



The Gold Mountain® Nugget

The Newsletter of the Gold Mountain Homeowners Association

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Gold Mountain HOA Contacts

Office Address:
GMHOA
150 Pacific Street
Portola, CA 96122

Mailing Address:
GMHOA
P.O. Box 297
Clio, CA 96106

Phone: (530) 832-5945
Email: goldmtnhoa@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: www.goldmountainhoa.org

HOA Board of Directors

Tom Murtha, President
tmurtha@uic.edu, (530) 832-0543

Jim Lafferty, Vice President
jim@laffertyaircraft.com, (530) 832-5107

Noreen Carter, Treasurer-CFO
noreencr@yahoo.com, (916) 758-4015

Deb Dobbs, Secretary
d2@dobbsgroup.com, (925) 939-0508

Bob Christensen, Board Member
ojailaw@aol.com, (408) 279-3038

Gold Mountain Nugget Editor
& Publisher
Len Fernandes
lencom@earthlink.net, (530) 832-1612

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Golf Returns to Gold Mountain Nakoma Golf Resort Set for May 1 Opening

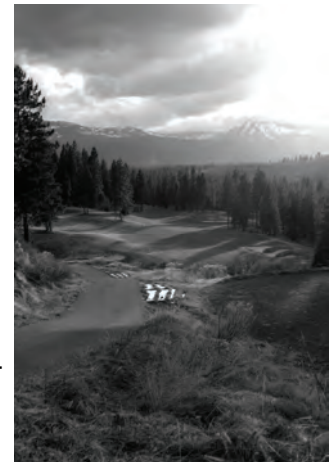
Golf is back at Gold Mountain when the Nakoma Golf Resort reopens for business on May 1. Once again balls will be flying into the Feather River, into the seasonal creeks, and some will even find the cup. The course will be open for play May 1 through October 31.

The former "Dragon" has undergone some renovation and updating throughout this winter, with more renovations slated for next year. More than \$200,000 was spent on new golf course equipment, a maintenance crew, and course modifications. The Nakoma Golf Resort will evolve into a "a very enjoyable course to play, with a high level of maintenance," according to the new management.

Golfers and non-golfers will be welcomed

into the refurbished Frank Lloyd Wright® designed Nakoma® clubhouse and the Spa-Villas.

Visitors should contact the Nakoma Golf Resort for information on what amenities will be available during the 2007 season.



The Nakoma Golf Resort will offer some of
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Zen and the Art of Golf, or is that Bicycling?

By Len Fernandes

I do not understand golf. Sure I've tried it, several times. I've smacked a line drive off the old painted cow's butt at the Graeagle driving range. I put my fair share of balls into the Feather River, which I scrounged from the Interpretive Trail at Gold



Mountain. I've gone 0-2 on a ball with my driver several times, but fortunately have not struck out yet. I even played 18 holes on my mountain bike on the old Dragon course several times in the winter with a putter, driver and some kind of iron (shhh,

don't tell the new developers, whoever they might be). But I still do not get it. I always thought that golf was a good hike spoiled by chasing around a little white ball, which you are constantly losing in the woods.

Maybe I just not have discovered the Zen that makes this game the obsession of my neighbors and fellow Gold Mountaineers.

Zen means to understand the essence of the universe. Zen is neither a theory nor an idea; it is not an intellectual concept. It is a deep wisdom whose essence is unattainable through logical thought alone. I get it when it comes to bicycling and baseball, but that tangible, practical way to understand golf escapes me at times. My Zen comes from riding a bicycle full speed



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GM CSD Contact Information

Office:

150 Pacific Street, Suite 8
Portola, CA 96122
goldmntnhoa@sbcglobal.net
Phone/fax: (530) 832-5945

Mailing Address:

GM CSD
P.O. Box 5
Clio, CA 96106

CSD Board of Directors:

Craig Simmons, President
goldmtbear@psln.com
(530) 832-9818

Paul Erickson, VP
donnaandpaul@LTOL.com
(530) 832-5776

Jack Zygnier, Treasurer
jzygnier@gotsky.com
(530) 832-4380

Mike Callaghan, Director
mikecallaghan@psln.com
(530) 832-4037

Gail McGrath, Director
gmcgrath@gotsky.com
(530) 832-4325

CSD Staff:

George Sipel, General Manager
mtncard38@gmail.com
(530) 832-5058

Mark Elliott, Office Manager
startupview@netzero.com
(530) 836-0410



DRC News

Approved Plant List Update

By Tom Cooley

It's official! The DRC has revised the Design Guidelines with a new Approved Plant List.

The purpose of this revision is to make the list more comprehensive for property owners who want to add plants to their landscape and to rank the water usage and flammability properties of their plant selections. Each plant is evaluated in these categories: Water Usage/Flammability, Native, and Feasible/Attractive. The revision was completed in consultation with a professional botanist with specific knowledge of the locale.

An important note: It was discovered that plants that require less water are prone to be more flammable, while those plants that require more water are prone to be less flammable.



Gold Mountain is becoming more conscious of fire prevention and is actively implementing fuel reduction practices. When selecting plants, property owners are advised to plan their landscape with those practices in mind. Planting should avoid the possibility of potential fire "laddering."

News from Around the Mountain

Wireless Broadband a Possibility — Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications launched a wireless high-speed Internet service in Graeagle and surrounding areas in March. The prospect for bringing this service to Gold Mountain looks good if there is interest in the community. To learn more call 800-221-3474 and let the PSREC know you are interested in wireless broadband.

This new service brings DSL throughput at 1024K (versus 28.8K for dial-up service at Gold Mountain) for a monthly fee of \$35 plus a nominal equipment charge as low as \$99. Several tiers of service will be offered.

We recommend grouping and spacing of plants to retard the spread of fire. Please contact the Fuel Reduction Committee or the Design Review Committee for further information.

Water usage is also a concern at Gold Mountain. If the property owner selects plants that are rated as "5" for water usage, they should do so sparingly.

Copies of the revised plant list are available from the Association office.

Many Thanks, and a Warm Welcome — Wendy Callaghan is retiring from service on the DRC. We thank her for her years of conscientious service as recording secretary and active participation in pre-design and pre-construction meetings.

Our newest member, Cheryl Dimmerling, will become the new recording secretary for the Committee. Cheryl brings to the Committee a strong background in residential and apartment construction. Her professional career and experience includes building homes for personal use and for speculation.

Meeting Dates - The DRC meets on the second Wednesday of each month during 2007. Please remember that Preliminary Plan Submittals are due 17 days before — and Final Plan Submittals are due eight days prior — to regular meeting dates. ▲

The prospects look promising if you voice your interest to the PSREC. Stay tuned.

Caffeine Fix — Businesses seem to come and go in Portola with too much frequency. Here's a new one that I hope stays. Brewed Awakening opened this winter on Highway 70.

The remodeled old house serves coffee drinks, breakfast and lunch. 530-832-4719. — **Len Fernandes** ▲





The CSD Report

NEWS OF THE GOLD MOUNTAIN® COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
ISSUE 6

SPRING 2007

District Engineer To Present “CSD Master Plan” on Infrastructure at Annual Meeting

**By Craig Simmons
CSD President**

The much anticipated Gold Mountain CSD Master Plan was presented at a special public meeting of the Board of Directors on February 28, 2007 in Portola. Our District Civil Engineer, John Shaw (of 2006 Annual Meeting fame) discussed his study findings and recommendations for the design, construction and estimated financing of infrastructure needs.

Based upon the currently approved build-out “Development Agreement” of the existing CSD service area for residential and commercial growth, he has forecasted anticipated system needs in three main areas: (1) adequate and dependable drinking water; (2) disposal/treatment of wastewater, and (3) fire systems.

Mr. Shaw made a detailed presentation of the current system description and original design as well as a technical evaluation of present design versus needs of a “typical small system” (such as ours) for each major segment: water, sewer and fire.

To bring these segments to a full build-out capacity, there

is, of course, a price tag. Projects that are recommended over the short-term (up to one year) are estimated at just under \$400,000; those projects beyond one year and up — to as late as 2012 — total approximately \$10.1 Million.



The degree to which any of these projects are started will be dependent upon a careful study of immediacy of need and exploring financing options – discussion planning has already begun.

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, you will have an opportunity to receive a full report of the CSD Master Plan by John Shaw, be able to ask questions, and hear about a proposed action plan.

The CSD also plans to have discussions about the following topics: (1) connected water and sewer rates; and (2) the latest plans for community-wide hazardous fuel reduction and defensible space. We hope to see you there! ▲

Clip It & Chip It - What You Can Do!

Spring is here, which means *Spring Cleaning!* Yippee, it's time to spruce up the old homestead or lot! Grab your gloves, safety goggles, rakes, saws, and back braces. Here we go! This is *What You Can Do*.

Around Your Home Make Sure:

- Gutters and roofs are free of debris like pine needles and leaves.
- Branches within 10 feet of chimneys are removed.
- Dead branches overhanging your roof are removed.
- Vents and chimneys are properly screened with wire mesh.
- Firewood is stacked at least 30 feet away from your home and vegetation is removed within 10 feet of any woodpile.
- Any flammable material/vegetation is



One of the Gold Mountain “locals” practicing some natural fuel reduction.

cleared around your propane tank and tank screens.

- Your deck and porches are free of easily combustible materials.
- Under deck areas are free of combustible materials and vegetation.
- You have at least a three foot

“Noncombustible Area” around the base of your home.

Keep it Lean, Clean and Green at least 30 feet from your home:

Lean means that only a small amount of flammable vegetation remains.
Clean means removing dead vegetation or flammable debris in this 30 foot plus area.
Green means that the remaining plants and trees in this area are kept green and healthy.

And then...begin working out toward your property lines and this also means lots without homes:

Thin out thick shrubs and trees, creating separation between them.

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Nakoma Golf Resort Set for May 1 Grand Opening

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the best rates in Plumas County. Green fees start at \$45 and max at \$70 depending on the day or month. Twilight fees begin at 2:00 PM and are just \$25-\$50 depending on the day or month. Group reservations are currently being taken for 12 golfers



or more. Individual reservations started April 1 for up to six weeks in advance of play.

The key personnel for the 2007 season include Mark Stutsman, Golf Course Superintendent; Jim Sanders, Facilities and Equipment Manager; and Paul Lane, PGA Master Professional as Director of Golf.

The Nakoma Golf Resort will also offer special rates to former Hero members and Gold Mountain homeowners and property owners. For information email them at info@nakomagolfresort.com.



Call toll free at 877-462-5662 or 530-832-5067. Visit www.nakomagolfresort.com for updated news and information.

By Len Fernandes ▲

Chips Ahoy - What You Can Do!

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Remove "ladder fuels" by removing low tree branches, and prune or remove shrubs under trees.

Remove dead debris and vegetation on the ground.

Do I need special skills or equipment?

Nope! For the most part, creating Defensible Space means routine landscape maintenance, such as pruning, weeding, plant removal, and irrigation. Choose fire resistant plants from our updated Plant List found on our web page. Equipment just includes common tools such as a chain saw, pruning saw and shears, loppers, weed-eater, shovel, pitch fork and rake.

Oh My Gosh, I'm overwhelmed just looking at this project! Organize a Neighborhood Fuel Reduction Project. We're known for great friends and neighbors here, so work together at one neighbor's house reducing hazardous fuel. Then celebrate the fruits of your labor together that night or whenever you recover at the host's home!

And Finally, The BIG QUESTION—How in the world am I going to get rid of all of this debris?

Good question, and here's the answer...haul it to the road side and then phone or email the HOA office by the last Friday of the month. Starting April 27th, a **monthly chipper service has been organized** during the week following these Fridays. You will be billed based only on the time it takes to chip your pile - usually about \$50 to \$75. Stay tuned for more chipper service details. ▲

Gold Mountain Needle Exchange Program

Hang on, before you call the authorities Gold Mountain is not contributing to anyone's habit.

One of the more novel ideas from recent Fire Safe Committee (FSC) meetings is to match Gold Mountaineers with an abundance of pine needles with those who may need them for landscaping. Laying down a thin layer of pine needles helps prevent soil erosion and contributes to native plant re-growth since the needles carry many seedlings.

Contact FSC chair Mike Callaghan 530-832-4037 if you need to procure or unload some pine needles. If you are a needle "donor" make sure your pine needles are free of pine cones.

▲

Zen and the Art/Meaning of Golf ...

(Continued from page 1)

on a mountain road, the freedom of seeing those miles fly by, the endorphin rush of the exercise.

I can only assume the way a golfer understands how Zen and golf intertwine is when the golfer hits the perfect shot and it feels so effortless that they can't remember making the motion.

I think people who understand the Zen of golf know that the score is not what the game is about. It's about focus and staying in the present - a

challenge in any sport designed around the seduction of outcome. I guess the equivalent in bicycling would be focusing on the pedal stroke, being one with the bike, letting the mind drift and before you realize it you have made it to the top of the Gold Lake Highway.

For a golfer I guess that means, focus and presence and non-attachment to outcome, might yield seamless pars on the last three holes. Zen masters teach perfect mechanics and also the technique of no mechanics at all.

Balance in golf and bicycling is essential. Regardless of your current skill level, your Zen virtually predetermines the quality of golf or any sport you play. Will it make you another Tiger Woods or Lance Armstrong? Probably not, but I think you'll cuss less when you shank a shot or blow a tire.

Throw your clubs in the car, or pump up your tires, whatever your diversion because on May 1 the Nakoma Gold Resort is open for business. ▲