



**President's Winter Message**

By Tom Lambert, YWPHI President

**Holiday Home Tour — Saturday December 11**

Once again this year, we will be throwing a party to shake off the blues during the darkest part of the year. After the, shall we say, intimate gathering last year, we are having it a little earlier in hopes more people can make it by having it before your schedule fills up with other commitments. All community members are encouraged to attend. See page 3 for details on the program.

**In This Issue**

- President's Winter Message, p.1,3
- YWPHI Board Minutes, p.2
- *In the West* Publication, p.2
- Membership Renewal, p.2
- Paying with Paypal, p.2
- Welcome New Members, p.2
- Fire Safety Grants, p.3
- Holiday Party, p.4

**Where Did All the Members Go?**

In past issues, I've made rousing calls for people to join and I've gone on for pages telling you what we've done, complete with pictures and graphs. I've backed off that a bit in the last several issues, and membership has gone off a cliff. We've had several new people join, but an unprecedented number did not renew this year despite having sent out a two reminders and a newsletter item with instructions on how to renew.



I know that personally, since the onset of the recession, it seems like every non-profit I support has doubled or tripled their mailings and I have moved into "ignore" mode. Every time I open my email or my mailbox, I have ten appeals for money and the easiest strategy is to simply throw them all away. Paradoxically, the flurry of demands has decreased my charitable giving and I find myself letting memberships lapse despite my best intentions.

In the face of that flurry competing for your attention, I'd like to make one last appeal for members who have not renewed, many of you stalwarts for years and years, to continue your support for YWPHI. Please, **stop reading and take 12 seconds to jot a note** in your calendar, on your fridge or somewhere where it won't get lost in the shuffle reminding you to renew your membership. If you've paid your dues for the year, take a minute if you can to ask your friends in the neighborhood whether or not they've renewed and, if they haven't why. No matter what the reason, whether forgetfulness or antipathy, it will help us to know.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2010/2011, I'd like to hear why. Give me a call at (209) 379-4127. Is it because you no longer want to be a part of the organization? Is it because you get too much email and don't read the renewal notices or read them and are quickly on to other things? What could we do to make it easier for you? If we created an auto-renewal subscription system, would that help?

If you're on the fence about renewing, is it because you do not think the **half million dollars in fire safety grants**, with more on tap for next year, have been good for the neighborhood? When the first assessment was done a few years ago, the fire specialists thought we had one of the most dangerous communities they had ever seen. Last year, a fire ecologist from the

*[continued on page 3]*

## YWPHI Board Minutes

Minutes from previous YWHI Board of Directors' meetings are archived online at <http://yosemitewest.org/board.htm>. Minutes from the October 20, 2010 meeting will be available after the next Board meeting.

## In the West Publication

Thanks go to these contributors to this edition of *In the West*: John Mock, Chair, YWPHI Fire Safety committee, and YWPHI Board member Kim O'Neil.

Archived issues of the newsletter are available to download as a PDF at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/archive.htm>. Each issue is announced to all members by email as soon as it is available for download from the YWPHI site. Your willingness to obtain the newsletter electronically saves YWPHI money on printing and mailing, allowing us to use that money for community projects.

## How to Renew Your Membership!

You should have already received an email notice asking you to renew your \$35 annual YWPHI membership dues. Unless you don't have an email account, you will *not* get a notice printed on dead trees. Please take a minute to mail in your check or renew using PayPal. All of your dues stay 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. You can download the Membership Form at:

<http://www.yosemitewest.org/members.htm>.



## Paying Your Dues with PayPal

Those who prefer not writing checks can pay via PayPal. Getting a PayPal account is simple and free. PayPal, owned and run by eBay, is a secure method of making a payment without having to give out your credit card number.

To register for an account, go to <https://www.paypal.com>, click on the "Sign Up" link at the top, and then register for a Personal account. You will need to link the account to your bank account or credit card in order to make funds available.

Once you have a PayPal account, you can pay from <http://www.yosemitewest.org/members.htm> or log into PayPal and select "Send Money" from the top tab. Enter [treasurer@yosemitewest.org](mailto:treasurer@yosemitewest.org) in the "To" box, then enter an amount of \$35 and choose "Goods" and select "Continue." On the next screen, in the "Message" area (scroll down below the "Send Money" button), **please include your name and your Yosemite West address.** Click on "Send Money" and you're done. No stamps, no envelopes, no hassle.

## Welcome New & Returning Members

We are pleased to welcome several new and returning members: Tom & Sondra Herbert, Mary Ann Murphy & Lyn Platten, Daniel & Barbara Black, John Roosen & Susan Rogers, Peter Golcher & Michelle Waters.

## 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.

## President's Message

[continued from p. 1] National Park Service congratulated us because the community is at the point now where she thinks they might actually stand a chance of fighting a fire that is threatening Yosemite West. That's progress, but still sobering. If any of you have tried to obtain insurance lately, you'll know that, at least for people insuring a primary residence in Yosemite West, there is only one company that will currently write policies: Lloyd's of London. If we don't continue the work to reduce fuels and make our neighborhood safer, we will soon see a day when a home in Yosemite West, if still standing, will be uninsurable unless we keep at it.

Is it because you don't like the additional **neighborhood gatherings** that members requested at the 2009 general meeting? After the false start for July 4, our retirement party for Mitch was a great time and a wonderful occasion for neighbors to get to know each other. It was a ton of fun, but events like that are more than just fun. These parties are one of the best ways to get to know your neighbors and if neighbors don't know each other, there is no community, just a collection of houses.

Is it because you don't think we should keep spending your money on upkeep of **the mail shed** and open boxes? Do you think we shouldn't be spending your money on **bear education flyers** (actually, people education flyers—the bears are too well-educated as is)? We have had some serious issues with garbage dumping this year, resulting in the death of at least one bear. We're trying to find solutions that will be amenable to everyone, from the big rental agencies to individual residents. We have no authority in this area and aren't looking to acquire any, but unfortunately, it appears that there is nobody else who does either and so nothing is being done. Meanwhile we're seeing garbage strewn around the neighborhood and bears getting killed. We're trying to work with the county to try to find some long-term solutions, and your membership is important to establish credibility with the Board of Supervisors.

Is it because there are **things that are in our purview (i.e. not roads and zoning) that we are not doing that you think we should be doing?** If so, what are they? We would love to have more people participate. If you have a pet project that you think would benefit the neighborhood more than the stuff we're already doing, please come forward. We have a certain amount of cash in the coffers. If you have time and energy, we can help you find additional volunteers and money to make your project a reality. Just give me a call at the number above and we'll put your project on the agenda for a Board meeting.

## YWPHI Fire Safety Committee Report

By John Mock, YWPHI Fires Safety Chair

We have satisfied 100% of the required match for the 2010 grant. Obviously, with the snow, the crew is gone for the season, having completed their work for 2010. On September 30, 2010, the NPS fire archeology team conducted cultural surveys on the acreage to be treated outside the community. We are still waiting for authorization from the Fire Safe Council that environmental and cultural compliance has been satisfied before any ground-disturbing work can start on this acreage outside the community.

YWPHI was awarded an additional grant for 2011. This grant for \$94,350 is for fuel reduction on Project Area YW-004 (see the Yosemite West CWPP on the website at <http://yosemitewest.org/ywcpwp.pdf>). We submitted a pre-grant report to the Fire Safe Council on July 9, 2010. We attended a mandatory pre-grant award workshop on September 8, 2010. We expect to receive the formal grant agreement soon.

For the latest news, see <http://yosemitewest.org/grants.htm>.

# Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 11th

3:00 - 7:00 pm



Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc. is happy to sponsor the 7th annual YOSEMITE WEST HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE. All community members and their guests are invited to attend any or all of the parties. Meet and greet old and new neighbors and enjoy tasty treats and libations at this festive annual event. The party will progress through the community visiting these three homes:

**3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Appetizers at Kay and Don Pitts' home, 7509 Henness Circle

**4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Main Course at Rea and Jerry Jackman's home, 7431 Yosemite Park Way

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Desserts at Tom Lambert and Theresa Ho's home, 7193 Yosemite Park Way, around the back and up the stairway.

To avoid parking problems, carpool with a neighbor or walk. **Be careful on the snow and ice!** If you're not too steady, honk your horn and someone will come out and help you

No need to R.S.V.P., but call our party organizer Rea Jackman (☎209-372-4465) with any questions.



**YWPHI Board of Direction (2010–2011)**

Tom Lambert, President; Kelly Rich, Vice-President and Secretary; Members Todd Caranto, Bill Duff, Rea Jackman, Kim O'Neil, Mike Stepien.

**YWPHI Committees (2010–2011)**

Tom Lambert, Newsletter Editor; Kim O'Neil, Webmaster and Treasurer; John Mock, Fire Safety; Rea Jackman and Kay Pitts, Hospitality.

Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.  
7585 Hennes Ridge Road  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108  
*Address correction requested*