



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – April & May '23**

Lessons from Elsa

Those of us who enjoy the RV lifestyle have learned many valuable lessons regarding resource conservation - especially energy. During the last 3 day power outage I essentially moved into Elsa, my little travel trailer, which is parked next to my house. She provided light, heat, & over the air TV, so I was very comfortable. I was able to get by for 3 days on Elsa's battery storage, but was ready to plug in her solar panels if the outage lasted longer. All her lights are LED which uses minimal amperage, & heating was provided by a propane heater which is attached to a 20 lb tank just like one would use for an outdoor grill, & uses zero electricity. I recognize most folks don't have an Elsa, but anyone can get a propane heater to stay warm. If you already have a propane tank for your grill, you're half way there. I happen to have a Mr Heater Buddy (popular among RVers), but there are many other brands on the market. They are affordable, portable & efficient. Mine has been a lifesaver in the wilds of Yukon & cold nights in the Dakotas. One should never sleep with the propane heater running, so I recommend sleeping with two cats. They are like heating pads on either side.

The authorities always recommend good preparation to be more comfortable during an outage. Fresh supply of batteries, food that doesn't require electricity to prepare/store, etc. But one thing which is not usually on the list is doing laundry before a forecasted storm. I learned that the hard way last week. Another item I would add to the preparation list is a supply of good books to read. Since we were stuck at home without power, reading became a good pastime.

When we have another prolonged outage, I'm happy to help with charging phones & other devices. They would be charged by the sun using Elsa's solar panels.

Submitted by Gale Smith

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

With all of the rain this winter, our stormwater drainage system has been stress tested. There is clearly room for improvement. This, combined with community input, has caused the CAC to take a deeper look at storm water management. To that end, we have been developing criteria for assessing and prioritizing projects and working on defining with DPW what are "normal" projects that the County should be paying for versus the augmented activities that are funded through the Los Trancos County Maintenance District. We anticipate this phase of our work will be completed in approximately 6 weeks. So now is the time to let us know of specific drainage issues that have been impacting you. To do so, please contact any of the CAC members.

The new fire prevention incentive program is moving ahead too. With the changes to the program this year, all homeowners seeking an incentive payment must first have their homes inspected by the Woodside Fire Protection District, including those who have had prior inspections. Michael Tamez is available for inspections in the Woods and Vista Verde on April 8, 9, 15 and 16. Please contact him directly at (650) 851-1594 or mtamez@woodsidefire.org to schedule yours. They are free!

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 Tom Thayer, Co-Chair of CAC

Have We Got an Opportunity For You!

Join in for the next community lands work day on Saturday, April 15th from 10 AM to 1 PM. Meet and greet some of the hardworking crew from Woodside Fire Protection District who will also be there working with us! We are in this together to keep our lands in great shape by pulling invasive plants, cleaning up trash, clearing the drainage channels and more fun jobs.

Don't forget to wear long pants, long sleeves, sturdy boots and bring your own gloves. We'll have some tools, but feel free to bring your own. Water, sunscreen, hats are also a good idea. We'll take a break near the end to have some snacks, so please bring something to share. Come for the whole time, come for an hour, or whatever time you have.

Submitted by David Smernoff, Charlie Krenz, and Jerry Hearn

Important Follow-up to Power Outage

Your Midland (NOAA) radios have 3 AA batteries inside the back cover. These batteries try to keep the emergency radios receiving after a power outage. They are dead now - even if you had a generator if the generator was turned off at night.

Please take a minute and replace them with 3 good quality, fresh AA batteries. You will need to reset the time and maybe the channel (5). It is important to keep the emergency radios running especially during future wildfire season when we may to evacuate on quick notice. Let me know if you have trouble setting time or channel. I will help you.

Submitted by Tom Bleier

2022-23 Community Resource Guide

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

Delete: Gary Cole (passed away 5/22, condolences to the family)

Change: Neighborhood Bravo - delete Bea Garsh as Leader, change Susan Strehlow to Leader

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>

Neighborhood Notes

- Gene Hunner has recorded our **whopping rainfall** as: February – 7.9”, March – 14.0”, rainfall season-to-date (beginning July 1, 2022) – 60.1”
- **Now** is the time to **cut the climbing ivy** out of your trees before they put on the spring growth. Ivy covers the bark and rots it by collecting lots of debris. Let's keep the woods in Los Trancos Woods!
- **Wildflowers Are Coming and Coming!** If they are not here yet, they are certainly on their way. Splashes of red, white, and blue already abound. Will they look nice in a vase? Unfortunately, no. Many wildflowers wilt quickly, and if picked they are no longer available to seed in the woods for next year. So take photos, not flowers.



Buttercup Shooting Star Hound's Tongue

- Seeing some **hazardous trees** on your way down the road? After all the rains and winds, some of our trees have a pretty tenuous hold on the ground. We may want to report some of these trees before they fall. Take photos and have a detailed description of the tree location and your concerns. Then contact Denise Enea at Fire Safe SMC, and see if you need to send her or someone else the info for followup work.

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