

“POST-USE CONSUMER PRODUCT ANALYSIS” (AKA TRASH PICKUP) SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15

Mark your calendar and join us for our annual spring trash pickup. The big day will be May 15th, and we will meet at the old school on Pellisier at 8 AM. This is always great fun and we find interesting things, plus make our neighborhoods more beautiful. This is a great way to serve the community and have some fellowship with like-minded folk. See you on the 15th!

ja

TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC, AND MORE TRAFFIC

Yikes! The traffic continues to worsen through the area. I didn't think I'd live long enough to see times of gridlock in Golden Hills, but I was obviously wrong. We will all benefit from the new traffic light that has been approved for Valley Boulevard and Golden Hills Boulevard. That seems to be the point of the most gridlock currently. There is also gridlock at times near Cummings Valley School, particularly during start-of-school and end-of-school hours. It does seem as if it is easiest regularly to go to the City of Tehachapi via Highline Road. And with more homes slated for construction, there is no sign that traffic will improve. The traffic monitors suggest considering consolidating trips, use a high-fuel-efficient vehicle, and consider traveling through the area in off-hours.

ja



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CVPA NEWS

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“WILD FLOWERS IN OUR OAK WOODLANDS”

The Cummings Valley Protective Association will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the Stallion Springs Community Services District building, located at 28500 Stallion Springs Drive. The topic for the evening will be “Wild Flowers in our Oak Woodlands”, given by speaker Winnie Graham.

Winnie Graham began her lifelong affair with plants as a teenager when she raised strawberries as a 4-H project and has been an avid gardener and horticulturist ever since. Ms. Graham is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering and enjoyed a career in the space industry. Winnie, who calls herself a “Texan”, has been the co-owner and manager of Broad Acres, a wholesale nursery in the Cummings Valley, for the past twelve years. She grows perennials and ornamental shrubs that are especially suited to the area. She is a familiar face in the Tehachapi community, and has been especially active in the Nature Plant Society and the Tehachapi Farmer's Market. She has taught oak woodlands and gardening courses for the College of the Tehachapis.

With spring just around the corner and having had a relatively wet winter, we are expecting an unusually nice wild flower season. Won't you join us to learn more about these flowers and about the oak trees of Tehachapi?

sm

CUMMINGS VALLEY FLOODING MEETING

Jo Anne Huckins, Chuck McCollough and Janice Armstrong met with Dick Considine of Superior Sod and Supervisor Don Maben to consider what might be done to alleviate the flooding problems on Cummings Valley roads. Photos of flooding taken by CVPA member Ed Delters were helpful in showing major trouble spots, particularly on Pellisier Road. The group looked at the culvert in front of the Superior Sod office, which is inadequate to handle the volumes of water reaching that low point. Dick had already talked with Kern County Roads Department about enlarging or increasing the number of culverts at several problem spots. Don Maben left to look at the sizes of other culverts with the promise that he would review the situation with the Roads Department to see what can be done.

cm

SMART GROWTH COALITION MEETING

The CVPA was also represented at a recent quarterly Smart Growth Coalition meeting, held in downtown Bakersfield. Your editor was one of the attendees. A number of items were presented and discussed. It was particularly heartening to hear the representative of Castle and Cooke talk about the unsightliness of the typical flat, wall-surrounded, garage-in-the-front tract, which has been built in significant numbers by Castle and Cooke and others in the Bakersfield area. The C&C representative showed slides of some alternative housing – using garages built to the back and more interesting architecture towards the street, with porches and more people-friendly home fronts. He also discussed the importance of building merchant areas in the neighborhoods, thereby encouraging more walking and less driving. What a treat it was to hear some options to the standard “block-wall-surrounded-homes-only” development.

ja

SOARING IN TEHACHAPI

Want a sport that is environmentally friendly, energy efficient, beautiful and peaceful, and which can be done easily in Tehachapi? Many non-soaring folk do not realize it, but Tehachapi is famous for people who fly sailplanes. In the years of 1937-1941, an important soaring competition was held at the Arvin-Sierra Glider Port, near the intersection of Highways 58 and 223. During at least one of those years, a famous sailplane pilot, Woody Brown, flew from there and landed at the Tehachapi Municipal Airport, thereby winning a cash prize offered by some Tehachapi civic boosters. Since the 1960s, there have been sailplanes regularly flying over Tehachapi and the Brite and Cummings Valleys. The sailplane operations first operated out of the Tehachapi Municipal Airport, but later Fred and Goldie Harris built Fantasy Haven Airport, which is now called Mountain Valley Airport, south of Tehachapi. Larry and Jane Barrett have operated their Skylark North Glider School there for many, many years.

Mountain Valley Airport houses what is probably the largest collection of vintage sailplanes on the west coast. There are a number of hangars built there and owned privately. In addition, there is an excellent sandwich shop plus an RV Park and a number of businesses located at Mountain Valley Airport.

Why is the soaring so great in the Tehachapi area? Turn around and look at the topography. Better yet, pull out the map. You will note that Tehachapi is situated at the southeast end of the San Joaquin Valley, at the base of the Sierra Nevada mountains, and also near the desert. Depending on the high pressure/low pressure situation, we can get warm, dry desert winds from the east or northeast or southeast. We also can get coastal flow from the west. Frequently, we in the Tehachapi Valley are where the two "flows" meet. Winds from the west meeting winds from the east results in lift (air moving upward naturally), commonly called the "shear line". Watch the wind direction at your house. Frequently we find east winds in the morning, and experience a wind shift to west in the afternoon. The Tehachapi shear goes right by your house regularly. If you can see the windmills to the east, you can note that the wind can be west at your house yet the windmills are

indicating east winds at the east end of the valley. You can tell what direction the wind is blowing for most (but not all) of the windmills by looking at which direction the blades are facing.

Other aspects that make soaring so good here: From Tehachapi, the soaring pilots can get high and head north, trying to reach the Sierras. Once on the Sierras, they can frequently stay high. Then, while heading north on the Sierras, when the coastal wind comes through from the west and subsequently shuts down the lift on the Sierras, the pilots cross the Owens Valley and fly on the Inyos and the White Mountains. At the north end of the Whites, just across the California-Nevada state line, is Boundary Peak, and this is a frequent turn point for the sailplanes. The goal on these cross-country trips is going far and fast, and if possible, making it home to Tehachapi for dinner. On really strong days, the pilots heading cross country "ballast up" by putting water in their wings, thereby allowing them to soar faster.

Just how far can these beautiful, sleek ships go? There have been about a dozen "1000 kilometer" flights out of Tehachapi - which is over 650 miles. In the springtime, there can be good lift in the San Joaquin Valley, and from your home in the Cummings Valley or Bear or Stallion you might see sailplanes headed west, doing what are referred to as "death dives". The death dive phrase isn't related to the outcome, but rather refers to the fact that the pilot probably won't make it back to Tehachapi but will choose to land somewhere in the San Joaquin. The pilot's crew then hooks up the trailer to the car and retrieves the pilot and plane. Most modern sailplanes come apart very easily and quickly, with the fuselage and the wings easily fitting into the trailer.

Sailplanes in the Cummings Valley and the BriteValley add to the beauty of the rural life here. Enjoy spotting them and match it with the weather you observe daily at your abode. There are many people who have chosen to live in Tehachapi because of the soaring possibilities here, and there is a large soaring community here that adds to the richness of the area.

A final note - every Memorial Day weekend there is a vintage glider gathering and every Labor Day there is a homebuilding/technical gathering, both at Mountain Valley Airport. Come see some amazing stuff! Guests are always welcome. ja

CODE ENFORCEMENT FOLLOWUP

Chuck McCollough received a call from Raymond Apresa of Kern County Code Enforcement to inform us that action is being taken on CVPA's letter requesting that the owners of the Wilsted motocross track [on Cummings Valley Road (east end) at Highway 202] be required to return the track to original grade. A letter was sent to the owners requiring that they respond by February 8, but unfortunately the year was given as 2008 in error. A letter with the corrected year will be sent.

As a result of our discussions with Mary Beth Garrison, aide to Supervisor Don Maben, Mr. Apresa was also asked to inform the owners of the property at Banducci Road and Old Ranch Road that the piles of junk on the property are unacceptable. He had not made contact at the time of the call because of snowy road conditions over the Alpine Forest pass. Mr. Manning, the owner, has told neighbors that the stuff is being stored there temporarily for a friend in Cummings Valley. We wonder if moving it to the friend's property will resolve the problem or just relocate it. cm

TEHACHAPI WINE AND CATTLE COMPANY

In the August CVPA news we related how a CVPA team had contributed to the planting of 3,000 Zinfandel grape vines at the Souza Ranch on June 28, 2003. On March 6th it was time to prune them. A CVPA team consisting of Susan Kneale, Chuck McCollough, and Barbara and Gene Zervas attacked the vines with vigor. The team organizer (Chuck) forgot to enlist two star members of the June planting team, Jim and Dawn Nelson. Sorry, Jim and Dawn, we know you would have loved being down on your knees in the dirt with a sharp pair of clippers! CVPA Corresponding Secretary Gail Bennett and her husband, Ben, also came to participate.

The first season's growth was cut back to leave only two buds above the graft junction, weeds were pulled and protectors replaced. The efforts of each organization, family or individual have been memorialized with a metal placard on the post at the beginning of "their" row. Sonny of Old Town Signs not only made and installed the placards, but helped with the pruning as well.

CVPA member Elaine Palance was in charge of the supply lines, bringing water, coffee and sweet rolls and other necessities to the workers. In their usual fashion, Bob and Patty Souza had a wonderful spread of lunch makings ready at noon. It was a beautiful day, a fun time, and we all look forward to enjoying some wine with the *Tehachapi Wine and Cattle Company* label. cm

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 2003 or earlier, you have not paid dues for the 2003-04 membership year which began July 1st. We value your support!

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.

Membership Application - July 1 through June 30

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Local Address _____ Phone () _____

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Check Appropriate Area

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Annual dues are \$12 per family.

Please check one:

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