

# Sierra Recreation Association

November 2006

Website: [www.varvayanis.com/sp](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp)

Phone/Fax: (209) 586-3098

e-mail: [sierrapark@sierrapark.org](mailto:sierrapark@sierrapark.org)

### Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 6:00 P.M.

**RSVPs are optional, but would be appreciated so as we can gauge the number of attendees expected. Please RSVP to [sierrapark@sierrapark.org](mailto:sierrapark@sierrapark.org) or the park phone (209) 586-3098.**

Everyone is invited to share this meal. Please bring your own table service and one of the following: salad, vegetable, or dessert. Turkey and all the trimmings will be provided by the park.

There will be a raffle to raise funds for the Fishing Derby in June.

If you wish to donate an item for the raffle, or can help with the dinner, please contact Tom Clark at [clarkscabin@earthlink.net](mailto:clarkscabin@earthlink.net) or (209) 586-0257.

### Park Calendar

Board meetings are generally held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 AM.

Board Meetings: December 16<sup>th</sup>, January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Dinner: December 16<sup>th</sup>

St. Patrick's Dinner: March 17<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup>



### Board of Directors Seats

Tom Clark has joined the Board of Directors and will fill his seat through the next election in May 2007. Tom is also chairing the Recreation Committee. Thanks Tom.

One vacant seat remains. Anyone wishing to fill the vacated positions until the next election in May 2007 should contact the Board of Directors via E-Mail, US Mail, Telephone, or be present at the December 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 Board meeting. The Board of Directors will make a selection from the available candidates in a closed session at the December 16<sup>th</sup> 2006 Board meeting. If the seat is not filled, the Board of Directors will operate with eight members as per the By-Laws.

For those of you that have not served on the Board of Directors, this is a great way to give it a try without the usual three year obligation.

### Board of Directors Seats Available to All

A careful review of the Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association (OFSRA) Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation has revealed that all property owners in Sierra Park are eligible to sit on the OFSRA Board of Directors. This does not effect the requirement to be an Odd Fellow/Rebekah and a property owner in order to vote on OFSRA business at a members meeting, including the election of board members.

This research was the result of a request made to the Board of Directors at the May 2006 Annual Meeting.

For additional details go to: [www.varvayanis.com/sp/announcements/bod\\_seats.htm](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp/announcements/bod_seats.htm)

### Board Member Temporarily Excused

Brother Steve Wallace recently suffered a heart attack and subsequently a quadruple bypass. Steve has been excused from board service till his return or other notification. Steve – We wish you a speedy recovery.

### Password for Documents on the Website

Starting immediately select documents on the website are password protected. The password is: **not available from the web version of the newsletter.**

### Newsletter Available Via E-Mail

The newsletter and other official communications are now available via e-mail.

If you would like to begin receiving your newsletter and/or other official communications via e-mail please notify us at [sierrapark@sierrapark.org](mailto:sierrapark@sierrapark.org). Please indicate if you would like newsletters only or all communications via e-mail. You must notify us at this time even if you have notified us previously, prior to November 10<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Advantages: Get it about a week sooner, multiple e-mail addresses if desired, in color, save the park money, save a tree, and in PDF form: view, print, and/or save a copy.



**Parking and Snow Removal**

Before, during, and after snow storms, please do not park along the roadways. The snow removal equipment requires access to the entire roadway to maneuver and clear the road. Also, snow thrown by the snow removal equipment can dent vehicles and break auto glass. If necessary, please park in the parking lot at the lake. Do NOT park in the parking lot at the Lodge. The Lodge parking lot is reserved for staging the snow removal equipment.

**CAUTION:** The snow removal equipment is heavy and large and can at times become impossible to maneuver and/or stop. In addition, the equipment frequently stops and backs up and has large blind spots. It is your responsibility to anticipate and be aware of snow removal operations and maintain large and sufficient areas of clearance for snow removal equipment and operations. The snow removal equipment has the right of way at all times.

**Fire Season Ends**

Fire season ended November 20<sup>th</sup> 2006. Burning is permitted 24 hours through April 30<sup>th</sup> 2007. The Release: [www.varvayanis.com/sp/other\\_documnets/2006\\_fire\\_season\\_ends.pdf](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp/other_documnets/2006_fire_season_ends.pdf)

**Wood Cutting at the Old Campground**

From time to time wood from fallen or removed trees is placed in the old campground near the dumpster for use as firewood.

This wood technically belongs to OFSRA members (Sierra Park homeowners that are Odd Fellows and/or Rebekahs), but all Sierra Park homeowners are equally welcome to collect wood from that location for use at cabins within Sierra Park. Please clean up any mess you may create from processing wood there. Removal of this wood from the confines of the park is strictly prohibited.

**Sierra Park Directory of Residents**

The website contains a password protected Directory of Residents separate from the Gate Directory and OFSRA Mailing List. Direct link to the directory: [www.varvayanis.com/sp/directory.htm](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp/directory.htm)

To be included in the Sierra Park Directory of Residents, submit your information to Charles Varvayanis at [charles@varvayanis.com](mailto:charles@varvayanis.com), (209) 586-3782, or P. O. Box 395, Long Barn, CA 95335.

**The Passing of Friends and Neighbors**

**Mitt Hitchcock**

Milton 'Mitty' R. Hitchcock, husband of Nadine Sparling Hitchcock passed away on November 13<sup>th</sup> at age 81. Mitt had a cabin on Deborah, and was a resident of Hollister. For additional details go to: [www.varvayanis.com/sp/obituaries/Milton\\_\(Mitty\)\\_R\\_Hitchcock\\_Nov\\_16\\_2006.htm](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp/obituaries/Milton_(Mitty)_R_Hitchcock_Nov_16_2006.htm)

**Bill Smith**

William Henry Smith, husband of Floellen Smith passed away at his home on Wheeler Road on November 14<sup>th</sup> at age 85. Bill was the father of Dale Smith, former caretaker of Sierra Park. For additional details go to: [www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story\\_no=21964](http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=21964)

**Dogs and Park Speed Limit**

Reminder: Dogs must be on a leash while on park property.

Reminder: The park speed limit is 20 MPH.

Please conform, and notify your guests of these rules.

**Tree Service and Snow Plowing Vendors**

Periodically the park receives referral requests for Tree Service and Snow Plowing services. The park does not maintain a comprehensive list of these vendors but has successfully used some of the following:

Tree Service:

- |                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Joe Cover & Sons                   | 928-3062 |
| Tamarack Tree Services/Mark Patton | 586-8733 |
| Earl Hitch                         | 586-3670 |
| Dave Alley Tree Services           | 533-3448 |
| Twain Harte Tree Service           | 586-2254 |

Snow Plowing Service:

- |                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Andy's Mountain Snow Plowing | 586-1214 |
| &                            |          |
|                              | 352-0255 |

For a more comprehensive list, please refer to the AT&T Yellow Pages. AT&T phone directories are available free of charge at Save Mart in Sonora.



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 18, 2006

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by President Charles Varvayanis. The invocation was offered by Al Orth. Those present were President Charles Varvayanis, Vice President Mike Ford, Secretary Mike Rainwater, Treasurer Doris Selman, Members, Alan Orth, Clark Kellogg, and Tom Clark. Absent was Steve Wallace, excused.

**Members before the board:** Tom Clark was present and indicated that he was interested in filling one of the vacant seats on the Board. Mr. Opland requested use of Park facilities for June 30, 2007.

**Executive Session:** Board went into executive session at 8:33 A.M. and closed executive session at 8:35 A.M. Results of session were that Tom Clark was elected to fill Mike VanGundy's vacancy for the remainder of this year.

**Minutes:** Minutes of October 21, 2006 meeting; Motion by Orth and seconded by Selman that the minutes be approved as mailed. Motion passed unanimous.

**Correspondence:** 1) Letters/Flyers concerning Water Programs, U.S. Water News, Ad. From ACE Hardware, e-mail from Shaun Velayas re: name addition to the front gate directory, e-mail from Lori Ingram re: dogs on leash and full time residents plowing snow onto other people's property, e-mail from Deanna Mooney re: repair work to driveway. Ad from J.B. Dugan, Notice from Dept. Industrial Relations of Wage Increase, El Dorado Bank information, U.S. Bank ad, Caldwell Insurance re: asking the Board to register on their Website, letter from Mark Knapp for permission for a new parking pad, and a letter from Caldwell Insurance changing our insurance coverage on autos and copy of commercial excess liability.

### Committee Reports

**Water – Rainwater:** Water usage was 1,507,000 gals. The dead end on Esther was completed and put into operation. Tests results from Aqua Lab were all good for this month.

**Roads – Wallace:** No report.

**Buildings – Kellogg:** Heater in Lodge was inspected by outside contractors and bids were accepted for the replacement of said heater. Not all the bids had arrived as of yet and further business concerning the replacement was tabled until the last bids have been received.

**Timber – Ford:** PGE was called concerning the trees at the entrance of the Park and we were advised that we are on the list but not a high priority at this time.

**Recreation – Clark:** Information concerning Christmas dinner which is scheduled for Dec. 16th at 6:00 P.M. Donations for Christmas dinner raffle can be dropped off with Tom Clark. If possible, the Board would like to ask if you could RSVP for dinner, not necessary, but would be appreciated.

**Health & Safety – Varvayanis:** The lake has been drained and all related equipment has been stored away. A reminder to homeowners that dogs must be on a leash at all times.

**Equipment – Orth:** Caretaker indicates that we still need some additional snow chains. The backhoe tractor had the rear tires replaced. The Board still needs to have a training session concerning the generator that was purchased last year from Berry's Electric.

**Finance – Selman:** Motion by Orth and seconded by Rainwater to pay the bills as presented, reviewed, and signed for the amount of \$5,205.07. Motioned was passed unanimously. Total deposits throughout the month totaled \$310.39. There are still some assessments left to collect for this year.

**Old Business:** 1) Caretaker's job description concerning water repair was amended to read, "repair water leaks in the Park system." The choice of whether or not to call an outside agency to assist will be decided by the caretaker and the



type of repair needed. 2) Will Dorrell (California Reforestation Inc.) was contacted concerning the difference between the bid to clean the bar ditches and the actual cost that was submitted. Mr. Dorrell indicated that there was a lot more work than he had anticipated. 3) Implementation of e-mail delivery for the Park newsletter and communication has begun. An invitation to 87 e-mail addresses were sent of which 51 responded indicating the use of the system.

**Executive Session:** Board moved into executive session at 11:15 A.M. and closed executive session at 1:05 P.M.

**New Business:** 1) Discussion concerning the past 12 years Board meeting minutes. Roger Brown, Park's attorney, indicated that the minutes have been insufficient and because of this has caused the Park to suffer during legal formalities. Several Board members felt this to be completely out of line and to point fingers at past practices was unnecessary. The issue was discussed and the Board decided not to change any of our past or present practices. 2) President Varvayanis asked if the minutes could be provided sooner for the newsletter and Secretary Rainwater indicated that he would receive them as soon as they were typed based on time available. 3) The handrail/short wall at the lodge, located just before entering the Board room, is in disrepair. Board asked Mike Caropreso, caretaker, to check the wall and decide if it needs repair. 4) Topic of the old blue Park truck was presented to the Board. Mike Caropreso has expressed interest in purchasing it. Discussion by the Board to sell as is to Mr. Caropreso with the smog registration being his responsibility. Motion by Kellogg to sell the blue truck to Mike Caropreso as is for \$400.00, seconded by Orth. First vote by the Board failed due to three members abstaining from vote, Selman, Ford, and Rainwater. After further discussion, a second motion presented by Kellogg and seconded by Orth and worded the same as the first was passed unanimously by the Board. 5) President Varvayanis expressed a concern that the water tanks that had been inspected last year might have been incomplete. Mr. Ford has experience with storage tank maintenance and asked Mr. Ford to meet with Mr. Rainwater to discuss whether or not the tanks need new inspection. 6) President Varvayanis informed the Board that the website has select documents on it that are password protected. The password is: *not available from the web version of the newsletter*. 7) It was brought to the Board's attention that Joseph Drive is not depicted on the Park map in front of the Park office. Mike Caropreso, caretaker, indicated that he would take care of the problem and add the street to the map. 8-9-10-11-12-13 These items pertained to the President attempting to put a schedule together of Board issues. Item 8 dealt with the budget and a time frame for creating the new budget and distribution of it to the homeowners. Item 9 concerns the annual meeting and its notification to the homeowners. Item 10 deals with the new assessment for 2007 – 2008 year. Item 11 discusses timber and recommendations for timber or don't timber. Item 12 asks for report on road maintenance and costs. Included in this report, President Varvayanis has spoken with several persons regarding the bridge on Jordan Way East. According to President Varvayanis, the general consensus is that it is in good condition, and has greater than 25 years of life remaining. Mr. Kellogg asked President Varvayanis if he had an engineer inspect this bridge or any professional contractor that has that knowledge inspect the bridge. Mr. Varvayanis indicated that he had not and it was the Board's decision that no further discussion concerning the replacement or repair was necessary. Item 13 concerned the water system and capital improvements, if necessary. 14) Schedule the completion and the distribution of the April 2007 newsletter on or before April 27, 2007. Due to time constraints, very few of these items were discussed by the Board, thus resulting in these items having no Board action taken on them.

**Other Business:** 1) After a lengthy discussion and several months of research, the Board announces that all homeowners are eligible to be members of the Board of Directors. Any questions concerning this issue can be directed to President Varvayanis. 2) A motion by Rainwater and seconded by Ford to reimburse Doris Selman and Steve Wallace their 2006/2007 assessment for the additional work that they perform for the park. Board passed the motion unanimously. 3) Mr. Opland's request for the use of Park facilities on June 30th, 2007 was approved. The conditions of the approval were: standard deposit and rental fee charge, use of the beach for approx. 2 hours, waiver of the max. 75 people changed to 100 people, and if Mr. Opland can obtain written permission from his neighbors that live on Jordan Way West to allow the closure of Jordan Way West from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; then the Board will also allow such closure.

Next meeting is on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 8:30 A.M.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

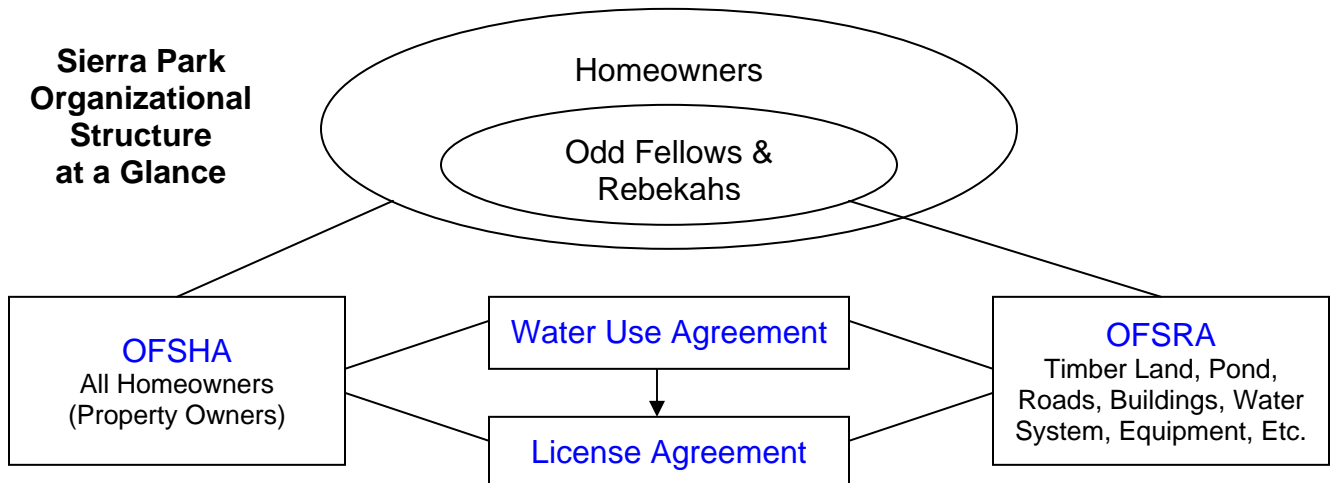
Michael Rainwater, Secretary



Checks Disbursed 10/25/2006 - 11/24/2006

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Amount
10/27/2006	197	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 10/09 thru 10/22/06	\$1,054.70
10/27/2006	198	Robert Cloak	Payroll October	\$91.55
10/27/2006	199	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$50.00
10/31/2006	200	Arlen Santos	Payroll 10/9 thru 10/22/06	\$175.78
11/3/2006	201	EDD	Payroll Taxes	\$109.19
11/3/2006	202	Oak Valley Bank	Payroll Taxes	\$1,069.60
11/20/2006	203	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 10/23 thru 11/05/06	\$1,054.70
11/20/2006	204	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$50.00
11/20/2006	208	VOID		
11/20/2006	209	Angels Pest Control	Maintain Buildings	\$130.00
11/20/2006	210	AquaLab	Water Testing (2 months)	\$290.00
11/20/2006	211	A T & T	Utilities / Phones	\$69.24
11/20/2006	212	Mike Caropreso	Employee Benefits / Medical	\$203.37
11/20/2006	213	Eric Carlson Accounting	Accounting	\$694.75
11/20/2006	214	J S West	Utilities/ Propane	\$38.59
11/20/2006	215	Kellogg's Supply	Maintain Water/ cap exp. project	\$100.28
11/20/2006	216	Midstate Rental	Maintain Equipment / Backhoe	\$959.29
11/20/2006	217	P G & E	Utilities / Electricity	\$790.87
11/20/2006	218	Secretary of State	Taxes & License	\$25.00
11/20/2006	219	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintain Water/ cap exp. project	\$147.49
11/20/2006	220	Village Mail & Printing	Member Communications	\$213.86
11/20/2006	221	Steve Wallace	Maintain Water/ cap exp. project	\$711.24
11/20/2006	222	Waste Management	Garbage	\$815.16
11/20/2006	223	Zenith Insurance	Workmen's comp Insurance	\$593.00
11/20/2006	224	A & A Portables	Health & Safety	\$22.93
11/24/2006	205	Michael Caropreso	Payroll	\$1,054.70
11/24/2006	206	Robert Cloak	Payroll November	\$91.55
11/24/2006	207	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$50.00
			Total Disbursements	\$10,656.84

Sierra Park Organizational Structure at a Glance





Sierra Park Odd Fellows Lodge No. 376  
 Post Office Box 214, Long Barn, California 95335  
 For information contact: Bill Williams (209) 586-5580

Lodge meetings are held at the lodge in Sierra Park on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Dogwood Rebekah Lodge No. 200  
 Post Office Box 205, Long Barn, California 95335  
 For information contact: Doris Williams (209) 586-5580

Lodge meetings are held at the lodge in Sierra Park on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon, and social meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner.



**Merry Christmas!**

**Christmas Dinner  
 December 16<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**Put it on your calendar!**



Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association  
 P.O. 116  
 Long Barn, CA 95335-0116

**Return Service Requested**

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