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West Point Project Makes Steady Progress

By Dennis Dickman

Progress is being made on the division of Habitat's property in West Point. The 0.8 acre parcel is planned to be subdivided into three lots for Habitat houses. The property was purchased with funding assistance from the County's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Various consultants have assisted in the project to date. Ward & Associates did a site survey. The tentative parcel map was prepared by Sierra Engineering.

Since the property is located within a high sensitivity archaeology area, Foothill Resources conducted a survey but did not find anything of archeological significance.

Access to the property will be from State Highway 26. Bob Leitzell, PE will be completing the CALTRANS Encroachment Permit Application.

Habitat is hopeful that approval of the tentative map and rezoning by the County will be completed in time for construction of houses in 2010 and 2011.

President's Message

Our Habitat warehouse is such a great place and the public seem to be enthralled with it. We do need donations continually to keep it up and running with new and interesting items to sell.

We want this to be a viable fundraiser for Habitat so please try to help us by donating any of your unwanted building supplies, appliances or furniture. Tell your friends and neighbors about us too.

LOWES and CALAVERAS LUMBER have been very generous to us and we want to thank them for their donations.

Pay us a visit, we are on California Street in San Andreas, next to Brawner Automotive and Herd's Welding Shop. We would love to show you what we are up to now!

Lucy Thein, President

June & July Calendar

June

1	1 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting Lucy Thein's Home
6	9–5 HFHC	HfHC Warehouse
13	10 a.m.	Regular Board Meeting Senior Center, San Andreas
20	9 – 5 p.m.	HfHC Warehouse Sales Day
29	1 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting Lucy Thein's Home

July

4	9 – 5 p.m.	HfHC Warehouse Sales Day
8	6–8 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting Utica Park, Angels Camp
18	9 – 5 p.m.	HfHC Warehouse Sales Day
27	1 p.m.	Executive Committee Lucy Thein's Home

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Women Build, Beautifully

By Kathy Heffernan

Habitat for Humanity Calaveras was one of 175 Habitat affiliates across the United States and one of five in California to be selected to participate in the second national Women Build Day May 2. Lowe's, the underwriter of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, is awarding a gift card of \$5,000 to each Habitat affiliate that completes the requirements for the National Women Build Week.

May 2 started off dreary in Valley Springs, with rain off and on during most of the day. Luckily the interior of the Burns Family house was the work place on what the group turned into a beautiful day. The day's project consisted of framing doors and closets and installing base boards.

Almost all the women in attendance had participated in a How-To Workshop at Lowe's Martell on April 25 to learn the techniques for cutting and installing frames and base boards. Becky McKenna from Lowe's was the instructor.

Becky and Lowe's Store Manager Randy Vipond stopped by, as did Krissi Krob, city editor for the *Calaveras Enterprise*. Frank Meyer, Administrative Manager of HfHC, was our official photographer.

Participating at the build day were: Patty and TJ Burns, future owners of the Habitat house, Shirley Clemson, Volunteer Coordinator Kathy Heffernan, Penny Johnson, Rosemary Mitchell, HfHC Board member Beth Paich, Habitat home owner Teresa Renfro, Pam Somer, and Barbara Vahle. Seth Turoonian, Construction Site Manager and Dave DeSchryver, Construction Coordinator, were also on-hand for on-the-job training.

"Lowe's Martell was pleased to be part of the Calaveras County project," said Vipond. "Being asked to hold a clinic allows us to do a small part by providing some training for the women involved in the build. Lowe's ongoing national commitment to Habitat by providing donations and manpower is something that we are all very proud of."

A huge thank you to Lowe's and Habitat for Humanity International for sponsoring National Women Build Week; and thank you to the women from Calaveras and Amador Counties who participated in Habitat for Humanity Calaveras' Women Build Day.



Volunteer Corner

By Kathy Heffernan

We are winding down the completion of our ninth Habitat house. The Burns' family is anxiously awaiting their move-in date. Before that date there will be a dedication ceremony on Saturday, June 13 (See separate article for details). Everyone is invited.

Kudos to everyone who helped build the Burns' house in Valley Springs, whether you worked one day or almost every Friday and Saturday. The lunches were provided by many special volunteers from individuals to church groups to an owner of a Bed and Breakfast in Sutter Creek. Watch for your names in our next newsletter.

Request Time: Our Warehouse has been open one year in San Andreas. We are going to be open more days and are looking for more volunteers willing to commit to a half a day or two half days per month on Saturdays. If you are a people person with some sales skills or willing to be trained, please contact me at 795-7742.

Free Safety Course Offered to Volunteer Builders

By Kathy Heffernan

A great and hopefully fun opportunity is available to you! Habitat for Humanity International through its insurance company has developed an onsite safety course especially for volunteers who build our Habitat houses. All you need is a computer with internet capability.

This link www.hfhvolunteerinsurance.com will take you to a site where you can discover what you know about construction safety (If you are reading this offline, type the link into your browser window and hit Return). No password is necessary for this website. By following a few simple instructions you will arrive at the construction safety site with an audio slide show. If you do not have a computer or audio capability, please call Kathy Heffernan, 795-7742 and I will find a computer for you to use.

The new volunteer course presents detailed information on a wide range of common safety risks found on and around the jobsite. From the tasks volunteers typically perform to safety hazards and more, the course provides thorough training that can assist you in educating your volunteers before they even arrive on the job site.

At the end of the presentation, you take a short test. When you pass, you receive a certificate and Habitat Calaveras is sent a list of our volunteers who passed the test. If you do not pass the test the first time, you can retake it. The first name we receive who passed the test will get a prize!!

A sample question is, "Should you wear a hard hat when someone is working above you?" Answer choices are: yes or no. Not all questions are this easy, so I advise listening to all of the presentation before taking the test.

We look forward to receiving the names of all of our wonderful volunteers who passed the test! Be a well educated volunteer when you arrive on our next job site.

Questions: call Kathy Heffernan, 795-7742

Meet Our Treasurer

By Kathy Heffernan

Lee Vahle who hails from southern California moved with his wife Barbara "B" from Northridge after visiting a daughter and her family in Arnold. They went home, sold their house, packed their bags, and never looked back. They live in what is known as the "banana belt" of Arnold.

In addition to serving as treasurer of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity Calaveras, Lee serves on the Family Selection Committee and helps with the silent auction at our annual Hoedown event. Recently Lee introduced us to a talented webmaster to help us improve our website. Check our website in a few months.

Lee is very active in community activities. He attends Chapel in the Pines, Do-Wooders to provide wood, was past president of his homeowners' association, and is Technology Coordinator of the AARP tax program. He is the Meadowmont VIP Coordinator and he and "B" also inspect lots in the spring.

A busy person is a happy person—that is Lee.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

(for Funds Received January 1 - April 30, 2009)

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 Alice and John Williams
 Rob Williams
 Barbara Witter
 Women's Fellowship First Congregational Church

In Memory of:

John F. Anderson
 Mary Arieta
 Robert Jenkins, Jr.
 Jules Schlechter

Dedication of House #9

Your are invited to the dedication of the Burns Family

Habitat for Humanity house

Saturday, June 13 at 1:30 p.m

at the

Burson Full Gospel Church

on Highway 12 in Burson

At 2:30 p.m. the dedication will continue at the new
 home

at 3340 Botfuher Road, Valley Springs.

Their will be a house blessing and
 the presentation of the keys to the Burns family

Refreshments will be served and
 everyone is invited to view the house



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 our readers who help Habitat to
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Green Building: Wave of the Construction Future

By Roger Hadow

Many people have heard of “green building,” but is it too expensive for Habitat for Humanity to be involved in? Selective adoption of technology and techniques as well as new financing opportunities are now making it feasible for Habitat to build houses that meet established standards supporting “green building.” Today, we not only look at the costs of building a house but also at the costs of ownership (those electricity and gas bills every month!), as well as at the costs of environmental impact.

So with some anticipation five members from our Calaveras affiliate went off to the Green Building Symposium put on by PG & E in collaboration with Global Green USA. The two-day event was organized for the HfH affiliates of the northern California area, and was hosted by StopWaste.org in their Green re-habilitated headquarters building in downtown Oakland.

Three “green building” standards are prevalent in the Northern California region - Energy Star, Green Point RATED, and LEED for Homes, with LEED the most demanding in scope. Here in Calaveras County, Habitat has already implemented the Energy Star program on our three most recent builds with upgraded insulation, higher standard duct work, on-demand water heaters, photovoltaic systems funded by PG & E (on our last 2 homes), and energy efficient appliances. We are now looking at the feasibility of upgrading to LEED.

LEED entails a very comprehensive set of standards relating to sustainability of the building site, water efficiency, energy use, materials and resources usage, indoor environmental quality, and location. A building project must address a number of mandatory issues as well as select from some options in order to gain enough points to reach one of the levels of certification (Certified, Silver, Gold, or Platinum).

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, was developed by the US Green Building Council. The program is independently certified by the Green Building Certification Institute.

The last session of the Symposium was devoted to a preliminary run-through of the charrette process (“charrette” is a planning process in which all interested stakeholders participate). Calaveras was selected as one of the three case studies to benefit from some free high-value consultancy. We were able to come away with detailed information, which we will incorporate into our plans for the forthcoming West Point project, and reach the goal of LEEDS certification.

The Symposium was a great learning experience for all 5 Habitat for Humanity Calaveras participants Dave DeSchryver, Matt Foye, Seth Turoonjian, Andy Washington, and Roger Hadow. Our thanks go to PG & E, Global Green, StopWaste.org and all the people who contributed to making this event a success.



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Please fill out this form, and make check payable to Habitat for Humanity Calaveras, and mail to P.O. Box 1834, San Andreas, CA 95249. Thank you!

Name: _____

Yes, I want to help build a Habitat House!

Address: _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

City, State and ZIP: _____

I would like to volunteer. Please send me information.

I would like a speaker to make a presentation to my church/club/business/organization.

I am interested in donating or supplying property for building sites or a ReStore.

Please remove my name from your mailing list