

THE WOODS



FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY JUNE 21

**A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CASCADDEL WOODS
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 55 JUNE 1, 2020**

ROAD 233 EVENT
SATURDAY JUNE 13

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC) BOARDROOM REMAINS CLOSED

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic the CDC will not allow the use of their Board room until all restrictions on social distancing have been lifted.

The Board meeting for the CMWC scheduled for June 12 is to be held on July 10. Location to be determined later.

Look up the latest news regarding COVID-19 at

<https://www.cdc.gov/> and for Madera County at <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/health-updates/corona-virus>

CMWC NEWS

Wayne Shortes, Vice President of the Cascadel Mutual Water Company, has resigned his position on the Board. The CMWC Board wishes to thank Wayne and Shaunna for their long service to Cascadel Woods.

The Directors have appointed Ron Davino to fill the vacated seat on the Board. The position of Vice President will be voted on at the July meeting of the Directors. The minutes of the July meeting will show the vote and positions of all Directors. A notice to the members will be posted in the July Newsletter.

ROAD COMMITTEE

Although you have not heard from us for a while, I assure you we have been monitoring and maintaining our road system. Unlike the past few years, a relatively mild winter, along with pre-winter road surface maintenance and culvert cleaning was favorable to our roads and drainage this year. Our focus at this time is on our bridge and low water road creek crossing. This is to address issues of age, weather and wear from heavy equipment (such as fire vehicles & logging trucks) traversing our roads over the last few years. We have met with several engineers and contractors and are awaiting work-ups for eventual remediation work.

Please contact me if you would like to participate at any capacity on one of our volunteer days or if you have ideas or suggestions. Phone - 209.626.6450

Stay healthy and drive safely especially while in Cascadel Woods.

Ed Rose Board of Directors Road Committee Lead

WATER USAGE LIMITS

Due to many new residents in Cascadel Woods, we felt a reminder on the regular water usage per month might be useful.

The limit per household is 3000 cubic feet (cu ft) or 22,440 gallons per month. The limits are based on the Water Conservation Recommendations issued by the State of California and the available water production quantities supplied by the CMWC wells and the spring.

There is a penalty of \$.05 per cu ft for usage exceeding 3000 cu ft per month. There is an additional \$50.00 for every 500 cu ft of usage after 3500 cu ft per month.

FIREWISE/CAL FIRE

Easement clearing has started. As the grasses turn brown the easements will be cleared of tall grasses as soon as the brigade volunteers have time.

CAL Fire has created a site which allows you to fill out a Defensible Space form to determine the areas you might need to work on to make your home defensible for the coming wildfire season. Check out pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter. Go here for the link: www.fire.ca.gov/Dspace A report will be generated and emailed to you when you have finished.

CHIPPING DAY

The chipper has been repaired and is back in use. One more person has requested the chipper at their property. When it is returned, the Firewise Brigade will conduct another chipping day.

It looks like we will be able to take the chipper around the subdivision to those homeowners who have requested service during the first week of June. You do not need to be home. Make sure the pile has been placed at the edge of the road.

If you wish to have debris chipped by the Firewise Brigade, call Carol @ 877-6290 to be added to the list.

You should send the hours worked to Carol at her email – egginks@netptc.net or call her with the hours, dates, and the jobs performed. Thank you for your participation in the clearance and passing along the hours.

FIREWISE REQUEST

Since the Firewise Committee/Brigade did not hold its annual BBQ event and Fundraiser, this serves as a request for donations to the Firewise Brigade.

Your Firewise Brigade does a lot of work in the summer months to keep Cascadel Woods easements, open spaces, and Shelter In Place clear of tall grasses so we are defensible in the case of a wildfire coming close to us.

Thanks to Ron & Alma Davino, we are allowed to clear the first property to make it ready for the first responders' staging area if needed.

Your donations will supply the volunteers with fuel and replacement items necessary to keep the community as safe as we can. Thank you for any amount you can spare. If possible, we will hold a BBQ later in the summer just for fun.

THE ANNUAL ROAD 233 EVENT

It is almost time to clear the easements along 233 again. The grasses are turning brown. Carol has chosen Saturday, June 13 as the date for volunteers to come out and join in on helping to protect Cascadel Heights and Cascadel Woods mountain top. We hope you can make it. Some volunteers will most likely get out there at 6:30am to beat the heat of the day. Work as long as you can. Every hour you can work, makes us all a little bit safer and makes sure the first responders can make it up here to protect us and hopefully our homes.

Kathy Tooms and Carol Eggink have weedeated Sheep's Flat because of the many cars and trucks parking in the tall grasses the last couple of weekends in May. Kathy Tooms is from Cascadel Heights. Thank you Kathy for your commitment of fuel clearance for our Mountain community.

ASSEMBLE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

You have a lot of free time on your hands. Now would be an excellent time to put together your emergency supply kit. Keep it easily accessible so you can take it with you when you have to evacuate. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time. *Each person* should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your car.

Emergency Supply Kit Checklist

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person.
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications

- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water!

Items to take if time allows:

- Easily carried valuables
- Family photos and other irreplaceable items
- Personal computer information on hard drives and disks
- Chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.

Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night.

For more information on emergency supplies, visit www.ready.gov.

NEW BABY IN THE ROSE FAMILY

Ed and Judy Rose have a new grandbaby. He was born May 15th to their daughter and son-in-law: Miranda & Mike Pennington. Baby



boy Axel Jude Pennington weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20" long. Congratulations to everyone. He is so cute.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- **June 1-June 6** – Chipping day in the woods
Times to be confirmed as volunteers commit
- **June 13- Road 233 Community Volunteer Event**
6:30 AM Road 233 All are welcome
- **June 21 – Father's Day**

NEXT MONTH

- **July 10- CMWC Board Meeting**
4 PM Place to be determined

FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you enjoyed The Woods Newsletter. Send submissions for the July Newsletter by June 24, 2020 to Carol Eggink at egginks@netptc.net.

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



CONTACT: CAL FIRE Communications
Bureau
(916) 651-FIRE (3473)

**RELEASE
DATE**

May 26, 2020

CAL FIRE Asks Residents to Complete a Defensible Space & Home Hardening Self-Assessment

SACRAMENTO - Defensible space and home hardening are imperative to protecting communities from catastrophic wildfires. California residents in high-risk areas must do their part to protect their communities by creating and maintaining defensible space around their homes and structures.

With COVID-19 restrictions limiting CAL FIRE's ability to conduct annual defensible space inspections this year, property owners are urged to conduct a Defensible Space Self-Assessment.

Over the next few weeks, California property owners in wildland-urban-interface communities will receive a flyer with information on accessing the online Defensible Space Self-Assessment. The flyer also highlights steps for creating defensible space around homes and buildings, and ways to harden your home to be more wildfire resistant. The [self-assessment survey](#) is easy to use and should only take a short time to complete.

"This self-assessment helps our inspectors comply with social distancing recommendations while still collecting vital information," said Chief Thom Porter, CAL FIRE Director. "We urge you to participate in the survey and do your part to protect your community by creating defensible space and hardening your home to increase its chances of surviving a wildfire."

"It only takes one flying ember to bring wildfire to your home," emphasized Porter. "Fire can spread from house to house, especially in more densely populated areas, due to flying embers. Direct flames, as well as radiant heat from burning plants or structures can also catch a home on fire. This is why it is so important to create defensible space and harden homes – it's a community's best fighting chance against wildfire."

[Defensible Space](#) consists of two zones extending 100 feet from any home or structure cleared of dead trees, brush and vegetation. Maintenance of these two zones creates a buffer to slow or stop the spread of wildfire.

[Home Hardening](#) is preparing your home to increase its chance of surviving a wildfire. Upgrades of fire-ignition-resistant materials to roofs, eaves, vents, siding, windows, decks, fences and more can help prevent wildfire from destroying the house. Visit readyforwildfire.org for more information.

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Established in 1885, CAL FIRE is one of the state's first responders, protecting the public from the more than 5,600 wildland fires that happen each year. Beyond its wildland fire fighting role, CAL FIRE answers the call more than 460,000 times across all emergencies each year. It may very well be a CAL FIRE engine and crew that is dispatched to the scene of an auto accident, or to a home where a child has become the victim of a drowning incident. The Department is always ready to respond - medical aids, hazardous material spills, swift water rescues, search and rescue missions, civil disturbances, train wrecks, floods, earthquakes and more.

CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE. DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY.



THREE WAYS WILDFIRE CAN IGNITE YOUR HOME

Direct Flames from a wildfire or a burning neighboring home can spread to your home. In turn, flames from your house can ignite a fire on a neighboring house. The more populated the area, the greater the risk of fire spreading from house to house.

Radiant Heat from burning plants or structures can be hot enough to ignite a house without direct flame contact. Heat from one burning home can ignite a home next door, spreading from house to house. Radiant heat can break windows, allowing embers to enter the home.

Flying Embers from a wildfire, which may be over a mile away, can directly ignite your home and surrounding vegetation and materials. Embers can enter a home through gaps and burn it from the inside out. Embers are responsible for the destruction of most homes during a wildfire.

HARDENING YOUR HOME

Priority list:

- **Roofs:** Inspect and maintain. Plug gaps and remove debris. Replace with a Class A fire-rated roof.
- **Vents:** Cover and protect all openings with 1/16" - 1/8" metal mesh that resist embers and flames.
- **Adjacent Fuels:** Remove wood bark/mulch and other combustibles within 5' of your house.
- **Gutters:** Screen or enclose. Keep free of debris.
- **Eaves and Soffits:** Plug or caulk gaps. Enclose eaves if possible.
- **Windows:** Install dual-pane windows with one pane being tempered glass.
- **Exterior Walls:** Inspect all siding and plug or caulk gaps and joints.
- **Decks:** No combustibles under or next to decks. Limit combustibles on top of deck.
- **Patio Covers:** Consider using noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials within 5' of the house.
- **Fences:** Construct of noncombustible material within 5' of buildings.
- **Garages:** Install weather stripping to eliminate gaps around garage doors.
- **Driveways:** Ensure access to your home complies with local fire codes.
- **Water Supply:** Have multiple garden hoses long enough to reach all areas of your house.



ReadyforWildfire.org

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Vertical Spacing

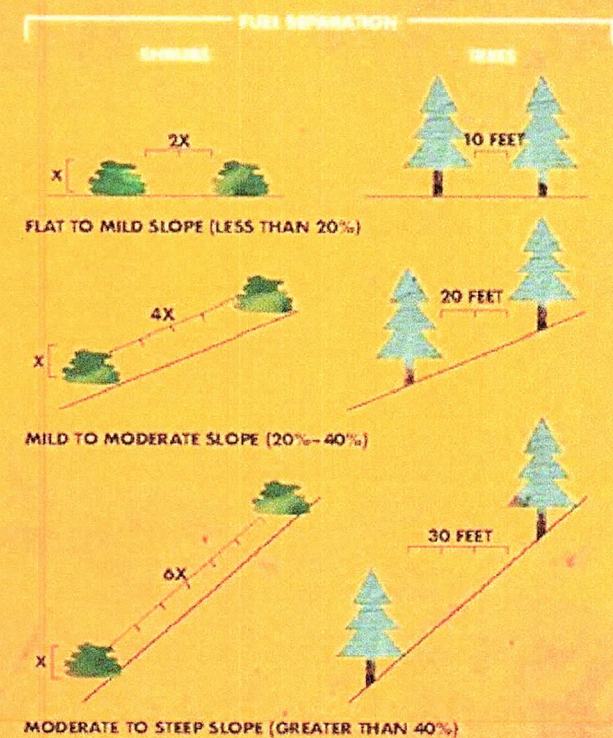
Eliminate opportunities for a vertical "fire ladder" by:

- Remove branches beneath large trees for a 6-foot minimum clearance.
- Create proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees by using the formula shown.



Horizontal Spacing

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfire. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of the shrubs and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger plant life will require greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.



Fire-Safe Landscaping

Fire-safe landscaping isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. Fire-safe landscaping uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home.

Dead Tree Removal

If you have dead or dying trees on your property the entire tree needs to be removed to reduce wildfire risk. Visit ReadyforWildfire.org/dead-tree-removal to learn about permit requirements.