



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – June & July 2020**

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

The 2-year fire safety budget by Woodside Fire Protection District will be presented by the San Mateo Co. Department of Public Works (DPW) for Board of Supervisor approval on June 23rd. It includes a significant increase for the Home Hardening and Defensible Space incentive program, now proposed at \$100,000/year. Go to <http://lostrancoswoods.org/LTCMD/> for the full budget proposal. We hope you consider participating in this fire safety incentive program. It reimburses 50% of qualified expenditures for homeowners within the Los Trancos County Maintenance District, up to \$5,000 annually for \$10,000 spent. Here is all you need to know to get on board: <https://www.woodsidefire.org/prevention/los-trancos-vista-verde-defensible-space>

The pending widening of part of Los Trancos Road and placement of lower curbs will now happen sometime this summer. Due to Covid-19 complications, the May schedule was not possible. The DPW will alert folks via signage in the area prior to work being done.

We hope all stay healthy and happy. As always, please reach out to any of us with questions, concerns or thoughts. Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair)

Radio Communication Rundown

Radios will be essential in an emergency. Most homes in VV and LTW have a Walkie-talkie that they can use to check in with their Group Leader in case of an emergency, like fire or earthquake. If normal communications are down, or, now more likely, if PG&E turns off the power to prevent power line fires, the Walkie-talkies can provide a way to still communicate. You can let each other know if you and other household members are all ok, or if help is needed. Group Leaders can use the radios to communicate with their District Leaders (LTW) or Neighborhood Leaders (VV) to report status and receive information. These leaders in turn report into the LTW or VV Emergency Command Center (ECC). The ECCs are equipped with shortwave radios to report status and request help from the Portola Valley ECC or the San Mateo County Emergency offices.

Because of our rugged geography, many areas were inaccessible by radio, and we had only one shortwave radio. So 12 years ago, we started on a major improvement of our radio systems in LTW and VV to address the difficult communication barriers. By installing two high powered repeater radios on the Old Spanish Trail water tank, we could cover both communities. In addition we equipped all District and Neighborhood leaders with professional grade UHF radios that can talk between themselves and the ECC via the repeaters throughout the whole geography. This group practices radio communication every month to test the system and make sure it is working properly. Recently we conducted two Zoom radio trainings for volunteer leaders and will do a makeup session later in the summer for those who were unable to attend or may want a refresher.

Now we are embarking on the next stage of radio communication improvements. Through a generous donation from PV resident and radio expert, Ray Rothrock, we received several shortwave radios and antennas, which we are going to install in the LTW ECC and the backup ECC on Pony Tracks Ranch. The VV ECC antenna system is about 25 years old and will be brought back to operational status. Also we have obtained an additional repeater, which will be dedicated to the Medical Teams (Gary McGregor-LTW and Kurt Bausback-VV) to use when providing assistance remotely. We expect to get this going in the next few months using safe procedures.
Mike Ward, VV Communications & Paul Lloyd, LTW Communications (Editor - Bravo, Mike and Paul!)

In Loving Memory of Karen Ann Tate, 1962 - 2019

Devoted Wife (Charlie Krenz), Mother (Abigail & Liam), Friend and Irreplaceable Community Leader

In August 2019 a large group of LTW/VV residents were on our annual neighborhood camping trip, when we got the news that our dear Karen had finally succumbed to metastatic breast cancer. Being all together gave us time to reflect on the innumerable ways that Karen had touched all of our lives. We took the liberty of renaming the small alpine lake in her honor.

Her ceaseless efforts to improve our special neighborhood, the decade of work to secure Windmill Preschool a home, the hours devoted to the PVSD Board ensuring our kids succeed in school, and a thoughtful community leader for our contentious little water district are just a few of her achievements. Karen used her sharp intellect and adept power of persuasion to engage in kind and inclusive dialog with all interested parties and inevitably led to better solutions to all the challenges she undertook.

She is missed every day by countless numbers of us, her absence palpable when we visit the benches at the lake, or dinner at the Tate/Krenz household. The pain of her loss is eased by the memories of all she accomplished and all those she touched so deeply in a too short life.

Submitted by David Smernoff

Editor's note: I would like everyone to know that our current layout of the Community Resource Guide would not exist if it were not for the leadership and skill that Karen Tate provided. It was a privilege and a joy to work with her, and I will remember always her positive and can-do attitude. She was truly an inspiration and the neighborhood misses her.



Congrats Grads - You ROCK!!

Jimmy Inenaga graduated from Sequoia High School. He will be attending Trace, which is a post secondary vocational training program in the Sequoia High School District for adults with developmental disabilities.

Melinda Wang graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Product Design. She will continue at Stanford to get her Computer Science M.S.

Isabel de Oliveira graduated from Woodside High School. She is headed to Washington, D.C., to study Film and Media Arts at American University.

Torsten Nybo graduated from Saint Francis High School and will be attending the University of Utah, hopefully this fall.

Sarah Smith graduated from Whitman College. She majored in Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology. She will take a gap year before she attends veterinary school.

Rhea Hewitt graduated from Kehillah High School and is attending the University of Wisconsin in the fall.

Maddie Worden graduated from Chapman University.

Trevor Perez graduated from Menlo High School.

Vista Verde Community Association (VVCA) Dues News

We hope everyone is doing well during these challenging times. Normally at this time of year, we would be working to collect community association dues, but after much consideration **we have decided to suspend dues collection until 2021**. VVCA costs will not be very significant this year since the Spring Fling is cancelled and our emergency supplies are well-stocked. We decided those funds would be better used by those feeling a bit strapped, or by the great number of organizations in need of funding right now. If you have already paid your 2020 dues, thank you! Your payment will be credited toward your VVCA membership in 2021.

With gratitude and in solidarity,

Your VVCA Officers Suzanne Rufflo-Greenleaf, Cory Rae Shaw, Bea Garsh, Amanda Lee & Claudia Mazzetti

Community Shenanigans

I hear that there were a lot of local hooligans that were doing shenanigans with bears, bunnies and eggs. Way to go to keep the neighborhood on its toes! See photos below.

Neighborhood Notes

- **Change your Wildfire Radio batteries** now! With the wildfire season approaching, now is the time to replace the 3 AA back-up power batteries in your Midland NOAA wildfire alert radios. They are needed if the PG&E power goes out during a wildfire. Leave the radio plugged in to the AC power source, remove and replace batteries with good alkaline batteries, and then press the weather bar to test that your reception is still good.

Tom Bleier. VV Emergency Prep Chair

- Remember these **basic courtesies** to others when hiking:

1. Bring a mask.
2. Wear your mask when near other people. Remember, that you are protecting others when wearing a mask and they are protecting you with theirs.
3. Even with your mask on, maintain at least 6 feet of separation from others (runners and cyclists need 12 feet!), step off to the side of the trail if needed.

- **Take photos, not plants!** Wildlife depends on our native plants. If you remove them or parts of them, this deprives wildlife of precious and scarce resources, like food, shelter, water storage, or a place for butterfly larvae. Natives already are impacted by invasive species, climate change, and habitat destruction. Taking seeds away from plants prevents them from reseeding and can lead to their demise in an area where insects and other wildlife depend on them.

- The rain was sheltering-in-place also and did not make as much of an appearance this winter as we would have liked. Remember to do fire prevention around your house as it was a dry winter. **Rainfall reported** by Gene Hunner was: April - 2.5", May - 1", rainfall year to date (since 7/1/19) - 19.5"

2020-21 Community Resource Guide

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda at 851-1787 or dreynight@aol.com.

Community Associations' Web Sites

Web site addresses:

<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 sites





