

Riviera-West News



Issue 35

OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

FRIDAY,

March 20, 2009

PROPERTY OWNERS

@ 5 PM

WATER COMPANY

@ 6 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

Property Owners:

President.: Nona Krause

V-Pres.: Matt Snodgrass

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Karl Hoenke

Director: Doug Bridges

Water Company:

President.: Jim Snodgrass

V-Pres.: Dave Worswick

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Jan Worswick

Director: Barb Curtis

Administration Office

8475 Harbor View Dr.

707.279.8544

Monday - Friday

9 AM - 1 PM

Katy English

www.rivierawest.org

March 2009

WELCOME SPRING

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party!"..... Robin Williams

Spring is near and the world around us is awakening from its slumber. It's the time of year when every woman takes a look around her home and says, "Where did all this stuff come from?" It is time for SPRING CLEANING. If you have ever tried removing clutter from your home, you realize what a daunting task this can be. Haphazardly, we walk through our homes searching for stuff we don't need. Strangely enough, each item takes on a new purpose in our lives. Well, now is the time to give clutter a life far from yours. Good Housekeeping suggests the four box method. Trash, Give Away, Storage, Put Away. As you work room by room place items in the appropriate box.

Things to remember :

* Items are not equivalent to memories of the person who gave them to you. If you really feel a need to keep items of this nature, don't fight it. Instead, try to incorporate these memories into decorative displays.

* Get rid of old clothing. Even if it is the size you used to be and hope to return to. Instead, reward yourself with a new wardrobe once you reach your goal.

* Don't force yourself to keep sets if you only use part of the set. If you can't break the set, consider storing the parts you don't use.

* Keeping things just because you might need them some day, may seem like a good reason for clogging your closet. Remind yourself that what you really need is space and organization.

So, now your trash is gone. Your storage is packed away. Every item you've decided to keep is in its proper place. You've given away or sold everything else. Take a moment to look around. You have just taken a major step to organize your life and free up time and space. So get out there and start enjoying all the amenities our exquisite area has to offer.

Nona Krause

Riviera West Property Owner's Association



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Hello All,

The Water Board wishes to thank all who were involved in the "worm" cleaning project. It has been completed, after encountering several difficulties that extended the project considerably beyond its original anticipated time frame. Residents conserved water so well that the stored water lasted five days. An additional underwater backflow valve was needed to be installed due to the level of the lake. The weather added difficulty to the project but it is completed and we hope to be fortunate enough to soon add to the level of the lake. There is, currently, ongoing routine maintenance work to be completed around the plant and it is being scheduled. The issue with the water agency complaint is on-going. The process of information-gathering is continuing and it will probably be April before the next scheduled meeting of all of the principals.

The current economic situation has raised the possibility of some economic stimulus funds being made available to us, in the form of low interest loans and grants. This information was given to us by the State and, although there are many steps to follow, all possibilities need to be investigated. The Board thanks those who have offered their expertise and time to work on the issues we are facing and we are all looking forward to resolution of these matters.

Thank you,
Jim Snodgrass, President
Riviera-West Water Board



Riviera-West

Ladies' Club News

The Ladies' Club welcomes the Riviera West Community to the

Ladies Club

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
March 14, 2009
for corned beef and cabbage

For more information contact
Vivian Moen at 279-4511

Ladies' Club Meeting March
11 @ 1:00pm

Exercise in the Clubhouse
Mondays, Wednesdays and
Fridays at 9:00 AM

Contact Jan Wilson at
279-0490 or Betty Helf at
279-2003 for more
information.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

We are in the process of applying for grant and/or loan money again from State and Federal sources to fund our Water Plant upgrade. The State would like to conduct another survey to see if we would qualify as a "disadvantaged community". If our median income is below a certain threshold, we will be eligible for grant money. Therefore, please be aware that you will be receiving a letter inquiring as to your income level. This is VERY IMPORTANT to the community and we need you to **please** respond to the survey. Thank you.



We are adding a 'Community Service For Hire' page into our newsletter. If you would like to advertise your service, please contact the office.



Please visit our website, to self-subscribe to receive the most current news and updates for Riviera-West at: www.rivierawest.org

Riviera West documents, such as the Rules and Regulations, can be found under the 'Documents' tab. Or, if you prefer, you may pick these up at the office.

FIRST HOMESTEAD ON MOUNT KONOCTI

By: Betty Helf

A century ago, the first homestead on Mount Konocti was the work of a woman. From an earlier account of Lake County history provided by the Lake County Museum:

Mrs. Mary R. Downen, mother of Mrs. Euvelle Howard, was the trail blazer for the family. She might well serve as a model for the fearless American woman who played a star role in the winning of the West.

She was of the pioneer breed without fear of solitude and the denizens of the wilds. Instead she loved them.

Once Mrs. Downen saw the stately old Maul Oaks between the peaks of the mountain she knew that was to be her home. She established residence in 1903 and, with the help of the family, built a road from the end of the crude road which had been started by M. O. Morford in 1878 to the homesteader's cabin in the saddle of Konocti.

The first year all water had to be hauled up the mountain but as soon as the rain set in, the water from the roof was run into barrels and tanks. In time a cistern was substituted.

A family apple orchard was planted near the cabin and it, together with a fine garden, was fenced for deer. The garden grew very well and the flavor, especially of sweet corn, was excellent.

Mrs. Downen lived alone a great deal of her time on Mount Konocti while her daughter and family lived in Lakeport. Although there were no telephones the family worked out quite a system of communication to let each other know that all was well. At 2 o'clock each afternoon, if the sun shone, they would take a mirror and flash the sunlight, one to the other.

Over the years other members of the Howard family took up other homesteads adjoining and in time the daughter, her children and grandchildren lived there.

For years it was a daily chore for someone to take the children to and from Kelseyville to attend school.

The holdings of the Howard family have been sold and no one lives there. Members of the Howard family have all left, all but one. Euvelle Howard loved the mountain and it was his desire that when his time came he be buried near the top. His wish was granted and about 200 yards south of the original cabin of Mrs. Downen is a grave with the words chiseled in a large boulder.

"Euvell Howard, 1867-1941"

During the summer months the upper elevation of Mount Konocti, which is privately owned, is open for guided hikes. The hiking tour starts at the CDF gate (four miles up Konocti Road from Kelseyville), and is a strenuous three miles to the top. Mrs. Downen's two-room cabin has seen better days and the present owners would like to restore it as a rest stop for hikers. For reservations and more information, call Lake County Parks Division, 972-1990.

