

Thanks to all who participated in the annual exterior house decorating contest! The results had not yet been announced by press time for this Condor, but congrats to those who won the contest. The results will be printed in the February Condor.

Reminder: All outside Christmas Decorations must be taken down by January 15th. Per EC Code - Section 7.09

the Condor

The official publication of the Pine Mountain Club Property Owners Association, Inc.

2524 Beechwood Way . PO Box P
Pine Mountain Club . California . 93222
www.pinemountainclub.net
661.242.3788 . 661.242.1471 (fax)

Holiday Closures

On New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1, the PMCPOA offices, the Condor Cafe and the Post Office will be closed, but the Transfer Site and Pro Shop will be open.



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VOLUME 43 . NUMBER 1 . JANUARY 2021

Check out PMC's website at www.pinemountainclub.net

Helpful Winter Information

Clubhouse Serves as Shelter During Storms/Power Outages

During severe weather, the PMCPOA Clubhouse remains open 24/7 in the event of the power going out. PMCPOA has an emergency generator that provides power immediately upon an outage, so the Clubhouse stays warm and lit. You can bring sleeping bags and games and hunker down during the storm until the power comes back on. (No pets please; and a note that PMCPOA cannot provide transport to the Clubhouse.)

During inclement weather when the power stays on, you can tune into PMCPOA's radio station, AM 1610, for regular updates, or call 242-3857 after hours for current conditions. It's a good idea to keep a transistor radio in the house that operates on batteries in case of a power outage.

Pine Mountain Club's Snow Berm Removal Procedure

During the winter months, our Association faces many weather-related challenges. The first priority in the event of a snow storm is clearing and sanding the roads of the community. In a nutshell, we have well-established and effective procedures that determine the order in which snow is removed throughout PMC.

The removal of berms from property owners' driveways is provided as a courtesy to members who, in advance, have requested this assistance. In order to be added to this list, you need to present a current ADA placard or doctor's note at the Business Office.

This free service is only provided after snow removal from all Association roads and necessary sanding have taken place. As a result, it could be two or more days before the crews begin to remove berms.

As with the roads, this courtesy service has an established procedure in determining the order in which property owners' berms are removed.

When crews are available to begin berm removal, they will fol-



Weather can change very quickly in the mountains, and so can road conditions. Plowing is implemented as soon as possible.

low the approved ADA berm removal list. Our berm removal list is quite long; and due to limitations of time, equipment and manpower, the process of removing berms for every property owner on the list can take several days, even after the snow has stopped falling.

The berm removal list is intended for the physically impaired.

If you have any questions regarding our snow plowing and berm removal policies, please call 242-3788.

PMCPOA Snowplowing Policy

During winter storms, the Pine Mountain Club Maintenance Department's snowplow equipment will be dispatched as needed to maintain all roadways, cul de sacs and access roads within the PMC community.

This equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible after the snow begins to stick to the road surfaces, and plowing will continue until all of the roads are clear of snow. Cinders will be applied when the Pine Mountain Maintenance Department deems it appropriate.

'PLOWING' *Continued on page 14*

January is the Deadliest Month for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

PMCPOA Emergency Preparedness Committee

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) do not burn completely in your home. Heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be a source of carbon monoxide poisoning.

In May 2010, the state of California enacted a law requiring homeowners to install carbon monoxide detectors in their homes and apartments. All new homes and remodels must have hard-wired detectors with battery backup. In older homes, detectors should be plug-in with battery backup. CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height. Test the CO and smoke alarms once a month.

How Can I Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in my Home?

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door or vent; fatal levels of carbon monoxide can be produced in just minutes.
- Have your chimney checked and cleaned every year, and make sure your fire-place damper is open before lighting a fire and well after the fire is extinguished.
- Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly.
- Never use a gas oven for heating your home.
- Never let a car idle in the garage.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (dizziness, nausea, headache, weakness).

Steps to Take When Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

- Never ignore a Carbon Monoxide Alarm.
- Immediately move outside to fresh air.
- Call 911.
- Do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for.
- Do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you the permission to do so.

Want to Be on Email Blast List?

PMCPOA has an effective email blast system that is used to provide information in the quickest way possible.

While many members are already receiving these emails, many are not yet on the list. This established system is being used to enhance the timely distribution of

information to the membership. However, the system is only effective if the Business Office has your email address. The list is growing, but the staff needs to have as many of the members provide email addresses as possible to maximize effectiveness.

Please email your request to the office at receipt@pmcpoa.com, or call it in to 242-3788. It will be worth your while to do so.

the Condor

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The PMCPOA Board of Directors meets on the third Saturday of every month at 10 am in the Condor Room of the Clubhouse. All members are invited to attend the open session. The executive session is a closed meeting for the discussion of and action on legal and personnel matters, third party contracts, and member-requested hearings.

Members may request copies of the open Board Meeting minutes. These requests should be made in writing to the Corporate Secretary. There is a charge per page for making copies of the minutes.

PMC Window Decals Now Available

Please call the office at 661-242-3788 if you would like to purchase a Window Decal (member/resident) for your car. They are \$1.50 each. Please pay with a credit card and it will be mailed to you, as our offices are still closed. The CHP will see it on your front left-hand lower corner of your windshield and wave you through if Mil Potrero is closed to non-residents. Occasionally, during/after a snowstorm (or an emergency situation) Highway Patrol will not let anyone down into PMC unless they have a sticker on their windshield or a driver's license showing a PMC address.



Photo by Liz and Bill Buchroeder

PMCPOA is accepting pre-payments for the 21/22 assessment. You can mail a check to P.O. Box P, Pine Mountain Club, CA 93222 or call us with a credit card at 242-3788. Some members find this a little easier than coming up with the total amount all at once in July. The actual amount will not be determined until April of 2021, but you can get a head start on it if you would like.

Reminder: Have you ordered your new (blue) guest cards yet? Please call the business office, ext. 225, to put in your request. Last year's green guest cards are no longer valid.

Our World of Nature Special Winter Visitors to Fern's Lake

By Lynn Stafford with Liz & Bill Buchroeder

Our Fern's Lake, off Edgewood Way in PMC, is special for many reasons. It serves as a water pick-up for helicopters involved in fighting local wildfires. It is a reservoir serving the golf course and the storage of water from the Woodland Creek diversion. It is a recreation park for residents and visitors. It offers catch-and-release fishing. In these challenging COVID times, it is a beautiful spot of nature where one can rejuvenate one's spirit. A parking area with a porta-potty welcomes visitors between dawn and dusk. Signs help visitors to follow rules of etiquette and safety.

development of Pine Mountain Club. It is the lowest of three golf course ponds. It was built on part of the Mil Potrereros Wetlands, which originally extended from the Clubhouse down to San Emigdio Canyon. The wetlands now start below Fern's Lake. The lake is named for an early resident and next-door neighbor who volunteered to help maintain the quality of the water by periodically clearing out large quantities of algae.

The Lake attracts many wildlife creatures. Several mammals come down at night when people are gone to drink and prowl around. Various birds can be found on the lake and in surrounding vegetation.

This article is about one very special winter duck visitor -- the ring-necked

Fern's Lake was created as part of the

'FERN'S' Continued on page 15

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Wonderful Cold-Weather Recipes From Chef Mike

Stuffed Pork Loin

With cold weather outside and the New Year upon us, Chef Mike offers up a couple of feel-good, comfort-food recipes. Stuffed Pork Loin with Baked Mac & Cheese as a side dish... nothing says yum better than that!

The Stuffed Pork Loin is filled to the brim with the classic cold-weather flavor combination of apple, bacon, rosemary and pork. This is complimented perfectly by the glaze of Dijon on top. This is delicious paired with the Baked Mac & Cheese, a hearty winter veggie or some mashed potatoes.

YIELDS: 6 - 8 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 6 slices bacon, chopped
- 2 apples, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/4 c. chopped pecans
- 4 lb. pork loin roast
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp. whole grainy Dijon

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325°. In a large skillet, cook bacon. Drain all but 1/2 tablespoon fat. Add apples and shallots to skillet and



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

cook until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 2 minutes, then stir in rosemary and pecans. Season with salt and pepper.

Butterfly pork: Using a sharp knife, place roast fat side up, with short end toward you. Position knife 3/4" from bottom of roast; cut in 1" toward center of pork. Lift up top half of pork and continue making shallow horizontal cuts deeper into roast, unrolling top of pork as you cut and keeping knife parallel to cutting board to maintain the same thickness until pork unrolls to form a rectangle.

Season pork generously with salt and pepper. Top all over with filling. Roll up pork loin and tightly secure with kitchen twine.

Rub with mustard.

Place in a roasting pan on a rack with fresh rosemary sprigs and bake until internal temperature registers 155°, about 1 hour 25 minutes, basting with the pan juices.

Let roast rest 15 minutes before slicing.

The BEST Homemade Baked Mac and Cheese

This is the BEST Homemade Mac and Cheese of your LIFE. Outrageously cheesy, ultra-creamy and topped with a crunchy Panko-Parmesan topping, this mac and cheese recipe is most definitely a keeper. I use three different cheeses and a homemade cheese sauce to take this macaroni and cheese recipe over the top.

YIELDS: 12 servings

INGREDIENTS

16 oz elbow macaroni, cooked (or other tubular pasta)

- 1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 6 tbsps unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 cups sharp cheddar cheese shredded
- 2 cups Gruyere cheese shredded
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1-1/2 cups panko crumbs
- 4 tbsps butter melted
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese shredded
- 1/4 tsp smoked paprika (or regular paprika)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350F. Lightly grease a large 3 qt or 4 qt baking dish and set aside. Combine shredded cheeses in a large bowl and set aside.

Cook the pasta one-minute shy of al

'RECIPES' Continued on page 5

Rules for Snow Play on the Golf Course

A reminder that the PMC Golf Course must have a least 6 inches of snow on it before anyone can sled or play on the course. Please do not go onto the golf course after it snows unless there is 6 inches or more of snow. The course will be monitored closely and people will be asked to leave if less than 6 inches of snow has fallen.

If in doubt, please call the office or Pro Shop before arriving.

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'RECIPES' *Continued from page 4*

dente according to the package instructions. Remove from heat, drain and place in a large bowl.

Drizzle pasta with olive oil and stir to coat pasta. Set aside to cool while preparing cheese sauce.

Melt butter in a deep saucepan or stock pot.

Whisk in flour over medium heat and continue whisking for about 1 minute until bubbly and golden.

Gradually whisk in the milk and heavy cream until nice and smooth. Continue whisking until you see bubbles on the surface and then continue cooking and whisking for another 2 minutes. Whisk in salt and pepper.

Add two cups of shredded cheese and whisk until smooth. Add another two cups of shredded cheese and continue whisking until creamy and smooth. Sauce should be nice and thick.

Stir in the cooled pasta until combined

and pasta is fully coated with the cheese sauce.

Pour half of the mac and cheese into the prepared baking dish. Top with remaining 2 cups of shredded cheese and then the remaining mac and cheese.

In a small bowl, combine panko crumbs, Parmesan cheese, melted butter and paprika. Sprinkle over the top and bake until bubbly and golden brown, about 30 minutes. Serve immediately.

Chef Mike will offer a Thursday Night Dinner Special on New Year's Eve. Stay tuned for details coming soon...

Condor Cafe Hours

Indoor Dining Now Closed Again

Take-out/Curbside Pickup Available

Breakfast and Lunch

8 am to 2 pm

**Wednesday thru Sunday
Dinner**

**Thursday (Special)
4 to 7:30 pm**

**Fridays and Saturdays
4 to 8 pm**

Please place your food order at 661-242-2233 and then call us again when you are in the parking lot and your food will be brought out to your car.

Home delivery is offered for \$2 as long as weather permits. Once it gets icy and/or snows, the delivery option will stop. Delivery is only available for dinners, starting at 4pm Thursday – Saturday.

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DRE# 01301719
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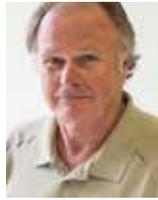
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A Message from the Chairman

Bill Lewis II
pmcboard@pmcpoa.com

As 2020 ends, I look back at a year that has probably been like no other. Despite the challenges and difficult times this year due to the pandemic,



we have stayed together and done our best to keep this association running efficiently, thanks to a great group of employees and the general manager, who have stayed the course to serve our members.

I went driving around recently and admired some of the physical work tackled by our staff, like the new bridge walkway to the Native Plant Garden, the landscaping and repairs on the north side of the clubhouse and the Dog Park that was damaged during that last big storm. The staff does good work!

The Dog Park should be ready for your canine companions, and staff has done an outstanding job getting the park prepared by installing a new fence, clearing the ground that includes an expanded area for larger dogs and constructing a culvert and berm to divert future rain run-offs. Thank you to Kim Wickers for spearheading the fundraising effort to buy the new fencing and poles and to all the members who contributed to that effort.

We began taking important steps this past year toward making our clubhouse complex a better place; properly addressing necessary repairs due to years of neglect; and making it more accessible to all of our members with the addition of a driveway and ADA ramp on the north side of the complex, and another ADA ramp that is now being constructed on the south side. More importantly, we are making these improvements to better provide access to this clubhouse for all of our members and guests – young, old and those who may need a little extra assistance to reach the lower and upper levels to avoid the stairs – and I hope we will soon physically enjoy the benefits of these efforts on a daily basis.

The pool and spa area construction continues. It's really looking good. We look forward to its completion and are optimistic that COVID restrictions will have diminished to allow us to fully enjoy it when the summer arrives.

I am hopeful we will continue this coming year with the momentum we have started to make this clubhouse complex more accessible and to better serve our members. Within the next few months, we should have plans available that will allow

us to determine how much the remaining phases may cost to complete. Once we know the costs, we will then determine how we might pay for the project and present all of the feasible options to the board and members.

To be perfectly clear, there is no financing plan currently in place for the remaining phases, nor any being explored or hiding anywhere because we do not know the costs, and it would be irresponsible of us to ballpark what it might cost and how it might financially impact our members and then possibly change those numbers later on.

We will be starting our search next month for a new general manager. Although many of us are saddened at the thought of Karin leaving so she can start enjoying her upcoming retirement, we look forward to hiring a new general manager who will continue this momentum we have initiated to improve the clubhouse complex and other projects to make PMC a better and safer place to include our ongoing fire mitigation efforts and proposed emergency notification system.

I wish you and yours the very best for this coming year and please stay safe. Happy New Year!

PMC Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Grace Wollemann, Recording Secretary

These are highlights of the Board of Directors open meeting of December 19, 2020. Complete minutes are available at the business office or online at www.pinemountainclub.net after their approval at the next board meeting. In the regular open meeting, Chairman Bill Lewis II called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Nine directors attended: Cam Acosta, Sandy Browne, Steve Burkett, Philip Gabriel, Tony Harmon, Peggy Hoyt-Voelker, Chairman Lewis II, Ellen McClellan and Phyllis Throckmorton. Also in attendance were General Manager Karin Shulman and Recording Secretary Grace Wollemann.

The board acknowledged receipt of the committee minutes.

There was one committee application for approval.

There were two (2) Environmental Control Committee project recommended and zero (0) cottage industry permits.

MOTION by Director Throckmorton, **SECOND** by Director Hoyt-Voelker that the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting of December 19, 2020 be adopted. **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker **SECOND** by Director Burkett to approve the consent agenda. **MOTION** carried.

Chairman Lewis II presented the Chair-

man's report.

General Manager Shulman presented the General Manager's report.

Director Acosta presented the Treasurers report.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Burkett to approve the consent agenda. **MOTION** carried.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Throckmorton to deny a variance for a greenhouse in the setback at 3402-114. **MOTION** carried.

'MEETING' Continued on page 9

Treasurer's Report

Pine Mountain Club POA, Inc.
Treasurer's Report
As of November 30, 2020

	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Variance	
Revenue				
Current Year Assessment Revenue	1,930,413	1,927,804	2,609	
Operations/Maintenance	142,061	75,925	66,136	
Social Activity	229,703	308,000	(78,297)	
Interest Income (Operating)	8,669	15,600	(6,931)	
Total Revenue	2,310,845	2,327,329	(16,484)	
Operating Expenses				
Operations/Maintenance	1,769,739	1,940,956	(171,217)	
Social Activity	271,487	404,901	(133,414)	
Operating Projects	7,128	51,417	(44,289)	
Designated Fund Projects	266,316	287,563	(21,247)	
Reserve Contribution	190,000	190,000	0	
Total Operating Expenses	2,504,670	2,874,837	(370,167)	
Other Operating Transactions				
Additional transfers to Reserve fund	(121,895)	(121,895)	0	
Assets purchased	(9,719)	0	(9,719)	
Foreclosed Lots transferred to Property	(800)	0	(800)	
Total Other Transactions	(132,413)	(121,895)	(10,518)	
Total Change in Operating Fund	(326,238)	(669,403)	343,165	
Payroll Summary				
Payroll Wages	822,242	946,014	(123,772)	
Payroll Benefits	133,419	161,791	(28,372)	
Taxes and Worker's Compensation	108,623	127,895	(19,272)	
Total Payroll Expense	1,064,285	1,235,700	(171,415)	
	Assessment Billed	Assessment Collected	Assessment Receivable	Assessment Receivable %
18/19 Assessment Collection Update	4,231,452	4,229,118	2,334	0.06%
19/20 Assessment Collection Update	4,631,550	4,605,674	25,876	0.56%
20/21 Assessment Collection Update	4,628,342	4,509,069	119,273	2.58%
Reserve Fund Update	Beginning Balance July 1, 2020	Plus: YTD Interest and Contributions	Less: YTD Purchases	Ending Balance Current Period
	3,268,288	334,543	(342,629)	3,260,202
Operating Fund Cash Balance	3,044,441			
Reserve Fund Cash Balance	3,518,336			

Respectfully Submitted



Cameron Acosta / Treasurer
 December 19, 2020

--- General Manager's Update ---

Karin Shulman

The Condor Café is open again for home deliveries with a \$2 service charge. This will continue as long as we do not have snow or icy weather.

I would like to clarify the article in the MTE that said we are getting fined for going over 50 hours per year on our generator. We are considered a multi-use building. When people are stuck in PMC in the winter and need a place to stay, we open the clubhouse and provide heat, sleeping cots and blankets. When the power goes out in PMC, we open the clubhouse to those who have medical devices that need to have electricity. We need to keep meticulous records, which we do, and we will not be fined.

We have a work schedule for completion of the pool area. I hesitate to put it out there because it is subject to change. Hopefully, this project will be completed

in March, weather and permits permitting.

The association has purchased two new Chevy Colorado 4x4 trucks for Patrol. One Subaru barely made it to the maintenance yard, where it will stay and be used for parts. The other Subaru will be used by the Environmental Control Officer, and his truck will be used by Maintenance staff. The purchase was approved by a resolution in November and the funds came from the Reserve Fund.

While attendance was low at the Christmas Tree Lighting, those who did brave the cold drove through and thanked everyone for the tree lighting event. It was nice, and we had a good time talking with members.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and I want to wish everyone a Happier 2021.

New Food Program Available for Seniors

A new food program for seniors ages 65 and up is available through the Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK). Assistance in registering for this program is available through the Mountain Communities Family Resource Center.

Food2Door will deliver 70 pounds of food including milk, cheese and fresh produce once a month to the door of any senior. Please help spread the word by sharing this information with your friends and neighbors in the PMC community.

Those interested should call the Family Resource Center with the following information: Name and delivery address, phone number and any driver notes. FRC will refer the client to the program coordinator, and then CAPK will contact the client.

If you know residents who do not have a phone, please gather their info, name and address and a message phone number, and FRC will get them signed up.

For more information, please contact Tammy Rowan, Executive Director of Mountain Communities Family Resource Center, at trowan@mcfr.com, or call her mobile at (760) 702-9826 or call (661) 245-4303.

Please Note:
**The only OFFICIAL
 PMCPOA Facebook page
 can be accessed at:**
<https://www.facebook.com/Pine-Mountain-Club-Property-Owners-Association-483903745518764/>

Please help us to save trees and keep our costs down substantially by allowing us to email all of your member notices and your monthly Condor to your email address. Simply email me at gm@pmcpoa.com and we will add your email address to your member account.
 Thank you, Karin Shulman, GM

Please note that there is no fishing or partying allowed at Fern's Lake after the gate is closed at dusk.

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'MEETING' *Continued from page 6*

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Acosta to direct the general manager to work on the annual budget for 2021-2022. **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Burkett to approve Business Policy A-15 (Election Policy & Procedure). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director McClellan to approve Business Policy B-15 (Employee Contacts). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Throckmorton to approve Business Policy E-4 (Funds Held in Trust for Committees & Clubs). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director McClellan to approve Business Policy E-6 (Bad Debt Expense). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Acosta to approve Business Policy E-7 (Write-Off Procedure for Bad Debts). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director McClellan to approve Business Policy E-12 (Activity Pricing). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Acosta to delete Business Policy E-16 (Multi-Department Costs). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker,

SECOND by Director Burkett to approve Business Policy H-2 (Open Board of Directors Meetings, Rules of Procedure). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Throckmorton to approve Business Policy I-4 (Committee Minutes). **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Throckmorton to approve the update to **Bylaw 10.02 Formation and purpose of assessment**. **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Burkett to approve

the update to **Bylaw 10.03 Budget formation** as follows: **MOTION** carried.

MOTION by Director Hoyt-Voelker, **SECOND** by Director Burkett to approve the update to **Bylaw 12.03E Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**. **MOTION** carried.

WITHDRAWN - to approve the Planning Committee survey.

The board sent and received 27 items of correspondence.

The next Regular Open Board Meeting will take place on January 16, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Condor Room or on Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

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Professional Services ads are \$5 per line per month, two-line minimum, when paid by the year.

The editorial and advertising deadline for the February 2021 Condor is Monday, Jan. 11, 2020.

Content can be submitted to the editor at rwilde@pmcpoa.com. or mailed to the PMCPOA Business Office.

Tips on How to Dispose of Hot Ashes Properly

PMCPOA EC Committee

Now that the weather has cooled, many of us will be keeping warm inside our homes with some sort of fire. Whether using a fireplace, wood-burning stove or pellet stove, proper removal and disposal of ashes is critical. Improper removal of hot ashes causes thousands of fires each year.

Remember that wood ashes retain enough heat to ignite combustible materials for several days. Please be mindful when removing and disposing of all ashes.

Here are Tips on the Safe Removal of Hot Ashes

- * Place ashes in a sheet metal bucket or a container with a handle and a lid that closes tightly.

- * Store the covered container outside in a safe place outside your home, away from wind and other combustible items.

- * Pour water onto ashes to douse hot embers.

- * Make sure to place the ash bucket on a non-combustible surface such as stone, concrete, brick or slate.

- * Once ashes have cooled completely -- and that can take several days -- dispose of ashes at our Transfer Site. Place them in the dumpster labeled "Ashes."

What NOT To Do:

- * Never dispose of hot ashes in the gar-

COMPLIMENTS, CONCERNS, COMPLAINTS

PMCPOA welcomes member input. Drop ideas off in the CCC Box in the Clubhouse Lobby, or click on the "CCC Box" menu item on the members'-only side of the PMC website at www.pinemountainclub.net. Anonymous submissions will not be published.

There were no CCC submissions this month.

den or spread them over the ground.

- * Never place an ash bucket directly on a wood porch or floor.

- * Never dispose of ashes at the Transfer Site if the ashes are still hot.

- * Never place hot ashes in the dumpsters...EVER!

- * Never dispose of hot ashes in paper, plastic or cardboard, even if you think they are cold.

- * Always treat the removal of ashes with respect.

Interesting Fact: A cord of wood produces about 50 pounds of ash.

**Golf Course and Pro Shop Open
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Reminder: No Pets Outside at Night

A reminder that as per Association Rule 4.07, pets cannot be left outside unattended between dusk and dawn in PMC. This rule was designed to protect everyone's pets from inclement weather and predatory wildlife, and in particular to reduce the problem of barking dogs that keep neighbors awake at night. Please be a good neighbor and pet owner and abide by this rule.

Transfer Site Hours:

8:30am - 5pm Daily

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(Phone Calls Only)

8am-5pm Mon-Fri

8am-3pm Sat

(Closed for lunch from 12-1 p.m.)

Office 242-3788

Patrol 242-3857 (24 hrs)



Native Plant Garden Progress Updates

Susan Amon

It's winter in PMC, and not much is blooming in the Native Plant Garden these days. But the volunteers have been busy with projects.

- Sara Jane Owen planted two new native sage species;
- An annual native plant area was cleared and seeded;
- Amy Miller, a volunteer and member of the PMC Grounds Committee, was instrumental in getting a bridge installed over a culvert so visitors have easier access to the garden; and
- Lockhart Native Plant Garden directional signs were installed by the PMC maintenance crew.

Thanks to the maintenance crew -- Chris, the Andys, Ralph and the others whose names I forgot (but I haven't forgotten their efforts) -- for their help with installations and slash deliveries. Thanks to Joe Ladin, EC officer, for his guidance and support. Thanks to Michelle Sandberg for her supervision, and thanks to PMCPOA General Manager Karin Shulman for her continued support of the garden.

We received our plants signs last month and



got them installed, so this is now a finished project for this year. A project that we are waiting on is purchase of replacement split rail fencing, for which we are in need of donations (approximately

\$1,000). If you want to continue to support the garden with donations, please visit go-fundme.com/f/lockhart-native-plant-garden. And please come visit the Garden!



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Evacuation Checklist

What to Do When You Prepare to Evacuate

The Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council prepared this thorough evacuation checklist, and the Kern Fire Safe Council here in the mountain communities wants to share it with local residents. As we all know, fire season can be year-round now.

A. One hour or more to prepare: Use this checklist first if time permits. If not, see below.

1. Monitor news reports/neighborhood conditions.
2. Back all vehicles close to loading areas -- unlock all vehicle doors. (Vehicle is "prepared," right?)
3. Call family/friend contact to tell them that you may be/are coming (or where you will shelter).
4. Enlist Kids/Family to pack their own "personal" bag with smaller things important to them and a change of clothes

+ personal hygiene items. Assign other home shut-down tasks (pet control, lights, etc.)

5. Gather up, and keep under control, all household pets. You may not have time to chase them later.

6. Consolidate pre-organized bags/containers – Here are items to place in the home near the door for likely loading:

- a. "Grab & Go Bag" (cash, credit cards, passports, safe deposit keys, important records file, misc. small items, prescriptions, address nooks, passwords, etc.) and flashlight, radio, first aid kit, etc.
- b. Financial/important papers file (bills, insurance, current tax records, receipts, home inventories, etc.)
- c. Medications/personal needs case (prescriptions, eyeglasses, medical records, medical equipment, etc.).
- d. Pet supplies/medical bag
- e. Evacuation plans and contact info packet
- f. Computer (not the monitor, and preferably just a most-recently backed-up, external hard-drive)
- g. Photo/storage discs/drives and other "pre-packed" mementos suitcase(s).

7. Gather up other small, valuable items (if time permits) -- Water, food, jewelry, coins, musical instruments, and personal mementos/treasures, etc. Pack a personal suitcase for each family member.

8. Prepare (shut down) home --

a. Close all windows and skylights. Open (or remove) drapes and blinds (unless fire-retardant).

b. Non-evacuation-level floors: Remove all items you plan to take, turn on light, pull flammable items away from windows and exterior walls. Turn on lights to each room and close door. Fill Tubs and sinks with water. Remember to turn water off when full. Provide ladder at attic access.

c. Evacuation-level floor: Deposit all items to be evacuated near door(s) through which they will go to be loaded into vehicles. Beginning from furthest rooms from loading doors, begin shut-down (like upper/lower floors) working your way to the last room(s) nearest the loading doors.

d. Once loading thru garage is complete, disconnect garage door opener, keep it unlocked and close garage door.

9. Prepare Exterior of Home and /Yard:

- a. Move combustible items away from home or store in garage. Unlock gates.
- b. Close trash can lid, and/or place behind home from fire. Secure items from heavy winds.
- c. Identify with sign visible from street if you have a pool.
- d. Place a ladder near the down-fire side of your home if available.

'EVACUATION' Cont. on page 13

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Lounge Remains Closed

Under the Governor's orders, the PMCPOA Lounge remains closed.

**Rec Room
Closed Until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted**

Tips on Finding Info on Road Conditions

To find out about road conditions on the I-5 freeway, call 800-427-7623 (Cal Trans).

Also, there is a website to check before you leave to go off the hill: www.sigalert.com. You can request conditions for Los Angeles, which will give you conditions from Lebec going south toward Los Angeles, or switch it to Bakersfield, which gives you conditions from Lebec going North.

It will tell you if anything is happening on the I-5 and what the problem is, as well as how long the back-up is.

'EVACUATION' Cont. from pg. 12

If Time Permits

e. Attach garden hoses to spigots. Fill buckets and place around home. Maybe fill a trash can.

f. Test generators or pool pumps if available. Clear roof valleys and gutters of debris.

g. Start on the fire side of the home: Cover vent openings with non-combustible material (fiber cement, etc., even plywood is better than nothing). Gel home and adjacent foliage (takes about 30 min.)

10. Begin preloading items in your car within approximately 1/2-hour of leaving. When complete, make a final check on things. Monitor news reports. Watch neighborhood conditions.

11. Did you:

- * Turn tub water off?
- * Shut off sprinklers/hoses.
- * Shut off gas?

12. Prepare to leave when loaded or see below. If there is any type of Evacuation Check-Out system in place, try to do that (Name, address, contact number so authorities know who is gone and how to reach you).

B. If you only have five minutes +/- available: If you only have time to make a couple of trips in and out.

(If you have done "Pre-Evacuation" tasks, you are ready for these 5 minutes!).

- GATHER KIDS/FAMILY/COOPERATIVE SMALL PETS IN VEHICLE(S).
- GET KEYS, WALLET, PURSE (or "ManBag"), CELL PHONES.
- LOAD 'GRAB & GO BAG', EVACUATION PLAN and MEDICATIONS.

• LOAD IMPORTANT PAPERS/FINANCIAL BOX - Maybe one more item? Any additional time allows you to shut gas off to the home, grab a few more "preloaded" bags, boxes or cases or shut all windows and doors in your home, or do other home/property shut down and loading of belongings (see above for more things you can do if time permits).

• SHUT ALL DOORS behind you as you exit (including garage door). GO! NOW!! GET OUT!!!



Photo courtesy Pexels

C. Immediate: (You have one minute or less to leave: No time to gather belongings -- if possible, you should have done pre-evacuation work to prepare your home and vehicle for immediate evacuation.

- GATHER KIDS/FAMILY in vehicle(s). You do not have time to "chase" pets, or you or your family may die!
- GET KEYS, WALLET, PURSE (or ManBag"), CELL PHONES. If time permits, take one "grabbed" item on the way out. (Hopefully, you have pre-positioned your "Grab & Go Bag" for ANY Immediate Evacuation.)
- DO NOT RETURN INTO YOUR HOME for more items.
- SHUT ALL DOORS behind you as you exit (including garage door).
- GO! NOW! GET OUT!

Additional Notes

1. Make a copy of this and put it in several places including on your refrigerator.

2. Review it with your family.
3. On occasion (or when a fire is raging in So. Cal.), do a practice drill of these procedures. See how long it really takes to load up when you are pressured.

4. Pre-load your vehicle with emergency and evacuation items that can always remain in your car.

5. Engage in "pre-Evacuation" activities such as preparing "Grab & Go Bags," photo/memorabilia suitcases, or an important papers/financial box, etc. Store small valuables in safe deposit boxes. Back up your computer (off-site) or have a backed-up external hard drive ready to evacuate. Know where all your medications are and have some (or all) capable of quick evacuation.

6. Plan for pet evacuations. Plan early trips to relocate extra vehicles, animals/pets and other valuable items to locations out of threatened areas (note that return may be restricted before you get back for a second load). Contact family, friends or others to aid individuals with conditions that make evacuation activities difficult or who simply need additional help. (Your help must arrive BEFORE authorities shut down access to you due to official evacuation orders.)

Reminder: Property Address must be clearly marked on your home or a sign post and visible from the road for emergency responders.

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PMC Dog Park Has Reopened!

The PMC Dog Park reopened on Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone who donated funds to buy new fencing, and for your patience. As many know, the park was severely damaged in a rain storm, but a fundraiser was held to help generate money to rebuild it.

The dog park is now larger and the small dog area is sectioned off inside the large dog area. We hope everyone will enjoy the new and improved dog park!

New Pool Continues to See Progress

Our new pool is progressing along nicely. Here are the most recent updates, as of Dec. 19:

* The bathrooms and dressing room tile have been completed. Some fixtures have been installed.

* The pool equipment room on the east side of the tennis courts is being built, the rebar is in place.

* The retaining wall on the north side of the tennis court is completed.

* Work has started on the ADA ramp to upper deck on the south side of the clubhouse.

* There is still some plumbing and electrical work being completed.



Photo by Burak K of Pexels

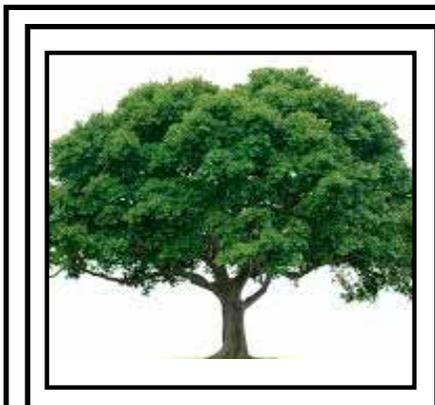
PMCPPOA has well-established procedures for snow plowing.

'PLOWING' *Cont. from page 1*

The streets in our community will be plowed in the following order: First, the main roadways. Second, all access roads. Third, all cul de sacs. And, when time permits, attempts will be made to try to clear

snow berms in driveways.

(Copies of this policy are available in the PMC Business Office. The Snow Removal Policy brochure is also viewable on the PMCPPOA website in the Association Governance & Business menu. Just click on the "Business Office" tab to view.



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Tennis/Pickleball

Tennis and Pickleball are open for playing doubles. Please use your own ball. Everyone needs to be very careful about ball handling and the number of people on the bench or the court. Social distancing is still a high priority. If you haven't already, you need to sign a waiver before playing.



Photos by Liz and Bill Buchroeder

'FERN'S' *Continued from page 3*

duck. This black and white diving duck nests in inland wetlands of the northern States and Canada. It then migrates south for the winter. For some reason unknown to us, a flock of 50 to 200 of these ducks have been wintering at Fern's Lake each year from about October through March. There are very few locations in California where this many individuals of this species congregate in winter. I have no idea how ducks' GPS systems work, but they seem to understand the location and quality of small ponds as well as some human travelers recognize when they are getting close to their favorite fast-food outlet.

Two years ago, the lake was dredged and cleared of cattails to enhance the access of helicopters. We were concerned that this disruption of the ecosystem might discourage the ring-necked ducks. Last winter, we saw only a few visiting for short periods of time. However, they are BACK! Obviously, this pond is healthy for wildlife. Golf course maintenance minimizes pesticide applications. Already this winter, wildlife photographers Liz and Bill Buchroeder have documented at least 122 birds.

The ring-necks are shallow divers, feeding on both animal and vegetation food. They are related to scaups, redheads and canvasbacks. Being a 'Harvest Species,' meaning they can be legally hunted by permit, they are quite leery of humans. If someone approaches the lake's edge, the flock will slowly work its way across the lake to the other side. Of course, neither hunting nor shooting is permitted ever in PMC.

Every winter in mid-February, birders throughout the world conduct a bird census known as The Great Backyard Bird

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All committees are meeting via Zoom, or are dark. Please check with each committee for current details about the meetings.

Friday, Jan. 1 (First Friday)
 DARK Greens and Grounds Driving Range
 2 pm Environmental Control (*Mtg. moved to Dec. 30*) ZOOM

Saturday, Jan. 2 (First Saturday)
 9 am Governing Documents ZOOM
 1 pm Planning ZOOM

Monday, Jan. 4 (First Monday)
 4:30pm Communications ZOOM

Tuesday, Jan. 5 (First Tuesday)
 12 pm Equestrian Equestrian Center

Thursday, Jan. 7 (First Thursday)
 DARK Recreation Lounge

Saturday, Jan. 9 (Second Saturday)
 DARK Emergency Preparedness Condor Room
 DARK CERT Condor Room

Wednesday, Jan. 13 (Wednesday Before Board Mtg)
 5 pm Budget & Finance ZOOM

Saturday, Jan. 16 (Third Saturday)
 10 am PMCPOA Board of Directors Mtg. ZOOM

Count. One-quarter of a million separate counts representing 7,000 species on all continents were tallied last year. Liz Buchroeder records birds at the three PMC golf course ponds. Her counts of ring-necked ducks at Fern's Lake are among the highest of any count in California. No, we don't understand the attraction, but we really appreciate their presence.

The males have a characteristic black-and-white saddleback appearance, while the females are more subdued, but highly attractive. An interesting, and slightly frustrating, tidbit of information involves the name. These birds have a noticeable ring around the bill, so why is their name ring-necked duck? Taxonomists who name newly discovered animals often work with dead specimens in laboratories. It turns out that if one parts the neck feathers, there appears a thin line of cinnamon-colored

under-feathers. This feature is highly unusual, and so earned the bird its name. Interesting history, but not helpful for field identification.

Do visit our charming little lake! Whether on a cold, dark winter day with floating ice; a fresh spring morning with the willows popping out in catkins and leaves; during a summer's evening with swallows working the insects over the water; or on a fall afternoon with bright yellow cottonwood leaves floating through the brisk air – this spot is a treasure for relaxation and renewal.

