



Cascade Connections

CSHA Newsletter • Fall 2017

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President's Message

Since our last newsletter the Cascade Shores Homeowners Association has continued to do well. Our membership, which always seems to drop during the summer months, is coming up nicely. It is just slightly below where it was at the end of last year, which was the highest on record. This is probably because people realize, as cold weather approaches, that the discount on their propane far exceeds the cost of their dues. The number of dues collected is important as there are significant costs involved in operating the Lost Mine Lake facilities.

A very major problem this past year was the huge amount of sand and gravel that came down the drainage ditch from the cliffs above Gas Canyon Road. Apparently an area of very loose sediment in the cliffs broke loose. This completely filled the ditch that comes through the park, causing a lot of water and gravel to flow through the kitchen area. We were able to get the county to clean out the ditch once, but then they declined doing it further. Fortunately, the LeFrancois family donated their time and equipment and cleaned it out subsequently. We are in hopes the problem will not recur this winter.

We have had more rentals of our facilities this summer than usual. This extra income is very helpful in offsetting our expenses.

Vandalism has been a significant problem. With the aid of security cameras several of the vandals were identified and dealt with. Vandalism has been less of a problem since that occurred.

We would like to have broader representation on the Board of Directors. If any CSHA members are interested in having input into the management of this organization, they are welcome to attend our monthly meetings to see if they wish to join the Board of Directors. The Board can appoint new members at any time, so anybody who wishes to join does not need to wait to be elected at the annual meeting. We recently did this with the appointment of Leslie Grassi, who was

a valuable member of the Board prior to her moving from the area and has now returned.

Planning is underway for our annual Christmas dinner and I hope to see many of you there.

Harry Wander, President, CSHA

Save the Date!

The Cascade Shores Homeowners Association

Cordially Invites You

To Our
2017 Christmas Dinner
Get Together

WHERE: *Northern Queen Inn*
Trolley Junction Dining Room
400 Railroad Avenue, Nevada City

WHEN: *Saturday, Dec 2nd at 6:00 pm*

WHAT: *Dinner, beer, wine, dessert,*
tax and tip

COST: *\$35 per person*

Details will arrive via email the first of November. Please make plans to join us for this fun event being held on a Saturday evening to encourage our weekend residents to attend!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Drill Leaves Us With Some Harsh Reminders



On July 25, more than two dozen firefighters representing several fire agencies arrived in Cascade Shores to stage a wildland fire drill, simulating all the activities that would take place in the event of an actual fire. Several homes participated as staging areas, fire engines went in and out of driveways, hoses were laid out on the ground, hand tools were pulled off trucks, firefighting tactics were practiced, and properties were evaluated for access and defensible space. Homes were looked at to see if there were needles and dry leaves on decks, roofs, and gutters. Were the properties clean with minimum ground fuels? Had trees been limbed up so that dry branches were not close to the ground? Were fire engines able to safely enter driveways and get out easily? Firefighters got familiar with our conditions, the terrain, and moving their equipment around on our streets. By everyone's account, it was a successful drill and the Firewise Committee had a chance to debrief the leaders when we assembled at Lost Mine Lake for a post-drill BBQ with the firefighters. The drill participants learned a lot and sharpened their skills, but we were left with some harsh reminders about Cascade Shores.

To quote Battalion Chief Matt Wallen, the drill commander, "Firefighters learned that Cascade Shores is a high risk community due to its location, with extended response times and having topography issues with heavy fuels within and around the entire community. Depending on the severity of the fire, our efforts may or may not be successful in saving homes, as some properties have good clearance, but this is often negated by neighbors having poor clearance. Success involves everyone's effort with property clearance to function as a united front, supporting a continuous, larger section of land which provides safety for the community as a whole and not just individual parcel efforts. There's safety in numbers."

Matt Wallen continued to say that, "If firefighters don't feel safe defending your home based on adequate 'park-like appearance' clearance on the property, they will

probably leave for their own safety and your home will be left to stand on its own as the fire front advances toward the home."

These lessons may be a bitter pill to swallow, but THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN DO:

1. Start with your own home and get 100 feet (or to the property line) of defensible space. See the related article, "IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT," for easy, inexpensive ideas.
2. Look at the properties around you and ask yourself if these are safe. If not, talk to your neighbors, share the takeaways from the fire drill, and see if people will start to make the steps to clean-up. Call the Firewise Committee at 265-2435 for help with difficult neighbors.
3. Support the work of the Firewise Committee in our efforts to educate and motivate the people of Cascade Shores. Call 265-2435 to make a donation which helps us with signs and other information. Or simply pass along an idea or suggestion. Also, check out cascadeshores.org under the *Fire Safe Council/Fire Safety* index for useful information.
4. If you have a dangerous property and are unwilling to do anything about it, ask yourself why you are paying taxes for fire protection? As Matt Wallen says, homes without defensible space are at risk of being abandoned by the firefighters in the event of a wildfire. Additionally, fire insurers are known to drop policies for homes that do not have defensible space. All in all, it's much cheaper to get defensible space than it is to run the risk of being a fire target.

Thank you Fire Safe Council and CSHA for planning and supporting the wildland fire drill.

Cascade Shores Firewise Committee



It's The Little Things That Count

Let's say you don't have defensible space around your home because you think it's going to cost too much. Actually, for the majority homes in Cascade Shores, defensible space isn't a high hurdle at all. In most cases, you don't have to take out the healthy trees, but just whack away those crowded juvenile oaks and cedars that keep popping out of the earth. Look for the fire footholds on the ground, roof, gutters, and decks – those places that can become the starting point of fire and where it might spread to nearby bigger fuel sources. For most of us, a rake and some pruning sheers might be enough. And make sure that a fire truck coming into your driveway has enough clearance above and to the sides. You see, we are not defending against a raging treetop fire. When that happens, evacuation is your only option. What we are actually defending against is the higher risk of becoming a victim to windblown, hot embers that come off a wildland fire that could be quite a distance from your home. Those embers can easily start a spot fire on your property and burn down your house even when the main fire event is a mile away! With a new fire starting on your property, the firefighters will then have to contend with an ever widening treetop fire that also threatens everyone around you. Our overarching goal in Cascade Shores is to keep a ground fire from getting into the big trees. If that occurs, we are facing a huge loss!

The costs of getting defensible space are cheap in comparison to the risks of being a fire target. Order a 96-gallon yard waste container from Waste Management at 274-3085, and for a few bucks a month, they will pick up with your regular garbage. Get into the habit of filling it with debris for the twice a month pick-up. Also, during the low risk fire months, you are allowed to burn garden waste in your yard so long as you have a burn permit (issued by most fire agencies) and follow the safety rules. That's an inexpensive way to get rid of lots of dangerous fuel. For most situations, you don't need to cart things off to the landfill.

And if you are unclear about what constitutes "defensible space," call the Fire Safe Council at 272-1122 and ask for a free "Advisory Visit" from trained volunteers who can help you to assess your property's safety.

And what if your neighbor (including an absentee lot owner) has an unsafe property that threatens yours? Let our Firewise Committee know by calling Jan at 265-2435 and we will be able to help with some ideas

and can stop by to see the problem. Your name will be kept private. But don't rest your case thinking that you are safe just because your own property is clean. As Battalion Chief Matt Wallen points out (see related "Drill..." article), your clean property may be "negated by neighbors having poor clearance."

Getting and keeping defensible space is not hard or expensive. It just requires a little work and persistence. It's the little things on your property that count as the biggest danger. Keep thinking that way, and you will soon be satisfied with your results. And... you won't put a hole in your wallet!

Cascade Shores Firewise Committee



We Need You

It's time to think about joining your Cascade Shores Homeowners Association Board of Directors!

WE NEED YOU!!!

The Board is looking for additional CSHA members to join the board. We invite you to consider joining the board to help us make Cascade Shores the best it can be.

If you are interesting in serving on the board, please email CSHA board secretary Thom Guzman at tguzmania@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please email or call Thom at 530/264-7489!

Many thanks to the CSHA Board of Directors, Harry Wander, Larry Marvin, Doug Gloff, Andrew Guevel, Leslie Grassi and Thom Guzman for their dedication to CSHA.

Lost Mine Lake Fall 2017

Lost Mine Lake has had some changes over the summer. The buildings have been painted, new toilets installed and the drainage ditch cleared.

The kitchen, pavilion and the tool shed have been painted with a new color and repairs to the tool shed siding and roof have been completed. The restroom building will be painted next spring.

New toilets have been installed, replacing the 30 years plus original toilets. This was an expensive, but necessary major improvement.

The drainage ditch has been cleaned out but will continue to be a problem. Again, the Home Owners Association is indebted to the LeFrancois family for the generous donation of their skills and equipment to open the ditch. Over many years, they have performed projects that would be prohibitive to fund with our existing budget.

Our future plans include cleaning debris along the hiking trail and continue our pursuit to find a means to improve our ability to reduce the bladderwort weeds in the lake that is financially feasible.

Lost Mine Lake is not only for the summer. Take time to enjoy the peace and solitude that the lake provides as the seasons change.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their continued support with projects at Lost Mine Lake and welcome any volunteers.



Doug Gloff, CSHA Vice-President/LML Supervisor

Security Patrol

As I make my weekly rounds, I am frequently stopped by residents wanting to discuss issues that concern them, like people stealing mail out of our mailboxes, off-road vehicles being driven on our residential streets, offensive noise levels from unruly neighbors, alarms going off on unoccupied homes, suspicious activity occurring at a neighboring house, dogs not on leashes, or excessive speeding on our streets. When these issues occur, please contact the appropriate Nevada County authorities. They have the legal authority to respond and act. Their phone numbers are:

Law enforcement

Nevada County Sheriff's Office - 530/265-1471

Animal Control

Nevada County Animal Control - 530/273-2179

We now have 40 homes on the weekly inspection list! If you are interested in having us visit your house weekly, check out the CSHA website: www.cascadeshores.org and click on *Security Patrol* on the left side of the screen.

The "Authorization for Security Patrol Inspections" form is located there. Enhanced Membership is an affordable \$75 a year for a weekly inspection of your home (April 1 to March 31). Here is a quick summary of what CSHA Security Patrol provides for "Enhanced Membership" CSHA members:

Weekend/Vacation home owners:

A weekly inspection of your vacation/weekend home and timely contact if something is amiss.

Permanent resident home owners:

Twice-weekly inspection of your permanent residence while you are on vacation, if requested.

A weekly drive by inspection of your permanent residence.

When I'm on my rounds, please say hi. If you have any questions regarding CSHA Security Patrol, please call me (530/264-7489) or email me (tbennitoia@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you in the Shores!

Tom Bennett, CSHA Security Patrol Person

Service Provider List

Randall's Computer Service

Expert repairs and service for Desktop, Laptop, iPhone, Android Phone, and Tablets.

Also service/installation and repairs of Home Audio/Video systems and many other electronic devices.

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Local Cascade Shores Resident

10% discount for Locals

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Michael's Personalized Tree Service

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SCL#723619

10% off any job for members of CSHA

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Cascade Shores Homeowner's Association

A homeowners organization dedicated to the protection of our commonly held property, Lost Mine Lake, the promotion of community safety, property values, and the overall desirability of living in Cascade Shores.

Current CSHA Board Members

President; Roads	Harry Wander	hjwtander@comcast.net	530-264-7359
Vice President; Lost Mine Lake Supervisor	Doug Gloff	dglloff12@hotmail.com	530-470-8643
Treasurer; Membership, Propane, Website, Federation of Neighborhood Associations (FONA)	Larry Marvin	ljmm3@sbcglobal.net	530-478-1095
Secretary; Lost Mine Lake Rental Contact	Thom Guzman	tguzmania@gmail.com	530-264-7489
Security Patrol; Membership Committee	Tom Bennett	tbennitoia@gmail.com	530-264-7489
Board Member; Lost Mine Lake Assistant	Andrew Guevel	akguevel@comcast.net	530-264-5020
Board Member; Newsletter	Leslie Grassi	lesgrassi@yahoo.com	530-478-0386

Association members are welcome to attend CSHA Board Meetings. Members who wish to present issues to the board shall so advise the President by 3 days prior to the meeting. Participation by CSHA Members in the board discussions is welcomed. Come meet your neighbors and help us to make Cascade Shores a welcoming place to live.

Support The Fire Safe Council

The Fire Safe Council is a non-profit, local volunteer organization dedicated to making Nevada County safer from catastrophic wildfire through fire prevention education, fire break clearing projects and creating Firewise Communities.

Help support our mission to educate others by making a donation today.