

2022 Annual Friends of Banner Mountain Meeting
June 29, 2022 (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)
Zoom Meeting

President Ed Sylvester opened the meeting by giving a brief overview of Friends of Banner Mountain's (FBM) activities over the past few years.

Some of these activities included:

- Working closely with Banner Mountain neighborhoods to help them organize and stay informed about fire safety;
- Promoting Yuba Net and the local radio stations as excellent sources for fire information;
- Working closely with Caleb Dardick from the County Office regarding fire mitigation issues;
- Sponsoring a chipping program with the Fire Safe Council;
- Submitting a comprehensive response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report regarding the Gold Mine project; and
- Jeff Peach, communications director, working tirelessly to provide all sorts of pertinent Banner Mountain information via email to our membership.

Speakers

Jeff Peach introduced the meeting's speakers. Caleb Dardick - Nevada County Assistant CEO was the first speaker.

Caleb shared a power point presentation which outlined the county's activities for fire mitigation projects and winter storms preparedness. One example was sponsoring two weekends of free green waste disposal.

To fund these various projects, the county needs a steady stream of income. While the county has had reasonable success with obtaining grants, more funding is needed. He introduced the county's proposal for county wide 1/2 cent sales tax applicable to tourists as well. This new tax would be on the November ballot if 4 of the 5 Board of Supervisors support it. Caleb encouraged everyone to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, August 9th at 1:30 pm at the Rood Center. This is when the supervisors will meet to decide whether to place a measure supporting the 1/2 cent tax on the November ballot.

He also encouraged everyone to take the county survey which asks residents to prioritize what is most important to them — fire mitigation, preparedness, recovery, or response. The survey can be found at www.readynevadacounty.org/future

Caleb can be contacted at Caleb.Dardick@co.nevada.ca.us

Mark Triolo was the next speaker. Mark is a member of the Nevada County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). He outlined what ARES provides as a free service:

- Neighborhoods guidance to set up emergency backup radio communications in the event of a power outage. This guidance includes:

- How to use radios for neighborhood communication
- What equipment to buy
- Where to buy it
- How to get licensed
- Equipment setup
- How to use the radios – “hands on”

ARES receives no compensation for the services offered. Mark can be contacted at marktriolo@gmail.com. The ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) website: <https://nevadacountyares.org/>

Karen Jones was the last speaker. Karen is a retired silviculturist from the Tahoe National Forest. She spoke about keeping trees healthy.

She recommended having one tree every 20 feet. Too many trees clustered in one area impacts the health of the trees. Trees need the opportunity to get as much moisture and nutrients as possible in addition to strengthening photosynthesis to stay healthy.

Karen pointed out some shrubs can serve as ladder fuel; manzanita shrubs are a prime example. She recommended planting all shrubs ten feet apart, even those which get regular watering.

The next point she made was to limb up trees six to ten feet up, depending on the height of the tree.