



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

February 2009

### Road Cleanup- Sat. Feb 21

A million thanks to Heidi Stompe who has generously volunteered to organize the annual road cleanup. Please put the date on your calendar, Sat. Feb 21, and plan to spend an hour or so helping to keep our community and environment clean. Watch for signs posted around the community for more information as the date approaches.

### Saddle Peak Lodge Firemen's Fundraiser

Saddle Peak Lodge has asked us to help inform the neighborhood that they will once again host a fundraising dinner for the fire station on Thurs, February 26th at 6:30pm in their Library. Saddle Peak will absorb all of the costs for the dinner and will donate 100% of the proceeds to our local fire station. They will serve a 4-course dinner with red or white wine. Cost is \$100 per person +18% tip and tax (valet included). Space is limited to about 40 guests. To reserve your table, call Iain or John at 818-222-3888 or send email to [iain@saddlepeaklodge.com](mailto:iain@saddlepeaklodge.com) or [john@saddlepeaklodge.com](mailto:john@saddlepeaklodge.com).

### Neighborhood Directory Final Notice

This is it! We are finalizing the directory. To give you one last chance to have your name included we are publishing this list. It is the most current list of last names for which we have received information. **If your name is not listed here, you are not currently included.** If you would like to be included, please send your information by February 10 to [MNVCADirectory@charter.net](mailto:MNVCADirectory@charter.net).

Abronson; Adams; Alden; Bailey, Baltin, Benjamin, Kelly, Bischoff, Boylan, Bradshaw, Browning, Byron, Helfend; Cali, Campos, Caprogrosso-Roth, Carr, Chriss, Cilluffo, Clark, Cohen, Bookheimer, Coleman, Conviser, Crowder, Cudworth, Danaher, Davies, Dilg, Dougherty, Falkner, Farinella, Fiori, Fleeman, Gasser, Gaunt, Godsick, Goldsmith, Goodman, Green, Grossman, Gugliuzza, Gustafson, Hecht, Hee, Helfend, Heng, Hodal, Hunt, Kahn, Kay, Kelly, Kleinman, Knipe, Kohler, LaCorte, Lehman, Livingston, Low, MacLean, Monahan, Moody, Pepper, Pevsner, Price, Randall-Knipe, Ransome, Reiss, Rex, Rose, Roth, Saltman, Sande, Santonastaso, Selfridge, Shea, Shelgren, Sieling, Silvers, Slimocosky, Soresnsen, Snyder, Stevenson, Stompe, Twill, van't Riet, VanValkenburgh, Wallace, A., Wallace, D., Watkins, Wayne, Weiss, Williams, Wolf, Zweig

### Montenido.org

Did you know that our neighborhood organization has a website? It's [www.montenido.org](http://www.montenido.org). Every month, this newsletter is posted on the site. Many thanks to Bob Fera for his dedicated efforts to maintain and update this site for all of us. Check it out!

### Cold Creek Lost Canyon Loop Trail

At the January MNVCA Board meeting, Georgia Farinella made a presentation about a threat to the aforementioned trail, which connects Mulholland Hwy to Cold Canyon. The Coastal Commission has approved development of a property, (historically known as the Calder parcel) which will cut off this trail. The parcel has an existing easement from Cold Canyon Road (between the Bardovi and Rex properties) that the community uses as a trail and access to open space between our community and Mulholland. The development was approved for access from Mulholland across other property not owned by the developer. Farinella and other contiguous property owners contend that the parcel lacks legal reciprocal easements necessary for access from Mulholland. CCC referred the matter to civil court. Farinella has formed a Legal Defense Fund to support this civil litigation. The MNVCA Board of Directors voted to contribute \$4000 to the fund in support of this initiative. The following is her open letter seeking additional funding:

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*Our quiet rural hamlet in the Santa Monica Mountains is besieged by continued issues of progress. Here is a cause you can commit to and support with a monetary donation to our Legal Defense Fund. Our objective is to preserve the historical Cold Creek Lost Canyon Loop Trail system that connects the neighborhoods of Monte Nido and Cold Creek. This trail system is in jeopardy and if it is extinguished the essence of our lifestyles go with it. Everyone will be affected including those who enjoy the view and all who actually use the trails. Please help us in our Legal Defense to preserve this trail and in doing so you will also secure a portion of our pristine rural lifestyle.*

*Regards, Georgia Farinella and Rob Scapa*

*For further information contact: Georgia Farinella at: (818) 880-6139. Please make donations payable to: Georgia Farinella / Legal Defense 25700 Mulholland Hwy. Calabasas, CA. 91302*

## Fourth of July – Already??

No, plans are not yet actively underway for the parade and picnic but it's a topic we do need to address at this time. Sadly, we will lose long-time Coordinator In-Chief Suzanne Bailey next September when she moves away. She is looking for someone who would like to learn the ropes as she prepares for this year's event, with an eye to taking over next year. Suzanne reports the job really isn't that difficult and she has a binder with all the Need-To-Know already in it! Interested parties can call her at 818-222-7663 or email at [Suzyb0904@aol.com](mailto:Suzyb0904@aol.com).

## Holiday Lights Displays

Compliments and gratitude from Heidi Stompe to all locals whose holiday light displays this year were tastefully refined, in keeping with our Dark Sky community policy. Beautiful lights do not require extravagant wattage, and are accented and augmented by the light and (dark!) from the heavens above.

## Trail Hazards

### Notice to Horse Riders and Hikers

In wet weather, riders and hikers need to exercise extreme caution when using the local trails. In fact, Monte Nido local resident Stephanie Abronson recommends that you not use the trails at all until the sun shines for at least a week after a heavy rain. Otherwise your horse's hoof prints will be deep and collect water in the next rain causing more erosions of our wonderful trails. Also your horse can slip, slide, and pull muscles, which could severely injure your horse. A word about crossing the creeks: With the rains, muddy water fills our creeks. Do not take yourself or a horse across a creek where you cannot see the bottom. You never know what debris may have been washed into a familiar crossing that could injure you or your horse. Many of our mountain trail beds will have been severely undercut or weakened by the overload of rainwater. Quicksand will hide in places you never expected. Once the rain ends, it can take up to two months for the trails to dry out - yes, two months! Work to repair the damage to the trails should start as soon as the rains let up. If you use the trails, please schedule at least one day a month to help with the repair work.

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting

*A friendly reminder:*

*All neighbors are welcome*

*and encouraged to attend Board meetings.*

*We welcome your interest and involvement!*

Meeting of the Monte Nido Valley Community Association Board was called to order at 7:12pm at the home Chuck and Stephanie Abronson. Board Members present included Joan Slimocosky, Suzanne Bailey, Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Kay John Low, Yehuda Netanel, Heidi Stompe and Jill Reiss. Jill Reiss indicated she would be late so John Low agreed to take minutes until she arrived. Community members (and new Board candidates), Georgia Farinella, Brent and Carrie Baltin also attended. *Agenda* was approved as printed. *Minutes* approved as corrected. *Treasurer's Report*: Marianne Cilluffo reported that despite having funds on account the mailbox lapsed. She was working to correct the error. She also reported that \$2,000 had been transferred from the CD to checking to cover the costs associated with the BBQ and Square Dance. She reported 8 memberships paid for the

upcoming year. *Correspondence*: Marianne reported that there have been 23 responses to requests for information for the Community Directory. She asked that a "last chance" request for information be placed in the next Newsletter. *Federation Report*: John Low reported on the sewer study and preparation of an inspection and permitting ordinance for onsite waste treatment (septic) systems for the Old Topanga neighborhood by the City of Calabasas. He added that this action is the result of new regulations on the State level and that unincorporated areas of LA County would see an OWTS ordinance coming from the County in the near future. *BBQ-Square Dance Report*: Joan Slimocosky reported that the BBQ-Square Dance held jointly with Cold Creek Community Council at King Gillette Ranch was a resounding success. A total of 174 tickets were sold. She indicated that we came very close to breaking even and that a final accounting will be presented at the next meeting. Motion passed to authorize Joan to reserve at the Ranch next year and propose that it be another joint event with Cold Creek. *Emergency notification*: There have been no volunteers to act as block captains. Neighbors of Yehuda Netanel use walkie-talkies. The suggestion was made to expand this system and offer MNVCA members the opportunity to buy walkie-talkies at a discount and then assign frequencies to each tract. In emergency everyone tunes in and shares info. Include article in newsletter to describe emergency procedures and let residents know this resource is available. Yehuda Netanel and Stephanie Abronson agreed to work out the details. *Membership*: Next year the membership appeal will go out earlier, in Feb, and will include emergency info in the appeal letter so people can include money to purchase walkie-talkies. *Trails*: Jeanne Wallace is concerned about building of new illegal trail, from backbone down to hilltop trails, to compensate for trail Jocelyn MacKay closed off. The question was raised if anyone knows about it. It was suggested that she check to see if there are permits. *Quaker-Ross tract development*: In 1983, permission was requested for 20+ lots. Couldn't build because of percolation problems and couldn't run sewer line at that time. Now building is proceeding. Lot 7 is coming before Coastal on Thurs. It looks like just one lot but is setting precedent about rest of lots. There is concern that Coastal was told the lots are part of MNVCA, therefore the developer was able to adjust lot sizes to be quite small with a lack of buffer between lots. Current planned development is huge, very large and many buildings on the lot. Joan Kaye is paying attorney Frank Angel to write a protest letter. Kaye did not ask MNVCA association to reimburse her. The Board approved \$1200 to fund legal documentation to determine if there are legal stances to put forward in opposition (discrepancies/non compliance with coastal regulations). Joan Slimocosky wants to testify that MNVCA is opposed to development of this lot until the new LCP is in force. ESHA and fuel modification/brush clearance re: ESHA could be used to restrict building. The extent of hardscape could affect water quality, pesticides could affect environment. Motion passed to approve letter signed by Meredith La Belle to be read into the record representing MNVCA's opposition to development before Coastal meeting Thursday. *LVUSD donation*: Motion passed to donate \$1000 for technology initiative. The Board's vote was not unanimous. *Square Dance*: Motion passed to reimburse Joan Slimocosky \$630-\$650 for square dance. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

The Annual General Meeting was then called to order for the purpose of electing new board members at 8:50pm. Brent and Carrie Baltin, Dick and Lois Love, Jill Reiss, Heidi Stompe, and Georgia Farinella were elected to the new board by acclamation. Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted, John Low and Jill Reiss

## How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@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 [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com)**

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
BULLETIN BOARD**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESIGN &amp; BUILD</b> Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor <b>917-1803 <a href="http://WWW.DESIGNBLUE.COM">WWW.DESIGNBLUE.COM</a></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUTOR</b> Former teacher / experienced tutor Elementary through high school students. Monte Nido resident <b>JEANNE BENSON ~ 818.802.4300</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHITECT</b> Custom homes and Remodels <b>GARY BARDOVI 222-0313</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PIANO LESSONS</b> beginners and advanced <b>Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHITECT</b> 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> 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 <a href="mailto:gailcb@earthlink.net">gailcb@earthlink.net</a></b></p>
<p><b>MEDICAL &amp; SURGICAL EYE CARE M*D*</b> <b>EYE CARE MALIBU</b> Susan S. Ransome, M.D., Board Certified Ophthalmologist. Monte Nido resident since 1997, Attending physician &amp; surgeon, Jules Stein Eye Institute since 1996. Same day, evening, &amp; weekend appointment. 22225 Pacific Coast Highway, Ste. 8, Malibu, CA 90265 Tel 310.456.7477 Pager 800.BEEP231; voice prompter will ask for pager #--13616; voice prompter will ask for call back # with area code</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADDLE PEAK LODGE</b> DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, SUNDAY BRUNCH 11am-3pm Market fresh 4 or 8 course tasting menus served every evening with or without wine pairing. Complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. Chef Adam Horton and I look forward to having you join us in the near future. Iain Walling General Manager. <b>222 3888 or <a href="http://Saddlepeaklodge.com">Saddlepeaklodge.com</a></b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</b> 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>REAL ESTATE</b> Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 years. How much is your house worth? Call for a complimentary market analysis. <b>Tracy Bunetta 222-2272</b> <a href="http://MonteNidoRealEstate.com">MonteNidoRealEstate.com</a></p>

To place an ad contact Nicole Brown at [macvoodoo@netpowered.com](mailto:macvoodoo@netpowered.com) or 818-914-6138

Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month

Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Nicole Brown, PO Box 423, Malibu, CA 90265

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tuesday, Mar 10, 7PM  
At the home of Jill Reiss  
1066 Meadows End Drive  
222-1995

*All neighbors are always welcome  
and encouraged to attend!*

### **ETI Corral 36**

Seminar& Board Meeting  
Tuesday, Feb 3rd,  
Board meeting to commence at  
6:30 sharp  
7:30 guest speaker.  
At the home of  
Deborah Collins and Joe  
Provenzano, 24232 Dry  
Canyon/Cold Creek Rd., Calabasas;  
(818) 225-1480.  
Guest Speaker:  
Ron Schaffer from State Parks  
What can we do for the parks to help,  
and what can they do for us?

### **Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting**

Thursday, Feb 19, 7:30PM  
Diamond X Ranch  
(Off Mulholland)

### **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

### **ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7th, 2009, 10am-2pm  
AT THE POPE'S HOUSE  
821 Camino Colibri

*Just across the Edenwild bridge*

Interested Artists & Vendors Contact:  
Nancy Little 818-222-0828  
Kelly Crowder 818-224-2482  
10% of proceeds donated to MNVCA!

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Monte Nido Valley Community Association  
PO Box 8054  
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