



## **Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde** **Newsletter – December '19/January '20**

### **Backup Plan for Evacuations at Pony Tracks Ranch**

Members of Vista Verde and Los Trancos Woods Emergency Preparedness had a very productive meeting with the Director of Pony Tracks Ranch (PTR) on Nov. 21. With the wildfire season lasting so long and wildfires becoming more prevalent, it became clear that we must not only have a plan for quick evacuation notifications (e.g. SMC Alert, LTW/VV phone tree, NOAA Wildfire radio), but also a plan in case our escape routes (Los Trancos Rd and/or Alpine Rd.) are cut off. Make sure you are signed up at [SMCAAlert.info](http://SMCAAlert.info). In the dire case when we have blocked escape routes, our back up plan has always been to divert all residents to the steel buildings (the old Tank Museum) on Pony Tracks Ranch. This is the Emergency Meeting Place identified on the map in our Community Resource Guide-CRG. However, there have been changes at the Ranch, e.g. 2 new coded gates in the path to the steel buildings, and the locked buildings.

Based on our basic agreements per the 2016 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Pony Tracks Ranch (PTR), the following process has been clarified:

1. Whenever there is a PG&E preemptive power shutoff, PTR personnel will open both gates either from the property (weekdays) or via remote phone link (evenings or weekends)
2. The front gate also opens automatically if the commercial power is down.
3. If the gates are not open for any reason when we are directed to go to the Emergency Meeting Place, several of the Emergency Prep. Personnel have a backup way to open the gates.
4. If the situation gets really critical e.g. high winds and blowing flaming embers (e.g. Paradise fire), we now have permission to enter building #2 (the center part of the U-shaped building) via a key that is stored in the Emergency Container, adjacent to Building #2. There is room for hundreds of residents in the building and this may provide the best chance of survival until the fire abates.

**We are truly fortunate to have access to such a building and to have great neighbors (PTR personnel) who care about the welfare of all our residents.**

*Submitted by Tom Bleier, VV Emergency Preparedness Leader*

### **Revamped Emergency Preparedness**

The Citizens for Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (CERPP) has undergone a significant restructuring to improve the effectiveness of its efforts. The result is that the CERPP name has been dropped and we should be aware of the new names.

- **WPV-Ready**: Promotes personal and neighborhood preparedness by providing resources, training classes, and events. More at <https://www.wpv-ready.org>
- **WPV-CERT**: Building a strong, flexible emergency response capability throughout our district. WPV-CERT is based upon skills learned in the CERT Basic course, as well as the principles of the National Incident Management System. More at <https://www.wpv-cert.org>

**What this means for you -**

1. More free training opportunities (<https://wpv-ready.org/Learn/Classes>)
2. First-aid kits and 5-Gallon water containers available for purchase (<https://wpv-ready.org/Buy>)
3. District-wide-wide exercises to help Woodside and Portola Valley practice critical emergency response techniques

*Submitted by Chris Paprcka, LTW District 4 Backup Leader*

## **Halloween Hoots**

Halloween may be come and gone, but the memories of this past Halloween are still vibrant. As one newer resident stated, "I can't believe how this neighborhood comes together. I love it." The block party ahead of time was well attended by adults and young alike in full costume, and full-bellies started their trek around the block at about 6 p.m. The costumed munchkins found lots of doors to knock on. The after party was another treat. Many, many thanks go to Julia Peters, Cam Smith, Martin Casado, and so many helpers! See photos.

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

The CAC has begun working with the Woodside Fire Protection District and the San Mateo County Department of Public Works to assess past progress as a first step towards setting new goals and budgets for the next 2 to 3 year period. While the results of this work will be presented at a community meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> next year, anyone who has ideas they would like to input early in the process should contact one of the CAC members.

The Los Trancos County Maintenance District (LTCMD) CAC exists to advise and offer feedback to DPW and WFPD and to inform the community about LTCMD sponsored programs. Feel free to contact any of us on the CAC: Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair)

*Submitted by Tom Thayer, Co-Chair of CAC*

## **Green Tip**

Wasting Away? Up to **40% of the food** in the U.S. is thrown away. We can help on our end by using this [Guestimator](#) when calculating how much food to purchase for a party or get-together. Also large yogurt containers or take-out food containers are great to have around to send leftovers home with a guest.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

## **Neighborhood Notes**

- Reminder: For those of you on **septic systems** remember to have your tank pumped out at least every five years, or sooner if you use your garbage disposal (which you shouldn't), with your septic system. The \$500 or \$600 pumping cost is cheap insurance for what it would take to rebuild a failed septic system.

*Submitted by Ken Kormanak*

- **Wildfire season** is behind us. With cold temperatures now upon us and many residents eager to use their fireplaces, please don't forget to have your chimney flues professionally cleaned by a chimney sweep. Tree oils and creosote coat the inside of your flue and the Fire Dept. responds to quite a few chimney fires each season. Also, if you are turning on portable heaters for the first time make sure they are clear of combustible materials such as draperies and bedding.

*Submitted by Denise Enea, Fire Marshal*

- Our welcome **rainfall reported** by Gene Hunner was: October - 0", November - 1.7", season-to-date - 1.9.

## **Community Associations' Web Sites**

Web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

To subscribe to group e-mail lists:

[vvtw+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:vvtw+subscribe@groups.io)

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

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