



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – October/November 2014**

Neighbors -- Beware on Hallow's Eve!!

Come Hallow's Eve, Friday, 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 50 tricksters.

Families with neighborhood tricksters are welcome to assemble starting at 4:30 pm for guts and blood (snacks and drinks) at the home of at 1215 Los Trancos Rd. Around 6:15 or so we will begin our wandering up Los Trancos Rd., over to Bonita and El Rey, down Lake Rd., and around to Los Trancos Circle, then down to Los Trancos Rd. 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 Rd. For those lucky enough to survive the ordeal, a goblin gathering and loot sharing extravaganza is planned at 112 Foxwood from 7:30ish to whenever (it's a Friday! WOOO HOOO!).

As a special new treat this year – there is a Pumpkin Carving Fest at 1234 Los Trancos Rd.!! Please bring your pumpkin(s) by around 4:30 on Wed., October 29th for some carving fun and camaraderie.

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

Submitted by Matt and Hilary Gebhart, Scott and Christina Mullins, Joe Sabel, David Smernoff, and Karen Tate

Celebration of Mary Margaret Koch's Life

Mary Margaret Koch, a longtime local resident, passed away last week. For many of us, it is quite a loss of our very generous friend. Judy Kormanak and Claudia Mazzetti, her neighbors, would like to invite Mary Margaret's many friends to a celebration of her life. Please expect to share your memories of Mary Margaret and to join us in a toast to her life. The celebration will be held on **Saturday, October 4**, from 3 to 5 pm., at Mazzetti/Swan residence. The event is a potluck (bring anything you want). We hope you can make it.

Submitted by Judy Kormanak & Claudia Mazzetti

Los Trancos County Water District News

It has been a pretty quiet summer but the Board members continued to work on fire prevention services through the Residential Incentive Program and primary escape route clearing of Los Trancos Rd, Alpine Rd., small parts of VV Way, and along Ramona Rd. We want to thank Ken Kormanak and Tracy Sherman with their help with the coordination of the permission waivers from different private property owners (within the ROW). The Governance Ad Hoc Committee continues to talk to other public agencies about the disposition of its real estate, particularly considering the lake's current condition. A consulting hydrologist and geotechnical engineers will evaluate the lake's dams and the lake's inundation pattern this upcoming October.

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti, LTCWD Board President

Neighborhood Notes

- A surprise rainfall in September woke us up to the beauty of water from the sky. Pray for more.
Rainfall data as reported by Gene Hunner: September - .7”, and season-to-date - .7”

Drought Action Day, Coming Your Way

Oct. 18, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Center

Learn what you can do to reduce your water usage in the midst of our historic drought while supporting our local plant and animal communities.

Discover how to live harmoniously with the birds, insects and animals that share our watershed.

See examples of our plants and animals, and how the major plant communities are affected by our microclimates and geology.

Visit vendors and listen to speakers talk about smart irrigation, rain catchment, leak detection and low water use landscaping.

There will be fun activities for the kids, bring the entire family! Free gift for first 100 families. See all the details on the Portola Valley town website: www.portolavalley.net/drought

Ecology & Drought Day Activities:

- **Speakers**, Vendor booths, Water saving tips and rebates, Awards for low water users, Make your own native container garden
- **Exhibits and Demonstrations:** 1) Local plant communities, 2) Low water use gardening, 3) Invasive plants, 4) Geology
- **Fun for Kids:** Sun prints & leaf rubbings, Microscopic pond life, Insect hunt, Water-themed Science Fair
- And refreshments!

Submitted by Mike Ward

Mailbox Art

Never let it be said that the residents of our tree-shaded hilltop community on the edge of Portola Valley are ordinary. I have lived here since 1959, and can assure you that they are not. A great example of local creativity is found in our mailboxes. These range from the Loulan's yellow school bus box on Los Trancos Cir., to the whole setting, with flag and flowers, for the box on lower Los Trancos Road. Look below for a few examples of our local creators to enjoy and admire.

Submitted by Autumn Stanley

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

