



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

April 2008

### **Ask not what Monte Nido can do for you. Ask, rather, what you can do for Monte Nido!**

JFK's oft-repeated exhortation for Americans to become engaged in efforts to improve our nation has great relevance for us in Monte Nido this month. It is an unfortunate truth that the shoulders of the few committed volunteers are sagging, and their numbers are dwindling. We need you to join the team! Please consider which of the following is the best match for your interests, talents, and time and then make the decision to get involved. It's rewarding, you'll learn more about what concerns and impacts us, and you'll be working with and getting to know other committed, interesting folks. Who knows? In the end, Monte Nido may do more for you than you do for Monte Nido!

#### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Already?**

Believe it or not, planning is getting underway for our annual community Independence Day celebration! It's time to start putting together the volunteer group and develop the theme. This event is always a highlight of the season and many residents' grown children return year after year to enjoy the festivities. But it can't happen without a group of people to plan and execute it. If this opportunity appeals to you, please contact Suzanne Bailey at [Suzyb0904@aol.com](mailto:Suzyb0904@aol.com) or

#### **Recruiting Block Captains**

Last year's fires made it clear that Monte Nido needs an organized system to alert us all in the event of danger or emergency. The Board has decided the simplest, most effective response will be to reactivate the Block Captain system. All the plans and materials are already in place. The only thing missing is people to make it happen. We need someone to act as "General" to shepherd the process, as well as Block Captains to take direct responsibility for their local street(s). If you can help Monte Nido plan for emergency situations, please contact Joan Slimocosky at 591-1082.

#### **Wanted: Want Ad Coordinator!**

The classified ads that appear monthly in this newsletter are not only a source of interest and information; in large part they fund this publication! Lynn Benjamin, who has faithfully compiled the ads for quite some time now, is retiring. We need someone to take on this task. It requires only a little time each month and a minimum of computer savvy. You can do it! Please help us keep this newsletter funded. To offer your services, contact any board member.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

Approximately 30 Monte Nido neighbors gathered in February to discuss a rash of recent unsettling incidents. Deputy Guido DeSantos made a presentation on how best to protect our neighborhood. He suggested:

- Lock all your car and home doors. The vast majority of robberies in Northern LA County occur when the victim has not locked a car or front door.
- Do not leave garage doors open, especially if you are not home. Thieves look for golf clubs or other valuable items that are easy to steal.
- Consider motion sensing outdoor lights and/or an alarm system.
- Do not leave outgoing mail in your mailbox. This is an easy target for thieves and a head start on identity theft. Mailbox theft has been a problem in Monte Nido for several years.
- Be wary of solicitors selling magazines or asking for donations for "school trips" and definitely do not invite them into your home. Solicitors can be thieves looking to size up your home for a future burglary.
- Report all incidents to the Monte Nido Sheriff at (818) 878-1808. Overall, the crime rate in MN is very low, however, police cannot get an accurate picture if neighbors do not report any incidents.

As a way to make the neighborhood safer, we are forming a Neighborhood Watch for Monte Nido. So far approximately 30 people have volunteered! The basics include:

- Watch out for your friends and neighbors. For example, let your neighbors know when you are out of town so mail/newspapers don't pile up and attract unwanted attention.
- Report any suspicious activity (i.e. unfamiliar cars driving slowly around the neighborhood) to the Monte Nido Sheriff at (818) 878-1808.
- Assign each volunteer one night per month to drive through the neighborhood several times during the evening to look for any suspicious activity.
- On your way home from work, take a few minutes to drive down a neighbor's street to look for anything unusual.
- Work with Sheriff's department to put up more "Neighborhood Watch" signs in Monte Nido.
- Request that the Sheriff patrol the neighborhood more actively.

If you are interested in signing up for neighborhood watch, please contact Nick Shurgot at (310) 658-0428 or [nshurgot@mac.com](mailto:nshurgot@mac.com).

## You're Invited

The community is invited to attend the annual Board Installation Brunch, honoring Lisa Lehman, Sunday, April 6 at 11:30AM at the home of Rosemary Alden, 901 Crater Camp Dr. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a suggested donation of \$5 to defray expenses. BYOB. RSVP to Rosemary at 222-2936.

## Friendly Reminder

The use of motorized equipment is illegal on all trails according to LA County Fire and Sheriffs Departments. If you see anyone violating this law, call 818-878-1808.

## Automated Emergency Calling

The City of Calabasas has instituted an automated emergency alert phoning service. For information and to sign up for this service go to <http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/connect-city.html>.

## Sh! Fido, Sh!

Most Monte Nido dog owners are generally very considerate about ensuring that their animals do not bark throughout the night. The only barking we usually hear at midnight is the coyotes up in the hills! During the day, however, it is a different story. Quite a few residents have flexible schedules, allowing them to be at home during the day. Dogs left outside can often shatter the neighborhood's tranquility with uncontrolled, incessant barking which can be very annoying and a huge disruption to the peace and quiet we all cherish. There are various training programs and devices available that can curb a dog's tendency to bark unnecessarily. Several of my neighbors have done one or more of these things over the years to calm their animals, with excellent results. To help preserve the unique and pristine quality of life in Monte Nido, please consider these simple daytime suggestions: If you are at home and your dogs begin to bark, do not let them go on indefinitely. If you are away during the day, try not to leave your dogs outside, unattended, for prolonged periods. If you have already received any complaints from your neighbors about daytime barking, be as considerate as possible, and try to do something to remedy the situation. Tempers can elevate quickly over an unresolved issue like this. Let's work together to keep Monte Nido a peaceful rural haven in the midst of frantic Los Angeles! Tom Canning

Note from the Board: The Homeowners Association encourages neighbors to deal directly and cordially with each other on these issues, and does not act as an enforcer. If you cannot amicably resolve your dispute, you can call the LA County Dept of Animal Care and Control at 818-991-0071.

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10 pm in the home of Les Hardie. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Joan Kay, Sheila Kalivas, Joan Slimocosky, Les Hardie, Suzanne Bailey, and Marianne Cilluffo. Also attending was Debbie DiMascio on behalf of ETI Corral 36. Minutes were reviewed, comments invited. Motion to approve minutes from the December meeting was moved and approved. **Treasurer's report** given, including current balance and reimbursements needed. Motion to approve expenses seconded and

approved. **Old Business:** 1. *Correspondence:* thank you note from Gina Natoli re LCP, letter from Pony Cross Farm re: cc of letter to Zev re "Share the Road" signage. 2. *Fire Preparedness* Event on Jan 31 at Salvation Army Camp. Lynn Benjamin (Arson Watch rep) will oversee this event and coordinate publicity. Les Hardie suggested adding flooding issues to the symposium to cover all concerns we face living in this area, noting local disaster deaths in the past have been from floods, not fires. Federation email list would also be a good way to disseminate the meeting info. 3. *Community Alerts:* addressing a desire for mass-phone systems- it is available: phone, email and text msg. for same price, and Joan Slimocosky followed up with the company. It's about 7\$ per household annually for unlimited use. Expense would be paid by the MNVCA Association (about \$2100) and raise dues to recoup, or bill homeowners individually. Joan S. suggests putting in newsletter, and at meeting, get people to sign up to indicate interest, mention this as a perk of being member. Or -- 5\$ for members, \$10 for non-members. 4. *Safe Canyons:* Suzanne Bailey drafted a thank-you letter to the CHP, which was reviewed, approved and will be sent. There was a suggestion to request local property owners on the smaller local streets to put signs on their own land where it abuts the roads for drivers to see. Debbie Dimascio will get prices for signage and the Assoc. would be willing pay for signs, to be announced at the 1/31 meeting for willing property owners. 5. *LCP* - - Joan Kay spoke with Ben Saltzman : at least a month before we have any date. 6. *Minder Property:* discussed possible development in Liberty Canyon. 7. *Triangle/James Rasmussen:* letter of thanks for completion of landscaping and offering an arrangement to maintain a watering schedule written by Gary Bardovi. 8. *MNVCA Secretary position:* Joan Slimocosky will address with Jill Reiss the issue of joining the board so that she can act as Secretary. **New business:** 1. *Cold Creek Middle Trail:* The MRT has bought a 56-acre parcel just south of Will Smith's property. The Goldins contacted MRT and made a deal wherein the MRT will hold the property until a public Park Agency is able to assume responsibility. This allows our Cold Creek Middle Trail to remain open and unmolested. 2. *Winter banquet/installation dinner:* possible date: tentative date Sunday March 9, 2008. 3. Joan Slimocosky to do *membership letter*. 4. Question arose about staying on *email list* if a person moves. They remain on the list unless they request to be removed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and adjourned 8:50pm

### How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at [mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com), to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 222-1995

**Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at [mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com)**

# MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

April 2008

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHITECT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sensitive to budget &amp; lifestyle. Responsive to the land and environment. Monte Nido resident for over 25 years <b>Warren Lawson 591-0646</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">In business for over 20 years, your business is appreciated. It is my professional and personal pleasure to live in Monte Nido. <b>Gail A. Lowe 222-5543</b> <a href="mailto:gailcb@earthlink.net">gailcb@earthlink.net</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 yrs. How much is your house worth? Call for a complementary market analysis. <b>Tracy Bunetta 222-2272</b> <a href="http://MonteNidoRealEstate.com">MonteNidoRealEstate.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">We provide general dentistry, orthodontics, invisalign, sedation dentistry (great if you are high fear), implants, and cosmetic dentistry. Monte Nido resident practicing for over 20 yrs in Sherman Oaks. <b>Michael Bjornbak, DDS 818-781-3411</b> <a href="http://www.shermanoaksdental.com">www.shermanoaksdental.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PIANO LESSONS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">beginners and advanced <b>Call Aukse 222-6947</b> or cell 310-500-5121</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESIDENT RECOMMENDS HELPER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">who has helped raise their children and worked for families in Monte Nido for 20years. Available for baby/child/animal sitting, late day/over night, even house sitting. Excellent local references, has car. <b>For more information call 917-9066</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PSYCHOTHERAPY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Specializing in eating disorders and adolescent problems. <b>DAWN THEODORE, MA, MFT 679-6204</b> <a href="mailto:dawn@calabasaseatingdisorders.com">dawn@calabasaseatingdisorders.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PERSONAL TRAINING &amp; REHAB THERAPIST</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gyrotonics 3D Fitness of Calabasas <b>DEAN THEODORE 679-6205</b> <a href="mailto:dean@3dfitnessofcalabasas.com">dean@3dfitnessofcalabasas.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHITECT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Custom homes and Remodels <b>Gary Bardovi 222-0313</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXTERIOR DESIGN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Landscape, pools, fireplaces, patios, BBQ's Everything to enhance your outdoor living! <b>Nick Williams 996-4010</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESIGN &amp; BUILD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor <b>917-1803</b> <a href="http://www.designblue.com">www.designblue.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADDLE PEAK LODGE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, BRUNCH SA-SU 11am-3pm Special Wednesday Farmers' Market menu Blue jean friendly, new air conditioning Ask about our complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. <b>222 3888</b></p>

**Contact Lynn Benjamin to place an ad**  
**Phone: 222-2568      Email: [lynnben@charter.net](mailto:lynnben@charter.net)**  
**Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month**  
**Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Lynn Benjamin, P.O.Box 461, Malibu, CA 90265**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**MNVCA Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 13, 7PM  
At the home of Marianne Cilluffo  
856 Wonderview Dr.  
876-3019

**MNVCA Board Installation Brunch**  
Sunday, April 6, 11:30AM  
At the home of Rosemary Alden  
901 Crater Camp Drive  
Bring a potluck dish, \$5 donation, BYOB.  
RSVP 818-222-2936

**ETI Corral 36**  
Tuesday, April 1st, 7PM  
At the home of Rod & Judy Bergen  
565 Mountain Green Dr.  
818-591 7896  
Rod Bergen will present On the Road Again  
and demonstrate proper selection,  
maintenance & operation  
of a tow vehicle and horse Trailer

**Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting**  
Thursday, April 17, 7:30PM  
Diamond X Ranch  
(Off Mulholland)

**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

**Zen Meditation**  
Thursday evenings at 7:30pm  
Rosemary Taylor Alden  
222-2936

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Monte Nido Valley Community Association  
PO Box 8054  
Calabasas, CA 91372

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Please deliver by April 3, 2008

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