

# THE Camptonville Courier

Connecting the Community  
Since 1997



VOLUME 28

SEPTEMBER 2024

NUMBER 9

## A Blossoming of Talent!

By Katie O'Hara-Kelly

In late July, the 3rd annual [Bouquets to Art Show](#) showcased the artistry and creativity of nine local artists. The artworks were each created in response to a masterpiece, ranging from M.C. Escher to Mark Rothko. Each piece was quite unique, and ranged from a ceramic, handmade gumball machine to lavish bouquets of garden-grown flowers. The show was well attended, with over 40 community members voting for their three favorites. It was a lovely summertime event!



1st place (below) went to [Yakshi Vadeboncoeur](#) for her floral interpretation of Hokusai's ["The Great Wave Off Kanagawa."](#)

2nd place (above) was given to [Laurie Oberholtzer](#) for her representation of Benjamin C. Brown's ["Pasadena"](#) (poppy fields.)

3rd place (right) was awarded to [Cheryl Durrett](#) for her assemblage interpretation of Albrecht Durer's ["Praying Hands."](#)

Other gifted exhibitors were Marylou Knapp, Mary Yager, Keith Montgomery, Pam Davis, Candy Davis, and Katie O'Hara-Kelly.



Photos by Katie O'Hara-Kelly

Thanks to the [Camptonville Community Center](#) for hosting the event and to the local artists who took the time and effort to participate!







## Neighbors: River Cleanup Help Needed At Oregon Creek

-Janie Kesselman, Editor for September

On **Saturday, September 28th, from 9 am-12 noon**, 650+ volunteers (individuals, families, groups, and organizations) will gather at 30+ sites to pick up garbage along the Yuba River Watershed. **Camptonville's own Oregon Creek Day Use Area on the Middle Yuba is still in need of 30 volunteers!** I'm hoping my neighbors will step up to help. A dip in the river is a nice perk, even if you can't go to the after-party.

Each September since 1997, the **South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)** has gathered the community together to remove the trash that builds up over the year throughout the Yuba River watershed. Sadly, since some of the more than 800,000 people who visit are not respectful of the fragility of our watershed, by September the river needs some help from those who love it. As a big fan of our river, I have participated in **SYRCL's Yuba River Cleanup** every year.

Until arthritis stopped me in 2009, I always volunteered at Oregon Creek with my children and their friends, our gloved hands retrieving all sorts of unusual garbage specimens and countless cigarette butts. Since then I have helped out at the Post-Cleanup Party (at Pioneer Park this year), either preparing lunch or checking in the teams of intrepid trash mavens as they return from their adventures at each of the sites along 80 miles of our watershed. There is free lunch, live music, and awards for various categories of notable, weird garbage collected earlier in the day.

To reserve your volunteer spot, go to SYRCL's Cleanup Webpage at [yubariver.org/events/annual-yuba-river-cleanup-2024/](http://yubariver.org/events/annual-yuba-river-cleanup-2024/), or contact Emily Wilson: 530-265-5961 x 201 or [emily@yubariver.org](mailto:emily@yubariver.org). See you at the celebration!



The beautiful Yuba River

Photo: SYRCL website

## At Red's Meadow, Mammoth, CA – August

*Mountain sun,  
River and tree  
In light reflecting;  
Remember these,  
Breathe through them  
And let fear dissolve,  
Water in sand.*

*This body, this Earth  
Knows more  
than we think.*

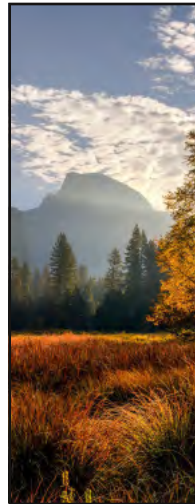
*Basalt columns grew here,  
Birthed from lava's womb,  
a geometry of the gods.*

*Wind listens to wind  
In fluttering leaves  
and dust cloud.*

*Be still and wait  
for the dragonfly  
who loves to surf  
the air waves.*

*Read the world  
as if it's an open book  
Someone left behind  
for you, and dream  
of what is possible.*

– Marcy Risque –



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## Naturalist Kate Marianchild Speaks At the Center – October 12th

### *The Extraordinary Acorn Woodpecker:*

*Communal marriage, communal food, and communal nests*

Submitted by Katie O'Hara-Kelly

Are we all in for a treat! Come to the **Camptonville Community Center on Saturday, October 12th, 12:30-2 pm**, to hear naturalist **Kate Marianchild**, author of *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks* (Heyday, 2014), share her firsthand knowledge of the marvelous **Acorn Woodpecker**. \$10 at the door will help with costs and benefit the Center.

Here is Kate Marianchild's story about how the Acorn Woodpecker changed her life:

When I asked my Audubon chapter to host a talk about acorn woodpeckers in 2003, I had no idea that that question and the ensuing talk would dramatically change my life.

At the time, I was desperately ill with chronic Lyme disease and new to my community – a double whammy that resulted in my being isolated and lonely. But I was cheered up by the quirky acorn woodpeckers who constantly flew around my yurt, flashing their brilliant colors and staying in nearly continuous squawky conversations with each other.

When I learned from Walt Koenig, the world authority on acorn woodpeckers, that these birds have the most complex social structure of any vertebrate species in the world, I was stunned. I wondered if there were any other "world-class" species living around me that I and everyone else had been taking for granted.



Kate and friend

Submitted photo

book, a process that took five years.

Kate lives in a yurt near Ukiah surrounded by six oak species and abundant wildlife. When she is not giving talks, guiding walks, or observing nature, she swims, sings, and advocates for the preservation of flora and fauna. Find more information at [katemarianchild.com](http://katemarianchild.com).

Come hear Kate talk about one of the most interesting birds in the world!

Next, I wondered if the woodpeckers were threatened in any way and what they needed from their environment to continue to thrive. My search for answers to these questions led me from one oak woodland organism to another in a process of discovery that became the great passion of my life. Eventually my desire to share what I had learned led to the writing of my

## Fleetfooted Camptonvillian Wins 60-Mile Endurance Race

By Rochelle Bell

George Doolan won his first competitive event this past July in Downieville: the 60-mile category of the Lost Sierra Race. George finished first with a time of just under 14 hours, beating out 30 other participants. The endurance run started in Downieville, crossed the Sierra summit, went on to Blairsden and then back to the start.

We asked George how he trains; he said he runs five or six days a week and often rides a road bike. He fueled up for the race on his favorite food: pasta. We were interested to hear that the racers were refueled along the route at aid stations serving water, electrolytes, and snacks ranging from pickles to M&Ms to peanut butter sandwiches.

When he is not running, George works at his winemaking. He has been interested in wine since he was 18. He acquired skills at various wineries and now runs Doolan Wines, based in Camptonville. George, a native of South Freeport, Maine, has enjoyed living in our town for about a year and a half. Be sure to wave when you see George cruising by!



George Doolan



## "Galaxy Quest" At the Timberline – September 1st

By Jesse Golden

It's an adventure! It's a comedy! It's a sci-fi satire! It's **Galaxy Quest!** (1999, rated PG, starring Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, and Alan Rickman) Can the former cast of a cult classic science fiction TV series save Earth from alien invasion?

On **Sunday, September 1st, 2 pm**, join host Pam Davis at the

**Camptonville Community Center's monthly Timberline Theater Movie Matinee** for this fun movie and some popcorn! \$2 donation requested.

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## Honey of the Heart – September 15th Live Music At the CCC!

By Jesse Golden

The beloved musical group **Honey of the Heart** is set to enchant the local community with a live performance at the Camptonville Community Center on **Sunday afternoon, September 15th, from 3-5 pm.**

Honey of the Heart, known for their unique blend of folk and soul, evocative songwriting, and rich vocal harmonies, has garnered a dedicated following across the region. Their music resonates with themes of love, nature, and community, making their performances both relatable and inspiring. This concert promises an afternoon filled with captivating music and joyous community spirit.

Tickets will be available at the door (\$15+ suggested donation, Kids under 10, \$10). Food and drink will be available; your **donations will support the Camptonville Community Center.**

You can get to know these artists by visiting [honeyoftheheart.com](http://honeyoftheheart.com) or by watching them on YouTube or your favorite online platform.

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music and community!



## It's Time for Rally Point!

By Amber Mehrmann, CCP



**Rally Point** is a youth group program hosted by the

Camptonville Community Partnership through Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health Prevention Early Intervention (PEI).

**Youth 10-18 years of age are welcome** to participate in our group. Meetings are held at the **Camptonville Community Center** every **first and third Tuesday of the month from 5-7 pm.**

Rally Point is all about youth having a space to meet and make new friends. At our meetings, we have fun with games and activities that foster creativity and team-building skills. We also have special guest presenters who share their experiences to help teens understand the world around them more deeply.

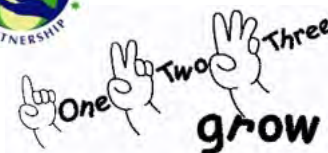
You can reach out to Amber Mehrmann at 530-288-9355 or email

[amber@theccp.org](mailto:amber@theccp.org) for more information.



## Early Childhood Explorations With 1,2,3 Grow

By Eugene Salganik, CCP



As you read this, our preschool has entered its first week of classes, and it is just a pure joy to get to be around such positive energy. These kids are an incredible reminder of what's important and how to keep a good perspective on how to get one through a day in the life of earth circa 2024. Everyone's getting so big and talking more, and I am just floored by the level of progress I see with everyone who came back. I am so proud to see what the kids remembered from last year.

At the **CVFD Firefighters' Picnic on September 7th**, you'll definitely see a booth full of kids who I hope will be playing with all the toys and activities I plan to bring. Please stop by with any questions about our program, or just to say "Hi!"

**1,2,3 Grow** is a parent-participation early childhood program for infants and children up to five years old. Located in a portable behind **Camptonville Union Elementary School**, we're open **every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30 am-12:30 pm** during the school year (August through May). Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Eugene at [eugene@theccp.org](mailto:eugene@theccp.org) or give us a call at 530-288-9355.

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**Highlights of our community-driven activities  
in the Yuba County foothills:**

- Youth enrichment and skill building projects
- Family Resource Center
- Community Health Action Plan
- 1, 2, 3 Grow Parent participation child enrichment for 0-5 year olds
- The Camptonville Courier

**Development of:**

Community-scale forest biomass to energy facility  
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# The School Bell Is Back!

By Patrick Brose

Did you hear that?! The bell at Camptonville School is ringing again for the first time in three years! This



summer, our amazing maintenance man Troy Groves and his son Teroy spent hours on a boom lift 50' in the air to repair and refurbish the school bell. Now, each morning the bell welcomes our students at 8:25. It is so cool to have it back in action.

We also have our bus operating again on a daily basis for the first time in over 4 years! There are lots of field trips planned for the year, and having the bus running makes it so much easier to access these amazing activities and trips.

With school in full swing, I am around significantly more, so if you have any questions or comments, please drop me a line at: [pbrose@cville.k12.ca.us](mailto:pbrose@cville.k12.ca.us), or call me: 530-288-3277.



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# Keep Your Equilibrium! Show Some Support! Wordsmiths & Musicians – September 22nd



By Yakshi Vadeboncoeur

It's fall equinox, time for **Wordsmiths & Music Makers** – Camptonville's own celebration of featured local and guest artists. August heat, summer gardens, keeping the yard up and the fire hazard down, a quick vacation or friends and family coming to visit you – the summer months fly across the calendar. Then somewhere a cool breeze blows, the season swings on its hinge, and the autumnal equinox is upon us. Join your neighbors and come take some time **Sunday afternoon, September 22nd** to celebrate this moment of balance between day and night, light and dark, life-maintaining work and life-force-sustaining creativity.

The **Camptonville Community Center** opens its doors to **Wordsmiths & Music Makers at 3 pm. Show starts at 3:30.**

## Featured Artist music by:

- \*Moonshine Road-er **Shabda Owens**,
- \*Boogie woogie + jazz pianist **Michael Legan** from Rough and Ready,
- \***Kip and Joel** representing Oak Valley, plus
- \***Barbara Graham** from downtown Camptonville.

## Featured Wordsmiths include:

- \*Cornish folklorist and storyteller, **Claudia Tonge**,
- \*Poet **Bishop Randall** from the Ridge,
- \*Host **Yakshi**, and more.

The fruits of summer garden labor and fall harvests will be well represented by finger foods available before the show and at intermission and, as always, there will be a full feast at the end.

Tickets are \$5 at the door and go to support the Community Center. If you would like five minutes to share your creativity, put your ticket into the golden tin. We draw one ticket out of the tin in between each featured artist.

For more information or the opportunity to be a future featured artist, contact Yakshi at:

[yakshiv@gmail.com](mailto:yakshiv@gmail.com) .



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## After 14-Year Effort, Local Community-Scale Biomass Energy Facility Will Break Ground

By Cathy LeBlanc

Wow, folks! On August 6th the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors voted unanimously to fund \$15.3 million for the Engeman Camptonville Green Energy Project, a 5-megawatt biomass to energy facility that will be located on Marysville Road about two miles south of the Bullards Bar Dam (see Yuba Water article next page.) This funding, combined with other grants (CA Energy Commission, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, USDA) and loans, will close the gap needed to construct this long-awaited facility.



August 6th, after unanimous vote by Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors to fund biomass energy project

This has been quite the journey for Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP) and myself that began in 2010. How do you make sense of a 14-year effort? It started at a Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council meeting with a Yuba Water Agency-funded Foothills Biomass Feasibility Study presentation. There we learned Yuba Water had the vision that we in Camptonville share:

*Protect Our Watershed!*

From the start, I wondered: could this be possible locally? I looked back on our recent history. In 2007 Camptonville community members worked with CCP to develop a **Community Health Action Plan (CHAP)** that was presented to the Yuba County Board of Supervisors, allowing them to better understand Camptonville's values and concerns. That document opens with this statement:

**Our Rural Environment:**

*When asked what Camptonville residents value about our community, one unifying theme that emerged was our desire to maintain and preserve our beautiful natural environment. Camptonville residents prefer treetops over rooftops, we prefer raw earth over cement covered ground, and we prefer natural and undeveloped spaces around our homes, school, and businesses. We see ourselves as a community that lives in harmony with nature and promotes efforts such as recycling, responsible logging, and creative solutions to maintain healthy air quality and a healthy watershed. Camptonville realizes the rich resource it brings to Yuba County: water – and we believe in being good stewards of our natural habitat to help ensure water quality and quantity.*

The more we looked into the potential of the project, the more it fit our vision, especially fuel reduction to help circumvent catastrophic wildfire. This plant would reduce the need for open pile burning and turn our slash into good paying local jobs (with benefits) and green electricity. It would increase the pace and scale of the work outlined in the North Yuba Forest Partnership ([yubaforest.org](http://yubaforest.org)). On top of that, the vision includes a business campus so that local entrepreneurs may benefit from the plant's excess steam, electricity, or biomass. It will have 1.5 megawatts of electricity to sell at a reduced price to co-located businesses, plus steam.

Over the years, we convened community members, committees, councils, government officials, local to federal stakeholders, and project funders in support of **these shared goals: 1. Decrease catastrophic fire in the North Yuba Watershed, 2. Increase watershed health, and 3. Increase the number of good local livable-wage jobs and job opportunities in the foothill communities.** I believe that our values and our can-do attitude are what helped us stay in the running with this project!

Camptonville is a town of about 700 people. This bio-energy project is a prime example of our resolve to bring the voice of the community to decision makers. It may have taken us over a decade, but that spirit of tenacity and a whole lot of help from our extended staff, stakeholders, and partners have brought this small women-driven, locally staffed non-profit to move a \$30 million project like this forward into reality. This project is a perfect example of asset-based community development, which is the foundation of CCP's work in the foothills. We've been building community from the inside out for the last 30 years!

The Biomass plant will be owned and operated by our developer: Engeman Camptonville Green Energy. The Forest Biomass Business Center, CCP's C-corporation, owns the land that the business campus occupies and will receive rent from all tenants. A portion of these funds will go back into running CCP to continue to develop more community programs.

The project intends to hold a community meeting in the near future to discuss next steps and opportunities. Watch for fliers! Please visit our **Forest Biomass Business Center** website at [camptonvillebbc.org](http://camptonvillebbc.org) to learn more, or email me: [cathy@theccp.org](mailto:cathy@theccp.org).





# New Biomass Plant Near Camptonville Will Reduce Wildfire Risks, Create Jobs

By Bonnie Dickson, Yuba Water Agency Senior Public Information Officer

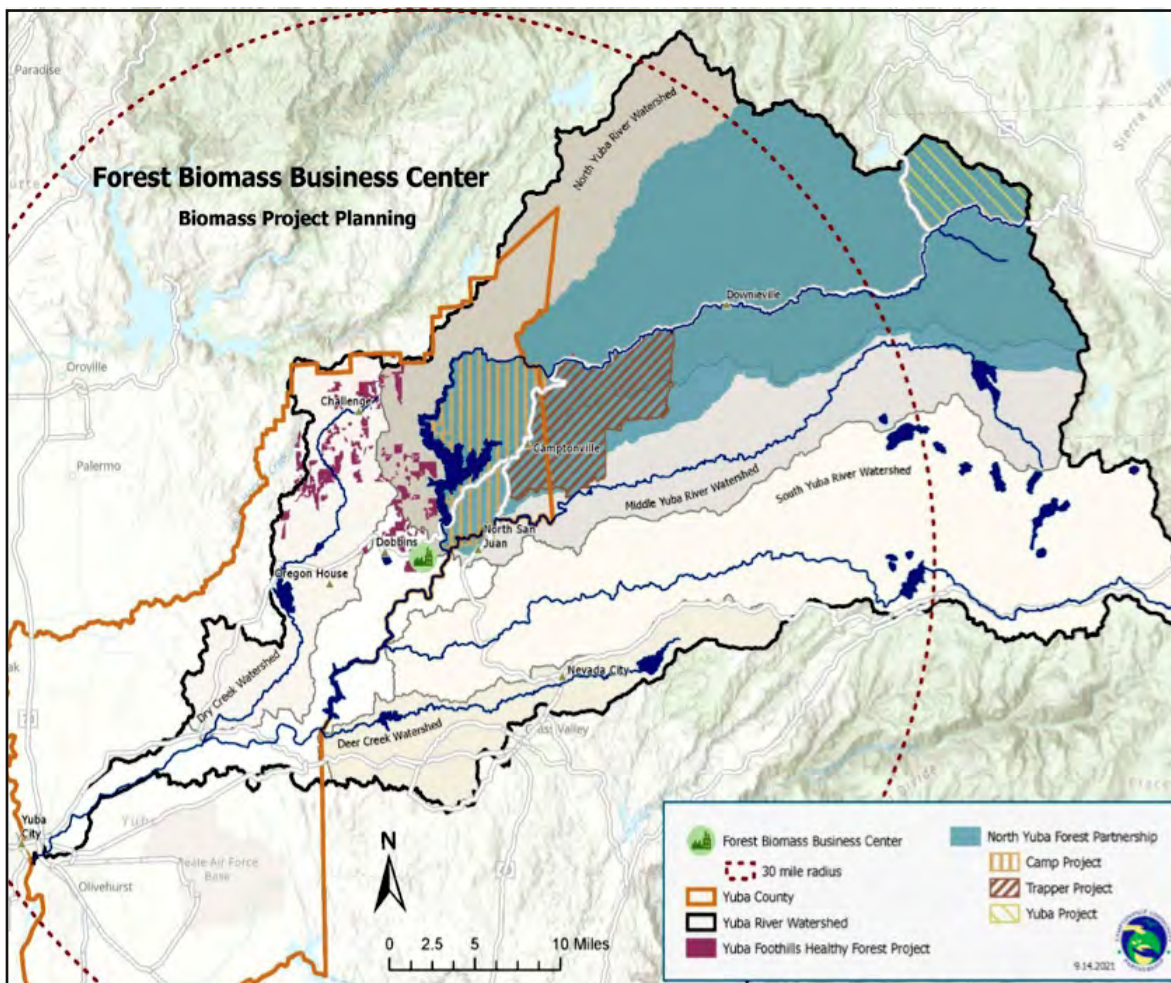
Construction of a 5-megawatt biomass plant near Camptonville can now move forward with the help of a \$7 million grant and \$8.3 million low-interest loan to the Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP), approved August 6th by Yuba Water Agency. The facility will process woody material from forest restoration projects in the Yuba River watershed, increasing the pace and scale of work to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

*"As we watch the destruction of the Park Fire in neighboring Butte County, we're reminded of the very real threat of wildfire in our backyard and the importance of projects like this one to make our forests more resilient,"* said Yuba Water General Manager Willie Whittlesey.

Camptonville Community Partnership already owns the land where the biomass plant will be built and is close to finalizing an



Biomass from forest health treatment in Yuba foothills



Map illustrating 30-mile radius from Forest Biomass Business Center

Submitted photos

interconnection and power purchase agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric. CCP is partnering with Engeman Energy on construction and operations, with a goal of bringing the plant online by 2026.

*"Trucking wood chips and other materials from forest health treatment sites is costly, increases emissions, and is rarely covered by state and federal grants,"* explained Yuba Water Watershed Manager JoAnna Lessard. *"Having a local biomass plant to*

*process these materials removes a huge barrier to scaling up forest health and wildfire risk reduction efforts in the region."*

CCP and Yuba Water are both part of the nine-member North Yuba Forest Partnership, which identified the lack of a local biomass facility as a key barrier to completing needed forest health treatments in the Yuba River watershed. The partnership is working on an unprecedented scale to restore 275,000 acres of Sierra Nevada forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

As the owner and operator of New Bullards Bar Dam and Reservoir and other critical facilities in the Yuba River watershed, Yuba Water leadership is keenly aware of the wildfire risks and has been a longtime supporter of the project, previously providing funding to help with planning and land acquisition. This latest round of funding will cover construction of the biomass plant, with a 20-year loan at a three percent interest rate.

Visit [yubawater.org](http://yubawater.org) to learn more.



## Letters Home From Camptonville – September, 1862

Compiled from *Postmarked Vermont and California, 1862 - 1864*, with an introduction from Jennifer Nelsen, Camptonville Postmistress

September 1862, Camptonville.

The temperature is showing some mercy, however the country is getting fired up about the upcoming controversial presidential election. This month we only have a letter written to Rollin from his family in Vermont. I decided to include this because it is a real account of history, not just the richest man's version we learned in school. These passages show how similar life was 162 years ago compared to our current lives, with tensions high and the people politically divided. Let us remember in 1862 elections occurred in the middle of Abraham Lincoln's first term, during a third-party system and while the Civil War was being fought. Let's find out how our past felt to those who created it.

Pittsford, September 14th, 1862

My dear and absent boy,

We are a bit off the hooks today and all stayed home from Church. We have not as much interest as usual in going to church.

There is a good deal of excitement here in regard to the war, and the management of the Department. Judging from the present appearances it will take a great while to put down the Rebellion. This is the darkest time in history. A great many of our best young men are gone or going.

Oh the cruelties of this cursed and Devilish Rebellion. We are in trouble at the West - the Devilish Indians have been in Minnesota. I fear Mr. Lincoln is not competent for the place he occupies, and our generals seem to lean the wrong way. Most of them their sympathies are with the south in a degree. The thing is all wrong and must be spedaly righted or we shall lose our Republic and all go to the devil or to that which is worse - Old Jeff Davis Administration. The comforts that hell affords is too good for that traitor. I have half a mind to enlist myself. Mother says I had better quit this subject and I will for I am full and begin to slop over.


It does me good to look at your photograph, it looks very lifelike. Remember that partnership is a bad ship to sail in.

From your father.

The very ink with which history is written is merely fluid prejudice.

Mark Twain

Quote chosen by Jennifer Nelsen, this month's COLOR covers sponsor



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## A LOOK BACK — from *The Camptonville Courier's* back issues

(read back issues: [bit.ly/courierpast](http://bit.ly/courierpast) or search by keyword: [bit.ly/courierdigital](http://bit.ly/courierdigital))

By Jesse Golden

### 20 years ago, September 2004:

- Judy Morris announces that Relay For Life's 2004 Camptonville Buddies Team raised \$2,300!
- Nancy Niccoli and Yana Slade describe the activities of the Mental Health Training Program, with workshops including Anger Management, Crisis Intervention, and CPR.
- Diane Pendola suggests community cooperatives as a way of making a living in Camptonville.

### 10 years ago, September 2014:

- Shirley DicKard recounts the history of the Camptonville Gardeners' Market (still going strong at the Community Center on Saturdays!): "Back in 1999, Tonie Hilligoss wrote a US Forest Service Economic Grant for a co-op market that Rod Bondurant coordinated. People have stepped forward to keep it going every summer, including Jimbo Garrison, Carolyn Mumm, Lois Lambert, Rochelle Bell, Cheryl Zatuchni... and ardent supporters Hal Stocker and Mac Claar..."
- Christina Ledson reminds us about Thursday Market at the Mayo, where "you might find that perfect gift, fresh local produce, handmade jewelry, hats, toys, or even a relaxing massage."
- Regine Miller reports Camptonville School students and staff will participate in the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Great Sierra River Cleanup at Oregon Creek Day Use Area: "This is the third year students and staff have participated in the effort to remove trash from river corridors, promote river stewardship, and affirm the desire for clean water and healthy rivers."



### 5 years ago, September 2019:

- Barbara Mueller-Hogan writes in memory of Paul Hogan, and Carla Kindorf writes in memory of Carl Wubben.
- Char Jokerst thanks the community for donations for the purchase of the CVFD's rescue apparatus, Rescue 6340, which "houses all of our medical, vehicle extrication and low angle rope rescue equipment as well as seating five personnel."
- JT Rumsey and Lisa Burns explain dangers to Camptonville's water system posed by wild pigs.



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## Reminders From Your Fire Department

By Elizabeth Zapata, CVFD  
Administrative Assistant



The 30th Annual Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department Picnic is on **Saturday, September 7th**, from **2-10 pm** at the **Lost Nugget Field**. Hope to see you there!

Winter is coming! Get your stovepipe/chimney cleaned. Chimney fires are a real danger, and can happen to any of us. We love our neighbors and love to see you, but we don't want you to be one of our clients.

- \*Check and repair or replace your spark arrestor.
- \*Keep your roof free of debris.
- \*Make sure you have a working hose nearby when burning yard waste once permits are active.
- \*Check on your neighbors!

We have many resources available if you need help. Contact me: [camptonvilleassistant@gmail.com](mailto:camptonvilleassistant@gmail.com) or 530-913-3501, and I'll see what I can do. Be fire wise and fire safe!

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## HELP & HOPE

For emergencies first call 911.

All area codes are 530 unless otherwise specified.

### CAMPTONVILLE:

- Cemetery ————— 559-1629
- Community Center ————— 288-5016
- Community Partnership (CCP) ————— 288-9355
- Community Services District (CCSD) ————— 288-3676
- Elementary School ————— 288-3277
- Family Resource Center (CCP) ————— 288-9355  
*Hours 8:30 am–12:30 pm, M-F*
- Post Office ————— 288-3348  
*Hours 11 am–1 pm, 1:45–3:45 pm, M-F*
- Volunteer Fire Department ————— 288-3303
- Water Plant ————— 775-980-7138
- Yuba River Ranger District ————— 362-8259/288-3231

Alcoholics Anonymous: Local 24 hr Hotline — 272-6287  
Burn Day Status ([www.fraqmd.org](http://www.fraqmd.org)) — 741-6299  
CA Rural Legal Assistance (Yuba Co) — 742-5191  
CoRR (Community Recovery Resources) — 273-9541

### Domestic Violence:

Casa de Esperanza Hot Line (Yuba Co) — 674-2040  
DVSAC Crisis Line (Nevada Co) — 272-3467

KNCO 830 AM (Nevada Co) — 477-5626  
KUBA 1600 AM (Yuba Co) — 673-5400  
KVMR 89.5 FM (Nevada Co) — 265-9555  
Legal Center for Seniors (Yuba) — 742-8289  
Mental Health 24 hr Crisis Line (Yuba) — 673-8255  
NAMI -Support for Mental Illness — 272-4566  
PG&E Outage Line — 800-743-5000  
Red Cross of NE California — 673-1460  
Road Conditions CalTrans — 800-427-7623  
Sheriff (Yuba Co) Emergency — 911  
Sheriff (Yuba Co) Non-Emergency — 749-7777  
Supervisor Jon Messick (Yuba Co) — 749-7510  
Yuba County Emergency Services (OES) — 749-7520  
Yuba County Health and Human Services — 749-6311

Contact Editor for additions or corrections



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## Vocabulary in Defensible Space Work

By Beverly Cameron-Fildes,  
Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council

In a past article, I shared that I grew up in the deserts of Southern California, in the Coachella Valley. The landscape was sand dunes, cactus, lizards, rocks, and some brush. Aside from a structure fire or the occasional palm tree that burned from a lightning strike, the word "wildfire" just wasn't in my vocabulary. There were mountain communities that surrounded our valley where there were occasional forest fires but nothing that became the focus of my day-to-day life.

Fast forward 40 years, and I ultimately married a wildland firefighter. Suddenly I learned a whole new vocabulary, particularly in the context of living in the **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**. I learned that understanding the vocabulary was critical to understanding how to prepare for wildfire.

As a Wildfire Mitigation Advisor, I stress to homeowners the importance of understanding how they can become proactive in protecting their property and families. One of the most important ways to prepare for wildfire is to learn some salient information about defensible space work, especially as we move deeper into fire season this month.

**Live Fuel Moisture (LFM) level** (the amount of moisture held by live vegetation) becomes an important factor in determining vegetation vulnerability to fire. Two years ago, when we still had snow coming down in May and very mild temperatures throughout the summer, the fuels (trees, brush, plants, grasses) had very high levels of moisture, making them less prone to burning. This made it possible to do defensible space work safely into the summer months.

In contrast, while we had a good amount of rain during the recent winter, we have had many more consecutive days of high heat, limited cooling at night, winds, and low humidity, significantly reducing the fuel moisture levels (both live and dead fuels) making the vegetation much more combustible.

CalFire and US Forest Service recommend that defensible space work during summer months be done before 10 am. However, when temperatures are high, humidity is low, and accompanying winds are further drying the vegetation, any fuels reduction may need to be done much earlier in the day or even put off until temperatures and humidity (50% is a good number) are restored to less dangerous levels.

If you have questions regarding safe times to do defensible space work, contact your local fire agencies or check websites that use reliable data. Also, watch for high wind/Red Flag warnings. Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council has an abundance of educational materials to help us make safe choices when preparing for wildfire.

*Stay Safe!*



### Food Distribution in the Yuba County Foothills



#### The Foothill Food Pantry:

Alcouffe Center, 9185 Marysville Road, Oregon House

1st and 3rd Fridays from 12-1:30 pm

September 6th and 20th

October 4th and 18th

#### The USDA Commodities Food Bank:

Willow Glen Restaurant parking lot, Oregon House

The 2nd Thursday: 9-10 am

September 12th and October 10th

#### North San Juan Food Bank:

Located at Oak Tree School, Oak Tree Road, NSJ

2nd Tuesday: 10 am-Noon

Free Food and Clothing Closet: call 530-292-3174 for hours

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Camptonville School visitor

Photos: Janie Kesselman

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**SEE YOU SATURDAY AT THE CVFD PICNIC!**

Here's a heartfelt **Thank You** to Camptonville Postmistress Jennifer Nelsen for sponsoring September's **COLOR** covers! Her requested quote is next to her article on **page 8**.

\*See **page 2** for how to make a tax-deductible donation to *The Courier* or sponsor a month's **COLOR** covers.

## SEPTEMBER 2024 Community Calendar

*The Camptonville Courier* and Calendar  
are online **IN COLOR** at [Camptonville.com](http://Camptonville.com)

To add local events to the calendar, email: [calendarcville@gmail.com](mailto:calendarcville@gmail.com)

- September 7 — 30th Annual Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department Picnic (pg 10)  
September 8 — Timberline Matinee: "Galaxy Quest" (pg 3)  
September 12 — Thirsty Thursday! 5-7 pm at the Center  
September 15 — "Honey of the Heart" concert (pg 5)  
September 22 — Wordsmiths & Music Makers (pg 5)  
September 28 — Yuba River Cleanup (pg 2)  
October 12 — Kate Marianchild: "The Extraordinary Acorn Woodpecker" talk (pg 3)

### WEEKLY Events: • CCC = Camptonville Community Center •

**Tuesdays:** Yoga, 5 pm, School Gym, Contact: 530-798-6778

**Wednesdays:** Camptonville Fire Dept Trainings, 6-9 pm, Fire Hall

**Fridays:** Harmony Health *Clinic On Wheels*, 9:30 am-3:30 pm, CCC

**Saturdays:** Coffee@the Center and Gardeners' Market,  
10 am-Noon, CCC



### MONTHLY Events:

- Call to verify meeting times before attending •

**CCP Board** 3rd Wed, 1 pm, Resource Center: 530-288-9355

**CCSD Board** 4th Thursday, 5:30 pm, CCC: 530-288-3676

**School Board** 3rd Thursday, 5 pm, CV School: 530-288-3277

**Thirsty Thursday** 2nd Thursday, 5-7 pm, CCC

**Rally Point** 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 5-7 pm, CCC

*All Food Banks – see pg 11*