



Audubon Hills Association (AHA!)  
Celebrating 39 years!

Volume 8, Issue 1  
August 2007

# August 2007 Newsletter

## Bears are back in town-solutions to stay safe

Recently, we've received some calls from residents, wondering who or what have been knocking over garbage cans, while others have called to give us actual citations of bears. We would be remiss, if we didn't share some basic facts to stay safe, and alert you to evolving dangers, and solutions to stay safe.

First and foremost, all info you need is at our website at [www.audubonhills.org/LivingWithWildlife.htm](http://www.audubonhills.org/LivingWithWildlife.htm). We've worked really hard on this site, to provide you with the most recent information on safety. Take a look.

One of the biggest problems recently, has been the missing bungee cords after garbage day. Believe it or not, bungee cords on your can DO WORK. We've had a garbage can get rolled all the way down our driveway, and flipped, before the bear moved on. It's such a simple solution, but it works. That is...if the garbage man doesn't fling it or throw it away on garbage day! I talked with the route manager this week, who's talked with his collectors, and they now understand the importance of leaving these cords on our cans. One suggestion we do have however, is to drill a hole in the handle and crimp the bungee on it. That way, when they tip the cans over to dump them, they won't fall off.

The bears are becoming more aggressive, and brazen, and we have to be diligent to clean food up not only outside, but inside as well. In Tahoe, they're going through open windows to get to food, and tearing homeowners kitchens apart. If we take the time now to remove the temptation, we'll avoid them going the same route as their Tahoe and Yosemite cousins.

Inside this issue:

AHCS D News	2
What is AHCS D?	2
Home Security	3
Fall Dumpster	3
Street Signs	3
Mt. Lion's	4-5
C.C.A.C.	6
Apple Hill Run	6
<b>AHA! Community</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PICNIC!!!</b>	
<b>September 8th</b>	

## AHA! Community Alert System works!

For the last five years, we've sent out e-mail alerts through our community alert system, and if you're not a part of this, we highly recommend you share your e-mail address with us. It's the quickest way to know instantly what's going on. Our e-mail system is private, and safe. We don't share or sell your e-mail, it's always kept private.

Periodically, there are other notices we send, that are not alerts, but rather important items of interests for the community. Such as the chipping program, lost or found pets, paving, clearing, and dumpster program dates and numbers to call.

Please take the time to e-mail your address to us, and be sure to send us any new e-mail address you may have gotten over the last year. That way, you won't miss out on the riveting correspondence we send out, in between newsletters.

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 instant alerts, newsletters, and community reminders **ONLY**.

AHCS D Officer's

Chairman-

Mike Fennessy

csd@audubonhills.org

644-3855

Co-Chair

Jim McCarthy

647-8878

Treasurer

Robert Matheson

644-6248

Directors

Bill Brozo

644-6315

Inge Clark

644-6697

Secretary

Nora Fennessy

644-3855

AHPOA Officer's

President-

Jim McCarthy 647-8878

jim@audubonhills.org

Vice President-

Kim McCarthy 647-8878

kim@audubonhills.org

Secretary-Treasurer-

Sue Collier - 644-8878

sue@audubonhills.org

Directors

Don Murray 644-6262

don@audubonhills.org

Steve Bates 644-4699

steve@audubonhills.org

Neighborhood Watch

Jim Wells 644-4779

jimw@audubonhills.org

AHCS D News

The Audubon Hills Community Services District has completed Petromat paving and re-striping on the last designated section of Audubon Drive. Tanager Lane has been realigned and repaired, and minor repairs to streets throughout the community have been completed.

Improvement to side roads is planned to start next year with Waxwing and Kingfisher Lanes being the first to be paved.

Property owners are reminded that the CSD has an easement on all roads within the district. This easement in most cases extends fifteen (15) feet to either side from the center of the street. In some places, the easement is thirty (30) feet on one side of the street. Improvements to side streets may require widening the street into the easement. Owners should review their property description to determine the exact location of the easement on their property.

Thank you, Mike Fennessy, AHCS D Chairman

AHCS D-What do they do; What do they need?

AHCS D (the road committee) is in charge of all things road related. To say we are lucky to have the roads we do, is an understatement. It's not easy to make a plan for road repairs and paving, then have the state randomly retract portions of the distribution of funds to cover costs somewhere else in the state. The main thing that has gotten AHCS D through the last two years, has been the \$75 special assessment. Why? Because the state can't take that, so that was all AHCS D received!

The community has changed significantly over the last ten years, and with that, demands on the AHCS D funds have changed too. Each of us needs to explore the possibility of raising the special assessment fee which is currently \$75. This would allow AHCS D to keep up with the rising costs of services such as paving, snow clearing, tree trimming and

removal along the roads. The simple fact is that if they are to keep up with the demands of the community, the community will need to pay for it.

Nobody wants more taxes, but the special assessment directly benefits every property within Audubon Hills' boundary. When one considers area CSD's or homeowner fees are \$75 to \$350 a month, our \$75 a year is minuscule in comparison.

One may ask, "If the main road is done, why raise the fee?" First, the roadwork will never be "done", there will always be maintenance requirements. Now that AHCS D will be paving side roads, they will be bringing them up to compliance so emergency and service vehicles can come down AND turn around at the ends. This is one example of why we need to explore raising the fees, so we can help maintain and keep our community safe.

## Easy Home Alarm/Security System

Here is a great idea for an emergency alarm system, that was shared by one of our neighbors. You may already have a home security system, and not even know it!

Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation.

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear someone outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car alarm. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

Another option is to purchase an additional alarm remote, and leave that at your bedside.

Test it... It will go off from most everywhere inside your house. It works if you park in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the intruder won't stick around.... After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

Remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

## Community Dumpster

The dates for the community dumpster this fall will be September 21st - 30th. 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.

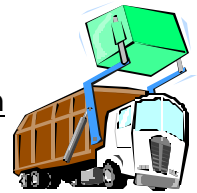
You can schedule your time by calling 647-8878 or e-mailing at: [theboard@audubonhills.org](mailto:theboard@audubonhills.org)

Thank You!

P.S. Remember all computer equipment can be donated to hospice on Placerville drive, on Wednesdays, for free!

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, or Food.



## Where's my street sign?

Wondering why you don't have the new street sign on your street? Well, it's because we haven't gotten a volunteer to help yet! This community has become what it is, over the last 39 years, by having residents work together for the common good. This means, we need your help to get the signs installed. If you're genuinely interested in helping us install the sign on your street, or would just like to have the directions and do it on your own, please call and give us a date you'd like to do it. We have all the supplies and directions needed to get the job done in a consistent manner with the rest of the community. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in advance.

---

## Mt. Lion sightings

This news was broadcast to our neighbors, via e-mail in January. Please share your e-mail, so we can include you in instant alerts of this nature in the future.

The new year brought a Mt. Lion that decided to nestle up under a neighbor's deck. This behavior is *unusual* for the normally elusive Mt. Lion, who tend to keep their distance from humans. This article will attempt to help you sort out the process after a sighting, how to avoid this unwanted visitor to your property in the first place, what the laws are that are involved once a sighting happens, and the safety tips for your family.

### 1. If you see a Mt. Lion, you must:

1<sup>st</sup>: Call the Department of Fish and Game, and report the sighting to them. Their numbers are Sacramento Headquarters 916-653-6420 or Rancho Cordova Central Sierra Region at 916-358-2900.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Follow any instructions they may give you.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Call neighborhood watch and/or the board @...

\*NW Commander is Jim Wells 644-4779

\*AHA! Board members Jim and Kim McCarthy 647-8878

Please be sure to alert the NW or the Board, so we may alert the neighbors. There are children walking through here, to and from the bus every day, and we need to let their parents and the school know if there is a Mt. Lion hanging around. A call to us is crucial for the safety of our residents.

### 2. Once the DFG (Dept. of Fish and

### Game) comes out:

DFG determines the course of action to take. In this instance, they said to let the Mt. Lion be, and that it would most likely leave that night. Once DFG came back in the morning, to verify it was gone, he suggested they cover the area with boards or fencing so it won't return. His suggestion for you...

\*\*\*Check the perimeter of your home and deck. Enclose any potential 'den like' areas around your home with wire fencing to keep a Mt. Lion from making its home there. An example of a potential 'den like' area would be low decks, open crawl spaces, or outbuildings up on piers. High decks are not sheltered enough, so there is no need to cover this area.

If the Mt. Lion is showing aggressive tendencies or posing emanate danger, the USDA resident trapper should be called by DFG to check on the lion and to remove it. In most cases, Mt. Lions are not trapped and removed to another area. This has proven to be unsuccessful, as they will return, because they have a large territory they cover. Unfortunately, removed means killed, but only if the lion has been aggressive or poses emanate danger. Legally, when does a Mt. Lion not pose emanate danger? If it is simply walking through your yard, it does not pose a danger. If it hangs out in your yard, it does.

Please note, the resident did everything right. She made the right calls, to the right people. Decisions were made with the information given at that

## Mt. Lion sightings con't.

time. In most cases, the decision to remove a Mt. Lion comes down to the property owners wishes. The DFG or USDA does not have the right to come onto your or anyone else's property to remove a Mt. Lion, without your permission.

Most residents have stated that they are not condoning the mass slaughter of Mt. Lions, but rather wondering when is the time to remove one. Knock on wood, there haven't been any problems, and knowing what to ask makes all the difference. Educating yourself will help too.

For now, the best we can do is share information and have you review the safety precautions below. We can not express how vitally important this is.

### **DON'Ts**

1. *Don't* hike, bike, or jog **ALONE**.
  - a. Don't use headphones.
2. *Avoid* walking near dense growth, rock outcroppings, or under ledges
3. *Don't* allow children to play alone outdoors at dusk and dawn
4. *Don't* leave petfood outside.

### **DO'S**

1. Always look up and behind you:
2. Install outdoor lighting
3. Remove all tall or dense growth on your property to eliminate hiding places, especially within 30 yards (over two lion bounds) of children's play areas
4. Re-plant only non-native plants that won't hide lions or nourish prey such as deer/rabbits/raccoons

### **IF YOU COME ACROSS A MT. LION**

1. Try to give it *a way out*
3. Look a lion in the eye(s)
4. Make loud, firm noises: You may even show your teeth and make snarling sounds
  - a. *Don't* try to sooth it verbally, as this may backfire.
5. Make yourself look big
  - a. Raise your coat, jacket, or any clothing with your arms
  - b. Stand up straight, and swell your chest
  - c. Children with no adult should always be in a group and should *bunch together*
  - d. Adults pull children close by to appear larger and to prevent them from running
  - e. Without kneeling, pull a small child on your shoulders to appear larger
6. You may back away slowly, if you feel you can retreat
7. Use anything available as a weapon if the lion displays aggression *but \*generally not if you must turn your back, crouch, kneel, or bend over to get one.*
  - a. **Carry mace or pepper spray where your can easily get it.**
  - b. Use fists, sticks, rocks, tools, a pocket knife, a bicycle, whatever you can hit with, throw, and/or use as a shield
  - c. Target a Mt. Lions eye with your thumbs, fingers, or a weapon

For more information go to our website

[www.audubonhills.org/LivingWithWildlife](http://www.audubonhills.org/LivingWithWildlife).



# Camino Community Action Committee (CCAC)

The CCAC is a group of Camino residents, working to preserve and protect our way of life; while embracing our sense of community here in Camino.

CCAC welcomes and encourages all Camino residents to their meetings. This is an amazing group of people, and simply coming to a meeting to know what's going on in our town, is a wonderful way to spend an evening.

<b>August</b>	27th	Camino Community Action Committee (CCAC) Camino School Staff Room 5:30
<b>September</b>	24th	Camino Community Action Committee (CCAC) Camino School Staff Room 5:30
<b>October</b>	29th	Camino Community Action Committee (CCAC) Camino School Staff Room 5:30
<b>November</b>	26th	Camino Community Action Committee (CCAC) Camino School Staff Room 5:30

The dates of the meetings are to the right. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## Apple Hill Harvest Run-November 4th

This is a reminder to all residents to prepare for some traffic discomfort, for the 28th Annual Apple Hill Harvest Run. This Camino School Fundraiser is on November 4th, so please mark your calendars. For those of you new to the area, this is a wonderful event that brings in well over \$15,500.00 to our own Camino school!

Your patience is greatly appreciated, as roads are temporarily closed for the runners. Race registration will start at Primus Winery at 7:00 am, on Larson Rd. Races will start at 8:30 to 9:30. Road closures will be efficient, opening and closing around runners. As always, emergency personal will have the right of way. If you have to leave, you should plan on leaving before the race (no later than 7:45am), or after it's done which is approximately 12 noon. There is a great danger to both runners and volunteers, when having to try to maneuver around vehicle traffic.



Mark your calendar. Also, please avoid getting deliveries on this day, as you will delay both your delivery and the driver as well! For more info, or if you'd like to volunteer, go to [www.applehillrun.org](http://www.applehillrun.org)



## Picnic Order Form-For September 8th Picnic

Please return this form, for the September 8th picnic, with your payment and meal order by August 30th 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, September 8th, 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, September 8t, 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 **YOU CAN ALSO PAY ONLINE!** See article below

**Property Owners Information Update**

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

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

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## AHA! Community Picnic

September 8, 2007 is the AHA! Community Picnic at Camino School from 3pm to 6pm. Your AHA! Board is willing, ready, and able to cook you a meal, and have a good time. All you have to do is pay your \$6 per person (same price for kids and adults), and we'll provide you with your choice of a hamburger or chicken dinner.

This is a wonderfully low key way to catch up with neighbors, meet new ones, and close the summer off with a wonderful evening out.

We invite all neighbors of Audubon Hills. Established, new, renting, owners, and surrounding

neighbors. Come share an afternoon with us, you have to eat anyway, why not have us cook it for you!? The picnic is in two weeks, we need you to RSVP to us ASAP. You can also pay online at [www.audubonhills.org/BoardMinutesPayments.htm](http://www.audubonhills.org/BoardMinutesPayments.htm)



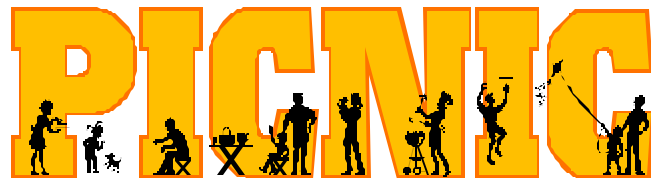
Audubon Hills  
Association

P.O. Box 631  
Camino, CA 95709

We're on the web x's 3!  
[www.audubonhills.org](http://www.audubonhills.org)  
[www.audubonhills.com](http://www.audubonhills.com)  
[www.ahcsd.org](http://www.ahcsd.org)

Audubon Hills  
Where birds of a feather flock together!

Mark your calendar...Dates to Remember



September

**\*\*8th AHA! Community Picnic\*\***

**20th** AHCS D (road committee) Meeting 7:00

Call Mike Fennessy for location 644-3855

**21st - 30th** AHA! Community Dumpster-see page

November

**4th** Apple Hill Harvest Run (Be Prepared for Road Closures) see page 6

**15th** AHCS D (road committee) Meeting 7:00

Call Mike Fennessy for location 644-3855