

CVPA News

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12 Years of Community Service

17851 Tejon Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561 (661)822-3478

No 45, July, 2002

BARBEQUE - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002

The CVPA traditional barbeque will be held at the Souza Ranch on Saturday, September 21 starting at 4:00 PM. The menu will include both steak and chicken as well as cole slaw, BBQ'd beans, roll and butter and dessert. Tickets for wine and beer will be sold at three for \$5 or you may BYOB. Lemonade and soft drinks will be provided. The cost is \$15 for members and \$17 for non members. Delinquent memberships can save \$2 a head by renewing membership (\$12 per family) at the door, and non-members can realize the same savings by joining CVPA.

We must have reservations in order to know how many to provide for, but payment will be made as you enter. Call 822-1887 and leave name, phone number and how many will be coming, or e-mail this information to: cvpa@cybersurfers.net. No children please. There will be a "White Elephant" raffle, so bring any items you think someone else might love more than you do. Come and enjoy the fun, good company, food and drink, the beautiful Souza Ranch and entertainment by Betty and J.J.

SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING WILL HIGHLIGHT CANDIDATES FOR SUPERVISOR AND SHERIFF

We are pleased to co-host this public forum with the Tehachapi Mountain Branch of the American Association of University Women. Steve Perez and Mac Wimbish will field your questions as they begin the stretch toward the November 5 election. Second District Supervisor candidates, Don Maben and Linda White, will invite your questions, also. A large audience of Tehachapi area citizens is anticipated. This will be your best opportunity for help in deciding how to cast your vote for these offices, and we hope to have a lively discussion of Kern County issues. We appreciate the help of the League of Women Voters in the organization of the candidates' presentations and audience participation.

Where: Cummings Valley School Multipurpose Room

When: Thursday, September 5, 7:30 PM

There will be an interesting array of cookies provided by AAUW for your nibbling pleasure! Please make a special effort to attend this one. The Candidates need to learn what our needs and concerns are, and we need to have them know that CVPA and AAUW are strong active organizations worthy of their attention and respect.

Bugs Fontaine

bygone days

SUPERIOR SOD BUYS 156 ACRE PALANCE PROPERTY

The former Rex Ellsworth ranch bounded by Giraudo Road on the north and Pellisier Road on the west is being cleaned up and prepared for sod growing by Superior Sod. Dick Considine, Superior Sod's Owner-Manager, tells us that the buildings will be preserved and upgraded with paint and landscaping. Another plus to the new ownership is that a 113 acre heavy to scattered infestation of Yellow Starthistle will be eradicated by the farming operations. In days-gone-by Rex Ellsworth raised and trained thoroughbred race horses on the ranch, including Kentucky Derby winner, Swaps.

Dick Considine is proving to be a good Cummings Valley neighbor. He is very aware of the beauty of the Valley and is trying to enhance it by landscaping and hauling lots of old junk out to the County landfill. He is also converting well pumps where possible from diesel engines to electric motors to reduce noise and pollution even though it will cost more. All this indicates that the company is planning to be here for the long term. Dick is aware of the need to conserve the Cummings Basin water resources, saying "if we over draft the basin's water, we would just be shooting ourselves in the foot."

ILLEGAL SIGNS

On July 5 CVPA sent letters to five property owners who have allowed illegal signs to be placed on their property and to three owners of illegal signs placed on road rights of way. The following are the signs in question: Kelcy's Restaurant, Tehachapi Plumbing, 5-Cs landscaping, Stallion Springs Hair and Nails, D. L. Stringer Construction, Windmill Ranch Gifts, Fairview Ranches Properties and J R Horse Boarding and Training. The ostrich ranch signs are permitted because agricultural produce - meat, eggs, feathers etc.- are being sold there. The property owners/sign owners are being asked to have the signs removed in a reasonable amount of time. In 60 days the Board will consider filing complaints with County enforcement agency to require that any remaining signs be removed.

To date, we thank Bobby Von Platen (5-Cs Landscaping sign) and Jim Morgan of Coldwell Banker Realty (Fairview Ranches signs) for prompt sign removal. CM

YELLOW STARHISTLE

CVPA continued the battle with Yellow Starthistle in Cummings and Brite Valleys by participating in the Tehachapi Resource Conservation District Transline spray program. Several sections of roads in Cummings Valley were sprayed at a cost of \$130, private roads in Brite Valley were sprayed at a cost of \$180 and we continued our Adopt-A-Road sponsorship of Banducci Road through Brite Valley at a cost of \$300. The combination of our roadside spraying and the expansion of sod and vegetable farming has all but eradicated the weed in Cummings Valley. There are a couple of private property holdouts that we will continue to work with. Perpetual surveillance will be required to keep the "Wicked Weed of the West" from re- entering Cummings Valley, and we still have a long way to go in Brite Valley.

If you spot YST anywhere in Cummings Valley, please call Chuck at 822-3478 to report the location.

CVPA OFFICERS FOR 2002-2003

There was no change made in the CVPA Board at the June annual meeting and election of officers. Continuing on in their duties are President, Chuck McCollough; Vice president, Jo Anne Huckins; Treasurer, Priscilla Mester; Recording Secretary, Irene Gunshinan and Corresponding Secretary, Gail

Bennett.

Since the election, however, Irene has found it necessary to resign as Recording Secretary. If you would be willing to take this position for the year, please call 822-3478. The position entails taking minutes at about five general meetings and five Board meetings a year.

It is readily apparent that we need some new people to step up to the plate and run for office in coming years. We need people with dedication to the cause and with energy. Unfortunately it is difficult to stimulate passion for our goals when they are not currently being threatened. Ironically, part of the reason we are not under threat of inappropriate land use proposals may be our success in being active and widely known and, at least by most, respected. Our size and active participation in land use issues may in itself discourage ideas of proposals that would negatively affect the rural qualities of the valleys. *We need new people to take over the helm next year and maintain our activity and high profile.* CM

MTBE LEAK AT CCI - FOLLOWUP

As we had previously reported, a leak in underground piping from an unleaded gasoline tank at CCI was discovered in 1997. The piping was replaced with double wall pipe and other upgrades were made that same year. Defining the extent of contamination from the leak is still going on and contaminant recovery has begun. A series of monitoring wells has partially defined the size of the contamination plume which so far extends about two hundred feet northwesterly from the leak site. Additional wells are to be drilled farther to the northwest to define the plume more accurately.

The June meeting of the Water Availability Preservation Committee, held at the CCI leak site, was attended by our President, Chuck McCollough. Amec Earth and Environment Inc. from San Diego has been contracted to complete the definition of the contamination, perform hydrogeological studies to predict movement of underground fluids and operate a contaminant recovery system. The first phase of the recovery, which is to recover vapor phase products including MTBE from the soil under high vacuum and burn them, had begun the day before the meeting. A subsequent operation will recover liquid petroleum products and additives such as MTBE from water bearing zones.

The Amec hydrogeologist explained that the petroleum contaminants are actually consumed and destroyed by anaerobic bacteria, but that it is a slow process. In dry years when water recharge is slight the edge of the contamination plume may actually retreat due to the bacterial activity, but in wet years the plume will advance as underground water flow increases.

It is reassuring to see action being taken, especially by an outside environmental contracting firm. *CM*

NOVEMBER MEETING

Kern County Planning Director, Ted James will be our speaker for the November meeting. He will be addressing General Plan and North Cummings Valley Specific Plan issues as well as the current revamping of the Kern County General Plan. Ted is an excellent and enthusiastic speaker, and welcomes all questions.

JUNE MEETING REVISITED

Approximately 40 people attended the June meeting to hear Jeff Huckaby, General Manager of Organic Farming for Grimmway Farms, present a talk and power point slide show on organic farming, particularly in Cummings Valley. Jeff oversees organic farming on 18,000 acres in California, Arizona and Colorado. The Cummings Valley climate and soils are ideal for the 40 varieties of vegetables grown here. Organic farming requires lots of special treatment

from soil preparation with organic materials to fertilizing with natural fertilizers and unique approaches to insect control such as a new vacuum unit to suck certain kinds of bugs off the vegetable plants.

MEMBERSHIP

At one time we had 519 CVPA members, but because of people moving away or passing away we are now down to 444. This is still a substantial number, but we need to rebuild membership to at least former levels to maintain a strong voice. Experience tells us that the best way to enlist members is by direct face to face contact. This works especially well with new residents who are still thrilled with being in our beautiful rural area and are hoping to have it stay that way.

So, please, everyone, take a few minutes to tell someone about CVPA and sign them up using the extra membership application below. Take along this newsletter to show them - it will give them a better idea of what we are about and lend authenticity to your sales pitch.

The membership renewal form that is on the back cover is for those of you who are not current in your dues. If the year on your address label is not 2003 or later, your dues are payable now. And thanks for continuing your loyal support! New members should use the form below.

New Membership in the Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc. Particulars

The Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc. is a nonprofit public benefit corporation recognized by the IRS as a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation and holds California state tax exemption under section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code. It was officially incorporated by Chuck McCollough in 1996 (although having been formed 6 years before) with the specific purpose of “preservation of the rural character and the farmland of Cummings and Brite Valleys”, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation.

If you agree with and wish to support our purpose, please join with us and send this filled out form with your payment. The membership year runs from 1 July through 30 June with dues of \$12 per year per family. Mail to:

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.
P.O Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020

Renewal Membership Particulars

Please send this form with your payment to renew. Consider renewing for more than one year. Check your address label for accuracy. If the year at top center of the label is 2002 or earlier, you have not paid dues for the 2002-03 membership year which began July 1st. We value your support!

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.

Renewal 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"/> Golden Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches | <input type="checkbox"/> STALLION SPRINGS | _____ |

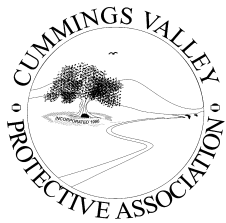
e-mail addr: _____

Annual dues are \$12 per family.

Please check one:

- One year \$12 Two years \$24 Three years \$36

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



P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581

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