



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2006

What to Do When Caught in a Wildfire

*Here it is, September again, and the Santa Ana winds have started to blow. Fires are raging in several areas in California. Monte Nido is threatened as it is every year. We need to be prepared, so we are reprinting this article to help you get prepared. These guidelines are from Fred Feer's booklet, *Evacuating Topanga: Risks, Choices and Responsibilities*, prepared for the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (TCEP) and provide a good checklist to prepare your property to survive the approaching fire. This is just a small part of preparing for wildfire. Much of the critical work and decisions need to be made well beforehand. If you have any questions, talk with our local firefighters. They are the best source of information. Let's hope we don't have to look a wildfire right in the eye during the remaining fire season but if we do, and you find yourself in its path, here are some things to keep in mind.*

For more information, come to the fire safety seminar planned for next month. Look for a notice on the community bulletin board. -MC and JPL

- Be properly dressed to survive the fire. Cotton and wool fabrics are preferable to synthetics. Wear long pants and boots and carry with you for protection a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, gloves, a handkerchief to shield the face, water to wet it, and goggles (for smoke protection only, not for use close to the fire).
- Remove combustible items around the house. This includes lawn and pool-side furniture, umbrellas, and tarp coverings. If they catch fire, the added heat could ignite your house.
- Close outside attic, eave and basement vents. This will eliminate the possibility of sparks being

blown into hidden areas within the house. Close storm shutters.

- Place large plastic trash cans or bucket around the outside of the house and fill them with water. Soak burlap sacks, small rugs, large rags. They can be helpful in beating out burning embers or small fires. Inside the house fill bathtubs, sinks, and other containers with water. Toilet tanks and water heaters are an important water reservoir.
- Locate garden hoses so they will reach any place on the house. Use spray-gun type nozzle, adjusted to spray.
- If you have portable gasoline-powered pumps to take water from a swimming pool or tank, make sure they are operating and in place.
- Place a ladder against the roof of the house on the side opposite the approaching fire. If you have a combustible roof, wet it down. Do not waste water. Waste can drain the entire water system quickly.
- Back your car into the garage and roll up the windows. Disconnect the automatic door opener (in case of power failure you could not remove the car). Close all garage doors. Leave a key in the ignition.
- Place valuable papers and mementos in the car for quick departure if necessary. Any pets still with you should also be put in the car.
- Close windows and doors of the house to prevent sparks from blowing inside. Close all doors inside the house to prevent drafts. Open the damper on your fireplace to help stabilize outside-inside pressure, but close the fireplace screen so sparks will not ignite the room. Turn on a light in each room to make the house more visible in heavy smoke (for the benefit of firefighters who may be in the area).

- Turn off all pilot lights.
- If you have time, take down your drapes and curtains. Close all Venetian blinds or fire-resistive window coverings to reduce the amount of heat radiating into your home. This gives added safety in case the windows give way because of heat or wind.
- The safest thing to do when asked to evacuate is to leave. Do this quickly and follow the directions of the law enforcement and fire personnel. If you plan to stay, evacuate all pets and all family members not essential to protecting the home. Do this with a clear understanding of the risk to your life and the lives of the firefighters who will surely try to save you.

When the Fire Front Arrives and Passes

- If you are there as the fire-front approaches, go inside the house. Stay calm; you are in control of the situation. After the fire passes, check the roof immediately. Extinguish any sparks or embers. Then check any interior enclosed spaces for hidden burning sparks. If you have a fire, call the Fire Department and then get neighbors to help fight it until the fire units arrive. The water you stored before will come in handy now. For several hours after the fire, recheck for smoke and sparks throughout the house.

(Source: Klaus Radtke, Living More Safely in the Chaparral-Urban Interface.)

Our Watershed

Local watershed problems are being addressed by a group working on the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP). The group consists of entities such as municipalities, parks and local utility districts. This plan is important to us all because environmental problems need to be solved in an efficient and effective manner. If not, regulatory agencies will force us into even more expensive cleanup efforts.

The group brings together the stakeholders in our watershed. Its goal is to not only plan projects but to organize the efforts to get federal and state

funding for them. It has become clear that help on projects is much easier to obtain if all the groups in an area agree on the plan and if the plan has been designed to handle more than one problem. Another incentive to plan projects early is that pioneering projects get grants because they test new techniques.

Our water district's progressive planning for wastewater and biosolids treatment and their efforts to promote conservation typify IRWMP's coordinated approach. If we are to continue to enjoy our area and reap the benefits of its desirability we will have to continue to care for it.

-Lee Renger



The MNVCA Square Dance is October 21

Last year, we changed the format of the square dance- we hosted a pot-luck dessert buffet before the dancing. We provided the coffee and tea, paper goods, tables, chairs, lighting and the caller. We received a lot of positive feedback so we decided to repeat the event this year in the same format. You are welcome to enjoy a picnic before the festivities begin. The tickets are only \$12.50 per person, with kids under 8 free. Tickets cover the costs of hosting the event. No dogs are allowed due to insurance regulations- sorry about that- But bring the rest of the family and your friends for a Monte Nido good time!! Look for more information and the reservation form on the enclosed flyer or call Cynthia Hodes at 591-1026. Setup and breakdown assistance would be really appreciated!

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting July 11, 2006

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was held at the home of Marianne Cilluffo. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Marianne Cilluffo, Cynthia Hodes, Joan Kay, John Low, Jocelyn Mackay and various members of the community.

Treasurer's report: Cynthia Hodes gave report of receipts from July 4th Parade and Picnic: was financially successful. Reported 115 members have joined the Association.

Correspondence: Email sent to community regarding the passing of Janis Wells. Various members of the community collecting donations for flowers. Board voted to send flowers.

Federation Report: John Low reported on the Annual Installation Banquet. Two speakers were Fran Pavley who reported on her Legislative actions, and Woody Smeck who spoke about the planning for King Gillette Ranch. Discussions currently centered on the use and division of the existing facilities. The park will open to the public in 2008. Highlight of the evening was Citizen of the Year Award given to Margo Feuer.

Old Business: Eating Disorders Center- Carolyn Costin and Jeff Radant (owner and manager, respectively) of the Monte Nido Treatment Center attended to explain her views on the possible drug and alcohol treatment center being planned for the Crater Camp area of Monte Nido by Creative Care Inc. Her facility which treats 6 patients at a time has been in the area for 10 years without difficulty.

July 4th Parade and Picnic Recap- John gave summary of Raffle revenues and awards. Overall event was successful. Suggestions for next year, including recycling and ice cream vendor were made.

Triangle -A letter was sent to Mr. Rasmussen regarding the agreement on landscaping of Lot 7. Some discussion of the hazard that exists because the "old" road is not sufficiently obscured. Some drivers have mistaken it for the road and near collisions with the fencing have occurred.

Water Quality- Lee Renger, our representative on the Water Board, came to discuss the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP). He

discussed several ways goals could be met (porous paving, percolation beds, solar aeration, reuse of treated water for irrigation, etc.). Efforts are coordinated among several agencies.

Directory- Some directories were printed, more are needed. Once completed, board members will distribute them, hopefully within the next 2 weeks.

New Business: Squirrel Study- John Low was contacted regarding a study of the native gray squirrel and the introduced fox or brown squirrel. Monte Nido is one of the few places where they co-exist. Volunteers are needed to allow observation on their properties. John will find out the details and put together an article for the newsletter.

-Marianne Cilluffo

Fire Safety Seminar

Since we can never be too prepared for the threat of brushfire, MNVCA is planning a fire safety seminar to supplement the information in this newsletter. The seminar is planned for a Monday or Tuesday evening in the next couple of weeks. We are hoping to hold it at the local fire station. Look for more details on the community bulletin board (by the fire station) or in your email. If you are a new resident or just need a reminder on what to do, please plan on attending.

The Monte Nido Valley Community Directory

Directories were distributed recently to all paid members of the Association. If you are a paid member and did not receive one, please contact me at mnvcanews@charter.net and I will get one to you. If you would like an additional copy or are not a member, they are available to purchase for \$5 each. Apologies to those of you who did not make it into this directory. A supplement to include those left out and new residents is planned for 2007. Look for the notice in upcoming newsletters.

-Marianne Cilluffo

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10 at 7 PM.

Special guest will be Deputy Masson speaking on the COPS program, specifically on the dirt bike problem in the neighborhood.

At the home of Rosemary Alden
901 Crater Camp Dr.
222-2936

ETI Corral 36 Seminar & Board Meeting,

Tuesday, October 10 at 7 PM.

Dr. Jenny Johnson, who will be speaking on the benefits of Shockwave Therapy for Horses.

Our speaker will be at 7:30 P.M. and there will be food for all of you hungry travelers.

The meeting will be at the home of Deborah Collins and Joseph Provenzano, 24232 Dry Canyon Cold Creek Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302; 818-225-1480.

Please RSVP to Deborah.

Zen Meditation

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm

Rosemary Taylor Alden
222-2936

ETI Corral 36 Play Day

Sat. Oct. 14, 2006

Malibu Valley Farms in Calabasas Stokes Cyn Rd
@ Mulholland Hwy (just east of Las Virgenes Rd)

Information from Melissa Austin – 818-224 2983

Or Alix Lawson – 818-707 2474

Universal Worship Service:

First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM

Marilyn Browning
222-6363

A Course in Miracles Study Group.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM

Marilyn Browning
222-6362

How to reach us:

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres. John Low 224-8062

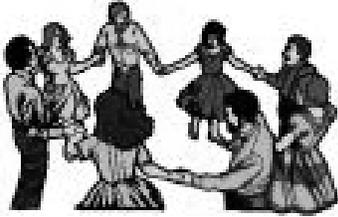
Treasurer: Cynthia Hodes 591-1026

Secretary: Lisa Lehman 837-7600

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at mnvca@charter.net, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities and the time and location of our Board meetings.

Contributions to the newsletter including nonprofit events to be listed in the calendar can be made by the 5th of the month to me (the editor) at 856 Wonder View Dr. or by email to mnvcanews@charter.net.

–*Marianne Cilluffo*



THE MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A

SQUARE DANCE AND DESSERT POT LUCK

Bring the family and your friends- children are welcome!! We will provide the fixins for a really good time- drinks, plates, tables, chairs and a great caller to lead you through the dancing!

WE ARE ASKING EACH FAMILY TO BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE.

You are welcome to bring a picnic to the meadow and have dinner there before the dancing starts. However, NO FIRES!

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

TIME: 6:00 - MEADOW OPENS FOR PICNICKERS
7:00 - DESSERT SERVICE STARTS (COFFEE AND TEA INCLUDED)
8:00 - DANCING BEGINS

PLACE: FLEEMAN'S MEADOW

COST: \$12.50 PER PERSON AND YOUR DESSERT (KIDS 8 & UNDER FREE)

PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY OCTOBER 14, 2005

USE THIS HANDY TEAR-OFF FORM!

Name: _____	Make Checks Payable to MNVCA
Telephone: _____	Send Checks to Cynthia Hodes, 959 Crater Oak Drive, Calabasas 91302
No. In Party: _____	Questions? Call 591-1026

NOTE: NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THE MEADOW, EVEN IF LEASHED!
Our insurance policy forbids it!