

Oak Shores  
Community Association



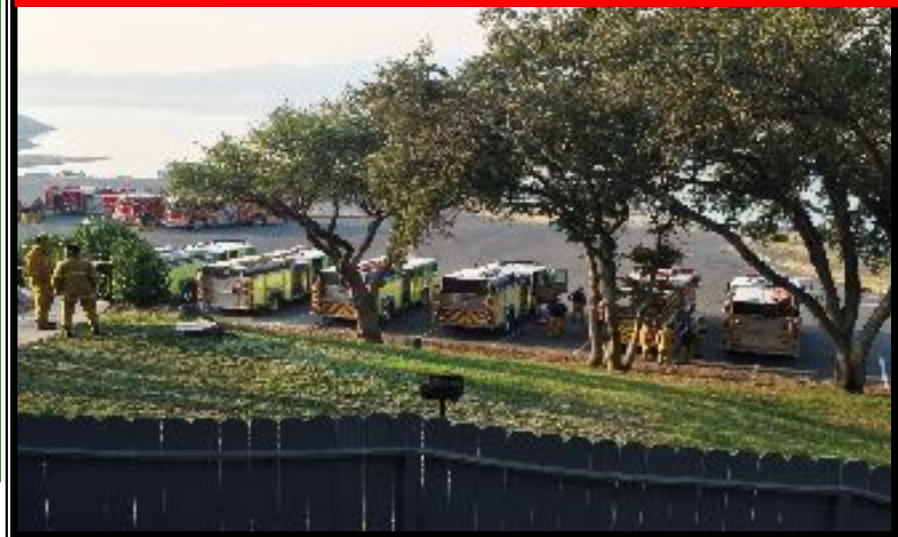
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# Oak Leaves

FALL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2016

## Wildfire Comes to Lake Nacimiento!!



## New President's Message

by Steve Gasperson



### "Welcome Home"

In my newly appointed position, I wanted to cover a few key areas of importance in our community.

"Chimney Fire" Where do we all begin to give thanks? The dedication and hard work of the Firefighters, our incredible Oak Shores Staff,

the community members that stayed in our community to help protect all of our homes and help give us all updates. We owe each and every one of you a huge debt of gratitude. We were all so blessed to have had such an incredible group of Firefighters protecting our community. Our staff went above & beyond to do whatever was asked of them.

"The Gillenwaters" Randy and Janice have put our community first in their lives for years. Randy stayed in our community during the fire. He would update Janice who would update all of us. But it's so much more than that. Both have served on numerous committees over the years. Randy has been a Board Member and or President for 9 plus years. Janice gives of herself at every turn in our community. They are Oak Shores finest. It's time for both of them to take a much needed break. Thank you Randy & Janice for all of your hard work & dedication to our community for so many years. We all love you very much!!

"Oak Shores Family" We are a family community. It showed more than ever during the Chimney Fire. There were so many dedicated volunteers. Some gave their time, some gave their food, some gave a donation, some gave all of the above. It would be impossible to mention every one of you, but we all know who you are and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I do want to mention 2 people who just would not stop. Leon & Sherri Auburt. You're the best. You both set the standard when you say the words- "Oak Shores Community Family"

We are all so blessed to be a member of the "Oak Shores Community Family".



## **New Manager Profile—Tom Reber**

By Nancy and Randy Feltman



On August 26th OSCA's newly-hired General Manager, Tom Reber, was on the road traveling from Tacoma, Washington to Oak Shores to start his new position. Tom heard about the Chimney Fire and evacuation of Oak Shores before he left Washington and understandably wondered if he would have a job at all when he got here! On Saturday, August 27, the day after the evacuation was lifted, Tom drove through the front gate and reported to work on Monday, August 29 to replace Dennis Javens, who is retiring on Sept. 20th.

Tom comes to us from Tacoma, Washington where he worked as Manager for an HOA in Olympia, Washington for the last five years. He was a private business owner with Creative Management, a company that places experienced managers in interim positions with various HOA's and city governments for seven years. Tom worked in many of these interim managerial positions and enjoyed the challenges of putting everything together. He has lots of experience working in management roles with HOA's in housing developments and in city administrative positions.

Tom and his wife, Cindy, are empty nesters now with no family ties to where they are currently living and wanted to move somewhere with a warmer climate, a lot of sunshine, nature and a lake side community. That would be Oak Shores!

His priorities as General Manager are to meet with the Board Directors to learn about the items and issues of the community, get to know his staff, homeowners, everyone he can and get oriented to the community. He attended all the Labor Day Weekend activities with Cindy, helped wherever help was needed and had the opportunity to meet and talk with a lot of people at the church service, movie night and BBQ.

His management style is focused on cost efficiency and effectiveness, continuous improvement with an emphasis on following our governing documents in a uniform way.

Tom was born and raised in Mankato, Minnesota. After graduating from Minnesota State University, Mankato, he received his Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Studies with a concentration in Management. Tom has two children, Chris, age 34, who lives in Las Vegas and is a race car aficionado. Chris recently won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a car race, and also plays tennis. His daughter, Katie, age 37, lives in Nashville, Tenn. where she works as a teacher's aide and is heavily into playing league tennis. Tom has two older sisters in Minnesota (his brother, Jim, passed about four years ago).

Tom and Cindy have been married for 10 years and are still honeymooning. They met when they lived next door to each other in Tacoma. One of Tom's many hobbies is gardening, and he would put flowers on Cindy's porch every day. How could you not fall in love with a guy that does that? They have a home in Tacoma with their dog, Rosie a golden lab, cat Alley, and five chickens, "The Girls".

(Continued on Page 17)





## Our General Manager Says Goodbye



Over the last seven years as the General Manager for Oak Shores Community, I have seen many great improvements to the look and feel of the community. Our first major project was the gate area improvement that started in 2011 and continued with the new trees and plants at the entrance. The second most important project that I had the honor of being a part of was the new patio area at the clubhouse. We should thank the pigs for destroying the grass area and allowing us to be creative and create this beautiful area. I have seen this area used for weddings, birthday parties and lots of community events.

I am very proud of the staff that I have been able to assemble and grow over these seven years. I feel that they will carry on the vision that we started as a young staff. I am very proud of all of my staff members and have watched them grow in their skills and ability to make decisions without my input.

Lastly and most important, I am very proud to have been a part of the vision to get the Community prepared for what most of us felt would never happen, being ready for a wildland fire. I had the pleasure of representing the Community on the Fire Safe Counsel of San Luis Obispo County. This organization believed in our dream and provided us with over \$100,000 in grants and crews from the Cal Fire Cuesta Camp. Listening to the different strike teams that came into the community tell myself and others how prepared the community was for these types of fires made me feel good to think that all that hard work was well worth it.

I have passed my seat on this Counsel to Steve Gasperson who over the years has shared my vision on keeping the community ready and prepared. I know Steve will take the community to the next level.

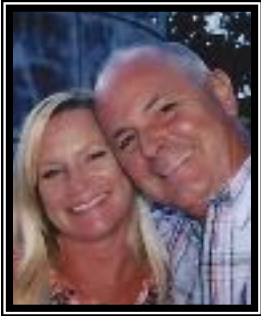
I enjoyed being your General Manager and will miss seeing all of you and our various conversations. I wish the community nothing but the best in the future.

Dennis Javens

## **Oak Shores**

### **Newly Elected Board Members**

**Chris Qualls**



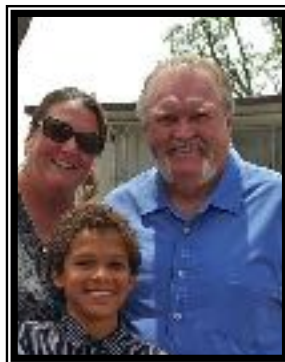
Chris was appointed to the Board twice, before his recent election, to fill vacancies when Board Members moved or otherwise left the Board. He and his wife Sheryl have been active and generous community volunteers extraordinaire. He retired from a large corporation as a Facilities Manager and currently works as a general contractor, so he brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board and community. He is especially interested in addressing the needs of both full and part-time owners, getting value from every Association dollar and current land use issues before the Board. Both Chris and Sheryl are very busy with their many business projects so we are all very fortunate to have him on the Board.

**Therese Harris**



Prior to her election, Therese was on the Board since June of this year when she was appointed to fill a vacancy. She moved to Oak Shores full time two years ago from Ventura County. Since that time she and her husband, David, have been active volunteers and participants in local community activities. She is an attorney with an office in Paso Robles specializing in Consumer Protection and Estate Planning. She also has a background in finance so she brings much experience and valuable knowledge and skills to the Board. One of her priorities is welcoming the new General Manager and helping him get off to a good start. Oak Shores is fortunate to have Therese working for all of us.

**Darryl Hall**



Darryl and his wife, Kim, and son, Anakin, are part time residents and have owned a home at Oak Shores for 10 years. Darryl has been in construction for 37 years. He has managed small and multi-million dollar projects and is very familiar with budget management. However, one of the attributes he values most is his common sense. His top priority is working on the acquisition of the West Ramp property from the private owner. He is also interested in strengthening code enforcement patrols, speedy gate access, and the rules and responsibilities for renters. Darryl is new to the Board, and we all welcome him and thank him for volunteering for this Board position.

Editors Note: The letter below was signed by the Board Members and sent to all the 102 Fire Departments that participated in the Chimney Fire.

August 2016  
Oak Shores Community Association

To All the Chimney Fire Firefighters

## THANK YOU

On behalf of all the 810 owners and residents of the Oak Shores Community at Lake Nacimiento our Board Members want to thank all your wonderful firefighters who participated in the massive Chimney Fire effort and saved our community. You are our Heroes.

Oak Shores has always been a very firefighter friendly community. We have a small volunteer fire station supported and backed up by professional CalFire firefighters. Every year we thank and celebrate our firefighters with a Firefighter's Ball that raises about \$10,000 for special equipment and other unmet needs of our Fire Station 31. We understand the risk of fire and take active steps to minimize the risks of wildfire in our community. Oak Shores is California's first designated Firewise Community. The Chimney Fire was our worst fear and you all helped us get through it without anyone being hurt or killed or the loss of a single home. We will remember this fire for a very long time and remain eternally grateful to your firefighters.

God Bless  
all of you!!!  
Steve Gasparson  
Thanks Guys & All Firefighters  
For All your hard work  
Randy Sullivan

From our entire  
Community "Thank You"  
You are all Heroes!  
Steve Gasparson  
Board President

GREAT EFFORT!  
THANKS FOR PROTECTING  
OUR COMMUNITY!  
WE LOVE YOU GUYS & GALS  
CHRIS QUATES

Thank you for your  
dedication and service  
to our community. we  
appreciate all your hard work.  
Theresa Harris

Appreciate your  
LAIS & HARD EFFORTS  
TO SAVE OUR'S AND OTHER  
COMMUNITIES!

Rod Olson

The entire  
Oak Shores Community  
cannot thank you  
enough for taking care  
of us during this terrible  
fire! We owe so  
much to you  
and your  
firefighters!  
Bobby Sullivan

## **Editor's Note: So Many More Chimney Fire Stories**

By Randy Feltman

Unfortunately, our space and time available in this edition prevent us from including many interesting and important stories about the Chimney Fire and Oak Shores. It seems everyone has a story about the fire, but I'd like to highlight a few that I would like to share and learn much more about.

### **Evacuate Now! Are You Ready?**

*You have an hour to leave your home and community with the understanding that it may be burned in the fire. What do you do? What do you take with you? Where do you go? Is the house as safe from fire as possible? Where is the propane shut off? What about your important papers, insurance policies, computer hard drives or back-up drives? Are you prepared? What many of us who were faced with these questions by the Chimney Fire discovered was that we weren't prepared. We escaped the threat this time but what if there is a next time. Will we be better prepared?*

### **Oak Shores Loves and Supports the Firefighters!**

*Our Clubhouse became a base station for Firefighters on 24 hour shifts seeking food, drink and R & R. Oak Shores rose to the challenge. Janice Gillenwater, staff and others put the call out on Facebook and within minutes the volunteers and contributions started rolling in. Twenty cases of water, 14 cases of Gatorade, 10 buckets of chicken, 10 pizzas, crates of eggs, bacon donated by local markets, brownies, cookies, desserts of all kinds fresh fruit, breakfast items and air mattresses and bedding. And it kept on coming! Sherry and Leon Auburt took the lead coordinating all kinds of needs, donations, and volunteer support. The kitchen was alive with activity. Arriving Firefighters were met with applause, thank-yous, and hugs and handwritten cards from Cappy Culver school kids. Some Firefighters were stunned with the love and support. "We are only doing our job" was a common response from the Firefighters. Oak Shores did itself proud those first days before the evacuation. Many Firefighters will remember Oak Shores long after they return home.*

### **High Anxiety! What's Going on? Is Oak Shores Burning?**

*We have been evacuated. No one is allowed back in. We are spread out all over for six days. Everyone is starved for information. Some brave owners including some firefighters who live in Oak Shores stayed in the community despite appeals from the Sheriff to leave. One of those was Randy Gillenwater, who happens to be a retired Fire Captain with 30 years of experience with rural wild fires. Turns out we are glad he stayed. He knows Oak Shores as well as anyone. He became a community guide and information source for out-of-town Firefighters. He had the keys to the clubhouse and could support and monitor activity there. And for a lot of us, he became a key source of updates day after day. He would call his wife, Janice, and she would put the updates on the Oak Shores Community Association Facebook page. At one point the word came that the fire was "inside Oak Shores". Scary times for all! Randy let us know exactly where the fire was in relation to our housing area and how many fire trucks and Firefighters were present to protect our homes. Randy and Janice, our General Manager, Dennis Javens, and Asst. Manager, Stephanie Dayton, a reporter named SLOstringer whom we had never heard of but seemed to be everywhere, the local KSBY reporters all helped get as much information as possible to all of us as possible and they all deserve our thanks and appreciation.*

**Continued on Page 16**



**Oak Shores Volunteer Fire Department  
San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Station 34  
By Marcus Dunlap, Company 34 Administrator**

Oak Shores provided great support for the Firefighters during the Chimney Fire. But even before that the annual Firefighter's Ball this past February was incredible. The support our local station received from the community was amazing. There isn't another place in the County that has as much support for the Fire Department as Oak Shores. We really appreciate everybody that participated in the event. I would like to thank Janice Gillenwater and everybody that donated their time to help put the event on for us and everybody who attended and donated to the department. The support we get from the community is really motivating. This year we raised \$3,540.

I am often asked about what we do with the money that gets donated to us from the community during the Firefighter's Ball. Some of the money has been set aside as a scholarship to assist people with becoming a PCF (Volunteer) in the Oak Shores Community. The majority of the money is used to purchase and maintain equipment. The Patrol, Boat, Fire Department's dock, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Clubhouse and stair chair are examples of equipment that has been purchased in the past with fundraising done in the community. The Patrol is owned by the Oak Shores Volunteer Fire Department (OSVFD), not San Luis Obispo County. We use the Patrol for about 90-95% of the calls we respond to. All maintenance is performed by the PCF's and the cost of operating and maintaining the Patrol is paid for by our fundraising. I have done so much work to improve the Patrol that it is hard to put it all in a short article, but some of the more notable items include an improved lighting and electrical system, tires, custom cabinets and boxes and a redesigned (and improved) fire pump and foam system. The Patrol also has some ongoing maintenance costs, like any other vehicle does. We try to keep the Patrol well maintained so that is ready to respond without having to worry about something mechanical failing. All of the labor required to keep the Patrol running is donated by both the Volunteer Firefighters and the Men's Auxiliary.

The OSVFD currently has three volunteers. We are always looking for people that are interested in becoming a Volunteer. Please feel free to contact myself, Tim Bean or Larry Munro if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. You can also contact any of us if you have any questions about the fire department or would like a tour of the station and equipment. We appreciate the special relationship we have always had with the Oak Shores community and all the support to help our fire department protect the community.

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**SWAP MEET/ART SHOW**

By Bob Dietz

By popular request, the SWAP MEET/ART SHOW is rescheduled to Saturday, November 5. The SWAP MEET is from 9-1 in our lower parking lot. There will be 20 spaces for rent. Those who previously signed up will be guaranteed a spot by contacting me via email by September 30. Additional slots will be assigned in order of request at [dietz327@yahoo.com](mailto:dietz327@yahoo.com). The cost is \$20 per slot and one slot per household.

The ART SHOW will be held in the Oak Shores office building the same day. Outside if weather permits. The hours are 11:00-1:30. Come and purchase a fabulous piece of art.



## Oak Shores Miniature Golf Course Gets Another Update

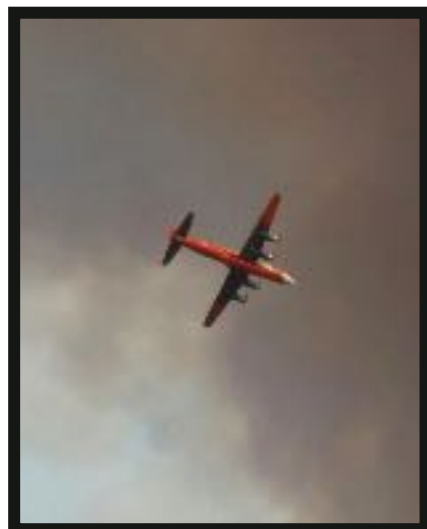


Terry Buterbaugh has done it again! He has adopted the miniature Golf Course as his personal volunteer project. He inspects each of the holes and installs, repairs, repaints and replaces the very creative fixtures at each hole. Most recently, he did some major upgrades to Hole # 1 with "Thomas the Train" and Hole #5 with new and larger street signs. During the last month in addition to these two new fixtures, Terry has fixed a number of broken parts, repainted several fixtures and added 12 U.S. flags. See the pictures above including his beautiful grandchildren, Maheila and Maui. Thank-you Terry Buterbaugh!



Several strike Teams stayed in the clubhouse, ate food donated and prepared by residents, and received notes and pictures made by kids who live here, and they THANKED US!!





**DURING THE FIRE**







**AFTER  
THE FIRE  
We've been  
Preparing,  
& Then...**



**400+ Celebrated...by dancing & eating ... 1 by  
proposing marriage, and 1 by singing the National  
Anthem**



## **Evacuate Now! Our Chimney Fire Experience**

By Janice Gillenwater

Our experience with the recent Chimney Fire was by far a stressful but happy ending for all of us. On Saturday, August 13 we were getting into our pontoon boat and witnessed the first onset of the smoke column from across the lake approximately 4:00. I tried calling 911, however all circuits were busy meaning lots of calls were coming in at the same time. We stayed out in the pontoon boat until 8:15 that night feeling helpless but knowing that the fire was looking like it was being put out. Sunday morning after church the fire appeared from the Clubhouse to be about 90% contained as far as we could see. Then at approximately 2 pm the winds picked up and things quickly changed. The fire was moving very fast towards the Cal Shasta area. Sadly we observed homes going up in flames and propane tanks exploding and it sounded like a war zone. Aircraft flying above us was putting lake water on the fires for several hours. It then got dark and the aircraft could no longer fly.

Firefighters and authorities worked fearlessly for six days and nights to put this monster fire out. Many fire agencies were coming to help from all over the state. Then, on Saturday August 20 we received the Reverse911 phone call informing us that the fire had jumped in two areas and we all needed to Evacuate Now! Many firetrucks were headed to our location with many other personnel to help save our community.

Randy and I gathered our important belongings and special items to us and our family in both of our cars that we would leave with. He packed his truck with many things as I packed my car.

I said goodbye to our home we built almost 30 years ago and prayed that it would still be there when we returned. Randy proceeded to look at me saying you and our dog Tundra go ahead, I'm going to stay here a little longer, I'll be okay. I promise to stay in contact with you and keep you updated. I was surprised but trusted his decision knowing he had retired with 31 years of fire service, however proceeded to ask him are you staying because your fire profession, or because your President of the Association or is it because you built our house? He replied, Janice, all the above, but I promise to stay in touch with you.

So from the second I drove away, I felt we would do our part to keep everyone informed by Randy being the eyes and the ears of the fire situation in our community, and I would be the mouth to get the updates out as I could.

Randy would drive around to observe and also talk and meet with the engine companies and authorities to answer any concerns and also let them know where the safe areas would be. As I received an update, I would write it up on Facebook and hope that I wouldn't sugar coat anything but yet keep the facts simple and short, whether it was concerning good or bad news updates. Randy kept our generator running every 6 hours so that's how we were able to stay connected plus he has OnStar in his vehicle. Randy felt one particular night, Monday, we were at a critical time and winds were our biggest enemy during this entire fire and even more so this night. Prayers were answered and the winds changed, and as most of you saw on the video from SLOstringer showing how close it came from Christmas Cove area north toward our front gate area and inside our gate area. Fortunately, the winds changed and the fire proceeded to Interlake Road/G14 towards the Monterey County area.

We hope each homeowner continues to remember how important weed cutting and clearance is to help the firefighter's battle fires like this to help protect your home and also help their fight to save your home. Numerous fire personnel had mentioned how important our weed and brush removal is and how much it would help them protect our homes.

We are so dry everywhere so please be extra careful with all fire pits and cigarette butts and BBQ. Let's pray for lots of rain!!



## Firewise Committee Update

By Bob Dietz, Chairman

Through the efforts of our General Manager Dennis Javens and Board President Steve Gasperson, Oak Shores received a \$25,000 grant from CALFIRE. The purpose was to remove dead/dying trees, brush, and chipping on common property. Golden West Tree Service was hired to remove 80-90 dead/dying pine trees, to limb up some oak trees, and hopefully to chip some additional brush.

If a “chipping day” can be arranged you will be notified of the day and where to place your chip able brush. Wait until you hear before moving brush to the road.

Firefighters said that Oak Shores has done a very good job with weed abatement. Make certain you clear front, side and back lots for your entire property. Protect your home and your neighbor’s as well.

If you receive a letter to remove a tree(s), please do so. The tree is dying and presents a fire hazard. If that tree falls and damages your neighbor’s property, you may be personally responsible — your insurance may not cover you. Remember to “limb up” other trees (including oak) to 8 to 10 feet off the ground. This helps prevent the spread of fire. Be a good neighbor by establishing a fire safe perimeter.

Thank you to all who attended the Labor Day BBQ with the band. Over 300 attended with much donated food, half price from our band (Sound House) and individual/corporate donations. I do not have the financials yet but the total will be announced. The event was sponsored by the Recreation Committee with all profits donated to the FireWise Committee. All of this money is earmarked for dead/dying trees, brush, and chipping. Thank you for your support to make Oak Shores safer.

Fire Wise will be sponsoring a CERT event this fall. This is a CALFIRE safety training event to help us better prepare our house, our evacuation plans and to make our community fire safer. Information will be posted as arrangements are made. The trainers are now fighting fires in other parts of California.

Lastly, thank you to all our brave Firefighters who saved Oak Shores and extinguished this terrible Chimney Fire. We plan to purchase a plaque to be presented to the SLO CALFIRE Chief to honor all firefighters who helped. Thank you to Heritage Ranch residents who took in our evacuees. Thank you to Oak Shores residents who cooked, prepared, and served food for our Firefighters.

We dodged a bullet but fire can strike again at any time. Continue your vigilance and be prepared.



**EVACUATED ? – NOW WHAT!**

## **Heads Up! West Ramp Decision Time**

Dear Members,

As our Past President, Randy Gillenwater, mentioned in his last newsletter article, the owner of the West Ramp property recently made a decision to sell the land parcel. The owner also recently adjusted the lot lines to encapsulate the most important areas used by our membership. Although the owner has been approached by other interested buyers, he feels strongly that Oak Shores should own this parcel as we have used it regularly for the past 20+ years. Therefore he has offered us the first right of refusal to purchase it. This offer is time bound as he wants to secure another buyer if OSCA is not interested.

Most of our members assume that the West Ramp easement includes access to the beach areas. However, we only have easement to the upper level parking area and the actual paved ramp. If we were to pass on the opportunity to secure the property for our membership and the new owners restrict our access to the formal easement only, it would trigger a number of changes for our community, some of which are undesirable.

Think about what it would be like if all the members who now use the West Ramp beaches were displaced and they had to move over to the main ramp area. We simply don't have the space to make that work. For a mere \$300 from each lot owner we could own this land forever. That's about the cost of a nice bottle of wine and a good dinner. What would it feel like to be restricted to only the paved area of the ramp and the few parking spaces in the upper lot area? No more walking family & dogs on the beach? What about a gate that restricts access to even the paved ramp during certain hours? You can see that new owners on Saddle Way have already started fencing to restrict access in other areas. I believe this theme will continue if OSCA does not secure ownership of the property.

I also know that some of you don't use the West Ramp frequently or even not at all. But losing access to the beach areas will certainly have an impact on how our main marina looks and feels so all of us will be impacted in some way going forward. If our Board does decide to purchase, depending on the manner whereby we garner control of the property, we may need to have the membership vote. If so, this will need to happen in a timely manner so we may need you to understand the topic and get involved. Stay tuned as we work through the details and feel free to call and talk to our Manager or current Board Members.

Best regards,  
Chris Qualls, Board Member

## **Ryan Coleman's Story—Engine Captain, Fairview Valley Fire Dept. Fire Fighters Firsthand Account— Cal Shasta Home Rescue**

**Editor's note:** The following Facebook post provides an amazing first-hand account of one firefighter and his two crew members successful battle to save a home and vehicles at Cal Shasta during the early days of the Chimney Fire. You can share your response to Ryan's effort by going directly to his Facebook page.

"Let me start this post by saying, I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of my two firefighters. We started the day mopping up one division, then about 2:30 p.m. got called to Division M for an immediate structure threat. We responded to the new division and within 20 min. of arriving on the scene, found ourselves in a sketchy firefight. The fast moving Chimney Fire was barreling down on the neighborhood we were assigned to protect. The property we made a stand on was in a very questionable spot. It was located on top of a knob with two draws running up both sides of the property. We arrived to find one engine and a safety officer there scouting the property. I tied in with both to assess the situation and come up with a plan of attack. We literally had minutes before the fire was going to bump us, so we made a decision to backfire around the property. Myself and the other captain began putting fire on the ground while I had my first year fireman support us with some hose, and my second year fireman run the pump on my engine. We tried to get a buffer of black line around us before the main fire hit, but as conditions quickly deteriorated and strong shifty winds changed directions on us, we found ourselves with a head fire coming out of the hole at us before we could finish our backfire. I recognized this and headed quickly up the hill as I was the lower lighter on a hillside full of dry fuel with fire below. When I began to bump out of the area I heard the other engine Captain above me yell, "here it comes"! Literally less than 30 seconds later a wall of fire, heat and smoke came roaring out of the bottom. The engine and Captain engaged with us retreated down the driveway and out of the area, and I yelled to my fireman to "pull back to the engine"! By the time I got to my engine we had flames licking tall above my engine as I threw it in reverse and backed up out of the way of this beast. We then jumped out, regrouped and for another 30 min. were engaged in an active firefight alone protecting this homeowner's possessions. They didn't have much to speak of but it was theirs, and it was all they had. My crew hung tough and saved everything - 3 trailers, a classic T-bird, wave runner and most importantly, 3 sweet dogs and a pet wolf! When things subsided and we mopped up hot spots, our task force leader and the engine that retreated made their way back into the property to check on us. They then told us that division and the incident management team had wrote this property off as "undefensible". They flagged this as a total loss! My crew not only saved their trailers, cars and dogs but not a single thing on the property was harmed - water tanks, a greenhouse and other random possessions included! My guys took heat, smoke and battled through a very scary situation and came out victorious! The two homeowners returned to the property, and I can't even put into words the amount of gratitude and thankfulness they conveyed to us. They were floored. I'm not sure what other successes happened today, but I will tell you there was no prouder Captain than myself on that fire. I know we weren't the only 3 in that firefight today. The Lord was there with us, protecting us and giving us strength! What a day! I wish we had pictures of this but once shit hit the fan, there was no way we could have even thought of a cell phone. Let's see what today's operational period on the Chimney Fire brings the boys of Engine 574!!! "

**#bestdamnjobonthe planet**

## Help Cal Shasta Rebuild

As we all know our neighbor across the lake Cal Shasta was the hardest hit during the Chimney Fire. They lost many homes and have a major rebuilding challenge ahead of them. An online fundraising sight has been set up to help raise funds for some of the most pressing needs. It has a goal of \$25,000. Please join in to help our neighbor. Here's the link to the CalShasta/Chimney Fire Recovery site. <https://www.gofundme.com/2kkdmppg>



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### More Fire Stories—Continued from Page 7

#### Who is this Masked Man SLOstringer?

*When the fire grew on Saturday and evacuation orders came through, this stranger in a black SUV with heavily tinted windows appeared at the Oak Shores gate. At first staff wouldn't let him in but later when the Sheriff and Fire Chief vouched for him as an outstanding and professional independent journalist, he was let in and welcomed. He became a hero to many. He seemed to be everywhere 24 hours a day with updates, pictures and videos early in the morning and late at night. I assume he slept in his car. He was at Oak Shores, then Christmas Cove, then Cal Shasta on the other side of the lake, then Hearst Castle, then back to Oak Shores. He seemed to often travel with leaders from the Sheriff and CalFire command and get reports directly from them. He gave us the most detail which was greatly appreciated. He has a website, [www.slostringer.com](http://www.slostringer.com) so you can check him out and thank him yourself. I know those of us from Oak Shores greatly appreciated his reporting and thank him very much.*

#### Homeowner's Insurance. Maybe I Should Read My Policy.

*We had a lot of time on our hands during the evacuation as we stared at our cell phones or IPADS waiting for the next Facebook post or news bulletin. One source of conversation I suspect occurred for many of us during the darkest times was our Homeowners Insurance Policies. I hadn't thought to bring our policy and had no idea what it covered. I wish I had read it and knew the coverage limits and all the particulars included. What was the dollar amount? What about contents, was proof required? Did we have to have an inventory, pictures, receipts as proof? What about living expenses during the rebuilding process? Would we rebuild? What about jewelry and other valuables? Are they covered? Lots of questions to be answered so I will know where I stand in the future.*



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Mark Van Wagner

### New General Manager Continued from Page 3

They are outdoor enthusiasts and enjoy playing tennis, gardening, hiking, bicycling, camping, boating, fishing, dancing and just about anything else you can think of.

Growing up in a tennis family, Tom is an avid tennis player. He started playing at the age of 11, was on the tennis teams in high school and college and has been playing competitive tennis all his life. A few weeks before he came to Oak Shores, he played in a National Singles and Doubles tournament for five days in Minnesota. He is ranked #1 in Northwest Section of United States Tennis Association. Cindy calls him, "a jack rabbit on the court". He coached his daughter well; she received a tennis scholarship to the Univ. of Wisconsin at Green Bay and still plays competitively.

Cindy currently works for Washington State Hospital Association in downtown Seattle as Executive Assistant to the Sr. VP of Public Policy and also for the CFO. She loves her job and feels privileged to work in a position where she feels trusted and respected with her abilities to organize meetings among all the state hospitals' administrators. Cindy was raised in Grants Pass, Oregon. Her daughter, Lauren, 26 yrs. just graduated from college. Cindy is an attractive outgoing go-getter with enough energy for two people. She was here for Labor Day Weekend and jumped right in to help with the BBQ and really enjoyed meeting the many friendly people and the beauty of our community and surrounding area. With her free time she plays USTA league tennis and enjoys reading, cooking, knitting, quilting, and sewing. Her passion is anything that has to do with food and is looking forward to entertaining and belonging to a close-knit social community.

We wish Tom lots of success in his new position at Oak Shores, and welcome Tom and Cindy to our wonderful family community!!

### **WATCH WEBSITE & FACEBOOK FOR HOLIDAY EVENTS AT OAK SHORES.**

**\*\*Dec 3rd —Golf Cart Light Parade & Caroling\*\***

**\*\*Dec 17th—Children's Santa Party\*\***



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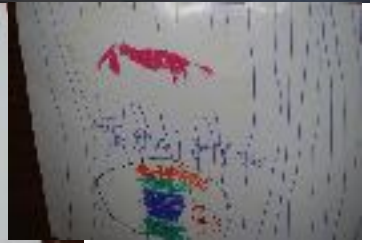
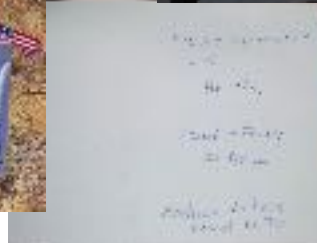
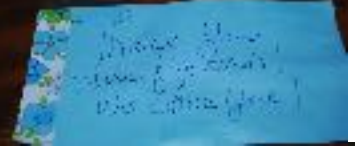


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