



## **LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE** **Newsletter – October/November 2012**

### **Barking Up the Wrong Tree**

What are we to do if our dog has a barking spate while we are gone? We all live in a close-knit **and** close by neighborhood. So when one dog speaks (barks) out, other dogs tend to join in and the conversation can become quite lively...and loud...and for extended periods of time. It turns out there are some great options out there to encourage our dogs to philosophize to themselves. Petco has in the store and online some very effective bark collars for about \$40-\$60 that work by giving a shock. For most dogs it only takes a couple of times, so there is very little discomfort. Patt Baenen has had excellent luck with this type. Another option is a smell collar, Premier Pet Gentle Spray, from Pet Safe on Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto at 650-856-6666. This has worked well for David Smernoff. If you need more information, contact either David or Patt.

If everyone joins in the effort to create a quiet and calm neighborhood, then our dogs will have the same benefit as us. Remember to keep the collar on each time you are gone.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale and Greg VanHauser*

### **Beware on Hallow's Eve!!**

Come Hallow's Eve, Wednesday, October 31st, our gang of ghouls, goblins, and super heroes will once again be wandering the streets looking for tricks and treats. So we don't surprise you -- be warned -- we are coming again ... woo-o-o-o. Last year you "treated" over 40 tricksters.

Families with neighborhood tricksters are welcome to assemble starting at 4pm for snacks and drinks at 1215 Los Trancos Road. Around 5:30pm, we will begin our wandering up Los Trancos Road, over to Bonita and El Rey, down Lake Road and back around to Los Trancos Circle and then down to Los Trancos Road ending at Foxwood. Some of our smaller tricksters will try to loop back up the Circle.

We've heard a tale that a spooky surprise awaits the brave and bold at 1124 Los Trancos Road. For those lucky enough to survive the ordeal, a goblin gathering and loot sharing extravaganza is planned at 112 Foxwood from 6:45 or so to 8:30pm or earlier (time to get the little ones in bed for school the next day).

Boo-o-o-o-...from the Neighborhood Tricksters!

*Submitted by Tore Gillbrand, Joe Sabel, David Smernoff, and Karen Tate*

### **Los Trancos County Water District**

Attendance was excellent at the recent "Preparing for Fire" presentation held on August 29, 2012 at the Portola Valley Town Hall. It was a timely event given that a week before a house fire had broken out on Joaquin Road. The quick and effective response by Woodside Fire District combined with the defensible space clearing work done by the Joaquin homeowners kept this blaze from being a whole neighborhood fire.

For those of you who could not make it to the session, here is the YouTube address to glean the critical information, note that there is a tab for 26 short videos of which 15 (1-5 min. each) are from the training session. You can choose which ones are most pertinent for you and your home:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWg27W4XBg4&feature=channel&list=UL>

Thank you, Charlie Krenz, for the excellent video taping and editing.

*Submitted by Tracy Sherman, Board Member of LTCWD*

## **Los Trancos Woods Community Association**

The Los Trancos Woods Community Association (LTWCA) exists to advance the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and property owners in Los Trancos Woods. Any adult resident or property owner in Los Trancos Woods is eligible for membership in this Association. Our last request for donations was in 2010 and we received tremendous support. We are asking at this time for \$60 in order to cover our budget for both 2012 and 2013.

Please DO pay them! Our dues are now \$60 every two years. The things they fund include:

- Emergency preparedness – out of pocket expenses for drills, replacing out of date supplies and upgrading our supplies
- At least 2 Picnics – given the turn out for our September picnic, it is clear that this is a popular expense
- Annual publication of the Community Resource Guide – emergency information, contact information for community members, and even a landscaping guide

We have tried to make paying your dues as easy as possible. You can pay:

- Using PayPal. Log onto [www.lostrancoswoods.org](http://www.lostrancoswoods.org)
- Mail or drop off your check to our treasurer at 111 Carmel Way
- Drop off your check with one of the members of the LTWCA Board Directors – Tom Thayer, Julie Duncan, JoAnn Loulan, Jan Avilla, Autumn Stanley, Steve Friedman or Sonia Martinez
- Or give one of us a call and would be glad to pick up your check

Update – about 20% of the dues have been collected. In these next two weeks let us all get on it and make that number significantly higher. It only takes a few minutes to pay your dues, but you get two years of benefit from them.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

*Los Trancos Woods Community Association Board of Directors*

## **Annual Pony Tracks Picnic**

Thanks to everybody who helped make the community picnic a great success! We owe a special note of appreciation to Allison, David, and Scott Littlefield for their generous contribution of the picnic venue. This may have been the largest picnic with 260 attendees along with the fabulous tank docents and train club “engineers” who freely donated their time. If you want to visit tanks they have regularly scheduled tours on Saturdays and you can make reservations at [http://www.mvtf.org/pub\\_tours.php](http://www.mvtf.org/pub_tours.php).

The weather was perfect. There were plenty of grilled items due to the excellent RSVP responses. The potluck table ran a little shy of salads, so let's be extra generous next year in bringing dishes to share. The parking went smoothly due to all those who walked and carpooled. Let's keep this up.

A host of people pitched in to pull this event together, carrying out tasks like cooking, directing parking, checking people in, setting up, cleaning up, and buying food, drinks, and supplies. Join in the event planning next year and you will have fun too. The tank docents and train crew also worked hard to create a fun and memorable experience, and the band did their best to launch some tasty notes into space. A big thank you to all, and we hope to see you at next year's picnic!  
*Submitted by Rob Kalman, Mike Ward and Linda Drey-Nightingale*

## **Neighborhood Notes**

- Yvonne Tryce with the Town Nature and Science Committee is passing on information about a couple of great programs this fall at Portola Valley Town Center. On the evening of October 12 at 7 p.m. there will be another star party with lots of telescopes to view the night skies and classroom activities for the younger folks. Then on Sunday afternoon October 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 there will be a geology day with geologists, rock and fossil exhibits, hands on activities, earthquake information, and much more. Thank you for the heads up, Yvonne.
- Dan and Lori Wendlandt welcomed Adeline Rose Wendlandt into their lives on August 15, at 8pm - 5 days early. She was 7 pounds 5 ounces, and 19.5 inches long. Adeline Wendlandt was a wonderfully well-behaved baby even before she was born. The doctor was scheduled to be gone the two days before the due date, so the week before she spoke directly to the baby. The doctor explained to my unborn daughter that she would be out of town for about 36 hours and that it was okay to come before or after that time, but not during that window. This "conversation" happened about noon on Tuesday and by 9:30 p.m. that night I was in labor at the hospital. Adeline's first month was made extra special by having Grandma Damon stay with us. We are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful baby and supportive family. The big question is - will she have red hair?

*Submitted by Lori Wendlandt*

## **Community Associations' Web Sites**

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org> NEW

The group e-mail list is:

[VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com)

[VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

*Thank you, Jerry Jensen & Rob Kalman for maintaining web sites*