



LOS TRANCOS WOODS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

LTW/VV Newsletter - April/May 2011

Water Board News

The recent storms have highlighted the importance of improved water movement control in our neighborhood. The LTCWD is working closely with BAGG Engineering and other professionals to thoroughly evaluate and understand the overall system, and to design and implement improvements that will help to protect our shared roads and to reduce impacts of water runoff onto private property.

We have been out evaluating the system both prior to and during the recent storms. We are developing a list of items that are opportunities for improvement and will shortly have a civil engineer working to review this list and make prioritized recommendations. From there we can begin to implement improvements within our budget, and in full cooperation with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works.

Specifically, we are evaluating a number of options for near-term repairs to certain features at the Ramona Road slide area that we hope will reduce water infiltration into the slide area. A letter from BAGG Engineering about the results of our recent culvert, and related features, inspection work will be sent out as soon as it is available. We are also undertaking detailed geologic analysis of the existing conditions that we hope will serve as a basis for repairing the slide area and protecting Ramona Road. We anticipate working closely with the County to identify and apply for funding for the more extensive work that will likely be necessary.

We are also about to launch a new initiative to improve the roadside drainage system by providing incentives for homeowners to install, replace or repair existing culverts. This work will commence this spring and will include careful evaluation of the outfalls for each section of the drainage system, with improvements made to those areas as well.

Please recognize that this is going to be a multi-year effort that will require professional evaluation of improvements, close coordination with, and authorization from, the County, and cooperation amongst ourselves. In the long-term these improvements should reduce County maintenance requirements, reduce sediment loading into our local creeks, and improve the resilience of our community drainage system to the frequent heavy winter rains we receive.

Thank you for your patience and for all the helpful input we have received.

Submitted by David Smernoff for LTCWD Board

Keep a lookout in your mailboxes this May for the LTCWD Incentive Coupon Book. Low flow toilets, water efficient dishwashers and washing machines, defensible space clearing and wood shingle roof replacement are just a few of the coupon offerings. Save money. Conserve. Create a safer home. Do something good for the planet!

Submitted by Tracy Sherman

The Last Paper Copy of the Newsletter, Unless...

You can still get your Newsletter in paper copy if you sign up with editor, Linda Drey-Nightingale. This April/May edition will be the last printed version for all Los Trancos Woods' residents. After this only the Yahoo Group will regularly receive the electronic version. If you wish to receive a paper copy, no matter where you live, call soon to put your address on the list, 851-1787. I already have several of you on the list for the paper copy.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale, editor

Sudden Oak Death

Now is the time to plan your spring attack against Sudden Oak Death! If your oak trees were last treated a year or more ago, or if your oaks were treated only once or never, you should be treating during the month of April. Consider joining over 40 property owners in VV/LTW currently using the services of Tree Solutions, owner Jim Neve, for their oak treatments: call 650-269-0540 or e-mail jim@TreeSolutions.com or check out the web site www.TreeSolutions.com For those who have used Tree Solutions, you should be hearing from them soon if a spring treatment is in order.

For more info go to: vistaverdepv.org – Home & Garden – SOD – SOD Tree Contractors

Submitted by Amanda Lee, SOD Task Force

Emergency Preparedness

Save the Date for the summer Community Picnic & Emergency Drill / Sunday, July 10, 2011.

The Los Trancos Woods Community Association is putting on the Annual Summer Community Picnic on the afternoon of Sunday, July 10th. In addition to the traditional potluck feast, we will conduct an emergency preparedness communication drill and scavenger hunt. Look for location and times in the next Newsletter. Please save the date, and if you have not already done so, please provide us with your e-mail address to receive picnic updates and the LTW/VV Newsletter.

Submitted by Steve Friedman, LTW Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Neighborhood Notes

- My name is **Alexandra Wells** and I live on Los Trancos Circle. For my school, every 6th grader does a fund raising project. They donate the money they earn to a foundation, or they help the community in a small way. I decided to write a book called **Wishing for Tomorrow**, based on what I learned in Three Cups of Tea, by Greg Mortenson, a book about a man who raises money to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the story of Wishing for Tomorrow Tanyana is a girl growing up in Afghanistan, which is where the Al Qaeda is rumored to have taken up their terrorist organization. Finding this true, and that they have captured her father, Tanyana sets out on a dangerous journey to find him. All profits will be donated to CAI (Central Asia Institute) which is a non-profit organization that builds schools for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. To purchase a book for \$10, please phone my mom, Patty, at 650-593-3484. Thank you.

Submitted by Alexandra Wells

- **Phil Umholtz** moved to Vista Verde with his wife Lois and daughter Elizabeth in the late 1960's and was always a gracious and helpful neighbor. He was an active supporter of the Vista Verde Community Association, with particular interest in emergency preparedness. It was Phil who carefully worked out details on our local maps to be sure that emergency teams would have accurate information. Sadly, Phil passed away recently. He will be very much missed.

Submitted by Yvonne Tryce

- LTW Board wants to remind people to keep the Woods looking good by taking in garbage and recycling containers on Monday. Also since our road edges are fragile, please leave plenty of room for cars to drive by parked cars without going off the road. Thank you.
- Since I missed last issue's **rainfall data**, here is the update from Gene Hunner.
Dec. - 10.6", Jan. - 3.2", Feb. - 7.6", Mar. - 12.1" Total for the season - 42.1"

2010 Community Resource Guide Changes

Coming soon is a new 2011 Community Resource Guide. Thank you ahead of time to those diligently working on this behemoth endeavor.

Community Associations Web Sites

The web site addresses are:

<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>

<http://www.vistaverdeca.org>

Thanks Jerry Jensen & Esther Dechow for maintaining web sites

The group e-mail list is:

VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

AND Thanks Tom Thayer for copying the newsletter.