



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

January 2008

One Dog Owner/Lover's Plea: Can't We All Just Get Along?

1) Yeah, there's a lot of nature around here. But it is a neighborhood, not the Great Beyond. Please bring a bag/scoop if you're walking near houses. I would like to get my mail from the mailbox without stepping in dog doo. Not to mention the storm drain issue. You want to swim in *that* when summer comes?

2) Yeah, your dog is perfectly trained to stay on command. Except when that squirrel or rabbit gets going. Then Fluffy will bolt like she's on fire, right under my tires, no matter how slowly I'm inching up the street. They make long, retractable leashes now and trust me, Fluffy will be fine. If she really needs to open up and run, there's a dog park quite nearby. Instead of wearing your leash as a fashion accessory, let's avoid mutual trauma. Use it.

3) Yeah, Sparky always comes home. Your dog is the Homing Pigeon of all canines. He will roam "the hood" and come home on time for dinner. Nice, except his roaming is up by my front door (and you can guess the different ways I can tell he came by) and down the street. It's dangerous for him, inconvenient for some of us, scary for others, and not a very neighborly thing in general. Check your fences and gates. If you truly didn't know he was out, you get one pass. If you know and think it's fine, it's not.

Let me confess: I have been guilty of all of the above, at one time or another. But I do believe one of the hallmarks of civilization is the willingness to make small compromises for the greater good. So I promise to start with the above three, if you will. Suzanne Bailey

Fire Update

The recent arrests in the Thanksgiving Malibu fire highlight the importance of vigilance on the part of Arson Watch and neighborhood residents vis a vis fires caused by carelessness and recklessness, as well as intentional arson. Fire season has not abated, despite the recent, welcome rains. We may not be able to prevent high winds from downing power lines, but there are things we can do to protect and safeguard our homes and property during a fire. That the community is not as well coordinated on this front as we might be became very clear to this resident as a result of the October and November firestorms.

The power outage in October left us without access to radio or TV news reports. Neighbors gathered in our street, and one reported that sheriffs had closed Las Virgenes at Mulholland, and refused to let her pass.

But she was able to return via Cold Canyon, which was still open. When power returned, TV news showed that the fire had burned to the sea, and we assumed we were safe. Within minutes, I heard faint megaphones in the street announcing a mandatory evacuation. As we'd been instructed at fire prevention meetings, we left the doors unlocked and the lights on. We watched the news reports for the next two days from a friend's house. Tuesday afternoon, my husband drove into the canyon to see what was happening. To his surprise, he discovered that despite the continuing reports of a mandatory evacuation, in fact, the roads were open and all of our neighbors were at home. When we returned, we found that our mail and newspapers had been delivered both days. Furthermore, we were informed that the school buses had run their routes through the neighborhood.

In November, we were alerted about the fire by a neighbor, who woke us at 6:45AM. We watched huge plumes of smoke rise over the ridgelines, and stayed tuned to TV news reports to advise us of the fire's progress.

Because we have satellite TV, and AT&T phone service, we were able to get news and phone calls during both fires. Many of our neighbors who have Charter bundles for TV, phone, and internet were completely cut off when Charter shut down both times. After the November fire, the LA Times reported that many homes in Corral Canyon were saved only because their owners did not evacuate, as ordered, but rather stayed and fought the flames themselves. One resident actually had two fire trucks at his disposal, which he purchased at auction last year. He used them with the help of several neighbors to save their homes on a narrow, unpaved road that the firefighters were never able to reach.

Today this author is confused and concerned about best actions during these firestorms. Is it really mandatory to evacuate when under "mandatory evacuation" orders? If so, who will guard my unlocked home from intruders? How can mail and newspapers continue to be delivered if no one is supposedly permitted access? Should I plan to remain home during the next evacuation? And if so, how can I best protect my property? What kind of system can we, as a neighborhood, implement so that everyone is alerted to danger, especially when it arises in the middle of the night? What kind of coordinated response can we develop, as a community, or street by street? To help answer these questions, come to the Wildfire meeting. For details, read on... Jill Reiss

Wildfire Information Presentation

Save the Date! Thurs., Jan.31st, 7pm at the Salvation Army Camp. Meet with officials of the L.A. County Fire Department, Lost Hills Sheriff's Department, and the State Park Service to discuss the recent wildfires in Malibu and how we can protect our homes and community. See an impressive video of firefighters in action during the Nov. Corral Canyon fire and hear their stories. This will really make you think! We will have time to ask questions about evacuation procedures and policy, road closures, neighborhood warning systems, and other concerns. Please come. Bring your neighbor --- it could save both your homes. Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Monte Nido Community Association and Monte Nido/Calabasas Arson Watch. For more information call 818-222-2568 or e-mail lynnb@charter.net.

Community Fire Sirens

At the December meeting, the Board began discussion of possible ways to alert the community in the event of an emergency. One suggestion was the installation of sirens. Arson Watch contacted the fire department and Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office to investigate the feasibilities. Here, for your information, are their responses:

From Maria Grycan, L.A.Co Fire Dept: *"There are many, many issues to be considered regarding a siren warning system, not the least of which is that they are not fool proof. What happens if a siren warning system is put into place and the residents depend on this system, and it fails for one reason or another? (This can especially be the case if a fire begins too close to where the system is located . . . the system may not work.) This is not to say that a siren warning system cannot be just one added warning tool in the arsenal. As I have told you before, the fire department has been in limited conversation with the 3rd District regarding various warning systems that might be incorporated into our plans for unincorporated areas, but so far no decisions have been made..."*

From Susan Nissman of Zev Yaroslavsky's office:

"... the County investigated warning sirens and the potential for use in the Santa Monica Mountains several years ago; I actually went with representatives from our CEO's office to Oakland to meet with the Emergency Management Collaborative that includes not only Oakland, but San Francisco as well and toured the Oakland area where warning sirens have been placed. We learned that there are very limited ways the sirens can be used, and that they are regarded as only one tool; they cannot be relied upon for "universal" notification. The siren, when activated, cannot send a message that means evacuation or fire approaching, it is activated, the same signal each time, to tell people to turn on their local radio and TV to get instructions and information about a pending emergency situation. There are also immense challenges in coverage: because of the canyon terrain in the Santa Monica Mountains and the way sound travels, there would have to be multiple placements to make sure everyone is covered; we cannot have just a partial siren system, for instance just in Monte Nido, and not in the rest of the communities, such as Malibu Lake, etc. The cost of each installation, along with the infrastructure required is also quite formidable, and there would have to be acquisition of right-of-ways, along with permits and possibly CEQA review. When you have your community meeting, I will be glad to provide you with the background on this, but suffice it to say, in our analysis, sirens did not provide the benefits we would need to justify investment of public funds, and we have therefore continued to promote those tools (like reverse 911) and community specific emergency planning efforts to increase our preparedness for and emergency response to disasters. Family and neighborhood planning continue to be the most effective way to prepare for disaster."

MNVCA Board of Directors 2008

The slate of officers for 2008 was elected at the December meeting of the Board of Directors. Joan Slimocosky will continue for another term as president, as will Marianne Cilluffo as Treasurer. John Low is the new Vice President. Jill Reiss will be acting Secretary. Please remember, all your board members and officers are volunteers who donate their time and energy for the benefit of the Monte Nido community. All community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend monthly Board meetings, and to contact members of the Board directly with suggestions and concerns about community matters.

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting November Minutes

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10 pm in the home of Stephanie Abronson. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Marianne Cilluffo, Les Hardie, Lisa Lehman, John Low, Sheila Kalivas, Jocelyn Mackay, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe along with other members of the community. *Agenda:* Agenda changes were made. *Minutes:* September minutes approved. *Treasurer's Report:* Account balances were reviewed. Board approved payment of annual liability insurance. *Correspondence:* Department of Interior: Upcoming Firescaping Seminar and Workshop. *Federation Report:* Ben Saltsman presented detail on the Local Coastal Plan; Mary Sue Maurer (City of Calabasas councilmember) provided an update on the future plans for Calabasas. *Old Business:* Local Coastal Plan (LCP) - Passed by the County Board of Supervisors; there will be one more review by the Supervisors; then it will go on to the California Coastal Commission. Road Clean Up - Planned for December 1, prior to the onset of rain. Announcement to go out via e-mail and sign will be posted. Storage of Community Event Supplies - A central location is to be established to house all the tables, chairs, flags, signs and archived documents; MNVCA board member Sheila Kalivas will create an inventory of the items; once that is completed, a volunteer will be sought to provide a location for the storage. *New Business:* West Nile Virus - A dead bird was found and confirmed to have west Nile virus which is spread by mosquitoes; there are many pools of standing water throughout our community that are contributing to an increase in mosquito activity. The county is scheduled to spray against the mosquito larvae this coming week. Annual Election of New Board Members - This year the seats occupied by Joan Kay, Joan Slimocosky-President, John Low-Vice President, Marianne Cilluffo-Treasurer, Jocelyn Mackay and Lisa Lehman-Secretary are up for election. The nominees include: Joan Kay, Joan Slimocosky, John Low, Jocelyn Mackay, Marianne Cilluffo and Suzanne Bailey. A vote was taken and all nominees were elected to the Board. New officers will be elected at the December meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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

January 2008

<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 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. Gail A. Lowe 222-5543 gailcb@earthlink.net</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE</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. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</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. Michael Bjornbak, DDS 818-781-3411 www.shermanoaksdental.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PIANO LESSONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">beginners and advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU to the MNVCA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">for your recent generous contribution of \$500 to the Friends of Arson Watch & Disaster Services. Your support is greatly appreciated.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Custom homes and Remodels Gary Bardovi 222-0313</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EXTERIOR DESIGN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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 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. 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, Jan 8, 7PM
At the home of Les Hardie
471 Cold Canyon Rd.
818-222-5485

ETI Corral 36

Board Meeting

Not the Usual Date!

Tuesday, Jan 15, 7 PM,
At the home of Deborah & Joe Provenzano
24232 Dry Canyon/Cold Creek Rd.
818-225-1480

Wildfire Information Presentation

Thursday, Jan 31, 7PM
Salvation Army Camp
For more information call 818-222-2568
Or email lynnben@charter.net

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, Jan 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

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

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