



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – February & March 2022**

What's a Radio To Do?

FRS vs. GMRS vs NOAA radio's: A brief description of each and why you need them.

FRS & GMRS Radio's:

FRS and GMRS are types of two-way radios (aka 'Walkie Talkies') which, for the most part, share the same frequencies and are interchangeable. The range, or distance they transmit, of these radios depends on line-of-site and topography. In LTW/VV because of the hilly terrain, it can be as low as ¼ to ½ mile. We have tested both FRS and GMRS radios, and, generally, you can listen to, and talk with, anyone in your District/Neighborhood with our recommended radios. Reaching out further depends on the topography of your location.

Refer to your Community Resource Guide to know which District/Neighborhood you are in and the correct frequency (channel + code) to tune to. In an emergency, your LTW District or VV Neighborhood Leader will communicate with you, and you with your Leader, via your FRS/GMRS radio on the channel assigned to your area. Our phone lines may be down or 911 will be inundated with calls (a likely scenario after a large earthquake), so your radio may be your only means of communication. We recommend that you keep them charged up, since one never knows when the emergency will happen.

We have tested and recommend the Motorola T402 FRS radio or any Motorola T4xx FRS radio which come in packs of 2. **In the interest of safety, we recommend that every household have a set (2) of these radios.** FRS radios are less expensive and do not have the FCC licensing issues that the GMRS radios have, thus FRS is our choice. See below for recommended FRS models which also include a NOAA weather channel feature for receiving incoming NOAA information.



T402

T460

T465

T480

NOAA Weather Radio (aka NOAA Radio or NWR Radio):

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office, however, you **cannot broadcast out** (talk) to anyone on the NWR. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event

information for all types of hazards including natural (such as earthquakes, and wildfires), environmental (such as chemical spills), and public safety (such as Amber alerts or 911 telephone outages).

There are two ways you can listen to the NOAA radio frequencies:

1. Purchase a dedicated radio (see example below) that is made specifically to listen to the NOAA radio frequencies but not to talk to anyone. Most of these radios include a way to alert the listener with an alarm and/or flashing light to make you aware of a specific emergency taking place in your area. The NOAA radio is plugged into a wall socket but also has internal batteries that allow the radio to function for several days even after a power outage. If you have one, set yours up to use Channel 5 for best reception.

Recommended NWR: Midland WR120/WR120EZ



2. Purchase an FRS or GMRS 'Walkie Talkie' that has two-way communication capabilities which also includes a weather channel feature to listen to the NOAA Weather Radio frequencies. The T4xx series of Motorola FRS radios, which we recommend for emergency preparedness, includes this feature. For example, with the simple click of a button, the Motorola T402 FRS radio will switch from two-way communication within the neighborhood to a receiver for NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts.

Submitted by Marc Levaggi, LTW Emergency Communication

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

Exciting news - Peter Blum will be joining the advisory committee. Peter is interested in both fire safety and water movement control. He walks the talk having done lots to harden his home and property and is installing a catchment system for rainwater. Peter has been involved with VV/LTW emergency prep pretty much since moving here in 2018 with his wife (both grew up nearby) and two boys. He is a consummate volunteer who cares about his community. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will make his appointment official on 2/22/2022, possibly at 2:22pm making it entirely two memorable! Speaking of two's, there remain two openings on the advisory committee. We hope you will consider volunteering. Contact any one of us for more information.

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: Peter Blum, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), 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

Check It Out! NEW Community Resource Guide

It's out, it's out, and it's about the neighborhood. If you have not seen the latest, greatest CRG, you are in for a real treat when it arrives at your doorstep, delivered by your very own Group Leader. Check in with your Leader if you have not received a new CRG yet. You can look up your Leader in the old one. Treat it with care, as it will provide you with great emergency preparedness information, especially in preparing for a disaster and during a disaster. Heavy duty cardstock paper was not available, so it is not quite as robust as previous editions.

The bevy of workers on this edition include: Group, District and Neighborhood Leaders who collected the updates, Bea Garsh, Cindy Rowe, Linda Drey-Nightingale, Nancy Friere, Wen Gong, Tom Bleier, Chris Paprcka, Emily Jagoda, Patt Baenen, Steve Friedman, Amanda Lee, Hayley Leinfelder, Mike Ward.

A huge thanks to all!!

Remembrance of Larry Bender

Larry, a long-time resident of our Woods, passed away on September 24 from complications of Parkinson's disease. He and his family battled this disease for years, and as his condition proceeded, he was unable to get out much. That's why the many folks who got to know him on his daily walks around the circle have not seen him in a while. He missed that, but he still enjoyed the deck outside. Some might remember the rehearsals his drum band had out there. Often people going by would be seen doing a little dance to the rhythms. He also loved the annual Woods picnics and the great parties across the road at the Dakes'.

Larry's firm, Lawrence Bender and Associates, became one of the two or three top-level graphic design firms serving the high-tech industry. His clients included Fairchild Semiconductor, Intel, Advanced Micro Devices, and many others. AMD is still using the logo he designed for \$200 back when the founders were impecunious young whiz-kids!

He is survived by his wife, Karen Olsen, four children and step-children, eight grandchildren, and many, many friends. All are invited to come to "A Celebration Of An Amazing Life" at St. Bede's Episcopal Church's Lehman Hall, Sunday, May 1, 3-6pm, 2650 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park. Please RSVP at karenofpv@gmail.com, or phone/text 650-575-9411

Submitted by Karen Olsen

Thanksgiving for the Life of Bjorn Conrad

Long time resident (1975), Bjorn Conrad passed away on Dec. 14 after a short battle with cancer. He led a varied and rich life all the way from being born in Sweden, immigrating with his family to New Jersey, living on a chicken farm, to attending MIT. After taking a job at Lockheed in California, he went on to earn a PhD at Stanford University. NASA Ames benefited from his creative spirit, but SRI is where he really came into his own working in analysis and simulation of transit control systems. He founded his own company and is the primary author of OnTrack simulation suite which has helped build and improve transit systems nationwide. Bjorn was known on the courts and at the pools of Alpine Hills. He enjoyed all sports, even into his 70's. His family will miss debating with him and his willingness to join in on any adventure, whether by plane, train, bus, or Mini Cooper. Donations to celebrate Bjorn's life can be made to Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale with excerpts from Country Almanac

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.

2022-23 Community Resource Guide

Please take out your 2022-23 CRG and put in the following changes.

Add: pgs. 22 & 23, Group R Leader, Raneer Bhutani, 650-452-2646(c)

Change: pgs. 10 & 12, Foxtrot Channel-Code change to 7-11

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 site