



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

October 2008

OCTOBERFEST/ BBQ SQUARE DANCE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Saturday, October 18th

\$20/person. Advance sales REQUIRED

Payment Must Be Received by Oct 13!

CO-SPONSORED BY MNVCA AND
COLD CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Dinner: 6-8 pm

Square Dancing: 8-10pm

New Location: King Gillette Ranch
(corner of Mulholland and Las Virgenes)

Delicious JV's BBQ ribs, tri-tip, and chicken, sides,
dessert, non alcoholic drinks provided; BYOB!

Make check to MNVCA or CCCA and mail to:

25632 Buckhorn Dr., Calabasas 91302 or

P. O. Box 8054, Calabasas 91372

Come early (5pm) and take a walking tour of this magnificent site that all of us in the Monte Nido Valley Community Association helped save with years of perseverance, hard work, and money. It is worth it! For more information, contact Joan Slimocosky at 591-1082, or Suzanne Bailey at 222-7663.

October Board Meeting Scheduled

A board meeting has been scheduled for October 14 at 7PM, at the home of Joan Slimocosky. 25632 Buckhorn Dr. 818-591-1082. This meeting is an addition to the original calendar and was not reflected in the September newsletter. All community members are always welcome.

LVUSD SOLICITS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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.

Cougars Update

Last month we informed you that a cougar had been spotted in the neighborhood. This month we're following up with some information about how to safely coexist with them. This information has been taken from Mountain Lion Foundation, programs@mountainlion.org, www.mountainlion.org.

"Puma Concolor, the "Cat of One Color," is called by many names: cougar, puma, mountain lion, catamount, and even panther. Cougars live solitary lives within a system of mutual avoidance. In a healthy ecosystem, cougars are a top predator, helping to balance wildlife populations. Deer are their primary food sources, and the presence of deer indicates likely presence of cougars. However, as opportunistic feeders, cougars can survive on a variety of prey including rodents, birds, porcupines, fish and raccoons, as well as livestock and domestic animals. If you or someone you know lives in mountain lion territory, simple measures can be taken to prevent human-lion interactions. According to the Department of Fish & Game, one of the most important tips is: **do not go into mountain lion territory by yourself. Go with a friend or bring a dog. Always take a friend with you when you camp, hike or backpack in wild areas.** Even when lions are encountered, they rarely pose a threat. Most cougars prefer to avoid human beings. Read these " Safety Tips " to know what to do in case you ever encounter a mountain lion.

1. If you own livestock and live in or around mountain lion habitat, it is wise to put your animals inside at night. Mountain lions hunt primarily at night and unprotected pets, sheep and goats are easy prey. You can also install outside lighting, clear brush away from around your home, or get a guard dog.
2. When it comes to personal safety, always be aware of your surroundings, wherever you are; conduct yourself and attend to children and dependents accordingly. Landscape for safety.
3. Remove vegetation that provides cover for cougars. Remove plants that attract wildlife (deer, raccoons, etc.). By attracting them you naturally attract their predator—the cougar.
4. Don't feed wildlife. Don't leave pet food outside. Both may attract cougars by attracting their natural prey. Keep pets secure. Roaming pets are easy prey for cougars.

5. Don't approach a cougar. Most cougars want to avoid humans. Give a cougar the time and space to steer clear of you.
6. Supervise children, especially outdoors between dusk and dawn. Educate them about cougars and other wildlife they might encounter.
7. Always hike, backpack, and camp in wild areas with a companion. Never run past or from a cougar. This may trigger their instinct to chase. Make eye contact. Stand your ground. Pick up small children without, if possible, turning away or bending over. Never bend over or crouch down. Doing so causes humans to resemble four-legged prey animals. Crouching down or bending over also makes the neck and back of the head vulnerable.
8. If you encounter a cougar, make yourself appear larger, more aggressive. Open your jacket, raise your arms, throw stones, branches, etc., without turning away. Wave raised arms slowly, and speak slowly, firmly, loudly to disrupt and discourage predatory behavior. Try to remain standing to protect head and neck and, if attacked, fight back with whatever is at hand (without turning your back)—people have utilized rocks, jackets, garden tools, tree branches, and even bare hands to turn away cougars."

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes from July 8, 2008. Meeting called to order at 7:15 at the home of Rosemary Alden. Board members present included Rosemary Alden, Suzanne Bailey, Marianne Cilluffo, John Low, Jill Reiss, Joan Slimocosky. Community member Sheila Rosenthal attended. Guest, Ellen Walton from LA County weed abatement. *Treasurer report:* MNVCA funds were moved out of CD. Marianne recommends reinvesting in a liquid CD for 9 months at B of A. *Old Business:* Minutes from May approved with corrections to spelling of Marianne Cilluffo and Georgia Farinella. *Safe Canyons* –The speed limit of 35 mph is being posted in August. Tickets will be issued. Community will be alerted. *July 4th Report:* Thank you to Suzanne Bailey for July 4. Bailey reviewed financials. The event was profitable, roughly \$1500. Slimocosky proposed that Cudworths should be Grand Marshals next year. Thanks to Lehman's for sandwiches, Bunettas for sodas. Money raised goes to preserve the beauty and continuity of our neighborhood, which recently involved all the legal battles over Soka/King Gillette. *Fire Safety:* Fire Safe Council/Fire Safe Alliance is reimbursing homeowners and associations (grants) up to 75% of cost to remove dangerous fuel. We're going to publish awareness that we need to reduce dangerous trees like eucalyptus and pine, cypress, acacia (torches) in newsletters...keep reminding people to take these down. Sumacs should be cut way down but leave the roots; they're very deep and anchor the hillsides well. *Federation Report:* Meetings - The last meeting was cancelled. Fed. Is trying to get access to Diamond X now that security has changed (new locks). Park Service is restricting access to non-employees. Possible next meeting will be cancelled as well if no access available. Development concerns - 2 neighborhoods within city of Calabasas are not served by sewers, Old Topanga and parts of Highlands. City decided to do engineering and

planning study to determine whether sewers can be installed in Old Top. One resident very upset/opposed. VP of Fed and John Low are working on idea with city to develop strict zoning regulations for communities like Old Top. to protect them from potential from 'inappropriate ' development once sewers installed. Low thinks city will put sewer in no matter what because it's most efficient way of handling what they see as a problem because of federal water quality regulations, despite what locals think. Real concern outside of cost to residents is potential for properties to be built to maximum. Septics limit number of bathrooms, which limits size of property and whether something can be built at all depending on geology. This seems to be not a good protection shield for the community to deal with development. Low thinks we may be vulnerable to same thing. Better to write tight zoning and development regs for community; then it won't matter whether septic or sewer exists. *Fall event* - Slimocosky has lead on someone to chair fall event; she will follow up. Cold Creek Community Council wants to know if we want to partner with them for a fall event. They don't want to do the same thing they did in the past, which was an Oktoberfest. Square Dance would be good. Possible to do something at King Gillette? Maybe new venue would draw more people in? CCCC says cost could only be about \$100 for insurance. Possibly October 4th? *Signage* - Debbie DiMascio is working with the county to see what kind of signage we could get posted about caution with horses and pedestrians etc. *Block Captains* - no one is coming forward to shepherd this. The Board suggests that each block organize itself. *New Business:* Ellen Walton -Inspector III, Weed Abatement Division, LA County Agricultural Commissioner, Weights and Measurements, attended the meeting. She has a huge territory to manage clearance and abatement. Wants the neighborhood to be familiar with her name and number so we can give her input if we know of parcels that need to be cleared that are missed for whatever reason. Responsible for clearing vacant properties (private or public) with no development on them. All weed abatement work is put out to bid. The lowest qualified bidder gets the work unless they are known to be of inferior quality. County crews come to this area on Fridays. If they clear private property, owners are charged on tax bill, and are notified first if going to cost more than \$750. (Fire department is responsible for inspecting/clearing private developed parcels). Contact info for Ms. Walton is 12300 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia, CA 91006, 818-833-6648. Walton delivered an information piece from her office for publication in the MNVCA newsletter. Cougars have been spotted in the neighborhood. Put warning in newsletter. Report of Coalition for Fire Safe Communities - Review of material printed in newsletter. *Meeting adjourned at 9PM.* Next meeting Sept 9 at Suzanne Bailey's home.

How to reach us:

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

Neighborhood Directory Update

It has been several years since the directory was last updated. It's time to print a new one. If you would like to be included, please complete the tear off page below.

Mail it to Marianne Cilluffo at MNVCA, PO Box 8054, Calabasas, CA 91372.
Or, email the info to Marianne Cilluffo at MNVCADirectory@charter.net

-----Tear off-----

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Children's names _____

Special skill/equipment _____

Willing to volunteer for
community emergency? _____

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD**

October 2008

<p>ARCHITECT Custom homes and Remodels GARY BARDOVI 222-0313</p>	<p>PIANO LESSONS beginners and advanced Call Aukse 222-6947 or cell 310-500-5121</p>
<p>ARCHITECT Sensitive to budget & lifestyle. Responsive to the land and environment. Monte Nido resident for over 25 years WARREN LAWSON 591-0646</p>	<p>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>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>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>DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p>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 macvooodoo@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, Oct. 14, 7PM
At the home of Joan Slimocosky
25632 Buckhorn Dr.
818-591-1082

ETI Corral 36
Next Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 7, 7 PM
at the home of
Stephanie Abronson
Pony Cross Farm
543 Cold Canyon Rd., Monte Nido.
818-222 PONY.
Board Meeting to follow.
Bring a chair and warm jacket.

**Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation
Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 16, 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

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID CANOGA PARK, CA 91304 PERMIT No. 307
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Please deliver by Oct 7, 2008

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