



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – June & July 2022**

Broom Be Gone

Not so simple when the broom is on another jurisdiction's property.

There have been four large piles of French Broom that were pulled earlier this year alongside Los Trancos Road on private property, but they were never picked up. They had completely dried out and now posed a fire hazard. Because this section of the road is in Palo Alto, Portola Valley does not have direct jurisdiction over it.

Our Fire Marshal, Don Bullard, has been working with the property owners and the City of Palo Alto to get this fuel load and eyesore removed. Last week Don succeeded, as you can see from the before-and-after pictures.

Our thanks go out to the great efforts Don makes to keep our community safe.

Submitted by Ken Kormanak



Alpine Road Plantings

A shout out and thank you to San Mateo County roads maintenance crew! Here they are setting up a watering system for plants put in last year to help keep the hillside in place after a major repair on Alpine Road, just downhill from Joaquin Road. Several weeks prior, crews scaled the hill to pull lots of broom and thistle. Thanks also to Dept. of Public Works planning for the well done and thorough job on this repair.



Submitted by Amanda Lee

Don't Forget the Car Emergency Pack

During the last few years, we were all concerned about wildfire evacuations and earthquake responses. In the past VV planners made 2 group purchases for "Emergency Paks" to be kept in your cars in case you had to evacuate quickly during a wildfire, or if you were caught away from home after an earthquake and needed some emergency supplies to help you get back home (possibly by walking if that were the only way home). These supplies cost about \$60-80 for each Pak.

The Emergency Pak contained:

- 4 water bottles and enough energy bars for 1 person for 2 days, or 2 people for 1 day
- Medical supplies (10-4x4's and 40 assorted bandaids, Neosporin crème, and sun block)
- Gloves, a rope, a survival plastic shelter, 2 rain ponchos, 2 mylar blankets, a survival knife, and matches for warmth in a rain proof container
- An LED flashlight
- Toilet paper

The picture included here shows the contents of a red backpack that contains the contents of Version A of the Paks. Version B distributed later was the same but included 2 N-95 face masks (for smoke and now for Covid), a survival knife (including water resistant matches, a compass, a serrated blade for cutting small firewood), and a small radio to get emergency updates.



Keeping the Emergency Pak in your primary car helps both, if you are away from home, or are at home. The backpack is large enough to include a pair of your comfortable shoes in case you need to walk home. This is also a reminder to those who purchased the Emergency Paks that you should check your flashlight and add fresh batteries, and replace the water bottles.

If you don't have one of these Emergency Paks, you can buy these individual components online at Amazon or for various complete emergency kits see emergencykits.com.

Submitted by Tom Bleier, Vista Verde Emergency Preparation Chairman

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

The Fire Safety incentive program has seen a large increase in subscribers over the past two years, which is great! An increase in budget for this program of an additional \$100,000 per year, effectively starting in June 2021 through June of 2024, has been requested and is slated for approval at the June 7th Board of Supervisors' meeting. Additionally, the Town of Portola Valley is being asked to take over responsibility for clearing their land along Los Trancos Road. The Town has done a great job with defensible space along main roads in the last few years, and we are hopeful they will now include their portions of the important Los Trancos Road corridor from Blue Oaks to Alpine Road; note that a portion of this route is in Santa Clara County.

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: 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

Life of Lyn Dearborn, 1941-2022

Lyn had been a resident of Los Trancos Woods since 2005. She grew up on a ranch in Santa Barbara and developed a passion for gardening. If you ever sat down to talk to her, the conversation would turn to plants and gardening eventually. She was also an avid folk dancer and musician and kept our community informed about events in the local area. Lyn, in fact, was a long time member of the San Francisco Folk Music Club and played gigs with her band Shady Grove. She died peacefully on 22 April surrounded by loved ones singing her favorite songs.



Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale with excerpts from Mercury News

Neighborhood Notes

- Here is some information on whom to contact for various **road activities**. S.M. County Public Works - Armando Carlos, 650-363-4100, Woodside Fire - 650-851-1594, S.M. County Sheriff - 650-216-7676, construction activity at 1061 Los Trancos Rd. - Craig Awbry, 408-667-5600, awbrey@awbrydevelopment.com

Submitted by JoAnn Loulan

- We sadly mourn the **last of the rainfall** that Gene Hunner has recorded. Remember - each drop is precious these days! April - 2.9", May - 0.0", rainfall season to date - 26.7"
- **Waterwise tip** - When you are running the kitchen faucet water to warm it up, either collect it in a pitcher to water your plants, or use it for jobs that don't need hot water, like wiping the counters or rinsing soap off or wiping the table or...or. You can fill in the blanks.
- Time to **clean the roof and gutters!** What? It's not raining, even though we wish it would. That is the point, that it is darn dry out there, and our roofs and gutters that are filled with debris are a fire hazard. Let's prepare for our fire season with our car Emergency Paks and our roofs and gutters spanking clean.

2022-23 Community Resource Guide

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>

To subscribe to group e-mail lists:

vwltw+subscribe@groups.io

VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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