



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – August/September 2015**

Emergency Preparedness – Your Drinking Water

One of the major concerns following an earthquake will be the need for safe drinking water. There is a risk that water supply and/or distribution pipes will be damaged. Repair crews may be needed many places within the county, and roads may not be passable. The two best sources for water would be our hot water heaters and any containers we have filled and stored in our homes. But containers of water may not be drinkable, if they have not been stored properly or changed out on a regular schedule.

Many local groups are purchasing small water filtration systems capable of filtering either lake water or swimming pool water to a safe drinking standard. The LTC Water Board has been kind enough to purchase two of these filter systems, to be shared by both the Vista Verde and LTW Emergency Preparedness Committees. One will be stored at Pony Tracks and one in the Red Shed on Lake Rd. The filters can be run by their solar panels, batteries, or A.C. power. They can filter up to 60 gallons per hour. Residents will need to supply their own containers to transport the water from whichever sites are chosen as sources of water. The filters have washable/reusable cartridges and a UV light source for the final stage sterilization. We will be building portable stands, with plastic storage tanks, and testing our lake water over the next month as preparation for “The Big One”.

Submitted by Bob Neuer, LTW Emergency Preparedness Team

New Venue, New Excitement, New Picnic

“This really *feels* like a community picnic.” “What a wonderful location.” “I am so excited to meet my new neighbors.” These were just a few of the overwhelmingly positive comments at the Community Picnic on Las Piedras on Saturday, 18 July. Over 200 people in attendance feasted on the gourmet dishes, boogied to the rockin’ music, engaged in fun conversations, and were excited to volunteer their help. The kids were busy showing their creativity and skill with crafts, games and scavenger hunt. We owe a huge round of applause to Eiri Inenaga, her hard working Picnic Committee, and the residents on Las Piedras. Thanks to photographer, Bob Zimmerman, there are photos of the picnic at <http://adobe.ly/1OVbDjT>. Get your volunteer hat ready for next year, so we can make it another whopping success.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

LTW Community Association

The new LTWCA Board is establishing itself to work effectively to meet the current and future needs of community. Since the majority of the Board are new members, we have been reviewing LTWCA’s history and assessing what is working, what is not working, and what is missing. Topics have included: Use of funds, ongoing and unmet needs, cost and collection of community dues, community participation, and election process.

In our next meeting, we will review a draft budget proposal for 2015/16 and a proposal for updating the Articles of the Association. Once we have agreed to a budget, community dues will be set, and we will begin collecting. Your dues will cover the Resource Guide, emergency preparedness needs, annual community picnic, and more. Dues were last collected in fall 2012. The Wednesday evening, monthly board meetings are public and open to all. Look for meeting announcements on the Yahoo Group listserv.

Submitted by Kim Acker, President of the LTWCA

Neighborhood Notes

- **Got changes?** It is time to start collecting the changes for the next VV/LTW Community Resource Guide. If your cell number, e-mail address, or anything else has changed since the last Resource Guide (take a look), please get the information to your Emergency Group Leader. The beginning pages in the Resource Guide will list who the Group Leaders are for your area. Thank you for helping out in this monumental effort to get it all correct.
- **Rattlesnake Rumbblings** – There is a new version of rattlesnake out there these days. I just encountered a brown rattlesnake on Old Spanish Trail (Blue Oaks property) very close to the meadow. I mistook it for a brown branch, until I spotted the rattles and the triangle head. The only mottling observed was lower on the sides and near the tail, and nothing on the back but solid brown.

A few interesting rattlesnake facts: 1) Rattlesnakes can live 16-20 years in the wild, 2) they add a rattle to their tail each time they shed their skin which can be anywhere from 5 (juveniles) times to once a year, 3) their hollow fangs are replaced on average about every 8 weeks, 4) according to the California Poison Control Center there are 300 rattlesnake bites a year in California, 5) rattlesnakes do not always rattle before they strike, 6) some sources say that 25% of bites are “dry” meaning that no venom was injected, however medical treatment is still required.

Best to keep dogs on a leash to keep both them and you from an unfortunate encounter with a rattlesnake. A perfectly good walk could be ruined by trying to detach the fangs of a rattlesnake, along with the snake, from your pet. If anyone is bit, seek emergency attention immediately. Do not apply ice, a tourniquet, cut the bite, or try to suck out the venom. Apply a cold cloth and elevate the bit site. Now, let’s go enjoy the great outdoors!

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale

2014 Community Resource Guide

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