



Los Trancos Woods & Vista Verde **Newsletter – August & September '23**

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

Mark your calendars for our first live **meeting** since Covid 2020 on **October 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm at 40 Ciervos Road!** Bring your ideas, questions and concerns on the fire safety program, stormwater control enhancements, and Lake Road area lands management. Don Bullard with Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) will be coming to answer questions on the new defensible space and incentive program, and more.

In other news, the CAC met twice recently with the Department of Public Works (DPW). They will soon take the first steps on a **Stormwater Project**, creating a scope of work so that engineering and construction estimates can be secured and feasibility determined.

The **Fire Safety Program** is in full swing and quarterly incentive payments are running smoothly. To qualify for the Maintenance District incentive program, which offers 50% reimbursement for approved work, up to \$5,000 annually per household, you must have your property inspected. If you have not, it's not too late! Contact Michael Tamez to schedule your free inspection at (650) 851-1594 or mtamez@woodsidefire.org.

The **Woodside Fire Chipper Program** is well-used! Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde have 3 chipper days annually. The first two are funded entirely by Woodside Fire, while the third **chipper day** (October 23rd this year) is funded by our Maintenance District. Reminder that piles should be put curbside no more than 2 weeks prior. Going forward, we hope all will follow the guidelines.

In the spirit of transparency, the CAC will soon post meeting minutes for 2023 and ongoing at www.lostrancoswoods.org.

The Los Trancos County Maintenance District (LTCMD) CAC exists to advise and offer feedback

to DPW and WFPD and to inform the community about LTCMD sponsored programs. Feel free to contact any of us on the CAC Board: Jan Avilla, Peter Blum, Amanda Lee (Co-Chair), David Smernoff, Bill Tagg and Tom Thayer (Co-Chair). Our email addresses and phone numbers are listed in the Community Resource Guide.

Submitted by Amanda Lee & Tom Thayer, Co-Chairs of CAC

Light Up Your Life, Just Not at Night

"Wildlife is adversely affected by nighttime human lights. There has been much in the news lately about migrating birds getting confused by bright LED lights on large structures -- apparently even confusing them with the moon -- and dying."

Submitted by Susan Mokolke

Editor's note: We are in the perfect location to be part of the Dark Sky Initiative. This will protect not only our local wildlife, but also it will benefit us, humans. Learn more at <https://www.fws.gov/project/dark-skies-initiative>. We can get those night lights down to a minimum!

The Portola Valley Arts Fest Grew in LTW/VV

The peace and beauty of the neighborhood can be a haven for artists. Last year, Vista Verde resident Pamela Dorrell formed an artists' group, the Creative Circle, and LTW/VV neighbors were among the first to respond to her invitation on the PV Forum. They reflect the breadth and depth of creativity of the group and the community. Neighborhood members include Wen Gong who is a writer, Nancy Freire who is a textile artist, Nancy Bovee who is a musician, and Vladimir Bacvanski who is a painter. The Circle has stumbled and evolved to address the disparate interests and needs of such a diverse group, but exciting and unanticipated developments have resulted. The Arts Fest was one of those new ideas.

The second annual Portola Valley Arts Fest will be on Saturday, September 9th from 10:00 to 5:00 at



Ladera Community Church at 3300 Alpine Road.
Members of the Creative Circle meet in Vista Verde.

The Arts Fest is a place where many kinds of artists can find a place to express themselves. It is a celebration of the creativity of our community. Local authors will read their work at 3:00. Musicians will busk by the café tables. Over 30 artists of many genres will be on display, some selling their work in booths around the Ladera Community Church grounds, others exhibiting in the group show inside Peabody Hall.

Find more information about the show [here](https://sites.google.com/view/portolavalleyartsfest/home).
<https://sites.google.com/view/portolavalleyartsfest/home>

Submitted by Pamela Dorrell

Neighborhood Notes

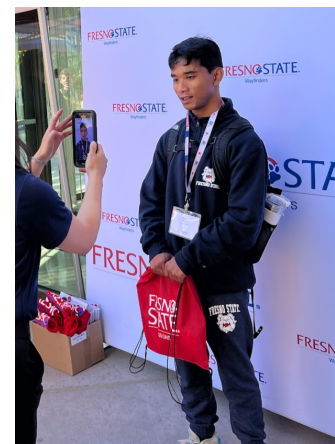
- You are invited to the Los Trancos County Maintenance District **CAC community meeting** on **Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at 40 Ciervos Road.
- Mark your calendar for the **Portola Valley Arts Fest** on **Sept. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** at **LCC, 3300 Alpine Rd.**

Fresno State or Bust!

A thank you to our wonderful community for having helped Jimmy feel at home, create friendships, and learn life and works skills these past 18 years. He was 5 years old when we moved here, and he is now 23! Jimmy will be off to college on August 1 for an amazing next stage of his life.

Jimmy will be attending the Fresno State University Wayfinders program. It is a 2 year program, where he will be living just off campus in apartments with over 800 fellow Fresno State general education students, as well as 20 students in his program. This program for adults with intellectual disabilities will teach him independent living skills such as shopping, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, paying bills, and managing his apartment. He also will have the opportunity to take or audit classes at Fresno State, and will be doing work internships and volunteer work. He wants to continue working with animals and doing fire prevention there. The goal for the program is that when he graduates, he will be ready to work and live independently!

Jimmy says "see you when I get back". He also wanted to add that he won't be around to pick up the poo bags left on the trails, so he says "please pick up the poo bags. Please don't litter!" He has always been good at cleaning up around the neighborhood--now cleaning up around his own house is another matter they will have to address in his college program 😊!



Submitted by Eiri Inenaga