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President's Summer Message

By Tom Lambert, YWPHI President

Dead Bears and Garbage Problems

Every few years, Yosemite West goes through a cycle. Bears move into the neighborhood, ignorant people let the bears get into garbage. The bears become dangerous, and the Forest Service rangers trap and shoot them. A few years back, they killed two bears. This year they killed another one and two more are at risk of being shot.

Meanwhile, six bags of garbage were left behind maintenance shed. Confused or lazy guests leave garbage next to locked dumpsters that don't even belong to the company they rented from. People are illegally dumping in construction dumpsters. This ends with dead bears unless we do something.

Let's be frank here. Speaking as a rental owner and manager myself, the problem is our short-term rental visitors. It is essential that every rental owner come up with a solution that works for their guests. It is not okay to get *just* 99% of the guests to comply. **A bear that gets rewarded once per week is a dead bear** and if 1% of our guests leave garbage out, that's an incident per week or more. Yosemite is not Disneyland and our visitors need to understand the difference. There is no reason our bears have to be killed.

If you manage your own rental, please make sure every single one of your guests understands the importance of this issue. **Write it into your contract** or send them an email saying you will not give them a key or keycode until they verify that they have understood the basics of garbage removal in Yosemite West and the dangers to our bears. Talk to them. Educate them.

If you have a rental managed by someone else, ask your management company or cleaning people what steps they are taking on your behalf to protect Yosemite West's bears. What literature do guests receive in advance of their visit, upon check-in and in the rental itself?

If you have any other ideas on how best to handle this problem, drop me a line (president@yosemitewest.org), give me a call (209.379.4127) or bring your ideas to the annual meeting on Labor Day Sunday.

Mitch Jonasky Retirement Cookout

Sunday, August 22 at 5:00pm
7304 Buck Brush

We are holding a party to thank Mitch Jonasky for years of plowing late into the night and having cars drive over him while he was down a manhole and other such adventures You should have all received an invitation to the dinner party. **Please RSVP to Kay Pitts at 372-4775 or hospitality@yosemitewest.org**. If you find out at the last minute that you can make it, please come anyway, but if you think there's a pretty good chance you'll be there, let Kay know so we can get a count and know how much food to buy. Please bring a folding chair if you can.

YWPHI Board Minutes

Minutes from previous YWPHI Board of Directors' meetings are archived online at <http://yosemitewest.org/board.htm>. Minutes from the July 7, 2010, meetings will be available after the next Board meeting, which takes place on September 5, 2010.

***In the West* Publication**

Thanks go to these contributors to this edition of *In the West*: Kay Pitts, John Mock, Kim O'Neil, Kelly Rich 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.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

You will soon be receiving an email notice asking you to renew your \$35 annual YWPHI membership dues. Unless you don't have an email account, you will not get a notice printed on dead trees. Please take a minute to mail in your check or renew using PayPal. All of your dues stay in the community to work on issues that benefit everyone. With continued support from existing members and participation of new property owners, we can continue our current programs. No doubt many members will want to pay as soon as possible. Our webmaster being out of the country, we have made the membership form available at <http://yosemiteexplorer.com/members2010-11.pdf>. Its permanent home will be <http://www.yosemitewest.org/members2010-11.pdf>.

Paying Your Dues with PayPal

Those who prefer not writing checks can pay via PayPal. Getting a PayPal account is simple and free. PayPal, owned and run by eBay, is a secure method of making a payment without having to give out your credit card number.

To register for an account, go to <https://www.paypal.com>, click on the "Sign Up" link at the top, and then register for a Personal account. You will need to link the account to your bank account or credit card in order to make funds available.

Once you have a PayPal account, you can pay from <http://www.yosemitewest.org/members.htm> or log into PayPal and select "Send Money" from the top tab. Enter treasurer@yosemitewest.org in the "To" box, then enter an amount of \$35 and choose "Goods" and select "Continue." On the next screen, in the "Message" area (scroll down below the "Send Money" button), **please include your name and your Yosemite West address.** Click on "Send Money" and you're done. No stamps, no envelopes, no hassle.

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.

Mark Your Calendars — Key Dates

August 22 — Mitch Jonasky Retirement Cookout (see p. 1).

September 5 — Annual YWPHI meeting..

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 for publication schedule and deadlines. We'd love to have your article.

Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc. Labor Day Weekend Brunch & Annual Meeting

**Sunday, September 5, 2010
10:30 a.m.**

The YWPHI Labor Day potluck brunch and annual meeting starts at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, September 5, 2010 on the south side of Henness Circle behind Betty Clark's house, 7486 Henness Circle.

YWPHI members and their guests are welcome to attend.
YWPHI will provide plates, napkins, cups, water, soft drinks, and beer.

As always, bring a dish to share at the potluck brunch -

If Your Last Name Starts With	Please Bring -
-	
A - H	main dish (quiche, frittata, etc.)
K - P	fruit, vegetables, salads
Q - Z	muffins, sweet rolls, coffee cake

Please also bring your own folding chair(s).

We will also revive the **White Elephant tradition**. This involves regifting something that's sitting around your house that you no longer use, possibly funny. If you want to participate, find some odd or end, the odder the better, and bring it to the picnic.

Don't Forget to Bring Bright Ideas

The **YWPHI annual meeting will take place following brunch**. The annual meeting includes the election of the YWPHI Board of Directors to serve for 2010-2011 and the approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting. A draft of the minutes from the September 6, 2009 annual meeting and a draft agenda for this year's meeting are included at the end of this e-newsletter.

This year we will also have a **suggestion box** at the meeting and a chance for the less shy to shout out suggestions. The Board is trying to get community direction for future projects. We have limited resources both in terms of time and money and want to canvas the membership to see what people think is important.

Please email president@yosemitewest.org or contact Tom Lambert (209-379-4127) with any questions, comment or suggestions you may have.

Fire Safety Updates

Grants

In mid June 2010, we learned that YWPHI has been awarded its fifth National Fire Plan grant; a 2011 grant for \$94,350 funded by the National Park Service through the California Fire Safe Council. The grant will fund fuel reduction on an additional 49 acres, identified as Project Area YW-004 in the Yosemite West Community Wildfire Protection Plan (<http://yosemitewest.org/ywcwpp.pdf> [ywcwpp.pdf](#)). The funding requested was \$70,684.00 with 25% matching funds of \$23,666.00 for a total of \$94,350.00. This is the unbuilt area between Henness Ridge Road and Henness Circle and below the Yosemite West Condominiums.

Meanwhile, we started implementation of our 2010 grant for \$304,830 funded by the USDA Forest Service. One component of this grant continues defensible space work inside Yosemite West. The crew started work in the community on June 14th. They will be taking a two-week leave from work in Yosemite West as of August 9. We share this crew with the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council who has asked them to work in other parts of the county. We plan to resume work in Yosemite West in late August or early September.

When you see the crew at work, please remember to slow down when you pass them. We have already had an incident this summer where a motorist hit their orange safety cones.

If you haven't already participated in or signed up for the 2010 defensible space project, please do so now as this year's grant is the last foreseeable grant that includes funding for individual properties. Project information and

a sign up form are at http://yosemitewest.org/2010_Defensible_Space.pdf.

We have satisfied 95% of the required match for the 2010 grant, but **we still need property owners to complete and submit their 2010 In-Kind Contribution forms.**

You can read more about the grants at <http://yosemitewest.org/grants.htm>.

PRC§4291 Inspections

In July, on behalf of Cal Fire, USDA Forest Service conducted inspections of all houses in Yosemite West for compliance with the 2008 law requiring 100 feet of defensible space. Congratulations to all of you who received a "Thank You!" notice on your door indicating you are in compliance or are visibly working towards the mandatory 100-foot clearance law. Unfortunately many other homeowners received a notice indicating the types of work you still need to do to bring your property into compliance. Forest Service will be re-inspections these properties later this summer.

Fire Safety Committee Mission Statement

The mission of the YWPHI Fire Safety Committee is to preserve Yosemite West's natural and built resources by educating and mobilizing all property owners to make their houses, lots and the community Fire Safe.

The YWPHI Fire Safety Committee does not fight fires nor enforce any laws or regulations. The YWPHI Fire Safety Committee seeks to communicate and cooperate with County, State and Federal agencies whose mission is fire protection and public safety.

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.
7585 Henness Ridge Road
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108
Address correction requested