



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE Newsletter – June/July 2014

What Can You Do?

Just in time to support the *Drought Update* in your latest Cal Water bill, we are launching the LTW-VV Saving Water Program.

Soon a neighbor on the Saving Water Committee will visit your home with an “I Save Water” kit which will help you carry out recommendations by Cal Water to meet the 20% reduction goal right away. The kit includes high efficiency spray hose nozzle, leaky toilet dye pills, aerators for your bathroom faucets. Kit deliveries may take a while, since we are talking to every household. If you would like yours now, call one of the Committee members below and we will deliver it ASAP.

The unique part of this program that will help over the long haul is the free consultants available to help you transition to drought tolerant plants (mentioned in the Cal Water insert), plus experts to help you evaluate your irrigation system and plan upgrades. This will make your plants healthier, besides saving water and money. Contact Cal Water for supporting rebates. Details are in your kit, or at <http://ltc wd.org/waterconservation.html>. This Program is funded by your Water District.

Submitted by Mike Ward for the Saving Water Committee

Johanna Dolan, Linda Drey-Nightingale, Ross Edwards, Gene Hunner, Rob Kalman, Amanda Lee, Jack Loftis, Ruth and Gerry Nelson, Bob Neuer, Mike Ward, Bob Zimmerman

COMING SOON! Community Picnic – June 28

It is June and the picnic is coming up! Please plan to join your neighbors on Saturday, June 28, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Pony Tracks Ranch. Get ready for BBQ, music, train rides and tank tours -- enjoy the tanks before they head east!

Plan to bring a dish for 8 to share. Information on how to RSVP will be forthcoming. **Please note** -- this year there will be NO PARKING at Pony Tracks. Instead a shuttle service will take people onto the property, or you can walk in. More details coming soon, but mark your calendar now!

Submitted by Deb Smith for the Picnic Committee

Los Trancos County Water District

We all love our Shangri-La hidden away from Silicon Valley – but we also know we are especially vulnerable to disaster from wildfires and would like to see much more attention to our roads and water run-off. We all love our pond on Lake Road and do not want to see open space converted to housing.

We are also famous, or infamous, in Sacramento and Redwood City for having a Water District that does not deliver water. The District is faced with many obstacles and has been puzzling through how to ensure the most effective local services for the long term. Some think it critical to keep the current structure. Others think that it is important to have a strategy for long-term delivery of our unique services that go beyond normal County services.

Over the summer, the District will be sending you a packet of information about our problem-solving investigations into the District's future. We encourage you to read these documents carefully, attend a community meeting, read the District's website (www.ltc wd.org), and participate through one of the survey instruments.

Submitted by Claudia Mazzetti

Emergency Preparedness

The wildland fire and evacuation drill held on May 7th was a valuable learning experience for residents of our community. Reverse 9-1-1 phone calls were initiated by the Town of Portola Valley to AT&T landline customers, and text messages were sent via SMC Alert. We also performed a test of our own LTW-Vista Verde automated phone system to alert folks on 552 phone numbers listed in the Community Resource Guide. These included cell numbers and other non-AT&T numbers.

With support from Woodside Fire Protection District personnel, our local CERPP teams developed educational materials and distributed these to our neighbors a few weeks before the drill. This gave folks a chance to think about what you would do in the event of an evacuation, and encouraged all to prepare a checklist. The CERPP website is a valuable emergency preparedness resource with samples of emergency checklists: www.BeReadyToday.org (which directs to www.cerpp.org).

If you did not receive phone calls or texts during the event, you can self-register to receive emergency phone call alerts and text messages issued by the Town of Portola Valley or Woodside Fire Protection District through the Rapid Notify and SMC Alert systems. Residents with phone service other than AT&T must self-register phone number(s) and home address using the online form found here: <http://portolavalley.net/index.aspx?page=571>. You can use this link to register your cell phones and add your AT&T number(s), if you did not receive a call during the recent wildland fire evacuation drill.

Rapid Notify will only be used to issue alerts that are of serious threat to life, property, or the environment. The system will not be used for alerts like mountain lion sightings or road closures due to a downed tree or auto accident. Those types of messages are delivered through SMC Alert. To register for SMC Alert go to: <https://www.smcalert.info>. Be sure to complete the entire SMC Alert registration process including selection of the Vista Verde/Los Trancos Woods neighborhoods when the form asks for specific notification areas.

Submitted by Steve Friedman, LTW Emergency Preparedness

Neighborhood Notes

- **Good karma** to those stealthy individuals who keep our Dog Poop Pouch containers full of bags. It has made quite a difference to our trails and roadsides. Kudos to the dog owners who faithfully pick up after their dogs.
- **Rainfall data** as reported by our local rain collector, Gene Hunner: April -- 2.8", May -- .1" Season to date (July 1, 2013 to present) --17.7" When our average is about 40", this represents a real crisis.

2014 Community Resource Guide

HUGE thank you to all who worked so diligently on the new Resource Guide. It looks fabulous! If you see Deb Smith, Yvonne Tryce, Steve Freidman, Linda Drey-Nightingale, Susan Jensen, Jan Avila, Cindy Rowe, Mike Ward, Bill Tagg, or group leaders, be sure and give them your personal thanks.

If you have any **changes to the 2014 listing** for your household please contact Linda. 851-1787 or dreynight@aol.com, and let her know what they are.

Community Associations' Web Sites

The web site addresses are:
<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>
<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:
VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com
VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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