North Forty 7/2/08

Betty Eyman (530) 266-3440

COVINGTON MILL RESIDENTS CAME TO THE AIDE OF THE TCVFD: Suddenly, one day last week, a very professional banner appeared to announce a bake sale to support TCVFD. It was a HUGE sale of some of the most delectable goodies ever seen at a bake sale. Luke Lucas told me a letter was sent to each of the property owners in the Covington Mill area asking for support for the TCVFD. And support came in the forms of checks and this delectable bake sale. I would like to acknowledge and give credit to the mystery bakers who created this "Mother of all bake sales," and I am still tracing down names... I need names give me names.

The Covington Mill, Long Canyon Road, and Forest Hill Drive are all outside of the TCVFD's call zone. Because there is no fire department for that area, residents would have to depend on the US Forest Service and Weaverville for help. By the time those departments responded, the house could be destroyed, and the medical call could be fatal. TC and CC Fire Chief Roger Chatterton said as long as it is on his watch, the TCVFD and the CCVFD will respond to their emergencies. This is a view that is not shared by all of the community members. These folks think that the CC and TC VFD's resources are being spent on an area that is not in our call zone. Most of us have friends in that area; some of us have family there. Can we stand by and watch their homes burn, or the loss of their lives because they our "outside" our call zone?

Because we are an all Volunteer fire department, we depend on a very small percent of the owner's property taxes, which do not even cover basic overhead. CCVFD does not have any tax base to support their fire department. We all must depend on donations to get the best equipment and training we can to save lives and property. Because Covington Mill residents are not annexed to Trinity Center, the taxes from their properties go into the county's general fund, never to be seen by the Covington Mill residents or the TCVFD.

The bake sale and fund drive was a wonderful way these residents had to say a great big "thank you" to our fire crews from both fire departments. And we say, with open hands and hearts, "thank you" for your show of support.

COMMUNITY FIRE DRILL: Thursday, July 10, 2008. Perhaps you have noticed the posters that have popped up around the North Forty area announcing a fire drill that will give our Red Cross Disaster Action Team a chance to get the experience of opening the shelter and evacuating people into it. And at the same time give the community a chance to experience the process.

We have all been watching, smelling, and fearing the wild land fires that were caused by lightning strikes. Let's join together and prepare ourselves for it and in some small measure feel like we have some control over the fires.

The Red Cross Disaster Action Team will conduct this drill as if a real danger existed for us. The shelter will open at 1:00 p.m. and will close after you have been served a free spaghetti dinner. A very important part of the drill is to register each family as they come in, and sign them out when they leave. This information helps us respond to your worried families that you are safe.

As in any disaster, all of the evacuees do not come all at once. We are hoping our evacuees (you) come in at a steady rate over the period of 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at which time we will serve you all a spaghetti dinner, and then sign you out to go back to your homes that have been saved by our wonderful fire crews. You could bring a book or needle work, or put one of our puzzles together or play a game of cards to while away the time. We would like it if you all checked in before 4:00 pm. But in a real life disaster's, we would not have that luxury. So come when it fits into your day. If you have any questions about the drill please call me at 266-3440.

LIBRARY STORY TIME: Wednesday's at 4:00 pm are story days at the library. Bring your child of any age to the Trinity Center Library located next door to the Scotts Museum on Airport Road. Sweet little old ladies, like me and Mary Hamilton, Lynn Hartley and Sue Mayo will read your child a story..

YOUNG STUDENT'S KNITTING CLASS: Hazel Spencer will be holding a knitting class at her studio by the Coffee Creek Country Store (the building that used to be the Fire Flies craft shop) The class size cannot be more than 5 students who are really interested in learning how to knit. So call your child's name in early. The class will start on Thursday, July 3 (the same day most of you get the Trinity Journal). The class is free and all materials will be supplied

VANDALISM AT THE IOOF HALL: A sprinkler head was broken again for about the 6th time this summer. These are pricey to fix, and as it is, the dues generated for upkeep and repairs are not enough to cover basic overhead. So this is a concern for the board. They ask that you keep your eyes open for anyone doing something that looks like it could destroy property around the IOOF Hall.

THE TRINITY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH: The "Men's Breakfast" this past Saturday was a great success. They will be doing this again in about two weeks. You do not need to be a member of the church to attend the breakfast that starts at 8:00 a.m.

COFFEE CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH had their first Sunday school activity Wednesday, June 18 at the Redding Waterworks Park. Fifteen students and 10 adults attended. Sue Mayo said, "We had so many adults we were able to chaperone in shifts and allow for shopping." That's making great use of gas!

Also planned for future events for the Sunday school students is a boat outing on Saturday July 19, gold panning and BBQ on Sunday August 10, and a family campfire BBQ on Sunday, September 14.