



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

September 2007

### Thank You

This year's July 4<sup>th</sup> event was a great success, due in no small measure to the many neighbors who contributed so much of their time and materials! Many thanks to *Suzanne Bailey*, Chairperson, for her tireless efforts! The Board also wishes to acknowledge, with much gratitude and appreciation, the following chairpersons, who worked very hard to make the day wonderful: *Tracy Bunetta*, Bake Sale and Soda; *Dane Seiling*, Games; *Jane and John Cudworth*, Raffle; *Nancy Pope*, SnoCone; *Shari Pevsner*, Publicity; *Gail Lowe*, Ticket Sales; *Les Hardie*, Meadow Set-up; *Steve Barth*, Parade Judges; *Rod Bergen*, Parade/Picnic Emcee; *Lynn Benjamin*, Arson Watch; *Joan and Bob Bruhn*, Grand Marshals. And many thanks, as well, to the following people, for their generous donations and essential help: *Lisa and Chuck Lehman* for donating all the sandwiches; *Carol LaCorte* for the tables, banner and flag bearers; *Betsy and Lee Milligan* for set up; *Tree Williams* for ticket sales; *Joan Slimocosky* for meadow set-up and parade coordination; *Station 67 Firefighters*; and all the raffle donors!

### Thirsty Trees

You've no doubt noticed the signs of the lack of water in our trees - brown leaves, dying and fallen branches. The Monterey Pines, redwoods and other conifers are not natives and struggle with grossly reduced water supplies. Unfortunately, by the time you actually SEE the signs of stress in pines and other conifers, it is too late. A sprinkler system can usually only saturate the top few inches of soil. It is very important right now that homeowners deeply water their trees. In the morning, run a hose on a slow dribble at the base of one of your trees, and let it run all-day and overnight. The following day, move the hose to the next tree and follow the same instructions. You can also find a product to drench the tree roots called "Ross Root Feeder" on the internet. As stewards of the land, we are being called to action by our beloved Shade Givers, Nest Holders, Food Providers, Oxygen Producers - so drag out your hoses (and maybe a little Rain Dance wouldn't hurt!) - Nick Williams

### Presidentially Speaking

For those of you who have wondered, 'Why the fundraising at July 4th?', may I point out that despite MANY volunteer hours, the July 4th and other community events still cost money. Liability insurance to cover our generous and longtime hosts, Phil and Geri Fleeman (the biggest expense), trash dumpster, port a potties, award ribbons/plaques, paper goods, ice/watermelons, square dance caller (for autumn event) and several things I've probably forgotten are all paid for by dues and funds raised at July 4th. I want to especially thank Suzanne Bailey for again chairing this year's event. I have done it several times and it is not a job for the faint hearted! Any volunteers for next year?

Speaking of trash dumpster, have you noticed just how dirty Monte Nido is again? Your association has taken on the responsibility of keeping Las Virgenes Road clean between Mulholland and the tunnel. We will be scheduling a Saturday morning trash pick up very soon, before the rains, if we ever get any. Please watch for notification and volunteer. Great way to earn service hours for teens. What better example to your children than this small, green effort in our little corner of the planet? The ocean will thank us and it's so much easier on the eyes! - Association President, Joan Slimocosky

### Community Alert

One of our neighbors is getting a locked mailbox after a bank statement with cancelled checks was stolen from his mailbox. Someone went to a branch in Panorama City and cashed a check with a forged signature for \$1,150. A few days later a male attempted to cash another check for \$900 but the teller thought the check did not look "right" so did not complete the transaction. The fraud unit of the bank is investigating.

## 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! It has been used successfully in several areas of Malibu. What a great way to do your brush clearance! Please attend the meeting to learn how goats can help us reduce fire danger!

## Tips for Being Green

"Recycle yard waste and vegetable scraps by composting to produce a valuable soil conditioner... Composting is a natural process. Organic materials such as leaves, grass, and vegetable scraps are broken down by microorganisms, forming a rich soil-like substance called compost or humus...All you need to compost is enthusiasm, yard or food waste (except meat or dairy products), and some space. Compost piles don't need to be enclosed, although many people use a bin or similar enclosure. Compost bins can be purchased, or you can easily construct one with common materials such as chicken wire, snow fencing, lumber, or used pallets. Other tools that come in handy for composting are a garden hose, wheelbarrow, and common garden tools... Composting can begin any time of the year, but many people start in the fall when leaves are abundant." This information was found in the "Guide to Home Composting" at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/Compost/Home1.htm>. The site is easy to navigate and contains a wealth of additional information.

## ○ The Circle of Life ○

- Congratulations to Jackson Lewis, grandson of Harmon & Louise Greene, on the occasion of his 1st Holy Communion on April 28, 2007 at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church in Westlake Village.
- We will miss seeing Jim Engelschall crossing our little bridge over Dark Creek to meander down the driveway on his walk about the neighborhood. A long time resident of Monte Nido, Jim died Wed., July 11. Condolences to his wife, Roberta, daughter, Mary Ellen and son, Bill

*If you have news to share, please email the editor at [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com).*

## Operation Safe Canyons Update

A community meeting was held Aug. 8 at the home of Stephanie and Chuck Abronson for an engineer to present the findings of the traffic survey conducted on Cold Canyon Road. As a result of the study, speed limits in the neighborhood will be adjusted and posted, and CHP will then be empowered to enforce them. Also, Sup. Yaroslavsky's office will bring a proposal to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors for installation of a centerline rumble strip pilot project on Stunt Road. The intention is for the rumble strip to disrupt race traffic, which needs to travel over the center of the road to maintain speed. CHP also reported on the progress of Operation Safe Canyons. Starting 3 weeks prior to the meeting, a posse of officers has been policing the canyons with a zero tolerance policy for violations. 65 citations were issued in one 4-hour period! In the near future, CHP expects to begin using LIDAR units, which are more effective than radar, to detect, track, and ticket moving violations.

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tues., Sept. 11 at 7PM at the home of Joan Slimocosky, 25632 Buckhorn Dr., 591-1082

### 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 KNOWS

### DID YOU KNOW?

Comprising 153,075 acres, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is the world's largest urban national park. It has more area codes (5) and zip codes (26), than any other unit in the National Park System.

# MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

September 2007

<p><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>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>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>COMPUTER HELP WANTED</b> Coaching and Assistance on MacBook Pro iPhoto iWorks iTunes <b>Rosemary Alden 222-2936</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COURT REPORTER</b> Ruocco &amp; Assoc., Certified Shorthand Reporters 15% off for new clients <b>Susan Ruocco Bischoff</b> <b>(310) 445-0074</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFANT PLAYGROUP WANTED</b> New mom interested in joining or forming a Monte Nido playgroup. <b>Please contact Anne 430-9554</b> or <a href="mailto:anneonvacation@yahoo.com">anneonvacation@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CARPOOL WANTED</b> from Monte Nido to Lupin Hill Elementary starting mornings of Fall 2007 <b>call Randy 310-702-7276</b> or <a href="mailto:razzklein@yahoo.com">razzklein@yahoo.com</a></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>818 222 3888</b></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>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>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</b> 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. <b>Michael Bjornbak, DDS 818-781-3111</b> <a href="http://www.shermanoaksdental.com">www.shermanoaksdental.com</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>PIANO LESSONS</b> Beginners and Advanced Call <b>Aukse 222-6947</b> or cell <b>310-500-5121</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. Living and working in Monte Nido for 20 yrs. <b>Tracy Bunetta 222-2272</b> <a href="http://MonteNidoRealEstate.com">MonteNidoRealEstate.com</a></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>GUEST HOUSE FOR RENT</b> Beautiful 1 bedroom guest house in Monte Nido. <b>call 222-6996</b></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, Sept 11, 7PM  
At the home of Joan Slimocosky  
25632 Buckhorn Dr.  
591-1082

**ETI Corral 36**  
Seminar & Board Meeting  
*"Equine Stress Control Therapy, Part II"*  
Tuesday, Sept. 4, 7 PM,  
At the home of Rod & Judy Bergen,  
565 Mountain Green Dr., 818-591 7896.

**Zen Meditation**  
Thursday evenings at 7:30pm  
Rosemary Taylor Alden  
222-2936

**Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting**  
Thursday, Sept 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

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

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