA is in its membership actively defending and protecting this area of rural beauty.

But even if you cannot actively participate, if you agree with our purpose, your membership can be of significant value to the Association to allow our voice to be heard. With the valley left unprotected - zoning changes, strip malls and commercial development appear to be untamed consequences of population expansion. Your membership, at \$12 per family per year strengthens our ability to be heard and effectively interact with County government and potential developers.

We need your strength! If this newsletter copy was sent to you, check your membership expiration year in the middle of the first line on your newsletter address label. If it is not 2002 or later, your dues are currently in arrears ; renew now! If you are not a member, but agree with our purpose, join now by sending your application and check to:

Cummings Valley Protective Assn.
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581

Remember, because CVPA is a tax exempt California nonprofit public benefit corporation recognized as a non-profit organization by both the federal Internal Revenue Service and the state Franchise Tax Board, your membership/contributions to the CVPA may be tax deductible. JAH

Cummings Valley Protective Association Membership Application - - July 1 through June 30

Name(s) _____

Local Address _____ Phone() _____

Mail Address _____ Phone() _____
(If not same as local)

Check Appropriate Area

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Town | <input type="checkbox"/> TEHACHAPI | _____ |

e-mail addr: _____

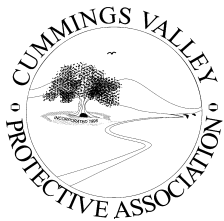
Dues are \$12 per Family per year

**Mail to: Cummings Valley Protective Association
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581**

\$12 One Year \$24 Two Years \$36 Three Years

Because CVPA is a tax exempt California nonprofit public benefit corporation, your contributions may be tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!



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