



## AHA! End of Winter 2006 Newsletter

### AHA! Taxes finally figured out!

Below you will find an explanation as to what the update is for Audubon Hills Association's taxes. If you're not interested in the details, skip to the last two paragraphs for the punch line!

Back in June of last year, we talked at the community meeting about how Audubon Hills Association was having "issues" with Mr. Tax Man from the State of California Franchise Tax Board. It seemed that after correctly filing taxes for 38 years, Federal and State started talking with each other and State felt they wanted some of our money. They also wanted us to start filing with them, although they never sent us a letter to say so. Instead, they sent us a bill for \$1900 for taxes, fines, and penalties for 2001. That's where our roller coaster began.

We are a non-profit association, and there wasn't one person that could clearly answer why we were getting these bills. After a year of sending filings after filings, and copies after copies of bylaws, it seemed the filing department wasn't talking to the billing department (surprise), and that's why we kept getting these harassing letters and notices. At one point, the State froze our checking account, because we hadn't paid the bill. This was because (a) we don't have that kind of money in our account AND (b) the filing department told us not to pay it yet, since we were filing the new paperwork for non-profit status.

In the meantime, we had to hire an accountant for \$520, to help us file

the proper paperwork and help us deal with these people. At this point,

we also got the account unfrozen, but we felt it prudent to not spend anything until all was clear.

So here's the final punch line in this joke of an experience. Guess what? As of March 8th, Mr. Robinson with the Franchise Tax Board has finally given us the "all clear". We're a non-profit association in the eye's of the State! We know, it's a shock to all of you.

We're right back to where we started before this mess, and for that matter...back to where we were for the last 38 years! The State will now leave us and our account alone. Here are some final answers to some hard hitting questions.: (1) Was there anything we could do to avoid this? No. (2) Have we learned any lessons out of this? Yes, the state doesn't talk to itself or anyone else for that matter! (3) Is everything o.k. with our association, its accounting practices, and its responsibility to the community? Are we on the "up and up" now? Yes, as we always have. (4) Can we go back to our humble lives here in Audubon Hills, beautifying and providing a safe community for all? Yes.

That's all that matters in the end!



If you  
have received  
this in your mailbox,  
we don't have  
your e-mail  
address!!!

Please send your  
updated e-mail  
address to:

[kim@audubonhills.org](mailto:kim@audubonhills.org)

We promise to keep it  
private with our board and  
you won't get spammed. It  
will be used for alerts,  
newsletters, and reminders  
ONLY.

### Inside this issue:

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# AHCSD Director vacancy and Secretary Needed

## AHCSD Officer's

### Chairman-

**Mike Fennessy**

**csd@audubonhills.org**

**644-3855**

### Co-Chair

**Vacant**

### Treasurer

**Paul Elmore**

**647-2644**

### Directors

**Jim McCarthy**

**647-8878**

**Bill Brozo**

**644-6315**

**~Vacant~**

### Secretary

**~Vacant~**

## AHPOA Officer's

### President-

**Jim McCarthy**

**jim@audubonhills.org**

### Vice President-

**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**

The AHCSD, your road committee, is looking to appoint a new director to become part of the board. If your interested in becoming a member of the CSD board, please give Jim McCarthy or Mike Fennessy a call or e-mail. (Their phone numbers are to the left.) The position doesn't take much of your time, as the CSD meets only once every two months. There's an extra incentive, there are normally cookies or other treats provided, and coffee is always present! The meetings normally last about an hour and a half or shorter. The board manages the monies allocated to it to maintain and improve the roads within its boundaries. These meetings are where road decisions are made. So, if you have an interest, let them know.

The CSD is also looking for a secretary to keep the meeting minutes and post them prior to each meeting at the entrance. If you can write or type, and have a merry disposition, the CSD board would love to have you as a secretary. This is not an elected position, but it's still vital to the success of our road committee. The CSD also has a laptop computer and printer for you to use in this task, if needed.

Please consider volunteering. It helps you, it helps the community, and it keeps our little home in the woods special.

## Culverts, ditches, pipes.

Although Audubon Hills Community Services District (AHCSD) had all the water ways cleared and re-trenched last fall, the storm at the end of February played havoc on our neatly repaired culverts, ditches, and pipes.

Please keep in mind, if you have a culvert, ditch, or pipe in front, to the side, OR in back of your property along the road, clear it. This community works together, and we have to help keep the roads safe, by making sure the water flow is moving where it should be.

"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us."

-Flora Edwards

We all pay in our taxes towards AHCSD, but if they have to pay to continually clear these passages, it prolongs other important expenses such as paving or snow removal on our roads.

Please, let's work together, to clear up these issues. Thank you.

## Clear out the water, cut out the West Nile

This is just a reminder, when the good weather starts coming around, remember to empty all those bins that are containing standing water. Look everywhere, because those nasty little mosquitoes aren't picky. This will help us eliminate the West Nile in our area. There were a few birds found in our community last year, infected with the West Nile, so our efforts will not be in vain. For more information on the West Nile Virus in our area, and how to prepare, go to [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)



## Did you know?...New driving laws and information for 2005-2006

### AB 1474 states **New teen drivers can't give rides to friends under 21 for the first year!**

This law applies to all teens, even those who received their drivers license before Jan. 1, 2006. Also, teen drivers can't drive between 11PM. and 5AM their first year. Are your kids riding with new drivers?

Vehicle code 24400.b.2 states that due to restricted vision during rain, mist, snow, fog, or other precipitation, you are required to have your headlights on when ever you have your windshield wipers on. So start making a habit of turning on your lights at the same time you turn on your windshield wipers.

Senior drivers, there's a great program for you to get information on traveling tips, what to do in emergencies, and general driving updates, go to [www.seniordriver.org](http://www.seniordriver.org)

Stay safe,  
be happy!



## Street Signs...they're here, but where are they?

As explained on page one, our money in our account was tied up, fearing we were going to have to unjustly pay a large sum of money. We felt it was sensible to wait for the "all clear" from the Franchise Tax Board, before spending the AHA! Funds.

Now that we have the "all clear" we no longer have to wait to put in the signs and take care of our communities needs. As of March 8th, we have the go

ahead to purchase all the cement for the posts, paint for the poles, and adhesive to glue down the sign brackets for a little "extra" insurance they won't get stolen easily.

We appreciate your patients. We'll be calling those that volunteered to help us, soon.

## Neighborhood Watch Car Stickers

We are having the same issue with the neighborhood watch stickers, as we are with the supplies for the street signs. Now that we have an "all clear", from the state and their zeal for trying to tax our non profit status, we no longer have to wait, and we can now use our money for the benefit of the community. We hope to have the stickers at the next community meeting on June 10th.

## Community Dumpster

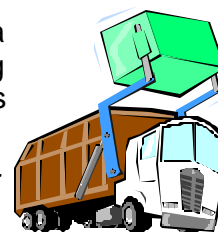
The dates for the community dumpster this fall will be April 1st - 9th. We will have the same appointment schedule format as we have had in the past. Which means **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**, don't just "show up" without an appointment. As always, we want to insure that everyone gets a chance to use the 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](mailto:theboard@audubonhills.org)

Thank You!

Items you can NOT dump are:  
Engines



Large Appliances  
Any Toxics (oil, gas, cleaning agents)

Batteries  
Computers Monitors  
TV's

Florescent Tubes

Dirt, Sand, Cement  
Tires

Please take note of the Tire Amnesty Day, for tire recycling, listed on the last page and on our AHA! Calendar online.

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## e-mail's sent to residents (If you got this newsletter in the mail, we don't have your e-mail)

March 11, 2006 e-mail Subject: Driving in Snow:

Please know, we are not preaching, but just trying to remind people of some very basic dangers. We have experienced first hand all of the issues below, over this last month. Share this information with your family, it is SO important.

1. Remember, just because we have Audubon Drive cleared, does not mean you'll be free and clear to the freeway. Yes, we know this is logical, but it's merely a cautious reminder. Cal-trans is very busy, and all the side roads outside of Audubon Hills will not be cleared for some time. Hwy 50 is their first priority, and since there is no school today, side roads won't be.
2. Our area is unique, because of the "ice factor". 4WD is not helpful in ice, it just means 4 wheels are sliding without grip. Chains are always a good thing, even on a 4WD and AWD vehicles. Jim spent 4 hours, a few years ago, pulling 4WD and AWD out of the ditches on North Canyon and Audubon Drive because people slid on the ice. He had put the chains on the little Subaru to help pull out neighbors, even some of those big macho 4x4 trucks, out of danger. Chains make a HUGE difference, so don't be fooled that you won't need them.
3. If you do get stuck on the road please remember to (a) PUT YOUR HAZARD LIGHTS ON and (b) NOT HAVE PASSENGERS STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. Either keep them inside the vehicle or move them well off to the side. The last snow had three people standing at the bottom of the hill at the entrance, in the middle of the road (there car was off to the side), and we couldn't see them till we passed them because of the snow. Then, we drove around the big curve and almost wiped out a group of five people standing in the middle of the road, and their car in the ditch. With another car coming the opposite way, we had nowhere to go, and it was quite scary. When it's snowy, the drivers line of sight is diminished because of fogged windows, stuck snow, and blind curves. Get your bodies out of the middle of the road. Just like you had little control, so do the cars coming up behind you.
4. **PLEASE GO SLOW.** The regular speed limit in here is 25mph. In conditions like this, don't go over 20, even slower around the curves and ramping straight-a-ways. Speed is the main reason people are in the ditch.
5. Finally, **DO NOT TAILGATE** the car in front of you. If you follow close to the car in front of you, that driver has to drive for their own hazards in front of them, and for you as well. It's stressful, they have nowhere to go, so back off. The law is the 3 second rule, you should be at least three seconds behind the person in front of you. In snowy conditions, double that to 6 seconds. Time it. When they pass a tree, count 1 Mississippi, 2 Mississippi....to 6 Mississippi till you get to that same tree. That's how far behind you should be, to adjust for the additional stopping time.

This is SO important. Please share this with your family, and young drivers. We don't get enough snow, for this to be second nature, and for many family members and residents, this will be the first time to experience this amount of snow. We've seen some real near misses in here, and we just want everyone to be safe. We care. Respectfully, Your AHA board.

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March 05, 2006 Subject: Garbage Cans

A request has been brought to our attention, which we think is very fare to pass on. Some of us have garbage picked up at community areas that are not in front of our own property, while others have the luxury of setting weekly trash out in front of our own homes. Please be respectful of your neighbors, and the community, and remove your cans from the pick up areas within 24 hours of pick up, if not sooner. Some area's have had recycle or yard waste cans out for two weeks, only to be pick up the night before, filled, and returned again to sit for another two weeks after pick up. You drive past it every day, please pick it up!

Additionally, if your trash has been knocked over, please don't leave it for someone else to clean up. Audubon Hills has only one cleaning service, and that's you. Although it's totally understandable that during this rainy weather we don't want to go out in the rain to do this, it would be greatly appreciated by your neighbors if you did so.

We would be remiss, not thanking those of you that are so very prompt in picking up your cans and trash. Thank you, you 'quicker picker uppers'! We appreciate it!

## Stop Junk Snail Mail (Post office delivered)

**The following activities often lead to increases in your junk mail load:**

- ⇒ Entering sweepstakes or contests
- ⇒ Filling out warranty cards
- ⇒ Donating to charity organizations
- ⇒ Registering at meetings or conferences
- ⇒ Having your address listed in a publication
- ⇒ Ordering from a catalog
- ⇒ Signing up for a service (car insurance, health care, etc.)
- ⇒ Having a credit card

**To keep these activities from creating more junk mail, practice preventative junk mail care and make the following a part of your routine:**

- ⇒ When you sign up for a service or order from a catalog, tell them not to sell your name or send promotional materials.

- ⇒ If you do want to receive a particular catalog, but not so frequently, request to receive it less often.
- ⇒ On the bottom of checks made out to magazines, catalogs, or charity organizations, write "DO NOT SELL MY NAME".



## How to get rid of Spam (e-mail junk)

**How to get off Spam Email Listings:**

- ⇒ To remove your email address from e-marketers lists, go to [www.dmaconsumers.org/consumers/optoutform\\_emps.shtml](http://www.dmaconsumers.org/consumers/optoutform_emps.shtml), and fill out their on-line form.
- ⇒ Report spam to the Federal Trade Commission. Either send a copy of the unwanted message to [uce@ftc.gov](mailto:uce@ftc.gov) or fill out the complaint form at [www.ftc.gov/spam](http://www.ftc.gov/spam). They use emails stored in this database to pursue law enforcement action.
- ⇒ Contact the senders ISP. Virtually all ISPs forbid their members to send SPAM. If your complaint is valid, there is a good chance the spammer will lose connectivity.
- ⇒ [Spamcop.net](http://Spamcop.net) quick and easy online Spam reporting system as well as filtered email accounts.

## How to get rid of telemarketing calls

### National Do Not Call Registry

- ⇒ Visit the website [www.donotcall.org](http://www.donotcall.org) and fill out their form to add your name to the do-not-call list.
- ⇒ Federal law prohibits telemarketers from initiating a telephone call to a person who has previously stated that they do not wish to receive calls from that particular company. Therefore, you may ask the telemarketer to permanently remove you from their calling list.
- ⇒ If you continue to receive calls from a telemarketer to who you've requested not to call you back, you may file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by email at [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov) or by phone at 888-TELL-FCC. They use information from this database to pursue law enforcement action.



# Audubon Hills Crossword

Words go up, down, diagonal, and backwards

T I F K Y O J A C A B L A C K B I R D L N  
 R Q A I I E I U E N A L R E G A N A T E I  
 U U L G L N N D D T H R U S H L N A I N G  
 O G C N O E G U A A F U N L E I P G A M H  
 C R O B S W E B R X P I C N I C H E A P T  
 R A N R R S O O I L O R D N O B U D U A H  
 E Y L D O L N N E R N E O N O R L M D S A  
 L H N I B E I C R E D D I R T N N I U Q W  
 B A L O H T M T A M E L H C P L L I B U K  
 R W D E G T A R H E R O N L A N E S O I L  
 A K R V I E C O N D O R L N U K O N N A N  
 W L I E E R B I R D S N O W L I N E H B R  
 S N B T N K L A W A A Q U A R T Z A I B D  
 K L G S R C L A M Y P F E A T H E R L Y G  
 Y K N J M I T G I K I T T Y W A K E L N N  
 L R I I A C A R J U N A G O L D A D S A I  
 A A K M H E K I M E E R T D O O W G O D W  
 R L C O M M U N I T Y H O N O R J O G U X  
 K A O O B A K I N G F I S H E R L N L E A  
 L I M B L A C K B A R R I D R I V E A S W  
 N R A F R I E N D S T K A H C S D I D O T

|                  |              |                    |                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| AHA              | COMMUNITY    | KINGFISHER LN.     | PONDEROSA PINE |
| AHCSD            | CONDOR LN.   | KITTYWAKE LN.      | QUARTZ         |
| AUDUBON CT.      | DOGWOOD      | LARK LN.           | RED DIRT       |
| AUDUBON DR.      | DUES         | MAGPIE LN.         | SKYLARK LN.    |
| AUDUBON HILLS    | FALCON LN.   | MOCKINGBIRD LN.    | SNOWLINE       |
| BIRDS            | FEATHER      | NEIGHBORHOOD-WATCH | TANAGER LANE   |
| BLACKBARRI DRIVE | FRIENDS      | NEIGHBORS          | THRUSH LN.     |
| BLACKBIRD LN.    | GRAYHAWK LN. | NEWSLETTER         | WARBLER COURT  |
| CAMINO           | HERON LANE   | NIGHTHAWK LN.      | WAXWING DR.    |
| CEDAR            | KINGBIRD LN. | PICNIC             | WREN CT.       |

## Picnic Order Form-For July 8th Picnic

**Please return this form, for the July 8 picnic, with your payment and meal order by June 30 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 Saturday, July 8 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.

**Picnic: Saturday, July 8th, 3pm—6pm (see below)**

We will attend the picnic and we will need

Totals

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Hamburger dinners at **\$6 each**.....\$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Chicken dinners at **\$6 each**.....\$\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ # attending

**Property Owners Information Update**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED...\$\_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

A.H. Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

## AHA! Community Reminders

This is just a reminder, of a few important upcoming dates for our community. Mark your calendars now, so you don't forget!

1. June 10, 2006 from 9 - 10:30, end of Kingfisher 38th Annual Community Meeting
2. June 15, 2006 AHA! \$25 Dues are due  
Send to P.O. Box, 631, Camino, CA 95709
3. June 30, 2006 AHA! Picnic Order forms due.  
Use the form above. (Please send these in as

early as possible, as we have to plan well ahead for this event!)

4. July 8, 2006 AHA! Community Picnic  
at Camino School from 3pm to 6pm.



## Audubon Hills

P.O. Box 631  
Camino, CA 95709



Audubon Hills  
Where birds of a feather flock  
together.

## Mark your calendar...Dates to Remember

### March

**16th** AHCSO (road committee) 7:00– Call Mike Fennessy for location

**18th** Tire Amnesty-Free Tire recycle @ County Fairgrounds

**27th** CCAC (Camino Community Action Committee) 5:30 Camino School Library

**End of Month**-Roadside clearing-remember to pick up slash

### April

**1st - 9th** Community Dumpster (for paid members)

**24th** CCAC (Camino Community Action Committee) 5:30 Camino School Library

### May

**11th** AHCSO (road committee) 7:00– Call Mike Fennessy for location

### June

**10th** AHA! Community Meeting end of Kingfisher 9-10:30

★★★**15th** AHA! \$25 Dues are due! ★★★