



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – October/November 2017**

Is Your Exterior Fire Ready?

That is your house we are talking about. On 26 September LTW Emergency Preparedness Team hosted two engaging Fire Prevention Workshops for what to look for on your property and exterior of the house. Below is the main list of Do's and Don'ts that the participants and Fire Chief Don Bullard came up with.

Do's

Trees cut away from house and limbed up*
Dead leaves cleared away from foundation
Visible, easy-to-read house number on road
Firewood stored 30' away from house
Door mats are non-flammable, not fiber
*Wrench connected to gas meter or auto shut off valve**
Chimney has spark arrestor with ¼" screen

Don'ts

Flammable vegetation next to house
Dead leaves piled on roof
Driveway overgrown (need 12' wide)*
*Wood fences are close or connected to house**
Wood handle/straw broom up against house
Water spigots have no hoses connected
Attic vent has no 1/8" ember resistant screen*

Check out your house! The * items all have incentives up to \$5,000 per household per year. See the 2 page flyer at the end of the Newsletter that gives you more information. Thank you to all who attended, and especially to Don Bullard who got all of us to think more critically about our fire ready exteriors.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale & Tracy Sherman, Emergency Preparedness Team co-Leaders

Yet Another Wonderful Picnic

The September 16, 2017 Vista Verde and Los Trancos Woods Picnic took place on a warm, sunny day on Las Piedras Court. We counted nearly 200 folks (195), more from the Woods than VV (106 - 89). The Los Trancolizers were fantastic, as usual, and we had the added pleasure of listening to the youth band, Avalon, from Portola Valley. It was lovely to connect with new friends and touch base with neighbors and long time friends. A wonderful tradition continues! The topper to the whole picnic was delivering extra burgers and some hot dogs that were grilled up for the PV/Woodside firemen who were fighting two fires.

Many folks signed up to help on the day of the picnic, and many more just pitched in - especially in the clean up! The picnic was pulled off with the talents of: Pamela Dorrell, Nancy Freire, Jessica Koehne, Carolina Reyes, Dudley Kenworthy, Matt Gebhart, Gwen Stritter, Kathleen and Scott Tandy, Bea Garsh, Jo Tagg, Lea Goldstein, John Barksdale, Wen Gong, Aaron Straight, Richard Thurlow, Bob Zimmerman, James Horn, Lea Peluffo, Tom Bleier, Eva Diez, Joan Barksdale, Steve Dunne, Shivani Nautiyal, Yan Ting, and so many more! See picnic photos in the second file.

Submitted by Joan Barksdale

Community Advisory Council

The Community Advisory Council (CAC) will be meeting with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and with the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) during the next month. The purpose of these meetings is to get progress updates on the various projects that have been funded through them for the current fiscal year. We will report back to you with the results of these meetings.

Also, please remember that the fire protection rebate program has been funded for the next three years, and that qualifying projects by individual homeowners are eligible for 50% rebates of the project costs, up to a maximum project cost of \$10,000 (\$5,000 rebate). This limit is an annual limit so get your projects completed now so that you have the full \$10,000 limit available for additional projects in 2018!

As a reminder, the CAC was formed to serve as a communications conduit between the community and

DPW and WFPD in order to determine the best use of the portion of property tax revenue that used to be allocated to the now dissolved water district. Members of the CAC are: Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee, Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg, and Tom Thayer. Please feel free to get in touch with any of us with your comments, questions or concerns.

Submitted by Tom Thayer, CAC Co-Chair

Not 1, But 2 Women's Book Clubs

Our own local LTW & VV Women's Book Club was founded in the 1950's. They meet every month at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wed. or Thurs. of the month, hostess' choice. You each bring a book to share that you have read or are reading. You can get on the list for announcements about where and when by emailing Mary McDonald. Grab a book and enjoy the camaraderie!

At the PVWC Book Club, we read books and share our reading experiences to enrich our lives, gain knowledge, keep up the mental stimulation, connect with and learn from each other, and simply relax and have fun! We invite you to join us. September 2017 was Wild, by Cheryl Strayed. We meet 11a.m.-1p.m. on the last Thursday of the month at the P.V. Library. To find out more details, please visit our website: <http://tinyurl.com/pvwc-bookclub> . To join us, show up at our next meeting, or contact Wen Gong.

Sudden Oak Death Guidelines

The quote below is from the U.C. Berkeley Forest and Mycology Lab web site: https://nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page_id=2345. Please check it for more detailed information. It is that time of year for treating your valued oaks. See pg. 55 in the Community Resource Guide for help in identifying which oaks are vulnerable.

“[There are] revised recommendations for injection of oak trees for SOD management... The highlights are: Only inject in the Fall, once every two years, and use the new reduced concentrations of phosphonate. Recommendations for topical bark applications remain unchanged and should be applied on an annual basis, preferably in the Fall, but possibly also in late winter.”

Submitted by SOD Task Force

Neighborhood Notes

- **Welcome new neighbors** Lesley and Jeff Wiley with sons, Tanner and Miles. Lesley teaches nutrition at SJSU and Jeff is in Biotech Marketing. Both grew up in the Bay Area and graduated from Berkeley.
- **CalWater** is putting in a new water pipe from the water tank on Old Spanish Trail down Joaquin Rd.
- Sign up for the S. M. County urgent or **emergency alert system** at: www.smcalert.info. It's easy!

2016 Community Resource Guide

Please note the following changes in your Guide:

If you have any changes to the 2016 listing please contact Linda, 851-1787.

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 site



WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
808 PORTOLA ROAD PORTOLA VALLEY, CA. 94028
(650) 851-1594
WWW.WOODSIDEFIRE.ORG

Los Trancos County Maintenance District Property Owner Incentives

\$5,000.00 is available each calendar year per household on a first come, first served basis until budgeted yearly funding has been depleted. Each property owner may receive **50% reimbursement on approved items and/or work completed.**

Mission of the program: The Home Hardening and Defensible Space program should collectively protect the entire community of the LTCMD while developing a fair program that allows every resident to participate.

Incentives for 2017 through 2019:

1. **Home Access** – To include making sure the property **address** is clearly marked with reflective non-combustible material and visible from the street, making sure local Fire Department and/or emergency responders have **proper “KNOX” gate access**, making sure **driveway is clear** of overhanging trees and vegetation is cleared at least 5 feet on each side of the driveway, consideration of creating a **turnaround for emergency vehicles** and to include having **private bridges rated/posted** by an engineer.
2. **Roof Assembly** – Reimbursement toward the cost of replacing an existing **combustible roof** with a **rated non-combustible roof**.
3. **Exterior Walls and/or Siding** – Reimbursement toward the cost of replacing and/or improving the **existing combustible exterior walls and/or siding** with a **rated non-combustible siding material**. To include the installation of **rated non-combustible skirting material, double-paned tempered glass windows and skylights**.
4. **Vents/Spark Arrestors** – To include the material cost and installation of **non-combustible ember-resistant vent screens** such as Brand-guard or Vulcan and/or the installation of **vent screens** that have a **minimum size opening of 1/8 of an inch**. To also include the installation of **chimney spark arrestors** with a **minimum of ¼” non-combustible mesh screening**.

5. **Attached Structures** – Reimbursement toward the material cost and installation of **rated non-combustible decking, patio covers, balconies, carports and/or fencing** materials that are **attached to the house** and may act as a wick to bring fire to the building.
6. **Hazardous Trees/Tree Limbing**– Reimbursement for labor to remove or trim trees within the 30 foot zone of the structure. **Remove all limbs within 10' of structures and chimney outlets. Limb up trees approximately 6' to 8' from the ground (smaller trees, limb up 1/3 the height)** to prevent fire from reaching tree tops via ladder fuels.*
7. **Brush/Ladder Fuel Mitigation** – Reimbursement for labor to cut back or clear hazardous ladder fuel brush such as French and Scotch broom and coyotebrush as the assessor determines necessary. (Please note that weed whacking of annual grasses, though also required by fire code, is not an included incentive.)*
8. **Automatic Gas Shut Off Valve** – Reimbursement for materials and labor for valve installation that will shut off gas automatically in an earthquake.

Next steps:

Sign me up!: Contact Deputy Fire Marshal, Don Bullard at djbullard@woodsidefire.org or (650) 530-2840 to schedule a property inspection. Don will soon email your assessment showing incentives for which you qualify. If you have any questions about incentive details, Don is happy to answer.

Get pre-approved: Figure out what incentive you would like to take advantage of and get estimates for work and/or supplies. Then contact Don Bullard for project pre-approval, including your estimates. If you do the work yourself, you can be reimbursed only for supplies. Plan to complete your project(s) within 90 days of pre-approval to ensure availability of funds for reimbursement. Contact Don if you need an extension of the 90-day time period.

Request reimbursement: As soon as your project is complete, email Don Bullard to request reimbursement. Include all receipts, a description of work done and pictures if appropriate.

Getting reimbursed: WFPD will issue reimbursement checks quarterly in May/Apr, Jun/Jul, Sept/Oct and Dec/Jan. You will receive 50% of the money you spent up to a max of \$5,000 annually. (E.g. spend \$3,000, receive \$1,500; spend \$11,000, receive \$5,000, the maximum.)

** Some of the listed items are not recommendations but requirements of the fire code.*