



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – February & March 2021**

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

We hope you consider participating in the excellent Fire Safety Incentive Program. It reimburses 50% of qualified expenditures for homeowners within the Los Trancos County Maintenance District, up to \$5,000 annually for \$10,000 spent. Here is all you need to know to get on board: <https://www.woodsidefire.org/prevention/los-trancos-vista-verde-defensible-space>.

We hope all stay healthy and happy. 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). Our email addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Community Resource Guide.

Submitted by Amanda Lee, Co-Chair of CAC

Styrofoam Dilemma

How the heck does one get less Styrofoam? Not so easy in this time of ordering online, but there are a few areas where we can make a big difference. After processing a pile, no a mound, no a mountain of Styrofoam during the January Styrofoam Recycling Drive, I evaluated what was dropped off and recognized some simple changes that would eliminate getting some forms of the stuff.

After a little research, here is what I discovered. What we are receiving as packaging is actually expanded polystyrene foam (EPF), #6. Styrofoam is a Dow Chemical product used in building insulation. So to be accurate, from here on out I will refer to the white stuff as EPF. In comparing EPF with other packing material, like formed cardboard, in a cradle to grave comparison, formed cardboard came out slightly ahead in being more environmentally friendly. It usually is made with recycled paper and cardboard plus a few other ingredients but has a high water and energy requirement. So the best option would be to opt out and get products without EPF or formed cardboard, like meats and wine.

Given that about 1/4 of the “mountain” collected were coolers and wine shipping containers, here are some options to consider.

Instead of EPF wine containers:

1. Place orders online at Total Wine & More, BevMo, Safeway for either delivery or store pickup.
2. Draeger's, Robert's and Bianchinis provide the in-store shopping experience.
3. Request that your vineyard or wine supplier use formed cardboard or more environmentally friendly material. Chappellet Vineyards is one that uses formed cardboard, and I am sure there are others. I was told of a gift received where the purchaser requested K&L to pack with formed cardboard, and they did.

Instead of EPF coolers:

1. Purchase your meats locally at Draeger's, Robert's, Bianchini's, Whole Foods which have high quality meats to choose from.
2. If sending a gift of meats or other items which require cold storage check out the stores local to the person receiving the gift and have it delivered without the EPF cooler or a cooler the store takes back.

We can start now to get on track for less EPF in our lives and in the dumps, gutters and oceans for 2021.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale



Masking Up For Safety (and Style)

Looks like we are in the masking era for a while longer, so why not purchase some masks that work for us. Here are some suggestions from our own neighborhood. Thank you to all that replied.

[Rumpl](https://shop.amykuschel.com/collections/lets-face-it-we-can-do-it-face-masks?_ke=) - Not the cheapest, but wash well and come with filters. Plus they also have a handy strap. Kirsty https://shop.amykuschel.com/collections/lets-face-it-we-can-do-it-face-masks?_ke= This mask fits well and once you tie it to fit your face, it hangs around your neck when you're not wearing it. Kim

[Filti.com](https://www.filti.com) They are awesome! Their KN95 is very breathable and relatively affordable, with 97% filtration of .3 micron, beating N95 standards of 95% filtration. Their NIOSH N95 approval is in the works. They also sell material to make your own masks, if you'd like a break from making sourdough bread. Amanda <https://www.costco.com/niosh-n95-round-respirator%2C-100-masks.product.100707773.html> Costco is now selling N95s. Rosa

Do not forget, if you get disposable masks, you need to cut the loops before you put them in the garbage, as they are hazardous to wildlife and have been found wrapped around birds legs and floating in the ocean. Of course, the reusable/washable masks do not have this issue until you dispose of them.

Neighborhood Notes

- Gene Hunner has been busy collecting our **rainfall data**: December '20 - 2.7", January '21 - 6.8", rainfall year-to-date - 11.4". Thank you, Gene!
- Spring has finally sprung and the wildflowers are starting to appear. Remember take photos and memories and **leave the flowers** for seeding next year's bounty.
- It is the perfect time of year to **cut that pesky ivy off your trees**, before the ivy's spring growth takes off.

2020-21 Community Resource Guide

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda at 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

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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