



Caspar Community News

September 2017

Our Productive Community Garden



photos: Rochelle Elkan

September in the garden is a time to be harvesting, freezing, drying, pickling, and storing so you can benefit later on. Help pumpkins ripen in time for Halloween by removing any leaves shadowing the plant. Start the fall cleanup by removing old crops, clear away weeds and start tidying for the winter. The end of this month is a good time to start planting garlic bulbs and onion sets.

The Caspar garden is filled with a beautiful array of vegetables and fruit including, pumpkins, sweet peas, corn, squash, chard, asparagus and a lot more. We have 7 productive gardeners happily planting, weeding and harvesting.

Our next workday will be after the Fourth Sunday Breakfast on Sunday,

September 24th about 11:30 to 1:30. Come join us and see our lovely garden. We are planning to have fun, share new ideas and work a little.

We have one bed available: [email me](#) if interested. Our next garden meeting will be November 16th at 2pm at the Caspar Community Center.

~ Rochelle Elkan

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President's Letter

Greetings Casparados!

We've completed many projects this year and more are on the way.

You may have noticed new gravel on the southern parking area. This project was much larger than it appears. We've had a recurrent problem with a seasonal spring that erodes the parking area every winter leaving large mud filled pot holes in the parking area. Big River Rock excavated the area and installed a layer of drain rock, between two layers of stabilization fabric, and finished the top layer with rolled paving gravel. This will leach the seasonal spring away from the parking area and solve our recurring pot hole problems.

Superior Pump with help from NCR&E re-activated the old unused schoolhouse well. They installed a modern submersible pump, pressure

continues →

President's letter concludes

pump, poured a new concrete pad with retaining wall, added an additional 5000 gallon tank and relocated our existing tank to the pad. They trenched and provided pressure lines and draft lines to the north and south sides of the building complete with fire hose boxes for use by our community first responders and draft connections for use by fire trucks. Valves were installed to allow the Community Center to operate in the event of a failure of the Caspar Cattle Company water system. Steve Orsi, FBVFD chief, toured the system and praised us for our initiative.

Smaller projects included replacing dinner and glassware and adding a washer/dryer for kitchen towels and linens.

Soon to come is an electric car charging station on a concrete pad located between the barn and the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community Center. This is being facilitated by the Mendocino Land Trust.

Early next year CalTrans will improve the pedestrian/vehicle crossing at Fern Creek Road/Caspar Street and Highway One. New signage will be installed, down lights will light the roadway, a traffic speed sign will show drivers their speed, the roadway will be re-striped to allow safer turns, reflector strips will be added **and the speed limit will be reduced to 45MPH!** This has been in discussion for over six years. Many, many thanks to Bette Goldfarb for her tenacity in shepherding this project to fruition.

Meanwhile, the Community Center usage is off the chart. The Pop-Up Dance Parties are almost too well attended. Pub Night is more successful than ever. I don't have the space to mention everything going on. [Check our website for the calendar](#). If you're planning an event contact Sienna now as we are already filling up our calendar for 2018. Big kudos to managers Sienna Potts and Dana Fox for bringing organization to potential chaos.

None of these projects would be possible without your tireless volunteer efforts and your financial contributions. There are still major projects that we need to accomplish in 2018. Please consider a [monthly pledge or a year end donation](#) to the Caspar Community in your financial planning.

~ Robert Frey

President, Caspar Community Board

Good news about the Caspar Highway One crossing at Fern Creek Road and Caspar Street

CalTrans plans to begin work this winter on changes that will make the intersection safer for all of us, both pedestrians and vehicles.

Many of us have worked with CalTrans for about 10 years, submitting various ideas for changes. Some changes were not possible but CalTrans has finally agreed to a plan that looks very good. There were no appeals to the project and the county issued the permit on August 30.

There will be three major changes:

1. The current Pedestrian Crossing signs will come down and approximately 500 feet both north and south of the intersection yellow warning signs will be put up. They will include a pedestrian panel, a 45 mph panel, and a speed radar feedback display. There will be no lights, only reflectors. This plan has been tried in other California counties with good results at slowing traffic down.
2. Lights at the corners of Fern Creek Road and Caspar Street. These two lights will be certified by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) or an approved equivalent. They will be shaded and have back side control to illuminate only at their base and minimize all light and glare effects on neighbors and the animals at the pond. They will help people crossing at night and alert drivers to the intersection.
3. New pavement markings will be installed to define traffic lanes through the intersection.

Thanks to everyone at CalTrans and in the Caspar Community who have worked to make this project happen. We have attended many meetings, written letters and emails, and made lengthy phone calls.

We are all looking forward to a safer crossing.

~ Bette Goldfarb



Our Milky Way nights are so precious. IDA's [Losing the Dark](#) is a short video about why light pollution matters.

~ SMP



Breakfast, April 2016 – photo by Jim Katzell



**Caspar's Annual
HARVEST
DINNER
& Silent Auction**

Sunday, November 19, 6 pm
A benefit to support Caspar Community

Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

Our popular fourth Sunday breakfasts will continue to serve unique and wholesome meals into the foreseeable future thanks to a dedicated group of chefs. Paula Glessner will be cooking in September, Dalen Anderson in October and November. We will take a break in December, due to the holiday, and then resume next year with alternating chefs, Kris Reiber, Dana Fox, Dalen and Paula.

If you would like to help in the kitchen or be a service person at these fun events, contact Dana at events@casparcommons.org or 964-4997.

Sunday, September 24, 9 - 11 am Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

Guest Chef **Paula Glessner** & the Caspar Kitchen will be offering:

Sausage Strata with potatoes & fruit (GF) **\$13**

Vegan Tofu Scramble with potatoes & fruit (GF) **\$13**

Two Over-easy Eggs with potatoes & a muffin or GF scone **\$12**

Cheese Blintzes topped with seasonal fruit **\$12**

Pancakes with seasonal fruit & maple syrup **\$11**

Side order of **Bacon** **\$4**

Organic juice, Thanksgiving coffee & teas

Benefit for Caspar Community.
Prices include sales tax.

Jim Katzell
photo by Sienna M Potts



A Flight of Fancy: Our New & Exciting Fall Fund Raiser

An energized meeting took place a couple of weeks ago to plan for the Caspar Community yearly Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction. Out of this meeting arose the idea for a new and exciting format for this important fund raising affair. The event's new name is **A Flight of Fancy**. The concept is to create an event where people will come support our Community Center as they bid on the scores of silent auction items, nibble away at fine food stations, refresh themselves at the Caspar bar while listening to great live music. One fun aspect will be the opportunity to vote for your favorite cocktail, which will become Caspar's signature libation.

What is needed now is ideas for the cocktails to be served and as always plenty of volunteers to pull this grand event off. Contact us at caspar@mcn.org or 964-4997 for information or to get involved.

Turn the page for:

MORE
UPCOMING
EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pop-up DANCE PARTY
The Mighty T-BONES
Friday, September 15, 7-10 pm

Sunday, September 17th 4PM
COMMUNITY MEETING!
Potluck Dinner Afterwards

Saturday, September 23 10am-12pm
HEADLANDS WORK DAY

Sunday, September 24, 9 - 11 am
Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

EMERGENCY PREPARATION MEETING
Monday, September 25, 7 pm

Wednesdays 12:15-12:45
BOOKMOBILE
September 27, October 11 & 25

First & Third Fridays, 9 am
October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17
Caspar Community Board
All Welcome

Friday, October 13, 6:30 - 9 pm
Caspar Pub Night
Family Friendly - Teens Welcome

What the Health + Vegan Dinner
Sunday, October 15, 5 pm

Pop-up Dance Party
Wood & Steel
Friday, October 20, 7-10 pm

Disaster Fest
Saturday, October 21, 12-6pm

Sunday, October 22, 9 - 11 am
Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

A complete schedule can be found at our website.

If you would like to receive email about hometown Caspar events, email your request to lists@casparcommons.org.

Disaster Fest
Saturday, October 21, 2017

How can we, both as individuals, and together as a community, best meet life's inevitable disasters with grace and resilience?

On October 21st, between 12 and 4 pm, the Caspar Community will hold our first **Disaster Fest**, a day of learning and fun. We invite you to come and meet with your neighbors to learn skills ranging from CPR and backwoods medicine to how best to organize your neighborhood for disaster response.

Presenters will include representatives from local fire agencies and the American Red Cross, as well as other local experts. The Caspar Community will share news of our progress in creating our community shelter and disaster plan.

Turn the page for Judy Tarbell's Emergency Preparedness article

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE PARTY

We hope you'll save the date, and join us this December 31 to celebrate the New Year, Caspar style. **The Mixed Nuts**, with special guests, will be playing a wide variety of musical styles for your listening and dancing pleasure. There will be scrumptious appetizers (bring a something to share if you like) and Caspar Bar will be serving lovely libations. Advance tickets will go on sale in December and, as always, we could use your volunteer energy to help put on this annual community event. Contact us at caspar@mcn.org or 964-4997 for information or to get involved.



Are You Ready for the Next Big One???
Disaster Fest coming up on
Saturday, October 21, 2017

Not to be a worrywart, but sometime in the future, and who knows when or where, there will be an earthquake in Northern California, or a tsunami, or a major fire, which could affect our lovely Caspar. Since we are framed by bridges over Jughandle and Caspar Creeks, a disaster could isolate us from outside help.

For over half a year, an energetic group of Casparados have met monthly at the Center to discuss how Caspar Community can help people help themselves prepare for this eventuality, and how Caspar Community Center can help people in need in the event of a disaster.

The Community Center is uniquely suited to help: it is energy self-sufficient with solar panels, a bank of batteries and a propane back-up generator. Its new foundations are sturdy. Its commercial kitchen is world class. It has its own well in case the Caspar Cattle Company pipes, which bring water to the Center (and to 9 other dwellings), crack in the "event." It has room to house people if their homes have collapsed.

So far our disaster planning group has:

- 1) set goals and established protocols
- 2) made up lists of supplies for
 - 2a) sheltering up to 20 people (including cots and bedding, flashlights, personal hygiene, music and puzzles)
 - 2b) feeding up to 100 people for five days
 - 2c) providing first aid to the injured
- 3) chosen equipment to communicate within our village and with the outside world
- 4) established systems to manage the Center as a shelter, and
- 5) outlined how to care for our dogs and cats.

Supplies are ordered and beginning to materialize. Storage will be offsite (nearby) in one or two small rat-proof trailers. A grant is supplying the necessary funds to purchase current needs and keep them up-to-date.

So, does this must mean we can sit around and relax? That everything is taken care of? **Absolutely not, and the most important and necessary part of this process is entirely up to you.** The single most important thing every individual, couple, and family must do is prepare their own emergency and first aid supplies for storage at their own property. If this seems like a daunting task (honestly, it isn't), **come to the Disaster Fest on Saturday, October 21st**, and learn how to equip a disaster barrel with the basics you'll need. We want to make this as easy as possible for everyone so we can blanket Caspar with mini-disaster shelters. Casparados will be able to

sign up for the community barrel-building initiative so we can buy in bulk and save. If you'd like to go it alone, you will find thorough lists for home preparedness on the casparcommons.org website in a folder appropriately titled "[Resilience](#)."

There is also a map, under "[Maps](#)," which details the [escape route](#) through Jackson State Forest to Highway 20 and Willits for evacuation if bridges are unsafe.

There is much more to do. We'd like to have an inventory of community resources and skills, including an equipment inventory and a roster of people able to carry out search and rescue and perform other disaster relief tasks.

Another important goal that has come up in our group meetings is to map neighborhoods so neighbors can be helpful to each other. Quite frankly, this has been a challenge. Many people understandably do not want to share their personal information, be it the location of their propane tank, or physical limitations that would probably necessitate assistance. However, knowing one another is one of the most powerful advantages our community can have in case of disaster. We're hoping that over this winter small neighborhood groups of 12 or so people can gather and find ways to help each other that are comfortable for all involved.

Each household taking charge of their own safety and becoming aware of emergency resources available in case of disaster will help us take care of each other when outside resources **will likely** be too overwhelmed to come to our aid. We have worked hard and welcome everyone else who wants to join. This work is ongoing and there is room for everyone who would like to participate.

Please consider getting involved: we meet the last Monday of every month at 7 pm at the Caspar Community Center, so our next meeting is Monday, September 25. And please come to the Disaster Fest on October 21 and sign up to build your own disaster barrel so you can shelter in place.

Stay tuned!

~ Judy Tarbell

This edition of
Caspar Community News

was laid out by Sienna M Potts

Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to

lists@casparcommons.org

We  Caspar