



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

October 2007

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. 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.

Editor's note: MNVCA recognizes the value and importance of Arson Watch to our community and has contributed to support their efforts on our behalf. Please consider joining us in that effort, or better yet, consider becoming a volunteer.

Grants for Brush-Eating Goats!

Deputy Forester Lopez from the Los Angeles County Fire Dept. will be at the Oct. 9 MNVCA board meeting to brief us on their program to use goats to clear brush and chaparral on homeowners' property. Please attend the meeting to learn how goats can help us reduce fire danger.

Construction Vandalized on Piuma

A property owner, who had lawfully started construction of his residence on Piuma, was subject to criminal activities by a person claiming to be "People of Monte Nido Against Building." This criminal was wearing about size 12 boots, brought a dog, and owns a truck. He or she cut through the owner's fence, broke up the concrete foundations, and severely vandalized the property. Owners have the right to build legally on their own property. Our community for many years had a neighborhood watch; it is in our best interests to continue this watch and stop vandals from committing such destructive acts.

Operation Safe Canyons Update

After a review of the study's recommendations at the September meeting, the Board has decided to officially oppose the intention to raise the speed limit on Cold Canyon Road. The Association instead proposes installation of a series of stop signs on Cold Canyon to make it a safe neighborhood street rather than a thoroughfare. If you are interested and willing to help make this proposal a reality please contact neighborhood resident, Doug Dilg, at doug@piumamotion.com.

Do-si-do Anyone?

It's autumn! Leaves are turning brown, temps are cooling down. That means it's time for Monte Nido's fall neighborhood event, the Barbecue and Square Dance! Just like our July 4th festivities, this affair doesn't happen unless some motivated neighbors volunteer to do the planning and organizing. Won't you please consider getting involved? If you can donate some time and energy to make the BBQ/Square Dance happen, please contact Joan Slimocosky at 591-1082.

Candidates Needed!

Are you happy living in Monte Nido, our "Mountain Nest"? Do you appreciate the benefits our beautiful, quiet, secluded retreat offers? Please consider helping to preserve and protect the neighborhood by becoming involved with our local governance! Annual elections for the Monte Nido Valley Community Association Board of Directors will be held in November. The board encourages any and all interested community members to volunteer to serve on the board. A nominating committee will be formed to solicit candidates. If you wish to put your name forward for election, or to nominate another candidate, please contact any current board member as soon as possible.

Local Coastal Plan To Go Into Effect

On October 23, there will be a hearing before the LA County Board of Supervisors to hear testimony relative to adoption of the proposed Local Coastal Plan. If approved, the Coastal Commission will cede authority over building approvals and permits to the supervisors. Because this document will affect all of our lives in the Santa Monica mountains for the foreseeable future, Joan Slimocosky, MNVCA Board President, plans to attend the hearing to address the board on behalf of Monte Nido. All interested persons will be heard. She welcomes other neighbors to join her to demonstrate the interest and commitment of our community to preserving the quality and character of our rural habitat. Please contact Joan at 591-1082 if you can attend. The hearing will be at 9:30AM at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 383, 500 West Temple St. If you wish to review the proposed LCP and related documents, they are available at the Calabasas and Malibu public libraries, among other places. Written comments may also be mailed to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at the address above (zip 90012).

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting JULY 10, 2007

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10 pm in the home of Marianne Cilluffo. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Kay, Jocelyn McKay, Joan Slimocosky, Heidi Stompe, and several other members of the community. **Agenda:** Agenda changes were made. **Minutes:** Minutes from the June meeting were approved after additional discussion regarding school by Liberty Canyon. **Treasurer's Report:** Summary of accounts was given. Reimbursements for July 4th

expenses approved. **Correspondence:** Letter to Adam Schiff of National Parks circulated by Joan. Letter received by Board from Jocelyn and Connie McKay objecting to inclusion of "Z Trail" in newsletter and use. **Federation Report:** Don Wallace gave information regarding Rim of Valley trail. Letters of support to Congressman have been helpful in House subcommittee hearing. Opposition does exist due to issues of property rights and tripling of SMMNRA jurisdiction. Also discussion of Standard Pacific development with much opposition and limitations on developer. Issues of parking, mixed use brought up. City of Calabasas is in support while LVMWD opposes due to its proximity to the composting center. **Old Business:** July 4th- Suzanne Bailey presented summary of expenses and receipts. Very successful due to Jane Cudworth volunteering for Raffle at the last minute. Hot food was not missed. Issue raised by a community member regarding why the raffle should raise money. Joan S. will write letter to publish in newsletter to explain that money goes to support MNVCA. Triangle- Planting going in, with some recommended plants. Developer has done all he will do. Monte Nido Welcome Signs-Summary of ballot results not available. Discussion continued for and against. Cold Canyon-Lost Canyon Trails Update - Georgia Farinella presented information regarding easement on Edith Calder/Saterlee parcels and illegal grading that went on last month. Response was strong from the community. Georgia is spearheading interaction with various agencies, including Building and Safety and Coastal Commission. Letter requesting preservation of historic trails over Calder parcel and connector to dedicated trail is being circulated. "Z Trail"- letter of objection from property owner, no access to be granted now, possible restoration of trail access after construction is completed. Noted that protection of property owner for dedicated trails has been supported in court if owner wishes to grant access. Continued discussion. Malibu Valley Farms-Coastal Commission approved permit for Boudreaus's farm. Reduced setback of 50 feet from creek was approved, some modifications will be required. Stop Light- Discussion of hearing regarding proposed stoplight at Old Topanga and Mulholland highway. Brush Clearance: Due to high fire danger this year, the Fire Department is requiring extensive clearing. **New Business:** King Gillette Ranch: Summer programs have been created, Alicia Gonzalez has information. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm. Respectfully submitted, Marianne Cilluffo

The next meeting will be held Tues., Oct 9 at 7PM at the home of Heidi Stompe, 871 Malibu Meadows, 222-8711.

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

October 2007

<p style="text-align: center;">EXTERIOR DESIGN</p> <p>Landscape, pools, fireplaces, patios, BBQ's Everything to enhance your outdoor living! Nick Williams 996-4010</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tutoring and ISEE Test Prep. K-8th Grade - All Subjects Experienced, Licensed Teacher Monte Nido Resident Jill Reiss 222-1995</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOUSE FOR LEASE</p> <p>3 bedroom, 3 bath house in Monte Nido. View, hardwood throughout, stainless kitchen, sunroom. \$3500/month. 805-908-1706. Pam</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PIANO LESSONS</p> <p>Beginners and Advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p>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;">COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</p> <p>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 818-781-3111 www.shermanoaksdental.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FURNITURE FOR SALE</p> <p>Craftsman Style desk & file cabinets Children's oak roll-top desk & chair. Call Carrie 224-4596</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DESIGN & BUILD</p> <p>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>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>
<p style="text-align: center;">RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING</p> <p>Owner operated, reasonable rates DAMON 222 6704</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE</p> <p>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;">LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED</p> <p>To start Dec., Jan. preferred. Minimum 3 bedrooms, unfurnished. Currently renting in Monte Nido. Excellent references Marlane Zamm, Alfred Zamm, M.D. 225-0705 marlanezamm@aol.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHITECT</p> <p>Custom homes and Remodels Gary Bardovi 222-0313</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SEEKING PERSONAL TRAINER</p> <p>for a couple with a home gym in Monte Nido. Call Connie with rates 818-224-3757</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REAL ESTATE</p> <p>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>

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, Oct 9, 7PM
At the home of Heidi Stompe
871 Malibu Meadows
222-8711

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting
Thursday, Oct 18, 7:30PM
Diamond X Ranch
(Off Mulholland)

ETI Corral 36 Board Meeting
Oct. 2nd, 7 PM
at the home of
Debbie DiMascio & Julian Watkins
894 Crater Oak Dr.,
Please remove your shoes before entering the house.

Universal Worship Service:
First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6363

Corral 36 "Phantasy" Trail Ride & BBQ
Saturday October 13, 2007
Ready to ride at 1:00 PM
RSVP Required to all Events
Meet at Malibu Valley Farms –
Parking on Stokes Canyon Rd.,
north of Mulholland Hwy.

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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