



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE Newsletter – October/November 2013

Fire Extinguisher ABC's

Size and types: The extinguishers sold at the community picnic are rechargeable 3A40BC models. It is recommended that you have at least one of these extinguishers in your home. I have one in the kitchen and one in the garage. The letters designate the type of fires they are designed to extinguish. A=trash, wood or paper, B=liquid, and C=electrical. The numbers before the letters are the relative strength in extinguishing that type of fire. For instance, a 3A is better at fighting a trash fire than a 2A.

Rechargeable or non-rechargeable: Most extinguisher containers are designed for a 12-year life. Somewhere on the extinguisher in small letters there is an expiration date. You should replace the aluminum nitrate powder every 5 to 6 years, because over time it solidifies and will not do the job. If you have a rechargeable extinguisher, it can be recharged. If you don't have a rechargeable extinguisher, you need to purchase a new one. Rechargeable extinguishers will indicate they are rechargeable. The vendor who sold us the special discount fire extinguishers does provide recharging services. Contact info: Reliable Fire Extinguisher Co. in Redwood City. (650) 368-0135. Mark Carlevato.

Maintenance: At least once a year inspect the extinguisher to see if the gage is in the green zone. Weigh the extinguisher to see if it is the weight shown on the label. Turn the extinguisher up and down several times to shake up the powder to stop it from becoming solid. At 5 or six years recharge or purchase new.

Using the Extinguisher: If the fire is larger than a trashcan, you should get out and call 911. When using the extinguisher, have your back to an exit, and stand about 8 feet from the fire. Use the acronym **PASS**.

P = pull pin

A = aim at the base of the fire

S = squeeze the handle

S = swipe the nozzle back and forth at the base of the fire. You have about 13 to 15 seconds of powder.

Call 911 even if you think the fire is out. It might not be.

Submitted by Bill Tagg, VV Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Emergency Preparedness News

TRIAGE - In a disaster when there are more injured than you can handle at once, you need to decide "who gets first aid first?" Learn TRIAGE on 26 October 9-12 noon, 184 Vista Verde. More details to follow.

Submitted by Bill Tagg and Steve Friedman, Emergency Preparedness Coordinators

Los Trancos County Water District

Recently the District completed a cleanup of its lands around the lake and along Lake Road. The firm, Ecological Concerns Inc. (ECI), an ecological landscaper, performed the work focusing on fire prevention and the removal of non-invasive plants and euc saplings and the creation of brush islands. ECI will return in the New Year to complete the removal of thistle and broom, when the lands are wet and pliable. In the New Year, the district will have a management plan for the lands and will solicit your comments at that time.

Recently, an Evacuation Routes Map was completed in collaboration with LTCWD, our CEERP leaders (Bill Tagg & Steve Friedman) and Chief Dan Ghorso of WFPD. This map delineates the possible routes we may be directed to take in the event of a wild land fire. Watershed Fire Prevention has plans in the works - in conjunction with San Mateo County - to organize an evacuations route, clearing project. This would include making sure that the main roads leading into Pony Tracks Ranch and the back side of Alpine Road (vía Joaquin) become more fire safe and have a roadside vegetation mitigation plan in place.

All our roadways could be our evacuation routes so keeping at least 15 ft. of defensible space from the roadway would make a real impact on safer ingress/egress. This is not to suggest clear-cutting, just removing broom, dead material and making sure trees are limbed up. More to come on the topic!

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti, member of LTCWD Board

Ramona Road Retaining Wall – Final Construction Report

Soils Engineering Construction (SEC) completed construction work on the Ramona Road retaining wall project on Friday, September 20, twelve weeks after they began work. On that same day, the San Mateo Department of Public Works (DPW) sent out a crew to repair the curbs, put down temporary asphalt to fill the gaps between the road and the new concrete grade beam, and remove the road signs. DPW will install a new safety barrier along the 87-foot retaining wall. Soil stabilization methods are being studied by DPW to ensure this winter's rains do not wash away the freshly compacted soil at the base of the wall.

A crew from DPW was out at the site last week to locate the discharge point of the 24" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) that directs water from the culvert across Ramona Road down 218' to the discharge point, where it flows across the ground another 170' to Los Trancos Creek. The last 8'-10' of the pipe's lower end is clogged with debris. This unearthing and clearing task will be done by the Road Department.

Don Horsley, San Mateo County Supervisor and Bob Mahoney, President of SEC attended our community picnic. After a rainy ribbon-cutting ceremony, Supervisor Horsley congratulated the community for coming together to contact him, so he could obtain the necessary emergency funding for the repair of Ramona Rd. *Submitted by Ken Kormanak (see photo of completed wall at end of Newsletter)*

Cozy Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic at Pony Tracks had people pouring in and rain pouring down as everyone gathered in the tank barn for lively conversations, lavish foods, and luscious libations. About 200 people attended, and the volunteer crews from VV and LTW did a fabulous job of planning food and drink, setting up, grilling, parking, and cleaning up. Once again the tank and train volunteers were on hand to enhance the experience, as well as a ribbon cutting for the new Ramona Road retaining wall and fire extinguisher demos. We are blessed to have a community that gives of their time and talents so freely. A big thank you to the picnic volunteers, the tank and train volunteers, the Fire and Sheriff Departments, the Los Trancos for performing in the rain, and the Littlefield family and staff for being wonderful hosts.

Submitted by Deb Smith, President of VV Community Association

Hallow's Eve Tricksters Are on the March!!

Come Hallow's Eve, Thursday, October 31st, our gang of ghouls, goblins, and super heroes will once again be wandering the streets looking for tricks and treats. O-o-o-o, beware!

Families with neighborhood tricksters can assemble starting at 4:00 pm for apple bobbing, snacks and drinks at the Gillbrands', 1215 Los Trancos Rd. Around 5:30 pm, we will begin our wandering up Los Trancos Rd., to Bonita and El Rey, to Lake Rd., to Los Trancos Cir., and down Los Trancos Rd. ending at Foxwood. An eerie surprise and haunted house awaits at 1124 Los Trancos Rd. For those lucky enough to survive, a goblin gathering and loot sharing extravaganza is planned at 112 Foxwood from 6:45 to 8:30 pm or earlier (time to get the little ones in bed).

Submitted by Tore Gillbrand, Joe Sabel and Cindy Russell

Sudden Oak Death News

Now is the time to plan your fall attack against SOD! Black, live and tan oak trees are susceptible to the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) pathogen. These species should be treated, sprayed or injected with AgriFos, to reduce the possibility of infection and subsequent death.

What is the hurry? If you wait, it may be too late. The SOD pathogen thrives in moist, warm conditions, just like we are having this fall. So the time to act is **now**, before we get more rain.

What is the danger? Once an oak is infected, there is no cure. Black, live and tan oak trees have been dying in our neighborhood from SOD infection. At highest risk are your oaks within 20 feet of bay trees.

Should I have my oaks treated now? If your oaks were treated for Sudden Oak Death only once or never, you should be treating now. If your last treatment was a year or more ago, it is time to treat your oaks now.

Where can I find out more about SOD?

- The Vista Verde website: www.vistaverdepv.org (go to Home & Garden – then SOD).

- Your **2012 Vista Verde and Los Trancos Woods Community Resource Guide** pgs. 54 & 55.

When should I trim my oaks? Wait to trim your oaks until AFTER the current rainy season. Summer is the best time. Trimming branches now will increase your oaks susceptibility to SOD, a water-borne pathogen.

VV/LTW SOD Task Force

Neighborhood Notes

- **Tuning up your house** for winter? Why not tune up your energy use? Call Linda at 851-1787 to book an energy saver review. For only \$20 you will get installation of light bulbs, gaskets, water savers, and lots of fabulous tips.

2012 Community Resource Guide Changes

If there are any changes for the Resource Guide, please let Linda, 851-1787, know and we will publish it.

Community Associations' Web Sites

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:

VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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

