



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

December 2007

Fire Season Continues

Fire season continues unabated, despite the recent welcome rainy day. At the December meeting, the Board will hold a discussion about the October and November fires. The goal is to deconstruct the experience to try to determine what the various homeowners in the community did, how well the emergency responses worked, what went right, what went wrong, and what might be improved. The community is encouraged to attend this meeting to share your insights and experiences, and to help ensure that Monte Nido is well prepared the next time fire threatens.

West Nile Virus Alert

On Wednesday morning Nov. 7th a neighbor found a dead crow near their horse corrals. Their veterinary office advised them to have the bird tested for West Nile Virus. They called the Department of Health Services and safely bagged up the bird for the County to pick up and test. Later the same day, Dr. Karen Ehnert, from LA County Vet Public Health, responded that the bird had, indeed, tested positive for West Nile Virus. (LA County Vet Public Health is responsible for animal disease surveillance in LA County, including collecting dead birds and tree squirrels for West Nile Virus testing.)

West Nile Virus is entrenched in our local ecology. It's here to stay! But there are some things we can do to help control it. Be sure to remove all standing water from your property. Pools and stagnant water are breeding areas for mosquitoes, which are the vector for the disease. Make sure your window screens are secure. Don't leave your doors open, and use mosquito repellent. And be certain to vaccinate your horses twice a year.

If you find a dead bird or tree squirrel do not handle it. Seal it in a plastic bag. Do not refrigerate or freeze it. Instead, place another bag filled with ice on top of it to keep the animal cool. Have the animal picked up by the County to be tested. Be sure to ask for a report.

By the time this newsletter is published, the county vector control should have already

completed spraying the stagnant water pools in our local creeks. If you live on a partially dry creek which was not sprayed, or you have other areas on your property which were not sprayed but you think should be, you can call LA County Westside Vector Control to request that they spray those pools for mosquitoes.

For more information, go to www.westnile.ca.gov.

West Nile Virus Contact Info

These are some important contact numbers, referenced in the previous article. You may want to keep them handy.

Hotline for dead birds and tree squirrels

877 - 968 2473.

Operators available: 8 am - 5 pm / 7 days a week.

After 5 pm, please leave a message.

LA County Vet Public Health

562-401-7088.

LA County Westside Vector Control

310 915 7370

Adopt-a-Highway

Have you noticed that our local roads are a bit cleaner? The annual Adopt-a Highway cleanup was held on Saturday, Dec. 1. Many thanks to the following neighbors who gathered up trash along Malibu Canyon/Las Virgenes Road and the creek. Imogen, Milo, Francesca and Ben Browder, John and Justin Cudworth, Max, Olivia, A.J, and Dayne Sieling, Evan and Les Hardie, Joan Bruhn, Joan Slimocosky, and Marianne Cilluffo.

○ The Circle of Life ○

In Memoriam

John Workman, resident of Monte Nido for 38 years, passed away on Oct. 29, 2007, at the age of 85. Mr. Workman moved with his family (wife Ellyeen, son and daughter John and Jill, several dogs, cats, horses, and eventually, a rescued raccoon, desert tortoise, two sparrows and a miniature Abyssinian donkey with enough lung power to be heard braying over the entire Monte

NidoValley), to this community in 1969, while working at Lockheed in Burbank where he was an aerospace design engineer for 43 years. "Johnny" believed that living in the open spaces, under stars that still shone brightly in the dark night skies, was well-worth the commute. He rode the Monte Nido bus to the Board of Supervisors more than once to fight the "triangle" development. He survived several fires and floods; the fire in 1970 burned right to his fence. Ellyeen Workman, his wife of 54 years, passed away in 2000, but John continued to live in their hillside home.

Johnny loved the playful breezes of this "mountain nest", the moonlight on the fog creeping over the high mountain ridges, the nightly serenade of coyotes, crickets, frogs, and rushing spring waters, occasional visitations by raccoons, deer, bobcats, and cougars, the cliff swallows that built their mud nests under his eaves with ritual determination every spring, and the lovely, shimmering, hummingbirds that used to stop by the house for sips of red nectar on long summer evenings. They once came in groups of forty or more, setting the air afire with the buzz of delicate, iridescent wings.

Johnny loved the independent spirit of the Monte Nido community. A Captain in the Army Air Corps during WWII who saw his share of battles, Johnny considered his neighbors, "a bunch of really good fighters," when it came to stopping some of the greedy developers that threatened this community's rural lifestyle. For Johnny, the strong sense of privacy and individuality he discovered living in Monte Nido went hand in hand with an equally strong sense of belonging to a unique community.

His daughter, Jill, tells us that during a recent visit to Monte Nido, just after her father's death, two red-tailed hawks followed her car for some distance, playfully diving and swooping in front of her vehicle, before heading for the oak trees, then disappearing into the sky. She likes to think it was a kind of "good-bye song," carried gently by the mountain breezes: a message, a song, from Mom and Dad, who loved this special place on earth, letting her know they're together once again. *Submitted by John's daughter, Jill Workman-Isenberg*

Election Results

Elections for MNVCA Community Association Board of Directors were held at the November meeting. Suzanne Bailey was elected to replace Lisa Lehman, who resigned and will be missed. The Board extends a warm welcome to Suzanne. The remaining members who were up for reelection were returned to the board for another term. Election of officers will take place at the December meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting OCTOBER 9, 2007

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:15 pm in the home of Heidi Stompe. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Joan Kay, Lisa Lehman, Sheila Kalivas, Jocelyn MacKay, Yehuda Netanel, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe along with other members of the community. Guest Speakers included: J. Lopez of the L.A. County Fire Department-Forestry

Division; Ben Saltsman-Deputy from Zev's Yarovslovsky's office and Hal Helsley of Regional Planning Commission. **Agenda** Agenda changes were made. **Minutes** Not discussed. **Treasurer's Report** Account balances were reviewed. There are currently 108 paid members in the MNVCA for 2007. **Correspondence** None **Federation Report** No Report **Old Business** *Local Coastal Plan (LCP)* Ben Saltsman presented his views on the Draft proposal to be presented to the County Board of Supervisors on October 23. The land use plan that is currently in effect is inadequate to protect the natural and scenic resources in our area. The North Area Plan (NAP) finalized in 2005 set a base for the LCP. Where the NAP is subject to interpretation, the LCP is very specific providing a set of common rules that ensure equality and continuity into the future. Following the 10/23 meeting the LCP will go back to staff for fine-tuning. After the final changes are made the Board will hear it again in December and vote to approve or continue it. Following the Supervisors' approval, the Coastal Commission will most likely hear the plan in the spring of 2008. The Commission is expected to be resistant to many aspects of the LCP. Monte Nido representatives and other local community members are planning to attend the County meeting to reiterate important concerns. *Goats for Fuel Reduction/Brush Clearance* One tool for preventative fire fighting is the use of goats to clear brush. Private vendors own/manage the goats. The goats eat many varieties of plants, including poison oak and are managed by one to two herders along with dogs. The cost is \$300-1500 per acre depending on the difficulty of the terrain. The Fire Department web site has a list of recommended vendors for this service. *BBQ/Square Dance* To date, no volunteers have come forward to coordinate this event. An alternative event in the spring may be considered at the King Gillette Ranch in conjunction with Cold Canyon Homeowners Association. **New Business** *Arson Watch* A \$500 Donation was approved by the Board. *Annual Election of New Board Members* Nominating committee to include Joan Kay and a yet un-named community member. This year the seats occupied by Joan Kay, Joan Slimocosky-President, John Low-Vice President, and Lisa Lehman-Secretary are up for election. New Board members will be elected at the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Lehman

How to reach us:

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.

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 876-3019

Secretary: Lisa Lehman 837-7600

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com

MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

December 2007

<p style="text-align: center;">MALIBU FIRE VICTIM</p> <p>needs to rent 1 bedroom or studio with kitchen, 6 months to 1 yr. Pepperdine employee, non-smoker, local references. Call Pauline at 224-4877 or (work) 310-506-8563</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</p> <p>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. Michael Bjornbak, DDS 818-781-3411 www.shermanoaksdental.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p>Sensitive to budget & lifestyle. Responsive to the land and environment. Monte Nido resident for over 25 years Warren Lawson 591-0646</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE</p> <p>In business for over 20 years, your business is appreciated. It is my professional and personal pleasure to live in Monte Nido. Gail A. Lowe 222-5543 gailcb@earthlink.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE</p> <p>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. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED</p> <p>To start Dec., Jan. preferred. Minimum 3 bedrooms, unfurnished. Currently renting in Monte Nido. Excellent references Marlane Zamm, Alfred Zamm, M.D. 225-0705 marlanezamm@aol.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PIANO LESSONS</p> <p>beginners and advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING</p> <p>Owner operated, reasonable rates DAMON 222 6704</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p>Custom homes and Remodels Gary Bardovi 222-0313</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXTERIOR DESIGN</p> <p>Landscape, pools, fireplaces, patios, BBQ's Everything to enhance your outdoor living! Nick Williams 996-4010</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DESIGN & BUILD</p> <p>Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SADDLE PEAK LODGE</p> <p>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. 222 3888</p>

Contact Lynn Benjamin to place an ad
Phone: 222-2568 Email: 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

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, Dec 11, 7PM
At the home of Jocelyn Mackay
703 Wonderview Dr.
818-222-7032

ETI Corral 36

Annual General Meeting, Elections, & Holiday Party and Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7PM
At Cottontail Ranch
1666 Las Virgenes Canyon Road
RSVP to Mia Boudreau
818-224-3496 or mia@malibuvalley.com

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, Dec 20, 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

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

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