

# The Treetop Times

The Newsletter of the Arnold Lilac Park Homeowners Association -- Spring 2014 issue

As we begin 2014 with California in a severe drought, and the memories of the Rim Fire so close to home, let's get ready for the annual lot clean-up. As Cal-Fire reminds us, 100 ft clearance is a YEAR-ROUND requirement. True, inspection dates are May 31 and June 21, yet we have an abundance of "fuels" now. We encourage you to start the "clean-up" as soon as possible. The goal is always to reduce fire hazards, or fuels that can easily turn a small fire into a raging fire storm, destroying properties, land, animal habitats, and even lives.

In 2013, Lilac Park homeowners made a significant difference in making Lilac Park fire safe. Besides the VIP Inspections, PG&E's tree limb cutting efforts, and Calaveras County's Public Works Dept, we have reduced the amount of "fuel" – dry leaves, pine needles, dry/dead shrubs, limbs, and trees. We even thinned excess growth as a means to reduce fire danger, and promote a healthier forest system.

Did everyone cooperate? Sadly, no. We still have a few hold-outs. Plus, with the undeveloped lot's, we still have a number of "uncleared" or "non-compliant" lots. (Reminder: undeveloped lots fall under the jurisdiction of Ebbetts Pass Fire. The VIP's, Cal-Fire, and Ebbetts Pass Fire, will continue to work with homeowners in 2014. We urge you to remove dead trees and branches. The excessive dry fuel concerns us all.

Burn permissible days have been few and far between due to the dry weather, but you can always haul your materials to either Miller's in Avery, Hwy 4, or the "Transfer Station" on Red Hill Rd.

For those homeowners' who rent their cabins/homes, please share this information with your renters. Note: if your lot is found to be non-compliant you, the homeowner, will be held responsible, not the renter. This also applies if you use a "cleaning service." They must follow the requirements of PRC 4291. Failure to do so falls on the homeowner, not the service provider.

ALPHA PO Box 722, Arnold CA 95223

Phone 209.795.3807

<http://www.arnoldlilacparkhoa.org>



Upcoming Events for 2014

Pool opens – Saturday, June 7, 2014 (hopefully)  
July 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ – Saturday, July 5, 2014  
Wine Night – Saturday, August 9, 2014  
Annual Meeting and Pot Luck – Sunday, August 31, 2014  
Last pool day – Monday, September 1, 2014

Helicopter Medical  
Emergency Insurance

Did you know that for as little as \$100 A YEAR, you can purchase Helicopter Medical Emergency Insurance for your family?

[www.calstar.org](http://www.calstar.org) – California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (Calstar) is a nonprofit air rescue ambulance service. Its mission is to save lives, reduce disability and speed recovery for victims of trauma and illness through rapid transport and quality medical care.

[www.PHICARES.com](http://www.PHICARES.com) – a national Air Ambulance membership program that ensures safe, expedient, and lifesaving care for its patients.

Before you find yourself, or a member of your family, facing a critical medical emergency, check into these programs.

Calaveras Volunteer  
Center

If you, or a member of your family, is no longer able to drive due to illness or aging, and need help getting to doctor’s appointments, or grocery shopping, Call 209-765-1699 for assistance.

Or, if you are looking for an opportunity to help out in your community, you may consider becoming a volunteer.

Lilac Park Homeowners  
have their own,

PRIVATE Facebook page. With only 36 members at this time, consider joining our little group for quick weather updates and news around Arnold & the Ebbetts Pass Corridor. We welcome more members. You can find a link of our website:

[www.arnoldlilacparkhoa.org](http://www.arnoldlilacparkhoa.org).

For easy access to local Calaveras County news, use the links provided on our website. From our homepage, scroll down and you’ll see links on the right hand side: [www.thepinetree.net](http://www.thepinetree.net) is a favorite, with local news, fire updates, upcoming events, and weather reports. We encourage you to check all the “news” links and choose your favorites.

Also, check out our links to “Local Recreation” -- from the RIM Trail to Lake Alpine.



Bark Beetle

For more information on this pest, go to “Our Property” tab on our website for details,

information, pictures, and links. The Bark Beetle is a pest that can quickly take over a tree and destroy it within months.

**How to Prevent Bark Beetle:**

1. Thinning trees is the best long-term solution to increase tree health and vigor and reduce the likelihood of bark beetle attacks.
2. Always clean up any downed trees and slash to avoid creating habitat for beetle development.
3. Avoid causing injury to trees, and REMOVE all trees that are currently infested.

(Taken from "Forest Health Protection – California, June 2009)

**Annual Assessments Due by April 30, 2014**

For developed lots: \$148  
For undeveloped lots: \$102

Payments made after April 30, will be assessed a 10% penalty, plus a 1% billing fees each month until payments is made.

After September 1, 2015, homeowners who are still past-due, will be turned over to a collection company.

**New Sherriff**

We have a new Resident Sheriff -- Kyle Johnson. Sheriff Johnson will patrol from Murphy's to Bear Valley. His goal is lowering crime and increasing safety for residents along the Ebbetts Pass Corridor. For non-emergency calls, you can contact Sheriff Johnson at 209-754-6500.

What is EPPOC?

EPPOC stands for Ebbetts Pass Property Owners Council. An organization whose purpose is to promote the interests of residential property owners in the Ebbetts Pass area. Representatives for all the HOA's in the area (including ALPHA), meet once a month to obtain, disseminate, and provide information and assistance on such issues as: current laws and regulations related to HOA's; discuss/review policy issues, local, state, federal laws, that may affect the beauty, quality of life, and property values in this area. EPPOC is not a political body and does not support or lobby for candidates, or state and local ballot initiatives.

ALPHA Board of Directors

President: Ahna Brown

Vice President:  
Mike Willemsen

Secretary:  
Jeff Lindvald

Treasurer:  
Ashley Brown

Directors:  
Karen & Mark Nelson

Directors:  
Manon Berning

There are TWO open director positions. If you wish to join the Board, please contact Ahna Brown at: 209. 795.3807

Dollar General Update:

ALPHA is doing everything it can to have the "Dollar General" store built in a different location in Arnold, instead of at the entrance to Lilac Park on Hwy 4 and Lilac Dr, but ALPHA doesn't know if it will be successful.