

7/30/07

The last time I checked on the Trinity Lake level was back in September 16, 2006 when the lake level was 2332.63. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the lake has gone down another 13.39 feet to measure 2319.24. Our summer guests make the best of the low water, and take their "wienie roasts" closer to the lake edge. Campfires must be 50 feet from any vegetation, and NO MORE than 10 feet from the water. There hasn't been that many lake side campfires and all of the campers have been very pleasant and cooperative when the CCVFD and TCVFD conduct their "Illegal Campfire Patrol". One group who made their campfire too large was asked if they wanted to put it out, or the fire department would. The campers thought that because the fire truck was there, they may as well put it out. They had as much fun watching the fire truck douse the flames with foam as they had sitting around it.

I have had a couple of people ask me what the CSD (Community Service District) is. The short description is, "It is a form of local government used to provide services in unincorporated areas". Okay, in everyday people talk it is a group of 5 people who have been elected by us, the residents of Trinity Center, to create a board of directors who oversee the management and operations of services that are usually provided by the county. Some CSD's are set up to provide basic services like water, sewer, security and fire protection and street lights. Ours is set up to manage fire protection and street lights.

The money to provide these services comes from .03% of the property taxes you pay which have been calculated upon assessed value of your land and improvements. The total tax dollar the Trinity Center's CSD receives from your taxes for their yearly budget is approximately \$43,000. This money pays for the operations of the street lights in Trinity Center, and fire protection that consists of fire house, trucks, ambulance and medical supplies, equipment, upkeep and maintenance of the trucks and equipment, fire insurance on buildings and equipment, Workmen Comp insurance for the volunteer fire personal, water usage, office equipment and supplies, and much more. Even though more money for the CSD may come from community fund raisers and grants, the budget is very tight.

Why should you care about the CSD if the funds automatically come out of your taxes, and you have elected a board of 5 people to oversee and manage all this stuff? All of us should care about all this "stuff" and do what we can to support our CSD board of directors by attending the monthly meetings that occur the second Tuesday of each month at the fire hall. Become familiar with the problems they are faced with, and be a voice in the solution.

Speaking of the fire department The CCVFD and the TCVFD had the second busiest month in their history. The busiest month was July of 2006. The two departments responded together on 4 fires, 16 medical calls, 3 traffic collisions, for a total of 23 responses. This does not include the Illegal Campfire Patrols or training sessions. And this is all volunteered time.

The North Trinity Lake Garden Club is ramping up for their visit to the Mountain Crest Gardens in Fort Jones on Tuesday, August 14, 2007. Carpooling will start at the IOOF Hall at 8:15 a.m. and the Coffee Creek Fire Hall at 8:30 a.m. RSVP Charlotte Scott at 286-2810. Charlotte said this event is open to everyone. You do not need to be a garden club member to participate.

Contrary to what Dick Eyman has been telling the community, I did NOT give him his black eye. He ran into a door. (Yeah right!!) In this case it is the truth, he really ran into a door. But if he wakes up in the middle of the night and calls me "Darth Vader" one more time I might give him a black eye. (I wear a breathing mask for sleep apnea) Okay, I do look like "Darth Vader", but I reserve the right to practice what I have been blamed for.

The Human Response Network has been conducting a series of meetings to see what each community thinks is needed for their senior population over 60 years of age. About 15 residents from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center attended the meeting that was held at the IOOF Hall July 18, where a brain-storming and story board session revealed what they felt were the needs for our seniors. Topping the more than 8 different “needs” categories were transportation to and from doctors appointments and shopping, nutritious food, community activities, and meeting places and Emergency Medical Services.

The results of all the various communities needs will be reported to the Council On Aging for further studies to see what the greatest needs are and see if there are grants that would be available to fund them.

A community meeting on the status of the airport layout plan update and the imposed federal and state changes to Trinity Center Airport was held at the IOOF Hall on July 25. The continuing discussion of the tree removal, airport fence and closure of Airport Road was met by a lively group of Trinity County Pilots Association members and Trinity Center residents. As of the end of this meeting, nothing has changed. The plans are still in the works to cut trees, fence the airport, and close the end of Airport Road. However, you have the chance to challenge any of these actions at the Trinity County Planning Commission Meeting on August 9 at 7 pm at the Weaverville Library. According to the Trinity County Planning Commission flyer, “Anyone desiring to make a statement may do so, either in writing or in person. Information can be obtained at Trinity County Planning Department, 60 Glen Road, PO Box 2819, Weaverville, CA 96093. (530) 623-1351”

The fire department is looking for a sponsor for about 50 boxes of crayons to go with the “Fire Safe” coloring books the department purchased to hand out to the first 50 children that attends the Fire Department Open House on September 1. More than one person may be a sponsor of any number of boxes of crayons, and the small boxes will be fine.

Please check your calendar to see if you have set September 22 aside for Fire Chief Dick Hamilton’s retirement dinner. This is going to be an event you won’t want to miss. It is our chance to thank Dick for all the years of his dedicated service to our community. It will be held at the IOOF Hall and children are welcome.

Kelli Gant has been working hard on creating a web site for the North Trinity Lake communities. It’s looking great. Check it out at <http://northtrinitylake.com>