

# Happenings at The Capes



THE CAPES HOA

Volume 1, Issue 1 • August 4, 2011

Edited by Megan Moore Taylor

## Where's Paul Bunyan when you need him?

By Tim Moore, Manager

Our view improvement began about five years ago, when residents began requesting tree removal. (Tree-lined vistas of the ocean are in greater demand, it seems, than tree-choked vistas of even more trees blocking the ocean.) Early on, the Association had to lower a drilling rig and a back hoe into the Canyon to drill test wells. The heavy equipment caused significant erosion on Lots 1 and 2, and when the building on Lot 3 shifted on its foundation (act of God? giant soil-eroding trucks? who knows?), the board decided to step back and reassess the tree removal process.

The first proposal the board considered involved setting up equipment on Lot 139 on Fall Creek, which creates a high-lead line. High-lead logging, for the curious, lifts logs using a cable-and-pulley system (popular here in the Great Northwest); however, the back end of the log tends to drag, causing gouging and erosion problems. Furthermore, there was no place to anchor the high pole once it was set up (other than with two trucks on Fall Creek, trucks so large there would be no place to park them). And the only low-anchor option was a lone spruce tree whose notoriously shallow roots



High-lead logging, a common tree-removal process in the Northwest (but not without its problems)

we feared would have given way under repeated loads. Hardly a good idea to rip out wanted trees by the roots in our quest to remove unwanted ones!

Another option was to cut the offending verdure and then leave it in place. While this would prevent erosion, it would also leave about 75 dried-out trees just waiting to ignite. We didn't want to prevent erosion only to burn the community down! The board considered having the logs cut into moveable pieces, but the workers would be forced to climb 80+ stairs with each log and wouldn't be capable of more than three hours of sustained work per day. The entire process would take a month and would use up the area's supply of summer forest fire fighters. Not the best scenario—for the forestry crew or their knees!



The younger of these two workers said of the older one that he could go uphill faster under a load than the younger one could without a load ("I can't keep up with him!"). The older worker is 63.

## Upcoming Meetings

- LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE  
8/13 @ 10:00 AM
- LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE  
8/20 @ 10:00 AM
- BOARD MEETING 9/17  
OPEN FORUM @ 9:30 AM  
MEETING @ 10:00 AM

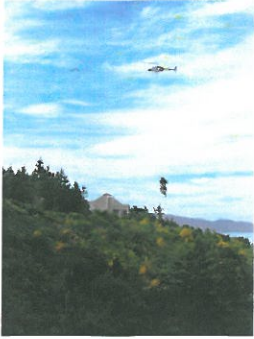
## Upcoming Events

**Wine and Cheese Social**  
Saturday, Sept. 3rd from 4 to 6 PM at the Bridge House. Put on by the Bridge House Committee, it is a chance to come and socialize with your neighbors and try some interesting cheeses.

Adults only, BYOB.

## Happenings at The Capes

### Where's Paul Bunyan when you need him? (cont.)



One log down...74 more to go!



Collection bins waiting to be hauled away



Loading the bins, one log at a time



Cutting the logs to size

So that was it: it was a helicopter or nothing.

During one of my visits to the site, I observed our helicopter pilot giving a safety lesson to the forestry workers. Everyone was paying rapt attention. Why? They would be working below a helicopter, also known as a bunch of metal suspended in midair with a glide rate of zero; if it came down, someone else would be going down the hill to pick up the remains.

Funny guy, our pilot.



The pilot (Richard Gere look-alike?) explains engine cut-off switches and the fire extinguisher: "The fire extinguisher is here. If there is a fire, use it on me, not the helicopter!"

As to the fate of the logs: questions have been raised as to their marketability. Shore pines have almost no resale value; spruce, fir, and hemlock are only marketable in a particular size that would require a much bigger helicopter with a much bigger price tag (\$2,500 per hour versus the current \$850). The volume of logs removed, too, was too small to justify the cost. So the trees were cut into small, easily removable sections, placed in collection bins, cut again to really pack 'em in, and hauled away to be chipped or burned.



A worker setting chokers, steel cable or thick rope (as seen here) designed to go around the log and then attach to the cable used to extract it.

Below: The brush on the hillside (Salal, wax leaf myrtle, Himalayan blackberry) is so tall that at times the loggers are invisible from the opposite side of the canyon. They often use chainsaws to get from one tree to the next.



## The Market May Be Crazy, But...

By Bob Lightall

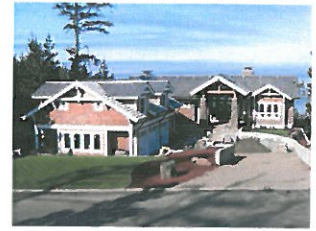
There is good news in The Capes!

Since the beginning of the year, Rob and Deanette Marvin have purchased a home on Fall Creek, David and Kristen Simmons are ensconced on Promontory, Christine Vanderwood is our newest owner of a pied-à-terre in The Cottages, Raymon and Tina Sieler are now settled on Promontory, and Rich and Lori Dilbeck are the newest neighbors to the Sielers and the Simmonses. And for the Sielers and the Dilbecks, this will be their permanent home!

But purchase of completed homes is not the only real estate activity in The Capes!

Franklin and Dorothy Piacentini received their completion notice on their new home at the end of Fall Creek. And, two doors up the street, Steve and Diana Packard are nearing completion on their new home. Up on Promontory, foundations have been poured and framing is starting on a habitat being built by Banks Construction. We welcome our new residents to the community.

The three rules of real estate: location, location, and location. The Capes has all three!



Above: the Packard home, nearing completion

Below: the Tathwell/Brink home, taking shape



## New Growth in the Landscape Committee

By Anne Bethell

We are thrilled to welcome new member Suzanne Flynn to the Landscape Committee. Thank you, Suzanne!

A number of the Canyon trees reducing ocean views from The Cottages and some townhomes have been removed, but this project is still in progress.

We continue to improve the Meadow with additional plantings and tree trimming. In addition, we are trying new plants to see if they can adapt to our harsh environment. Sam Sadler, the Partins, the Bethells, and Manager Tim were

out laying soaker hoses, digging holes, and planting. Thank you, everyone!

The LSC is being greatly helped by our new manager, who has made our work so much easier. The hard work the LSC put in last year in connection to tree issues is really paying off; we can now concentrate on every aspect of landscaping within The Capes.

Once again, we invite you to consider joining the LSC. Being a part-time resident need not stand in your way: over half our committee are part-timers and our meeting dates are flexible. We welcome your participation!

## Emergency Preparedness

By Anne Bethell

The Emergency Preparedness Steering committee has been on hold for the past two months. We hope to be back to work in the near future.

Two information handouts will be up on The Capes new website soon. It is our hope that we can educate the entire Capes membership on how to be prepared. It is EVERYONE'S responsibility to have survival supplies and an evacuation plan on hand. In case of an earthquake and subsequent tsunami, we must all have an evacuation plan in case we are caught

on the beaches or away from home, and if our homes are on the front row of the dune or located below 100 feet.

Each home should have, at minimum, a 24-hour survival kit and know what steps to take as soon as is safely possible following an earthquake/tsunami/severe winter storm. It is the responsibility of EVERY HOMEOWNER to be prepared. The Capes does not have the capabilities to store water, supplies, food,

**"EACH HOME SHOULD HAVE, AT MINIMUM, A 24-HOUR SURVIVAL KIT AND KNOW WHAT STEPS TO TAKE AS SOON AS IS SAFELY POSSIBLE FOLLOWING AN EARTHQUAKE/TSUNAMI/SEVERE WINTER STORM. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY HOMEOWNER TO BE PREPARED. ."**

## Emergency Preparedness (cont.)

(cont. from page 3) first aid, etc., so YOU need to be prepared with enough supplies to last you several weeks. In the event of a disaster, we could be isolated out on this headland for up to 3 to 4 weeks, since the majority of help will be directed to major population areas such as Portland and the Willamette Valley.

Unfortunately, it is no longer a question of IF a major earthquake and/or tsunami should strike the Pacific Northwest Coast, but WHEN.

We are asking for volunteers to be trained in how to respond when a major disaster occurs. The training will include such things as how to prevent further damage following the disaster; how to respond to neighbors who might need help; how to survive following a disaster when all communication, roads, emergency personnel, etc. are unavailable. Please think seriously about training to be an EP volunteer; absolutely no prior skills are needed, just a willingness to help your neighbors and The Capes in a disaster. It does not matter if you are here all the time, somewhat regularly, or only occasionally because it is impossible for anyone to predict just when a disaster may occur...how helpful it would be if we knew!

Please stay tuned for more information.

## New Community Website Announced

*By Lynne Styles*

Knowing that communication is important in any community, we have been working on a new website for The Capes. A few homeowners who expressed interest in this project are working with Resident Manager Tim Moore to partner with a website developer. The new website will provide a new, more user-friendly interface. All community documents, meeting announcements, minutes and agendas will be posted on the website. Special projects and social activities will also be highlighted. We are planning to have the website up and running in September. Please contact Tim with any questions or comments you may have about this project!