



## **Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde** **Newsletter – February & March '23**

### **300 Broom a Day Keeps the Invasives Away**

For Martin Luther King's birthday an intrepid group of local residents gathered at the intersection of Lake Rd. and Los Trancos Circle to help maintain the public open space in our little slice of the World.

After the impressive rains over the last month the group was ready to pull out the french broom (*Genista monspessulana*) that crowds out the native plants put in by the former water district. The crew of 12 or so was impressive in pulling out all the broom we could find, and some of us made it up to

the lake/bench area to tackle some of the broom there. The organizers will plan another day in late Feb. or early March to tackle some other invasive plants along the entire stretch of property and return to the lake area. Join us then to help keep our lands beautiful and bountiful with native plants, insects, birds and other critters. Next time you walk by the are be sure to check out the native plants signs that the crew installed.

*Submitted by David Smernoff*



*Before*



*Broom pulled*



*After*

### **Force of Nature**

I had never seen heavier rainstorms than this past couple of weeks. It was terrifying, destructive, and oddly inspiring. So I went around the neighborhood in search of the signs of the unstoppable nature's force. The damage was real. Yet I was pleasantly surprised that the power and internet were on the whole time. Marc and I ventured out one day during the rain, and we got stuck twice between Los Trancos Road and Romana Street because of fallen trees. Thanks to the quick response of Woodside Fire Protection District crew, we made it home without too much delay and stress. Here are some of the scenes after rain in our neighborhood, more pictures and videos of raging water along the Alpine Creek and in some parts of our neighborhood can be found

here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/HGiyE1yVvsf6m7NK8>

*Submitted by Wen Gong*

### **Ounce of Prevention = Pound of Cure**

With all the storm damage consisting of broken tree branches and downed trees, some preventive measures might be in order before the next storm. Employing a tree service to thin your trees can go a long way to protect them from falling over or having branches coming down. A tree that keeps its leaves all year round can act as a sail during a windstorm and is more easily blown over than one that has its branches trimmed to allow the wind to pass through it. It's cheaper to do a little preventive maintenance with a tree service now, than to pay for removing an entire tree that has fallen.

Here is an example of a tree that has been properly thinned and is more resistant to being toppled over during a severe wind.

*Submitted by Ken Kormanak*



### **More Prevention = Cure**

Driving through VV/LTW we all see more dead trees and also trees leaning over our local roads.

More than several large trees came down during the storms and there are more to come with future storms.

Home owners should contact WFPD and/or San Mateo County about dead and very dangerous trees that could block roads and take down power lines.

The home owners could qualify for partial financial reimbursement, too. In some cases the county might take down or at least top the dangerous trees identified, proactively. PG&E would rather not work on downed power lines that could have been prevented by tree trimming or removal, and neighbors are not happy when a community resident's tree takes out their power.

*Submitted by Mary Kiely*

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

Foxwood Road area residents met on site on 1/20/23 with Khoa Vo, Department of Public Works (DPW) Roads Services Deputy Director, and CAC members David, Jan and Amanda. Drainage problems and possible solutions, over and above what the County would do and thus falling under the Maintenance District's purview, were brainstormed. The CAC will meet soon to discuss the possibility of moving forward with this and other potential projects, including drainage from a culvert on Vista Verde and Old Spanish Trail that affects numerous downhill properties.

Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) will soon be sending out the new 2023 to 2024 Home

Hardening and Defensible Space Fire Safety Incentive Program. It includes new incentives and some important program revisions. \$5,000 may still be available each calendar year per household on a first come, first served basis until budgeted yearly funding has been depleted, with each property owner receiving 50% reimbursement on approved items and/or work completed. The success of this program has helped protect the entire community by making it more fire safe. Please give it your careful consideration and sign up for your assessment soon. Fire season will be upon us soon enough.

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 Board: Jan Avilla, 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*

### **Neighborhood Notes**

- Here is what we have all been waiting for, Gene Hunner's **rainfall data**: December 2022 – 15.5", January 2023 – 18.4", year to date (beginning July 1, 2022) – 38"! Now let's hope for some more gentle rains to round out the season.
- **Wildflower season** is around the corner. Remember to: Take only photos not plants, gather only memories not flowers, leave only exhales of delight not off-trail footprints. Thank you for preserving our priceless landscape!

## **2022-23 Community Resource Guide**

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda at [dreynight@aol.com](mailto: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:

[vltw+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:vltw+subscribe@groups.io)

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

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