



# **Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde** **Newsletter – August/September 2019**

## **The Fabulous Once a Year Picnic!**

On behalf of the picnic planning committee, we invite you to the annual Los Trancos/Vista Verde Community Picnic! This year it will be held at Las Piedras Court. It will be an exciting get-together of friends and neighbors. There will be an amazing local band and fun-filled activities including emergency preparedness educational materials.

**When:** Sunday, September 29, from 2:00pm - 5:30pm

**Where:** Las Piedras Court (off Old Spanish Trail)

Please watch out for more details and opportunities to volunteer. Rsvp to follow.

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

In response to community input, the CAC has been working with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works (DPW) to replace the curbs that were added to a narrow, two-way portion of Los Trancos Road. We have received their commitment to replace them with curbs that can be driven on, if needed, and to place the curbs closer to the edge of the road. Given the large number of road improvement projects this summer, it is likely that these changes will not be made until October. Before the new curbs are put in place, DPW will provide a sample so that the community will have the chance to comment on their plan. We believe this change will significantly enhance the safety of the road.

We have also begun another round of expenditure reviews with both the DPW and the Woodside Fire Protection District. This is the first step toward determining the next three-year budget with each of these agencies. The next step will be to establish priorities among the funding opportunities. If you have ideas as to what should be funded, please pass them along to one of the CAC members.

The Los Trancos County Maintenance District (LTCMD) CAC exists to advise and offer feedback to DPW and Woodside Fire and to inform the community about LTCMD sponsored programs. Feel free to contact any of us on the CAC: Jerry Hearn, Ken Kormanak, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), Claudia Mazzetti, David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair)

*Submitted by Amanda Lee, Co-Chair of CAC*

## **Shaded Fuel Break Work Continues**

Keeping our evacuation routes clear remains a top priority for the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD). The work completed on the upper most part of Alpine Road is funded by the Los Trancos County Maintenance District. Lower parts of Alpine Rd. are funded by the Fire District who searches out grant funds to keep the shaded fuel break as clear as possible. Alpine Road is a rough and rugged forested roadway and keeping the vegetation in check is not an easy task. We hope to secure more funds



and crew time to work on some of the underbrush on lower Alpine Rd. adjacent to Portola Valley Ranch. Underbrush is the key to reducing the rate of spread and fire intensity. Residents can do the same sort of treatment in their own landscapes. Create some open spaces under the trees and do not let the underbrush overtake any part of your property.

*Submitted by Denise Enea, Fire Marshall*

### **The Passing of Another LTW Angel, We Will Miss You, Bert!**

The Chabots have lived in Los Trancos Woods for generations, so there are many ways you could know Bert and his family, but if you are like me, you met Bert because you needed something done in your house. It started out I needed an electrician. He set plug points into our hardwood floor so perfectly flush and small, they are like jewelry. There also were other in-floor sockets a carpenter made look graceless. That was not the last time he outshone another “professional”. I suppose it was never a fair fight. Bert made his own tool just to make the initial hole in the floor. That was Bert, always innovative, always the best. The last thing he did for me, 14 years later, was replace the floor to my shower from underneath without removing or damaging its stone surface. An unbelievable guy. Along the way, he blew my mind with the night vision goggles he had made, the efficient motor he invented, his encyclopedic knowledge of everything science and his radiant joy for learning. As time went on, we became friends. He was kind, generous, selfless. You will not find a bigger heart. Many people pass away, and you are sad. You miss them, but Bert is an irreplaceable original. Life is simply always going to be a little bit less without him.

*Submitted by Pamela Dorrell*

### **A Tribute to Sue Conway**

Sue Conway passed away in her Las Piedras home on June 25, 2019. She was the wife of Gary Conway in a marriage that lasted more than 56 years. Sue and Gary raised their three daughters, Lauren, Angela, and Wendy there. She was an active member of our community since 1972, including being a long time member of the local Book Club. When Sue was not hiking the local trails or mothering, she was a member in the Allied Arts Guild Auxiliary, ultimately becoming its president. We will miss her friendship, humor and grace in the face of a long illness.

*Submitted by Joan Barksdale*

### **Neighborhood Notes**

- We want to welcome new neighbors, Christopher and Suzanne Kavert, and their 10 year old daughter, Molly. They moved from PV Ranch where Molly has been going to CMS. They were very involved in their previous community and will be a great asset to ours as well. We have already been enjoying getting to know them! Welcome!

*Submitted by Eiri Inenaga*

### **Community Associations' Web Sites**

The web site addresses are:  
<http://lostrancoswoods.org/>  
<http://www.vistaverdepv.org>

The group e-mail list is:  
[vvltw+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:vvltw+subscribe@groups.io)  
[VVCA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:VVCA+subscribe@groups.io).

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