



## **LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE** **Newsletter – February/March 2016**

### **Community Quotes**

“As for the place, I love the quiet, the darkness at night, counting seven deer in the yard when I get home; all the different trails for hiking right out the door. As for community, I appreciate the long-standing book club, having folks to look after my cat, and getting to look after a neighbor's chickens! while they're away.” *Mary Ann Furda*

“As you know, I've lived in Los Trancos Woods since 1959, and the things I value most are the blessed quiet, the many trees, the proximity to open space, the wildlife we see every day (especially the deer and fawns)--and not least, the interesting people and the monthly Book Club that has been going since the end of WWII. Many different groups of people have come and gone over the years, and having bought my own house for \$16,000, I'm shocked by the skyrocketing house prices--but some of the new people are as interesting as the ones who've left. On behalf of the parents of our present generation of schoolchildren, I mourn the loss of the big school bus that used to come up and get the kids and take them to school.”  
*Autumn Stanley*

“I like living in Los Trancos Woods because of its convenient access to a vast trail network. A five-minute walk out my front door has me on miles of quality trails. That coupled with the relatively short drive to all the shopping and services of the Peninsula makes for an ideal living situation.” *John Nightingale*

“Our family loved it last year when it hailed just up at the top five houses on Vista Verde. I love driving and seeing deer along the side of the road, and the kids and I always start to sing "Doe, a deer, a female deer." Or how right before Thanksgiving I saw 30+ turkeys in our yard and I'm wondering if this is a test. I love that any email I've sent for a request for help ends up getting a Myriad of responses and assistance from a caring community. I thank the Lord for his sense of humor in regards to His beautiful creation that surrounds us, and a group of neighbors who really care about their community from the emergency response preparation, to the associations and fun block parties, Halloween trick-or-treating and more. We are truly blessed to live up here with all of you!” *Lisa Smith*

“Why do I like living here in LTW/VV?”

I find that the peace, quiet, and beauty of the hills are very relaxing.

— Where here is:

Cleaner air, as evidenced by the moss on the trees;

Altitude, which often puts us above the valley fog;

Lots of nature, with deer, quail, hawks, owls, coyotes and the occasional bobcat;

And I enjoy being in the active and talented community that comes together (eventually) and gets things done.

Living here is like going 50 years back into rural America, yet we are in the heart of Silicon Valley.”

*Mike Ward*

Tribute – Any one besides me notice our stunning ride up Los Trancos Rd. to our lovely community? Nary a smidgeon of garbage is seen on the way thanks to the unfailing efforts of Charlie Adams and Ken Kormanak. Charlie started this all years and years ago when he would do a clean sweep several times a year, then in 1993 he began a yearly recruitment of a cadre of volunteers to do monthly cleanups. Along the way Ken joined forces with Charlie and now they both single-handedly (or should I say quadra-handedly) keep our roadway looking like a page out of a vacation magazine. Slow down when you see them, and give them a thank you. *Linda Drey-Nightingale*

### Perfect Planting Parameters

The first wildflowers have started to arrive – milkmaids and Indian warrior. And the ground is nice and moist. It almost leads one by the hand to the garden store for plants. Now is the time to get in your drought tolerant landscaping. You need to give them a head start on spreading their roots before they hit their dormant summer doldrums. They can be chosen for their color, their ability to attract birds or butterflies, or their natural appearance. Remember the drought is not over yet, and each plant you choose will matter once the rains stop. An excellent source of information is the Town of Portola Valley web site: <http://www.portolavalley.net/sustainability/native-plants-and-landscaping>. For information about smart watering systems to go along with your water-miser plants, contact Mike at [tmikko@me.com](mailto:tmikko@me.com) or visit <http://portolavalley.net/sustainability/water-conservation/smart-irrigation>. You can also sign up for an informative workshop at <http://portolavalley.net/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/24299/173>.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

### LTW Community Association Board

It is that time again! Our community dues are due. It has been more than 2 years since we last paid them, but the dues amount is nevertheless staying the same at \$60 per Los Trancos Woods household. Your dues support the yearly Community Picnic, emergency preparedness, and the Community Resource Guide. Kindly please remit your \$60 check, **payable to "Los Trancos Community Association"** to:

1195 Los Trancos Rd.  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

**Or, alternatively, you can click the following link and pay the \$60 dues directly to our PayPal account:** [paypal.me/ltwca](https://www.paypal.me/ltwca)

(if you need to verify our Paypal account's email address, it is: [lostrancos.communityassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:lostrancos.communityassociation@yahoo.com))

We would like to have this finished by the end of February, so please take a few minutes to submit your payment now. Thanks to all of you for making this neighborhood such a great place to live!

*Submitted by Cam Smith, Your New LTWCA Treasurer*

### Neighborhood Notes

- A new baby arrived in the neighborhood in the form of **Abigail Jane**, 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 21", on 14 October 2015. I got the word from Matt and Hilary Gebhart that, no, we cannot spirit this darling little munchkin off unless it is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Another welcome to the world and our neighborhood to **Harutaka "Hal"**, 6 lbs. 8 oz., who was born on 7 November to Mamiko and Yusake Asakura. Big brother, Yusei, likes to take care of Hal and "play football" with him. A big congratulations to the family.
- Gene Hunner reports to a gleeful community that our local **rainfall figures** are: December – 9.9", January – 9.2", and season-to-date – 23.0". Let's get out and do our rain dance for more rain!

### 2016 Community Resource Guide

It is coming, it is coming, our **NEW 2016 Guide!** After months of work, it is ready to go to the printer this week and you should be seeing your very own copy soon after that. We had a dynamo crew this year who put in untold hours of diligent work to update all portions of the Guide. We all owe huge thanks to Rosa Wu (data inputer extraordinaire and much more), Cindy Rowe (yet again gives us a wonderful directory layout), Carolina Pitera, Keri Tate, Steve Friedman, Linda Drey-Nightingale, Cam Smith, Amanda Lee, and Tom Thayer.

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

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