



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – December '22 & January '23**

Another Hallowed Halloween Happening

We had a great turn out for the Halloween Block party! It was all delicious, from the burritos, to home made candied apples, home brew beer, and made to order margaritas! Thanks to all who came and participated. It was wonderful to see everyone come out to meet and greet new and old neighbors and friends. A special thanks to Julia Peters who spearheads the party every year. We had an amazing array of costumes again.

Submitted by Eiri Inenaga

Got a Night Light?

I am not talking about the one inside your home, but outside. The webinar, “Light at Night: A Glowing Hazard”, on 16 November, had some eye opening revelations about the jarring impacts when we shine outside lights into the night, especially light that escapes upward and LED lights. Here are some of the revelations:

1. One half of the U.S. experiences perpetual twilight at nighttime.
2. There currently exists a lot of overuse vs. legitimate need.
3. LED is the worst type of lighting for nighttime impact.
4. Humans, wildlife and plants are robbed of the lunar cycle and the seasonal cycles.
5. Night light attracts and disorients causing a loss of connectivity to the dark sky for night travel.
6. Pollination, foraging, eco-interactions, melatonin production, and circadian rhythms are all disrupted.
7. These effects extend to migrating birds, baby turtles, night insects, mountain lions, fish, humans, and soybeans (will not set seed) for just a few examples.



What to do? Here are some positive actions we can take.

1. Lights out, unless absolutely essential!
2. Best lighting is a longer wavelength, hence more yellow instead of blue-white.
3. Shielding the light, color of light, intensity of light, and timing of lighting could all help mitigate some of the adverse affects.
4. Keep all outside lights completely off during the migrating season, fall and summer.
5. Check direction of lights for impact on neighbors.
6. Even lights out inside when not needed and window coverings drawn can help reduce light pollution.

We are in a super position to make a difference here in our neighborhood, especially since we exist in a wildland area. Every action helps that we take to live intertwined with our natural environment. Let's all go over to the dark side!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

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

The San Mateo County Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for administering the budget for the fire safety and stormwater runoff programs to which the CAC provides input. With the recent appointment of a new DPW Director, the CAC has been busy helping the new administration understand the history of the CAC and the successful programs which have been put in place as a result of your input and our recommendations. This has been made more complex by the concurrent need to construct and gain support for a budget for the next two years. It now looks like final County Supervisor budget approval is imminent. This should allow us to continue with the fire safety incentive and other programs on an uninterrupted basis.

However, our detailed review of the fire safety incentive program that was part of the budgeting exercise will result in several enhancements to incentive-eligible activities and changes to the overall process. Details of the revised program will be communicated during the next month or two, well before they are implemented.

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 Board: Jan Avilla, Peter Blum, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair). Email addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Community Resource Guide.

Submitted by Tom Thayer, Co-Chair of CAC

Memories of Pearl Castro

Long time (since 1975) Vista Verde resident Pearl Castro passed away peacefully at 92 years old surrounded by her children on November 1st, 2022. She graduated from Palo Alto High and then earned a two-year violin degree from The College of the Holy Names in Oakland. Music

was always important in her life. Pearl played first violin in the California Youth Symphony, and also played piano & sang. She had perfect pitch.

She met her future husband, Manuel Castro, at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio. They were soon married and had three children (Juanita, Maria and Ray). After Manuel passed in the early 1980's, Pearl worked at the Sequoias for many years, and the residents loved her. Mom loved music and always had a positive attitude, "Better things ahead!" She was happiest when surrounded by family.

Submitted by Juanita Castro

Neighborhood Notes

- For those who may have **hazardous trees** on their property, here is the County web site for guidelines on removing them, <https://planning.smcgov.org/press-release/permit-exemption-hazardous-trees>. Also check with Woodside Fire to see if your tree removal can be included in their reimbursement program, www.woodsidefire.org/prevention/los-trancos-vista-verde-defensible-space
- SFO is **monitoring noise complaints** after the flight paths have been adjusted under a new landing pattern program, if you have noticed any air traffic noise, here is the link to the SFO noise notice form. <https://www.flysfo.com/about/community-noise/noise-office/tracking-noise/submit-noise-report>
- It is that time of year to **check smoke and carbon monoxide alarm** batteries. Let's keep our houses safe during the holidays. It only takes 5 min. and could save lives and destruction!
- Gene Hunner has reported that **rain** did come early! Here are the stats: October - 0.0", November - 3.2", season to day - 4.1"

Community Associations' Web Sites

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>, <http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

To subscribe to group e-mail lists:

vvltw+subscribe@groups.io

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.