



Timber Trumpet
Pla-Vada Community Association

September 2007
President's Message
Bill Ribeiro

This year, the Board is facing many issues in trying to upgrade our water capacity and infrastructure. We have recently changed engineering firms in order for us to update our master water plan and start planning for our water system upgrades. We are working with the engineers on establishing a tank site for the new 135k gallon water tank that we are currently in the process of purchasing. We are trying to get the permits to allow the contractor to enlarge and complete the encasement of the well on Lot 258. After the well is complete we must perform the state required 10 day water testing to determine the gallons/minute flow rate. Once testing is complete, the state will grant us a permit for the new well. Our goal is to start construction on the new 135K gallon tank by next summer. This is giant step in meeting the mandated water capacity issues identified by the state Department of Health Services (DHS).

I have recently received a complaint about underage unlicensed drivers speeding and driving recklessly on Pla-Vada roads. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children that drive off-road vehicles be under direct adult supervision and obey the 15 miles per hour posted speed limit. Parents must realize that they are financially liable for negligent acts committed by minors under their supervision.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. & Mrs. Morrow & Mr. & Mrs. Mayberry for donating a new American flag for the flag pole in front of the caretaker's residence.

Reports from the Board

SEWER/WATER REPORT

Nick Nieffenegger: Sewer inflows and infiltrations are down, 12,541 gallons per day. 16 manholes have been repaired to date. We are 1 year ahead of schedule.

Chik Brenneman

Water usage for July

Well #3 = 926,300.

Well #4 = 564,100.

Total = 1.5 Million Gallons number is up because Cal Trans was using water for construction. Also a leak under bridge was repaired.

One member asked why Caltrans was not using their well and was informed that CT does not have an approved backflow device on the well and cannot use that water until one is installed. CT is also working with DHS to get their well approved.

As a follow-up to the recent boil water order. Samples for July were free of E. Coli and Total Coliform bacteria. Our water has tested well since the last order. However we do still have to report the Arsenic content on quarterly bases to the users. There reports are required by Department of Health Services.

Caretaker Update

By Jim MaGee

Brian and Doug have been working on sealing the sewer manholes as stated earlier. They are a year ahead.

They are also filling cracks with rubber tar and patching holes in the roads. This will save us money and make the roads last much longer.

Weed cutting has been completed on all streets. This needs to be started again as the weeds grow fast in the area.

We had a water leak on a six-inch water main next to the Bridge; it was repaired the same day.

Brian and Doug cut down a large dead tree at the well #3 to eliminate the possibility of the tree falling and damaging the pump house.

After we had made the repairs on the water tanks, we have not been any problems with animals getting into tanks.

We will soon be starting to do a remodel on back room at caretaker's house for new office.

All equipment is in good running condition at this time.

Some of the roads have been paved and manhole covers have been lifted

If you can see a way to improve things in Pla-Vada please give Jim MaGee a call at 530-426-9152 or email at jimagee@onemain.com.

Water:

Sierra Pacific is not negotiating with us on our previously selected site above unit 6. Their demands are beyond any of the board members' comfort level.

Chik Brenneman met with Terry Stigall and in exchange for 4 sewer/water hook ups and access across PV property to Stigall's property; he will give us a site for the new tank, easement for water distribution piping and water drilling rights. The board unanimously voted to proceed with this offer.

Compliance: Bob Wagenman – Fire hazard large amount of brush on lots, down trees have been there for 30 years. BW suggested to change CC&R's to reflect cleaning lots to reduce fire danger that can be enforced. A committee was set up to review CC&R and come back to next meeting with verbiage to revise CC&R's. Jerry Keen and Mike Anderson will help.

PG&E cuts trees and leaves them lay in place they should clean it up. Mike Anderson spoke to PG&E – and was told they have no responsibility for clean up. Committee to meet for next meeting to determine how best to deal this the increased fire risk. Fire Marshall to identify the lots that need clean up. Put an article in the Timber Trumpet regarding fire safety.

Notes From Around The Horn:

Speed bump Complaint:

We have received several complaints from the membership regarding the metal speed bumps. It has been discussed and agreed upon to try an inverted speed bump(s) next summer. **Based on the recommendation of the paving contractor that inverted speed bumps at a cost of 350.00 each. This would require cutting the asphalt to make the inverted speed bumps and there is no one in the area that could do that. This would also result in more problems during the snow season, it was agreed that we would use slightly raised speed bumps that are easier on vehicles on a trial basis.** We will look for feedback from the community via e-mail and a survey

Gated Community: Once again, the discussion of a gate at the bridge is underway and there are various opinions we would love to hear yours and will post them in the next Timber trumpet.

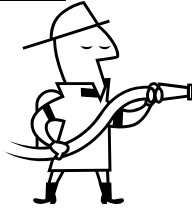
Fire Prevention Speaker, Mr. Bob Belden (CDF). Contact No.530 582-7850. His background is wild fires, and he would be happy to visit your lot and assist you in determining what should be done. Bob Drove around Pla-Vada and stated the forest is unhealthy. His biggest concerns are trees dying; bug infested, tree stress and debris on the ground. "In areas like PV we did not have a hug fire problem, but people build, and cut trees and leave them lay, creating a fire problem."

There are local, state and federal laws to make people clean up their lots. Home/Lot owners need to cut small trees, clearing lots of pine needles and debris, *limb*

and thin small trees to prevent spot fires from spreading. Insurance issues will become a problem because of the Angora fire in South Lake Tahoe.

Truckee Fire district has legal enforcement, but ultimately wants to educate the public - not fine them. (see guidelines below)

New Fire Safe Guidelines



The California Department of Forestry has set out new guidelines for defensible space (in case of a fire) for 100 feet around your home OR TO YOUR PROPERTY LINE!

There should be no combustible materials within 3 feet of your home. All flammable vegetation should be cleared within 30 feet of your home (pinecones, pine needles, dead tree branches, etc.) or to the property line. In the next 70 foot zone, try to get 10 to 15 feet of spacing, both vertically and horizontally between shrubs, large plants, and trees.

If you have 4 foot high brush underneath larger trees with limbs, limb up the tree at least 14 feet. Breaks like this in the vegetation help to slow down an advancing fire.

Clean all vegetation from beneath your deck, keep trees trimmed at least 10 feet from your chimney, and trim all dead limbs hanging over your house or garage.

Given a choice between saving two homes, the firefighters will choose to fight for the home that has had defensible space! You can go to www.fire.ca.gov for more information.

Dogs – Bob Wagenman has received complaints regarding dogs not on a leash. People need to control their dogs. Complaint needs to go to local animal control 530-582-7831 to build a case. A letter is sent when complaint has been received. And we will cc a copy of the letter to animal control.

Donner Summit Fire Department Now Part of Truckee Fire Department

The Donner Summit fire department became part of the Truckee fire department as of July 1, 2006. The geographical area covered by the fire department on Donner Summit will be the same as before. Personnel from Truckee will be rotated up to the summit, and the new personnel will be driving around the summit area to become familiar with all the roads up here. So if you see fire trucks and or paramedic units up here in Pla-Vada this summer, they may just be touring the area to become familiar with all our roads.

Letters to the Editor



If you would like to write a letter to the editor, you can do so, discussing issues/ideas pertaining to Pla-Vada. All letters must be signed to be published. If you are interested in sending a letter to the editor, please email Chet Luedtke at chet@deckenvy.com Letters will be limited to 150 words.

I am beginning a new position as editor of the Timber Trumpet; beginning next issue I will be slightly changing the format and attempting to create a more reader friendly newsletter. If you have suggestions or newspaper background please drop me a line at chet@deckenvy.com

Getting the Timber Trumpet On-line



We are still offering the TT to be received by email. This saves our association a lot of money in postage and personnel time. The Timber Trumpet is also posted on our web-site @ www.plavada.com. In case you have missed an issue we have several of prior editions. We encourage everyone to get familiar with the site. We have a lot of information regarding policies, contact numbers for board members

If you would like to get the Timber Trumpet on line instead of a paper copy, please contact Terri at tams92@peoplepc.com.

New Board Directors and Positions

William "Bill" Ribeiro: President/ Legal
Chik Brenneman: Vice President/Water
Nick Nieffenegger: Sewer
Chet Luedtke: Timber Trumpet
Jim MaGee: Caretaker Supervisor/Heavy Equipment
Bob Wagenman: Compliance/Safety/ Architecture
Sunnie Skiles: Secretary
Eric Lombardi: Treasurer
Brian Gebhart: Roads

Board of Directors Meetings

All meeting are held at the Donner Summit PUD (located off the Soda Springs Exit from 1-80, go left, turn right just past the freeway off ramp, above the fire station). Day-Saturday, Time: 9 AM. We encourage you to come to the meetings so that you know what is going on in your development.

October 13, 2007
December 1, 2007
February 9, 2008 Budget Meeting
March 8, 2008
May 3, 2008

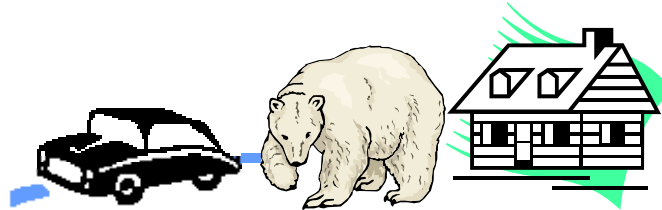
June 21, 2008 – Board Meeting @ Donner Summit PUD

General Membership Meeting:

June 21, 2008: Boreal Ski Resort: 1:15

Neighborhood Directory

We are getting to the time of the year where Terri will be setting up the Neighborhood Directory. Please review your information and if there are any changes please notify her. E-mail contact is tams92@peopleopc.com: or you may write or call the office.



Which One does the Bear Get Into? Or How to Prevent This.

By Laura Woods

There have been reports of bears breaking into cabins and vehicles in the Tahoe area and around the Truckee river heading towards Tahoe in the Sierra Sun. The bears like to break into unattended homes that have older doors (that are easier for bears to break), into unlocked slider doors and unlocked vehicles. Bears have been breaking into older cabins whose doors are old and not up to code. (Hint- does this describe your door?). Ways that have been successful in the Tahoe area to discourage bears include:

- ✓ Reinforce doors with double dead bolts. This will also discourage some of our two footed friends who break into homes.
- ✓ Lock all windows and sliding glass doors.
- ✓ Check out deterrents at www.rexplus.com and think seriously about getting a motion activated barking dog device. (Again, might help against two legged critters.)
- ✓ Remove garbage and get it away from the house and garage by taking it to the dumpster.
- ✓ Don't leave pet food outside.
- ✓ Make bird feeders inaccessible to bears or take them down.
- ✓ Securely block access to under-house crawl spaces.
- ✓ Lock car doors and windows (bears have figured out how to get into unlocked car doors)
- ✓ Take all food/food wrappers/anything with a smell out of your vehicle. (I had a bear eat my liquid dishwashing soap bottle while out backpacking 30 years ago.)

For more information on how to deal with bears, contact the *Bear League* at 530-525-7297 or at www.savebears.org. Note that bears, once they have found a food source, can be very difficult to get rid of.

Emergency Notification: It is extremely important for the office to have ALL CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION. If you feel we do not have your information, you can e-mail Terri McGuigan @ tams92@peopleopc.com

Office Phone Number and Pla-Vada Address

The mailing address - **PO Box 94, Norden CA 95724.**

Office phone number is **530-426-3980**. The fax number **530-426-3703**.

Employees: **Terri McGuigan, General Manager**

Brian Silsby, Caretaker

e-mail: tams92@peoplepc.com

Office Phone: (530) 426-3980

Fax: (530) 426-3703