



LOS TRANCOS WOODS & VISTA VERDE **Newsletter – August/September 2018**

Neighborhood Going to the Dogs?

You bet! There are happy dogs, playful dogs, big dogs, little dogs, and so many more. We have an active community of dogs and dog owners, and they all seem to like getting out for walks, so the dogs can meet and greet. While the over-whelming majority of dogs are quite content to smile and wag tails, there are some that like to state emphatically who is boss. Hence it is a wise idea to have all the dogs on leash to avoid any arguments over this “who is boss” issue, either with another dog or a human. Also, having them on leash makes our children and adults feel more comfortable, instead of instilling a fear in them, about being around our neighborhood dogs. Just a word of caution that there is a San Mateo County leash law that requires all dogs in public places, except dog parks, to be on a leash and not just under voice command. This includes any dogs that dash off their property and are not properly “fenced” in. We would never want our dogs to get a bad rap and have a citation on their record.

Do we or do we not...

...pick up after our dogs leave their calling card (poop, to be exact)? Some people feel that wild animals have no compulsion to pick up their poop, so it is natural to just leave poop on the ground to decompose. Turns out, domestic dogs are different. A number of common diseases, e.g. giardia, E. coli, salmonella, can be found in dog feces, and this can be transmitted to other dogs and even people. Wild canine species, such as coyotes and foxes, are also vulnerable to the diseases, and since they do not go to the vet, it can impact their immune system, reproduction and longevity.

Dog feces are not actually a fertilizer, as they are too acidic and toxic to plants (ever noticed those yellow spots on lawns where dogs have gone). Here in LTW and VV, we are the local guardians of our sections of Los Trancos Creek and Corte Madera Creek; this means that we watch what we put on the soil. Those diseases and toxins in the feces will not just stay in our neighborhood but will travel downstream in the waterway and cause contamination for whatever plants and wildlife it encounters. As far back as 1991 the EPA listed dog feces as a nonpoint source of pollution.

You may have never thought of dog feces as food, but rodents and flies do. Clearly, we do not want to be leaving out delectable delights for the dining pleasure of rats and flies who will use it to multiply their species in our neighborhood. Last, but not least, no one wants to walk out their front door and see dog feces on their property that they clean up, or, worse yet, inadvertently step in.

Many thanks go to all those dogs who put up with leashes and those owners who keep flexible by bending over to pick up after their dogs and take those bags home to dispose of. The neighborhood appreciates you!

Note: There is a neighborhood assistance program of canisters of plastic bags at 3 locations: beginning of the trails off Old Spanish Trail and Lake Rd., the stop sign at LT Circle and LT Rd., and the triangle at the beginning of the Circle.

Submitted by Linda Drey-Nightingale, Baltazar Franco, and Susan Mulkeke

(Information gleaned from a number of web sites on care of dogs, municipal water quality, and hiking impacts.)

The Picnic is Coming, The Picnic is Coming!

Quick get the date on the calendar – Saturday, September 22, 4-7 p.m. for the annual, entertaining, delectable, captivating, LTW & VV community picnic. It will be held at the fabulous Lesley and Jeff Wiley’s front/side/back yard at the corner of Ramona and Los Trancos Rd. (same as 2 years ago). Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement about picnic volunteers to get in on the fun early.

WildFire Alert Radios: Chapter 2

200 Midland WR120EZ NOAA Wildfire Alert radios were recently purchased and distributed among residents in LTW, VV, Blue Oaks and Sequoias Retirement Community. The radios will facilitate receiving NOAA radio alerts quickly in case of a nighttime wildfire (similar to the devastating Napa fires last year). For the most part, the radios worked reasonably well in LTW, VV, and Blue Oaks with the possible exception of some areas on Joaquin and in LTW where the signals were blocked by the hills. The Sequoias had more problems at their lower altitude. Tom Bleier (along with Bud Trapp and Joe Rogers from Sequoias) purchased some external antennas and experimented with them to improve the reception performance. We found that in marginal signal strength areas, one could use a Midland, Power-Max18-259W weather antenna (18" and \$20) or a Ham radio J-Pole antenna (5ft tall \$50). We also had some success in changing the transmitter used to the WWF64 Mt. Umunhum at 162.450 MHz transmitter, located near Los Gatos. Amazingly, the Mt Diablo transmitter to the east can be heard at Sequoias, but it does not contain the San Mateo alert messages, Brian Garcia from NOAA is working with us to try and get the San Mateo alert messages added to the Mt Diablo transmitter—which will give us 3 transmitters to choose from. If interested in these external antennas, contact Tom Bleier for more information.

Submitted by Tom Bleier

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

Fire Safety Incentive Program: Over the last six months, 35 homeowners participated in the program to get information about making their homes more fire safe. 20 of these homeowners made suggested improvements and will receive 50% of their expenditures in incentives. It is a great program that helps make all of us safer. If interested in receiving incentives, please contact Don Bullard, WFPD Deputy Fire

Marshal, djbullard@woodsidefire.org

Storm Water Management Program: Mid-September, individual meetings with Joe LoCoco, Deputy Director Road Services, to discuss project ideas and concerns will be scheduled. Please watch for an announcement. You may also contact any CAC member now, Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair), if you are interested.

Submitted by Amanda Lee, Co-Chair of CAC

Neighborhood Notes

- From the County's web site, here is information and a link about tree removal and trimming that are pertinent to us:
"San Mateo County's trees enhance its natural beauty and provide such environmental benefits as view enhancement, soil stabilization, wildlife habitat, and shading benefits. The County has designated trees of 12" in diameter or larger (measured at breast height) in any area of the unincorporated County, as Significant Trees to prevent their indiscriminate removal. The County requires a permit for the removal of these trees."
<https://planning.smcgov.org/tree-trimming-and-removal-permit>. Please be sure to check out this web site before you do any removal or trimming to make sure you are properly protecting your trees.
- We just moved into 60 Joaquin Road and wanted to introduce ourselves. Prior to this we lived in Woodside Highlands for a year after moving to Portola Valley from Palo Alto where we'd been for the previous eight years. We are both locals Aimee grew up in Woodside and Portola Valley and Peter grew up in Palo Alto. We have two boys Miles (8) going into 3rd grade at Ormondale and Mason (10) going into 5th grade at Corte Madera. We look forward to getting to know everyone!

Submitted by Peter Blum

2018-19 Community Resource Guide

If you have any changes to the listings please contact Linda.

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