S. Tahoe unites residents to improve neighborhoods

By Kathryn Reed

Bear cans and defensible space were the two primary concerns of residents who turned out for a neighborhood meeting this week.

South Lake Tahoe has divided the city limits into six areas, even though there are really 20 distinct neighborhoods. This was the fifth meeting of residents since last fall. Here is the neighborhood map.

The idea is to revitalize the neighborhoods with a little help from the city and the bulk of the effort coming from residents.



"You can tell when folks come to the meetings they are tired, but they have some hope left," Tracy Franklin, the city's marketing and outreach coordinator, told *Lake Tahoe News* after the April 17 Neighborhood Service Team meeting that includes Tahoe Keys, Tahoe Island, Tahoe Valley and Gardner Mountain neighborhoods.

While the areas are large to begin with, the future may call for breaking them into the 20 smaller neighborhoods.

The definition of the teams is, "It is a group of neighbors working together for the good of all, with a common vision, goals and objectives. A Neighborhood Service Team makes decisions on common problems within a community by sharing ideas and solutions."



Tracy Franklin leads a community neighborhood meeting at Tahoe Valley Elementary School. Photo/Kathryn Reed

At this particular meeting garbage bears, overgrown lots, and graffiti were the major topics by the residents.

Franklin followed up with information for the meeting attendees who provided their email address. It had contact info for the fire department – (530) 542.6162. That's who to call regarding defensible space.

And she checked in with South Tahoe Refuse about getting a group deal on the bear-resistant cans that come with a lid that screws shut.

Franklin's email said, "A marketing campaign could be launched in town to get local residents to sign up for the purchase of their bear can(s). South Tahoe Refuse was contacted regarding this idea and STR does not purchase the containers. It was suggested that local hardware store vendors be contacted to discuss the potential of purchasing bear containers. Currently the bear containers are sold in town for $99 each. It would be ideal to try and reduce the cost to $50-$60 per can. A volunteer is needed to head up this effort."

Jim Marino, capital improvement manager for the city, spoke about the roadwork in the neighborhood that will start in July. Venice Drive from Tahoe Keys Boulevard to Aloha Drive will be like new by the end of summer. Work on it will be after the bulk of the tourists have come to town, but it could be torn up for a month.

“The roads in this town are simply sitting on native material,” Marino explained.

Fill was brought in by the Dillingham Corp. in the 1960s when the Tahoe Keys was built.

“Traffic in town this year will be a mess,” Marino said. The city, Caltrans and South Tahoe Public Utility District have projects on the books.

The city expects to go out to bid on Tuesday for its road projects, with possible awarding of a bid by the City Council on June 19 and construction starting in July.

In the state streets – to the right of Keys Boulevard when entering off Highway 50 – an asphalt rubber seal will be applied with the intent it will give the roads another eight to 10 years of life.

This neighborhood group, likes others before it, agreed to a neighborhood cleanup day. It will be June 2. Caltrans donates the bags, CalStar donates plastic gloves, the city has a jug of water, residents do the sprucing up. The California Conservation Corps often helps as do various nonprofits. Franklin drives a pickup to haul away the debris.

A Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association employee said all residents are invited to the June 23 Tahoe Keys Garage Sale at the parking lot of the homeowners association as well as the June 25 5:30pm Lawn Care and Water Conservation program at the TKPOA office.

Here is a list of future neighborhood meeting dates.

Grapes & Gates

The Heavenly Ski & Snowboard Foundation’s 11th annual Grapes & Gates gourmet food and wine tasting event is May 2 from 6-9pm at Edgewood Tahoe in Stateline.

The evenings highlight will be the award presentation. The foundation will present the inaugural Bill Killebrew Award. Killebrew has been an integral part of creating opportunities for youth to enjoy and participate in snowsports.

Heavenly Freestyle Team head coach Jere Crawford, recipient of the USSA Freestyle Coach of the Year Award, will also be honored.

For tickets, call Aimi Xistra-Rich at (530) 314.9285.

Summer-like weather for the

weekend; then winter returns

By Kathryn Reed

People were shedding their clothes Friday, with more of the same expected throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin this weekend.

While no records in the basin were set Friday, the National Weather Service says the best chance to set one in South Lake Tahoe will be Sunday. The forecast is for 73 degrees. The record of 71 degrees for April 22 was set in 2009.

It was 71 degrees in South Tahoe on April 20 – two degrees shy of the mark set three years ago.

On April 20, Reno tied the record of 84 that was set in 2009.

Truckee records are not likely to be broken. But temps will be in the upper 70s.

Shane Snyder, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Reno, explained that while the water temperature of Lake Tahoe is cold this time of year, Truckee's air temps are higher than those in the basin.

"When the lake is cold, it keeps the land around it cold," Snyder told *Lake Tahoe News*.

While the warm weather has lured people to the beach, gotten them on their bikes and doing other summer activities, they shouldn't get used to it. The normal turbulent spring-winter weather fluctuations associated with April-May in Tahoe are alive and well.

A chance of showers is in the forecast for Monday, but a bigger storm could roll into the area Wednesday night through Thursday night.

"It will be cold and wet. We're not done yet getting mountain

precipitation," Snyder said. "It will be snow at the lake."

Demand increases Marriott's quarterly profits

By Danny King, Travel Weekly

Marriott International's first-quarter profit rose 3 percent from a year earlier, as higher franchise fees more than offset the drop in earnings caused by last year's spinoff of the company's timeshare business.



Marriott's net income was $104 million, up from $101 million. Revenue fell 8.2 percent to $2.55 billion because of the timeshare spinoff; the timeshare business had accounted for about 10 percent of Marriott's sales.

Factoring out currency effects, Marriott's revenue per available room (RevPAR) rose 6.7 percent. North America RevPAR advanced 6.9 percent, while RevPAR increased 5.3 percent in the rest of the world.

Read the whole story

Truckee area pilot survives crash

By KRNV-TV

RENO – Today around 10:35 in the morning the sheriff's office received a call that there was an over-turned aircraft at Deerwater Air Field in Sierraville.

Deerwater Field is a landing strip only with a taxi way and parking for small aircraft. Responding personnel included the sheriff's office, Sierra County Fire, the Eastern Plumas-Loyalton Ambulance, United States Forest Service, the California Highway Patrol and later investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration out of their Reno office.

A Grass Valley couple visiting the Sierra Hot Springs nearby witnessed the accident and said the plane had flown in at least once prior, landed and took off again.

Read the whole story

California bill to cap state employee pay makes it out of committee

By Jon Ortiz, Sacramento Bee

A bill that would cap California state employees' pay at no more than what the governor earns cleared the Senate Public Employee and Retirement Committee on Wednesday on a 3-1 vote.

Senate Bill 1368, authored by Sen. Joel Anderson, R-Alpine, would limit the annual pay of state officers and employees, including overtime, to the governor's salary, currently $173,987 per year.

The measure exempts current salaries set by contracts but requires the limitations to take effect for those employees once those deals expire. Anderson's bill also includes exemptions for public safety workers and judges.

Read the whole story

United Way hands out $650,000 to regional charities

Lake Tahoe Boys and Girls Club is one of several groups to share in United Ways' distribution of $650,000.

United Way received $3.3 million in requests.

Groups receiving money are:

-Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows in collaboration with BGC of Western Nevada, BGC of Mason Valley, BGC of Lake Tahoe, BGC of North Lake Tahoe and BGC of Elko. It received $100,000 to teach job skills to youth ages 10 to 18.

-Step 2 in collaboration with ACCEPT, Safe Embrace, Advocates to End Domestic Violence, Committee To Aid Abused Women, Washoe Legal Services – $75,000.

-Nevada Rural Counties Retired Senior Volunteer Program in collaboration with Alzheimer's Association of California and Northwestern Nevada – $75,000.

-Quest Counseling – $50,000.

-Community Services Agency – $75,000.

-Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada – $15,000.

-ReStart (in collaboration with Volunteers of America – Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada) – $50,000.

-Community Counseling Center in collaboration with Ron Wood Family Resource Center, Carson City Families First Drug Court, United Latino Community and Partnership Carson City – $50,000.

-Ridge House in collaboration with Step 1 – $50,000.

– Reno Gazette-Journal

Explosive device doesn't keep S. Tahoe pot club from opening

By Kathryn Reed

All three marijuana dispensaries in South Lake Tahoe are back in business. Patient2Patient had to clean up a mess left from an incendiary device being thrown into the collective Thursday and City of Angels 2 was hopping Friday afternoon after closing for a couple weeks.

With April 20 having significance in the world of pot users – they call it four-20 – it's not known if whoever is responsible for causing damage to Patient2Patient wanted to stop today from happening at least at this one collective.

If that was the desire, it didn’t work. The collective is open today.

In fact, owner Erika Triglia was too busy helping someone to be able to speak with *Lake Tahoe News*.

Four-20’s historical roots are muddied, with different theories as to how it came to be a date of significance to marijuana advocates.

Police officers are investigating the April 19 10:15pm incident. Lt. David Stevenson told *Lake Tahoe News* this crime has nothing to with the explosive device found last week on Tallac Avenue.

Two employees of Patient2Patient were in the building when the explosive was hurled through a side window. A small fire started, but overall the damage was minimal, according to Stevenson.

Down the road and on Third Street at City of Angels 2 people were coming and going from the collective. Owner Gino DeMatteo had abruptly and obviously temporarily shut down the facility earlier this month.

On April 20 he told *Lake Tahoe News* he didn’t owe anyone a reason why he closed and is back open.

Doctor to give talk about da Vinci surgical tool

Barton's Health and Wellness Lecture Series continues as Barton General Surgery's Scott Welker discusses minimally invasive surgery with the da Vinci Si Surgical System.

Defined as robotic-assisted technology, the da Vinci has become widely known as an effective alternative to traditional "open" surgery and conventional minimally invasive laparoscopy.

The free talk takes place May 2 from 6-7pm at Kahle Community Center.

Lake Valley has money for fuels reduction on vacant lots

Lake Valley firefighters have $100,000 to help property owners in the North Upper Truckee neighborhood to clear away hazardous fuels – as in overgrown trees and brush.

The grant from the state via Proposition 40 can only be used to work on vacant lots. A matching fee of $600 from the property owner is required, though Lake Valley has no cap on what it will spend per property.

No trees with a diameter of more than 14 inches will be removed. And work will only be for fire hazard mitigation.

For more information, call (530) 577.2447.