



What's Inside:

- Evacuation Meeting
- Christmas Store
- 4-H Report
- Bears!

Community Evacuation Meeting Report and Fire Safe News

As I write this Butte County is reeling from the devastating Camp Fire. A wind-whipped wildfire took much of Paradise and has done very extensive damage to Magalia, Butte Creek Canyon, Concow, and other communities. It continues to be only 30% contained. Our hearts go out to those who have been affected and there are many opportunities for us all to assist with relief and reconstruction. This fire makes it all the more important to understand the evacuation plan for Cohasset, and to start, or continue work on your defensible space.

Over 50 Cohasset residents attended the meeting held on Oct. 4th at the community center. Dave Hawks, Cal Fire Battalion Chief for the North Valley headed the panel with Garret Needles, Chief for Cohasset and Forest Ranch, Captain Cook from our Cohasset CDF station, as well as other CDF personnel. Butte County public works, law enforcement, our outgoing supervisor Maureen Kirk, and our new supervisor Tami Ritter all presented extensive information and answered questions.

Topics presented and discussed included evacuation maps, information on the chipper service, dozens of handouts from the Butte Fire Safe council, important websites, Cohasset Fire history, North Valley Animal Rescue, "Ready, Set, Go" information and other pertinent issues. ~Continued on page 4



Here's how to help

The **Salvation Army** is opened a distribution center on Tuesday (11/13) at 1100 Marauder Street in Chico. The organization only accepts brand new items and also needs donations of money and gift cards, including to local stores and gas retailers. Supplies that are needed include:

- New underwear and socks
- New blankets and pillows
- Hygiene supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Non-perishable foods



- Frozen turkeys
- New toys for Christmas

The distribution site will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. **Call (530) 776-1009** for information.

For large donations, call to set up a drop-off time.

Want to volunteer?

Caring Choices of Chico - (530) 899-3873

Emergency center has been activated to process and place volunteers where needed.



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www.CohassetCommunity.org

Kevin Sterling

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E-mail ad copy and instructions to hawespipe@hotmail.com.

Payment must be received by the 2nd Friday of the month for the following month's inclusion. Checks may be made out to the CCA and sent to 11 Maple Creek Ranch Rd, Cohasset, CA 95973.

Prices for CCA newsletter advertisements:

Business card size \$25

1/2 page \$75

1/4 page \$40

Full page \$150

Cohasset Community Association

Pancake Breakfast

It was great to see everyone at the pancake breakfast on Nov. 10th. It was originally meant to be a CCA member appreciation meal, but with the current state of fires and destruction, we changed course and invited all of the Cohasset community, member or not, to share a meal. It was a lot less smoky that morning, and many of

the kids were able to play outside after stuffing themselves with homemade pancakes, bacon, and juice. Thanks for all of your help Susana and Clancy!

The CCA plans to sponsor more events of this type in the future, and we hope to see even more folks join in the fun!

By ~ Melissa Zaros



Turkey Bingo

~ Postponed ~

With the fire, smoke, and general concerns for being "out and about" we've postponed Turkey Bingo until there's been decent rain or two. Tensions are just to high right now. If you have a Turkey to donate, please find a local charity as there are many people in need right now.

Turkey Bingo is a Cohasset pre-Thanksgiving Tradition. It's a \$15 buy-in and winners can choose a delicious turkey for your holiday dinner or the prize money. There's also a split-the-pot game at the end of the evening for an additional \$5.



You can bring a beverage and snack of your choice. You must be at least 18 years of age to attend.

Stay tuned we will share a new date shortly.

Community Corner

EPC 2.0

Our newsletter is coming out at a very difficult time for many members of our community. The Camp Fire has devastated much of our county and threatened our community of Cohasset.

Many members of our community are supporting family and friends who have been displaced. Our hearts go out to all the people affected by this disaster.

As of the Oct. 4th fire safety meeting, several Cohasset residents have committed to reinvigorate our Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC). This is a volunteer group that was started in 2004, by Maggie Kreibiel and Kathy Lawson. They worked hard and made a huge difference in the

awareness of fire safety in Cohasset. They are responsible for getting us a year-round fire station, and the evacuation map that the county relies on for Cohasset. We need community participation to make it work and we need to learn from the disasters that we have seen take place all around us. If you are interested in helping or even just participating in this committee, please call or text Jim Zaros at (530)520-1082. We are encouraging everyone to sign-up for reverse 911 Emergency Notifications at the Butte County Office of Emergency Services website. It is: <https://www.buttecounty.net/oem/disasterpreparedness>. We also have emergency links on our CCA website. Stay safe out there!

By ~ Susana Malcolm

CCA Calendar

Yoga

- Tuesdays 6pm
- Sundays 9:30am

4-H

- 1st Wednesday 6:30 pm

Commodities

- 2nd Wednesday 11am - 1pm

CCA Board Meeting

- 2nd Thursday 6:30pm
- Next meeting is Jan 10th 2019

Brew Club

- 3rd Wednesday 7pm

Bunco Night

- December 7th 6pm

4-H Christmas Store

- December 9th 12 - 3pm

Mountain Music has wrapped up for the season. The CCA would like to thank Berenice Moran and Kenny Cartledge for organizing this awesome Cohasset tradition! This is a fun, and free event that takes place April- October, on the 3rd Saturday of those months, weather permitting.. Many people enjoy the music and the atmosphere, and we're all looking forward to next year's music! Thanks again!



Refrigerator Hints during a power outage

What to do with all the perishables in your refrigerator. Last winter, I put my perishables on the porch. (the outside temp was 30°-35°) Of course you need to protect it from wildlife. Then to not waste food, first cook a "must go" soup with the meats and veggies that are perishable. Put other perishables in an ice chest. I keep a couple of gallon water jugs in the freezer. They

are great for summer time grocery shopping, camping, or emergency ice supply during a power outage. Foods in the freezer (placed in a unheated room or garage) should last several days before they are unsafe to eat. After one to three days, when the meat is starting to thaw, invite your neighbors over for a barbecue. Keeping the refrigerator door closed the temperature will stay colder longer.

By ~ Linda Hartsong

Cohasset Community

~ Continued from cover page

Many questions were taken and answered.

We are hoping to have an evacuation "practice" for the community in the spring. An organized event with all of the necessary county offices involved. As we are all well aware, we have one reliable, safe way out - down Cohasset Rd. There are other routes, and CDF will cut locks and open gates if needed but NO other route is advisable. CDF will be working on vegetation at the Cohasset school this winter to make it safer as an evacuation gathering place. CDF has also contacted Chico Unified about a key to the building.

The main take away is to sign-up for "Code Red:," Go to the Butte County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) website and sign-up for this service that will call your cell phone in case of an emergency. Have family members sign-up too. Make a family plan - where to meet off the hill, who to call, and pack a "to-go" bag. The OEM website has information on what to put in your "to-go" bag and what to have at your house for emergencies.

Work on your defensible space this fall and winter. Call the Butte Fire Safe Council, 877-0984, to get on the chipper list. If you have questions about clearing around your house, go to the CDF station here in Cohasset, the Butte Fire Safe Council website, <http://www.ButteFireSafe.Net>, or contact me pmputerbaugh@yahoo.com. The OEM WEBSITE has our COHASSET EVACUATION PLAN and MAP. It is under the tab "Disaster Preparedness". Some other suggestions include keeping a small fire extinguisher in your car and have one ready in your house. Lastly, get to know your neighbors and check on them!

If you were unable to attend the meeting, all of this information can be found on the county websites, including the map that was created by Cohasset locals, for Cohasset residents. Please be safe out there, help each other; work together to make our mountain home as fire safe as possible.

By ~ Trish Puterbaugh

Children's Christmas Store

Sunday, December 9, 12-3p.m.

The Cohasset 4-H is pleased to be able to sponsor the Cohasset Children's Christmas Store again this year. All young people are invited to shop for gently used donated items at very reasonable prices. The presents will be wrapped and tagged for them by Cohasset 4H members and other volunteers. The 4-H group will be collecting donations during this month. We could especially use toys, and gifts for men, such as tools, BBQ accessories, sports equipment, sports logo stuff, as well housewares. We can also use gift bags, boxes, and gift tags. No used clothes, please.

We will again open the sale to

adult buyers at 2:30 p.m. at regular yard sale prices. We will provide snacks and warm drinks for the parents as they wait for their shoppers. Get your shopping lists ready kids, Christmas is right around the corner!

Call **Susana at 893-0109** if you have something to donate or would like to help wrap gifts.



Cohasset 4-H

Wow! We are off to a great start this year. We have sixteen members so far, the most in quite a few years. This has brought a lot of great energy and interest in our program and in expanding the projects that we offer. So far, the Arts and Crafts, Cooking, and Welding projects met in October. Hiking and Swine are getting under way in November. We are planning on adding Rabbits and possibly Equine Care.

We had two very special events in October. We were honored to be invited to the January's home on Oct. 25th. Connie shared her extensive knowledge of Native American cultures with our members. She showed us her cultural collectables and gave each member a bag with a healing stone and an arrowhead in it. Thank you, Connie, for your willingness to share your expertise with us. We are hoping to make these visits a part

of a field trip series that highlights some of Cohasset's treasures.

Our other special event this month was the 4-H County Awards Night on Oct. 13th. Our club, with the help of West Gridley, was in charge of putting annual We set-up, rated, cake and cream, and cleaned-up afterwards. At the event our Cooking Project leader Heather Lingemann received her 5-year volunteer pin. Congratulations to Heather, and thanks for your years of service to our club.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to once again be hosting the Cohasset Children's Christmas Store on Sunday, Dec. 9th, 12-3 p.m. We sell gently used donated items to Cohasset kids to give as Christmas gifts to friends and fami-

ly. Most items sell for under a dollar and we wrap them as well. If you have something to donate, please contact Susana.

We need to up our fundraising efforts this year. To that end, our swine project is willing to raise a few extra pigs to sell to interested folks. We would be selling a half pig for about \$600 plus butchering. They would be organically raised. We would need people to commit to buying before we put the money into raising them. Let Lara, Claire, Heather, or Susana know if you are interested.

We are always open to welcome new members, but the deadline for being eligible to take a rabbit or pig to the fair has already passed. Please contact **Susana**, if you are interested, **893-0109**.

By ~ Susana Malcolm



Nature Corner

Be Bear Aware

Active bears spend much of their time foraging for food. A majority of the diet (90-95 percent) is comprised of berries, vegetation, insects and carrion. They forage for young tender plants in the spring, browse on berries in the summer and oak acorns in the late summer and fall, and feed on insects and carrion wherever available. Most black bears "hibernate" or sleep during the winter (usually not below 3000 feet). Unfortunately, like humans, bears also appear to relish "unnatural" sweet or greasy foods (e.g., bacon grease, melons, candy, soda, pet food, hummingbird food, etc.). If bears sense food in human backpacks, tents, cabins, garbage cans, vehicles, etc. and subsequently obtain food from these sources, they quickly learn or become "trained" to associate the situation or an object with getting food. In the future, even if food is not present, they may try to obtain food from these sources, having learned that they sometimes contain food. It can take many unsuccessful attempts and negative encounters to change a bear's behavior. People living or recreating in bear habitat may face problems with "trained" bears supplementing their natural diet with food easily obtained from ice chests, trash cans, cars, cabins, chicken coops, gardens, or pet food bowls.

A recently published California Fish and Game Department brochure, "Living with California

Black Bears," emphasizes "The best way to avoid conflict with bears is to prevent it." Often, incidents with bears are a result of human behavior. We can lessen the chances of conflict by following the simple guidelines discussed below when we are in bear habitat. Increasingly, counties and Forests in California and other states are establishing ordinances and rules to require bear "proof" trash and food storage containers to reduce human/bear conflicts.



The longer a bear remains in the vicinity of your home or campsite, the more likely a conflict will occur. Try to prevent a conflict by removing or deterring access to attractants (e.g., food, poultry and small livestock, fruits and melons, pet food, etc.). First, clean up residual trash, food, greasy barbecues and anything else causing odors that might tempt a bear. Use basic deterrents, including dogs, radios, house and porch lights (activate lights with motion detectors), moth balls or bowls of ammonia placed outside at doors and windows. Electric fences can be installed around chicken coops, beehives, livestock

pens, melon patches and fruit orchards. Always properly secure and store food, including pet and livestock food, e.g., grains. If you have a horse, manure should be frequently cleaned up as bears are known to eat the manure for the residual grain. If you have a cabin in the mountains and it is unoccupied at any time of year, remove all food and trash, clean food preparation areas and leave refrigerator and cabinet doors and drawers open.

Bears use their great strength and long curved front claws to catch an edge of an object and pry it open. They can pry open car doors, dumpster lids, cabin sidings, etc. Bears do not have an opposable "thumb," so they can't grasp an object with a single paw, as humans can grasp objects between the thumb and fingers. Therefore, bears can't unclip a hook or latch. "Bear proof" containers are made without exposed seams and are resistant to crushing or forcing open. "Bear resistant" containers were probably once called "bear proof," until this intelligent animal found an unconventional way to open them.

The Department's wardens and wildlife biologists will investigate serious damage complaints by conducting a field investigation. If damage is verified and determined to be caused by a black bear, the investigator will review what actions were taken to avoid the problem.

~Continued on next page

Misc Corner

Bunco Christmas Party

Date and time: *December 7th 6PM*

The Cohasset Bunco Babes would like to invite all interested Cohasset women to join us for their Annual Christmas Party! We will be having a finger-food potluck, play a few rounds of Bunco, and for anyone who would like to participate, a steal-the-gift exchange (\$20 max).

Bunco is a very simple dice game that can be learned in a matter of minutes. Counting and tallying are the only skills required. Our group meets once a month at member's homes and we are always looking for people would like to be on our substitute list.

It's great fun and we hope you can join us.

If you have any questions, please call **Amy at 891-8519**.

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Commodities Update

Steve Mingo received a generous donation from Chico's Grocery Outlet to help support the commodities distribution. This ad is being placed to show appreciation to them. Please visit our local Chico store 2157 Pillsbury Rd and buy some food!



~ *Continued from previous page*

If corrective actions were made to prevent reoccurrence and the bear chronically and persistently causes damage, the property owner can be issued, upon request, a permit from the Department to kill the bear.

It's important to note that although black bears rarely attack people, they are strong animals capable of causing injury to humans. If you actually encounter a bear, follow these suggestions:

- Do not approach the animal. Give it plenty of room to escape.
- Do not run from the bear. Instead stand, face the animal and make eye contact without staring. Pick up small children so that they don't run.
- If a bear approaches, make yourself appear larger and make noise by banging pots, pans, etc. Hard to do unless you carry a supply of pots and pans! Yelling works too.

The above recommendations to avoid conflicts with black bears are investments in the future,

and generally much easier and cheaper than the alternatives: damage, expensive repairs, a continuous mess, and a lingering large hungry black bear. Of course, if only some families in the neighborhood or campground practice these guidelines, problems may continue as other's can still be contributing to bad bear behavior by "training" bears to take advantage of an easily acquired food source. We all should work together to keep California's black bears wild and "out of trouble."

By ~ Bob Tate

Cohasset Community Association
Newsletter

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