

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting Friday, May 9th

Gerry Davis, agronomist for Grimmway Farms, will talk about their plans for the season, what kinds of produce they will grow, how they farm organically and – we hope - that the organic produce shed will be open again this year.

The meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. in the multipurpose room of the Stallion Springs Community Center.

Annual Meeting – Thursday, June 5

Election of officers and video/DVD entertainment in the old Stallion Springs CSD meeting room. Coffee and desserts.

Bus Tour – July 19

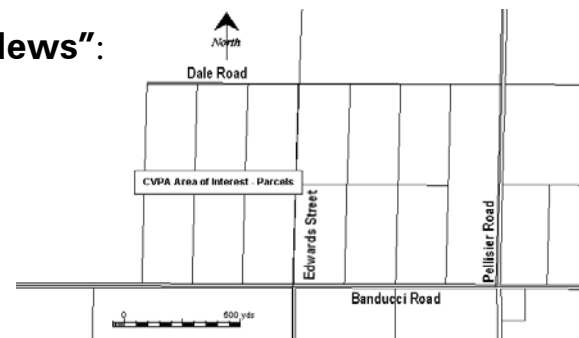
Save the date! We expect to have details out in an early June newsletter.

September Barbecue – Saturday, September 20

Save the date. Details later.

Location of "Other Ag News":

(from page 2)



PRISON EXPANSION

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is planning to build a new unit at CCI to house 2200 more inmates and add 830 new employees. This and the expansion of three other prisons in Kern County is part of their response to AB 900 which requires elimination of overcrowding in California's prison system.

There are many reasons why this should not be allowed to happen, including insecure water supplies, increased traffic, impact on schools and other infrastructure. It appears to be in conflict with AB 32, which mandates reductions in air pollution. Visits by inmate families and friends who are most likely from Los Angeles and other large metropolitan areas would entail long trips. New prison staff living in Bakersfield or Lancaster would have long commutes. Also deliveries of more food fuel and other supplies by polluting diesel trucks would add pollution. We have asked our law firm in San Francisco for a cost estimate to examine the possibility of a legal challenge.

CVPA and other organizations plan to make a major appearance at a meeting to be held on May 5th by CDCR in the City. We need to let them know that another expansion is not welcome, and that they should do it closer to the source of criminal activities.

Please plan to attend! If we can get several hundred to come, the meeting will be moved from the Veterans Hall to the High School. Call 822-1887 or 822-3478 to let us know if you will attend.

MAKE THE COMMITMENT – May 5th, 6:00 PM!

The Meadows at Cummings Valley

We believe there is good news regarding this proposed project. County Planning Department understands the Dick Considine of Superior Sod "has dropped out", and the Rogers of Pacific Sod are "reconsidering their position".

Our current understanding is that Superior Sod has leased 245 acres of their land to CSS Farms of Bakersfield for 3 years with possible extensions. CSS has installed three expensive pivot point rotary sprinklers to grow potatoes, onions and possibly peppers. Superior has installed one rotary sprinkler for continued sod farming. We are sending a letter to CSS Farms welcoming them to the Valley.

Tehachapi, CA 93581
P.O. Box 1020



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Pacific Sod is planting 240 of their acres in alfalfa, which is normally a fairly long term farming venture.

Other Ag News

A farming company from Salinas bought 120 acres in Cummings Valley ostensibly to grow hydroponic lettuce in greenhouse facilities. The property is bounded on the east by Edward St. and on the north by Dale St. (see map, last page)

Holly Brooke Ranch – Good News

The main ranch property of the late Jack Palance has been purchased by Mark and Jesse Milano of Bear valley Springs, who plan to maintain it as a cattle ranch. They bought the cattle herd as part of the deal. This is a wonderful outcome of a worrisome concern about what would become of the ranch. The 186-acre parcel south of Banducci Rd. next to Stallion Springs is being sold separately, we understand.

CVPA VISION FUND APPROVED APRIL 22 (EARTH DAY)

In furtherance of its mission, working to preserve our rural quality of life, the Cummings Valley Protective Association established a working Vision Committee. The Committee is developing the basis for promoting land uses that preserve agriculture and open space.

A key finding so far is that development of the Valley as an attractive tourist and visitor destination could achieve preservation goals while bringing economic opportunities and benefits to local landowners, the Greater Tehachapi Area and Kern County. Vineyards with wine tasting, ostrich and animal farms, horse rescue and retirement facilities, local produce stands amenities in Stallion Springs and other attractions could be the beginning. Bed and breakfast establishments, an upscale restaurant, limousine tours and other attractions might follow. The Vision Committee sees coordination with and support of other organizations such as The Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce, Taste of Tehachapi, Main Street Tehachapi, and the Antelope Valley Wine Growers Association as important to tourism development.

To turn the vision into reality will require funding. Money will be needed for developing and printing promotional information and brochures, advertising in papers and magazines, improvement and maintenance of unpaved roads to some attractions, and tasteful directional signs.

Immediate needs are to assist owners with road improvements to Souza Family Vineyard and wine tasting room due to open July 1, or earlier, and Pegasus Road to the horse rescue and retirement facilities in west Cummings Valley. Existing road conditions present an unacceptably negative experience to visitors. Discussions with County Roads Department indicate that no help from that quarter will be forthcoming. We expect that the owners of facilities served by these roads will be the primary contributors, but there will be a benefit to CVPA in furthering its goals and having reasonable access for the bus tours. Developing promotional materials may also be an early funding need.

Tax deductible contributions to the CVPA VISION FUND are now being solicited from CVPA members and other sources. Donors will receive an acknowledgment of the donation and verification of the tax deductibility. Checks should be made out to CVPA, and Vision Fund noted on the check.

Please help kick off what may be the best ultimate protection of Cummings Valley by using the donation form to make your most generous contribution. And wouldn't it be nice to have more fun attractions for your visiting family members and friends?

Vision Fund Contribution Form

I/We wish to contribute to the Cummings Valley Protective Association Vision Fund. Donations will be acknowledged by letter receipt as required by the IRS as proof of the donation indicating the potential tax deductibility of the amount donated. I will mail this form with check noted "for Vision Fund" to:

CVPA
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020

Donation level: Check one please

\$100

\$500

\$1,000

Other \$ _____

Please print name(s) & address clearly for receipt.,

or apply appropriate return address label.

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.

Membership Application - July 1 through June 30

Name(s) _____

Local Address _____ Phone () _____

Mail Address _____ Phone () _____
(If not same as local)

Check Appropriate Area

<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls	<input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs	<input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi
<input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/> ? _____

e-mail addr: _____

Annual dues are \$12 per family.
Please check one:

One year \$12 Two years \$24 Three years \$36

Mail with payment to:
Cummings Valley Protective Association
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020