

Whitney Oaks Community Association Newsletter

January 2010

www.whitneyoaks.net

Committee Meetings

The following is a list of the next few meetings of all the committees and the Board Meetings. All Board and Committee meetings are open to the members of the Association.

Please note that all the dates are subject to change if the Golf Center has another function.

Notices of changed committee meetings will be posted on our web site and at the door of the golf center on the day the meeting was to be held.

Board Meeting: February 17 and March 17, 2010 at 6pm at the Golf Center

ARC Committee: February 16 and March 16, 2010 at 6pm at the Golf Center

Landscape Committee: March 2 and April 6, 2010 at 6 pm at the Golf Center

Finance Committee: March 25 and April 22, 2010 at 3:30 pm at the Golf Center

Fitness Room



We will be installing new doors at the Fitness Center within the next few weeks. We will be installing single door panels instead of the double doors that we have now.

At the same time the doors will be re-keyed. If you would like a copy of the new key please contact Nicole at nross@kocal.com.

The first key issued will be at no cost to the homeowner, any additional keys will be \$15.00. If you move you will need to make sure that you have given your key to the next owner. If you have tenants you will need to make sure that you get the key from them when they move or you will have to pay for a new key.

Security Patrol



There will now be security patrols in the area each evening of the week. Security will be in the area 7 hours each night.

If you notice anything that requires their attention you can call them directly at 916-532-9973.



Kocal Management Group Inc.

P.O. Box 1459

Folsom, CA 95763-1459

Phone: 985-3633

Fax: 248-8050

Board of Directors

President:.....Chris Eatough

Vice President:.....Stan Laderman

CFO:.....Leon Schoenfeld

Secretary:.....Ken Morrow

Director:.....Eva McLain

Manager:.....Monique Gardner

Email...mgardner@kocal.com

Assistant:.....Nicole Ross

Email...nross@kocal.com

Parking on the street

Please be reminded that residents cannot park on the streets overnight. Guest can only park up to 48 hours.



to let us know.

If they are staying longer you will need to contact Nicole at Kocal Management

Open Space

Recently we have had more and more complaints about activity in the open space areas. Please note that no homeowner or child should ever be in the open space area. We have had to remove tree houses out of Oak Trees and have had reports of people on dirt-bikes riding around the hillsides and hunting our wildlife. Many animals call the open space their home, if humans invade this space we will see those animals leave.

Having these areas in our community makes Whitney Oaks a special place to live, please do not abuse this right. Parents please make sure that your children know that they are not allowed to play in the open space area or use it to make a short cut.

The areas that the students are using to access the school (such as Wedgewood Way and near the fitness room on Hillcrest) are also open space and protected wetlands and **should not be used to access the school.**

Fire Suppression & Weed Control by Grazing

The Whitney Oaks Community Association (WOCA) Board of Directors is considering the use of sheep and goats for grazing of the WOCA Open Space areas for the purpose of fire suppression and weed control. Perhaps the grazing has already started. If so, you will already have been informed of the grazing program by WOCA.



For homeowners who own unfenced property that adjoins the WOCA Open Space, this "buffer area" will be grazed at no cost to the owner, unless they specifically request that their property be excluded.

Owners who do not want their personal property grazed need to contact the WOCA manager either by e-mail at mgardner@kocal.com or by mail at Whitney Oaks Community Association, Kocal Management Group, P. O. Box 1459, Folsom, CA 95763-1459. These properties will be excluded from grazing and the cost of the mandated fire suppression will then be the responsibility of the owner.

The Benefits of Grazing

The Rocklin City Council and Fire Chief have endorsed grazing as a very effective method for reducing fire hazards and suppressing weeds. Bart Petitclerc, Rocklin Battalion Chief and Deputy Fire Marshall, stated in a memo to the Board, "The use of grazing is effective and environmentally friendly, which is a win, win for all of us."



Grazing controls the growth of non-native vegetation so that other desirable plants, such as wildflowers and native grasses, can regenerate. Studies have shown that Yellow Star Thistle infestations, which are becoming a significant problem in our Open Space areas, can reduce wildlife habitat and forage, displace native plants, and decrease native plant and animal diversity.

This invasive plant significantly depletes soil moisture, and this in turn harms wildlife that feeds on native plants. Grazing is an effective tool in managing the spread of Yellow Star Thistle and other invasive and/or noxious weeds. By grazing in a way

that favors the growth of native bunch grasses, undesirable plants can be suppressed.

Goats prefer broadleaf plants to grass, which results in the suppression of poison oak that has been spreading on our hillsides. They have no problem with steep and rock-strewn hillsides that are difficult to mow. Additionally, while grazing they till and fertilize the soil.

Grazing by sheep and goats is used for fire and weed suppression in Lincoln Hills, the Lincoln Environmental Learning Center behind Springfield's Pioneer Way, Catta Verdera (formerly Twelve Bridges), various parcels in the City of Lincoln and parts of Clover Valley. Grazing is also used by the City of Oakland, the East Bay Regional Park District and on the hills above the University of California at Berkeley.

What You Need to Know and Do When Grazing is in Progress

The sheep and goat herd (several hundred animals) will pass through each area in two or three days. Consider inviting your grandchildren and friends to enjoy the bucolic scene (this area was a very large sheep ranch in the late 1800s).

Electrified fences are used to contain the animals and the guard dogs that accompany them. Needless to say, you should keep your pets, visiting children and yourself away from those fences.

The guard dogs have one mission in life -- the protection of the herd. They spend their entire life with the herd and are serious working dogs, not pets. They react to perceived threats and will defend the herd against those things that they believe presents a danger, including domestic animals, coyotes and mountain lions. In order to prevent conflict, it is suggested that you do not walk your pets on the trails when and where grazing is occurring.

Ken Morrow (Director, Whitney Oaks Community Association & Springfield resident)

Please note that the Board of Directors will be discussing this topic at the February Meeting on Feb. 17, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the Golf Club.