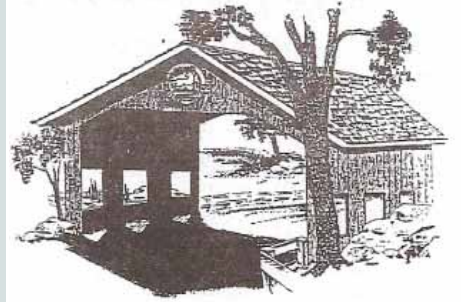


The Stallion Springs Bridge



April—May 2007

Issue No. 124

Build a bridge, not a barrier; make a friend, not a fuss; find a cause, not a controversy; be a cheerleader, not a critic; seek a solution, not a standoff

Public Hearings Set June 19, 2007

All property owners will have mailed to them notices in regard to the annual assessments and a proposed 3% increase in water, sewer and solid waste rates.

Please note that around the middle of April 2007 property owners (renters may wish to obtain this information from the District Office) will have information mailed to them that outlines the following information:

...The annual assessments for water, road and sewer are noticed as required by law. There is no increase in these assessments and it should be noted that the \$60 per year police assessment has been dropped.

...A Consumer Price Index increase of 3% for water, sewer and solid waste is proposed and future CPI annual increases will be presented as well.

For more detailed information please contact the General Manager at the District Office.

Community Swimming Pool

To Be Built In Stallion Springs

Thanks to the generous donation of Ken Harrison of AMA Homes, a community swimming pool is scheduled to be built in time for the July heat in Stallion Springs. The pool will be located next door to the gymnasium and will be part of the overall Community Center. The District is in need of Certified Life Guards to begin their duty the day the pool is open. High school students, this is a great summer job, you might want to look into getting certified.



Cummings Valley Proposed Annexation

A recent letter and post card sent to residents in Stallion Springs from the Cummings Valley Protective Association created some inquiries to both Directors and the General manager. Please note the following in regard to this important issue.

1. The Board of Directors will not take any action regarding the proposed annexation until Town Hall Meetings are held for questions, concerns and input from the residents.
2. The Board of Directors felt it prudent to possibly be involved in the decision making process of Cummings Valley and directed the General Manager to gather as many facts as possible prior to a Town Hall Meeting.
3. While all residents and property owners in Stallion Springs have the right to their opinion, the Board and General Manager desire to explore all possibilities, i.e. protection of water rights by owning land in Cummings Valley, Improved Wastewater Treatment Operations, the potential for better roads leaving Stallion Springs, and additional revenue for the District. Based on the gathering of such information, a balanced and informative discussion can take place with the community.
4. The Board of Directors will weigh heavily upon the voice of the majority of property owners in Stallion Springs on this very important matter.



Mark your calendars—September 1, 2007

The Stallion Springs Parks & Recreation Department is planning a Community Labor Day Picnic.

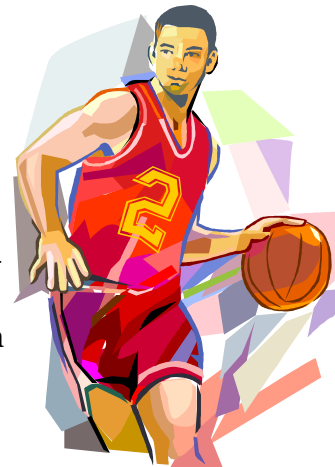
-INFORMATION & NOTES -

- ◆ The District office will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day.
- ◆ For emergency police, fire and medical calls dial 911 and specify to the dispatcher that you live in Stallion Springs. To reach the police for non emergency purposes you may call 822-3268 during normal business hours or 800-861-3110 for off business hours.
- ◆ For District emergencies off hours, such as a main line water break you may call 822-3268. Upon receiving the recording, press one and leave a message with the problem, your name and contact number and an on call district staff will be paged.
- ◆ House numbers need to be visible from the street
- ◆ Bulletin Boards at the mailbox sites are for the purpose of letting residents know what is going on or available in the community. Please post the information inside the board and not on the plastic. Please remove your notice after the date of the event. Thank you for your cooperation.
- ◆ Residents who utilize the solid waste site at the District office location risk a ticket if they are not placing in plain view the red circular decal for 2007. The decal is the only means that the District Police and staff can identify who has the right to use the site.
- ◆ The Board of Directors has directed that a committee be formed to review and recommend changes in the CC&R's. Interested individuals should contact the General Manager.
- ◆ The CC&R's are on our website at www.stallionspringscsd.com

PARK & RECREATION

Call for Volunteers and Teachers—As the Community Center construction progresses a full Park and Recreation program will be coming in April. The Park and Rec Department is looking for people who are interested in teaching a class, e.g. sewing, painting, jewelry making. The Park and Rec Department is also looking for volunteers to assist with recreation activities. If you are interested in either teaching a class or volunteering your time, please contact Lea Martinez at stallionspringsparks@yahoo.com or 822-3268.

In April, a Men's Recreational 3 on 3 Basketball will begin, Sat. mornings from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. We are looking for people to volunteer as scorekeepers. For more information, please contact Lea Martinez.



Ongoing Activities

- ◆ Exercise Class meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 am at the CSD
- ◆ Youth Group meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the Church
- ◆ CSD Board Meeting every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the CSD
- ◆ Stallion Quilters meet every 3rd Friday at 9:00 am at the CSD

March Activities

- ◆ Kid's Craft Saturday March 31st at 10:00 am at the CSD
- ◆ Trail Work Day Saturday March 31st at 9:00 am at Horse Thief Park
- ◆ If you didn't receive the new Activity Guide, stop by the CSD for all the latest information.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN STALLION SPRINGS

- ◆ **SPRING ACTIVITIES GUIDE**—This twelve page booklet has been delivered to all paper holders, located underneath active mail boxes. The guide outlines activities from all organizations including the Stallion Springs Park and Recreation Department for April, May and June. Lea Martinez, Stallion Springs Park and Recreation Coordinator welcomes input and questions in regard to the Guide.
- ◆ **GYMNASIUM/MULTIPURPOSE ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER**— The target date to open is April 2, 2007. A grand opening ceremony will take place at a date yet to be determined. Referencing the Spring Activities Guide will assist in determining the activities planned at this building.
- ◆ **COMANCHE NARRATIVE TRAIL**—In conjunction with a grant from the State that was awarded a number of years ago, it appears that by May 1, 2007 a fantastic hiking trail will be available off Comanche just west of Jacks Hill. The trail will have various markers designating the various features of the area we live in.
- ◆ **DONATIONS**—The District continues to solicit donations toward the gymnasium/multipurpose room. If you are interested:

\$25 to \$499...a plaque will be set up in the gym/multipurpose room hallway

\$500 to ???...a brick with an engraved inscription will be placed in the front courtyard.

Special specific donations toward trees, benches, and/or ground cover are also available. Please contact the General Manager for more details. In addition there is still the possibility of donating \$100,000 and having the gymnasium named per the donors choice. The Multipurpose Room has been named "The Corral".

STALLION SPRINGS TRAILS

By: Susan Wellington

January Trail Work Day was a real success. Eight workers met at Horse Thief Park with their shovels on a late January that was only threatening rain. We went to Deer Canyon with several tasks in mind. Heather Adams and her daughter Alyssa attacked an old rusty tee post that stuck up waiting to grab the foot of a horse or hiker. They dug and dug and dug and wiggled and wiggled the post. Meanwhile Ross Williams from Stallion Springs and Linda Wells from Bear Valley Springs headed down the canyon with a dolly and straps. They were after the fiber glass shower stall that had blown down in the wilderness canyon three years before. We gave it plenty of time to blow away again, but it never did.

Linda and Ross first had to move the big log that was across the trail before the trail became a part of the Stallion Springs Trails system. They got the six foot high, three sided stall positioned on the two wheeled hand cart. With coordinated pushing and pulling they got it up the 300 yards to where Heather and Alyssa were working. Sandy Young from Stallion Springs had returned with her jeep. She attached the jeep with a chain to the stubborn tee post. Those of us working up the canyon heard a loud cheer when

the tee post gave up the fight. That piece of tee post was threaded through the drain of the shower stall and the jeep lead the charge up to Spyglass Drive where the stall was loaded into a pickup for later disposal.

While all that activity was going on, Ralph Pusatari a Stallion Springs Trail Hero, Edith Frick from Hart Flat and myself worked on trail tread near the gully. Our shovels leveled a tricky area of cross slope and moved the tread back away from the edge of the gully. This part of the canyon is an area of extreme erosion and the gully then fills up with mustard stems when the winds blow. Even though the other workers joined us there is still more work to be done on the trail tread in Deer Canyon. We had coffee and cake in the canyon and then carried our tools up to the road feeling very proud of what we had accomplished for the wilderness Deer Canyon Trail.

This trail can be accessed from Spyglass Dr. north of Lucaya Dr. Look for Pipeline Trail signs. Or as part of a longer loop beginning at Horse Thief Park using Shoreline, Pipeline and Chanac Creek trails which will return you to the covered Bridge.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS—The February Trail Work Day was cancelled because the trails had a fresh covering of snow. March will provide a really wonderful opportunity for volunteers. Stallion Springs Park and Recreation Department will be developing the Comanche Point Interpretive Trail at the end of March. Since the installation of a safety fence, signs and benches will depend on the arrival of the materials, I cannot say for sure what will be done on any given day but there will be many varied jobs to be done between March 24 and March 31. Cutting lumber, transporting it to the site, digging post holes, screwing in lag bolts, installing the benches and sign post will all be ready for helpers. Since these projects can be scheduled over several days, I hope you will find time to help. I will leave a sign-up sheet at the CSD office.

MAIL THEFT IN STALLION SPRINGS



If you have been spared the agony and terror of having your mail stolen, don't feel lucky just yet. It is the opinion of our police department that "it is not a matter of **if** you will be robbed, but rather of **when**."

The mail theft problem here in Stallion Springs is also happening in other communities around the Tehachapi area that have the same open mail box system. It is an accurate assumption that mail theft will occur again.

Here are some comments from individuals that have experienced mail theft first hand:

Mary Utley: "I work from home and receive payment for my services via the USPS. It took nearly two months for me to realize that checks had been stolen from my mail box and then have them replaced. I can't even imagine how long this process would have taken if one of these checks had been cashed. One check was an unexpected payment and had the police not notified me, I would have never been aware of this check. On top of those problems, because I simply did not know exactly what mail was stolen, all my accounts had to be notified. All my credit cards had to be cancelled and reissued. My bank had to be notified. Because the holidays fell during the time of the theft, calls had to be made to friends and relatives to make sure cards with cash/checks and presents had not gone missing. It took several days to make all these calls. I guess I feel fortunate that no identity theft was involved. I checked into opening a post office box and will probably go that route because this experience has been a nightmare."

Lori Morales: "I didn't realize there was a problem until I was notified by the Stallion Springs CSD via a water bill late notice. I have always paid on the first notice received, so I was surprised to receive that pink post card. I was able to take care of my payment immediately with no water interruption. I hate to think of the extra costs and water flow ramifications had the timing been different. Several years ago I had mail stolen and a check was involved. We were completely in the dark until the individual who sent the check was notified by the police. Apparently the envelope had been tossed and the only lead was the un-cashed check. I find this situation so threatening. I looked into credit card alert and the cost averages \$10.00 a month per account. How much is my credit worth? We've worked all our life to be considered reputable people. However, I think the money I spend to protect my name is better spent in a secure mail delivery system."

When you think of mail theft, you have to think big. When your mail box is opened by a thief, everything is stolen. Letters from your mother, pictures of your grandchild, invoices from your creditors, checks from an employer, your favorite catalogue and those never ending credit card offers. Do you shred that kind of mail? Most people do because of the danger of someone using personal information unlawfully. That information is being randomly taken from our mail boxes.

Kevin Paille: "Several Christmas packages were stolen from our family that had been placed in the oversized package box. Because I am with the Police Department, I am aware that several mail theft reports were filed. There have been 2 arrests of individuals out of Bakersfield and 6 or 7 from the Tehachapi area, all involved in mail theft. Several local children have been interviewed and those investigations are still pending. This problem is growing and I can easily imagine that, sooner or later, everyone could be a victim of mail theft in Stallion Springs."

Jerry Kaszyk: "I can't believe, in this day and age, we don't have secure mail delivery. Stolen from me were Christmas cards, my mother's annual fruit cake, bank statements, and invoices. I became terrified of identity theft because we hear so much about that and the serious ramifications. The thief didn't know the value of some retirement papers he stole, but here we are in the first week of March and I am still trying to get those forms re-issued. Worse than anything was we didn't know for several weeks of the theft and even today, we don't know exactly what was stolen. I had been expecting a report and after several weeks, realized it probably had been stolen and had to call to request a duplicate. Sure enough they had sent it out and it needed to be resent. It is so eerie because you never really know everything that was taken from you. I looked into renting a post office box. The cost for a 6" x 6" box is \$80.00 a year. That would be a cost I would have to incur every year for as long as I lived in Stallion Springs."

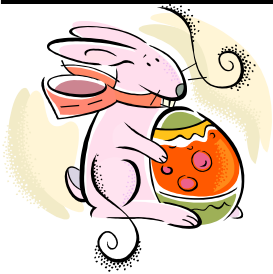
Individuals interested in stealing your mail and identity have found Stallion Springs. Our mail boxes are conveniently located in nice neat rows and as we know, open to anyone. Thieves drive into our community at 1:30 a.m. and go to our mail boxes, open one after the other, and take everything inside. They can efficiently empty an entire bank of mail boxes in a couple of minutes.

This problem is of concern to your General Manager and Board of Directors as well as every resident in Stallion Springs. Please complete the attached questionnaire and drop it off at the District Office. Your input will provide the community leaders information needed to make the best possible decision.

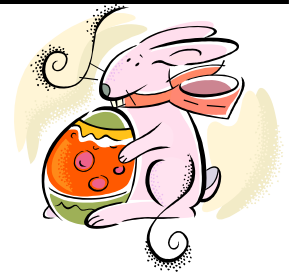
TREES FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER



Recently the CSD was approached by a member of the golf community regarding making a donation for tree(s) at the Community Center. Conrad Bineau, a member of the Horse Thief Men's Club passed away on December 6th and members of both the Men's and Women's Golf Clubs donated money to have a tree planted in his yard (on the 6th fairway) in his memory. After discussions with his family it was decided that they would rather see the tree(s) planted at the Community Center for everyone to enjoy. Consequently, the CSD received a check for \$570.00 to plant two trees at the Center. After the trees are planted, a memorial bench will be installed in memory of both Conrad Bineau and David Theriault, courtesy of members of the aforementioned golf associations.



DONATIONS NEEDED FOR PAL EASTER EGG HUNT



PAL is in need of either cash, or in kind (plastic Easter Eggs/wrapped candy) donations for the Annual Stallion Springs PAL Easter Egg Hunt at Man O' War Park on Saturday, April 7th.

The Annual Hunt is open to every child residing in Stallion Springs. The Hunt begins at 10: 00 am. If you can help, please contact Danette Hipp @ 822-3560 or simply drop off your donations at the CSD Office.



"Thanks to all of the residents for offering used gym equipment, but due to liability reasons we cannot accept them."

How's your credit?

Did you know that you are entitled to a free annual check of your personal credit records? For information, go to: www.annualcreditreport.com and follow the instructions. You are allowed a free credit check from each of the following: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian.

You may get all three reports at the same time or spaced out during the year, however, you may make only one request of each company every 12 months. The credit report is free but there is a nominal charge to receive your credit score.

Everyone should check at least one report annually.

You may find you have open credit cards that you thought had been cancelled long ago. Having available credit on cards you no longer have in your possession could make you very uncomfortable.

If you would like to rid yourself of unsolicited offers of credit cards, call 1-888-5OPTOUT. It works.

SSPOA MEETING REMINDERS

April 26, 2007

FOTO

FRIENDS OF THE OAKS

6:30—POTLUCK

7:00—MEETING

May 24, 2007

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

BRING YOUR WHITE ELEPHANT AND JOIN THE FUN

6:30—POTLUCK

7:00—MEETING



STALLION SPRINGS
COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT
28500 STALLION SPRINGS DRIVE
TEHACHAPI CA 93561

Delivered
by the
Community
Services
District

Delivered to:

All Stallion Springs Residents

Community Services District Board of Directors Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting held February 20, 2007

...The Weed Abatement Mowing Resolution was approved for 2007

...Policy 3100 was approved in regard to Cross Connection Control

...Discussion and approval in regard to the development of the Comanche Narrative Trail and the purchase of a bathroom benches, fencing and other items needed to finish the Trail Head.

ANNOUNCEMENT
SAVE YOUR GREEN WASTE
CHIPPER DAYS
SATURDAY, MAY 19TH
SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD
8:00 AM UNTIL 12:00 NOON

WE WANT TO KNOW

The Board of Directors and the General Manager are aware of the lack of security in regard to the rural mailboxes currently in place in Stallion Springs. The USPS has been contacted regarding the installation of USPS approved lock mail boxes. The USPS will not fund this improvement. The cost for this improvement is estimated at \$400,000. Please complete the below questionnaire and drop off at the CSD office.

Has mail gone missing from your mail box? If yes, will you provide some brief details?

1. As a resident of Stallion Springs, would you be willing to pay a one-time only fee of \$250.00 to fund USPS approved lock mail boxes in Stallion Springs? YES _____ NO _____
2. Do you feel secure with the current mail box system? YES _____ NO _____
3. Were you aware of the mail theft problems? YES _____ NO _____
4. You do not have to identify yourself, but it will help to verify residency.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Comments: _____

GYMNASIUM/MULTIPURPOSE ROOM QUESTIONNAIRE

The gym/multipurpose room was designed to have an exercise room. The room lost some of its original size due to Kern County Building requiring additional plumbing fixtures, causing the bathrooms to be larger than originally specified and therefore causing a loss in the exercise room space. The District could spend \$50,000 to \$100,000 on a limited number of pieces of cardio and gymnasium equipment. Please let us know what you think.

- A. Would you use a **limited*** exercise room? YES _____ NO _____
- B. Would you pay \$100—\$200 per YEAR to use the exercise room? YES _____ NO _____
- C. Should the room have 24 hour access? YES _____ NO _____

***Limited means a treadmill, cycle, stepper, possibly a multi-use piece of exercise equipment for arms, legs, etc. and a bench press with some free weights.**