



### **President's Summer Message**

By Tom Lambert, YWPHI President

There's a lot of important news to share this time around, so please take a minute to look over this issue of *In the West*. First and perhaps most importantly, **please mark your calendars for our annual gathering on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:30 a.m.** We also have a lot of news on **fire-related issues** that concern everyone. Finally, we're looking to the membership at large to suggest what we all should work on and where we should spend our money in the future. So between now and the Labor Day picnic, we'll be gathering **your suggestions**. We will also have a suggestion box at the meeting. So please take some time to think about what you want YWPHI to do and how you might want to participate.

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We will start with a potluck **brunch at 10:30 a.m. (see p.5 for more details)**. Brunch is followed by the YWPHI business meeting that includes approval of the minutes from last year's annual meeting, reports from YWPHI committees. All YWPHI members are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate in improving your organization.

**A draft of the minutes from the August 31, 2008 annual meeting and a draft agenda for this year's meeting are included at the end of this e-newsletter.** We welcome your review of and comment on last year's minutes. We would appreciate your sending any topics to include on the agenda to [president@yosemitewest.org](mailto:president@yosemitewest.org) by August 22. **Please print your own copies of these documents to bring to the annual meeting.**

We do not have **any vacancies on the YWPHI Board of Directors for 2008-2009**. We ask all YWPHI members to help out by serving on the Board. As a board member you will meet more of your neighbors, have a greater say in the way the Board uses your dues, and learn more about what's happening in the neighborhood. The Board is open to all YWPHI members, whether homeowners or vacant lot owners, new residents or old, full-time or part-time, including **you**. Please contact Tom Lambert at (209) 379-4127 or email [president@yosemitewest.org](mailto:president@yosemitewest.org) if you would like to serve. The Board will meet after the business meeting to assign duties for the coming year.

### **Suggestion Box is Open**

This year we will also have a **suggestion box** at the meeting. We are looking to get suggestions from all members about projects that the YWPHI can and should undertake in the future. If you have ideas about ways to improve the community or things that need to get done, bring them to the meeting and drop them in the box. That way even shy people can get heard! If you can't make the meeting, but have an idea for our community, please just email it to [president@yosemitewest.org](mailto:president@yosemitewest.org).

We look forward to seeing everyone at the brunch and annual meeting!

## **YWPHI Board Minutes**

Minutes from previous YWPHI Board of Directors' meetings are archived online at <http://yosemitewest.org/board.htm>. Minutes from the July 8, 2009 meeting will be available after the annual 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.

## **Dues Going up to \$35**

At last year's general meeting of the membership on August 31, 2008, members voted to raise membership dues from \$25 per year to \$35 per year. Membership dues had been set at \$25 for many years. Raising dues gives us additional funds for needed projects around the neighborhood.

## **Time to Renew Your Membership!**

You will soon be receiving 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. No doubt many members will want to pay as soon as possible. You can download the Membership Form at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/members2009-10.pdf>.

## **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: John Flores, Robert & Cindy Kroon, Mitch & Beckie Jonasky, Rand Lindsly, Dick & Marcie Long, Michele Milani-Mowen, Carol Moses, Moose Mutlow, Alan & Kathleen Osgood, Douglas Oxhorn & Gail Aldrich, Frederico & Kelly Peinado, Lawson & Gisele Rankin, Larry & Katrin Rogers, Dennis & Darida Schmidt, Mary Ann Vanderburgh, Peter Welgan, YW Properties, Jonathan Graves.

### **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.

## Yosemite Institute Update

The Park Service and Yosemite Institute were on hand this summer to give tours of the grounds of the proposed environmental education campus. These tours were an extension of the normal NPS open houses, which usually take place in Yosemite Valley. The official public comment period is now closed, but Elexis Mayer of NPS said that they are still interested in receiving additional comments, but they will not be part of the official findings. Send comments to [Yose\\_Planning@nps.gov](mailto:Yose_Planning@nps.gov)

## Fires around Yosemite West

We started off the season with a lightning strike fire on May 18 near the north and west border of our community. Fortunately, because it was still early in the year and vegetation still had high water content, this was a slow burning fire that claimed only one tenth of an acre. The National Park Service decided to put this fire out immediately “due to significant threats to the community of Yosemite West”. Given the steep terrain, firefighters had to rappel in, which should give us all pause to think about how difficult it will be to fight a fire near Yosemite West.

A few weeks later, on May 30, another lightning strike lit a fire in the Grouse Creek drainage. Again, high humidity in the vegetation from our wet spring made for a slow-spreading fire that smoldered quietly until temperatures soared into the high 90s with a light breeze and, over the weekend of June 27–28, the fire ignited and began a more rapid spread through the Grouse Creek drainage, eventually burning 3050 acres, going almost to the Chinquapin intersection. Park Service actively managed the fire and it was considered a “good” burn, but no fire that burns a couple thousand acres on the edge of our community is something to take lightly!

## Yosemite West Defensible Space Project Progress Report

The Yosemite West Defensible Space Project is well under way with **more than 200 tons of hazardous fuel being cut and chipped in the first week**. Thanks to everyone who has signed up for the project, which has easily met its participation goals. Work started on July 23rd

along Yosemite Park Way at Henness Ridge Road and will be continuing downhill on Yosemite Park Way, before retuning back uphill to Henness Ridge Road and Henness Circle. The crew wanted to tackle some of the steepest and most difficult parcels first. Those areas have the highest risk for rapid fire spread, are the hardest to access for fire crews and are the most work for the crew doing the work, so they’re the logical place to start. You may notice several vacant lots along Yosemite Park Way that have already been treated, which allow you to now see through the forest rather than into walls of towering manzanita. The tentative work schedule and project updates are online at <http://www.yosemitewest.org/grants.htm>.

The chipper will be in use along the roadsides in Yosemite West, marked by orange cones, so for the safety of the crew please slow when approaching and passing them and the chipper. If you have any questions about the project, please contact [firesafety@yosemitewest.org](mailto:firesafety@yosemitewest.org). We request that you not disturb the crew while they’re working.

If you have a chance, stop and take a look at some of the areas they’ve treated. You can see that it results in a huge reduction in fuel, while not being an ugly clear cut. Take a look at the pictures on the next page to see what difference this makes and to see the crew in action.

Some people have wondered why the first project focuses on treatment inside the neighborhood rather than a break around the neighborhood. In event of a large wildfire, flying embers can light fires up to a mile ahead of the flame front. The goal of this project, as outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is to “create defensible space around all structures in the Community so that spots fires are less likely to occur; and when they do occur, fire suppression resources have a 90% probability of suppressing them.” Without achieving this first step, a fire could jump any firebreak below the neighborhood and still cause harm to structures and leave firefighters without an exit. So for us to get firefighters into the neighborhood at all in even of a large fire, this is a crucial first step, without which it would simply be too dangerous for them to mount a defense.

## Yosemite West Defensible Space Project Photos



**Before**



**After**



**Before**



**After**



**Chipping Crew At Work.**

**Shown:** Sean Rankin, crew leader, Mike McGee, Don Rankin, Anthony Romero

**Not shown:** John Breece, and Tony Romero

# Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc. Labor Day Weekend Brunch & Annual Meeting

**Sunday, September 6, 2009  
10:30 a.m.**

The YWPHI Labor Day potluck brunch and annual meeting starts at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, September 6, 2009 on the south side of Henness Circle behind Betty Clark's house, 7486 Henness Circle.

YWPHI members and their guests are welcome to attend.  
YWPHI will provide plates, napkins, cups, water, soft drinks, and beer.

**As always, bring a dish to share at the potluck brunch -**

<b>If Your Last Name Starts With</b>	<b>Please Bring -</b>
-	
A - H	muffins, sweet rolls, coffee cake
K - P	main dish (quiche, frittata, etc.)
Q - Z	fruit, vegetables, salads

Please also bring your own folding chair(s).

We will also revive the **White Elephant tradition**. This involves regifting something that's sitting around your house that you no longer use, possibly funny. If you want to participate, find some odd or end, the odder the better, and bring it to the picnic.

## **Don't Forget to Bring Bright Ideas**

The **YWPHI annual meeting will take place following brunch**. The annual meeting includes the election of the YWPHI Board of Directors to serve for 2009-2010 and the approval of minutes from last year's annual meeting. A draft of the minutes from the August 31, 2008 annual meeting and a draft agenda for this year's meeting are included at the end of this e-newsletter.

This year we will also have a **suggestion box** at the meeting and a chance for the less shy to shout out suggestions. The Board is trying to get community direction for future projects. We have limited resources both in terms of time and money and want to canvas the membership to see what people think is important.

Please email [president@yosemitewest.org](mailto:president@yosemitewest.org) or contact Tom Lambert (209-379-4127) with any questions, comment or suggestions you may have.

**YWPHI Board of Direction (2008-2009)**

Tom Lambert, President; Kelly Rich, Vice-President and Secretary; Members Jim Andrews, Todd Caranto, Jeff Hornacek, Rea Jackman, Kim O'Neil.

**YWPHI Committees (2008-2009)**

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 Henness Ridge Road  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-9108  
*Address correction requested*



# Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.

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**2009 YWPHI Annual Meeting  
Sunday, September 6, 2009, 10:30 a.m.**

## **Introductions**

### **I. Minutes**

August 31, 2008 annual meeting

### **II. Treasurer's Report - Kim O'Neil**

### **III. Committee Reports**

A. Fire Safety - John Mock

B. Nominating - 0 vacancies for 2009-2010 YWPHI Board of Directors (no election required)

### **IV. Old Business**

A. Environmental Education Campus - update

B. Mailboxes - addition of new mailboxes, improved security for mailbox shed

C. Holiday Open House - scheduling before or after Christmas

### **V. New Business**

A. Member's organizational goals for YWPHI in the coming year - gathering suggestions and survey

### **VI. Next Meeting**

The 2010 annual meeting Sunday, August 29, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

**Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.**

7585 Henness Ridge Road, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

**[www.YosemiteWest.org](http://www.YosemiteWest.org)**



## Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc

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### Draft Minutes from the YWPHI Annual Meeting August 31, 2008

The 2008 annual meeting was held on Sunday, August 31, 2008, in Betty Clark's yard. A potluck brunch was served at 10:30 a.m., and the annual meeting was called to order by President Kay Pitts at roughly 11:30 a.m. and began by having all present introduce themselves. Thirty people attended the meeting, 29 members and 1 guest. Handouts were available for all present and included the Meeting Agenda and the draft Minutes from the 2007.

Note: The Secretary's original notes for this meeting were lost and these minutes are reconstructed from memory.

**Directors Present:** Jim Andrews, Jeff Hornacek, Kim O'Neil, Kay Pitts, Kelly Rich

**Directors Absent:** Todd Caranto, Tom Lambert

**Committee Chairs Present:** John Mock (Fire Safety)

**Committee Chairs Absent:** none.

**Guest Speaker:** Jen Nersesian, NPS

#### **Guest Speaker: Jen Nersesian**

Jen Nersesian gave an overview of the proposed NPS environmental education campus being relocated to Henness Ridge and answered questions about the project. Jen provided a link to the NPS web page with information about the project and the YWPHI webmaster agreed to add this link to the YWPHI website.

Jen also introduced two NPS programs opened to the public, Yosemite Gateways and Experience Your Yosemite, and invited Yosemite West residents to attend. Anyone interested in attending either event was asked to sign their name and contact information.

#### **I. Minutes**

The minutes from the last annual meet on September 2, 2007 were approved by the membership.

#### **II. Treasurer's Report**

No formal financial report was presented. The YWPHI Bylaws state that, "The Treasurer shall submit a report for the preceding year at the Annual Meeting...." Treasurer Kim O'Neil asked the membership what financial reports to report at the annual meeting, ie, does "preceding year" mean the prior calendar year (eg, Jan 1st to Dec 31st) or the prior fiscal year (Mar 1st to Feb 28th). The financial reports for both the preceding calendar year (1/1/07 to 12/31/07) and fiscal year (3/1/07 to 2/28/08) were previously presented to the YWPHI Board of Directors and approved at the 4/5/2008 Board meeting. The Treasurer informed the membership that these and all other approved financial reports are available on the YWPHI website. The membership

indicated they would like a review of the prior calendar year presented at annual meetings. In the future, YWPHI should consider amending the Bylaws for clarity (ie, editing the Bylaws from "preceding year" to "preceding calendar year").

### **III. Topics**

#### **1. Dues Increase**

At the previous annual meeting, on September 2, 2007, there was discussion of increasing membership dues from \$25 to \$35, \$50 or \$100. Eventually it was decided that we would table that and put the matter before the Board in the coming year. At the 2008, the Board proposed increasing dues to \$35, which the membership voted to approve. Beginning with the 2009/2010 membership year, dues will be \$35 per year.

#### **2. YWPHI Board of Directors Elections**

After many years of service, Kay Pitts stepped down as President, leaving one vacancy on the Board. Rea Jackman agreed to serve and was elected by voice vote at the meeting. Jim Andrews and Tom Lambert's terms on the Board expired, and they agreed and were elected to serve a new term.

### **IV. Other Concerns**

#### **1. Emergency Telephone Tree**

A member asked to have the instructions for the emergency telephone tree edited to clarify who activates the tree, i.e., if you arrive and have a problem at your house that could affect the community, *you* initiate the call to your zone head instead of waiting for somebody to call you once a problem arises.

#### **2. Mailboxes**

There was a discussion about the need for a survey to determine the interest in and need for mailbox expansion. A suggestion was made to conduct a survey and provide instructions in the next issue of the newsletter.

#### **3. Standard Telephones**

A member pointed out the usefulness of having telephones that work without electricity on every floor of your house, rather than just fancy cordless telephones, for use during power outages. During the 2008 Telegraph Fire, power was out to Yosemite West for approximately 12 days, and having a land line was a key means of communication.

### **Next Annual Meeting Date**

Next year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, September 6, 2009. We will continue to hold the annual meeting on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.