



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – February & March 2020**

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

Hear ye, hear ye! Please come to the Community Advisory Committee's annual Community Meeting on Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Mazzetti/Swan's home, **400 Ramona Road**. As we enter the fourth year from inception, we look forward to your feedback and input on the Los Trancos County Maintenance District's (LTCMD) programs and annual budget of ~\$300,000. Programs include enhanced storm water and fire safety projects in Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde and district lands maintenance. Your valuable feedback has helped inform programs and budgets during the past three years; we look forward to your 2020 input!

Note that we had announced the meeting would be February 13th in the last newsletter, but have rescheduled to March 19th. Keep your eyes peeled for meeting details which we will send via the group.io email soon.

Over the past year or so our committee has heard lots of input regarding the curbs that were installed along Los Trancos Road to help improve water conveyance. As a result of that, we spent time with Joe LoCoco from County Public Works revisiting the project site and devised a plan to both widen the road, to the extent possible, and install smaller curbs that will carry the water flows while creating a safer driving situation. This project is slated to be implemented in the spring when road and soil conditions are drier. We thank the community for your thoughtful input and Joe for providing his professional expertise for our benefit.

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 Amanda Lee, Co-Chair of CAC

Face Mask or No Face Mask?

The Corona virus underway in China and several other countries (including the US/Bay area) is of some concern for our residents. Thankfully, the infection rate in the US and Bay area is rather small today. More people are infected and die from the common flu. One concern is what happens if the Corona virus spreads to a higher infection rate in our area. Should we purchase a face mask for protection?

There are 2 common types of masks: surgical masks and N-95 masks. Surgical masks generally are not recommended because they are poor fitting and filter out only larger fluid droplets. N-95 masks are thicker and slightly more effective, but also have their downside. Per Gary MacGregor, LTW Medical Advisor and retired emergency doctor, "Additional info from an infectious disease specialist is that the N-95 [filters 95% of particles .3 microns or larger] mask is way too uncomfortable for long term use and can cause CO2 retention. Based on that, I would say no use purchasing these masks. Advice to prevent illness is general - if things really take off which is not impossible per my source - avoid public gatherings, have a good stock of food at home, frequent hand washing, etc."

Note that many of you may already have N95 masks in your emergency preparedness kits for wildfire smoke protection. For more information about masks, check out: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/leahrosenbaum/2020/01/29/should-you-get-a-face-mask-a-guide-to-coronavirus-face-protection/#69f021ad30a5>

Submitted by Tom Bleier, VV Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Left in the Dark?

Yep, and that is the way it should be outside at night. Not only do outside lights disrupt bird migration flights and other night creatures, but they waste energy when no one is using them. Various reports have reported success with alternatives. Near the Warndon Wood Nature Reserve in England they replaced the bright white street lights with red LEDs and now bats and other nocturnal wildlife can reach key water and food sources without wasting energy trying to avoid the lights.

Science News reports in the 6 & 20 July 2019 issue, "Researchers have been cataloging moonlight's effects on animals for decades...Several recently discovered examples reveal how lunar light influences lion prey behavior, dung beetle navigation, fish growth, mass migrations and even birdsongs." They state that light pollution can be a problem as it interferes with moonlight.

We live in a wildland/urban interface and our outside lights may be interfering with reproduction, foraging, communication and other animal behaviors. What to do? Install motion sensor lights, so they only go on when needed, or have lights on a timer, or tryout red LEDs. Let's be good neighbors to our local wildlife!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Neighborhood Notes

- **Sign up now** for the WPV-CERT Earthquake Exercise, on Saturday, March 21, <https://wpv-ready.org/Events?re=122>. Learn what is important and how to respond, and then practice those skills with others. This invaluable class will get you prepared for what can happen any day on the San Andreas Fault. The actual Fault runs right through our neighborhoods and we are considered in the active fault zone which can be from a few 100 ft. wide to 1 mile wide. If you have ever wondered what you would do, this is the class for you. Get signed up now and get ready to be prepared.
- **Our pond** with the viewing area is now famous. The Country Almanac has published a photo of the pond along with the description of our neighborhood in their special "Our Neighborhoods 2020" edition. See it at <https://www.almanacnews.com/print/special>, page 60.

Submitted by David Smernoff

- Our **rainfall reported** by Gene Hunner was: December - 7.5", January - 2.8", season-to-date - 12.2.

New Improved Community Resource Guide

Of course, each edition gets better and better, but this one has LOTS of updates, especially in the emergency preparedness sections. Make sure you take some time to read those pages! Bea Garsh, Wen Gong, Linda Drey-Nightingale, Suzanne Rufflo, Emily Jagoda, Cindy Rowe, Tom Bleier, Mike Ward, Nancy Freire and Hayley Leinfelder put in lots of hours. Thanks to all for helping with this gargantuan project!

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

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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