

THE WOODS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CASCADEL WOODS
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 19 JUNE 2017

**HAPPY
Father's
Day!**

Sunday June 18



Do you have



100 ft clearance?

THANK YOU

The CWPOA would like to thank Brian Curtis, former Brigade Captain and Warren Cox, former Firewise / Brigade Chairperson on their many years of support to the Cascadel Woods Firewise Committee and Cascadel Fire Brigade. We welcome new members who share our objective to reduce the wildfire risk in Cascadel Woods!

Firewise Day Event Held May 20 & Grant Updates

The community of Cascadel Woods hosted our annual Firewise Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Cascadel Clubhouse. Guest speakers included CAL FIRE, Forest Service, PG&E, and Citizens on Patrol. Cascadel Woods has been a Firewise Community since 2012 and hosts this annual event in order to provide valuable information to residents on wildfire preparedness and fire safety and to educate the community on how they can specifically prepare for wildfire.

Over the last few years Cascadel residents have had to evacuate due to several wildfire events, most notably due to the Willow Fire of 2015 and last year's North Fork Fire that raced up the hillside below the community near the Old Mill Site.

The threat of wildfire remains and in response, the Cascadel Woods Property Owners Association Board of Directors pursued several grants with local partners and has successfully been awarded funds to assist residents in dealing with the tree mortality situation that has affected the community with over 3,000 trees dead from the drought and Bark Beetle infestation. The grant funds were awarded through the California Fire Safe Council and CAL FIRE's more recent Tree Mortality Grant programs. Both grants allow for contract tree falling and removal from private properties within the Cascadel Woods subdivision. Approximately \$40,000 has been spent during the month of May alone to remove these hazards with an additional \$63,000 awarded under a second grant already under contract.

The work is being performed by Shane Killian Construction. Shane Killian, local owner /operator, is excited to assist the community



and "see everybody working together, putting forth positive efforts and helping their neighbors out" with the tree removal efforts. The grants are being administered by the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (YSRDC) and the Foundation for Resource Conservation, Inc., both local non-profits, with on-the-ground assistance and in-kind match from the Cascadel Woods Property Owners Association (CWPOA) and Cascadel Woods Mutual Water Company, including traffic control, logistics and record keeping and reporting. In addition, the Cascadel Firewise Committee and Cascadel Fire Brigade are supporting these grants with in-kind match of labor including monthly chipping days to assist residents by reducing the community's wildfire risk through a generous loan of a chipper from YSRDC.



A major factor of the success of this work has been the assistance and coordination with CAL FIRE's Mount Bullion Crew which has been assisting the community for several weeks by supporting in-kind match for the grant by providing 20 crew days. The Mount Bullion crew's work has enabled the grant funds to go further by allowing the crews to cut dead hazard trees while the contract crew comes in behind

them to remove and haul the logs to a storage facility located at the Old Mill Site. The Mount Bullion crew can then resume collecting and chipping the hazardous fuels and slash left behind.



"Working together by following up behind the contractors has allowed us to maximize the workload and it is also great for the inmates doing the work to know it is for a good cause for the benefit of this community," stated Matt Arebalo, CAL FIRE Captain for the Mount Bullion Crew.

All of this work to remove dead trees and address the tree mortality situation in Cascadel Woods is also being complemented through PG&E's debris removal program which provides free assistance to residents by removing logs that were felled by PG&E from their properties.

Previous contract tree removal work up to \$33,000

through PG&E's Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant program assisted the community



through cutting and removal of dead trees on properties within the subdivision late last year. CAL FIRE inspectors are currently conducting defensible space inspections on properties in Cascadel Woods to inspect for fire hazards. The inspectors are using GPS to map locations of homes and water sources, as well. For question and concerns regarding defensible space inspections please contact CAL FIRE at (559) 580-5744.



Coarsegold Resource Conservation District (CRCD) Tree Mortality Grant began in April. To determine the scope of the project, they are now taking inventory of trees within Cascadel Woods and Cascadel Heights as

well as removing hazard trees near escape routes in areas around North Fork.

Once the CRCD has completed their review of the work to be performed, they will solicit bids for falling hazard trees and tree removal within the CSA 21 boundaries. The CRCD is coordinating their efforts with North Fork Rancheria, the US Forest Service and Madera County, each entity possibly having their own specifications to follow. With all of these entities coordinating in this grant, the work will most likely begin in late summer or the fall of this year.

The CRCD plans to create a progress page of the work in progress for this grant on their website at www.crcd.org and on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CRCD-Coarsegold-Resource-Conservation-District-1467155616846316>

Annual Firewise Community Day

The Annual BBQ Firewise event was a huge success. The Pot Luck menu was the best one yet. Thanks to everyone who brought such delicious food to share. We would like to thank Ken Wood for his skills at the BBQ once again. Best ribs on the mountain.

All guest speakers were very excited to see how much clearing has been done to harden the subdivision for the coming fire season. Unfortunately, the Rancheria CAL Fire crew had to leave early to respond to a fire. CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspectors, Ann Poplarchick and Natasha Noble, spoke about their recent inspections throughout the subdivision. The Inspectors explained what hazards they look for and how best to remedy the situations in order to harden your home and property. They also explained why some residents are getting violation notices.

Dan Tunes from U.S. Forest Service Fire Prevention Battalion Chief informed everyone on the forecast for this fire season, the importance of the community working together to make our properties fire safe and commended the community on their hard work and notable efforts to address the Tree Mortality situation, reducing the risk of wildfire.

Sandy Chaille of Citizens on Patrol reminded us of the importance of reflective house number signs and connecting with MCC Alert to be notified in case of an emergency. She spoke to other Neighborhood Watch items as well.

The PG&E Safety representative, Jeff Kestley reminded us all about the dangers of live fallen power lines, to always assume the lines are live and notify emergency personnel of the situation immediately.

The raffle brought in \$150 for the Cascadel Firewise /Brigade. Thanks to all who participated. A huge thanks

to Keith and Cheryl McClure for the huge donation they made once again this year to the raffle. Congratulations to this year's winner of the raffle; KEITH and CHERYL McCLURE. It seems their property is in great shape so they donated the 20 person hours of fuel reduction labor back to the Fire Brigade to use where the labor is most needed in our community.

CAL FIRE DEFENSIBLE SPACE REQUIREMENTS:

TWO ZONES MAKE UP THE REQUIRED 100 FEET OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

ZONE 1: 30 feet of Lean, Clean & Green:

1. Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds.
2. Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
3. Keep tree branches 10 feet away from your chimney and other trees.

ZONE 2: 30–100 feet of Reduced Fuel

4. Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
5. Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
6. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.

Use Equipment Properly to keep from Sparking a Wildfire

7. Mow before 10 a.m., and never on a hot or windy day. String trimmers are a safer option (vs. lawnmowers) for clearing vegetation.

Visit ReadyForWildfire.org for more information.

The Cascadel Woods Fire Brigade is looking for volunteers to join us one Saturday each month for 1 – 4 hours depending if it is a training day, workday or meeting only. If interested contact Carol Eggink or email egginks@netptc.net.

Water Company News

REMINDER-

The Cascadel Water Co will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 10:00AM in the clubhouse for the election of three Directors.

We are fortunate in Cascadel Woods to have high quality water and a system that is not required to chlorinate its water regularly like many other systems. Daily chlorination for our system is only required (as a precaution) during operation of the spring as a source. And because of the near pure quality of the spring water we are able to dose at very low levels to meet regulatory requirements. Although the exact cause of contamination during this event may never be known; historically these issues tend to arise when transitioning from periods of very low usage to higher volumes as temperatures rise. It is at these times when small amounts of debris (dirt,

dust, etc...), which eventually intrude any water system, may break free and enter the water supply. Without continual chlorination of the water system, Coliform bacteria which are commonly found in all dirt may trigger a positive result during routine testing. Unfortunately, the price we pay for the unchlorinated water we all enjoy is the occasional and temporary process of system disinfection. Having provided evidence of the bacteriological quality of our water the Madera County Environmental Health Department has determined: **It is no longer necessary to boil water, or use bottled water**, allowing the CMWC to lift the Boil Water Order.

Emergency Contact's for Water Co.

(Broken water lines, etc.)

For a quick response to water problems;

First call Ken Wood: 559-676-5387 Cell

Second call Brian Curtis: 559-877-4379 Home

Third call Stan Eggink: 559-877-6290

For more information, if you spot a leak or need assistance, please contact the CWPOA or Water Company at (559) 877-2635 (messages are checked every couple of days) or send e-mail to cascadelwoods@netptc.net.

CWPOA Board of Director Meetings

Your Board of Directors voted and passed for fewer meetings throughout the year. The meetings will be the second Saturday, 10:AM in March and August. The Annual Membership meeting will continue to be the same: the fourth Saturday in September at 10:00AM. All meetings to be held in the Cascadel Clubhouse unless otherwise notified.

Events and Meetings

- **Water Company Board of Directors**
Fri., June 9 at 4PM at the Clubhouse
- **CMWC Firewise/Brigade**
Sat. June 17, 10AM at the Clubhouse
WORK DAY for members.

The CWPOA and CMWC Board wish to commend Aimee Cox for the excellent article she wrote and sent to Sierra News On Line regarding our annual Firewise /Brigade BBQ.

You can see it at:



<http://sierranewsonline.com/cascadel-woods-residents-work-together-to-be-firewise>.

Your Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed The Woods Newsletter. Please send your submissions for the next newsletter to Aimee Cox, CWPOA Secretary, by June 28, 2017 at aimeeleigh1209@gmail.com