

SPRING 2003 NEWLETTER

Audubon Hills Property Owner Association (A.H.P.O.A.)

Special Assessment Increase Passed!



130 residents voted on the Special Assessment increase for our roads. 104 Voted Yes, 80% of you were in favor of this measure! Democracy prevailed. You spoke, you voted to have the election, you voted for the increase. Congratulations. It was a landslide victory.

This increase is only an additional \$4 a month, but that money will help our CSD keep up with the rising costs of road maintenance, and road related expenses. As stated before, these costs include Audubon Drive paving, pot hole repair, side road chip seal (future will include paving as well), snow removal, sanding, signs, lines, and road side abatement; just to name a few. Each one of these expenses keep our Audubon Hills home values high, maintain the desirable attributes that make Audubon Hills unique, and last but certainly not least, they keep us safe.

We thank everyone for their efforts, contributions, support, and involvement. This literally would not have happened without you. This is your home, continue giving us your input, thoughts, and ideas. Our job is to share those ideas and vote together on what's best for our community. Together we did, can, and will always make a difference!

AHCSD Officer's

Chairman -Mike Fennessy

fenn@cwnet.com

644-3855

Co-Chair

Craig Tarzia 644-4807

Treasurer

Ernie Woods 644-4500

Directors

Jim McCarthy 647-8878 Victor House 644-2944

AHPOA Officer's

Chairman -Jim McCarthy Co-Chair -Kim McCarthy

ahpoa@techrace.com

647-8878

Secretary/Treasurer

Sue Collier 644-8878

Directors

Steve Bates 644-4699

Neighborhood Watch

Don Murray 644-6262

Jim Wells 644-4779

(Article from August 7, 2002 e-mail)

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One hundred years ago-1903

The year is 1903, one hundred years ago what a difference a century makes. Here are some U.S. statistics for 1903.

The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).

There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour and the average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.

Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The five leading causes of death in the US were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."



Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

Spring Cleaning-Dumpster Drop-off

Time for Audubon Hills annual spring cleaning again. AHPOA has rented a dumpster for the week of **May 30– June 6**. Your \$25 dues are what pay for this service, so only neighbors with currently paid dues can dump their trash.

But....we're not THAT harsh, we'll still accept your dues! Just bring a \$25 check to your appointment. That way you can utilize the convenience of the dumpster in our neighborhood and have currently paid dues! **WHAT A DEAL!!!!**

ONE reasonable truck load per household, please. This way we can insure everybody, that has paid their dues, will get a chance to dump their trash. Just like last year, the dumpster will be behind a locked gate, so please don't just drop by, or leave stuff at the gate. Give us a call first, we're pretty flexible.

We'll have a regular dumpster that almost everything can be dumped in; **EXCEPT:** appliances, tires, and toxics. You must take those to the recycle yard on HWY 49.

Dates: Friday, May 30 to Friday June 6
Appointments: 647-8878 or ahpoa@techrace.com





AHPOA Community Meeting

Hey folks. It's that time again! These meetings have really been more enjoyable than any one of us thought they would. For those of you that have not been to them over the last two years, here's what happens. We meet at the end of Kingfisher Lane on a clearing, in the shade, on the grass. (Doesn't that sound nice?) Barring the draining of 30 cups of coffee inside of the McCarthy's vehicle again this year, we will bribe your attendance with coffee, juice, muffins, and stimulating conversation.

Some items that will be addressed will be Neighborhood Watch concerns like the recent crime wave in here and Camino; the suggestion, from several neighbors, for a surveillance camera or a gate at the entrance; how to protect your home, and various community needs. We also will hear from our road committee on future plans.

This is the meeting to go to if you have something to say for or against an agenda item AND you want to vote on choices for your community. Got a question? You could be lucky, we may even have an answer!! If we don't, we'll find one for you.

Remember you get to vote only if you have your dues currently paid, they are due June 14. Of course, we will take a check on the day of the meeting, as well. If you wish to address the group on any of the items above or something else, please call or e-mail us, so we can include you in the agenda. Everyone's time is valuable, and we try to stick to the time table. This allows everyone to get back home to the "honey do lists" (what weekends are for anyway, right?), go to the fairgrounds for the "Wagon Train", or do whatever your heart pleases. If you can't attend, but wish something to be addressed, please give us a call. We'll do it.

Be sure to bring your lawn chair, coffee mug, questions, and your humor. So we know exactly how many people we need to provide coffee, muffins, and stimulating conversation for, please e-mail or call Kim to let her know if you plan to come. THANKS!! ahpoa@techrace.com or 647-8878

Date: June 21, 2003 **Time:** 9am—10:30am

Where: On Kingfisher Lane, over the pond, left side, on the grass, under the trees.

Please give us your e-mail for instant alerts.

If you have or are going to be changing your e-mail, please update your address with us. For those of you that haven't, please consider doing so.

We use your e-mails to send you the quarterly newsletters, and to send out community alerts. Such as the bear sightings in Sept./Oct, alerts like the mailbox break ins and thefts we had in November/December, and notification as to

why helicopters were circling our neighborhood a couple of months ago. (PGE was flying gridlines of their power lines).

Talk with your neighbors. Check up on us! We assure you, nobody will have access to these addresses, except the president, vice president, & sec/tres. Never will we share, sell, or abuse your trust.

Audubon Thefts: An Update

The holidays brought many neighbors more than good cheer this last year, instead many got an infringement of their personal space. We had cases of mailbox break-ins, property theft, and identity theft in November, December, January, and February. If you don't think it could happen to you, think again. That's the first thing everyone said that had been affected.

Those of us utilizing the group mailboxes, had quickly become fed up with them getting broken into. Later we realized that these group mailboxes were not the only victims. Other neighbors, with singular mailboxes, also got bills, credit cards, checks, and packages stolen. In January, we sent out valuable links to help us all protect our identities and credit. If you didn't receive these links, this means we don't have your e-mail, please e-mail your e-mail to us today at ahpoa@techrace.com. We'll protect and preserve your e-mail trust, plus give you instant and quick alerts.

Here are some highlights from that e-mail. 1. If you feel your credit has been used by someone other than yourself, you MUST contact Ed, the postmaster at the Camino Post-office. He will direct you to the postal inspectors that are currently building a case against the culprits that invaded our privacy. 2. Be sure to look onto your credit card bills, even the ones from the beginning of the year. Look for "test charges", they are typically in the range of a \$1 charge onto your card, to see if the card works. If it does, then they go whole hog, when you least expect it. 3. Check you credit report, this is VERY important. Without your knowledge they may have opened credit under your name. 4. Lastly, call your credit companies today, and request that they not send you "courtesy checks" any longer. They are only a courtesy to the thieves, that's why they break into the mailboxes during the holidays. Banks send these out, without our knowledge, to encourage us to charge on their card. Thieves have complete access to our credit, with these little checks. There are a few cases of these exact types of charges in Audubon Hills.

Jim and Kim had become quite frustrated with all the mailbox break-ins. It was inconceivable that nobody could have heard anything. Prying a huge metal box isn't exactly a quiet task. Later, many people stated they heard something, but didn't call the police because they didn't know what the sound was. As the saying goes, "looking back I've got 20/20", who would have known? It's been so quiet in here, we wouldn't have thought somebody was doing something so nasty.

Well, in December, someone stole our sons go-cart. Then in January, someone came to steal our trailer. Both, by the way, parked way up our driveway and previously next to each other. Because of the mailbox and go-cart thefts, we were on guard (and fed up) when we heard the creep stealing the trailer at 2am. "Night-Rider"/"Dirty Harry" or "TJ Hooker" aka: Jim McCarthy, decided to chase down the guy to get a license and slow him down. Kim was on the phone with 911. Imagine Kim's surprise when she gets a call back from 911, at 2:30am saying she needs to pick up the trailer, it was dumped on Larsen, and then pick Jim up on Smith Flat Road, because the car has been totaled. Wa Wa What?

Needless to say, Kim was relieved to find Jim 100% physically fit, but shaken. The car....well, it wasn't totaled, but it did require \$6000 worth of work. The guy didn't like Jim chasing him, and slammed into every side of the car but the back. Jim stuck with him, because the thief started throwing mail out his window, Jim realized this was "the guy" doing the mail too. The guy got away, but Jim got the license plate number. Our relentless El Dorado County detectives had to track a lot of previous owners down (it had been sold 4 times since it was last registered), but they did find the bad guy and when he was arrested he had a large number of stolen items in his garage, check making material, and stolen mail.

He ended up getting 4 years in State Prison for the trailer theft, assault with a deadly weapon, and various other thefts. Next, he'll have to go to court in Placer County for the other stolen items. Then he'll have to deal with the big boys, the Postal Inspectors. These guys plan to make an example out of him. After his state prison term, he'll have to, in Federal prison, serve for every count of mail theft he's done. That's about 30 counts of mail theft for each time he broke into a group box, times 8 boxes in Camino, times at least 4 separate break-ins, that's a lot of time. Will he do it again? Who knows, but he's gone for awhile now and hopefully all his little friends will know now that we don't want them up here anymore.

Please return this form, for the September 7 picnic, with your payment and meal order by July 24 to P.O. Box 631, Camino, CA 95709. Thank You.

Our old fashioned family picnic and BBQ will include hamburgers or a boneless chicken breast, salads, soda's, and homemade ice cream! Pay now and show up on Sunday, September 7 for a meal that will be cooked just for you! To help us help you, please let us know if you are coming, so we know how many fixins to purchase. Thank you.

Community Meeting-June 21st, 9-10:30 (see page 3)

We will attend the community meeting. _____ # attending meeting.

Picnic: Sunday, September 7, 2pm—6pm (see below)

We will attend the picnic and we will need

Totals

_____ # of Hamburger dinners at **\$5 each**.....\$_____

_____ # of Chicken dinners at **\$5 each**.....\$_____

We will attend the picnic, but well bring our own dinner.....\$ 0

_____ # attending

Property Owners Information Update

TOTAL ENCLOSED...\$_____

Name(s)_____ E-mail _____

A.H. Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

AHPOA Community Picnic

Put **Sunday, September 7, 2003** on your calendar, in pen, now. That way, it's an appointment you can't change! It's definitely one you don't want to miss. We've gotten a lot of promises to attend, so we'll be looking for you this year!! We purposely changed the picnic to a Sunday because, after all, Sunday is supposed to be a day of rest, so rest. We'll cook for you!

This is purely a neighbor friendly, kid friendly, chore friendly day. We designed it that way, so you can't help but want to go! All you have to do is choose a meal and pay for it now. We'll do the rest. Come ON! You know you've been curious, and have wanted to go. We promise not to bite, debate, vote, or be BORING!!! There's only room for pleasantness and fun. Really.

Each year, more and more singles, couples, and families come. Last year 48 people came. Everyone has a great time, which IS the point of the day. Again, we'll have the jumping balloon and games to keep the kids entertained.

If you have any questions or need a ride to dinner, e-mail us or give us a call at 647-8878. The picnic is a day for everyone, so we hope everyone will give it a chance!

Does anybody have any ideas on where we could hold the picnic this year? Rising fee's at Camino School and handicapped inaccessibility at Larson's Park have lead us to explore other area's to have our picnic. If you have any ideas, please call or e-mail us with them. We'll let you know where the picnic will be as soon as we book a place. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you!

AUDUBON HILLS PROPERTY
OWNER ASSOCIATION
(A.H.P.O.A.)

Birds of a Feather

AHPOA
P.O. Box 631
Camino, CA 95709

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.TEHRACE.COM/AUDUBON_HILLS

Neighborhood Dates To Remember:

May 30-June 6 - Spring Cleaning-Dumpster Appointments

Call the McCarthy's, see page 2, for an appointment to drop off your trash.

June 14 - \$25 dues are due

June 21 - AHPOA Community Meeting

September 7 - AHPOA Community Picnic



County Dates To Remember:

June 12 to 15 - El Dorado County Fair

June 21 - 53rd Annual Wagon Train

August 18 - Camino School Starts