

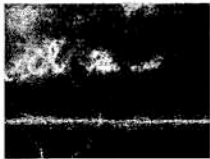


# Newsletter

Fall 2009

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## Ramblings from your president

Now that summer is winding down and the children are back in school, remember to drive very carefully and watch the x-walks.

**FIRE FIRE FIRE.** Reminding you to be extra careful of how vulnerable we are at this very dry time of year. We have had two small fires in Diamond A this year. One on Grove when branches fell into the power lines and the other on Canyon possibly caused by a spark from a mower/weed-eater. Remember to cut grasses early in the season and keep them short. Any piece of metal hitting a rock could

cause a spark and start a fire. I have been trying for two years to get the County and Cal-Fire to help clean up our area and make us more fire proof. They told me maybe next year. So let's be very careful.

It has been reported to me that we have about seven peacocks (maybe more) living in Diamond A and nobody knows who owns them or where they came from. This could be a problem for us as I understand they are very messy birds (beautiful, but messy and can be very noisy). Let me know if you see them and perhaps "Bird Rescue" in our directory can help us.

Now I have a favor to ask. If you are walking your dogs, please be kind to your neighbors and bring along a plastic bag and paper towels to pick up any "dog poop". Especially in front of homes and at mail boxes. It is very irritating when we have to clean the poop off our shoes when we go to check the mail. I

know we will take care of this small problem, as it has such a simple solution. Thanks!

If you are new in the neighborhood, and thinking about fencing, be sure to check with someone on our Architectural Review Committee. We have three very capable members to assist you and they are Bill Angeloni Sr., John Walker and Max Ballantine (phone #'s can be found in our directory). If what you are planning is not in compliance with County Code fencing setback (26-88-030) then ARC will bring the situation to the full DAPOA Board and you will need to apply for a variance with PRMD. I need to let you know that the Board supports the PRMD Code.

## URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS



WILD LAND DRILL SUMMER 2009 (DICK HANNA ON THE RIGHT)  
PHOTO BY JOE LIEBER

HELLO DIAMOND A COMMUNITY. THIS IS AN URGENT CALL TO MUSTER SEVERAL NEW VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOR OUR DIAMOND A (STATION 4) FIREHOUSE.

Many of you may not realize that volunteer (now called part-time) firefighters are an integral part of the Sonoma Valley Fire and Rescue Authority. Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue Authority operates out of four fire stations. Staffing consists of a Fire Chief, four Division Chiefs, 11 Captains, 14 Engineers, 35 part-time Firefighters, 6 full-time EMS employees, 30 part-time EMS employees and four clerical staff. The part-time firefighters are trained to the same levels as the full-time ones. This requires a lot of commitment.

Our station is down to three people and quite soon could be left with only one. Two of our firefighters are over 60 years old and are mainly remaining in hopes of training some new recruits to take over once they leave. Even with three firefighters we are extremely marginal in staffing levels. So as you can see, in order to maintain a vibrant firehouse, we desperately need approximately 5 more recruits otherwise the firehouse will shut down very soon.

Please keep in mind that having a firehouse this close is a huge asset to the Diamond A community.

- Provides for lower insurance rates
- Assures quicker response times to both fires and medical aids. Approximately 80% of our calls are medically related. With an aging population, this is likely to increase.
- Can provide basic life support in the event of a major disaster such as an earthquake.
- If the station closes, it is extremely unlikely it will ever re-open!

As the saying goes, "if you snooze, you lose". We are very close to losing our firehouse. Don't assume that "others" will volunteer as this has not happened. It needs to be YOU. Please call Dick Hanna at 996-3402 to sign up now (but no later than before December).  
Joe Lieber

## Google Groups Email Communication System

The Diamond A Board has proposed setting up a non-emergency email system for keeping Diamond A property owners informed of community issues and happenings. Lorrie Hohorst has proposed using a tool called "Google Groups" for this purpose. She has had experience with this system up near Lake Tahoe, where she is a member of another residential community. There, the system works well and is very useful. This system would be restricted to Diamond A property owners, and membership would be completely voluntary. With this system, any member could post notices that would be emailed to all members. Also, each member would have control over how they received the notices – for example, only digests of the notices once a week. Bruce Hoadley (707-291-6404, brucehoadley@sbcglobal.net) is a board member and would be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the system. Bruce is planning to set up a pilot system within the Diamond A board. This would be used to beta-test Google Groups in our environment. Please send Bruce your ideas and comments.

Bruce Hoadley

## From the Diamond A Trail Blazer Committee

We thank you for your generous donations that provide the funds needed to clear and maintain our equestrian trails. Our trails are important not only for recreation, they also create natural fire breaks,

provide passage for wildlife and add value to your property!!

The Trail Blazers continue to do the work to expand and restore unused trails. If you are planning to fence your property, we ask that you get approval from the Architectural Review Board so that possible encroachment upon the equestrian easements can be avoided.

Thank you Ann and Roger Young for hosting the barn party on September 19th. It was a "bucking rodeo" event that should not be missed. There is a little cowgirl and cowboy in everybody....so, be sure to put ur boots on and come for some good eatens next year!!!! Happy trails

Dee Young

## Treasurer's Message

Our thanks to all that have paid their 2009 Property Owners' membership dues. Your support allows the association to better serve the Diamond A community. The Hill Warming parties bring new and old residents together, the current telephone directory and Property Owners' Guide are invaluable tools and the publishing of this Gazette unites our community. If you have not done so, please send your dues (\$35) to:

Diamond "A" Property Owners

PO Box 75

Sonoma, CA 95476

Members received the newest edition of the telephone directory in June 2009. If you are unsure about the status of your membership, please call me.

Thanks

Dee Young

Treasurer

939-9440

## HILL WARMING PARTY

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT

HILL WARMING PARTY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

3:30 TO 6:30

at

*Kevin and Donna Wilson's Home*

*18901 Viewcrest Drive*

*Come and meet our new neighbors  
and let them meet you! Teri Hansen  
does a great job with refreshments  
and it's always a fun time. Looking  
forward to seeing you there.*

*Teri Hansen*

## Pot Holes & Road Issues

Recently the County changed its method of tracking road maintenance requests to a computer based system.

All requests phoned into the Santa Rosa office are logged into computer and a work order is sent to our local Road Maintenance Department on 8th Street East for eventual resolution.

Dave Ocaranza asks us to remember that his local office, with limited resources, is responsible for all road related maintenance from Glen Ellen to south of Sonoma. So it may take some time, but serious problems will get priority.

To log in a problem, call 565-5100 and tell the staff what the problem is, the nearest address and cross street. That will start the ball rolling.

Jack Nisson

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The brushfire started by a downed power line this summer should be a wake up call for all of us in Diamond A. I am presently in the process of organizing the Diamond A home owners into a series of blocks that will make Neighborhood Watch more effective and lay the foundation for making all of us safer when an earthquake or wildfire threatens our homes. I am working with Chief Hanna and the Sonoma Fire Department's new SCOPE (Sonoma Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) program.

We need at least six more volunteers to act as Block Coordinators to compile information on families and homes on their "blocks" to aid firefighters and emergency crews during disasters. We cannot expect, at best, to receive help from State and local agencies in less than 36 hours after a major earthquake. A major wild fire during peak fire season in the State, could leave us to our own devices, and our presently understaffed volunteer fire department for more than 24 hours.

Block Coordinators will NOT be expected to act as firefighters or medical personnel, but will have maps and critical information compiled that will aid law enforcement and other emergency personnel. I will act as the overall coordinator and will be the primary contact during emergencies. At present, we have three block coordinators and need at least six more along all of Grove Street north of Deer Park Drive, along Kenleigh, Spring, and side roads such as Prospect and Wildwood. Please contact me for more details. I prefer e-mails, but phone calls will be welcome. A major earthquake is due in the North Bay, but a wildfire is even more likely during the next five years or so. Help yourself and your neighbors to be safer and better prepared for the worst. Please contact Dick Hanna if you are interested in becoming a trained volunteer firefighter.

I plan to keep meetings to a minimum.

Contact information: Roland Gangloff:  
935-1832 and [rgangloff38@gmail.com](mailto:rgangloff38@gmail.com).

Dick Hanna:  
996-3402 and [rdhanna100@aol.com](mailto:rdhanna100@aol.com)

By Roland Gangloff