



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – December 2018/January 2019**

NOAA Wildfire/Alert radios

Tom Bleier recently noticed that one of the NOAA backup transmitters used for the Wildfire Alert function appear to be changed to “Big Rock Ridge” at 162.500 MHz. That transmitter is in Marin Co., but it appears to provide better reception to our residents in LTW/VV. We have asked Brian Garcia (NOAA) to confirm that this new station does in fact receive San Mateo alert messages (a necessary condition for us to use it). As soon as we get the confirmation that San Mateo alerts are on that transmitter, I will send out an email to LTW/VV Yahoo Group, and give specific instructions on how to change the frequency from Mt. Pise (162.400) to Big Rock Ridge (162.500). Also, adding an outside “J-Pole antenna” can improve performance a bit. Tom can provide Amazon instructions on how to buy that antenna (approx. \$40) and how to install it.

We also asked NOAA and Woodside Fire Protection District to consider placing an “end-to-end” Wildfire Alert test on their calendar for 2019 to test our NOAA radio alert system. Brian’s response was “...it will take coordination between local municipalities, Bay Area Counties, various State agencies, the FCC and FEMA. Pulling all those government agencies together takes a little time. The initial plan was to piggyback it on tsunami preparedness week, but maybe we need to go larger.”

A recent communication with Verizon also informed us that they are working on an upgrade to their cell tower controls to allow specific neighborhood alerts (like “Amber Alerts”) in the next few years. That might provide a backup way to get wildfire alerts, as long as the cell tower is functioning and you get cell phone reception in your home.

We will keep you updated as new info arrives.

Submitted by Tom Bleier, VV Emergency Preparedness Team Leader

Los Trancos County Maintenance District - Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC is pleased to announce progress with both the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) and the San Mateo Department of Public Works (DPW).

The **WFPD** has committed to removing some of the large trees that exist within the public road rights of way that present a significant fire hazard. These are eucalyptus and Monterey Pines. In addition, the rebate program continues for homeowners who want to remove trees on their properties or further harden their homes against fire danger.

Joe Lo Coco from **DPW** met with a number of our neighbors to discuss their specific drainage concerns. In addition, I am sure that we all were aware of the upgrade and replacement of the drainage pipe that crosses Ramona Road.

Please feel free to call one of the CAC Board members with your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. They are: Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee, Claudia Mazetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg, Tom Thayer

Submitted by Tom Thayer and Amanda Lee, Co-Chairs of CAC

From Our Fire Marshall

To wrap up the 2018 fire safety work - We have a December project involving the removal of 10 potentially hazardous trees overhanging power lines. The project will start mid-December and will take a couple of weeks. Also, if you have not turned in your fire safety receipts for work completed under the inspection and approval of WFPD, please do so by December 15th. We are hoping to get checks out to residents by the end of January 2019.

With the holidays almost here I would like to send out a reminder about winter holiday safety.

- Don't leave candles or lit fireplaces unattended.
- Have a professional chimney sweep clean your fireplace and never burn wrapping paper, garbage or holiday greenery.
- Purchase new household size fire extinguishers for kitchens, workshops and garages.
- Do not use frayed holiday lights or extension cords and never overload plugs.

On behalf of myself and Deputy Fire Marshal, Don Bullard, please have a safe and happy holiday season.
Submitted by Denise Enea, WFPD Fire Marshal

Fire Season May Be Over, But!

Alerts (or lack thereof) played a role in the Camp Fires. If you haven't already signed up for SMC alerts, this is a critical way to get important, life-saving information:

<https://hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert>

Please see link below to an important article and remember to sign up TODAY if you are not already signed up. Also, consider signing up others who spend significant time at your home: babysitters, dog sitters, house sitters, family members and your kids.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/15/us/california-fire-emergency-alert/>

Submitted by Tracy Sherman, Co-Leader LTW Emergency Preparedness Team

Referendum Results & Next LTWCA Board Election

The recent community referendum (about reducing the size of the LTWCA Board from 7 to 5) **passed**, virtually unanimously. There were only 3 votes against reducing the Board size vs. 80 votes in favor. One community member suggested that we should make sure that **each** neighborhood District had a board member to represent it. I just wanted to clarify that we deliberately steered away from that very sensible suggestion, because it has sometimes been difficult to get even **one** candidate from each District to run in past elections. By allowing Board candidates from **any** district to fill the 5 board seats, we make sure that we actually have a Board and follow our Community Association by-laws.

Meanwhile the Board is our vehicle for funding the community picnic and emergency preparedness efforts (at the very least), and the Board also provides a focal point for community comments on local issues. So, continuing to have a board serves our community well. On that note, in December we will have another community election to fill the LTWCA Board seats. So, **we are now officially beginning the call for candidates** to fill those 5 seats. If you wish to be a candidate for the Board in this month's election, please email: lostrancos.communityassociation@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving and we are looking forward to another beautiful holiday season here in the woods! Happy Holidays!

Submitted by Cam Smith, Treasurer LTWCA

Neighborhood Notes

- **World Known Little Free Library** - Did you know that we have our very own Little Free Library, <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>, in the neighborhood courtesy of John, Ariana and Benjamin Vorthies? Check it out at 135 Los Trancos Circle. You bring a book to add and take a book to read. Thank you, John, Ariana and Benjamin, for making this neighborhood an even better place to live.
- **A Halloween Celebration Thank You** to all who brought so much joy and community spirit to this year's Halloween parties! It was a pleasure to connect with all of you again!

Submitted by Julia, Martin & Cam

- Gene Hunner is delivering the good news about our **soil quenching rains** in November. September - .1", November - 6.1", season to date (beginning July 1, 2018) - 6.2"
- **Paint Be Gone**, and that is exactly what happened to all the old paint in the neighborhood during the Paint Recycle Drive in October. Many thanks to Claudia Mazetti for her driveway collection site, Linda Drey-Nightingale for coordinating, and Richard Swan for being there for the pickup AND to all those who participated. Over 250 gallons of containers were taken away to be handled in an environmentally safe manner. See photos below.

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

