

M. Lane #23 to #27 BOS 9-30-14

respond appropriately." Per Sheriff D'Agostini, "Hold their feet to the fire. Mine too. I work for you."

EDC Fire Chief Michael Hardy also encourages citizens to vocalize their concerns at weekly BOS meetings held Tuesdays at 9 AM, 330 Fair Lane, Building A in Placerville.

A special round of applause in appreciation to GVFD Chief Bill Dekker and his staff for expressing their concerns at the BOS meetings and demonstrating how to 'lead by example.'

Melody Lane  
Founder – Compass2Truth

"The further society drifts from truth, the more they will hate those who speak it." ~ George Orwell ~

**From:** [clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com) [mailto:[clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com)] **On Behalf Of** royseward .  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 4:40 PM  
**To:** [steveshoemake@yahoo.com](mailto:steveshoemake@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** [clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com)  
**Subject:** Re: [CLNews] Fire

I agree. Maybe some risk management basics should be considered. Specifically, what is the risk versus the benefit?

Benefit...out of town campers are allowed to have a pit fire in an extreme high danger fire area.

Risk...no need to explain.

Personally, I don't know if I'm more appalled with fire department policy, or the folks who run Camp Lotus. Who is paying for the four fire fighting aircraft I observed during the fire? Camp Lotus? If not, they should. Would they also be liable to other persons/property damages as property owners are when burning during burn season?

All this for roasting marshmallows? Why run the risk???

Roy-Lotus

On Tue, Jul 8, 2014 at 3:42 PM, steveshoemake via Coloma-Lotus News <[clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com)> wrote:

It's amazing to me that open campfires are allowed at all especially in such high risk area at this time of the year. A recipe for disaster and we dodged the bullet this time.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the "Coloma-Lotus News" Google Group.

To post to this group, send email to [clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com)

Response to post goes to the sender only. To "reply all" CC [clnews@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews@googlegroups.com)

To unsubscribe from this group, send email to [clnews+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:clnews+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com)

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## Melody Lane

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**From:** Suzie Matin <quietstormranch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 08, 2014 6:39 PM  
**To:** melody.lane@reagan.com  
**Subject:** Re: [CLNews] Fire

I have been in Coloma since 2006. I experienced the July 1, 2007 fire and was out of town for the July 30, 2009 fire. What were the dates of the other fires on Mount Murphy? I looked online but couldn't find anything on the Internet. Just curious.

Suzie

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 8, 2014, at 5:59 PM, "Melody Lane" <[melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com)> wrote:

Nothing strikes fear into the hearts of Californians like the word "Fire!" However the amount of coverage CL News gave this small fire is rather disturbing. Sadly, the last 5 arson fires on Mt. Murphy didn't get nearly as much media attention. (My golden retriever, Sundance, died of smoke inhalation as a result of the pictured 2007 arson fire set by 3rd generation firefighter Ben Cunha.)

Meanwhile the Coloma Resort has illegal fireworks on 4th of July accompanied by amplified noise creating yet another fire danger for residents on the north side of the river. Petitions for a Community Evacuation Plan have been ignored by the BOS and OES since 1988. This has been a very sensitive topic of the Mt. Murphy Stakeholders Committee meetings that has been artfully dodged by county staff and CH2M Hill consultants.

My neighbor witnessed the incident in the Ropes area of the campground that evening and called 911. He also called the owners but the Faieta's blamed the American River Resort or someone "across the river." This has been their typical MO for nearly two decades despite the fact that they don't even live in the CL community. Not exactly what you'd call "good neighbors."

Yesterday I visited EDSO and asked to examine several case file reports. Regardless of who initiated the call, Sheriff's records indicate the Coloma Resort owners have unjustly blamed me --Melody Lane--for "harassment" every time the Sheriff has been called to enforce the law. I couldn't believe my eyes. Call the Sheriff and you end up the victim just for reporting a crime!!! Go figure.

From what I was told, EDSO has recently initiated a new procedure. They will NOT assign a Case File number to a report unless the individual is willing to file a Citizen's Arrest. Unfortunately most residents don't want to **bother** with the legal "messiness" of court appearances (been there, done that.) Something is wrong with this picture...

During the "Crime on the Divide" meeting held last month at Garden Valley Fire Department, Vern Pierson encouraged the packed room to contact the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff D'Agostini, and the DA about your concerns, "Persist until they

Robert P. Day, Jr.  
P O Box 316  
4000 Twin Ridges Road  
Coloma, California 95613-0316

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

HAND DELIVERED

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:  
Supervisor Ron Mikulaco, District 1  
Open, District 2  
Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, District 3  
Supervisor Ron Briggs, District 4  
Supervisor Norma Santiago, District 5  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: El Dorado County Campfire Moratorium

Dear Ms. Santiago & Messrs: Briggs, Mikulaco, Veerkamp,

As you may be aware, there was a fire at Camp Lotus (July 6, 2014) which required significant resources to extinguish it. It is my understanding that the ignition source of this fire was campfire material. As you may recall the recent Rim Fire and the Angora fires were caused by campfires. I'm reasonably certain that those who were responsible for starting those fires had no intention of doing so.

California is in the midst of an extreme drought and resulting high fire danger. We are simply courting disaster by allowing any campfires during this extremely dry period. Campfires are not necessary, as other alternatives are readily available for cooking and light (if needed).

While the campground owners and their operators may have the best of intentions with regard to fire safety, it not possible for them to present at all times and to monitor the operations of their campgrounds. Let's not forget that "the road to hell is paved with good intentions". Many, if not all, of the visitors to these campgrounds are from "city" or "suburban" environments where they have little if any exposure to campfires, wild land fires and the campground's close proximity to areas of dry brush and timber.

Simply considering this moratorium from a cost/benefit perspective, any benefits of allowing campfires during this extremely dry period are easily outweighed by the cost of fire fighting and the potential loss of life and property. Such a moratorium could be put into effect until we have our first rains at which time the ban could be lifted.

The most important consideration and often conveniently overlooked fact is the complete and total lack of any emergency evacuation plan for the Coloma-Lotus area. Both Camp Lotus and The Coloma Resort are accessed by one lane bridges. Let us not forget that a house on Carver Road has a Special Use Permit for weddings. Can you imagine for a moment the chaos that would occur with a fire on the East side of the Mount Murphy bridge with hundreds (yes hundreds!) of residents, wedding guests and "campers" attempting to all evacuate at one time? As you may recall, Carver Road is a "Dead End" road which only leaves the one lane Mt. Murphy Bridge, Bayne Road and Mt Murphy Road for everyone to use as exits and for fire and emergency personnel for access. Mt. Murphy Road is a single lane road much in need of grading, turn-outs, culverts and related repairs. Bayne Road is somewhat better but it has a single lane for most of its length with few turn-outs or places to pass. The access to and from Camp Lotus fares only slightly better from an access perspective with long "dead end" roads and only one other exit.

I respectfully request the Board immediately move to implement a campfire moratorium for the remainder of this camping season until such time sufficient rains have come to negate the fire danger. Further, the need for an Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Coloma-Lotus area is long overdue and efforts should be undertaken to complete such a plan as soon as possible.

The risk of wildfire is significant and your actions can make El Dorado County a safer place to live, without causing undue hardship to anyone and without expending any County resources.

Sincerely,

Bob Day

Bayne Road Neighborhood Group  
*Mountain Democrat* Editorial Board  
Cal-Fire