



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

November 2007

### MALIBU FIRE

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the outstanding firefighters who worked so tirelessly and professionally to extinguish the Malibu Fire. We, in Monte Nido, are truly fortunate that our neighborhood has been spared the catastrophe that our neighbors around Southern California are currently suffering. Had the winds been blowing in a different direction, a very different fate might have been ours. At this time, it is important to remember that fire season has not yet ended, and we must continue to be vigilant about brush clearance and personal preparedness. In light of the recent fires, we are reprinting the Arson Watch article from the October newsletter, along with some precautions taken from a FEMA publication, to help ensure that the next time we face such a raging conflagration, we and our properties can once again celebrate a happy ending.

### ARSON WATCH: AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

This year's extreme dry weather and recent wildfires have brought the risk of living in fire prone areas of southern California into clear focus. Given the right conditions, wildfires can destroy neighborhoods and lives in a few short minutes and the unfortunate reality is that most of these fires are of "suspicious origin". In short, people start them, either by accident or intentionally.

Community Arson Watch was founded in 1982 after devastating brush fires in our local mountains. Local fire and law enforcement officials told residents that two of the most effective ways to prevent fire in the area are the vigilance of the general public and risk-reduction activities like brush clearance. Community Arson Watch was formed to address both of these issues. Arson Watch volunteers work with local public servants to educate the community about fire hazards and fire-safety regulations and have patrolled high risk areas to prevent fires caused by carelessness or arson.

Arson Watch members are Sheriff's Department volunteers, but they are not responsible for law enforcement. Instead, they act like a neighborhood watch group, supporting the Fire Department and local law enforcement agencies. On days of high fire danger, members from 5 teams patrol our area looking for fires and fire hazards. Teams are active in Malibu, Monte Nido/Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Chatsworth and Topanga. They report problems by radio to base stations where monitors relay information to public safety and fire agencies. They also distribute community safety

information at public events and promote fire prevention awareness programs in local schools.

Our wonderful local Arson Watch team in Monte Nido/Calabasas is made up of your neighbors. We're looking for more volunteers to help keep our neighborhood safe during fire season. Being a volunteer doesn't require a major time commitment. Patrol shifts are only two hours long, and members are asked to contribute a minimum of 30 hours of service a year. People who have free time on weekdays are especially helpful but Arson Watch service can accommodate any schedule. Arson Watch works because of the willingness of the volunteers to contribute in a meaningful way to the safety and well being for the entire community. Please consider becoming a volunteer --- but if you aren't able to do that, consider contributing to the Friends of the Arson Watch and Disaster Services, Inc., a non-profit 501c(3) organization created to support the activities of Community Arson Watch. For more information, contact the Calabasas Arson Watch Team Leader, Lynn Benjamin, at (818) 222-2568, [lynnben@charter.net](mailto:lynnben@charter.net). Donations should be made payable to FAWDS, and sent to P.O.Box 197, Topanga, CA 90290. If making a donation, please let them know that you are in the Monte Nido/Calabasas area. Your support is needed and appreciated.

### FIRE PREPAREDNESS

- Clean your roof, gutters, and chimney
- Install smoke detectors in bedrooms and each level of your home. Now is a good time to test them!
- Teach everyone to use your fire extinguisher.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a chimney outlet.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home
- Create a disaster plan for your family
- When wildfire threatens:
  - Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing direction of escape. Leave key in ignition. Close garage door and windows and disconnect automatic garage door openers.
  - Confine pets to one room.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately:
  - Wear protective clothing
  - Lock your home
  - Choose route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in speed and direction of fire

More detailed information is available at [www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtml](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtml)

## ANNUAL BBQ/SQUARE DANCE

Unfortunately, there have been no volunteers from the community to chair this event. If you would like to step forward to plan and organize a BBQ/Square Dance for Monte Nido, the Board would love to hear from you. The event can be scheduled for the spring.

## GOATS FOR BRUSH CLEARANCE

Many thanks to Deputy Forester J. Lopez for his presentation at the October board meeting on using goats for brush clearance. Private vendors own the goats, which eat many varieties of plants, including poison oak. One to two herders, along with dogs, manage the goats. 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.

## LOCAL COASTAL PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to Deputy Ben Saltsman from Councilman Yaroslavsky's office for attending the October Board meeting to answer questions and concerns regarding the local coastal plan (LCP). Also, thanks to Hal Helsley, community resident and member of the Regional Planning Commission, for his attendance and helpful input. According to Mr. Saltsman, 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. At this time, (following the October 30<sup>th</sup> hearing), the LCP has been approved by the Board of Supervisors (4-0) and been returned to staff for fine-tuning. After the final changes are made the Board of Supervisors 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

The nominating committee, including Joan Kay and a community member, has been hard at work. This year, the seats occupied by Joan Kay, Joan Slimocosky, John Low, Jocelyn Mackay, Marianne Cilluffo, and Lisa Lehman (not returning) are open for election. Nominations are currently being taken. Please contact Joan at 222-2977 to put your name or that of another community member forward for nomination. New Board members will be elected at the November meeting.

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting September Minutes

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:15 pm in the home of Joan Slimocosky. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Joan Kay, 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:* Minutes from the July meeting were approved. *Treasurer's Report:* Account balances were reviewed. There are currently 107 paid members in the MNVCA for 2007. *Correspondence:* None *Federation Report:* No Report *Old Business: Local Coastal Plan* – Draft proposal to be presented to the County Board of Supervisors at the October 23 meeting for review. Monte Nido representatives and other local community members are planning to attend the County meeting to reiterate important concerns. Informative speakers are scheduled to attend the October MNVCA Board meeting to address specific issues and provide input prior to the Supervisors meeting. **Goat Issue** - Speakers to attend October meeting to discuss the pros/cons of using goats for brush/weed clearance around our area. **Trails** – Local neighbors are working diligently to preserve and maintain a portion of the Cold Creek-Lost Canyon loop trail. This is considered a nexus trail. The goals is that it be retained as a public trail and annexed as part of the Trails System based on a 30 year history of use. **Safe Canyon** – A follow up meeting took place to present the traffic study, which evaluated part of Cold Canyon. On-going discussions include looking at methods to make Cold Canyon safer rather than trying to alter the speed limits. Considerations should be given to pedestrian and equestrian use when looking at the overall safety. The Board voted to work against raising speed limits on Cold Canyon and agreed to look for alternatives to slow the traffic and improve safety along the road. **BBQ/Square Dance** – This Event will be not be organized by a Board member this year. The opportunity to Chair the event will be offered up to the community in the upcoming newsletter. *New Business:* **Annual Election of New Board Members** – Nominating committee to be designated at the November MNVCA meeting; notice of upcoming Elections and Nominations to go into the October Newsletter. **Vandalism** – A local building site along Piuma has been vandalized. An investigation is underway to determine who is responsible. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Lehman

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 13 in the home of Chuck and Stephanie Abronson 543 Cold Canyon Rd. 818-222 7669

### How to reach us:

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at [mnvca@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com)**

# MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

November 2007

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tutoring and ISEE Test Prep.</b> K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade - All Subjects Experienced, Licensed Teacher Monte Nido Resident <b>Jill Reiss 222-1995</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANTED: Retired person or student</b> to do occasional transportation to dentist or Kaiser. Must have a valid driver's license. Please call <b>Joan Kay 222-2977</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> 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 style="text-align: center;"><b>PIANO LESSONS</b> beginners and advanced <b>Call Aukse 222-6947</b> or cell 310-500-5121</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</b> <a href="mailto:gailcb@earthlink.net">gailcb@earthlink.net</a></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>EXTERIOR DESIGN</b> Landscape, pools, fireplaces, patios, BBQ's Everything to enhance your outdoor living! <b>Nick Williams 996-4010</b></p>
<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</b> <a href="http://www.designblue.com">www.designblue.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SADDLE PEAK LODGE</b> 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. <b>222 3888</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING</b> Owner operated, reasonable rates <b>DAMON 222 6704</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED</b> To start Dec., Jan. preferred. Minimum 3 bedrooms, unfurnished. Currently renting in Monte Nido. Excellent references <b>Marlane Zamm, Alfred Zamm, M.D.</b> <b>225-0705</b> <a href="mailto:marlanezamm@aol.com">marlanezamm@aol.com</a></p>

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

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### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov 13, 7PM  
At the home of Chuck and Stephanie Abronson  
543 Cold Canyon Rd.  
818-222 7669

### **ETI Corral 36**

**Board Meeting**  
Tuesday Nov. 6th 7 PM  
at the home of Don & Jeanne Wallace  
1710 Cold Canyon Rd., Monte Nido.  
818-222 2560.

**Planning is underway for our  
traditional holiday party for  
Tuesday, Dec. 4th.**

**We sure could use your help!**

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

Thursday, Nov 15, 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

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

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