

Amargosa Valley Newsletter

"All the news that's fit to print (maybe)"

Published monthly by Town of Amargosa Valley, Nevada

September 2009

AMARGOSA VALLEY AREA PLAN

By Jan Cameron

I think of most people in Amargosa as part of my family. It is, it seems, a microcosm of my life. There are many wonderful people here. Some don't like each other. Some do. I enjoy most of those I have met. Being human, there are a few I don't, but on the whole, I really enjoy the people here. We are a very diverse lot: different backgrounds, different experiences, different previous lives, different current existences. And yet, we are a family.

We don't always agree on the direction we should be headed. We often disagree on things large and small, but when it is really important, we remember that we are a family. We are going to face many challenges in the next few years. The economy downturn hasn't missed us. People have lost jobs. Retirees who managed to save for their future have seen their savings shrink. And prices, especially for necessities, keep going up.

At the same time, many companies who want to generate electrical power using the sun have found us. As have real estate developers. These developments are not necessarily bad, but they are not all good either. A large group of concerned citizens have spent the last year and a half working on a planning document for the Valley. The idea was to protect those of us who live here from having our community develop the way the Pahrump did – without any thought. And to try to layout a plan that we hope that Board of County Commissioners will follow.

Most of us want some growth, particularly some economic development. Economic development, the right kind of economic development, means jobs for our youth and adults. It means a larger tax base to support community services. It means local people being able to sell their extra land for businesses and workers' homes. It means new depth in our community.

AMARGOSA VALLEY AREA PLAN

Continued

I want to be able to do whatever I want with my property. But, while I want some economic growth, I don't think I want a business, especially one that would draw a lot of traffic, next door to me. That is the point of planning.

The Committee asked people to come to meetings and identify their preferences for the future of their property. Many did; and the Committee protected those preferences in the plan. Is the plan that has been developed perfect? No. But it is very good, as good as any such plan can be. And like any plan, it can be, and should be, reviewed and revised regularly. So if there are any serious mistakes or changes that need to be made to meet changed circumstances or preferences, those changes can be made in the future.

As I sit here, writing this, I don't know if the Town Advisory Board will approve the Area Plan and send it to the board of County Commissioners for acceptance. And I certainly don't know if the BOCC will approve it. We have been here before and haven't gotten our plans approved. But I am hopeful that both will approve it. We like our way of life. And we want our lives, and the lives of those who follow us, to be better. We deserve it. But to get it, we need a plan.

CALLING ALL RENTALS

If you have property (land or housing) for rent, please provide information regarding it to the Town Office immediately. The County is putting a page on its web site that will list all available rentals in the southern Nye area. By property, we mean houses (manufactured or stick-built), RV hook-ups, land with utilities that is house-ready.

Examples:

Single-wide, double wide, and triple-wide manufactured homes, all utilities connected, \$400 - \$800/month plus electricity. Contact Joe Blow at 775-555-5555.

28 RV sites with hookups. \$350 mon
Contact Jane Smith at 775-555-5555

AMARGOSA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

By: Gene Butler

Things are happening fast for our club. 1. We have been recognized by the A.R.R.L. 2. We have two new radio technicians. Bonnie Groenert and Ann Bartley. It is good to see the ladies becoming involved and hope to see more. Since November of 2008, we now have 16 members in our club.

Some of you might not know who we are. According to Wikipedia "An amateur radio operator is an individual who typically uses equipment at an amateur radio station to engage in two-way personal communication with another similar individual." This is not just a guy thing about 15% are ladies in the United States. The Young Ladies Radio League is an international organization of female amateur radio operators.

We are and can be used by Home Land Security. This is no small task but the radio technician is ready.

If you are thinking about becoming a radio technician, you can contact me Gene Butler KE7VIU Secretary at (775) 372-1282, fourbears@veawb.coop, Amargosa Radio Club PO BOX 101 Amargosa Valley NV 89020-0101 or come to the next meeting at the Amargosa Community Center September

TOWN BOARD LOSES ROBINSON

Due to a conflict between family scheduling and Town Advisory Board meetings, Jade Robinson has resigned from the Board. We are all sorry to see him leave; Jade has been an excellent representative of the community and a pleasure to work with during his terms. As a result of his departure, there will be a SPECIAL ELECTION at the October meeting to fill his unexpired term (through December 2010). Nominations will be held at the meeting in September. See the article on elections for details.

Thank you Jade for all you have already done and all that you continue to do for our Valley. We truly appreciate you.



TOWN BOARD ELECTIONS

By: Jan Cameron

It is that time of year again. The terms of Jan Cameron and Aaron Lynn expire at the end of December. NOMINATIONS for those two positions will be held at the regular meetings on September 24 and October 29. The ELECTION will be held on November 19, with the individuals elected starting their terms January 1, 2010.

NOMINATIONS for the special election will also be held at the September 24 meeting. The SPECIAL ELECTION will also be held on October 29.

Individuals must be present to accept nomination. Alternately, you may have sent a signed letter or an email sent from your personal account to the Town Office (town@amargosavalley.com) in which you accept being nominated. Failure to do one of those things will result in your nomination not being accepted.

In order to serve on the Town Advisory Board or to vote in the special or regular election, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) Be a US Citizen;
- 2) Be at least 18 years of age;
- 3) Not have a felony conviction on your record; and
- 4) Have resided in Amargosa Valley for at least 30 days prior to your nomination or the election.
- 5) Be registered to vote with the County or the Town.

If you are already registered to vote in general elections at this precinct with the County, you do not need to do anything except show up to vote. If you are not registered to vote in general elections, but have previously registered with the Town Office and still meet the criteria, you do not need to do anything except show up to vote.

If you meet the criteria, but have not yet registered in either of those ways, you must register with the County or the Town 30 days prior to your nomination, if you want to run for office, or the election, if you plan to vote.

Serving on the Town Advisory Board requires a lot more than just sitting in a chair at the table once a month. Please be sure that you will have the time and energy to serve if you choose to run.

FROM THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

By: Jan Cameron

When Ashley the Cat and I moved to Las Vegas from Virginia, he had always been an only boy. One of the first people I met at work was another cat-lover named Joy. (You cat-lovers know how it is!) She said that Ashley needed company. I agreed, but wanted to give him six months to adjust to our move and his new home. Almost exactly six months later, Joy and I were headed to Crystal.

Joy's friend, Sharon Welsh had a cattery (and the Short Branch) in Crystal. I didn't even really know where Crystal was, but knew she had a 1-year-old black boy for whom she was desperate to find a home. He had already fathered three litters of kittens, and she didn't need more black kids. Jasper was in the cattery when I first saw him. He had been clipped for the summer, so he didn't look very different from other cats, except he had a round face, a short little nose and the prettiest copper eyes you'll ever see. Oh, and his name was Jake. I knew immediately that wasn't his real name.

Jasper was the world's sweetest boy. His purpose in life was to make everyone happy. He was happy from the moment he awoke to the moment he went to sleep and sometimes even then. His purr was something to behold: a regular underlying rumble with an overriding trill. Some said he sounded like a bird. Others, like a tea kettle. I thought he sounded like Jasper. He sang to me when I got out of bed, or walked by him, or talked to him, or looked at him, or, of course loved on him. You couldn't help but smile when he sang.

Joy had said that I should put him in an upstairs bedroom, with food, water and a litter box, and let him venture out and meet Ashley unexpectedly. The problem was that I kept going up the stairs to check on him, and Ashley wasn't stupid. On about my fifth trip, Ashley followed. He looked at Jasper and said "Hsssss!"; looked at me and said, "Hsssss!"; turned and walked down the stairs. "Oh, good," I thought, "when I go to work tomorrow, Ashley is going to eat him!"

About an hour later, I was walking across my family room to get to the stairs, when Jasper ventured down. Ashley ran toward him, with me rapidly racing to the rescue. Three feet from Jasper, Ashley stopped, went into the Halloween-cat pose, and then loped away with Jasper in hot pursuit. Around and around they went, through the living room, dining room, kitchen, eat-in area, family room, and back through the living room with

FROM THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

Continued

Ashley loping along and Jasper peddling as fast as he could to catch him. A lifelong friendship was made. A joyfulness came to our house. And I still cherish the picture I got.

That night the little black boy and I had a very short talk. It didn't take us long to agree that he was really Jasper, my black ghost. (Sharon even agreed that was better than Jake when I told her the following day.) As I said, Ashley had been an only cat most of his 5.5 years, so he didn't know a lot about cat closeness. About two evenings after his arrival, Jasper jumped into the recliner where Ashley was sleeping and curled up with his back against Ashley's. Ashley gave a quiet "Hss" and moved farther away. Jasper stayed where he was. Over the next few days, Jasper kept joining his big brother until the hsses disappeared and Ashley stayed put, back-to-back with his brother. In later years, Ashley would choose to join Jasper.

Jasper taught Ashley other things, too. One evening, about a month into Jasper's life with us, Ashley was lying on his side on the floor in front of my table-lamp. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Jasper come under the table and sit right behind Ashley's back. Ashley tensed slightly, but stayed still. I knew that he was expecting Jasper to thump him and start a game of tag. Jasper just sat there. Ashley just lay there, eyes closed, waiting. After a few minutes, Jasper leaned over and licked Ashley three times on the side of the face. At the first lick, Ashley's eyes popped open, but he didn't move a muscle. Jasper straightened up. Ashley lay there. Then he slowly raised his arm and laid his paw on Jasper's neck. Jasper had taught Ashley about putty cat kisses.

I'll share more stories about Ashley the Cat and Jasper later. And I'll introduce you to their friends. But, for now, get your winter gardens in; enjoy the cooler temperatures; and be good to each other.

REPORT SPILLS

If you see a spill -- liquid, chemicals, oil, grease -- report it to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection at 1-888-331-NDEP or 1-888-331-6337. The office number for NDEP in Las Vegas is (702) 486-2850.

AMARGOSA VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

By: Tammy Been

On september 15th from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. we will have free diabetes testing @the senior center .(gratls prueba para la diabetes)

Thank you to all, which came for our breakfast meal in August, we look forward to doing it again in October.

If you or a loved one are unable to attend the senior center for meals due to sickness and or handicap and need home-delivered meals please contact Tammy @ 372-5413.

If you need a ride please call one of the following and join us for dinner.

5614 Aj Griffin----VFW or Stateline

1343 Jean Adams---- Cottonwood

5138 Prudy Stengel---- Diablo and Farm Road

Also come and enjoy: Arts & Crafts every Wednesday from 1pm to 4pm and Friday night pool (must be 18 or older to play). Open pool starts @ 5:30 pm.

We look forward to you joining us for dinner and activities.

We have 8lb. bags of ice for sale for \$1.00. And don't forget to bring us you crushed Aluminum cans.

PROUD TO BE AN AMARGOSAN

By: Jan Cameron

There are times that make you stand a little taller, smile a little broader. Like many of you, on August 18th, I attended the BLM Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Solar Millennium project on Farm Road. Like most of you, I have some concerns about the project as it is currently defined. Like many of you, I went to the meeting also concerned because at their meeting in Beatty the night before, the BLM had only allowed people to write their questions to be read into the record by the environmental consultant or to give their comments to a court reporter. I expected a bad evening.

I went early, intending to talk with the BLM and strongly suggest that they change their format. I didn't have to; the BLM had already decided to let people speak for themselves. And speak, we did.

A reporter for the Las Vegas Sun was there. She had been told to expect a riot. Instead, as she said, "they were all so polite, and articulate and educated on the subject!" I completely agree. As did the BLM, their consultants and the Solar Millennium representatives.

PROUD TO BE AN AMARGOSAN

Continued

I knew we had it in us, but I was, and am, really proud that we showed that side to the visitors. The comments and questions were on point, thoughtful, and very appropriate. Congratulations, Amargosa, you did us proud!

DUST DEVILS...

Made only of
dust and wind

These whirling dervishes
of the desert

Rise as though beckoned
by the finger of God,

Rise and spin
embodied by jinn.

Like the Holy Spirit
they go where they will,

Pausing to perform
flights of ecstasy,

here,

Then, swooping
to other barren places,

Where they repeat

There pirouettes

from the mind of Ezekiel,
until ...

When at last they are spent,
they dissolve

From whence they came
with a flourish,

As if to say,

one day soon

You too

will be no more,

No more.

—Jane M McCabe

June 30, 2009



**TO ALL
You sneaky people, and
you know who you are!
Who attended my
surprise
80th
Birthday Party!!
I want to thank you
from the depth
of my heart.
That room was
so full of
Love
and
Thoughtfulness
Which is typical of the
Amargosa Valley
Population!
I love you all! Kenna**

***SPEND LESS FOR YOUR
PRESCRIPTIONS***

Nye County, through a joint effort with the National Association of Counties, is now offering a Prescription Discount Card. Free Enrollment for County Residents. There is an average savings of 20%, however discounts vary from drug to drug. There are no age or income requirements and there are no limits on how many times the card can be used. One card is good for the entire family and can be used anytime a prescription is NOT covered by insurance.

Cards are available at Nye County Health and Human Services, 250, N. Hwy 160, Ste 4, Pahrump, NV 89060 (775) 751-7095 and at 1120 Globemallow Lane, Tonopah, NV 89049 (775) 482-8125 and are also available at the Amargosa Town Office.

***SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!
VFW Post 6826, Ladies Auxiliary
invites everyone to:***

It's always a good time to thank those who serve our country overseas, and protect our freedoms. A letter of thanks to the following, who are serving from our area, will make your day better too.

MMFR Byron Gray
USS John C. Stennis
Cun 74 Box 36
Eng. Dept. A. Div
FPO AP 96615-2874

Ricardo Martinez
Vaq-133
Unit 25407
APO AC 09354

Cpl Riley Hunt
2nd. Bn, 23rd Marines
Fox Company 43490
FPO AP 96426-3490

Cody Diell
414 Bently Crt
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Kynda Brown
ABH AA Brown
Box 31
USS John C. Stennis
FPO AP 96615-2874

Sr. A Steven Dymond
PSC Box 2157
APO, AE 09603-0022

E2 Payton, Chris W.
MCSFBN
1061 USS Tennessee Ave.
King Bay, GA 31547

Sr. Woods, Kevin
Ship 07 Division 321
3405 Sailor Drive
Great Lakes, IL 60088-3401

SNAKES WILL BITE

By: Trevor Dolby

One of the pleasures that summer brings to Amargosa Valley is chance encounters with snakes. Several stories of these encounters have already circulated around the valley and its apparent that some people do not have a complete understanding of the hazard. The Amargosa library has five books on snakes, all in the children section. They are short, have many color pictures & are easy to read, but they have good information. You'll probably want to skip over many pages & read about just the snakes that we have here in Amargosa Valley. Let me guide you: Most snakes will bite, but only when threatened, Many have neither fangs or venom. Garter snakes, gopher snakes, and king snakes have no venom but they eat critters that most of us don't like, so these are our friends. We don't want to kill them, we want them to continue to do their work. There is a Desert version of the coral snake but we are not likely to see one in the Mojave Desert. Chuckwallas & Gila monsters are venomous lizards that inhabit this area but few of us will ever see one. Diamond backs are rare & very similar to our rattle snake (just larger & darker), so that leaves really only two snakes to focus on: the side winder & the Mojave or Western rattler. The side winder is a rattle snake, but its rattle is not so obvious and it is not as fond of using it as the rattle snake. The side winder has fangs & venom, has a plain brownish grey skin and is aggressive and it is fast, very fast. The Mojave rattler has a series of darker brown squares arranged in a string along its back corner to corner and these squares are bordered by a faint frame of almost white scales. If the Librarian lets me, I'll pin one of these skins to the wall in the library. Very young & juvenile rattle snakes don't have rattles, but they are born (hatched) with venom in their fangs ready to go. Not all bites from venomous snakes inject venom. These snakes have what they call a friendly or warning bite, just to let you know that you have made them mad (don't you wish people did this)? How serious a venomous bite is does not depend on the size of the snake or not so much the type of the snake but how much venom they were able to get into you (inject) and where they bit you. If you are bit by a snake and you think it was a venomous snake you want to get medical care in a hurry.

SNAKES WILL BITE

Continued

It's not necessary that you bring the snake to the doctor (although that is nice), but you must get a good look at the snake so that you can describe it to the doctor. Hospitals have anti-venom, but they must know for certain what kind of snake bit you before they will administer anti-venom. You don't want to treat your snake bite like they do in the movie. That's just TV. In Amargosa we do it the smart way: If the bite is on an arm or leg, we wrap it tightly like you would a sprain or put a cold compress on it to reduce the circulation, the swelling & slow the spread of the poison. We walk slowly to the nearest person who can get us in a car and take us to a phone. Then we call 911. The wound & the swelling may not look bad, but snake venom works very slowly: only many hours later, after the poison has had a chance to move up your arm or leg and throughout your blood stream are you going to see that you really really need help, so get help early. And remember the snakes were here first and we all like snakes, but they just don't like us, especially if we are mean to them.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

09-06-09 EMTS AMBULANCE HALL 6 P.M.
09-01-09 AMERICAN LEGION VFW 7 P.M.
09-08-09 AA RADIO CLUB CC 6:30 PM
09-08-09 A.V.F.D. FIRE HALL #1 7 P.M.
09-08-09 LIBRARY BOARD AVL 7:00 P.M.
09-10-09 PLANNING COMMITTEE CC 6 P.M.
09-21-09 SENIOR PROJECT CNL SC 5:30 PM
09-15-09 LADIES AUXILIARY VFW 6 P.M.
09-15-09 V.F.W. @ V.F.W. POST 7 P.M.
09-23-09 B.O.C.C. AREA PLAN MTG CC 6 PM
09-24-09 TOWN BOARD C.C. 7 P.M.
09-26-09 BUSINESSMEN FELLOWSHIP CC

***BOCC SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009
6:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
AMARGOSA VALLEY
AREA PLAN***

*You're Invited to the Joyfulears
4th annual*

Ladies Tea



When: Saturday October 10th, 2009

Where: Amargosa Valley Community Center (Gym)

Time: Doors open 1:00pm, starts 2:00pm

Cost: \$15.00

Invite a Friend!

For info: Debbie Quintana 775-537-7842 Sherry Donegan 775-372-1617

Please return the information card with payment by Sept. 12th To:

Joyfulears, Hc 69, Box 495-R, Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Newsletter
HCR 69 Box 401-W
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

PRSR STD
PAID
Permit #8
Amargosa Valley, NV

ECRWSS
LOCAL PATRON

***THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN
PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL AND
WATCH FOR THE KIDS AROUND THE SCHOOL AND THE
BUS STOPS***

***WELCOME BACK
STUDENTS & TEACHERS!***