

CVPA NEWS

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CUMMINGS VALLEY DUST STORMS CONTROLLED?

Kudos to Grimmway Farms and the Duncans who manage the Cummings Valley vegetable growing operations for planting cover crop over almost all the barren fields. We understand this was in response to being made aware of the serious problems blowing dust have caused for residents of Cummings Valley and Stallion Springs. An exception is the acreage on the south side of Cummings Valley Road between the school and Bailey Road. This field is undergoing some major earth moving operations and is scheduled for "laser leveling" this winter.

The sod farms are generally not a source of blowing dust as they are either covered with grass or kept wet most of the time. The graded county roadsides, however, may be a problem.

If we get the usual big wind storms from the east this winter, it will be interesting to see if blowing dust is reduced or eliminated.

CM

SUPERVISORIAL CANDIDATES' FORUM

This will be your opportunity to start off the new year as a participant in our democratic system. Cummings Valley Protective Association and Tehachapi Mountain Branch of the American Association of University Women are jointly sponsoring an important candidates' forum for the greater Tehachapi community to be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 7th, 2002 at the Multipurpose Room of the new Cummings Valley School. All candidates have agreed to participate.

As you are aware, Kern County has five supervisors whose decisions have an immense affect on such issues as growth, health, safety, transportation, and air quality. Our current supervisor, Steve Perez, has declined to run again for this office. Therefore, the seat will be open, and it is exciting that six candidates have come forward. If no one candidate receives over 50% of the vote on primary day, March 5, there will be a run-off at the general election in November.

We are pleased that the League of Women Voters of Kern County will organize the format of the forum. All candidates will have an equal chance to present their ideas to you, and you will have the opportunity to pose your questions to them. The program will be timed so expect a well planned and fast paced evening.

It is imperative that we have a large gathering of citizens to greet these candidates. Remember, this will be your chance to expose them to your concerns. The Second Supervisorial District extends from Rosamond through Mojave and Tehachapi and then down to part of the Greenfield area, south of Bakersfield. We are, therefore, part of a large geographical area with a variety of needs and interests.

The candidates are:

Mac Askari—Business Manager at Lancaster State Prison

Mary Beth Garrison—Business Owner of Java Cafe in Tehachapi

Bernita Jenkins—Teacher of Government and English at Arvin High School

Louis Litwin—Attorney and Acting Hearing Officer for the cities of South Pasadena and San Gabriel

Don Maben—Field Representative for Steve Perez

Linda White—Executive Director of Kern Wind Energy Association

We will have the coffee and cookies ready when you arrive. Invite your friends to come to this important civic event. Make your vote an informed vote. “B”F

APRIL 4 MEETING

Mark your calendar for this date to come hear Bill Hample of the Kern County Historical Society tell us about "East Kern Historical Sites". Bill is intimately knowledgeable about Kern history and is the author of a fascinating book entitled "HISTORICAL SITE MARKERS - KERN COUNTY".

The meeting will start at 7:30 PM in temporary room 3 of the Cummings Valley School.

ACORNS TO MIGHTY OAKS WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

An enthusiastic crowd of 65 Tehachapi area residents gathered on November 1 last year at the new Cummings Valley School multipurpose room to learn about everything "oak". The Cummings Valley Protective Association and the newly formed Friends of the Oaks (FOTO) joined to organize the workshop.

It was exciting to have residents from the Old West Ranch to Stallion Springs and all points in between at the event. The organizers were pleased that there were members of the tree trimming profession, heavy equipment operators, local governing boards and many homeowners who came to be informed about care and maintenance of oaks. A video produced by the University of California Extension about construction near oaks, watering, crown rot problems, etc. served as an introduction to practices that will help in oak survival.

Glenn Baumann, chief volunteer for the Trees for Tehachapi program, presented information regarding the native oak species in our area. He brought 15 gallon trees as examples to the workshop. He emphasized the need for site evaluation and preparation to know whether a canyon live oak, black oak or another oak species would be the appropriate choice. Judy Stephan was the lucky winner of a valley oak which had been purchased by CVPA and FOTO.

Al Thibodeau, an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, provided many tips about proper pruning techniques. For many years Al had his own tree trimming business in Los Angeles so we are fortunate to have him living in our area where he is doing tree consulting.

Mehmet McMillan, a restoration ecologist formerly with the Tree People in Los Angeles, gave us a primer on planting acorns, transplanting seedlings, and planting trees. Gopher cages, proper staking of newly planted trees, and sun shields are only a few of the practices Mehmet emphasized.

If the above information weren't enough to commit us to the care of our oaks, Solveig Thompson's remarks about property values clinched it. As a realtor in our area Solveig knows that trees sell property. She reported a California Oak Foundation's survey that on a national average, a lot with trees would sell for \$5000-6000 more than a comparable lot without trees!

The question and answer period was so lively the meeting could have gone beyond our 9:30 P.M. closing. Chuck McCollough, president of CVPA, members of CVPA and

FOTO were pleased with the response. Thanks to all who participated, and we hope this is the beginning of even better care of trees in our wonderful Tehachapi area.

Two videos, "Living Among California's Oaks" (21 minutes) and "Oak Regeneration in California" (15 minutes), may be borrowed by calling 821-2055.

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:

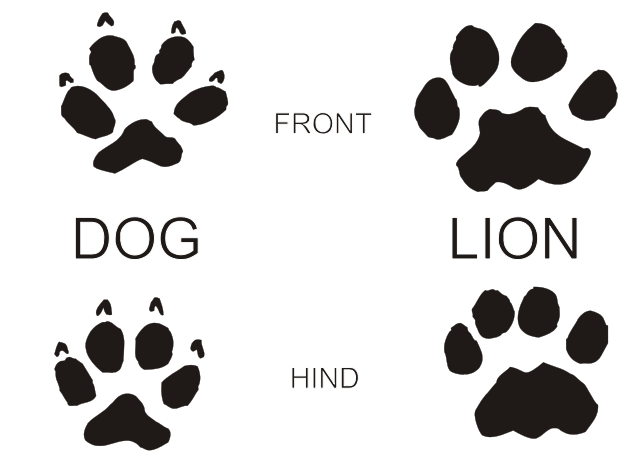
Cummings Valley Protective Assn.
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581

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

PAW PRINTS

Now that the ground surface has become wet, perhaps you may see animal prints. This may help you to distinguish between a dog and a large feline (Bobcat or Mountain Lion/Cougar).



THE DANDE-LION

One of the marvels of nature, the Dandelion, is perhaps the most hated of "weeds" to the city dweller and sod farmer. It is, however, a treasured food to many rural and some metropolitan food fanciers. All parts of the plant are edible; in the spring the young and tender leaves are most flavorful as a raw green salad all alone or mixed with lettuce, dill weed leaves, or young carrot greens. As the season wears on the leaves become larger and somewhat bitter but to many, that flavor is the "real dandelion" flavor. The unopened flower buds are perhaps the most succulent of dandelion salad materials, while the roots, although difficult to clean, cut into small chunks and mixed in are always a salad treat. Dandelion greens are quite nutritious and have the highest concentration of Vitamin A of any green vegetable. So eat well and enjoy! JM

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: _____

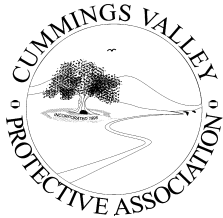
Dues are \$12 per Family per year

**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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