

Audubon Hills Fall 2003 Newsletter

Bench Dedications



AHPOA Officer's

Chairman-Jim McCarthy

jim@audubonhills.org

Co-Chair-Kim McCarthy

kim@audubonhills.org

647-8878

Secretary/Treasurer

Sue Collier 644-8878

sue@audubonhills.org

Neighborhood Watch

Jim Wells 644-4779

jimw@audubonhills.org

Directors-

Steve Bates 644-4699

Don Murray 644-6262

AHCSO Officer's

Chairman-

Mike Fennessy

fenn@cwnet.com

644-3855

Co-Chair-Craig Tarzia

644-4807

Treasurer-Ernie Woods

644-0971

Directors

Jim McCarthy 647-8878

Victor House 644-2944

Audubon Hills just wouldn't be Audubon Hills, without the contribution of volunteers. The Adam's and the Haefeles, were instrumental to the development of our neighborhood. Had it not been for them, we wouldn't have what we have today. As many of you know, we wanted to acknowledge their dedication, so AHPOA purchased benches as a lasting tribute to their contributions.

Walter Haefele was at the AHPOA Community meeting in June. He was quite surprised that we chose to acknowledge his work. "I'm so embarrassed, how nice," was all he could stammer out! For those that know Walter, he is not a man short on words. If you ask him, he'll have the answers to everything Audubon Hills. Which, in our opinion has made him a treasure to our community.

Unfortunately, Walter and Eleanor Haefele have sold their house, and will be moving from their home of over 37 years. With plans for smaller accommodations, they'll have even more time, for traveling and visiting with their children. Walter and Eleanor will certainly be missed by this board and their neighbors. We hope that their



dedication to this community, by making it what it is, will be appreciated and remembered by all.

Our other commemorative bench was dedicated to the memory of Merrill Adams. Merrill and Bee were the first residents of Audubon Hills. They had purchased large lots of property, then petitioned the county to make this a residential neighborhood. Merrill's bid narrowly won over a mobile home development. Because of his involvement, he was instrumental to the development of Audubon Hills, as a community.

Sadly, we lost his wife Bee Adams, on October 13. We had hoped to get Merrill's bench in so she could see it, but unfortunately this did not happen. We plan on installing Merrill's bench at the Big Curve (or 4 corners), and adding a memorial plaque next to Merrill's plaque, dedicated to Bee.

AHPOA's goal is to properly recognize the works of current and past residents of Audubon. All of these dedications will both enhance and beautify our neighborhood, which, after all, is what their goal was in the first place! Every form of dedication will remind or teach neighbors how good it is to get involved in their community, and how many people along the way have helped.

If you have any suggestions for future dedications, please contact us at theboard@audubonhills.org. We can't get everybody at once, but we'll get to them year by year.

Home by: Kimberly McCarthy 2003

Audubon Hills, it's the place to be.
 Beauty from a pond to the top of a tree.
 We're lucky enough to live, where people visit.
 It's always our home, if we go, we miss it!
 Fall brings burn piles crackling on the ground.
 Have you listened to the snow? There is no sound.
 Spring brings life, like a bulb through the snow.
 Warmth brings long days of summer to show.
 Have you listened to currents of air through the trees?
 Or smelt the pine scents wafting with the breeze?
 Birds of every kind, fly through the air.
 Our streets are named after them, find them if you dare!
 Finally, we remember why we chose this as home.
 Take the time to enjoy it, take time to roam.

Audubon Hills Community Services District News

I would like to thank everybody who supported the increase in the parcel tax. This will go a long way in expediting the goals the board has set for improving the roads.

A large part of the routine maintenance is knowing what needs to be fixed. Please use the Road Service Requests, in the AHCS D Box, located on Audubon Drive at the big curve. These requests have been very useful in scheduling repairs. If there are no forms in the box, call me, and I will see that you get one. Recent repairs include oil and chip seal on Kingbird Lane and Kingfisher Lane and the blacktopping of Nighthawk Lane.

A word about weed abatement. In the past, this was accomplished with volunteer work parties. Those parties became very hard to schedule and man up. Two years ago, the board started contracting for weed control. The contract calls for weed and brush cutting three (3) feet from the edge of the road and six (6) feet up on Audubon Drive. The cutting on the side roads is two (2) feet from the edge of the road and six (6) feet up. To save the District's money, *the contract does not call for removal of the cuttings.*

If there is something you would like to see changed, please plan to attend a meeting or write to the Board. Board meetings are the third Thursday of every other month, starting January 2004. The meeting location will be posted on the AHCS D bulletin board at the entrance to the development as well as on audubonhills.org website. If you would like to speak at the board meeting, please let the President of the Board know ten (10) days before the meeting, so you can be added to the agenda.

Sincerely;

Mike Fennessy
President AHCS D

The Myth: Cutting Trees = Big Money

There has been a myth, that many land owners have fallen victim to. They have been lead to believe that if they cut some trees on their property, they're going to become "rich", get some extra spending cash, or a little extra for the addition to the house. Most don't realize that once everyone takes their share of the cash, there isn't much left.

Understandably, there are reasons for downing trees and if one is able to get some cash out of the deal, that's great! Things such as new home plots, tree maintenance (see page 5), or visual appeal. Others, have been known to come into this community of trees, and almost clear cut their property of healthy growth, for the cash.

Once this was done, most have said they wished they hadn't done it, because they ended up with so little. At that point they realized it wasn't worth what they lost.

Here's what happens. You have a couple of trees that are big, and you've heard you can get good money. The logger says you can get this much per tree. This amount is always dependent on what that particular tree is worth at that particular time. It's never the same value.

Then the subtraction game begins. You have the logger's fee, the truck transfer

fee, the crane or skidder fee, and the brush clearing fee, just to name a few.

Once all of these fees are taken into account, there may be enough to get an ice cream sundae. But, now you have to live with this big hole in your yard, and there is no resemblance of the property you bought. Why, then, did you buy in Audubon Hills, an area recognized, valued, and praised for it's trees?

That's what many of your neighbors are wondering too. Yes, it's your property. True, it's none of your neighbors business what you do. It's common knowledge that they are a renewable source.

But...keep this in mind. How will you feel, when a neighbor clears the trees on your adjoining property line? Do you notice your house has more sun than before? Is it your business? Would you be angry or feel these people don't understand how their actions affect you?

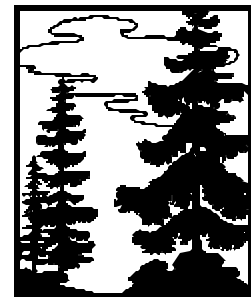
How about that renewable resource? Did you also subtract the cost of new trees and the cost of two years of regular watering for that new tree. That's how long it takes to successfully establish a mature tree?

These are all factors to keep in mind, when felling

your next tree for some extra cash. The cash you get will most definitely not be the cash you expected. Nor will the relationship with your new neighbors.

Remember, that a little communication goes a long way. Talk with your neighbors, ask, and listen to any concerns they have with your plans. We are living here together, and we did choose this area for many different reasons. One, is the trees.

Audubon Hills is cooler and prettier than the other side of Hwy 50. Sometimes neighbors get jumpy if it sounds like someone is trying to profit by cutting down what makes this area pristine. Most of the time, that's not the case, but talking and informing goes a long way to remove the tension.



Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

-Abraham Lincoln

Owners Responsibilities: Road Side Clearing



Audubon Hills semi-annual roadside clearing has once again taken place the week of October 13.

We've gotten some calls again, in regards to the slash being left on the side of the road and complaints of spraying the weeds. Please remember, the clearing is supposed to be done by you. If the property along the road is keep clear, there won't be slash left behind by the landscaper and there won't be a reason for them to spray the weeds, they won't be there when they come.

Unfortunately many area's along the road have been left "natural". That's how "natural" wildfires start, like the ones down south, and car damage occurs from the "natural" branches hanging too low in the winter.

We all must do our part to keep our families and homes safe. Therefore, please take the time to

pick up the slash left on the ground, on your property. Your job has been cut in half, please don't leave it laying on the ground. The Audubon Hills Community Services District has taken on the cost of this clearing, but most of us would agree that we would rather have our roads paved properly, than to have the district pay for something that is our responsibility anyway.

Finally, we're asking if you could please take a look at your culverts and ditches that run along the roads, on your property. Many of these get filled with needles and pine cones, which restrict the flow of water in the winter. Then we get road erosion and you get a flooded driveway!

The smoke in the air, means burn season is here! Now we can get those burn piles lit! If you can't get to them, right away, cover your piles with a tarp, to keep them dry. We appreciate your efforts.

Fire Safety-Hard Lesson's Learned From Fires Down South

"We never thought it would happen to us." "We got out safe, but we have lost all of our memories." These are comments made repeatedly from people living down south, that lost their homes to the various fires at the end of October. Unfortunately, they do have to happen to someone, why not you? Have you planned for something like this? Just in case?

Ironically, many people plan, plan, and over plan for everything. Death-Life Insurance and your plans for your family, personal belongings, and internment. Medical-Health Insurance and your plan in the event of serious health issues. A trip-where are you going, when, and how long. Everything is planned, for the most part, in your life.

We, just like the people down south, live in fire country. We have chosen to live in an area that is significantly more susceptible to wild fires. Why, then, don't we plan for the event of a fire? It can be extremely detailed, or simple organization, but which ever way you do it, do it.

Here are five things you can do, in the event of a fire racing up to your home,. It will help you grab what's important, instead of grabbing many things that aren't.

Don't wait to pack or organize important items as the fire department announces a two

minute warning. Make a plan, for "just in case", tape it to the inside of a cabinet, and refer to it.

Scan all financial, insurance, and personal documents, and pictures into your computer. In the event of a fire, you can grab one thing, your computer! That makes it lighter and takes up less room, than your entire file cabinet and your entire photo collection, it's easy to remember.

Take items that aren't regularly out, like family heirlooms, and make them accessible and in boxes with a flame drawn on the outside. That way, you will know which to grab in a hurry.

Make a plan for your pets. Have leashes and/or crates ready, put in a zip-lock full of their food, and leave a space for them in your car.

Have a "fire box", with a change of cloths for every family member, medications, and daily toiletries. You may be going to a shelter, a change of cloths and medications help with a return to "normalcy".

Simple things, that if you plan ahead, like you plan everything else, help keep you sane in the event of an emergency. Normally we'll have more than "two to ten minutes". It's a couple of hours you'll be glad you spent, "for just in case".

Bark Beetle is Baaaack

Has it ever really been gone? Well, no, but these little buggers do have more effective years than others. The infamous Western Pine Bark Beetle ravaged this area back in the late 80's. For you long timers, that's when we thought we were going to loose every tree in here.

Obviously, that didn't happen, but that's what it feels like. We tend to value some trees, more than others. Maybe it's because they are perfect, provide shade, or they have characteristics and personalities all their own. So, when the Western Pine Bark Beetle decides it's going to take one of your favorites, it's just not o.k.

Once you realize a tree of yours has been attacked, normally it's already dead and the beetle has moved onto greener trees. That's just what has been happening in California, El Dorado County, and in Camino, especially along Kingfisher. Within the last year, some neighbors have lost up to 5 large trees from this destructive bug. One tree fell into a home, fortunately no-one was hurt. Loosing trees is normal in a forest, but it can be extremely expensive to remove if it's near your house or falls into it. If it's dead, you must remove it, because the weakened tree will fall and it doesn't care where it lands.

To help eliminate the spread of the beetle, there are some simple steps to take. First, look up. Do you notice any dead or sickly looking Ponderosa pine trees? Are the tops missing? Is it thin? Does it have muted color? Midway up the tree, is there white or reddish brown pitch oozing out of holes in the tree with boring dust in between the bark plates? These are the entry points of the beetle. The tree is trying to remove the predator.

If you see any of this, call the Department of Forestry. A forester will come out to tell you what trees are healthy and what trees aren't. It's crucial to remove an infected tree immediately, for the health of your trees.

In extreme weather, as we have had, it doesn't take long for the tree to die. If infected in the spring, it will appear dead by mid summer. If it's infected in the fall, you'll notice the tree fading in color in the spring. Woodpeckers will peel the bark away looking for the beetle, and you will

notice crisscross boring on the inner bark.

Here are some things you can do, to eliminate future outbreak.

Thin your trees, excessive growth forces the trees to compete, further reducing their health. The rule of thumb, canopies of trees should not touch each other.

Remove dead trees, slash, and competing vegetation immediately. All of these are competing with the healthy trees by blocking the use of the water and sun. Sometimes they harbor hatchlings for the next infestation. Until they are gone the beetles will hatch and just move next door to the healthy tree and it too will be dead fairly soon.

Water-O.K., this may sound silly, but it's true. These outbreaks happen, when we are in drought conditions. Help a neighboring tree out, and put the hose on it's base so it can replenish it's resin. That's what it needs to force the beetle out. Imagine trying to spit out a fly, when you've had a mouth full of salt. Water helps.

Suppression includes removal of trees, burning of bark, or spraying of infected trees. This proves to help, but can be unsuccessful unless a whole neighborhood removes and works together to suppress the problem. Bark or root spray can be successful, if a tree has been stressed. This will allow the tree to regain strength to protect itself. This can be costly, but effective. Talk to the State Agricultural office for more information on this.

Prevention in short, is the most successful. Action instead of reaction is cheaper and easier. If everyone works together maintaining their healthy trees, we'll have a healthy beautiful community as well. Loving the forest means working with it to keep it. Sometimes, that also means cutting down a tree that looks healthy, so surrounding healthy trees have a fighting chance.

There are a couple of really great websites, that explain what the Western Pine Bark Beetle does. To view the pamphlets go to:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/fidls/fidll.pdf or

www.barkbeetles.org

Neighborhood Watch

Our Neighborhood Watch lists are finally up to date. Of course this is an ever changing list, as neighbors move and new neighbors come in, your help keeps this list up to date for our coordinators. If you are moving, please contact us. If you know of a new neighbor, please contact us. You are our only source, and we appreciate all of you that have helped us keep our list up to date.

We have done a lot with our "New" Neighborhood Watch program. Mainly, we have re-aligned watch boundaries. Why? It's been difficult in the past, because some watch captains have felt uncomfortable contacting somebody they didn't know. They didn't know them because they lived on different streets, which didn't allow a lot of contact with certain neighbors on

their list. Nothing was wrong with the old maps, it's just that our community has grown so much since they were last done, that we needed to update them to accommodate the natural relationships of neighbors.

Now, most area's include people on the same street, or they pass those neighbors on their way in and out of the community. This map isn't perfect, but its watch area's have been reduced, so the number of contacts are smaller and a little more intimate.

If you have been a watch captain in the past, **THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE THE WATCH CAPTAIN NOW.** Please contact Jim Wells 644-4779 to let him know you would like to be a watch captain again. If you have filled out the watch

forms at the meetings, then we have you down. As soon as we have all the positions filled, we will be sending out the new watch area maps and captain information.

What is a watch captain?

This is a trusted person you can call if you are leaving town and want someone to keep an eye on your property, or if there is a problem in your area, or there is something you need assistance with and don't know who to call. Of course you can always contact any of the board as well, our information is on the front page of this newsletter.

Please e-mail us today, if you are interested in becoming part of this vital program in our area. Thank you in advance, for your prompt reply. Help us help you.

Remember to look up

Some of you may have noticed PG&E, coming out on a regular bases to clear around poles, and keep our lines clear of branches. Here is something to keep in mind, as winter's snow comes, and we start our "planning and plotting" for next years spring beauty.

We dream of sun, and relaxing with a good book, in the shade. (alright alright we did say it was a *dream*!) This shade is provided by a beautiful tree we have planted, then PG&E comes and tops the beautiful tree, ruining it forever. Ahhhh!

To avoid this expensive nightmare, remember to look up, before you plant. If you're thinking of planting trees or tall brush, take a look up to see if they are going to grow into the power and phone lines. Many a dollar has been lost, when a beautiful tree has to be cut, because it's winding itself into the wires.

So as you map out your plans for spring, remember to look up before you plant, you'll be glad you did!

Dumpster Time

Are you locked up in your home, and realize there's too much "stuff"? Do you have the relatives coming, and you can't "put away" anymore things in your closets? Got a pretty good list for Santa to work on, and need to make room for the "new stuff"? Well, we have the dumpster for you! Yes folks, it's time to "Give Thanks" for Audubon Hills' Fall Dumpster!

Once again, paid members will have access to the dumpster. Put to rest those sad lawn chairs, that just won't make it another summer, bury those "fix it" projects in a shallow grave (it's been 2 years and you bought a new one anyway!), are you really going to use those broken pots for any plants? NO! Just say no to the clutter, it's hard, but you can do it!

The dumpster will be available from November 21st to December 7th. Call the McCarthy's at 647-8878, and we'll set up a time for you to set yourself free from junk! You'll be glad you did!

New Street Signs

Fires this year, down south, have proven that safety is the number one concern for EVERYONE. That doesn't only include the safety of yourself and your family, but the safety of the emergency personal that is here to protect us.

This summer, at our community meeting, there was a unanimous vote for improved road signs. We're not talking about "standard" city signs, that will take our community one step further to citifying it. No, we are talking about signs with character. Signs that will

withstand the elements AND will properly reflect, in the event of heavy smoke.

These signs will help emergency personal find us, if there is a fire or any other type of emergency. The current wooden signs will burn in an instant, and we need to do all we can to help everyone out.

These signs are not going to be picked by the board alone, we are providing choices to you, the community. The sign with the majority of the votes, will be chosen to replace the wooden ones we currently



have. We are not voting on whether or not we are getting them, because that was already decided at our last meeting. We are voting on which one is preferred.

Paid members may vote by mailing in the portion below to P.O. Box 631, Camino, CA 95709,

or by e-mailing us at: theboard@audubonhills.org We request a reply by December 1.

Thanks for taking the time to make our community safe.

Please check just one box, of the design you like the best.

<p>1</p>  <p>"Audubon Hills" at top, street name at bottom. Letters and borders raised off the background approximately 1/8" and reflective. 24" x 6" Green, white, or black background.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Custom-cast in aluminum; textured background; bead-type reflectorization of name and border 26 x 7"</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Reflective dark green w/white copy. Signs are 6" high. Length depends on # of letters</p>
<p>4</p>  <p>Letters and borders raised off the background approximately 1/8" and reflective. 25" x 6" Green, white, or black background.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Custom-cast in aluminum; textured background; bead-type reflectorization of name and border. 26" x 7"</p>	



Audubon Hills

A.H.P.O.A FALL 2003

P.O. Box 631
Camino, CA 95709

Phone: 530-647-8878
Email: theboard@audubonhills.org

Birds of a Feather

[We're on the web!
www.audubonhills.org]

Calendar of Events

November

20th AHCS D meeting 7:00 Call Mike Fennessy at 644-3855, to get location

21st—December 7th- Audubon Hills Fall Dumpster-Call 647-8878 for an appointment

27th Camino Community Action Committee 5:30 at Camino Hotel

Speaker-Georgetown Divide organizer - Gay Newport

January

15th-AHCS D meeting 7:00 Call Mike Fennessy at 644-3855 to get location

Camino Community Action Committee

Meetings for this group began in 2000 after a survey, funded by a Forrest Service grant, was sent to Camino residents. Basically, their goal is to make sure Camino is represented at county meetings and it's needs are heard. They've been instrumental in the various planning stages of highway exits, vacant county land use, and cooperative efforts with the mill, Apple Hill, and tourism.

Updated Website

Be sure to take a look at our updated website. It's quite informative and pretty! www.audubonhills.org