



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

June/July 2014

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## **WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE**

**Many Thanks to the Volunteers who made our 2014 July 4 Parade and Picnic a memorable, Patriotic Event**

**Congratulations to winners in the July 4 parade events**

**Local land use and zoning issues and MNVCA initiatives**

**Local Trail use and maintenance of rights**

**Minutes of July 2014 Board meeting**

## **JULY 4 PARADE AND PICNIC RECAP**

Many, many Thanks again to Lois Love for organizing the Parade and Tracy Bunetta for heading up the Picnic Volunteers.

### Lois's Parade Report:

#### **Monte Nido Parade and Picnic - Theme: Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses July 4, 2014**

Wonderful to say the least. There was a great turnout for the parade and picnic. Thank you to the judges for their time: Cathy Ikkanda, Paul Tade, Lynn Cornfield, Noreen Paul and Alex Lee.

#### **Parade**

As with years past, the great firefighters of station 67 lead the parade. Yehuda Netanel, took charge and coordinated the various participants. The Grand Marshal, Josephine Powe, was driven in the beautiful 1940's Lincoln Continental driven by Tom McGuire. Thank you Jo, for all you have done for the community.

The junior Grand Marshal, Freja Jacobsen, (the winner of the theme contest) graced the 1952 balloon adorned fire truck of Mark Mehner.

Every participant is to be thanked for their enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to have the Monte Nido Band (The Don Ingram Family) back in the lineup.

#### **Awards Given:**

##### **Grand Prize:**

The judges awarded the Grand Prize tied between two Edenwild floats. The first, "Game of Tones", clearly demonstrated the creative talent of the young adults. The King of Pop, Bryce Jordan, was excellent, performing the "moon walk"; while the King of Rock-n-Roll, Matthew LaCorte, who dressed and looked the part by continuously spraying his hair while making the famous moves. Great makeup and costumes made it a real hit. The second float, "Edenwild's Royal Flush", was the creation of the younger children, composed of a cardboard castle and hand made life size cards while the jester kept the court entertained.

Best Theme Depiction: Delling Jacobsen  
Best Decorated Motorized Vehicle: Mark Mehner

Best Dressed Animal: Heather Jordan, Victoria Netanel's mini horses, and the LA Kings Donkeys

Best Decorated Bicycle: Julio

Most Flags: Kinship

Best International Depiction: Beauties and the Royal Beast, King Lawrence of England, Queen Alice of Italy, and the "Queens of Monte Nido"

Others: Crown Prince - Patti Gaunt

Most creative - Mike Wallace

Best Dressed Pony/Cart: Stephanie Abramson

See you all next year.



Edenwild's Royal Flush



Game of Tones



Miniature horse prince and princesses

### Tracy's Picnic Report:

As the old saying goes....It Takes a Village, yes indeed it does, and we have a fantastic one right here in Monte Nido!!!

First we want to thank the Fleeman Family for their generosity in allowing us the use of their meadow once again! Thanks to Ilda Jacobson for general support in all aspects of the preparations, along with helping set up, signs and arranging the music! Once again thank you Reva Smilkstein for organizing and gathering the raffle gifts and Reva's helpers including Jeanne Benson and Randy Goodman. Hurray for the Sieling Family and Pony Club for bringing the wonderful BBQ. Gail Lowe for ticket sales, Rod Bergan for being our MC extraordinaire, Henry Shea and Jack Merrick for the games, Sherry DaSilva for clean up and recycling, Doug Rosen for grading the Meadow, and Les Hardie for the "electrical juice" so we can plug in! Thank you Rob and Jake Szilagy for hanging the flag, Lynn Benjamin and Joan Slimocosky for the Arson Watch table, Tamara Wasserman for the yummy Bake Sale along with everyone who contributed goods, and Lisa Wells for the watermelon stand. Thanks to all who help and show up year after year!

## Land Use and Local Zoning Issues

### LA COUNTY LOCAL COASTAL PLANNING:

In what is considered a crucial “do or die” effort to get final approvals from both LA County and The Coastal Commission to a local coastal plan that covers Monte Nido appropriately and preserves the rural character of our community before our champion, County Commissioner Zev Yaroslavsky leaves office later this year, has passed all the big hurdles. MNVCA Board and local members have actively supported and lobbied the powers that be. A special thanks to Jo Powe whose tireless efforts on behalf of Mountain Restoration Trust and the community have helped make this possible and to Don Wallace who represented us and the equestrian community here on the County planning team and thanks especially to Joan Slimocosky and Suze Randall for their support on all fronts.

#### Here is the letter from Kim Lamorie:

*Thank you! Your letters of support made a big difference. What a great day!*

*Yesterday (July 11) California Coastal Commission, voted unanimously to approve Los Angeles County's Local Implementation Program (LIP) - one of two components of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP). We're one step closer on our journey to LCP certification. The LCP now heads back to the Board of Supervisors for approval.*

*The Federation is grateful to our Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who has championed the LCP, and for his extraordinary efforts to protect our coastal resources, homeowners, horse owners, and communities in the Santa Monica Mountains. What an incredible document.*

*Thank you  
on behalf of all the*

*wild and wonderful in the Santa Monica  
Mountains.*

*Sincerely,  
Kim Lamorie*

*President, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation  
Inc., of the Santa Monica Mountains*

### Vintage Properties Development on Piuma Rd

The long saga of development of lots on Piuma near the first hairpin turn has taken a new turn now that the actual plans for 17 homes have been made available for review by local community members. The plans are for huge, land use intensive, suburban homes rather than the rural character homes we were promised. As a result, local community members and the MNVCA Board have requested from the County Planning office, that a thorough Environmental Impact study be done and that the building plans be modified to mitigate environmental impacts to nearby parklands, backbone trail vistas, and water resources.

Many thanks to Jo Powe for her careful detailed analysis of environmental concerns and for her assistance in drafting the MNVCA position letter. Thanks to Joan Slimocosky, Suze Randall, and Carrie Baltin for getting the word out to the community and thanks to Kim Lamorie and the, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation Inc., of the Santa Monica Mountains for there offer of support to us on this issue.

There will be more to come on this topic.

## Note on Local Trail Use

**As you will see in the minutes for the June MNVCA Board meeting, community members are encouraged to make use of local trails like the Lost Canyon Loop and Cold Canyon Trail for hiking and horseback riding. To help ensure we keep access as well as to share your fun, you might want to document your hikes and rides with photos and posts on social media.**

## Thank you MNVCA Members

The Monte Nido Valley Community Association wants to thank all who have responded to requests that you join or renew membership. We appreciate your contribution and encourage you to attend our meetings which take place on the second Tuesday of every other month.

Board members and community volunteers organize annual events such as July 4 celebrations, October Square Dance, and Holiday Pot Lucks as well as 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, and at County Supervisor and Coastal Commission meetings to protect our rural character and our trails. If you have not done so as yet, you can still join for 2014. The cost is \$50 (\$25 for first time members) and can be addressed to MNVCA at P.O. Box 8054, Calabasas 91372.  
Judy Goldin, Treasurer

## MNVCA Board meeting July 8, 2014

The MNVCA Board meeting of July 8, 2014 was held at the home of Dana Chidekel. The meeting was called to order at 7:12PM.

Present from the Board:

Carrie Baltin, Dana Chidekel, Heidi Stompe, Judy Goldin, Ann Monahan, Sally Livingston, Mary Helen Young, Maria Ioan, Gary Wooller, Ilda Jacobsen, Jill Reiss, Joan Slimocosky

Present from the Community:

Reva Smilkstein, Jane Cudworth, Yehuda Netanel, Joan Kay, John Cudworth, Doug Dilg, Sheila Rosenthal, Shari Pevsner, Suze Randall, Humphrey Knipe, Tamara Wasserman, Gary Bardovi, Brent Baltin, Jeanne Benson, Lee Ringer, (Board member from the Las Virgenes Water District), Kim Lamorie

Introductions were offered of all attendees.

New Business:

*Trails:* Joan Kay reported that we need to use the Lost Canyon Loop and Cold Creek Trail more frequently and document it (take and post photos) to make it clear that it's an important trail that is in use. Questions were posed: Is it possible to post the aerial map on NextDoor? Organize a trail trip? Ask people to use it and hash tag it on social media?

*Minutes* from last meeting: Approved previously via email.

*July 4 recap* – Judy Goldin has not received any reports yet on the finances. Ilda Jacobsen has receipts for the band and posters. The difference between actual expenses of \$750 for the band and the \$500 authorized by the board was covered privately by local families. Asia Chidekel found \$100 bill that was never claimed and it has been donated to the MNVCA coffers. Motion to give Asia \$50 of the \$100 passed. Sheriffs at the event were provided gratis for many years but several years ago they started charging us. The opinion was expressed that they have raised the costs a great

deal since the sheriffs would prefer not to do it for us. But we cannot legally close the road without law enforcement.

A neighbor (Stephanie Abronson) wrote a lengthy observation about her concerns related to the parade events. Copies were distributed to attendees.

*July 4 raffle* – Reva is moving so someone else will have to replace her. She is honored to turn over all her notes and contacts – but she would also like us to consider hiring her to organize it for next year.

*MNVCA Directory* – is it still in the works?

*Bulletin Board* -The neighborhood Bulletin Board at the Fire Station is completed and looks great. Many thanks to John Cudworth.

*Vintage Properties*- Our opposition approach must be based on environmental concerns. Jo Powe wrote a lengthy letter to Rudy Silvas detailing issues that will be of concern to Coastal. Letters of opposition to the project must be received before the hearing July 13, 2014. Joan Slimocosky has copies of letters distributed during July 4 (about 15 people signed at that time) so anyone who has not yet signed a letter can use and send them. Joan can send them as one bulk mailing. Permits for the development have to go through Regional Planning before it gets to Coastal and Vintage already has permits that were granted 20 years ago and maintained. We need to lay down a track record of the impacts on the mountains and be clear that it violates the rulings of the LCP. According to Silvas, every letter really does count/matter. The more letters we can encourage neighbors to send, the better the impact. A motion that the board authorizes that the letter Jo Powe prepared, representing our community's position to Regional Planning, should be emailed and "snail mailed" via the US Postal Service– and a copy of the letter should be sent to each of the LA County Supervisors - passed unanimously. Joan Slimocosky will start lobbying to Coastal. Kim Lamorie says after the LIP hearing, the Federation will support us with our opposition to the Vintage development.

No *Federation* Report because there was no meeting – instead there was the event honoring Zev.

*LCP-LIP hearing July 10* – Ben Saltsman suggested the Federation speak on behalf of the area communities. (Joan Slimocosky explained who/what the Federation is and what it does – everyone is always welcome at their meetings). Federation is working hard to get the LCP passed before Zev Yaroslavsky's term ends. Joan Slimocosky is also enlisting Federation help with Vintage issues.

Kim Lamorie presented the Federation's intentions and plans re: the hearing. She takes direction from the County on how to support LCP. At the hearing on Thursday we need to be present at 8:30 because we will speak early. They want lots of bodies and everybody should fill out a speaker's card but then when you are called just say Monte Nido supports the LIP. Keep testimony short. MNVCA will send an email blast encouraging people to attend and carpool if desired. Kim will prepare the email and send it to Reiss to distribute to Monte Nido. Heal The Bay supports LCP but wants greater mitigation in CO-12 and best management practices applied. They do support the horse community. Board of Supervisors should get the LCP at the end of August. First it goes back to Coastal.

*Square Dance* - Ilda Jacobsen is interested in organizing it. Joan Slimocosky has a folder of info on how to plan the event. Ilda should get a committee to help. (Randi Goodman and Jeanne Benson have already offered to be on the committee again). It is usually held in October. Before selecting a date it's a good idea to check the moon phase for a bright night, and avoid Jewish holidays. The "committee" was asked to select 2 possible weekends and then contact the caller to see his availabilities. Oct 8 is the full moon so Oct 11 would be a good date. Oct 18 is an alternate date. Is it possible to use Fleeman's Meadow? The committee should arrange the meadow (or other location) and the caller first. Dana Chidekel offered use of her property in lieu of the Meadow. Tickets must be minimum of \$30 to cover the food. The goal is to break even after all expenses (insurance, port-a-potties, caller, food etc.). There was a suggestion to raffle off one big item – but an objection was raised that this is just for a fun

evening, to build community, not a fund-raiser. The caller provides his own electronics but we need to arrange and provide electricity. Children will be the same price as adults. The intention is for the event to be an adult event – there are no strict age rules but baby sitters are encouraged.

*Lee Ringer* – Water District Board Member - Budget based water rates are on the horizon to create a fair system for charging for water. It will account for the size of parcel, slope, weather, residents, horses. It appears to be only way we will get conservation. There will be cheaper rates for people using water efficiently and expensive rates for people who waste it. 10 water districts use it already and have better conservation and fewer customer complaints. Today the board agreed to contract for a study to set the rates. Ringer will push to get info out on the website. All our water currently comes from MWD, from Oroville. We do not have any groundwater resources. MWD put water into storage in aquifers a few years ago. This year there will be no mandatory allocation cutbacks but maybe next year. The El Nino is reported to

have died. Ringer invites questions or comments about the water district.

Ringer also advised about Brain Boudreaux's 81-lot project off Mulholland – it's in process right now. Plans were approved in 1987 and are to string homes in/around Stokes Canyon. There's lots of earthmoving to be done. The project is not in the Coastal zone so is not regulated by LCP.

*Thank You Reva* - Carrie Baltin presented a gift to Reva Smilkstein for her efforts on behalf of Monte Nido. She's moving to Silver Lake on Monday.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Reiss

**The next MNVCA Board meeting will be September 9, 2014 at the home of Maria & Radu Ioan 25659 Whittemore Dr. (818-914-6014) at 7:00PM**

### **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: Carrie Baltin 818-224-4696  
Vice Pres: Joan Slimocosky 818-591-1082  
Treasurer: Judy Goldin 818-983-1910  
Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995

**Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor Mary Helen Young at [youngsmh@earthlink.net](mailto:youngsmh@earthlink.net)**