



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

November 2008

LVUSD SOLICITS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Last month we published the following notice. To date, the board has received very little response. Please contact a board member if you have an opinion about this matter.

The board received a letter from Las Virgenes Unified School District requesting a monetary donation to help cover technology initiatives. The letter suggested that we donate \$55/student. We have 74 students in the community; they are requesting \$4125 (\$55 x 74). They'll accept whatever we want to donate. There was considerable discussion at the September board meeting about whether or not to contribute, and if so, how much. In order that the decision and action of the board in this matter reflects the will of the community, it was decided to request public input on this question. Please give the request your consideration and then contact a board member to share your opinion on whether and how much to contribute to LVUSD. Thank you.

Point

Donate to Las Virgenes Unified School District?

NO as a Community Association.

Yes as Individuals.

MNVCA has been asked by the LVUSD to donate to their technological programs. I oppose our community association donating to schools at least until our Land Use Plan is approved by the Coastal Commission. The Santa Monica Mts. Land Use Plan is designed to dovetail with the North Area Plan and balance some of the growth that feeds our school districts. When it does go to Coastal for approval, we will doubtless need an attorney and be asking for donations for ourselves. LVUSD is a bucket with a hole in it; more students than money to pay for them.

I feel we must focus our limited kitty on the physical environment of Monte Nido. It was almost 20 years ago Monte Nido engaged an attorney to stop "Soka City". Monte Nido, SOS, and Cold Creek raised over 100 thousand dollars and eventually beat Soka in court. Community activists, by 2006, were then able to bring in the big environmental organizations who then donated millions to make Soka public land.

So instead of a huge "Soka City", you, yes YOU, OWN 580 acres of rolling grass lands and magnificent old oaks, with Wallace Neff architecture, all for the education and enjoyment of generations of children to come!

We thank you, the community, for supporting all this. And I thank you for opposing the use of our hard won dollars (your dollars) to the bucket with the hole in it.

Joan H. Kay, Board member, MNVCA

Counterpoint

Donate to Las Virgenes Unified School District?

YES as a Community Association!!

I believe MNVCA should support LVUSD. Ms. Kay is correct that LVUSD has more students than it has money to educate. This is a major problem in CA. But we can help. Our schools are the backbone of our democracy. Without an educated

citizenry, we will have a bankrupt economy and political system. Do we really want illiterate, uninformed people voting? Especially in the areas of science and technology, U.S. schools lag far behind internationally. We ignore these needs in our public schools at our own peril.

I believe that land use and preservation should not be the sole, exclusive focus of our neighborhood association. While the beauty of Monte Nido is a major reason many of us choose to live here, it is not the only one. Good schools were an important consideration for our family when we purchased our home. The continued high quality of LVUSD is important to maintain our real estate values. We have a responsibility as well as a self-interest to support it.

At present, we do not face any major challenges to the health and welfare of Monte Nido. We have money in our association accounts that is not required for any pressing needs. Although Ms. Kay is right to be concerned about over-development, it is presumptuous to hoard our funds and refuse to support other good causes because we may have another problem in the future. I do not suggest that we commit the thousands of dollars that the school district has requested, but we can afford to make a meaningful contribution, and I believe it is in our best interests to do so.

Jill Reiss, Secretary, MNVCA

BBQ-Square Dance/Oktoberfest

Thank you

Co-chairs, Joan Slimocosky from MNVCA and Georgia Farinella of Cold Creek Community Council wish to thank so many who helped make the October 18 event at King Gillette Ranch such a success. 174 neighbors and friends enjoyed dinner and dancing at the magnificent site we worked so hard to preserve. Special thanks to Marsha Feldman of MRCA and Suzanne Goode from State Parks (and CCCC president) for facilitating use of King Gillette at tremendous savings to us. Scott Hughes, Park Ranger at Gillette, provided help before, during and after the event. Donations from the community that proved so beneficial included tables and chairs from Don and Leslie Potts (Hollywood Tentworks) of Cold Creek. Our trash collector, Universal Waste Systems, donated the waste bin thanks to arrangement by Linda Yanetty of Cold Creek. Mona Provencher of Monte Nido (Viktor Bene's, Gelson's Westlake Village) made the incredible cakes at greatly reduced price for the occasion. Thanks also to: *Publicity:* Kelly Crowder, Alicia Gonzalez and son, Alonso, Linda Yanetty and Suzanne Goode *Set-up:* Brent and Aaron Baltin, Lois Love, Georgia and Joan, Linda Yanetty and her crew, Alonso and Javier *Electricity:* Rob Szalagyi (our ever faithful electrician) and son, Jake. *Event helpers:* John and Deborah Low, Debbie DiMascio, Mary Landroth *Clean-up:* Stephanie Abronson, Suzanne Goode, Scott Hughes, Joan Slimocosky *Food:* JV's BBQ, fantastic dinner provided under somewhat difficult conditions (no BBQ grill allowed). We apologize if we forgot anyone. Thanks to all of you for supporting this fun, community event.

Fall Road Cleanup

It's Autumn! It's time for the annual road cleanup before the rains wash all the trash and debris into the creek and straight to the ocean. (Hopefully lots of rain! Pray for rain! I can't wait for rain!) So, who wants to step up to coordinate this act of neighborhood environmental responsibility? It doesn't take a lot of time or effort, but it does require someone to be the point person. And think how good it will make you feel! Contact Joan Slimocosky to volunteer to do a good deed – 818-591-1082.

Board Nominations & Elections

The nominating committee brought to the Board several new people interested in running for the 2009-2010 term: Georgia Farinella, Lois and Dick Love, Carrie and Brent Baltin. This year, board members up for re-election include: Yehuda Netanel, Les Hardie, Rosemary Alden, Heidi Stompe, and Jill Reiss. John Low, Joan Kay, Suzanne Bailey, Jocelyn Mackay, and Joan Slimocosky were elected last year for a 2-year term. Rosemary Alden has decided not to run for the board this year. Board elections will be held at the November 11 meeting, 7PM, at Stephanie Abronson's home, 543 Cold Canyon Rd, 222-PONY. This is a general election and all Monte Nido residents are welcome. Paid members will be able to vote for the candidate slate. Per the by-laws, you must pay your dues (\$50) prior to the meeting. Mail to Monte Nido Valley Community Assoc., P.O. Box 8054, Calabasas, CA 91372.

Neighborhood Directory Update

Last month's newsletter contained a notice that the neighborhood directory is due to be updated and reprinted. To date, very few forms have been submitted for inclusion. Please be informed that in order to be included in this new directory, you must submit a form with current information. You will not be included in this directory just because you were listed previously. Even if there are no changes to your information, you must resubmit your information for this directory. Mail info to Marianne Cilluffo at MNVCA, PO Box 8054, Calabasas, CA 91372. Or, email MNVCADirectory@charter.net.

Another Cougar Sighting

Well, they are definitely in the neighborhood. There has been another sighting in recent weeks. Two young, male mountain lions were sighted in the driveway at the Wildlife Center on Piuma Road. And a neighbor on Malibu Meadows Road reports hearing them several times in the backyard. So please remain alert on the trails. Remember, this was their territory before it was ours.

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting

MNVCA Board Meeting minutes Sept 9, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 7:10PM Board members present: John Low, Joan Kay, Suzanne Bailey, Jocelyn McKay, Heidi Stompe, Joan Slimocosky, Marianne Cilluffo, Jill Reiss. Community members attending: Kelly Crowder, Debbie DiMascio, Georgia Farinella *Introductions*: Kelly Crowder is District Commissioner of Pony Club. *Minutes* from July 2008 meeting were approved. *Treasurer's Report* – In July, funds were moved to a new liquid CD at B of A for greater interest advantage. Cilluffo reported on earnings from July 4 event. Cilluffo, Reiss, and Slimocosky signed the new signature card at B of A. John Low still needs to do so. *Correspondence* – Marianne received a solicitation letter from Save Open Space, requesting a donation to help fund legal battle against Triangle Ranch development; high-density tract homes located in LA County at south edge of City of Agoura. Supervisor Yaroslavsky is believed to support the development as North Area plan compliant. Cornell Preservation Organization is involved with Paramount Ranch and others to oppose development. SOS is a conduit for money to flow to legal foes to be certain to get a compliant project whenever it goes into development (which may not be imminent due to poor health of housing market). Board approved donation of \$250 to SOS for this purpose by majority vote with one opposed. *Federation*– John Low explained structure of Las Virgenes Homeowner's

Federation, a consortium of 21-22 homeowners groups from Calabasas to Westlake (in existence 42 years or so, former members now in LA city council and CA state legislature). No business to report. *BBQ/Square Dance* – There was no event last year because no one volunteered to chair. This year it will be held in conjunction with Cold Creek Homeowners. Joan Slimocosky and Suzanne Bailey are organizing in conjunction with Georgia Farinella and Suzanne Goode. Kelly Crowder and David Hirsch volunteered for committee. Crowder has two more volunteers for signage and publicity. It will be held at King Gillette Ranch. "Greatest Loser" is using facility now for production, which limits what we can use. Date is set for Sat. Oct. 18, which, unfortunately conflicts with Pony Club Jumping Rally in Ventura. Need flyer in mailboxes with RSVP info and when we need the response and payment. Georgia arranged food with JV's BBQ on Las Virgenes Rd. BYOB. Desserts will be arranged separately from JV's, lighting to be considered. Tables and chairs donated by Don Potts from Cold Creek Homeowners. *Signage/safe canyon speed limit changes* – Debbie DiMascio went to several neighborhoods in area to see what signage there is and who posted them. In every location, the signs were community done, not county. Community signs are attached to county posts, most likely without official permission but the county is not interfering. They are all very official looking, professionally constructed by independent sign maker. New signs at Dark Creek Bridge going up soon, inexpensive, metal. DiMascio is continuing to pursue county officials to post signs but if she's successful she doesn't think it will be for a long time. Low suggests it's a good idea for all signs to be uniform in size and appearance within a community. DiMascio expects some local Edenwild homeowners to agree to post several local signs. *Fire safety/demo with Barricade gel/foam* – about 30 people were at meeting. Was worthwhile meeting. *Trails* – Georgia Farinella reported that Satterlee has been quiet lately. She is not aware of any recent developments in his building plans.

Newsletter Mailings – Joan Kaye suggested mailing newsletter to Mulholland but we can't because they're not on Rural Route 1. We mail 325 copies but we have 361 houses. Suzanne Bailey made a motion to increase quantity to 370 newsletters...motion carried. *Directory* – Marianne Cilluffo suggested we should reprint/update. The October newsletter will contain an article with an extra page for a tear off. Neighbors will be requested to send in name, address, work phone, home phone, cell phone, whatever contact info they want, children's names, email address, special skills for emergencies. Info to be sent to Cilluffo at MNVCA PO box. For printing Jan 09, must send in info now to be included. *New business* – A board meeting will be held on October 14 at Joan Slimocosky's house. *Elections* – Joan Kaye will be on nominating committee. Need community members to serve as well. *LVUSD* – The board received a letter asking for donation of \$55/student in community to help cover technology initiatives. We have 74 students in the community, so they are requesting \$4125 (55 x 74). They'll accept whatever we want to donate. Agoura, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and Westlake Villages have all contributed. There was strong disagreement within the board about whether or not to contribute. This info will be printed in the Oct newsletter requesting public commentary about whether we should make a contribution and if so, what amount.

Cougars in neighborhood. Joan Kaye wants us to publish additional info about what to do if you encounter one. She has pamphlet to pull info from. Wants to have meeting with some expert from Fish and Game who can present info. Kaye will contact someone to make a presentation. *Adjourned at 9:10PM*.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at mnvcaneewsletter@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 mnvcaneewsletter@gmail.com

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD**

November 2008

<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT Custom homes and Remodels GARY BARDOVI 222-0313</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DESIGN & BUILD 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;">ARCHITECT 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;">PIANO LESSONS beginners and advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>
<p>BOOK LOVER NEEDS A NEW HOME. Longtime Malibu resident with great references. Library employee – friend of the library desires small residence for self and two cats. Please call Linde (310) 457-1636.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE 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;">BY POPULAR DEMAND, Longtime Monte Nido resident Carol Hernandez-Girardi has added clothing and gifts for purchase on her website ArtistCarol.com in addition to her fine art. She has created a special piece titled “Monte Nido Landscape” just for local residents. Carol designed the original MNVCA logo for the property owners group in 1986. To view her fine art or to order clothing, gifts or decorative items please go to ArtistCarol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE 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. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE 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;">SADDLE PEAK LODGE 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>

To place an ad contact Nicole Brown at 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

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tuesday Nov 11, 7PM
At the home of Stephanie Abronson
543 Cold Canyon Rd
(in the middle of the "S" curve - Be Careful!
Street sign at the top of the driveway - Pony Cross Rd.)
818-222-PONY

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Next Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 4, 7 PM
at the home of
Art & Shawn Carvalho,
24639 Mulholland Hwy.
(818) 224-4775

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, Nov 20, 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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