



The Big Trees Village Voice

Fall 2007 Edition

*"a newsletter for
all the property owners
in Big Trees Village"*



Information about this Fall, 2007, Edition of the BTVV Newsletter

The Big Trees Village Voice (BTVV) is an informational newsletter for all property owners in Big Trees Village. In the past, the Association mailed its newsletter, called the Big Trees Village Bark, only to Association members. This newsletter contained the financial reports and other information the State of California mandates be sent by homeowners associations to their members. It also contained other articles of interest about Big Trees Village. There are property owners in Big Trees Village who have chosen not to pay the Association dues in a particular year who may still be interested in the financial reports of the Association and articles of interest about our community. At its last meeting, the Association Board voted to begin distributing the newsletter to all 1,949 property owners in Big Trees Village on a quarterly basis. The Board hopes that property owners find this newsletter informative.

Useful Local Websites

www.bigtreestech.com is a very useful website with local weather including a live web cam, a calendar of local events, and an forum where Big Trees Village property owners discuss a wide range of issues.

www.bigtreesvillage.org is the official website of our Big Trees Village Property Owners Association.

"Meet the Board"

This is the first in a series of brief profiles of members of the board of the Big Trees Village Property Owners Association. The "Voice" is asking each board member to prepare a brief article. This first one is from Bob Irelan.

The first time we saw Big Trees Village, we fell in love with it. That was nearly 34 years ago. We bought our lot, began construction in 1974, and – by early 1975 -- were enjoying our cozy cabin. Building our vacation home in Big Trees was probably the best family decision we ever made. Wherever we moved around the country, the cabin was a constant; it was "home." Our children and grandchildren learned to swim at the Big Trees recreation center, and they learned to ski and snowboard at Mt. Reba/Bear Valley. Now that we are retired and back in California, "Grandma Barbara" and I spend about 60 days a year at the cabin, often with family or friends. And each time we are here, we are reminded of what this place means to us.

After many years of enjoying the unique beauty and amenities of Big Trees Village, I am proud to be on the board and try to give back at least a fraction of what Big Trees has given us over the years.

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**Annual Big Trees Community
Tree Lighting Celebration
Saturday, November 24th**

The communities of Dorrington and Camp Connell will be holding their Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on Saturday, November 24th, at 5:00 pm. Kick off the Holiday Season with an old fashion town gathering starting with a Pre-Party at the Camp Connell General Store which gives way to Christmas Caroling from the store to the Dorrington Hotel where the main event will be the ritual lighting of an 85 foot tall Giant Redwood "Christmas" Tree. Horse drawn carriage rides; hot chocolate, cider, cookies galore and music will be part of the event, which is being hosted by five local Dorrington/Camp Connell businesses.

A special appearance by Santa arriving on his favorite sleigh (a fire truck) will allow children to give Santa their wish list for this Holiday Season while they also enjoy having their picture taken on Santa's lap. Children also receive candy canes, balloons and other goodies during their visit with Santa. This has been an annual event for over fifteen years and is always well attended by adults and children alike.

Association Membership Information

The annual dues for membership in Big Trees Village property owners Association are \$80. With this fee, the Board and Manager provide year round professional management. Each year the Manager answers thousands of questions from Association members about local services and local government agencies and resources. The Board reviews design plans for new construction. The Manager regularly patrols the roads of Big Trees Village and reports unusual findings to home owners, or as needed to appropriate agencies. The Manager Ward Redman may be reached at (209) 795-1971.

There is an additional cost for the use of the Recreation Center in the summer.

Big Trees Village Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Big Trees Village Board of Directors will be Saturday, January 19th, at 9 am at the Association Office, 1211 Sierra Parkway in Big Trees Village. Contact information for Board members is at: www.bigtreesvillage.org/boardofdirectors.html

**Ebbetts Pass Property Owners Council (EPPOC)
Report**

There are fourteen homeowners associations between Forest Meadows and Big Trees Village along Highway 4. Twenty two years ago, a nonprofit organization was founded to provide a forum for the fourteen associations to gather to discuss their common interests. Each of the fourteen homeowners associations sends a representative to the Ebbetts Pass Property Owners Council (EPPOC). There is always an invited speaker, either from Calaveras County government or a private organization that directly affects our quality of life in the Highway 4 corridor and the natural beauty of our area. Speakers have been from the the County Planning Department, the Building Department, Ebbetts Pass Fire Department, Water Department, Sheriff Department's Animal Services, Sierra Logging Museum in White Pines, Cal Fire (formerly California Department of Forestry) among many others. The Calaveras County Supervisor for District 3 (Ebbetts Pass Corridor) regularly attends this meeting and gives a report and answers questions, as does our Calaveras County Water Department representative.

The public is encouraged to attend the meetings on the first Wednesday morning of each month at 9:30 am at the new fire house on Blagen Road in Arnold. Those interested in regularly receiving the EPPOC agendas and meeting minutes may call the Big Trees Village Association Office at (209) 795-1971 with your email address.

Unit 1 Survey

As mentioned in the last issue of the Village Voice, a survey is being mailed to all property owners in Unit 1. There is the first Unit in which CC&Rs will expire, and the Board wishes to learn their views on the future of Big Trees Village.

Newsletter Editor Information

Please direct communications regarding this newsletter to editor Steve Lauterbach by email: bigtreesvillagevoice@bigtreesvillage.org You may also contact Steve at the Association Office (209) 795-1971. Leave a phone number at which he may call you.