

THE WOODS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CASCADEL WOODS
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 26 JANUARY 1, 2018

A Year to Remember in Cascadel Woods

Rains, flooding, wildfires, downed trees and road damage; 2017 will be a year we all remember here in Cascadel Woods.

January and February brought us much needed rain. In fact, too much rain. It's hard to imagine after five years of drought, but too much of a good thing has its own problems. The rain measured near the Ranger Station down town North Fork, totaled over 54 inches for the 2016/17 winter season, of that 42 inches just in 2017 and nearly 34 inches in January and February alone!

Together, residents and Fire Brigade members unclogged culverts inundated with debris and mud from the deluge. They also dug trenches to divert water around the Clubhouse and mailboxes and built small levies in an attempt to redirect the heavy runoff. And the Clubhouse parking lot required several yards of fill to correct the three foot deep gully caused by all the rain.

The rains also took a heavy toll on our roads. Between the rain, logging trucks and heavy equipment, some areas of pavement went from serviceable to disintegrated within just a few days. Although many repairs have been made to make the roads passable, permanent repairs will be put off until the logging work within Cascadel is complete.

The grants received for fuels reduction, allowed us to rid the community of over 160 trailer loads of logs, and not a moment too soon. On September 3rd a fire started by a downed oak branch near Mission road, just below the subdivision off road 233, brought us the worst fire we have ever had to endure.

Some residents watched helplessly as the smoke turned to flames, sweeping up the mountain and engulfing homes within minutes of the first sign of the fire. Structures were lost all around Cascadel Woods. Thanks to the fuel reduction efforts, beginning at the archway and working into the subdivision, the fire crept into the borders of Cascadel Woods and only claimed a small structure or two, but no homes were lost. In reviewing the fire path and behavior Cal fire and Forest Service officials all agreed, had it not been for the fuel reduction efforts of the community the fire crews would not have been able to protect structures as effectively and the outcome could have been much more devastating.

Thanks to all the volunteers from Cascadel Heights and Cascadel Woods who cleared debris and tall grasses from Road 233, the Fire Brigade for their many hours of chipping throughout the subdivision and roadside clearing, along with the many community members who gave of their time for the fuel reduction throughout the community, around the clubhouse, and even on their own property all year long.

Most of all, THANK YOU, to all the firefighters and first responders who saved our community!

Water Company News

You may have noticed some new blue marker stakes popping up around the subdivision. The

water company has been marking critical water infrastructure for easy location either in the snow or just due to debris. The skinny



blue fiberglass poles will enable us to find key valves in the event of broken lines or other emergencies whether at night or in the snow. By the time you read this we will have also placed them by many of your water meters. Again, this is for easy location due to a leak or even just for meter reading in the wintertime. If your individual meter does not have a marker do not be alarmed, some meter boxes are easily found due to other landmarks, so not all boxes will be marked. If your marker is somehow removed or knocked over please call to have the marker replaced, attempting to reinstall the markers on your own may damage water lines.

The Spring

Not everyone may be aware that a large portion of the water we use in the summertime and also during emergencies is received from a natural spring located in Sierra National Forest. The rights to this water have been handed down to the residents of Cascadel Woods from those who occupied and used this land long before our subdivision was here, going back to the 1800's. In order for the Cascadel Mutual Water Co. to maintain the infrastructure necessary to use this water we are required to have a use permit from the Forest Service. Once again, we have applied for and been granted the Land Use Permit securing its use for another 20 years.

The importance of this infrastructure and the water it delivers, was never clearer than during the Mission fire. The spring conveys water to our system by gravity feed. In other words, it does not require power to function. This is critical in an emergency. Additionally after the heavy rains this last year the spring flow had increased to an unprecedented 180 gallons per minute (gpm). Even now at the end of summer it is still flowing at over 70 gpm, which is higher than its maximum in most years. Thanks to the rains and upgrades to the spring line, maximizing flow; the spring was able to provide nearly 600,000 gallons of water towards the fire fighting efforts. That's more than twice the usage for the entire community in December, in just ten days.

Water board meetings held the second Friday of the even numbered months at 4pm at the clubhouse.

Events and Meetings

- **CMWC Firewise/Brigade**
Jan 20, 10AM at the Clubhouse

BURN SEASON

1. Permit is required

You can obtain your permit at the Rancheria Fire Station. Address is 53488 Rd 200, O'Neals, CA 93645 (559) 877-2322

2. Call the Burn Number

Before the fire, call 1-877-429-2876

BE PREPARED FOR THE WINTER STORM

Here are two sites to pull information from to ensure you are ready for most emergencies during a storm whether you are in your home or in your car. You should always carry a fully stocked emergency kit in your car at all times. There are important items you will want to add to your existing kit for the car during the winter weather. Check the sites for yourself and create the emergency check list that is appropriate for you and your family.

<http://organizedhome.com/seasonal-spin/winter-preparedness-checklist>

<https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

Reflective Address Signs

Is your sign in place to be seen by emergency crews when needed? If you need one or wish to replace an old sign, please call Barb or Sandy at 559-877-7796. They will install the sign for you for a small additional fee.

Your Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed The Woods Newsletter.

If you have something to share with the community, send your submissions for the February Newsletter to Carol Eggink by January 26 at egginks@netptc.net.