



## **LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE** **Newsletter – August/September 2013**

### **Health Insurance for Our Oak Trees**

If we were to take out Health Insurance for our oak trees, what would be the best way to keep our premiums from skyrocketing? A little preventative care can go a long way in maintaining a healthy tree and keeping the doctor or chainsaw away.

- 1) Seasons are just what the doctor orders. We have a rainy season and a drought season, and our oaks must have the same. If you are watering on your property, be sure to not over water, or water under the drip line (this is the outside perimeter of the leaf canopy), or let water run downhill towards an oak. Watering causes a disease called oak root fungus that can kill an oak. Be sure to move any water loving plants or lawns away from your oaks.
- 2) Oak trees have their "feet" firmly planted in the ground. If you change the ground level, then you no longer have the "feet" planted at the depth they should be. If you do some dirt moving around the base of an oak, first mark the ground level on the tree, so you can maintain that level throughout the work time.
- 3) Climbing trees is fun, but not when it is ivy climbing the oak trees. Ivy holds in moisture at the bark, causing rot, and smothers tree foliage. Cut the ivy away from the tree twice a year. This will keep the ivy in check and make the job easier.
- 4) The most effective way to protect your oaks from Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is to trim all Bay Laurel tree foliage to about 8 ft. away from the oak trunk. Bay Laurel is the prime carrier of the disease. A second step can be spraying oak trunks either in spring or fall with Agri-fos which helps prevent infection. See <http://www.vistaverdepv.org/>, and click on Home & Garden for more information about SOD.

Our "Woods" get their character from the abundant oak trees that grow here. With a little preventative care we can keep this wonderful character alive and healthy.

*Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale*

### **Emergency Preparedness**

Come to the **Fire Extinguisher Training and Purchase Incentive Program** at Pony Tracks Ranch during the **Community Picnic, Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to actually use a fire extinguisher? You will have a chance to gain this experience during the upcoming Community Picnic at Pony Tracks Ranch. With the assistance of the Woodside Fire Protection District, our local CERPP team will conduct a training exercise in the use of standard household fire extinguishers. You will get to pull the pin and squeeze the trigger handle while you sweep an extinguisher across a fire target.

A Purchase Incentive Program will be made available for homeowners to acquire new fire extinguishers and to replace your outdated devices. Fire extinguishers will be available for purchase at the picnic at a significant discount. You are encouraged to bring your old fire extinguishers to the picnic to be used for the training exercise. If your extinguisher is over 5 years old, it is a good idea to replace or supplement it with a new one.

**Save the Date** - Earthquake Triage Training Exercise Saturday October 26th - More details soon

*Submitted by Steve Friedman, LTW Emergency Preparedness Coordinator*

## **Community Picnic**

Get out the sunscreen and the picnic plates! It is time for the **Annual Community Picnic on 21 September**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pony Tracks Ranch. There will be train rides and tank tours with great potluck food to top it off. The grill *meisterin* will provide fare for the buns, and the rest of us will make sure we pitch in with potluck dishes for 8 for each 2 adults we bring. Dust off those shoes and be ready for some hand clapping, foot stomping music. It will be a time for neighbors and community members to set a visitin'. The picnic is meant for residents only, and there will be a charge of \$20/person for friends and relatives. Parking is limited, so best to carpool if possible.

## **Prepicnic Activity**

Get set for Ramona Road Ribbon Cutting before the Picnic on Sept 21st at 10:30 at the slippage site. Come one and all to celebrate and thank those who have helped make this happen! San Mateo County officials and contractors involved with the fix have been invited and hope to attend including Supervisor Don Horsley, County Manager/Clerk John Maltbie, Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Director Jim Porter, Deputy Director of Roads Joe LoCoco, Principal Civil Engineer Karen Pachmayer, Bob Mahoney of Soil Engineering Construction (SEC), and representatives from BAGG Engineering. And hopefully YOU!

*Submitted by SARR – Save Alpine & Ramona Roads, an ad hoc committee of VVCA and LTWCA*

## **Neighborhood Notes**

- **Joan Owen** died Saturday 27 July. She was an out-going and loving spirit. Joan displayed true generosity in her work as a high school English teacher for 46 years. Many of her students had on-going contact with Joan long after they left her classes. Her house was an open house just like Joan's arms which were always open and welcoming. Gatherings were a common occurrence at her house in Los Trancos Woods. Joan, you will always be deep in the hearts of the many you have touched. Our condolences to her loving husband, Larry.
- Thought you might enjoy an **interesting bit of history**. Here is an excerpt from the realtor's brochure when Los Trancos Woods was being developed. *"An Invitation is earnestly extended to you to visit Los Trancos Woods and inspect some of the cabins being constructed. You may get idea for your own. If you build in Los Trancos Woods you will have agreeable neighbors. Many of the home owners there are professional people lured to the tract by the restful climate and the magnificent scenery."*
- The neighborhood is abuzz with activity these days, including **barking dogs**. Although they are usually just giving a friendly invitation that they would like to come out and play with you, the dogs sometimes announce this for a long time. Here are some solutions to calm the dog and calm the neighborhood: Petco has bark collars for about \$40-\$60 that work by giving a shock. For most dogs it only takes a couple of times, so there is very little discomfort. Patt Baenen has had excellent luck. Another option is a smell collar, Premier Pet Gentle Spray, from Pet Safe on Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto at 650-856-6666.

## **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](mailto:VistaVerdeLTW@yahoogroups.com)  
[VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VistaVerdeCommunityAssoc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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