

A.H.A.
2010 Summer
Newsletter

AHCS D Officer's

e-mail:
ahcsd@audubonhills.org

President-

Jim McCarthy
647-8878

Vice-President-

Stanley Backlund
647-2619

Treasurer-

Robert Matheson
530-644-6248

Directors

Jon Coble
530-647-2494

Inge Clark
530-644-6697

Secretary

Jim Mitrisin
644-7146

AHA Officer's

e-mail:
ahaboard@
audubonhills.org

President-Mark Stanley

644-1631

Vice President

Kim McCarthy
647-8878

Secretary/Treasurer

Sue Collier 644-8878

Neighborhood Watch-

Jim Wells
644-4779

Directors-

1st-Larry Linville
644-2657

2nd-Larry Wilson
644-1715

Emergency Exits are to save lives, not stuff!

The emergency exit off of Waxwing is prepared for the event of a wildfire. The tree has been removed and leveled to the ground, soon the stump will be ground down for a more level ride out. Kim McCarthy has designed the emergency exit sign and it's awaiting approval. Once that is done, those will be installed. A gate will be installed as well. The sheriff department and fire will be able to open it the event of a fire.

Please take note that this exit, and any other exits developed in the future, are not for personal use, by the community. These exits are on private property, and there have been no rights to pass given. They are only to be used when the community is ordered, by the sheriff, to evacuate through THAT exit. Emergency personal knows which exit is safe at the end. If the community is ordered to evacuate, the default exit is the normal front exit unless ordered to do otherwise.

Important Evacuation Notice..when using the emergency exits...

- **They are to save lives, not stuff.**
- All emergency exits are for single vehicles, NOT trailers or campers. If you want to bring those, leave before being ordered out, and park them out of the area.

Emergency Exits on your property?

If you've had, or are able to have, an emergency exit on your property, please let us know. We will be more than happy to prepare it, and keep it clear for emergency exit purposes ONLY. Some residents have stated, in the past, that they have a way to get to the golf course, N. Canyon, Barkley, or

other areas through their property. We will talk with adjoining neighbors to see if they will work with us to have additional safe routes out. We will insure that this passage will only be used for emergency purposes, and will not give way to additional permanent roads in the future.

From your AHCS D Board

Hello residents;

The Audubon Hills CSD is continuing to move forward with the paving of the side roads. The plan was presented at the last Audubon Hills community meeting, and is available for review on the CSD's page of the Audubon Hills web site. For more details, please read through the minutes of the community meeting contained in this news letter, or the minutes of the CSD's meetings that are on the web site. There is also a document on the web site under

<http://www.audubonhills.org/ahcsd/Policies%20and%20Procedures/Proposed/> that describes the soon to be adopted side road paving policy.

We welcome any feedback on the current plans, and look forward to making our roads safer for the community over the coming years.

Your CSD Board
Stan Backlund
Inge Clark
Jon Coble
Robert Matheson
Jim McCarthy



Items of interest and note.



- There are some items of importance to look at on the meeting minutes on pages 4-7.
- **Take caution this winter**, of people coming to your door to clear the snow on your driveway or road. Some neighbors have had to repair thousands of dollars worth of damage to their driveways because of gouges and pot holes from improper equipment used for driveway clearing. Make sure the party you have doing the work, is insured. Take their card, if they're good, share it.
- Bears have arrived early this year, please go to our "Living With Wildlife" tab at www.audubonhills.org
- Please consider buying a "Reflective House Number Sign" in brown for \$22 at www.alphabetsigns.com. Many residents have purchased these, so emergency personal can find their home easier.
- Please cut down all weeds on your property, specially along roads. Not only will this help reduce ladder fuels, that feed wildfires; it will also reduce the spread of noxious weeds in our community.
- If you have children that drive cars, atv's, atc's, go-karts, or the like, please talk with them about their speed (not over 25mph), and to watch for oncoming vehicles. We've had some real near misses in here, and we don't want anyone hurt.
- All road sides in Audubon Hills are cleared, in the spring and fall, of weeds and plant life to avoid fire danger and pavement erosion. Please do not plant items within this area. Audubon Drive is cleared 3' on either side and 6' up; side roads are cleared 2' on either side and 6' up.
- If there is something you feel our community needs, let us know. Together we can make a difference.
- Hate chains? Winter's coming, look into "Spikes Spider," at www.spikes-spiders.com. They're great if you don't want the hassle of putting on typical chains. Snap them on, and you and your fellow drivers are safe because their easy to put on and take off. You won't chance using nothing at all. Many neighbors swear by them in the snowy and icy conditions Audubon Hills and Camino has to offer.

Audubon Hills Volunteers

It's been asked by some, "How much do board members make?" The answer is simple, **\$0**. Everyone, on both the AHA and AHCSO boards, are unpaid volunteers that live in the Audubon Hills community. They do the work they do, for the betterment of the community they live in. However; it never hurts when they receive your support and encouragement. It goes a long way!

Another question has been, "How does a resident become board member?" AHA board members are voted on, by residents, at the annual community meetings, and they help facilitate community needs. AHCSO board members are voted on through governmental elections, by residents, and they facilitate road needs. AHCSO must abide by governmental guidelines and codes of conduct.

These volunteers are your neighbors, that start with little or no knowledge or training, but they are always guided by the recommendations of specialists, to help them make the right decisions. It's "on the job" experience. Decisions are made as a committee, with no-one person having more or less power than the other. For over 42 years, the boards have worked towards the goals, needs, and desires of the community interests in the past and present, while looking towards the future.

As an interesting note, 42 years of volunteers from our community have developed AHA, AHCSO, Neighborhood Watch, newsletters, e-mail lists, a community website, and emergency exits. They've also done road side beautification; which includes flowers, signs, bus stops, and benches. Community advocacy has addressed larger issues such as mail delivery, EID water service, phone services, cable TV, high speed internet, and most importantly becoming part of the fire district... just to name a few.

Our community volunteers help make our world go round!



Thank you CSD!

In that spirit, AHA wishes to extend their appreciation to Jim McCarthy, Stanley Backlund, Inge Clarke, Robert Matheson, and Jon Coble, our AHCSO board members, and Jim Mitrison secretary, for volunteering their time and efforts to make our private roads unlike anywhere in the county. Their work improves our community roads, and in turn, our home values and safety. Without the AHCSO, we would have dirt roads, and chaos, like so many other communities in the mountains. There are far more items, needs, and governmental constraints they need to consider, than one can even imagine. For the work you do, Thank You CSD!



Rattlesnakes and Dogs

Although rattlesnakes have not been seen in Audubon Hills, you may visit an area that does have them. Keeping your pets safe in rattlesnake territory has gotten a bit easier. Ask your vet about the following:

Rattlesnake Avoidance-Once a year Hangtown Kennel Club hosts this class which teaches dogs how to avoid rattlesnakes. Go to their website, www.hangtownkc.org, for dates of this fantastic class.

Rattlesnake Shots-Did you know dogs can get a shot to help reduce the effects of a rattlesnake bite? The pain and affects are horrible for your pet, and for you to watch. The cost of treating a dog that has been bitten can exceed \$2000. The cost of the shot is a fraction of that, and its worth every penny to avoid a life threatening situation.

Audubon Hills Community Meeting Minutes - June 19th.

AHA Annual Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2010

Meeting Called to Order 9:45am

Introduction of Residents in Attendance

- Alex Baird, Mimi Crowe, Jamie & Darrin McNeice, Betsy & Bob Verzello, Ron & Sue Collier, Helen Atchley, Jim & Kim McCarthy, Mary & Larry Linville, Joyce Bailey, Mark Stanley.
- Guests in Attendance: Randy from the Bear Box Company
- Board in attendance: Mark Stanley, President; Kim McCarthy, Vice President; Sue Collier, Secretary/Treasurer; Larry Linville, Director.

AHCS D Update

President Jim McCarthy listed the names of all the AHCS D directors. Jim explained what was discussed at the CSD Special Community Meeting at Camino School in March, which explained what the plans for the future would be for all of Audubon Hills.

“Now that Audubon Dr. is in good order, as planned, money is now being used to pave side roads. Waxwing has already been done. All side roads will be paved for two-way traffic with 16’ wide roads and 1’ gravel finish on either side, with cul-de-sacs at the end. These improvements will allow for emergency ingress/egress for residents and emergency personnel, and generally safer roads.”

“The first plan was to make an order of paving, which President Mike Fennessey did six years ago in 2004. In 2008, this finalized list was officially put into the minutes of the meeting. The order of paving was organized by roads of higher population, and use, getting paved first. Audubon gets used by most all residents, so its priority is first. Then the side road paving order is Waxwing, Kingfisher, Blackbird, Mockingbird, Tanager, Kingbird, Grayhawk, Falcon, Thrush, Nighthawk, Kittywake, Condor, Heron, Blackbarri, Magpie, Warbler, Skylark, Audubon Ct., Lark, & Wren.”

“The paving of side roads has been a long term plan for the last 40 years. It has taken so long to get to the side roads, because the CSD wanted to get Audubon done right first. It’s expensive for the CSD to provide for the roads’ future stability; like Petromat, drainage, & roadside clearing. Now that Audubon is in order, the “long term plan” for the side roads is finally a reality.”

“If anyone is interested in the road paving policies or wishes to suggest ideas, please go to our website to see current policies. Tell us your ideas by e-mailing or mailing them to us at P.O. Box 745, Camino, CA 95709. All residents are always welcome to attend the AHCS D meetings. The dates, location, and times of these meetings are always posted at the entrance and online at www.ahcsd.org.”

“To get an idea of how future paving is decided for your road, stand out on your road and look at it. AHCS D considerations are how to pave in the least costly fashion. We look at terrain, and going around large trees. It costs about \$3000-\$4000 to remove a tree, stump, fill the hole, and compact. If there’s a route that doesn’t include removing a tree, that’s the way we will go. Take a look at your property and its easement; we want to make it fair for both property owners on either side of the road, so we will move the road as close to the middle of the easements when possible.”

“This year, the side road to be paved is the front part of Kingfisher Ln. to just before the pond.

Next year will be the back half, from the pond to the back.”

“AHCS D asks all residents to take a look at their easements, which are shown on their parcel/plot map. This easement grants rights for ingress/egress access within that easement. You can get a plot map for your property at the EDC Surveyor’s office. It’s very clear where the easement is.”

Darrin McNeice asked about pot holes. Jim said all road maintenance takes priority over everything else. Residents are encouraged to use the Road Service Request forms which are located at the big curve and online. Although we walk each road yearly, it’s not possible to know every problem that pops up; the success of road maintenance is up to everyone that lives in here. The annual road-side clearing of plant life and branches along side of all the roads will take place shortly; it normally happens in the spring, but they getting a late start this year.

Fire Safety-(Very important for you to review)

- Vicky Yorty from the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council came to talk with our group.
- The widening of the roads is paramount to community safety. The fire departments need to be able to get fire fighting apparatuses in, while people are getting out. This can’t happen with the narrow roads Audubon has. It’s commendable that AHCS D has finally gotten to the point of getting roads widened. It’s not an easy or inexpensive thing to do, but the effort will make the job of our firefighting crews easier, and they’ll be more likely to come into an area that’s worked so hard to protect themselves and the fire crews.
- It’s excellent that Quinn McCarthy worked so hard to get an additional emergency exit put into Audubon Hills. It would be even better if Audubon could get one or more additional emergency exits established. She encourages all resident to share with A.H.A. or AHCS D, of any ingress/egress area they may have on their property that can be used in emergency situations. The more ways in and out , the better it is for everyone. There are 30,860 roads that have one way in one way out, in El Dorado County. It’s a huge problem.
- Each area is unique; Grizzly Flats has a 45 minute fire response time.
- Keep in mind that when power is out, there may be no land-line or cell phone service.
- Residents need to work together for alerts when phones don’t work.
- Neighborhood Watch is an excellent program, and area captains can work on their area, door to door, to let neighbors know what to do.
- Go through the emergency evacuation forms Kim has put together, and make your plan ahead of time of what to bring and how to prepare your home before leaving.
- Mark commented that insurance companies are cancelling home insurance on areas that don’t have more than one entrance/exit. So we need to work together to keep safe, and keep our insurances.
- The Fire Safe Council in not a “for profit” organization. It’s for protecting lives and property.
- In 9 years, they’ve brought in \$9 million in programs to El Dorado County.
- Grizzly Flats has a whole fire break around their community, made with federal funds.
- The council didn’t receive any funding for the 2011-2012 year; all funds went down south.
- Vicky has given Kim some green waste vouchers than can be used for free drop off at the dump. There will be funding for the chipping program till June 2011.
- We all need to take care of ourselves, and not expect that someone is going to save us or our property, in the event of a fire. Prepare your property by removing ladder fuels. There was a 30% increase in ladder fuels from Dec. 1-8, so the fire danger is high.
- Make an evacuation list of things to pack, so you can get out and allow the fire department to do their job.
- Have a box ready; include video of the inside of your home for inventory.

Audubon Hills Community Meeting Minutes - June 19th.

- Remember to keep space to pack your pets when evacuating.
- You must be a custodian of your property, even your neighbor's property; if you feel unsafe with their overgrowth, talk with them. It's in both of your best interests. Work together to fix the problem.
- A Community Wide Protection Plan (CWPP) is being written for Gold Hill/Coloma to Pollock Pines and Placerville to Pleasant Valley. Camino will be included in this area. There are 110,000 homes in this area.
- There are a lot of seniors who don't have funding or are disabled and can't get their property fire-safe. There is some funding in the Senior Clearing Program; please contact Kim McCarthy for a referral.
- Mark Stanley said to prepare your boxes for emergency evacuation, you can list important things throughout the year, and put those on your list to bring. Kim mentioned that you can scan in your pictures, and simply grab your computer when you leave, Remember holiday decorations; many victims of fire said that was one of the most difficult things they missed when fleeing. It was further insult that they didn't realize until months after the wildfire.
- Emergency exits are only to be used when there is a sheriff-ordered evacuation, and the sheriff has directed you to take that route. They will know if the end of that exit is safe or not. They need to know where residents are going.
- As a reminder, residents are NOT to use fire escape exits for personal use such as walking, quads or the like. They are located on private property.
- Kim has designed a wildfire escape sign that is getting approval from the Fire Safe Council, to be used throughout the county, since there is not a standard design in place.
- It was asked if anything can be done to enforce property owners to clean up weeds. Currently there are no weed abatement programs in the county; the cost involved to enforce it is high.

Bear Boxes

Randy from the Tahoe Bear Box Co. came to show garbage cans that look like ours, but have bear-proof lids. The cost is \$189 for 32 gal and \$250 for 90 gal. It works like the hood of your car, by sliding a lock through holes. (**Currently, AHA is awaiting word from El Dorado Disposal on what cost will be saved, or incurred, with getting these cans. We'll let you as soon as they let us know.)

Treasury Report

We currently have \$7000 in our account. We've been saving money for fire exit clean up, signs, and gates, as well as repainting the entrance sign. Mark mentioned that since we have funds like these, we could qualify for state and federal matching grants, which can help pay for some of these things faster.

Some suggestions for funds are: more flowers to be planted and reflective arrows that point to emergency exits at each road.

Benches

Two were approved years ago, and never purchased. Do we still wish to purchase them? It was voted on that one would be purchased for Waxwing to put near the mail boxes. A second one will be purchased, once Kingfisher is completed, and installed next to the pond.

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Dumpster

There were some complaints about no spring dumpster; residents were encouraged to use the Camino Clean up dumpster instead. Everyone voted that a single fall dumpster was fine, and that residents could use the spring Camino Clean up dumpster instead with no cost to the association.

Clearing

There's a volunteer sheet for clearing the emergency exit, if anyone would like to help this coming weekend. Mark Stanley, Darrin McNeice, Jim Wells, and the McCarthy's will be working to fell a tree that is in the way and clearing debris. Your help would be appreciated and welcome.

Kudos

Many thanks to our resident helpers, who helped without being asked or paid:

- Jim and Kim McCarthy and unknown helper, for clearing downed trees on Audubon Dr. during the snowstorms.
- Jim Wells and Gary Tillotson for clearing tree branches from the entrance sign, and fixing the bus stop.
- Many of our residents wanted us to recognize Jim Wells for all his invaluable help during the big storms this winter. He just came by to check on people and to make sure they were o.k. when the power was out. Jim, thank you for helping make this neighborhood a safer & better place to live.
- Ken and Makala Brooke for cleaning all the road signs of their dirt and muck.
- Kim and Logan McCarthy started doing this, but didn't return when Logan got stung by a bee!
- Good job Larry & Mary Linville for 4 truckloads of green waste in the green dumpster, good clean up!
- To those unknown volunteers that have removed paper flyers on trees and posts, picked up old phone books unclaimed at mailboxes, picked up garbage along the road during their walks, or helped find a lost pet its home, THANK YOU!!! Those little and big things, add up to a better community we all have a vested interest in, and a community you have made better.

Elections

There are three positions up for re-election President, Secretary/Treasurer, and 1st Director; no one expressed an interest. All three current board members were willing run again and were nominated. Mark Stanley, President; Sue Collier, Secretary/Treasurer; and Larry Linville, 1st Director were voted in for another term, to last two years.

Ideas/Thoughts/Info

- Can AHA write Comcast, and ask them for a larger battery back-up for the phone junction box. When power goes out, Comcast phone immediately go out. AHA will write a letter.
- Camino Community Action Committee meets the 1st Monday of month at 5:30. Contact Mark for more info.
- National Night out will be August at the Camino Community Church on Carson Rd..
- ATT has a cell phone relay modem that can connect to your high speed internet to get stronger service at your home. Right now there's a \$100 coupon, but check with ATT for charges associated with this relay.
- Thanks Tom and Michelle at Para Vi' for donating the use of their facilities for our meeting.

Meeting called to a close at 11:15am

Audubon Hills Association

P.O. Box 631
Camino, CA 95709

www.audubonhills.org

- **VERY Important community information enclosed.**
- **If you don't read, you won't know!**
- **If you don't know, you can't blame us!**
- **Please read the minutes. Its full of pertinent information that may affect you!**
- **Please make sure we have your current e-mail & phone for NW.**

Neighborhood & Community Dates To Remember:

August 26-27
AHCSD Paving front half of Kingfisher Lane

August 28
Apple Hill Season Opens

September 15
AHCSD Meeting 7:00–
See bulletin at entrance for location

September 17-19
Community Dumpster

Beginning of November
AHCSD Roadside Clearing

November 7
Apple Hill Harvest Run

November 18
AHCSD Meeting 7:00–
See bulletin at entrance for location