



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – February/March 2017**

Emergency Preparedness Tips - The Scoop on Mulch

In recent years many of us have had large trees come down by various means. Often we are left with a pile of wood chips or mulch and not exactly sure what to do with it.

- 1) During summer or drought conditions, a 2" layer of mulch is a great way to keep the ground moist around bushes and trees.
- 2) Annual weeds are always a problem. Laying a 3-4" layer of mulch down over a stubborn weed patch (maybe in a parking area adjacent to the street) is much more environmentally friendly than using Roundup.
- 3) For those of you who have veggie gardens, mulching in the beds and between the beds can keep your garden healthy and happy.

Be careful about accumulating too much mulch or leaf litter directly adjacent to your house. Wood chips and dry leaves are combustible and can sustain a small creeping flame which can ignite larger bushes and trees.

There are some very specific "do not's" about mulching.

- 1) Do not use mulch from diseased trees around your healthy trees.
- 2) Do not pile mulch that contains green leafy material more than 3' high, as it decomposes and generates enough heat to ignite.
- 3) Be selective about what kind of chips you allow to be dumped on your property. You do not want a pile of broom seeds or material from a dead sudden oak death (SOD) tree.

The benefits of correct mulching are extensive for almost any landscape. Be ready to watch your garden bloom with just a little scoop of mulch.

Submitted by Denise Enea, Fire Marshal

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

A community meeting to inform and collect your feedback is planned for **April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Center**. We will review a proposed 3-5 year plan and budget from the Department of Public Works (DPW) for storm drainage projects, and a 3 year plan and budget from Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) for fire prevention projects. Please mark your calendar.

The 2017 **Fire Safety Incentive Program** is up and running with a higher limit of \$5,000/household and 50% cost sharing. Continue looking for emails on LTW/VV Yahoo Group and mailers on this great program from WFPD.

Progress of **Storm Drainage Programs** by DPW for 2017:

- Work on Alpine Road by DPW below Joaquin is mostly complete: 20 feet of culvert was replaced with new culvert, overhanging trees were trimmed and/or removed, and roughly 1,700 feet of berms are being installed. Projected cost: \$100K
- On Ramona Road, a drop inlet at #163 will be modified to increase storm water capacity. Projected cost: \$10K

- On Carmel Way, easement and permitting is in process so that work can be done this Spring/Summer: rolled curb installation and new storm drain culverts on lower Carmel. Projected cost: \$110K

The CAC has created a mission statement, set policies and procedures, met with and provided timely feedback to DPW and WFPD for 2017 programs and set a calendar for 2017, including much needed community meetings.

The CAC exists to advise and offer feedback to DPW and WFPD, and the CAC informs and collects feedback from the community about LTCMD sponsored programs. Please consider coming to the meeting on April 5th so that we can best represent the community regarding the 3-5 year plans. 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 Amanda Lee, Co-Chair

Democracy at Work

Excerpts from residents who attended gatherings in the last couple of weeks

I went to the Women's March in S.F.!!!! It was amazing because we had 2 Chinese guests. We got to show them what it was like to march, since in China, you could get arrested for protesting. It was a very cold, chaotic, interesting, lively, and wet event. I think that the March was important, since this is my 1st protest. But I also think that all human beings should fight for what they believe in.

"Because ALL men and women are created equal."

- Alexander Hamilton

Submitted by Aijo Inenaga

I attended a gathering in downtown Redwood City. The wonderful age range of those attending personally touched me. The overall message to everyone, whatever our feelings were about the state of the country, was, "Get involved!" I could not think of a better message, especially for those high school students who were there. I celebrate that we live in a true democracy.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Neighborhood Notes

- Come join the **Tuesday, 5 p.m. walk**. It may change based on time. If you let me know you are interested, and I have your smartphone number, I will add you onto text notices.

Submitted by Eiri Inenaga

- From Gene Hunner's precision rain gauge to your celebrating household, here are the glorious **rainfall figures**: December -- 7.83", January -- 17.50 ", season to date -- 35.04".

2016 Community Resource Guide Updates

Change: surprise, surprise – no updates were sent in!

If you have any changes or additions to your 2016 listing please contact Linda, 851-1787 or dreynight@aol.com.

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