



## **Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde** **Newsletter – Dec. 2021 & Jan. 2022**

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

Looking for a few good people to join the Community Advisory Committee to the Los Trancos County Maintenance District! Fire safety programs, storm drainage improvements and land stewardship are all part of the District's purview, with an annual budget of over \$300K. Please see more detail and an application attached and at the end of this newsletter.

Supervisor Don Horsley comments on the work of our CAC:

"I commend the important service the LTCMD Community Advisory Committee provides to the Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde communities and supports the committee in it's general mission as well as during this application process."

Both Community Associations, Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde, sent a letter to Supervisor Horsley in support of the County of San Mateo applying for a county specific grant to help with improving evacuation routes. The grant asks for funds to help reduce the many miles of fuels within the highest risk areas of the County along our roadways to make evacuation routes safer for residents and improve ingress and egress of fire apparatus.

We hope all stay healthy and happy during this time of year. 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, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair). Our email addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Community Resource Guide.

*Submitted by Amanda Lee, Co-Chair of CAC*

### **Spruce Up the Neighborhood**

Let's start off the New Year by sprucing up our neighborhood. We have the good fortune to live in a beautiful place, but we can make it even better. I am sure that each of us has our own ideas for improvement. Please share them on the community forum. But here are a few ideas to get things started:

- Garbage and recycle bins look much more tidy when put into an enclosure, instead of being left on the road. This also prevents them from becoming runaway bins.
- "Free" items left on the roadside often can be used by others. but if they aren't claimed in a few days, then they should be donated.
- Donating unused cars provides much more value than letting them sit. Please consider this alternative.
- Cut-up logs find their way to a pile for others to pick up, but are unsightly and can pose a longer term fire hazard when left for more than a couple of days.
- Extra construction materials have a way of remaining on the road, but better to be donated to Habitat for Humanity ReStore if still useful, or taken away by the construction crew.
- You may not know that used Christmas trees belong in our yard waste bins, as there is no roadside pickup service in LTW and VV.
- Teaching children the value of putting away their yard toys can be a never ending process, but something we can do is model the behavior with our yard supplies.

Let's make a New Year's resolution to give the neighborhood a new spruced up look!

*Submitted by Tom Thayer*

## **Halloween Happiness**

We had a wonderful turn out for the LVW/VV Halloween block party. There were at least 60 adults and kids present. It was special to see everyone in costume, being able to meet and catch up with neighbors and friends. The organizers deserve accolades for getting it put together during these challenging times!! Thank you for those who provided such welcoming and decorative candy tables, as well as Shivani for creating the 2nd annual stellar pumpkin carving contest. We have such talented artists in our community! (see below for photos of our neighborhood Halloween celebration)

*Submitted by Eiri Inenaga*

## **Styrofoam Be Gone!**

This holiday season we have the opportunity to clean up the packaging for a better environment. Why get Omaha meats in a Styrofoam cooler when we have Draegers, Bianchini's, Roberts and Whole Foods for quality meats? Why order wines that come in Styrofoam packaging when we have Draegers, Whole Foods, Total Wine and More, BevMo, and Safeway? Want to give a food gift to a loved one that lives far away? I check out the stores in their local community and order up a gift to be delivered. Voila, no Styrofoam packaging!

If you have old newspaper, it makes a great packing material when crunched into balls, plus it could be great reading. For small packages you can pack with popcorn. It gives off a delightful odor when opened up and can then be composted. Of course, you can always keep some packing material you get and reuse it.

When all else fails and you end up with Styrofoam, the Styrofoam Recycling Drive will happen again in January.

When: 2-5 January 2022

Where: Ladera Community Church, 3300 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley

What: CLEAN white block and sheet Styrofoam (sorry no peanuts this time)

Make sure it is white, clean and is really Styrofoam (rigid) and not foam.

LCC has to rent a moving truck to take it all down to Newby Island Resource Recovery Park, where it is compressed into blocks and sold to be reprocessed into another item. Each time a plastic is reprocessed, it degrades the plastic and becomes less and less recyclable. How about we give a gift to the environment this holiday season and use less plastic! Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the moving truck.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

## **Neighborhood Notes**

- Holiday **message from our Fire Marshall, Don Bullard** - see holiday safety below.
- Gene Hunner captured our deluge in October. Here is the **rainfall data**: October - 8.1", November - .9", season-to-date - 9.1".

## **2022-23 Community Resource Guide**

We are currently compiling the next great, amazing, informative and stupendous Community Resource Guide (CRG). You can be part of this by reading every last page and tidbit in it when it comes to your doorstep in January. Don't wait for an emergency to be informed and prepared. It is all in the CRG!

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda at [dreynight@aol.com](mailto:dreynight@aol.com).

## **Community Associations' Web Sites**

Web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

To subscribe to group e-mail lists:

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

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

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

# Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



## Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

## FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards



## **Applicants Sought for the Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde Community Advisory Committee**

December 2, 2021

Residents of the Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde areas of unincorporated San Mateo County now have the opportunity to serve on the Community Advisory Committee to the Los Trancos County Maintenance District (LTCMD).

The mission of this committee is to serve as advisor to, and communications conduit between, the Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde communities, the Woodside Fire Protection District and County Department of Public Works who oversee programs to enhance fire safety, storm drain and road improvements and maintain land stewardship in unincorporated Los Trancos Woods, Vista Verde and Oak Forest Court. Annual program funding of over \$300K is from a share of the one percent property tax collected within LTCMD boundaries.

The committee provides a local perspective on district operations with input regarding enhanced fire protection, storm drainage improvements and land stewardship. The committee also reviews the district's annual accounting and budget. The committee meets minimally twice each year, usually at least quarterly. The Fire Safety Subcommittee and the Water Movement Control Subcommittee meet usually at least quarterly as well.

By this notice, the application period is now open to fill two vacancies on this committee. The committee consists of seven members, each appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Committee membership will be balanced, to the extent possible, between residents of the Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde neighborhoods.

Applicants must live in the Los Trancos Woods or Vista Verde communities within the Los Trancos County Maintenance District boundaries, and have interest and expertise in enhanced fire safety, storm drainage improvements and land stewardship. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on January 10, 2022. After the close of the application period, applications will be screened and interviews will be conducted the week of January 17, 2022.

The Board of Supervisors will consider approval of the recommended applicants in February 2022.

A note from Supervisor Don Horsley:

*"I commend the important service the LTCMD Community Advisory Committee provides to the Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde communities and supports the committee in it's general mission as well as during this application process."*

**To apply, please complete the Application Form that follows.**

For more information, please contact Amanda Lee or Tom Thayer, Co-Chairs of the Community Advisory Committee:

- Amanda Lee, 40 Ciervos Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 [amanda@donlee.com](mailto:amanda@donlee.com)
- Tom Thayer, 147 Lake Road, Portola Valley, Ca 94028 [tthayer@att.net](mailto:tthayer@att.net)

**APPLICATION FOR THE LOS TRANCOS WOODS/VISTA VERDE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
to the Los Trancos County Maintenance District**

**POSITION APPLYING FOR:** Committee Member

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **PRESENT EMPLOYER** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITION** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ARE YOU A VETERAN OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**YEARS OF SERVICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRANCH OF SERVICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE CHARACTER OF YOUR DISCHARGE FROM MILITARY SERVICE (I.E., HONORABLE,  
GENERAL UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS, ETC.):**

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**EMPLOYEE AND/OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CIVIC AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (Please include any present or past membership on County or City**

board, committees, as well as participation in the activities of community groups or organizations)

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**WHY ARE YOU SEEKING THIS APPOINTMENT? (Please include in your response any qualifications/special interest related to this position which may not have been covered)**

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**HOW DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF THE OPENING? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you be able to attend night meetings? Day meetings? Either?**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_** This application may remain on file for six months from the date of submission.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MAIL OR EMAIL TO:**

Amanda Lee or Tom Thayer, Co-Chairs, Community Advisory Committee

- Amanda Lee, 40 Ciervos Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 [amanda@donlee.com](mailto:amanda@donlee.com)
- Tom Thayer, 147 Lake Road, Portola Valley, Ca 94028 [tthayer@att.net](mailto:tthayer@att.net)

**APPLICATION FOR THE LOS TRANCOS WOODS/VISTA VERDE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE to the Los Trancos County Maintenance District**