

# Caspar Community News

September 2014

photo: Sienna M Potts

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 28, 9 - 11 am  
**Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast**

Friday, October 10, 6:30 - 9 pm  
**Caspar Pub Night**

Sunday, October 12, 4-7  
**Community Meeting  
& Pot Luck**

Sunday, October 26, 9 - 11 am  
**Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast**

Sunday, November 16th  
**Salmon Chanted Evening**  
Annual Harvest Dinner  
& Silent Auction

## Are You Ready?

We're all hoping and pretending it won't happen – earthquake, tsunami, fire – but...being prepared will help.

The first priority for planning is being able to take care of yourself, your family and pets, and your home. **At the next Community Meeting** we will have checklists available, including one from the Red Cross that breaks the preparation process into weekly steps.

At recent neighborhood meetings, several people volunteered to help their immediate neighbors organize regarding disaster preparedness and other local concerns and will be meeting before the Community Meeting to develop this concept. We still need representatives for some areas. (See below)

**Downtown:** Annie Lee, John Anderson, Judy Tarbell  
**Caspar Point:** Ray Duff  
**Pacifica:** Sunshine Taylor, Glenn Rude, Bob Frey  
**West Pacifica:** (we need someone)  
**Johnson Park:** Gary Grahame  
**North Fern Creek Lower:** Marty Johnson, Paul Reiber  
**North Fern Creek Upper:** Deb and Eric Freeman  
**South Fern Creek (extension of Caspar Orchard):**  
**Caspar Orchard:** (we need someone)

The last Community Meeting produced the idea of a Caspar Directory. One directory might be general with names and contact information, with a second organized by small neighborhoods with names, *continues* →

*also in this issue...*

**Community Center News**  
**Harvest Dinner & Silent Auction**

**From the Board**  
**From the Garden**

## Disaster Preparedness concludes

locations, and other more personal information. For this second version available only to your closest neighbors, you might consider what you would want a neighbor to know or do in your absence (how to shut off water and gas, what contact information to share, whom to call in case of a problem, what pets need care, whether anyone in your home has limitations or special needs, skills you have to help in an emergency (nursing/building/plumbing/therapy, etc.); what you can contribute (extra beds, food, tools, etc.)

The Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency recognizes the Caspar Community Center as a Mass Shelter Site. In the event of a disaster, a shelter trailer would be moved to the site and staffed by members of a Disaster Response team and eventually the Red Cross. This scenario assumes that a trailer in Fort Bragg would be available and that the bridge would be passable. However, in a major event, it might take three weeks or more for aid to arrive, and, especially if both bridges are impassable, we will be on our own.

[\(A map of the exit route through Jackson State Forest is available at the Center or the Caspar Commons website.\)](#)

We are looking into the feasibility of acquiring a FEMA trailer; extra space for storage of disaster supplies and food is currently not available in the Center. A trailer with 75 cots, disposable bedding, comfort kits, coffee pots, etc. costs \$8,000; food and water would be extra. We would also need a volunteer team to manage the contents and to staff the site as a

## "Salmon-chanted Evening"

Sunday, November 16 will be Caspar Community's annual Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction. Our greatest fund raising event of the year promises to be special. Thanks to the generosity of a lucky local fisherman, we will be offering some beautiful salmon as an entrée as well as a vegetarian option. Tickets will be on sale in early October.

Judy Tarbell has again graciously offered to lead up the silent auction. If you have any special items you would like to donate, or if you would like to help out, please contact Judy at 964-1323 or [jtarbell@mcn.org](mailto:jtarbell@mcn.org)

shelter. Some feel we would be better served if everyone were well prepared to shelter in place.

We are also checking the possibility of helicopter access. A siren in Caspar is not feasible, but air horns for sounding a distress signal could be part of individual preparedness.

The use of the Community Center would depend on its condition and what communication services are available. A solar power system with a propane generator and a battery bank to provide backup during emergencies is being installed and an electric vehicle charging station is planned.

The Community Center water comes from the wells on the Caspar Cattle Company land. The pump at the Center is not currently functioning; once it is repaired or replaced, we will be able to tell if there is enough water to build our own system, which would mean relining the well and acquiring a storage tank and filtration/purification system. The water now stored in our tank is for use in case of fire.

The Community Center plans to offer training in the use of our new defibrillator as well as CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), CPR and First Aid classes.

At the upcoming Community Meeting, you will have an opportunity to define logical clusters of neighbors to work on issues specific to your area, to consider what interest you have in exploring more general concerns, and raise additional questions.

—Annie Lee

**Sunday, October 12, 4-7**  
**Community Meeting**  
**& Pot Luck**



# News From the Center

There are many fun and healthy class choices for both children and adults taking place at the center these days including Tai Chi, Zumba, African drumming, ballet, tango and Music Together.

**A complete schedule can be found at our website.**

Pub Nights on the second Friday of each month and the Fourth Sunday breakfasts continue to be spirited community gatherings. If you would like to volunteer to help at these events, or if you know of a “guest chef”, **email Dalen** or call her at 964-4997.

Starting on November 5 the indoor market will start up for the fall, winter and early spring on Wednesdays from noon to 2:00. Come shop for produce, products, bakery items and crafts while supporting our local farmers and entrepreneurs.

There will be a New Year’s Eve Dance and Party this year. It is a little early to put out details, but it will be great fun, so hold that date.

—*Dalen*  
Caspar Community Center manager

# From the Board

It’s been a busy summer here in Caspar. The Caspar Community Center is going solar! This project includes a major rebuild of the north side shed to house a battery bank, back-up generator and other electrical gear. The shed is nearly complete and the installation will be completed soon. This grid tie/off grid hybrid system will greatly aid in our disaster preparedness plans and save big bucks on our PG&E bill too.

A new eight-burner range is being built for the kitchen and will be installed in time for the Harvest Dinner.

All of these improvements are only possible through the generous contributions of our fellow Caspar Community residents. If you currently pledge, thank you. If you don’t currently pledge it’s easy to do through the website or by calling the Center at 707-964-4997. Hey, it really does take a village!

—*Bob Frey*  
Caspar Community Board vice president

# From the Garden

The east part of the Caspar Community Garden is full of blooming sunflowers right now. The beds are all beautiful examples of a happy garden tended by five dedicated gardeners.

During the last workday the fenceposts and bibb uprights were stabilized. At our last Garden meeting we discussed greenhouse hygiene, compost protocol, and cooperation. Comments from my notes: “Working in the garden is so great for my psyche”, and “Thank you, fellow gardeners for doing such a beautiful job and inspiring me.”

At our next meeting, November 13th at 2pm in the Garden (indoors if it’s raining; we can only hope!) we will discuss taking the lock off the gate and opening the garden back up for the community to walk around and admire. All are welcome. Although no beds are available now, if you are interested you can put your name on a waiting list. **Email Rochelle** for more information.

Happy Gardening!



**After 4th Sunday Breakfast  
Sunday, September 28th  
Hands-on Gardening Workshop  
with Sakina  
Plant Onions & Garlic  
FREE Workshop runs 11 am - 12:30 pm  
More info contact Sakina at 813-0744  
or [sakina@mcn.org](mailto:sakina@mcn.org)**

*This edition of*  
**Caspar Community News**  
*was laid out by Michael Potts*

The next edition will appear in November. Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to **[lists@casparcommons.org](mailto:lists@casparcommons.org)**