

WATCH OUT FOR THE OAKS (continued)



as the hillsides are now being developed (where there are both many trees and special building challenges in creating building pads), the oaks are especially in jeopardy.

It is extremely important that all members of the community who care about the oak trees keep their eyes open to situations which seem counter to the health of any of the trees and report any concerns to our elected boards and to the managers, to let them know that we all care about protecting our trees. FOTO can only attempt to inform; it takes the community to get behind protecting our trees and native plants. BE VOCAL!

By the way, join FOTO members at one of our meetings by calling me at 821-1904. As you can see by the photo, we enjoy getting together, although it is not always quite as much fun as the event pictured!
lr



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CVPA NEWS

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Yellow Starthistle - Where Are We Now?

When CVPA became aware in 1995 of the growing Yellow Starthistle infestations along Cummings Valley roadsides and on private properties, we began mowing (wrong thing to do!), chopping, pulling, and then spraying herbicides. In 1999 we began participating in the Tehachapi Resource Conservation District's Transline spray program, and expanded our efforts to Brite Valley.

With constant vigilance, persistent spraying and manual removal, along with help from the expansion of farming, we think Cummings Valley is now Starthistle free, except for one piece of land at the southeast corner of Bear Valley Road and Cummings Valley Road and the CCI property.

In Brite Valley the battle continues with our sponsorship of the Adopt-A-Road program for Banducci Road and payment for some private roads that have no other source of funding. We also co-sponsored a pilot project for control of Russian Knapweed, another noxious alien weed destroying farm land in lower parts of Brite Valley. Our goal is to support farming as an alternative to development.
cm

CRUCIFIX AND CHURCH BETWEEN HWY 202 AND OLD CUMMINGS VALLEY ROAD

CVPA has received numerous calls from people who find the large crucifix near 202 objectionable for one reason or another. What many may not know is that the construction on this property is for a church as described on the web site "upheaval .org". The owner is Mr. Scott Roberts of Bear Valley Springs who had the large excavation made without the required grading permit which would have assured that proper grading and compaction procedures were followed. CVPA filed a written complaint with the Building Department to address the violation.

A church in this Estate Residential zone must have an approved Conditional Use Permit so that issues such as traffic, parking, sewer facilities, water quality and quantity, and impact on neighboring properties can be addressed and mitigated, if necessary. Mr. Roberts is apparently trying to circumvent the legal process by submitting plans for a 6,000 plus square foot residence rather than his intended church-day care center-meeting place. As an example, what are shown as meeting rooms on his web site plans are called bedrooms on the plans submitted to the County.

On July 20 CVPA President, Jo Anne Huckins, and Chuck McCollough met with Kern County Planning Director, Ted James, to make him aware of what is going on. Mr. James wrote a letter to Mr. Roberts that same day (copy to CVPA) asking him to clarify his intended use of the property, and informing him that a church and day care center will require approval of a conditional use permit at a public hearing before the Planning Commission.

Mr. Roberts has responded that the building is to be his residence, while stating that he does plan to hold church services there. This places the issue in a new category that the County is evaluating in light of State and Federal laws.

County Code Enforcement came out to measure the crucifix which is almost 20 feet tall. Because of its height, it requires a building permit and inspection for safety. The County proposes no other action in the belief that the crucifix is protected by First Amendment rights, although it can be argued that it is an illegal advertising sign. Anyone who finds the crucifix inappropriate or objectionable may write a letter to

CRUCIFIX (continued)

Mr. Scott Roberts, 24161 Deertrail Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561 suggesting that it would be nice if he would remove it or put it where it would be less "In Your Face".

It is not CVPA's intent to oppose Mr. Roberts' church. He is certainly entitled to his beliefs, but we want to ensure that proper procedures are followed to protect the community and the environment.

We welcome new CVPA members, Mike and Sandy Belgarde, who are building their dream home just two lots east of the proposed church. How will their dream be affected if Mr. Roberts goes ahead with plans described on his web site as "multiple youth functions, not necessarily church sponsored, dances, activity nights and just a safe place to hang out on the weekends"? *cm*

MOTOCROSS IS BACK!

The Wilsteds have reactivated their application for a conditional use permit for their motocross track at the east end of old Cummings Valley Road in Brite Valley. They have complied with the noise study requirement which has received approval of the Environmental Health Department.

Planning Department is completing their staff report for the Planning Commission which is scheduled to hear the proposal September 23. CVPA will contact surrounding property owners to determine concerns that would call for outright opposition or, at least, mitigation measures. *cm*

ANNUAL BBQ

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 25, 2004**. Bob and Patty Souza have again allowed CVPA to use their beautiful ranch for this popular event. The festivities will begin at 4:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Deep Pit barbecued beef and pork will be served along with all of the fixings! Cost for CVPA members will be \$15 per person and \$17 per person for non-members. The Souza Ranch is at 25589 Cummings Valley Road. To get there, take Pellisier dirt extension north from Giraudo to Cummings Valley Road, turn left and look for the Ranch a short distance on your right. Beer and wine will be available with tickets at three for \$5. Entertainment will be provided by the multi-talented Betty Casey & JJ so come on out and enjoy a wonderful evening of good food, good friends and entertainment in one of the most beautiful spots in Cummings Valley. This year we are asking that payment accompany all reservations because of the increasing popularity of this event. Please send all reservations, including the names of your guests, and your check to CVPA, P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581. The deadline for reservations is Monday, September 20, 2004. If you have questions, please call Jo Anne at 822-6589. *jh*

ORGANIC PRODUCE

You may have noticed that the former apple shed on Bear Valley Road (just south of the intersection with Cummings Valley Road) is now selling organic produce. This is being operated by Grimmway Farms as a good neighbor gesture to allow residents of the area to partake of the bounty of the multitude of organic vegetables grown in the Cummings Valley. The produce is fresh, nicely displayed and prices are very reasonable. Some items such as big bags of carrots for horses and melons are brought from other farms as available.

So, here's your chance to start eating more of those wonderfully healthful vegetables from our local soil. The shed will be open during the Cummings Valley harvest season, mainly June, July and August. Posted hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9AM-6PM. *cm.jha*

MEMBERSHIP

CVPA is staffed by a committed group of volunteers who work to meet the challenges of keeping the focus on maintaining our wonderful rural quality of life and protecting against uncontrolled development. Your support through membership is critical to the success of CVPA. **We do not mail membership renewal statements.** Instead, the mailing label on your newsletter shows the expiration of your membership on June 30 of the year printed in the center of the top line. The annual membership dues are \$12 per family for a fiscal year July 1 through June 30. Each newsletter contains an application that allows members to renew and provides mailing instructions. Check your label! We value your support.

WATCH OUT FOR THE OAKS

With all the building going on in the Tehachapi area, this editor asked Laurie Rude, a member of Friends of the Oaks (FOTO) how our oaks are doing with all this activity around them. The following is her report:

Friends of the Oaks is dedicated to making the Tehachapi-area residents aware of the best practices around oak trees (as recommended by those who are involved with trees) by providing articles, materials and programs, such as oak workshops and the promotion of mistletoe removal. Although FOTO members do not police tree practices, we have worked with the Bear Valley Springs Association (BVSA) Environmental Control Committee and the BVSA Board to attempt to influence oak tree practices in that community, and we are aware of the concern of General Manager David Aranda for Stallion Springs' beautiful oak trees.

Building around oaks is particularly problematic of course, and there are two FOTO members who are most in touch with what is happening with these activities. Al Thibodeau is a certified arborist who spends many hours in the community promoting good tree practices. He works particularly hard with the Environmental Control Committee in Bear Valley Springs as well as builders and homeowners who have been referred by the Environmental Control Committee.

Also, Solveig Thompson, long-time real estate broker associate for Bear Valley Realty, takes a very active role in the conservation of the Tehachapi area in general and pays particular attention to the oaks. Both Solveig and Al report there is much more concern being shown for the trees than in the past. However,

(continued on last page)

Check your label! Your membership expires June 30 of the year printed in the center of the top line. Please keep your membership current. We value your support.

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.				
Membership Application - July 1 through June 30				
Name(s) _____				
Local Address _____				Phone () _____
Mail Address _____ <small>(If not same as local)</small>				Phone () _____
Check Appropriate Area				
<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls	<input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs	<input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi
<input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/> ? _____
e-mail addr: _____				
Annual dues are \$12 per family.			Mail with payment to:	
Please check one:				
<input type="checkbox"/> One year \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Three years \$36	Cummings Valley Protective Association	
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