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#### **President's Summer Message**

*By Tom Lambert, YWPHI President*

#### **Trucks and Bodies Needed for Memorial Day**

Until this week, it still felt like winter — I skied fresh powder on April 30 — but fire season will soon be upon us. It's going to have to be a quick and aggressive cleanup this year given the late and lingering snow. Because of the abbreviated cleanup season, this Memorial Day cleanup might be bigger than usual. As such we **will need as many trucks and volunteers as possible**. If there's any way that you can help out, please do. If you can bring, borrow, steal or rent a truck to join in with us, that would be terrific. Please contact me as soon as possible at (209) 379-4127 or [president@yosemitewest.org](mailto:president@yosemitewest.org) if you can provide a truck. For full details on the event, see p. 3.

#### **Fourth of July Party**

At the annual meeting, some people asked that we try to add a summer equivalent to the Holiday Home Tour. That is a casual event that doesn't involve pine needles or business meetings. So this year we will be holding a Fourth of July Picnic. See p. 5 for details.

#### **Make Your Cleanup Efforts Count**

Once again, thanks to the efforts of Kim O'Neil and John Mock, we have nailed down substantial grants to help with fuel reduction in and around the neighborhood. These large grants will require us to provide a matching contribution. This matching contribution will primarily take the form of contributions in kind for your labor. If we are going to be able to continue this work in future years, we need to show the granting agencies that we are putting some of our own sweat and money into the project. **Therefore it is of the utmost importance that we all track the time we spend on cleaning up our property. Every hour that we work and every dollar we pay to staff and contractors counts toward our matching obligation.** I realize that most of us are not in the habit of clocking in and clocking out when we go out to trim brush, but the future fire safety of our neighborhood hinges on all of us making a good-faith estimate of time spent and submitting the forms. Few people are more disorganized than your faithful correspondent, but this is one neighborhood task I take very seriously and hope you will too. The forms themselves will come out in a future mailing, but please start tracking your time and please return the form. We've had great response to this in the past, but it's important for anyone who isn't participating to join your neighbors and submit these forms. Every dollar and every hour counts!

## **YWPHI Board Minutes**

Minutes from previous YWPHI Board of Directors' meetings are archived online at <http://yosemitewest.org/board.htm>. Minutes from the October 14, 2009 and March 31, 2010, meetings will be available after the next Board meeting, which takes place on July 7, 2010.

## ***In the West* Publication**

Thanks go to these contributors to this edition of *In the West*: Kay Pitts, YWPHI Board members Kim O'Neil and Rea Jackman.

Archived issues of the newsletter are available to download as a PDF at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/archive.htm>. Each issue is announced to all members by email as soon as it is available for download from the YWPHI site. Your willingness to obtain the newsletter electronically saves YWPHI money on printing and mailing, allowing us to use that money for community projects.

## **Welcome New Members**

We are pleased to welcome several new and returning members: Richard and Pam Anderson.

## **Yosemite West Emergency Telephone Tree Update**

YWPHI maintains and annually updates the YOSEMITE WEST EMERGENCY TELEPHONE TREE, which lists and is distributed to homeowners with their contact information. (It does not include nor is it distributed to vacant lot owners.) Many homeowners have primary residences elsewhere, and the tree endeavors to list any telephone contact information at alternative residences and cell phone numbers.

The emergency telephone tree is intended to systematically notify residents during an emergency or when a situation arises that affects the entire community. However, YWPHI, its members and officers, and those using the emergency telephone tree, cannot guarantee that anyone will receive timely and adequate notice of an emergency, and disclaims all liability.

The YOSEMITE WEST EMERGENCY TELEPHONE TREE is for the exclusive use of Yosemite West homeowners and residents

(including occupants of long-term rental properties). To protect privacy, please keep the emergency telephone tree confidential, and do not forward it or provide copies to others for any purpose. YWPHI also provides the list to the Mariposa County Fire Department and Yosemite National Park fire chiefs.

The phone tree also includes new contact information for Public Works for road, water and sewer issues

In April 2010, YWPHI updated the YOSEMITE WEST EMERGENCY TELEPHONE TREE. Recently, YWPHI sent you an email message with instructions on how to download the updated tree.

Please send an email to [telephonetree@yosemitewest.org](mailto:telephonetree@yosemitewest.org) to inform us of any changes to your contact information, or to remove your name from the tree for any reason. If you have recently built your home, please send us your phone number.

## **Mark Your Calendars — Key Dates**

**May 30** — Memorial Day Cleanup and Picnic (see p. 3).

**July 4** — Community Picnic on Henness Ridge Road at noon.

## **Call for Articles**

Is there something you wanted to know about that is not in this issue? Interested in making sure it appears in a future issue? Drop a note to [newsletter@yosemitewest.org](mailto:newsletter@yosemitewest.org) for publication schedule and deadlines. We'd love to have your article.

## **About YWPHI**

YWPHI was established to promote and protect the best interests of the owners of land used for residential purposes in Yosemite West. YWPHI shall strive for the improvement and betterment of all facilities and services within the area, and shall promote and encourage maximum community and civic spirit, and foster good will and friendship among all residents of Yosemite West.

## Yosemite West Memorial Day Weekend Yard Clean-up

Sunday, May 30, 2010

<http://www.yosemitewest.org/firesafe.htm>

The community burn pile, located at the lower end of the development off Yosemite Park Way, will be open on Memorial Day weekend to provide a place to dispose of yard debris. The burn pile fills up quickly each spring and you can ease the pressure on it in two ways:

- by burning pine needles on your own property (see also Burn Permit news, p. 4).
- by participating in the grant-funded Yosemite West Defensible Space Project (look for a future mailing).

If you do not have a vehicle to transport yard debris to the burn pile, volunteers with trucks will be cruising the neighborhood on Sunday, May 30 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., but **you must help**

**load and unload all your material into their trucks.** In turn, you'll be expected to help with loads from your neighbors' yards. Please don't leave piles along the street expecting others to take them away – no one will touch them.

This clean-up is a community event, not a free service offered by the homeowners' association. Volunteers are there to help, *not* to do all your work for you. If you are physically unable to actually help load trucks, that's fine. You can still provide refreshments and applause! Equipment is always at a premium. If you have a truck that helps immensely. Gloves, rakes, pitchforks, wheelbarrows and tarps are very helpful.

### Free Picnic Lunch Sunday, May 30 at noon

YWPHI is sponsoring its annual Memorial Day Weekend picnic lunch and invites everyone in the community on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to join us at the southeast corner of Henness Circle. The YWPHI Hospitality Committee will be serving food about noon. Please bring your own chairs.

### Meet Your Supervisor Candidates

Brad Aborn and Lee Stetson, candidates to represent District I (that's us) on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors will both be on hand to take questions at the picnic. If Yosemite West is your voting address, this is an important opportunity to get to know your candidate. The last day to register to vote is May 24. The election is June 8.

#### What Goes In the Community Burn Pile

- pine needles and pine cones

#### What Stays Out of the Burn Pile

- piles for chipping
- logs and stumps
- garbage (plastic bags, glass, etc)
- hazardous or toxic materials
- construction debris

#### Two types of curbside piles:

- **Piles for Hauling** to the community burn pile. Have your piles ready by 9 a.m. Sunday, May 30. **You must be there in person to load and unload your piles and to help load and unload your neighbors' piles.**
- **Piles for Chipping** *after* Memorial Day Weekend. A future mailing will give updates on the Yosemite West Defensible Space Project that replaces this year's chipping program.

**If you are preparing your lot for building,** you cannot bring this debris to the community burn pile. The burn pile cannot handle this large volume of material. You must make your own arrangements (e.g., by renting a dumpster) to dispose of the debris.

YWPHI does not manage the community burn pile. Please direct any questions you may have (e.g., opening/closing dates) to the Mariposa County Public Works Department (209-966-5356).

## Vacation Home Owners: A Cautionary Tale

By Kay Pitts, owner, Yosemite Peregrine Lodging

At a recent Mariposa Board of Supervisors meeting owners of the Jeffrey Hotel in Coulterville asked to have a penalty removed for failure to have a transient occupancy permit. They had paid the transient occupancy tax (TOT) late plus a 10% penalty plus 18% interest, but were now faced with an **additional penalty of another 200%**. During the long discussion I was surprised to learn that the penalty was so high. Evidently when Mariposa County started collecting the TOT, some hotel operators stated they would never pay it, so at that time the Board of Supervisors enacted this rather draconian ordinance to force compliance.

If you are *late* in paying, you are charged *10% penalty + 18% interest*. But, if you *don't have a TOT permit* you are fined an *additional 200%*. The tax collector, Keith Williams, stated that this office has found other lodging operators who do not either have a TOT permit or are not collecting the tax. Internet advertising brings us customers but it also gives the County a simple way to find scofflaws. So if you are operating a transient rental and not collecting or paying the TOT tax, be aware. The Jeffrey Hotel had paid \$22,000. They were lucky. The additional penalty of \$42,000 was waived due to extenuating circumstances — essentially health problems on the part of the owners — but you may not be so lucky.

## 2010 Fire Safety Grant Implementation

By John Mock, chair, Fire Safety Committee

YWPHI has been awarded a 2010 National Fire Plan grant from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council (see <http://www.yosemitewest.org/grants.htm>). YWPHI will begin implementing the grant this summer. The grant will fund fuel reduction both inside and outside the community.

Inside the community, the grant will help property owners to create defensible space in accordance with PRC §4291 on approximately 140 parcels, which is 50% of the parcels in Yosemite West or 55 of the 109 acres in

Yosemite West. This grant will pay for a trained crew to come to your property and do the trimming, limbing and thinning work. You, however, are responsible for raking and removing all pine needles and pine cones. (The project is described in Appendix H — Project Summary #1 of the *Yosemite West Community Wildfire Protection Plan*, approved by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in June 2008; see <http://www.yosemitewest.org/ywcwpp.pdf>).

Outside the community, the grant will continue creation of a shaded fuel break and pay for fuel reduction on more than 80 acres along the western boundary of Yosemite West.

We will be sending a separate mailing to all property owners of record in Yosemite West with instructions on how to participate in this year's grant activities. Meanwhile, please feel free to email [firesafety@yosemitewest.org](mailto:firesafety@yosemitewest.org) with any questions you may have.

Remember, these grants require matching contributions from within the neighborhood, most of which takes the form of the labor we do on our own properties for fire safety. **Please keep track of the number of hours you work on your property and any money you spend hiring people to do yard cleanup or other activities related to fire safety.** We will be sending around forms to help track in-kind contributions. These contributions are an essential part of the grant.

## Burn Permit Rule Clarification

Cal Fire is requiring burn permits as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. However, this year we've got them to clarify that burn permits are not required above 4000 feet. People simply need to call the Burn Day Information line at 888-440-2876 to see if it is a permissible burn day.

If you can burn your pine needles and tree limbs on your land, that takes pressure off the burn pile and tends to be a fair bit less work. Just be safe and have water, shovels and other firefighting equipment handy.

## Update on Maintenance Yard Lot Line Adjustment

By Yosemite West Maintenance District Advisory Committee *reproduced by permission*

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors approved a Resolution of Intent to Sell Fee Simple Land at Yosemite West (Resolution No. 10-128) at their meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2010. The **intention is to sell 1.53 acres** of the 3.09-acre parcel of land owned by Mariposa County (APN 006-150-007) where the maintenance yard, shed and vehicles are currently located. This parcel is on the north and east sides of Henness Ridge Road at the intersection of Henness Circle.

A lot line adjustment would be made to add the 1.53 acres to the adjacent 15-acre parcel (APN 006-150-006). The request for this lot line adjustment was made by Yosemite Cascades LLC, Jeff Hornacek, Managing Member, to accommodate the proposed Yosemite Cascades Guest Ranch project on the adjacent property and on the 1.53 acre parcel.

The Board of Supervisors has established that the **minimum bid required in exchange for the parcel will include construction of a new maintenance facility, removal of the existing facility and clean up of the current yard.**

The Board of Supervisors requested that the community — as well as YWMDAC — provide input on this issue. **Members of the public are also able to bid on the property.**

For further information, please read these documents

(<http://www.yosemitewest.org/res10128.pdf>)

provided by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, which include the agenda action form, minute order, and the resolution itself.

Yosemite Cascades LLC has information about its proposed guest ranch project on its website (<http://www.yosemitescascades.com>). Further information about the proposed Public Works Facility is available at <http://www.yosemitescascades.com/html/public-works.htm>.

All community members are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the proposed project. **The Board of Supervisors has rescheduled the May 11 meeting to May 18 when the bids will be opened** and the resolution will come before the Board for a vote. If you are unable to attend the meetings and/or would like to comment, please submit your comments via email to the Clerk of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Margie Williams ([mwilliams@mariposacounty.org](mailto:mwilliams@mariposacounty.org)).

## Farewell and Thanks to the Walls

Ken and Marilyn Wall have sold their house and are moving on. As most of you know, Ken built many of the houses in Yosemite West, built the mail shed, and has played an important role in fire safety work in the neighborhood. The Walls also hosted innumerable YWPHI meetings and served on the Yosemite West Maintenance Advisory committee for many years. We wanted to thank them for their years of service to the community and wish them well.

## Fourth of July Neighborhood Party

At the last annual meeting, people expressed an interest in having more purely social neighborhood events like the Holiday Home Tour — no business, pine needles or speakers, just chatting with the neighbors. So this year we're launching the inaugural Yosemite West Fourth of July Neighborhood Party. **On July 4, from 5pm to 8pm at the end of Henness Ridge Road**, YWPHI will set up a couple of grills and tables. We're planning to offer basic grillables and non-alcoholic drinks. All members are encouraged to drop by, have some food and meet some neighbors. If you want to bring your own alcohol or some food item to contribute to the party, that's great, but you're more than welcome to show up empty-handed and enjoy the food and and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

### **Mitch Jonasky Retires**

As many of you know, Mitch retired this year after keeping the neighborhood running for over two decades. It has been an incredible boon to the Yosemite West to have him on-site all these years to handle late-night plowing and emergency situations. Though we will miss him in his Public Works role, he'll still be on the hill as a friend and neighbor. Heartfelt thanks to Mitch for his years of service and best wishes for enjoying his retirement.

### **Locked Mailboxes For Sale**

YWPHI is still offering mailboxes for sale to its members. The cost per mailbox is \$160. This is a one-time fee only, not an annual rental fee. Once you purchase the mailbox, it's yours. Please mail a check payable to YWPHI to 7585 Henness Ridge Road, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108 or send your payment via PayPal to treasurer@yosemitewest.org.

#### **YWPHI Board of Directors (2009-2010)**

Tom Lambert, President; Kelly Rich, Vice-President and Secretary; Members Jim Andrews, Todd Caranto, Jeff Hornacek, Rea Jackman, Kim O'Neil.

#### **YWPHI Committees (2009-2010)**

Tom Lambert, Newsletter Editor; Kim O'Neil, Webmaster and Treasurer; John Mock, Fire Safety; Rea Jackman and Kay Pitts, Hospitality.

Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.  
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