

AHA! 2005 End of Summer Newsletter

Audubon Hills
Association

September 2005

Volume 6, Issue 2

Community Meeting

Our community meeting on June 11 was another huge success. We offered great information that you may have missed. Please take the time to read over the minutes on page 5-7, to learn what was discussed, and what decisions could affect your way of life now or in the future, in

Audubon Hills.

The community must work hard, to preserve it's integrity and it's legacy. You can help by simply keeping abreast of what's discussed. And, as always, if you have an idea or a concern, NEVER hesitate to contact us. That's what we're here for!



Vicky Yorty, from the Fire Safe Counsel, discusses ways we can help reduce the risk of wildfires in our community.

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AHCSD Road Side Clearing and Ditch/Culvert Clearing

It's that time of year again, for the bi-annual road side clearing. Please remember, that means the easement along the roads will be cleared two feet back and six feet up, on all side roads and three feet back and six feet up on Audubon Drive. This includes brush, plants, trees, etc. This is a county ordinance that our CSD must comply with to keep receiving funds to maintain our roads. Each resident is responsible for removing the piles left behind on their property from this clearing. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

You'll also notice all the drainage ditches have been cleared, re-trenched, found, and some still are being re-routed, after being found under two feet of dirt! Hopefully this will help water flow more smoothly and keep it from undermining the road this winter.

If you notice any issues with ditches, water flow, or road repair, please let us know. Don't wait for someone else to find it and call; we need you to call! Thank you.

Wood Chipping Program-You're not too late!

You can still schedule the chipping program at your home/property. Community wide, this program was a great success, and it was UNBELEIBABLE how little is left after the pile is chipped. We are talking about a 20' x 30' x 6' pile, chipped into a wheel-barrow sized pile!

The El Dorado County Fire Safe program is a free program, to help residents get rid of the fire danger on their property. They provide brush and tree branch chipping, and free green waste passes or dumpsters to residents that apply. By removing fire hazards within a 100' perimeter of their home, residents do their part to help reduce

the rapidly spreading wild fires we saw down south last summer.

If you go to their website, www.edcfiresafe.org, there is information on what you need to do, and applications to sign up for the program. These forms are also in the mailbox at the dead end of Kingfisher Lane, if you'd rather to send in the paper application, to schedule a time for them to come out. You do not need to be home, on the date of the chipping, just provide a sign as to where you want the chips to be placed. Details are on the form and website.

Overgrown-What we have is not "Natural"- New Clearance Code

Starting in 1848 a mass of people came here for the Gold Rush in covered wagons. Look out your window, could a wagon make it through the saplings, brush, and carpet of needles that lay around your property or your neighbors property? If this was uncharted territory (no roads) do you think you could even walk through from North Canyon to the area of Waxwing, unobstructed? The answer is a simple no. The forest floor was healthy, because of annual wild fires, that cleaned up that mess. What was left was the hardy trees and a clean forest floor. We have lost the concept of what is "natural". What lays out most of our front doors is not natural, it's not healthy, and it's VERY dangerous.

Your property can still be beautiful while being fire safe. We urge every neighbor to cut back and clear the floor for the mandatory defensible space of the 100 feet from buildings and 20 feet from roads. Keep in mind, this does not mean clear cutting around your home so it looks like a barren waste land. The concept is simple, remove branches hanging over your home, remove flammable plants from within 100 feet of your home, and make sure canopies of trees don't touch or are hanging too low. Plant fire resistant landscaping, you can find information on this at www.edcfiresafe.org/fire_safe_vegetation. We have to help the firefighters help us, if you don't, the fire department will make your home a low priority, in the event of a wildfire.

This is THE most important fact we can stress to you...In the event of a wildfire, the fire department has to make choices, and they do not HAVE to defend your home in the event of a fire. If you have done your part to defend your home ahead of time, with a good defensible space, they will work very hard to save your home. If you have not done your part to defend your space, but your neighbor has, they will concentrate their energies on your neighbor's home, and yours will be given lower or no priority. There are 131 homes in Audubon Hills and 147 parcels, plus the surrounding homes and farms, and only one fire department. These decisions are hard for them to make.

These are simple steps to help keep our neighborhood beautiful. If ever there was a time this was appropriate, it's now...**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Make a fire clearance.

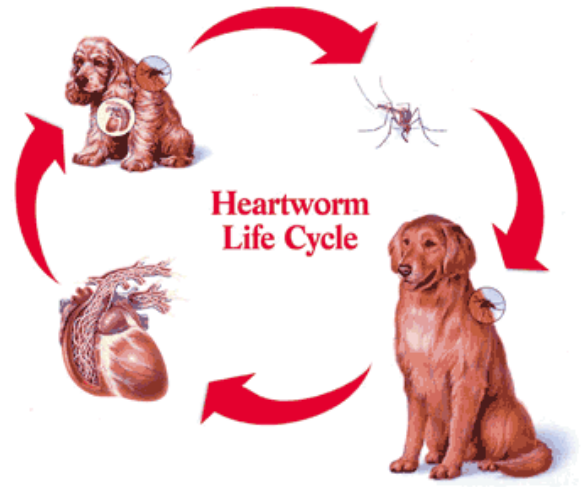
Heartworm

As the increase in mosquito population arrives, so do the dangers to our pets. It has been brought to our attention, that a couple of neighbors have lost their beloved pets to this nasty disease. The dangers of it are higher in the county, because of the increase number of mosquitoes, verses the number in the city.

Sadly, this information is too late for our neighbors, but we can now share this information to help keep our pet healthy. Heartworm is easily preventable, with a monthly chewable “treat” that most dogs and cats like taking because of it’s meaty flavor. It’s called “Heartguard”.

Heartworms are parasites that live in the hearts and lungs of infected dogs and puppies, cats and kittens. The resulting heartworm disease can cause serious health problems and can eventually lead to heart failure and death. It doesn’t matter whether or not your pet is an indoor or outdoor pet, they’re all susceptible. Luckily, “Heartguard” can help prevent this disease. This disease is treatable if infected, but it’s VERY expensive. The cost for the monthly chewable for dogs is \$2.80 to \$6 for per month when bought in six month packets, depending on the dogs weight. For cats it’s only \$4.35 per month when purchasing a 6 month packet of chewables. If you have to treat an infected pet, the average cost is \$650 and three days in the hospital. So you can see how easy and cost effective it is to keep up the monthly treatment.

The company is so sure of it’s product, that if you purchase this treatment from a vet, treat your pet once a month, and bring your pet in for its heartworm test once a year, and your pet gets heartworm while being treated, Merial (the company that makes Heartguard) will pay for the three day, \$650 treatment! The only catch is that you must purchase it through a vet, not mail order. That’s just a little insurance to keep up the treatment on your pet. Unfortunately, if cats get this disease, *it’s not treatable*. The three day treatment only works for dogs, so make sure to get your pets on this right away, so you don’t have to worry about infection.



Apple Season starts...for bears too!

Every year, apple season not only brings in tourists, but our local bears as well. They love those apples on the ground, that we are supposed to stay away from! This year, two bears have been spotted. With that, comes our annual alert. Simple things will help keep you, your family, and pet safe. Bears don’t always like just twigs and berries; given the choice in a semi populated area, they also like garbage, BBQ pits, and pet food. Here are some suggestions: Put a bungee around your garbage can lids, clean off and seal your BBQ when done, and don’t leave pet food or pets out over night. Without doing this, you’re just inviting a bear to come to your home and property. For more information on living with bears, you can go to our website for the pamphlet from the Dept. of Fish & Game on “Living with Bears”. Remember, we moved to their home, so all we have to do is follow these simple guidelines, so we can peacefully co-exist!



Good Deed Corner

The residents of Mockingbird Lane would like to thank Jim Wells for volunteering his time to build the new mailbox stand on Audubon Drive and Mockingbird. It’s a beautiful piece of work. Thank You Jim!

AHCSO Officer's

Chairman-

Mike Fennessy

csd@audubonhills.org

644-3855

Co-Chair

Craig Tarzia

644-4807

Treasurer

Paul Elmore

647-2644

Directors

Jim McCarthy

647-8878

Victor House

644-2944

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

Directors

Don Murray 644-6262

Steve Bates 644-4699

Neighborhood Watch

Jim Wells

644-4779

jimw@audubonhills.org

Community Dumpster

The dates for the community dumpster this fall will be September 23 to October 2.

We will have the same appointment schedule format as we have had in the past. Which means *PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE*, don't just "show up" without an appointment. As always, we want to insure that everyone gets a chance to use the dumpster. That means one trip, one truck load, with an appointment.

If you have more than a truck load, let us know. During the last few days, if there is room,

we'll give you a call.

You can schedule your time by calling 647-8878 or e-mailing at theboard@audubonhills.org

Thank You!

Items you can NOT dump are:

- Engines
- Large Appliances
- Any Toxics (oil, gas, cleaning agents)
- Batteries
- Computer Monitors
- TV's
- Florescent Tubes
- Tires
- Dirt, Sand, or Cement



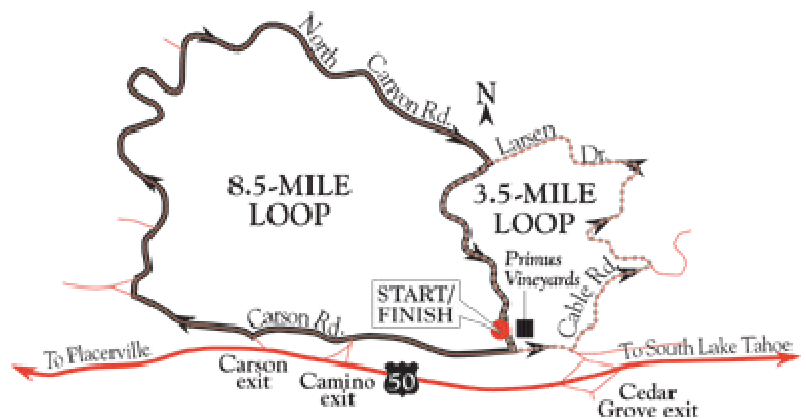
Apple Hill Harvest Run-Nov. 6

This is a reminder to all residents to prepare for some traffic discomfort, for the 26th Annual Apple Hill Harvest Run, a Camino School Fundraiser. For those of you new to the area, this is a wonderful event that brings in well over \$15,500.00 to our own school! With that, your patience is appreciated as roads are temporarily closed for the runners. Race registration will start at Primus Winery at 7:00, on



Larson Rd. Races will start at 8:30 to 9:30. Road closures will be efficient opening an closing around runners.

Mark your calendar, and please avoid getting deliveries on this day, as you will delay both your delivery and the driver as well! For more info go to www.applehillrun.org



Annual Community Meeting Minutes



Audubon Hills Property Owners Association (AHPOA)

37th Annual Meeting June 11, 2005

Meeting called to order 9:10.

Introductions of AHPOA Board Members-Jim McCarthy, Kim McCarthy, Sue Collier, Steve Bates, Don Murray and CSD Board Mike Fennessy, Paul Elmore, and Jim McCarthy.

Elections-Vice Chair, Kim McCarthy and 2nd director, Steve Bates are up for re-election. There were no other nominations; Ernie Woods made a motion to re-election these board members. Motion seconded, all are in favor-passed

Taxes- Federal and CA taxes started talking to each other and CA feels they want some of our money, even though we are non profit. They sent a bill to us for \$1400, plus \$500 in penalties, for taxes. We sent them the non-profit paperwork, they sent us another bill. We had to get a CPA to help us with the paperwork, and we got a bill from him for \$520. We asked for a reduction because we are non-profit, and we're currently waiting for a reply.

Volunteers- If anyone has any tax experience or is an attorney that can help us out in the future, please let us know. That way we won't have to loose our dues in the future, paying for these services.

Financial Report- This period was from June 9, 2004 to June 10, 2005. We started with a balance of \$5, 097.53 and ended with a balance of \$1984.35. Our biggest expense was our signs, but now we have to wait on many other things, until we find out what's going on with the taxes. We may have to pay out another \$1900; at this point we just don't know.

Signs- The posts will be buried 3 feet in the ground, in cement; 7 feet high, and the metal posts will be painted green. If we could get volunteers to help us for their own street, the signs will be installed in the order of volunteer sign up.

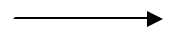
Merrills Bench-We can cover costs associated with the installation, we've just been waiting for the rain to stop and the dirt to finish settling. That will also be installed this summer.

Bylaws -Proposed changes to Bylaws were discussed and presented to the attending active members. In the "Amendments" section Mark Stanley asked if we can clarify the amendment portion of the bylaw to read by a majority vote, "of the votes cast by", active members". Everyone liked the change. Amendment to "Amendment" section noted.

Steve Bates asked if the manner of informing the members is by mail only or e-mail too. Since e-mail is a form of mail, we can notify both ways, but since all the members haven't shared their e-mails, we always post the dates in the newsletter, which everyone gets. The vote for approval was delayed till the end of the meeting, so member could review the proposed Bylaw updates. See executive summary for a full list of items presented.

Continued on page 6

Zoning-There was a question about what the zoning is in this neighborhood? It is R2A-residential two acres, except where parcels are larger, and those are R5A. Don Murray mentioned that we have to be diligent with the county, to make sure we stay R2A or we could get over crowded, they tend to forget.



AHCSD w/Mike Fennessy -Ernie Wood's resigned after many years of service-*applause*. Paul Elmore has agreed to cover the rest of his term. On June 21, contractor will be coming in at 8am to pave 600 feet of Audubon Dr., at the entrance. They will work on one side of the road, then the other. We split the area into five districts and the directors make a list of what needs to be fixed. That list has just went out to fix problems before winter. You'll notice the line started to fade right away, in the center of the road, we didn't have to pay for that, and that will be redone after the new road is put in at the front.

After we finish the back section of Audubon Drive, we'll start paving the side roads in order of the roads with the most houses on them, first. The roads will be maintained in their current state, chip seal, until paved.

There will be three positions up for re-election in September on the CSD that need to be filled. Jim McCarthy noted that it's a really good group to get involved with. You get cookies and coffee, and you get to help make decisions for our roads! Seriously, they only meet every 2 months, and it's really important, because the CSD gets tax money from the county that has to be spent wisely. The state is always willing to take money from the local CSD's, and if we don't keep our roads up, the county can disband the board, and take the money. We have to stay strong, to keep getting our funds.

We meet every two months; we review all contracts, and clearing, review roads to see if any repairs are needed. Some people have even done phone conference. The meetings are always posted at least ten days before, and the places where they are located.

Sam Cott had a few questions. "Who does the roadside clearing?" "What order will the side roads be paved?" "And before the side roads are improved will they be widened to widths to accommodate two cars or emergency vehicles, before getting a hard paving?" The clearing is done by the CSD. That was changed a couple of years ago. All road issues are covered by CSD, and they are totally separate from AHPOA. They have nothing to do with each other and the new street signs have nothing to do with CSD, because they are just responsible for control signs. As for the side roads, after we finish the mid section of Audubon Drive, we'll start paving the side roads in order of the roads with the most houses on them, first. The roads will be maintained in their current state, chip seal, until they are hard paved. Then, each side road will have the necessary improvements made, to accommodate the larger community and its needs; which will include widening the roads and building turnarounds where possible. Check your parcel map to find the AHCSO easements on your property, as these will be effected as side road paving proceeds.

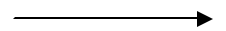
Don Murray asked, "Will CSD notify the residents affected, ahead of time, so they could prepare and remove anything within the proposed improvements?" Mike said that of course the CSD would notify the residents, they wouldn't just come bull doze without care to their property. Kim said that she would include reminders of checking parcel maps for easement boundaries, to the "new residents" letter.

Marge Ryder asked about what AHCSO stands for, it's "Audubon Hills Community Services District" (our road committee)

Neighborhood Watch stickers- They have been designed, but we are waiting to see what's going on for taxes, before we purchase any more.

Website-Take a look at the website, thank you Kim McCarthy, she does the website and all the updates.

Community Garage Sale-Robin Stanley suggested we coordinate a community garage sale with the "Camino Community Garage Sale" on Saturday, July 16, we can have a table on the corner of Barkley/Carson (the tan house) The table rental will be \$5, and the only rule is that you remove all that you bring, or we can't do it again. From a neighborhood watch standpoint, this is safer than bringing all the people in through here. Additionally, there is more visibility; right off the freeway at the other place and hospice is right down the street if you don't sell everything!



Fire Safe Counsel- Vicky Yorty, is the representative for the county chipping program. It started when President Clinton put in a fire plan because of the catastrophic fires in the western states. In March 2002, the El Dorado Fire Safe Counsel started. They bring all the fire agencies, CDF, fire dept, forest service, realtors, etc. together, to figure out how to make the best use of the monies they get, to help neighbors.

The undergrowth is not “natural”. Back during the time of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt, they use to be able to ride through the forest. We can’t do that anymore. Nature use to have fires that cleaned the forest floor of underbrush, this area hasn’t had a fire in over 70 years! It’s due, and if we’re not careful, we could loose our homes. If the fireman can’t get up your driveway, without risk to their personnel, they won’t defend your home. The simple fact is, they don’t have to.

It’s up to us to make the “defensible space”. The law has changed this year, and homes must have a clearance of 100’ from 30’ previously. Defensible space doesn’t mean you have to clear cut your property; rather, you want to remove brush and low branches so the fire doesn’t go up the trees, and spread through the canopies. Mark Stanley said you need 30’ clearance between crowns, to give the fireman the capability to fight the fire.

The burn days will be ending soon, so we’ll provide a green dumpster for needles, leaves, ect., that won’t go into the chipper. The dumpster can take blackberries and poison oak, but those can’t go in the chipping pile. As soon as that can be delivered, Kim will let you know.

Each person needs to fill out the application, and send it in, for the branches to be chipped. The chips are left behind and you will need to stake where you want them to be piled next to your pile of brush. The chips can go in a pile or can be spread around a ten foot section from where the chipper is parked. Place your branches near your driveway, next to the road. All details are on the application. There is no limit to the length of piles, just make sure the butt end of the branches face out towards the road so they can chip easily. It would be best if you could be there if you can, so you can direct them. They can do the scheduling directly with you, but we are trying to get them to take care of the whole community at once. That’s the point, for us to eliminate the piles before fire season. Mt. Firewood does the work.

Reflective house number signs were strongly suggested, so each house has a clear definable reflective sign at the entrance to their driveway. There is a kit for twelve dollars at Wal-Mart, we can also get them through our fire department in Camino, and we can order them as a group. They help during fires, to find your house, but more importantly, 80% of the calls our fireman get are for medical, and when minutes count, you want them to find you immediately. In the event of an emergency, we need to take care of ourselves. Know who needs help in the event of an emergency, set up a plan for at risk people.

Meeting adjourned -10:45am

Residents in attendance-Washington, Bohn, Wells’, Woods’, Fennessy’s, Hughes, Pintar’s, Cott, Murray, McFaul, Ryder, Khalil, Blair, Clarke, Howard’s, Stanley’s, Zaun, Bernstein, Brozo’s, S. Woods, McCarthy’s, Collier’s, Bates’, Lyles, Blowe, Breckenridge’s, and Anders. Sam Cott won the raffle for refund dues.

Motions and Important Dates- The chipper will come out starting June 27th, all piles must be ready by June 26th. Turn in your applications right away, with the name Audubon Hills at the top.

Motion to approve amendment made to proposed-Bylaws by Mike Fennessy; all seconded, passed.

Mark Stanley made motion made to accept bylaws as amended, seconded, and passed

Re-Election of Kim McCarthy for Chair and Steve Bates for 2nd director.

Audubon Hills
Association

P.O. Box 631
Camino, CA 95709

We're on the web!
www.audubonhills.org
and
www.ahcsd.org

Dates to Remember

September

15th AHCS D (road committee) 7:00– Call Mike Fennessy (p4) for location

23rd-October 2nd Community Dumpster (for paid members)

26th CCAC (Camino Community Action Committee) 5:30 Camino School Library

October

End of month Roadside clearing

November

6th Apple Hill Harvest Run (expect road closures and delays)

17th AHCS D (road committee) 7:00– Call Mike Fennessy (p4) for location