



Yosemite West Property &
Homeowners, Inc.
www.yosemitewest.org

In the West

Newsletter
July 2011

In This Issue

- Minutes from YWPHI Board Meetings p.2
- In the West Publication p.2
- Welcome New YWPHI Member p.2
- 2010-2011 YWPHI Board of Directors p.2
- Membership Renewal p.2
- Only Two Mailboxes #6, #7 Available p.2
- Code Red, Event Information Line p.3
- New After Hours Contact p.3
- Membership Survey p.3
- YWPHI Financial Overview p.4
- Roadside Litter p.4
- Bear Preventive Control Measures p.4
- Bears in Residential Areas p.5
- Environmental Education Campus p.5
- Spring 2011 Fire Safety in Review p.6-8
 - Memorial Day Weekend
 - 2010 Defensible Space Grant Status
 - 2011 In-Kind Contribution
 - Fire Hose & Hydrant Training
 - Fire Season Started June 15th
 - PRC 4291 Inspections
 - Community Burn Pile Use & Misuse
- Maintenance District Updates p.9-11
- Remembering Mitch Jonasky p.12
- It's Not Snowing Yet... p.13

YWPHI's Summer Message

We invite you to attend:

**YWPHI Labor Day Weekend
Potluck Brunch & Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 4, 2011
10:30 a.m.**

Betty Clark's house, 7486 Henness Circle

The YWPHI annual meeting will take place following brunch. The annual meeting includes the election of the YWPHI Board of Directors to serve for 2011-12, reports from YWPHI committees, and the approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting. A draft of the minutes from the September 5, 2010 annual meeting and an agenda for this year's meeting will be distributed to the membership in late August. We would appreciate your sending any topics to include on the agenda to info@yosemitewest.org by August 15. We will welcome your review of and comment on last year's minutes on September 4th. All YWPHI members and their guests are

encouraged to attend and participate in improving your organization.

Board Member Vacancies

With normal terms expiring, we will have **two vacancies on the YWPHI Board of Directors for 2011-12**. The Board is open to all YWPHI members, whether homeowners or vacant lot owners, new residents or old, full-time or part-time, including *you* (see p.13 for more details). As a Board member you will meet more of your neighbors, have a greater say in community projects, and learn more about what's happening in the neighborhood. Please contact info@yosemitewest.org if you would like to serve. The newly elected Board will meet after the annual meeting to assign duties for the coming year.

As always, bring your own folding chair(s) and a dish to share for brunch:

If Your Last Name Starts With

A - H

I - Q

R - Z

Please Bring -

entree (quiche, frittata, etc.)

fruit, vegetables, salad

muffins, sweet rolls, coffee cake

YWPHI will provide plates, napkins, utensils, cups, bottled water, soft drinks, and beer.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the potluck brunch and annual meeting!

Minutes from YWPHI Board Meetings

Approved minutes from previous YWPHI Board of Directors' meetings are archived on the YWPHI website at www.yosemitewest.org/board.htm. The minutes from the most recent board meetings on April 20, June 23, and July 21, 2011 will be available after the annual meeting.

***In the West* Publication**

Thanks to the contributors to this edition of *In the West*: guest editor Kim O'Neil; residents Malcolm and Josie Neal, Moose Mutlow, and John Mock; and Bill Duff, Rea Jackman, and Kelly Rich from the YWPHI Board of Directors who edited, proofread and approved the content for publication.

Welcome New YWPHI Members

We're pleased to welcome to Olegario and Lydia Mata and Donald Caldwell and Jeffrey Bragger.

2010-2011 YWPHI Board of Directors

The YWPHI Board of Directors for the current membership year (9/1/2010-8/31/2011) was elected at the annual meeting on September 5, 2010. The Board includes Tom Lambert (President), Kelly Rich (Vice President), Kim O'Neil (Treasurer), Bill Duff (Secretary), returning members Todd "Kipper" Caranto and Rea Jackman, and new member Mike Stepien.

John Mock chairs the Fire Safety committee. Kim O'Neil is webmaster. Rea Jackman leads the Hospitality Committee and Tom Lambert the Nominating Committee. (Committee chairs are *not* necessarily members of the board.)

Membership Renewal

In September YWPHI will be sending you an annual membership renewal notice. All of your \$35 annual YWPHI dues stays 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.

When you receive your renewal notice, kindly please mail a check or pay via PayPal to treasurer@yosemitewest.org. You can also download the Membership Form at www.yosemitewest.org/members2011-12.pdf.

Only Two Mailboxes #6, #7 Available

YWPHI is offering the locked mailboxes for sale to its members for a one-time fee of \$160 (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.

Mailboxes will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis determined by when your payment is received. First preference will be given to ongoing YWPHI members. If your membership has lapsed or you are not a member, please visit www.yosemitewest.org/members.htm for instructions on how to join YWPHI.

Long-term renters are also welcome to join YWPHI. As per Article III paragraph 2 of the YWPHI Bylaws (www.yosemitewest.org/bylaw.htm), a "full-time (non-transient) occupant of a single-family residence in Yosemite West" is eligible to become an Associate Member.

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.



The Mariposa County Sheriff is responsible for official notification from the County during emergencies and disasters. Please visit the CodeRED Website's Community Notification Enrollment page to enter your contact information; click the link from <http://www.mariposacounty.org/sheriff>.

Submitting this information will enable you to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. CodeRED has the capability to not only call local telephone numbers in Yosemite West, but also primary residences elsewhere and cell phone numbers. **You must *opt in* in order to be contacted.**

Event Information Line

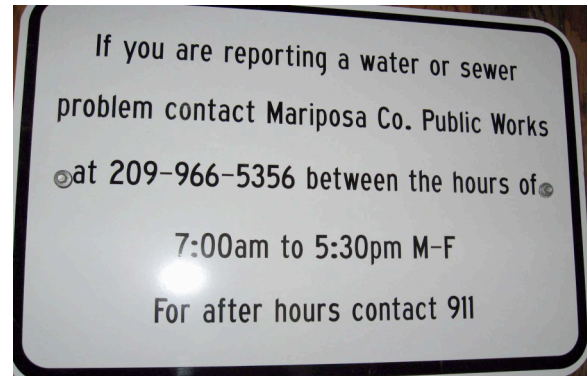
209-966-1133

This important telephone number is for the **Mariposa County Event Information Line**, which provides information from the Mariposa County Health Department, Sheriff's Office, and/or Fire Department to the public during emergencies and disasters.

The Event Information Line provides daily updates on topics ranging from road closures, utility outages, and school closures, to location of warming centers. The Mariposa County Office of Emergency Services provides County-wide information via this hot line that you can call 24/7 for up-to-date information, rather than calling County departments during an emergency and waiting for return calls. You can also call toll free 888-966-1133.

New After Hours Contact

In July 2011, Mariposa County Public Works Department posted a sign inside the mailbox shed with updated instructions on how to report a water or sewer problem.



During the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, call Public Works at 209-966-5356. After hours, Public Works is instructing you to call 911; this is a change from the previous after-hours' instructions to page Facilities Manager, Pam Brochini. Regardless, we urge everyone to consider their use of 911 for a non-life threatening situation.

Emergency Telephone Tree Updates

In May 2011 YWPHI distributed an updated version of the YOSEMITE WEST EMERGENCY TELEPHONE TREE to homeowners. We have since updated the first page to include the newly announced **Mariposa County Event Information Line** and revised instructions for reporting an after hours water or sewer problem (see above). We have also made minor edits to some homeowners' contact information.

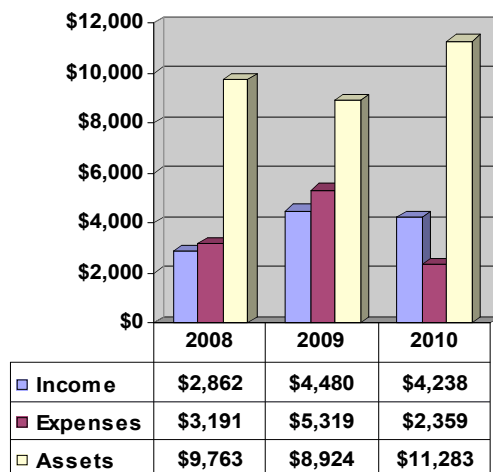
You can download the latest version of the password-protected telephone tree using the same instructions provided in May. If you no longer have the instructions, please email info@yosemitewest.org.

Membership Survey

In order to serve our members better, we are sending a survey by separate email to find out what you think about what YWPHI has been doing. We'd like to hear from as many people as possible. Please reply by August 15, so we can present the survey results at the annual meeting.

YWPHI Financial Overview

For those of you who prefer not to pour over the detailed financial statements presented at each year's annual meeting, here is an overview of YWPHI last three years' total income, expenses and assets. Further detail with a breakdown of all income and expenses is included with the approved minutes from previous annual meeting and is available for your review at www.yosemitewest.org/board.htm#annualmtg.



Roadside Litter

by Malcolm and Josie Neal

The trash in the picture below, containing baby diapers, sanitary napkins, paper plates, plastic utensils, cereal boxes, milk and soda containers, and many more items was picked up and collected on June, 28, 2011.

It appears that someone left a couple of trash bags containing these items in or around the mailbox shed. We can only conclude that an animal dragged the bags into the woods behind the shed where it was found scattered. Who ever left this trash must not have had access to the rental dumpsters. Just a week ago a large bag with used insulation was either left or fell off a truck along Yosemite Park Way.

Yosemite West is for some of us our home, and for others a source of income. In either case, we all benefit from having our community free of trash. The idea that a paying guest would have to dispose of their own trash after having rented a unit seems to place too much responsibility on the visiting renter. This appears to be a direct result of this kind of business practice. Let us all please be more conscientious of the pristine and wonderful place that is Yosemite West,



and help keep it that way.

(Everyone owes a big thank-you to Malcolm and Josie for cleaning up this mess!)

Bear Preventive Control Measures: It's the law!

Section 8.44. of the Mariposa County Code says, in part, "All food substance or other substance that would reasonably be expected to attract bears, including, but not limited to discarded refuse or food stuff, hereinafter referred to as 'garbage,' shall be placed into a bear-proof collection in the following areas of Mariposa County: ... Yosemite West - Lots 1-294 of the Yosemite West subdivision...."

"Within the areas described (above), the owner, lessee, resident or person exercising physical control of any private property, including businesses, shall at all

times, place garbage in private bear-proof containers for collection, or inside bear-proof structures.”

“Each bear-proof container or structure shall be kept clean inside and out, so that no odor or nuisance shall exist.... The bear-proof container or structure shall not be overloaded to the extent covers cannot be securely replaced, or the structure securely closed.”

“Violation ... shall constitute a misdemeanor.... The Mariposa County Public Works Department shall regulate and enforce the provisions of this chapter.”

Bears in Residential Areas

The National Park Service reports that there have been eight incidents during the second week of July where bears have entered occupied homes in Wawona. In almost all of these incidents, windows were left open, or doors were not properly latched while the occupants were asleep in another room. Additionally, when the bear was captured, its scat was full of bird seed indicating that bird feeders had likely been attracting it to homes. The NPS Wildlife Management Staff will be closely monitoring bears in residential areas; however, it is the responsibility of residents to keep houses bear-proof! Bears entering homes through open windows or doors is a yearly problem in residential areas. This is a good time to remember if you are living anywhere in Yosemite, you are living in bear habitat.

Please help keep bears safe and out of your house, by following these suggestions:

- Close and latch all windows and doors when you are not present.
- Close and latch all windows and doors in unoccupied rooms when you are present, especially windows and doors near the kitchen.
- Remove attractants such as bird feeders, coolers, and recycling from outside your

house.

Report bear sightings and incidents by calling the Save-A-Bear Hotline, 209-372-0322.

Environmental Education Campus

By Moose Mutlow

You can visit the park planning pages of Yosemite National Park’s website (www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/eecampus.htm) for updates on the status of the Environmental Education Campus (EEC), on Henness Ridge adjacent to Yosemite West.

The most recently started work at the site is the water utility project - the new water system will provide potable water for the EEC, and the ranger house and public toilets at Chinquapin. Construction of the storage tanks and water line should be completed by the end of this year, allowing the current surface diversion on Indian Creek to be decommissioned. This will allow a Potential Wilderness Addition (PWA) for the old Badger Pass utility corridor.

Work on-site is currently on hold during the sensitive owl nesting period and is expected to resume around mid-August. Park biologists are monitoring the soundscape for owl and other night time wildlife activity and using remote motion-sensor cameras to identify carnivore activity on the site

At this time there is no proposed start date for further construction work.

Fire Safety in Review
www.yosemitewest.org/firesafe.htm

Memorial Day Weekend

Snowfall (!) cancelled the planned cleanup activities on Memorial Day weekend, but more than two dozen folks braved the snow and cold to join us for the annual picnic.

Our sincere appreciation to Rea Jackman of the YWPHI Hospitality committee and helpers Ruth Duff and Barbara Stepien for organizing all the food and to Debby Hagan for letting the picnic and everyone crowd into her garage.



And, a special thanks to our guest speaker, Don Florence (pictured below center), Emergency Planner for Mariposa County who spoke about the County's **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**.



2010 Defensible Space Grant Status

Fuel Reduction inside the community

In 2009 and 2010 we completed on-the-ground work treating 172 parcels or 60% of all parcels in Yosemite West. The project goal was 80% of all parcels in Yosemite West, so we mailed an information packet (on how to sign up) in March 2011 to 64 owners of 84 selected parcels who had not yet participated. Work resumed on June 7, 2011 with an additional 48 parcels participating. The three-year combined total will be 220 parcels or 75% of all parcels in Yosemite West.

This year, the project contracted with the American Conservation Experience (ACE, usaconservation.org), a nonprofit conservation corps comprised of AmeriCorps members and others from around the world who are dedicated to contributing their time and efforts to national service and meaningful work toward the preservation of the natural resources we value so highly in the USA. The ACE crew is comprised on 11 people; two supervisors, four sawyers, and five swamper.

ACE works with several different land management agencies, including other nonprofits, fire safe councils and homeowners' associations, to reduce hazard fuels in fire-prone areas, build sustainable trails, and rehabilitate many of our public lands to their native ecology through exotic species control and native species preservation.

We hope you have had the chance to meet some of these hard-working and dedicated young people. We owe a huge thanks to the crew's lead supervisor Tim Baxter for the excellent job he did.



The ACE crew at work

Fuel Reduction outside the community

The federal environmental and cultural resource compliance review of our project for work outside the community on the western perimeter of Yosemite West is successfully completed. On-the-ground work to treat these 56 acres started on July 19th. The project has contracted with Firestorm Wildland Fire Suppression, Inc. for this shaded fuel break project.

This is the project's last year and all work will be completed by September 1, 2011. Visit www.yosemitewest.org/grants.htm for updates on implementation of our National Fire Plan grants.

2011 In-Kind Contribution

If you haven't already done so, please let us know how much time and/or out-of-pocket expenses you've incurred raking pine needles and working to reduce hazard fuels on your property by completing and returning the **2011 In-Kind Contribution** form attached to the end of this newsletter. The hours of volunteer labor that you put in (as of January 1, 2011) have a dollar value we will use to meet the "matching funds" requirement for our 2011 National Fire Plan Grant.

Fire Hose & Hydrant Training

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet at the southeast corner of Henness Circle at Azalea Lane.

YWPHI's Fire Safety Committee has arranged for the Mariposa County Fire Department and the National Park Service to conduct a "hose lay," a training session in basic fire hose handling and fire hydrant operation. Participants will learn how to open/close a fire hydrant and operate a fire hose.

YWPHI owns hoses, nozzles, valves and wrenches to open hydrants, which are stored in four secure locations throughout our community. In the event of a fire, this equipment is our first line of defense until a responding fire agency arrives.

Our last "hose lay" was May 15, 2007 and there has been renewed interest from residents to address first response to fire by resuming these training sessions.

All interested residents (whether homeowners, renters or employees) are strongly encouraged to participate - to familiarize or reacquaint themselves with the emergency fire equipment and practice using it, so if there is an emergency you know what to do.

Learn how to take an active role in protecting your property from fire.

Please email Malcolm Neal, the Fire Safety Committee's new Fire Equipment Manager & Hose Lay Coordinator at coordinator@yosemitewest.org with any questions.

Fire Season Started June 15th

The start of fire season in Yosemite is historically between June 10th and 13th, although the date is not any predefined. Each year the determination is based on a combination of factors such as winter

precipitation, current and predicted weather for the early part of the season, and fuel moistures in indicator species. Even in years like this one with high snow pack and fuel moistures at all elevations, fire season starts about the same time.

The fire season is underway, so if you still have debris piles, please arrange to remove them now. If you hired someone else to rake and haul your pine needles, please double check that this work was done.

Please note that campfires are illegal in Yosemite West, even on your own property. Be sure that anyone and everyone staying or working at your house knows and understands that we all need to be careful during fire season. If you see any open fires in Yosemite West, CalFire requests you to immediately call 911.

PRC §4291 Inspections

CalFire coordinates with USDA Forest Service to conduct annual property inspections for compliance with the state's 100-foot defensible space law. Typically these inspections start shortly after July 4th. However, this year agency personnel understand that the heavy winter and late spring snowfall has delayed some property owners' ability to clear their property. Reportedly inspections may start a month later than usual, or sometime in early to mid-August.

Here are a few points to keep in mind to help comply with state law and facilitate community wide defensible space:

→ Some residents did fuel reduction, but no debris disposal. This means that debris was left on the property. **To succeed at creating community-wide defensible space, the debris needs to be removed from the property and the interior of the community.** Raking leaves or hauling debris to the edge of your property does not

create community-wide defensible space.

→ Some residents raked pine needles in a 30-foot circle around their house, but not to their property lines. Remove all pine needles.

→ Some residents have vegetation and trees growing too close to their propane tanks; state law requires at least 10 feet of clearance.

→ Some residents have defensible space on some or most of their property, but not uniformly on all of it (especially new construction). **Make sure your defensible space encircles your house and equally extends out in all directions, so as to comply fully with PRC §4291.**

Our sincere thanks to everyone whose efforts help make Yosemite West a Fire Safe community.

Community Burn Pile Use & Misuse

Mariposa County Public Works locked the gate to the community burn pile in mid July after reports of misuse. Contractors conducting site prep for new construction were reportedly adding debris generated by their activities to the burn pile, which Mariposa County Public Works says is *not* permitted. The burn pile is not large enough to accommodate site prep debris and this additional debris fills the burn pile making it unavailable to residents for their pine needles. If you are planning to build a house, please discuss appropriate site prep disposal with any prospective contractor.

YWPHI does not manage the community burn pile in any way. If you still need to access the burn pile to deposit your pine needles or have any other questions, please contact the Mariposa County Public Works Department (209-966-5356) for instructions.

Maintenance District Updates

Yosemite West water, sewer and roads are operated by the Yosemite West Special District, which pays for these services from monthly user fees and a percentage of the annual property tax receipts. The district is not independent and is governed by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors.

For more information, please visit www.yosemitewest.org/ywmdac.htm.

Much of what goes on with our essential infrastructure is discussed at meetings of an advisory committee. Members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, but have no actual authority. If you want to know how our infrastructure ticks, it's vital to follow the committee's meetings.

The Yosemite West Maintenance District Advisory Committee (YWMDAC) held three meetings this past year. Here are reports from the first two, November 10, 2010 and May 12, 2011; this information is a committee member's summary of discussions and is not intended to be official minutes.

YWMDAC November 10, 2010

Water System

Mariposa County Public Works provided updates on several issues with the water system.

Emergency chlorine

Emergency action was taken in response to a positive coliform bacteria sample collected from a house on Henness Ridge Road. Action is required when a sample from a house fails, which is considered as a system failure. Public Works chlorinated the water supply to disinfect the tanks and pipes. Public Work's opinion is that construction activity probably was the cause of the contamination, either from opening hydrants or stirring up water in the lines.

Pressure reduction valve leak

Public Works stated that there is a leaking pressure reduction valve in the community water system.

Pumps

Public Works stated that the Board of Supervisors has approved purchase of new lift pumps for the water system. Only one of two pumps is currently operating with no back up. Public Works wants to install the new pumps before winter snow conditions make it difficult to do so.

Bubbler & chlorinator

Public Works has ordered a bubbler which will remove CO2 from the water system and correct the pH to neutral. Once the bubbler is installed, Public Works will install a chlorination system as required by state law.

Hydrants & illicit water usage

Public Works stated that they are not selling Yosemite West water, nor are they authorizing water to be taken from the hydrants. Drawing water from the hydrants, they state, puts a strain on the system. Public Works requests that if anyone sees a tanker in the community drawing water from a hydrant, that person should call Public Works.

Public Works stated that they flushed the hydrants within the last two months, and assumes that the hydrants were cleared of dirt and debris when that was done.

Resident Public Works employee

Mitch Jonasky's retirement and who would fill the role Mitch served was discussed. It should be recalled that Mitch worked in Yosemite West as a Mariposa County employee since at least 1981. The 1982-83 Mariposa County Grand Jury recommended that hiring a full-time resident employee would result in an overall savings in the Yosemite West budget resulting from less

supervision and travel time by the county special districts manager.

After discussion, Public Works stated that a part-time Maintenance Worker II position would be advertised, seeking a Yosemite West resident to provide snow plowing and other county needs. It should be recalled that Ed Young, a Yosemite West resident who plowed the roads from 1969-1976, kept records of snow fall amounts for the 15-year period from 1968 to 1983. The average annual snowfall during that period was 17 feet 8 inches, and the average annual hours of snow plowing was 175 hours.

Roads

Committee members asked Public Works about repairing roads in Yosemite West. Public Works stated that Mariposa County Counsel had advised that under Proposition 218, a ballot measure would be required to raise the current rate of \$8 per month. YWMDAC members requested a clear and complete accounting of the Yosemite West Special District budget. Director Toschi said that the December 2010 mid-year review of budget would be an opportunity to prepare and present current data.

Director Toschi stated that the County is requiring a \$30,000 performance bond of the active Highlands Timber Harvest Plan operator, in order to ensure that any damage to Yosemite West roads from loaded logging trucks can be repaired.

Encroachment Permit

Public Works, in response to a question, stated that placing large rocks across the seasonal stream on Lot 233, Choke Cherry Lane, is not an appropriate use of the lot and requires an encroachment permit. Public Works added that the issue has been passed to the County's Building Department because filling of a water course is under California Department of Fish and Game authority, and also a county zoning issue.

Yosemite Cascades EIR

Public Works stated that Mariposa County Planning Department had received four applications to conduct the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Yosemite Cascades development, and that the Planning Department intends to select a firm by next month (December 2010).

Conflict of Interest

Public Works was asked if YWMDAC members were subject to State Conflict of Interest regulations prohibiting making or influencing a government decision in which they have a material financial interest (defined as greater than \$600). Director Toschi advised contacting the California Fair Political Practices Board in Sacramento, or contacting County Counsel.

YWMDAC May 12, 2011

YWMDAC appointed Jeff Hornacek as Chair and Don Pitts as Vice Chair, for a six-month term.

Roads

Director Toschi stated that the \$8 monthly road fee is sufficient only to pay for snow removal, and not to also pay for maintenance. Public Works will prepare cost estimates and proposals for how to pay for the needed maintenance. Whether the County loans the Yosemite West Special District the money, assesses property owners, or raises the current road fee, a ballot would be required under Proposition 218. Director Toschi voiced a rough estimate of \$900,000 to repave all roads with a two- inch overlay, raise all manholes, stripe the roads and post signs, with work completed between 60 and 90 days.

Water System

Director Toschi reported that a new pump and motor are now situated at the Yosemite

West well. The well, it should be noted, is located along the access road down slope from the Yosemite West Wastewater Treatment Facility, close to the boundary of Yosemite National Park. Two new pumps for the lift station, also located along the access road, are now in place. The 'bubbler' that will remove CO2 from the water is at the county yard in Mariposa, and Public Works plans to install it when snow has melted enough to allow it to be transported on the unpaved access road. Public Works has not taken any action on obtaining a back-up generator for the well and lift station, to be used in the event of an extended electrical outage.

March 2011 water outage in Yosemite West

Director Toschi reported that the extended water outage during the March snow event resulted from several events. The heavy precipitation collapsed an electric transmission tower along Highway 140, resulting in a power outage for El Portal, Yosemite National Park, and Yosemite West. In Yosemite West, the water tank transducer (a device that reads water level in the community storage tanks and sends a signal for the pumps to operate and fill the tanks when the water level becomes low) had failed prior to the power outage, but Public Works was unaware of the failure. Hence, the pumps were not delivering water to the tanks, and the water level was critically low, although the transducer signal indicated there was sufficient water.

Shortly after the power failed, the tanks went dry. Public Works assumed that the tanks were full and had drained due to a break in a water line within the community, but was unable to locate a break due to more than eleven feet of fresh snowfall that week. When electric power was restored eight days later, Public Works realized the transducer was not operating and replaced it, which

restored water supply to the tanks. However, Public Works was unable to pressurize the community water system. They realized that a pressure relief valve on Henness Ridge Road was stuck partially open. (It is unclear if this is the same pressure relief valve that Public Works reported as broken at the November 11, 2010 YWMDAC meeting). Once the stuck valve was corrected, water pressure was restored to the community. Mariposa County Health Department required testing of the water for any biological contamination before the water could be declared potable, and so our community had to wait for the test results before the boil order could be lifted. In all, Yosemite West was without drinking water for 23 days.

Water & Sewer System

Facilities Manager Brochini noted that there were three major water line breaks in Yosemite West this winter, which indicates that the deterioration of the water system is accelerating. Assistant Director Ainsworth said Public Works has no estimate of the cost to replace all water mains in Yosemite West.

Assistant Director Ainsworth stated that Yosemite West has been in violation of state requirements to report monthly whether there are or are not any sewer spills in the community, even if they occur on private property. Plant Technician Nielsen is now reporting as required to the State. Assistant Director Ainsworth stated that Mariposa County is developing a Sanitary Sewer Management Plan for the county, which will include electronic reporting, and he anticipates it will be completed by end of 2011. Mariposa County plans to use a closed circuit television camera to document and record the status of all sewer lines and identify any leaks. It was noted that leaks allow flow in both directions, and that water may be flowing into the sewer lines (this is

termed “inflow and infiltration”, or “I & I”). It should be noted that a November 1983 to February 1984 study of the sewer collection system found that 58% of the inflow to the Yosemite West Wastewater Treatment Facility was due to infiltration of groundwater into sewer lines through cracks or open joints. Public Works stated that currently, the flow meter (which measures inflow into the wastewater facility) is not operating and is being repaired.

Snow Plowing

Public Works stated the Yosemite West’s current snow blower was not able to handle this past winter’s snow. The cost of replacing the existing snow blower with a larger capacity machine is \$130,000. The committee asked Public Works to determine the cost of a truck with a sander and a plow attachment. Facilities Manager Brochini stated that hiring additional part-time workers to meet snow plowing needs would be a better approach rather than hiring a full-time worker.

Budget

Director Toschi reported that he had no formal Maintenance District budget prepared for the Committee. The Committee requested that he prepare one.

Remembering Mitch Jonasky

All members of the community are invited to come share their life experiences and memories of Mitch Jonasky, on Saturday, August 27, at 2:00 p.m. Please come to 7445 Henness Ridge Road.

Services will be officiated by Sierra Pines Church Pastoral Counselor Flint Tompkins, and will be casual.

Roles & Responsibilities

As a reminder, YWPHI reports about the activities of and topics of interest to the Yosemite West Maintenance District Advisory Committee (YWMDAC) as a service to the community. YWPHI is not involved with the committee's activities. YWMDAC is a liaison between Yosemite West property owners and the Public Works Department, which is responsible for daily operation of the maintenance district. YWMDAC's recommendations are not binding; Mariposa County Public Works Department reviews any recommendations and proceeds with those they feel have merit. Any major activities or policy issues generally go before the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors for approval. Mariposa County posts official minutes of YWMDAC minutes after they are approved.

It's not snowing again yet...

But, it's never too early to think about planning **YWPHI's 8th annual Holiday Open House**.

Long-time resident Helen Yates (and a former YWPHI Board director) started the excellent concept of an annual progressive holiday party. It's been great! Neighbors go house-to-house, spending just an hour or so at each house - enjoying a drink (or two) and some savory treats. Many of us remember Earl Bartel's punch bowl, Todd Yates' margarita bash, Jeff and Melissa Hornacek's sushi blowout, Don and Kay Pitts' delicious green-and-orange swirl soup, Carol Ruiz' handmade chocolates, Dianne Sachau and Kirk Robinson's Mexican feast, Rand Lindsly's movie-themed popcorn and hot dogs, Carol Misener's over-the-top festive holiday extravaganza, and many more....

We love everyone's creativity and look forward to this year's open house. But, we need neighbors to step up and step in. (YWPHI sponsors the party, sets a budget, and reimburses hosts for the parties' expenses.) Our party planner is Rea Jackman, YWPHI's Hospitality Committee. Rea is looking for at least three folks to contact hospitality@yosemitewest.org or call her at 209-372-4465 with your offer to host. Or, you could get together with another neighbor to jointly host a segment of the open house.

We'll look forward to hearing from you at the annual meeting on September 4th with your commitment to host and/or suggested party dates.

Board Member Vacancies

The YWPHI Bylaws are online at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/bylaw.htm>.

Article IV sets procedure for the annual meeting and elections, and Article V explains the election of the Directors.

The YWPHI Board consists of seven Directors who serve three-year terms. Directors must be YWPHI members in good standing.

The four officers of the Board are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The officers serve one-year terms that expire at the end of each membership year (i.e., the end of August). The President and Vice President are elected from among the Board of Directors, whereas the Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from the entire YWPHI membership and do not necessarily have to be Directors.

Mark your calendars –

- Saturday, July 23, Noon – community barbeque, end of Azalea Lane
- Wednesday, July 27, 3 p.m. – Fire Hydrant & Hose Lay Training, Henness Circle
- Saturday, August 27, 2 p.m. – Mitch Jonasky Memorial, 7445 Henness Ridge Rd
- Sunday, September 4, 10:30 a.m. potluck brunch and YWPHI annual meeting

Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.
7585 Henness Ridge Road
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108

Address Correction Requested



Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc. **2011 In-Kind Contribution**
www.YosemiteWest.org

Yosemite West Defensible Space Project

The hours of volunteer labor that you put in each year for fire safety activities on your property have a dollar value. This value and any out-of-pocket expenses is called an *In-Kind Contribution*. It is used to satisfy the community match required by our 2010 and 2011 National Fire Plan grants from the USDA Forest Service and National Park Service through the California Fire Safe Council.

Landowner Name(s): _____

Local Address (☒ House or ☐ Vacant Lot): _____

Indicate your 2011 <i>In-Kind Contribution</i> for fuel reduction that improves community-wide defensible space through the two options below. Include only hours or expenses after 1-1-2011.		
#1 Time volunteered to conduct fuel reduction valued at a fixed rate of \$18 per hour.	# Hours worked	Amount
Brushing the forest floor - raking pine needles, picking up pine cones, removing dead/downed wood, increasing space between shrubs Thinning the forest - removing dead trees, reducing ladder fuels, increasing space between trees Improving access to your property - reducing vegetation/trees near driveway and/or parking areas Debris removal - hauling to the community burn pile, burning on your property, piling for curbside chipping		\$
#2 Out-of-pocket expenses incurred for hiring independent labor to conduct fuel reduction.		
Name payee(s) and briefly describe services provided:		\$
Total 2011 In-Kind Contribution:		\$

Please complete and submit your *In-Kind Contribution* form(s) by July 1, 2011 to:

YWPHI, 7585 Henness Ridge Road, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108.

Email any questions to firesafety@yosemitewest.org.