



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

February 2010

### WILDFIRE MONTE NIDO

On Jan. 13, Lynn Benjamin and Joan Kay attended the CWPP meeting (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) as representatives of Monte Nido. The CWPP mission is "Mobilizing Californians to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires".

Our take-home message for you for this month:

I. Protect your house by applying "House Out" practices, beginning with the "Five Foot Rule" where all combustibles for five feet out all around your house are removed. This includes dead and flammable ornamental vegetation, mulch, woodpiles, items stored under decks, brooms, cocoa mats, hanging plants with lichen or matting. The "House Out" rule includes other elements of the built environment such as fences, appurtenances, and sheds. Statistics show this rule, when applied, will increase the likelihood of the survival of your house.

II. "Embers Out" practices: Gusting embers are a major cause of house ignition. Mitigation ideas includes:

- a) Install fire-resistant vents certified by the State Fire Marshall.
- b) Enclose the eaves of your house to keep embers out.
- c) Use fire resistant paint on structures and fences.
- d) Upgrade windows to tempered dual-pane glass with aluminum frames.
- e) Use fire resistant siding, such as "Hardie plank."
- f) Know what to do and how to protect your home from embers during Red Flag Warning days and evacuations.

PRACTICE these methods throughout the year.

**NOTE:** Lynn and I are still looking for Street Captains. To volunteer or for information, call Joan Kay (818) 222-2977.

### Vicious Dog Attacks

Two neighbors riding their horses were recently attacked by vicious dogs. Any dog that bites is considered vicious by the sheriff and county animal control. Both horses were bitten. It is imperative that **ALL** dog owners obey the L.A. County law stating that dogs must be confined on your property, or properly leashed when outside their fenced environs. Hikers and riders using the local trails or walking or riding on the local streets should report any incidents of dog attacks to the L.A. County Sheriff Department 818-878-1808 and to L.A. County Animal Control 818-991-0071, making note of the day and time of the problem and any other information that might be helpful in future investigations. Please note the person you speak with at the sheriff station and animal control office in case you may need to follow up.

### Wild Weather

In 2005, the July 4th Parade theme was "The Wild Weather of Monte Nido". The past two storms confirm we do have some wild weather (and wet). John Low's precipitation calculation of 2 most recent storms :

13-23 January	6.42"	5-7 February	3.80
---------------	-------	--------------	------

### ALERT!

#### HORSES RECENTLY HIT BY CARS

In December 2009, cars hit horses and riders, in Chatsworth and the City of Industry, causing injuries to both the horses and riders. Unfortunately, what most motorists don't realize when they come upon a horse and rider on the street is that it is the motorist's responsibility to take evasive action should the horse shy for any reason into the path of the vehicle, or STOP if they see the horse is having a problem. Usually, SLOWING down will help a great deal as you pass. The California motor vehicle code is very specific that a driver MUST follow any directions given by a rider, and slowing down is most crucial. In a heartbeat, a horse can be in front of a vehicle. Your car or motorcycle (any motor vehicle) is considered a weapon, and if you disobey a rider's instruction, you can be cited by law enforcement and even thrown in jail! **For the rider:** Think about the reality of riding on our narrow, busy streets in and around Monte Nido. It is so dangerous when busy, hurried drivers (some with NO patience) zoom by without regard for you or your horse. It is so easy for a horse to spook when a vehicle gets too close, just as the one in Chatsworth did. We must be aware, talk with our neighbors, and encourage them to talk with service people and guests who come to visit them, about their driving behavior on our local streets. Many of them may have never driven a vehicle around horses and do not know they need to give the horse and rider the right of way and slow down.

#### Ad Executive Needed

After several successful years compiling the ads for the newsletter, Nicole Brown has resigned. We thank her for all her hard work and for bringing her graphic designer's eye to the process! Now we are in need of a new volunteer to take on this assignment. Approximately once every one to two months, the ads must be organized into printable format, and fees must be collected and forwarded to the MNVCA treasurer. Can you/Will you do this? Although it does not require a great deal of time or effort, it is a very important and valuable assignment, as the ads fund the printing and distribution of this newsletter! Please consider helping the community in this capacity. If interested, contact Joan Slimocosky at 818-591-1082.

#### California Wildlife Center Annual Spring Open House

California Wildlife Center's annual Spring Open House will take place on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from noon – 4pm. There will be light refreshments, activities for children, and an opportunity to tour the Center and meet the staff and volunteers. RSVP 818-222-2658. 26026 Piuma Road.

*Volunteer Opportunities* – Want to help our sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife? Consider volunteering at California Wildlife Center. We need volunteers for our Baby Care Unit, Hospital, Community Outreach, and Marine Mammal response. If you are interested, please contact our volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@californiawildlife.org](mailto:volunteer@californiawildlife.org).

## L.A. residents can stay prepared

In an effort to better serve the people of their community, the Los Angeles Police Department has implemented a new communication system that will help keep residents informed during an emergency. Sometimes the department has to close down streets during a natural disaster such as the mudslide on Sepulveda Blvd. or the Mountaingate fire. Other times, law enforcement has to set up a perimeter to catch a criminal. The new NIXLE program allows them to communicate timely, pertinent information to everyone registered within the area. That area can be as small as an apartment building or as large as the entire west side. This program allows you to register your cell phone to multiple addresses, such as your home, work, and kids' schools, and receive information via your cell phone. By going to [NIXLE.com](http://NIXLE.com) you can register your information. It is a free service. Messages can only be sent to your cell phone by members of emergency services such as the police and fire departments. This program is nationwide so if you have a dependent in college outside the state, you can register that address and receive information from the area police. If you'd like more information on this program you can contact WLA Police Sgt. David Podesta (310) 444-0743. For additional crime prevention information log on [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)

## Trails Report

There are only a couple of things to report on this month. The clean up has been completed on the Loop portion of the Cold Creek Trail where the rocks, dirt and building materials were dumped. The debris was cleared away by the combined efforts of Mark Wallace with his tractor and the help of John Morris the neighbor directly across from where the dumping occurred. Mark and John built a berm in hopes it will make dumping there more difficult. Without mentioning names the person responsible for the dumping was discovered by going through the dumped materials and finding names on trash that was turned over to the sheriff's office. After their investigation the responsible party was contacted and was unaware that their hired workers did not go to the dump. Sherry DaSilva reported that the grotto crossing on the Cold Creek Trail has lost some of the dirt around the rocks but it is still passable.

To support our Corral 36 Trails Maintenance Program please send your contribution to Jeanne Wallace, 1710 Cold Canyon Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. For information call (818) 222-2560.

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting January, 2010 Minutes

The Jan. 12, 2010 meeting of the MNVCA Board of Directors was called to order 7:08 PM at the home of Joan Slimocosky. Present from the board were Judy Goldin, Georgia Farinella, Carrie and Brent Baltin, Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Kay, Dick Love, Joan Slimocosky and Jill Reiss. Stephanie Abronson and Debbie DiMascio attended as community members. Agenda: There were no agenda changes and no minutes to approve. The new system of distributing the minutes to the board and community via email is working well. Treasurer report: Cilluffo reported the liquid CD at Bank of America is maturing this month. Motion passed to roll it over for 9 months. Motion passed to pay assorted bills and reimburse people. Correspondence: Thanks received from Salvation Army for donation and from Suzanne Bailey Marsh for gift. No Federation business – John Low will be resigning as Pres. of Federation Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Joan Kay reported not much has been accomplished during the holiday season. She would like to get captains for streets; several

streets already have captains identified. Discussion ensued about canvassing the neighborhood for both captains and a membership drive. Originally, the plan was to have emergency info booklets ready to distribute at that time. Brent Baltin offered to chair a membership/street captains drive sub-committee. Marianne Cilluffo will send the fire safety info booklet to the printer to get 200 copies to be handed out. Another CWPP meeting will be held at Diamond X on Jan 14 and Jan 13 at Zev Yaroslavsky's office. Secretary to email to community that night (But she forgot when she got home. Oops. Sorry about that). Trails – Dumping that was previously reported has been cleared. Jeanne Wallace, ETI Trails Coordinator, and Marianne Cilluffo think they know who was responsible. Reiss should forward notice from Abronson about Ron Wechsler's presentation on Feb 2 to whole community. Debbie DiMascio reported the horse population of our neighborhood is increasing. As a result, traffic issues re: sharing roads with horses are becoming more important. DiMascio will send info to Reiss for inclusion in newsletter. Signage was requested to alert motorists of presence of equestrians. Suggestion was made to ETI to make a proposal to board about what specific signage they think would work and we will consider ordering it. Additional dumping has been noticed as Waste Management truck dumped a load of green waste on a vacant lot. Neighbor who saw it took the license plate and reported it to Waste Management. California Environmental Quality Act – A judge has ruled that the Coastal Commission is now required to give 30 days notice after a staff recommendation, during which time, the public can challenge the recommendation before a decision is final. (The time frame was formerly 15 days). And Coastal cannot satisfy its duty to consult with the Dept. of Fish and Game by relying on a product of previous DFG consultation. There are two conditions where Coastal now must consult independently with DFG. Piuma resurfacing – Every resident received a notice about road resurfacing along a long loop of local roads, including Piuma. Cell phone registration for emergency – Now you can register your cell phone number to be advised of an emergency on your cell phone. This info will be published in the next newsletter. Joan Slimocosky will forward the details to Reiss for publication. Next meeting will be March 9 at the home of Heidi Stompe. Marianne Cilluffo will host in May. Election of Officers – Joan Slimocosky will be President temporarily until a replacement can be identified. John Low will continue as VP. Marianne Cilluffo will continue as Treasurer. Jill Reiss will continue as Secretary. The remaining members of the Board include Heidi Stompe, Georgia Farinella, Brent and Carrie Baltin, Judy Goldin, Dick and Lois Love, Yehuda Netanel and Joan Kay Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

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

### 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 818-591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 818-224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 818-876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995

**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**

February 2010

<p align="center"><b>NIA &amp; YOGA CLASSES</b> Nia's expressive movement and Yoga classes in Monte Nido <b>Jeanne 224-4300</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>CUSTOM FURNITURE &amp; CABIINERY</b> Unique patinas on wood and metal. Monte Nido resident <b>Roger Savatteri 310-625-2887</b> www.savatteridesigns.com</p>
<p 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 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 align="center"><b>SELL YOUR UNWANTED BOOKS</b> I am a Monte Nido resident who has been successfully selling books of my own and others on Amazon. Will handle all aspects of presenting your books for sale, packing, and shipping then split profits with you. Reduce your clutter and sell those books. <b>Call Erik at 310-592-2006 (cell)</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>PIANO LESSONS</b> beginners and advanced <b>Call Aukse 222-6947</b> or cell 310-500-5121</p>	<p align="center"><b>REAL ESTATE</b> Commercial and Residential <b>Deborah Capogrosso-Roth 222-5705</b> Roth &amp; Associates</p>
<p align="center"><b>HELP WANTED</b> Young person, M or F, to clean room for elderly gentleman, \$20 p/hr. Please call <b>Joan Kay 222-2977</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>REAL ESTATE</b> Residential real estate specialist for Monte Nido, Malibu and Malibou Lake. Respectful and professional negotiations for purchase/sale/property management. It is my pleasure to reside and complete competent business in our community. <b>Gail A. Lowe 310-317-8363 office, 310-938-3984 cell</b> Coldwell Banker Colony, DRE# 01115332 <a href="mailto:gailalowe@gmail.com">gailalowe@gmail.com</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>ARCHITECT</b> Custom homes and Remodels <b>Gary Bardovi 222-0313</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>ELECTRICIAN</b> Licensed Contractor 20yr Monte Nido resident <b>Mike Wortham 222-3817</b> North Bay Electric</p>
<p align="center"><b>SADDLE PEAK LODGE</b> DINNER WED-THURS 6-9, FRI 5:30 10, SAT 5-10, SUN 5-9 SUNDAY BRUNCH 10:30-2 We look forward to having you join us in the near future. <b>222 3886</b></p>	

*To place an ad contact Lynn Benjamin at 818-222-2568 or 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

---

### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tues, March 9 at 7PM  
at the home of  
Heidi Stompe  
871 Malibu Meadows  
818-222-8711

### **ETI Corral**

Corral 36 Board Meeting,  
Tuesday, Mar. 2nd, 6:30 PM  
at the home of Aretha Crout  
17634 Weddington, Encino  
(818) 590-3489

Kimberly Dwight, "How to do a  
Trail Trial." @ 7:00 PM

Corral 36 Meeting  
Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 pm  
at the office of  
Mia & Brian Boudreau,  
26885 Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas  
(818) 880-5139.

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

Thursday, Feb 18, 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

---

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

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID CANOGA PARK, CA 91304 PERMIT No. 307
--

Please deliver by February 22, 2010

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
RURAL ROUTE NO. 1  
CALABASAS, CA 91302