



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – August/September 2016**

LTW/VV Community Picnic Coming Soon to Los Trancos Woods

Save the Date! Saturday, August 27th from 4-7 p.m.

Venue: 103 Ramona Road (at the intersection of Ramona and Los Trancos Roads)

Get ready for fun: Live music, kid-friendly games, drinks, hamburgers, hotdogs and desserts! Bring a side dish to share. More details are coming. Be sure to watch your emails.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help with the picnic. Kindly sign-up using the website below or by contacting Jessica Koehne. Volunteering is a great opportunity to make new friends and help out the community.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4AABAD22A0FE3-lostrancos

Submitted by the Picnic Committee

What's On Down the Road?

We may have done things to prepare our homes, but how many of us are ready for an emergency on the road? Tom Bleier (VV Emergency Prep Chair) has compiled a list to help us out. In fact, he can prepare backpacks for VV (\$20 subsidized) or LTW (\$60 unsubsidized) residents who are interested. You will be able to sign up at the Community Picnic on Saturday, August 27th. For the rest of us, listen up, or rather, read up.

Checklist for a Red Backpack:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LED flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries for flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Survival knife, with compass and matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Water (minimum 1 liter) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 dust/smoke masks | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy bars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 reflective survival blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine (labeled) for 3 days in ziplock bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 rain ponchos | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll of toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 ft. study rope | <input type="checkbox"/> Assorted bandages and 4"x4" pads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small roll duct tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Tube of sunblock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AM/FM radio with batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy shoes and socks |

Most likely we will not be home when disaster strikes given the mobile society that we are, and these crucial items could make a significant difference. Next time you are at the store, grab the items you need and get the backpack ready. Time is on your side right now. It will not be in an emergency.

Submitted by Tom Bleier, Linda Drey-Nightingale and Tracy Sherman

Coyote Etiquette

Scott Gamel has pointed us to an excellent web site for information about coyotes and recent research which has been done. I have pulled some excerpts from it, but I recommend that you visit this web site yourself for more information, urbancoyoteproject.com.

Excerpts from Professor of Cognitive Ethology Marc Bekoff, University of Colorado, Boulder

"I have no doubt that coyotes have the opportunity to do significantly more harm than they do, but they choose not to do so...around my hometown of Boulder, Colorado, the extremely rare confrontations between coyotes and humans have occurred where coyotes were known to be

fed, either intentionally or unintentionally.” “My own experience with coyotes and other urban animals is that they have a healthy respect for people and actually try to avoid humans most of the time.” “Media and scientists need to be clear about what we know and don't know, and we need to strive for peaceful coexistence with all the animals with whom we share our homes and into whose homes we have moved and redecorated.”

Excerpts from Jaymi Heimbuch

“Typically, problems with urban coyotes begin with humans who are not quite sure how to coexist.” “With coyotes, a little bit of seemingly innocent behavior, such as, letting one's dog interact with a coyote, or leaving scraps out to feed them, are the start of much more serious problems. Even something as simple as a lack of awareness about attractants in one's own yard, like bird feeders and compost piles, can be at the root of coyote problems.” “In fact, urban wildlife managers universally recommend removing any and all food and water sources around the home as a way to keep wildlife out of residential areas. The less food is in a yard -- from bird seed scattered on the ground under a feeder, to ripe fruit fallen under trees, to lids left off of trash cans or barbeque grills left coated in grease -- the less likely it is that wild animals become habituated to humans and turn into problem individuals, perhaps problematic enough to be lethally removed.”

Information collated by Linda Drey-Nightingale

Neighborhood Notes

- Portola Valley Nature and Science Committee has a couple of events coming up soon.

1) **Annual Star Party** will be on August 5 beginning at 8:00 p.m.

2) **Flight Night** with radio controlled planes will be on September 10 from 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.

3) **Bats, Bugs, and Biodiversity** will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall on Thursday, September 1.

All events are at the Town Center with lots of fun for adults and children!

Submitted by Yvonne Tryce

- **Clarification to last Newsletter:** Wen Gong created the informative “Service Provider Recommendations” list on the lostrancoswoods.org web site. You can edit it and add your recommendations also. Jerry Jensen figured out how to put an editable list on the web page. Thank you, Wen!

- Our **rain year** runs July-June, so Gene Hunner reported that our total for 2015-16 was 40.5”. Longevity Gene passes on the interesting tidbit that the 24 yr., 12 month average rainfall is 38” from his detailed records. Thank you, Gene!

2016 Community Resource Guide Updates

If you have any changes or additions to your 2016 listing please contact Linda, 851-1787 or dreynight@aol.com.

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