



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

March/April 2013

We're Back !

With a new edition of the MNVCA Newsletter. Mary Helen Young is attempting to assist MNVCA Secretary Jill Reiss by serving as editor for this issue. Ann Monahan has kindly offered to help with future editions. We are considering issuing an e-Newsletter about once per Quarter with news of MNVCA meetings and local current events. However, with Nextdoor Monte Nido (see below) providing continuous sharing of news and announcements, it may be that this venerable newsletter will become redundant and that timely e-mail blasts from MNVCAnewsletter@gmail.com plus Nextdoor Monte Nido will keep us up to date better. Let us know what you think.

What's in this Edition:

Preview of July 4th Parade and Picnic

Many, many Thanks to outgoing President Les Hardie

A welcome to our new MNVCA President, Carrie Baltin

Report on March 12, 2013 Neighborhood organizing meeting with Sheriff's office

Nextdoor Monte Nido

Minutes of the MNVCA Board meetings since the last ones issued

Upcoming Board meeting April 9, 2013

JULY 4TH PARADE AND PICNIC preview

The MNVCA Board of Directors plans to continue the tradition of a

Theme Contest
for the July 4, 2013
Monte Nido Parade and Picnic!!!
Send us your great ideas!!!
(email to mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com)

AND PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP!

Remember, none of the July 4th festivities happen all by themselves. It takes "people power". We really do NEED YOU to help, either in advance or that day or both! The first planning for this year's celebration will be done at the April 9, 2013 Board meeting. We will send out more information shortly after that meeting.

July 4th Equestrians Important Notice!!

As many of you will remember, all of our wonderful equestrians participating in the MNVCA 4th of July Parade with a horse, pony, mule or donkey are covered by insurance provided to MNVCA by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36. No equestrian may participate in the parade with an animal without first signing the WAIVER & RELEASE FOR EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, INC., ACTIVITIES. More details on this and the waiver forms necessary for equestrian participation will be sent out prior to the July 4 events.

Thanks Les Hardie

Thank you, Les Hardie for your tireless and invaluable service to the community as MNVCA President these past two years and for the many "tours of duty" as a leader and community Spark Plug in the years before and, in advance, for the work you continue to do every year.

Thanks Carrie Baltin

Thanks to Carrie Baltin for agreeing to lend her very capable hands to the helm as President of MNVCA starting January, 2013. As you will read in the Minutes of the recent Board meeting, she will be assisted by:

Vice President Joan Slimocosky (who also represents us at regional association meetings and events and has been a tireless leader in this community for many years)

Secretary Jill Reiss

Treasurer Judy Goldin

And Board Members Heidi Stompe, Yehuda Netanel, Joan Kay, Josh Cudworth, Reva Smilkstein, Gary Wooller, Mary Helen Young

And if you have NOT already joined the MNVCA ...

It's only \$50 a year (\$25 for new members) to support the organization that supports you. The MNVCA organizes and finances insurance and infrastructure (like tables, microphones, trash, food) and other expenses for the July 4th parade and picnic, and the autumn BBQ and Square Dance. Board members and community volunteers organize and staff the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, Fire Safe Council, the monthly Bulletin Board and this newsletter. They represent our interests at Las Virgenes Homeowner's Association, at County Supervisor meetings, and with local developers to protect our rural character and our trails. Your donation helps make all this, and more, possible. It's a small price to pay for a big return! Please mail your membership checks to MNVCA P.O. Box 8054, Calabasas, CA 91372-8054.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting March 12, 2013 at Salvation Army Camp

About 60 Monte Nido residents met March 12 at 7:00PM with Los Angeles County, Lost Hill Station Deputies Robert Desantis and Shawn Brownell at the Salvation Army Camp along with MNVCA Board members to hear common sense advice on keeping our families and community safe from crime. Even though the Monte Nido neighborhoods have experienced a low crime historically, there are things to keep in mind to keep it that way. The number one pointer is to lock our cars and secure our homes at all times. The second is to be aware of the comings and goings in the neighborhood and report suspicious activity or strange patterns to the Lost Hills Sheriff's station (818-878-1808). The Sheriff's deputies do not mind coming over to check things out even if it turns out completely harmless. The speakers advised not opening doors to solicitors and reporting any aggressive or intrusive soliciting to the Sheriff's station.

Because our community is rural and spread out, it is not a good candidate for a traditional Neighborhood Watch program, but rather an informal watching after each other and general awareness. 911 calls made from land lines in our community will be automatically routed to the Lost Hills Station. You need to be prepared to describe your location if you call 911 from a cell phone in the neighborhood. The deputies advised calling 911 directly in an emergency rather than relying on any alarm system/security company to do so. Deputies Desantis and Brownell also briefed the group on the details surrounding the explosion and fire on Crater Camp the previous day as there had been some erroneous reports in some of the news media. Also remember that the local Fire Station is a safe refuge if there is fear of imminent danger from crime. The Fire Station will immediately call the Lost Hill's Sheriff's Station.

More details from the meeting are in the notes sent out by Jill Reiss in an e-mail blast from mnvcanewletter@gmail.com March 13 as well as on Nextdoor Monte Nido. The website for the Sheriff's station is at <http://shq.lasdnews.net/pages/patrolstation.aspx?id=lhs>.

Nextdoor Monte Nido

Over recent months, Bella Frymer has generously devoted time and effort to make the private social network Nextdoor for neighborhoods available in Monte Nido. On this site you can send messages to individuals or groups, look at the local Events posted, check out a Crime and Safety section, Classified and free stuff sections, and get general information being posted by neighbors on many topics. If you have not joined, you can ask to be invited by a neighbor who is already a member or visit the Nextdoor website and specify Monte Nido as the neighborhood, and you will be guided through the process for signing up. It is free and you can include as much or as little information as you please.

Minutes from recent Board meetings are reprinted below:

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting May, 2012

MNVCA Board Meeting May 8, 2012. Meeting was called to order at 7:05PM at the home of Heidi Stompe. Present from the community were Stephanie & Chuck Abronson and Gary Bardovi Present from the board were Joan Slimocosky, Lois and Dick Love, Les Hardie, Josh Cudworth, Jill Reiss, Heidi Stompe, Joan Kay, John Lowe. Agenda changes – add Triangle update and Federation banquet report. Minutes: Motion to approve Minutes from March 2012 passed. Stephanie Abronson wants to be on the list to receive the Minutes via email. Treasurer Report – Joan Slimocosky reported for Judy Goldin –Memberships keep dribbling in. Federation Banquet report – Joan Kay reported. Linda Parks was the honoree (she's running for Congress). Address was delivered by Dr. H Bradley Shaffer, Prof. at Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA. He is a salamander expert. Anyone in the community who wants to put together units of land to support the wildlife he's studying is welcome to be in his group. His speech discussed the surprisingly large acreages of land that it takes to support small species. Zev Yaroslavsky discussed Molina's attempt to gerrymander our supervisorial district and thanked his constituents for supporting him in that regard. Yaroslavsky conferred with Lester of the Coastal Commission and assured us that we will have a local coastal plan by end of next year. Joan Kay was recognized at the banquet for her long and dedicated service in behalf of re-districting and the community. A detailed history of politics and events in our community are documented on the LVHF website. No communications

have been received. Old Business: Piuma/Quaker Ross/Vintage Properties update – Gary Bardovi reported. Yehuda Netanel, Gary Bardovi, and Jill Reiss met with Vintage developers (Osgood, the architect and two construction partners) at Yehuda's house on May 1. Hardie provided a brief historical overview of the relationship/meetings with Osgood et al prior to the May 1 meeting, including the letter of agreement between us and the developer which emphasized that dedication of the 5 lots is of paramount importance, (and which was reiterated at the May 1 meeting). The developer assured us on May 1 that 5 lots would be dedicated to open space by the bank within approximately the next 2 months. The transfer is being coordinated by Ben Saltsman in Zev's office. It is not clear yet which agency will receive the lots. Most of the May 1 meeting concerned the planned architecture. The developer had character study elevations & site plans reflecting the use of CA architecture inspired by Cliff May and Wallace Neff. Homes will be predominantly 1 story, nestled in to their pads, which will not be expanded. Only some pads will permit buyers to build pools. Bardovi thinks it's being well handled. Joan Slimocosky questioned the composition of the committee and a rather lengthy discussion on the position the community should take with regard to dealing with the developer ensued. Joan Kay wanted to be on the committee; at this time however, she's comfortable leaving the committee as it stands. Hardie explained that he removed himself from the committee in order to remain completely neutral. Joan Kay wants to have more access to info on this issue. She was assured that the full board will be included in every email discussing items of interest about this. We need to notify Ben Saltsman to let us know when the developer applies for a site plan approval and concept. At that point we can review developer's plans to ascertain that they are the same plans we've seen and approved. Discussion was ended when Hardie declared the matter closed. Joan Slimocosky excused herself from the meeting at that time. Pool/Water signs for fire dept – Months ago we polled the community to determine who has a pool and would be willing to display a sign. Hardie knows a company from which we could purchase the signs to distribute to homes for display either year round or during fire season. Estimate for 30 signs is roughly \$600. Motion to purchase 30 signs for approximately \$600 to provide for local pools passed. Hardie will handle the order. Fleeman scholarship – At the March 2012 meeting the board approved a donation to LVUSD. Hardie talked to Phil Fleeman about it. Both Phil and Geri Fleeman are in failing health so time is of the essence. Lois Love reported she heard from Joan Slimocosky that the school wants info on Fleemans' personal histories. Joan Kay suggested that giving Geri some kind of plaque to commemorate the scholarship might trigger some awareness despite her challenges. Hardie will try to get a biography from their family. All of this needs to be done quickly to provide for recipients in this spring's graduating class (1 each from arts and sciences). July 4 – Lois Love and Tracy Bunetta will chair and coordinate again. Question is whether we can use Fleeman's meadow? And what contingency will there be in the event that we cannot? And if we find that we cannot in close time proximity to the event? Les Hardie will approach the family as to their preferences. An alternative site should be identified for the long term if and when the meadow is sold. Abronson will again handle ETI insurance for the horses in the parade. There will again be a contest for kids to suggest the theme. Ideas need to be turned in by end of May. Secretary will send notice and include in next newsletter. July 4 committee meeting will be in June at Love's house. Next board meeting should be July but will be postponed until September 11 at

Bardovis' house...845 Cold Canyon, 222-0313. Meeting Adjourned 8:20PM.
Respectfully submitted, Jill Reiss

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting September, 2012

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Nov. 13, 2012

Meeting of the MNVCA Board of Directors Nov 13, 2012 at home of Joan Slimocosky
Meeting was called to order at 7:14PM.

Role called...Present from the board: Les Hardie, Carrie Baltin, Judy Goldin, Heidi Stompe, Joan Slimocosky, Jill Reiss

Present from the community: Gary Wooller, Mary Helen Young, Rodger Reiss, Bella Frymer, Reva Smilkstein, Stephanie Abronson, Jeanne Benson, Randi Goodman, Christian Jacobsen

Minutes from September 2012 meeting were approved, pending a quorum.

Introductions were made all around.

Treasurer's report – Square Dance ended up in the red. Expenses were \$550, last year they were \$534. Discussion ensued as to whether maybe we should charge more money next year. The premium for Officers and Directors' Board insurance is due with Lemark Casualty. The cost has increased once again. Les Hardie will contact the agent to investigate if we can get a better rate and if our coverage is adequate and appropriate. The checking account balance is \$770; the CD holds \$11,000+.

Square Dance - Randi Goodman reported she needs a bigger, better committee next year. She didn't do anything different except the food, which came from Rib Ranch, and wasn't that much more expensive. There was a small problem with Andy Fleeman due to misunderstandings and tire marks. Randi has prepared a thank you note for him explaining what happened and hoping to clear the air for next year. Joan Slimocosky will also talk to Fleeman.

Pool Signs - Reimbursements are due to Les Hardie for the purchase expense. We still have about 8 left. Jill Reiss will send a notice to email list to remind people to post the ones they have and solicit 8 more locations.

Federation Report: The following explanation of what The Federation is was provided for guests at the meeting. The Fed is an umbrella of 29 local homeowners' associations. Re: John Low - Joan Slimocosky reported there were many tributes to John Low at the last meeting. And Deborah Low held a memorial for John as well – about 150 people attended. There was also a 2nd memorial in Minneapolis. Joan Slimocosky will write a memorial for the newsletter. Joan Slimocosky will continue to be the MNVCA

representative to the Federation. Other Fed business: The Old Place Restaurant wants to use the mailing address 'Cornell' instead of 'Agoura Hills'. Fran Pavley, State Senator, did win re-election despite redistricting. Water district rep explained the rate increase. There's a culvert at Liberty Canyon for animals to cross the 101 and go under Agoura Road – a developer wants to develop it but the Conservancy has agreed to purchase and protect that land.

Communications:

Old Business: Vintage Properties – developer has purchased the 5 lots to be dedicated to open space but there's no update on what he's doing with them.

New Business: Next Door Monte Nido, Road Cleanup, Newsletter new editor.

General meeting adjourned at 8PM... Meeting to elect new board called to order at 8PM. Up for re-election are Hardie, Reiss, Baltin, Love, Stompe, Goldin. Low must be replaced. Hardie and Loves withdraw their names from consideration for the Board. Stompe, Goldin, Baltin, Reiss agreed to remain on board (Reiss and Stompe will step down if anyone wishes to replace them). Nominated for the 3 empty positions were Mary Helen Young, Gary Wooller, Reva Smilkstein. Motion to bring these 3 people onto board carried.

General Meeting adjourned and meeting of the new Board of Directors convened at 8:18PM.

Motocross Bikers: Stephanie Abronson raised issue of bikers on horse trails. She has talked with sheriff's department. Once the riders are identified the sheriffs will talk to them. Bikes pose danger to horses and riders as well as fire hazard. Tracks are frequently noticed. Abronson wants to mail a notice to all of Rural Route 1 to make sure everyone is notified. There were suggestions to: consider a banner on Piuma as well as a reward in addition/in lieu of mailing: to put signs on the trails with a notice that motocross is illegal and dangerous: to state if/what the fine is. Stephanie will talk to Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office to see if they can offer any help/suggestions.

Next Door Monte Nido – Bella Frymer reported that she has set up Monte Nido on Next Door, a virtual neighborhood infrastructure. The whole neighborhood can go online to conduct its business/pleasure/communications. We can use it to text an e-blast in case of emergency. It allows dynamic, efficient, safe, private interaction and expansion of community involvement. You can choose to receive all notifications or to filter them, individually. Geography on Monte Nido neighborhood includes Saddle Peak Lodge but they are not currently eligible to join – neighbors would have to invite them in. Bella Frymer is the current leader for the site. To join, go to Google and search Next Door Monte Nido. Once you input your address you are automatically eligible to join if you live within the geographical boundaries. We should send an e-blast to the email list to invite everyone to join.

Street Cleanup – Adopt a Highway...Best to do it before the rains begin. Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe will organize.

Newsletter: Conversation about continuation of newsletter – in what form? – does it have to be regular? – should we have a blog? What should a newsletter look like going forward? The question of whether or not a newsletter in its current “formal” form should continue to exist was tabled until the next meeting.

Next meeting: January 8, 2013, at Carrie Baltin’s house.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.
Respectfully submitted, Jill Reiss

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2013

Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2013 at home of Carrie and Brent Baltin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM.

Present from board: Josh Cudworth, Jill Reiss, Carrie Baltin, Reva Smilkstein, Joan Slimocosky, Heidi Stompe, Les Hardie (retiring) Mary Helen Young, Joan Kay, Judy Goldin, Lois and Dick Love (retiring), Yehuda Netanel, Gary Wooller

Present from the community:
Sheila Rosenthal, Bella Frymer

Minutes: Nov 13... Motion passed to approve November 13, 2012 minutes as written.

Federation report: Joan Slimocosky reported on the Dec. 2012 meeting:

- There was discussion of our Dark Skies communities. The CA arts and education center in Mulholland has complied with a request from the Federation to dim lights. The City of Calabasas and County of LA have dark skies ordinances pending. (The Board would like to reiterate in our newsletters that we are a Dark Skies community and encourage residents to comply. New people in neighborhood may be unaware and should be encouraged to dim lights).
- There is a comet coming in fall 2013 which will be cool to see.
- Zev Yaroslovsky has received a grant for 2 pieces of property that are inaccessible to public along backbone trail along the rim of the Valley around Simi Hills. One of the properties belongs to Schwartzenegger. Yaroslovsky is working to get easements.

- Cougars have to go to great lengths to get under Agoura Road to travel the N/S corridor through their stomping grounds. Property has been acquired to alleviate this problem.
- There will be a full day workshop Saturday January 12 at Huntington Library about maintaining health of Oak Trees. (Les Hardie added, as an aside never to water them in the summer, don't grow grass near them, don't clear the natural thick mulch from under them).
- The new superintendent for National Parks, Simensky, who took over from Woody Smeck will be at Diamond X Ranch at next Fed meeting. (third Wed of month)
- Election of new council members for City of Calabasas upcoming in March.
- Fed meetings have been covering a lot about the Rocketdyne cleanup in Simi. Several different agencies are charged with cleaning it up and need to coordinate and get it accomplished.

Next Door Monte Nido – Bella Frymer had questions about the boundary. People on the MNVCA emailing list who live outside of the current boundary want to join the Next Door site. Jill Reiss can send an email blast to everyone on our list instructing them to send their street addresses to Bella if they want to join Next Door MN. Bella can invite the Fire Station to join.

Emergency information communication - Joan Kay can invite Jay Lopez to speak about "One Call NOW and SNAP (Special Needs Awareness Planning) which is a county function. It gets in touch through LA county with people who are especially needy (disabled, etc with special needs). Bella Frymer pointed out that Next Door can facilitate the same kind of communication via email/text and she can bring a safety officer from the City of Calabasas to discuss this.

Osgood Development - Les Hardie sent an email to the board about his fairly recent conversation (Dec 17) with Ben Saltsman, Zev Yaroslavsky Land Use Deputy, about the Osgood properties along Piuma. Les read his note to the Board.

Pool signs – Les Hardie still has about 5-6 additional pool signs available for whoever might need it.

Bulk Mail – Judy Goldin reported that the price of bulk mail is increasing so if we don't prepay \$190 our permit will expire and it will cost more. She is not sure if it's for bulk mail permit or pre-pay postage. Motion to pay the required amount whichever it is for passed. (NOTE: following the meeting Judy did determine that the payment is for the permit).

Old Business – Jill Reiss expressed her appreciation to the Board for the generous gift for her services in publishing the newsletter the past several years.

Election of Officers of MNVCA Board of Directors for 2013 – Current (2013) Board consists of Carrie Baltin, Josh Cudworth, Judy Goldin, Joan Kay, Yehuda Netanel, Jill Reiss, Joan Slimocosky, Reva Smilkstein, Heidi Stompe, Gary Wooller, Mary-Helen Young

New Officers were elected for 2013, by acclamation:

President: Carrie Baltin

VP: Joan Slimocosky

Treasurer: Judy Goldin

Secretary: Jill Reiss

New Business: Bella Frymer wonders if the Board is interested in using Next Door site for community communication. Bella could scan info into the site. 98 Houses so far have joined. There are 287 houses within the boundaries. Boundaries will stop at Stunt and Stokes Canyon.

Yehuda Netanel – Inquires if others are concerned about water bills. Several of us have seen huge increases in bills. Joan Slimocosky will talk to Deborah Low about getting someone to talk to us about water rates.

Next Meeting – March 12 at Mary Helen Young's house

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted, Jill Reiss

*All neighbors are welcome
and encouraged to attend Board meetings.
We welcome your interest and involvement!*

The next MNVCA Board meeting will be April 9, 2013
at the home of Mary Helen and Steve Young at 550
Live Oak Circle Dr. 818-222-6762

At this meeting we expect to be hearing from Sophia
Wong, Store & Events Manager of Western National
Parks Association, Santa Monica Mountains National
Recreation Area on local park events and plans. If we

get confirmation that the Park representative will be at the April 9 meeting, a special notice will be sent out. Please join us if you can.

Thank you from the Board and our community equestrians to all the friendly Monte Nido neighbors who allow horses to cross their properties.

And Thanks to all who help us keep Monte Nido a Dark Sky Community by minimizing outdoor lighting

If you have any questions, or would like to submit information or articles for publication in future issues of this newsletter, please contact Mary Helen Young at mnvcnewsletter@gmail.com