

Carmel Valley Association

To preserve, protect, and defend the natural beauty and resources
of Carmel Valley and the County of Monterey



COMING EVENTS

Aug 10, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices - FREE

Larry Hampson,
Water Resources Engineer

*"Carmel River, past,
present and future"*

All Saints School
8060 Carmel Valley Road

Sept 14, 11:30-2pm

CVA Annual Picnic

Get to know your neighbors, eat
good food (catered by Carmel
Valley Market) and drink fine
wines, speak to our local politi-
cians, and have a rousing good
time!

\$15 individuals; \$25 couples.

CV Trail & Saddle Club
E. Garzas Road

Sept 14, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices - FREE

Elizabeth Barratt, historian
"The Boronda Family in CV"

CV Trail & Saddle Club

Sept 21-22

Ranchers Days

A fun-filled family-oriented
weekend dedicated to the pres-
ervation of Carmel Valley ranch-
ing traditions.

CV Trail & Saddle Club
www.ranchersdays.org

Oct 12, 2-4pm

Carmel Valley Voices - FREE

Speaker TBA

All Saints School
8060 Carmel Valley Road

The Basin Complex Fire

It threatened Carmel Valley



Crews monitoring backfires on the TNT Ranch in upper Carmel Valley. Photo by Dinny Craviotto

FIRE PREPAREDNESS

By David Burbidge

Led by the Carmel Valley Association and Sustainable Carmel Valley local residents got the jump on our record setting fire season, establishing emergency preparedness as a high priority for all neighborhoods in the Valley.

Even before the fires, the Boronda Road area has already begun to organize its residents as a model for other neighborhoods to follow. To begin, everyone was invited to a community meeting where the need for the program was reviewed. Volunteers then conducted a neighborhood survey to determine the number, age and fitness of the residents on each property, what

type of resources they might provide and what form of assistance they might need in the case of an emergency.

The Carmel Valley Fire District was given these surveys to help them develop a data base for the neighborhoods. This information can be used by public service agencies to target assistance in case of any emergency.

COPE (Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies) programs will be used as guides for setting up neighborhood teams. The programs were developed by the manager of the Office of Emergency Services to facilitate organizing the neighborhoods into Emergency Preparation groups.

PREPAREDNESS, continued on Page 2

President's Letter

By John Dalessio



Carmel Valley moved significantly closer this month to obtaining the right to vote on becoming a town when proponents of incorporation prevailed over developer interests before the County's Local Agency Formation Commission

(LAFCO).

At issue was LAFCO's belated insistence that the Carmel Valley Forum, the group that is trying to bring the issue of incorporation to the voters, wait for – and pay for – a meaningless Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Hemmed in by a Monterey County Superior Court decision, and buffeted by Special District contributors demanding that it stop wasting taxpayers' money, LAFCO finally gave up its EIR demands. LAFCO's decision conformed to the recommendation of its own environmental consultant who had reported that, if asked to do an EIR, he would have nothing to evaluate, and a court decision that found that the incorporation of Carmel Valley did not require an EIR.

At a special July meeting, LAFCO decided to update the 2006 financial analysis and service plan and to "... complete the processing of the incorporation application through to a LAFCO hearing and action ..." This means that by December 1, 2008, LAFCO will at last decide whether or not the residents of Carmel Valley will get to decide if they want to become a self-governed town.

We anticipate that this will be a favorable but not unanimous decision, as LAFCO apparently has no reasonable grounds to delay the incorporation vote. Max Chaplin, President of the Carmel Valley Forum, suggests that Carmel Valley residents "Look for a vote on incorporation some time in '09."

Carmel Valley's incorporation effort already has taken longer to get to a vote than any other incorporation in California history. Our deepest thanks to the thousands of Carmel Valley citizens who signed the incorporation petitions, the local leadership that finally convinced LAFCO to complete its review of our incorporation petition and the exceptionally patient Valley residents who have stayed with and supported Carmel Valley's right to become a self-governing town throughout these many long years.

Carmel Valley

Bruna Odello and Bob Wilson draw an overview



Clockwise from upper right: Bruna Odello and Bob Wilson; John Dalessio greets DeeAnne How Loren Steck, Darby Worth and Sandy Schachter; the busy sign-in table for the large crowd at A

PREPAREDNESS, continued from Page 1

This preparation includes encouraging neighborhood residents to receive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training that will be provided in the near future by the Carmel Valley Fire District. These CERT teams then will become the initial responders, and will work closely with the public service agencies for each neighborhood.

Among their tasks will be to make sure, when possible, that their neighbors are provided the assistance they require. For additional information about the Boronda model, please contact John Dalessio. For information about COPE or CERT, please contact me, David Burbidge, at burbidgedj@netscape.net or (831) 659 5877.

Valley Voices

overflow crowd with their 'old rancher' stories



Sharon Bacon, a horse-trainer/homeowner at the mouth of Carmel Valley; All Saints School auditorium on July 13

FYI: General Plan Update 5

The CVA formally urged the County Board of Supervisors to give the public two full months to review and comment on the Draft EIR, and to instruct the Planning Commission to bring the proposed plan to the public at times and in locations convenient to residents of each supervisorial district. CVA also asked the supervisors to respect the voters of the 4th District by waiting to vote until January after the elected supervisor, Jane Parker, takes her seat. CVA also noted that the Planning Commission's work on the GP update was done during the boom years in the housing construction and sales markets and therefore does not take account of current data since the mortgage debacle. At newsletter press time, it appears these concerns have mostly fallen on deaf ears.

Outreach

By Donna Kneeland, Committee Chair

Carmel Valley Association's newly-formed Outreach Committee is in the process of developing community activities as well as coordinated projects, for the benefit of Carmel Valley residents.

The first of these is a series of free, informal talks called **Carmel Valley Voices**. The series kicked off on July 13, at All Saints Day School, with long-time area ranchers Bob Wilson and Bruna Odello. (Fred Nason and Jack Swanson were expected but found themselves evacuating livestock from fires in Cachagua.)

CVA's **Annual Picnic**, chaired this year by Sharon Bacon, will again be held at the Trail and Saddle Club, on Sunday, Sept 14. If you would like to be on the Planning Committee or volunteer to help on the day of the picnic, contact Sharon at 624-8693, or email her at sbbacon@sbcglobal.net.

Committee members are seeking ways to support and cooperate with **Sustainable Carmel Valley** initiatives and to share this information with you. In addition, **Emergency Response** plans are being explored and we are joining in the larger efforts already formulated. Our goal is to reach all residents with information and instructions they can use in responding to emergency situations such as fire, earthquakes, floods or other disasters. It is expected that neighborhood groups will play an important role.

An **Advisory Committee**, comprised of the presidents of CV Homeowners' Associations, is being formed to improve communication between Valley residents and the CVA Board. Sharing issues of mutual concern, bringing new ideas to the table and finding ways to assist each other are part of the goal. To date, approximately 14 Homeowners' Associations have been identified and invited to attend CVA Board meetings. We would like to include everyone. If your Homeowners' Association president has not been contacted, or if you want to check to see that he or she has been invited to participate on the Advisory Committee, please contact me at 625-0929 or by email at crmlldonna@aol.com.

The **Newsletter** is also being coordinated by the Outreach Committee and any articles or comments residents wish to submit may be sent to John Dalesio, President of CVA, at dalessio@mbay.net, or me.



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- Christine Williams 659-1307

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Concerning Rancho Cañada Village

By Tim Sanders

For several years the Carmel Valley Association (CVA) has reviewed the various plans and their supporting documents for a proposed development on portions of the Rancho Cañada golf course. Among the many defects of the plan as most recently submitted, CVA has focused its attention on the following:

1. The proposed development lies within the present floodplain of the Carmel River. This area has experienced three serious floods in just the past fifteen years. Building within the floodplain violates the Carmel Valley Master Plan, established planning principles and common sense.
2. The plan proposes to 'solve' the development's flood problem, not by relocating the subdivision, but by relocating the flood-
5. The project is located right next to the Carmel Middle School. Expect lots of sick kids, especially kids with pre-existing lung conditions. Massive earth moving and construction would raise dangerous quantities of toxic dust (including Aspergillus and Silica) according to recognized medical authority. Also expect continuously disrupted classes during the several years of construction.
6. Kids learn through example. Consider this lesson: education is secondary to some very rich people becoming richer by crowding three-story condos next to a middle school and its habitat garden.
7. The project includes 281 or 309 residential units (depends upon who is counting) on about 40 acres. This is 50 times current Carmel Valley residential density; 4 times as dense as the town of Carmel-by-the-Sea; and 3.5 times as dense as the minimum urban plan. RCV is, by any reasonable standard, an URBAN project.

plain. This requires a massive importation of dirt (200,000 cubic yards of fill, half of which is to be trucked into Carmel Valley), dumped into the floodplain.

3. Relocating the floodplain simply moves the flood problem to other areas of the Carmel River and may create significant new risks. Little or no consideration has been given to the residents of housing complexes that now would be located in or near the newly created Carmel River Floodplain, both upstream and downstream. The plan not only is unfair to existing residents, but could subject the County to massive litigation costs.
4. Carmel Valley Road and Highway 1 already operate at deficient Levels of Service (from D through F; C is now the Carmel Valley and County standard). Yet these roads would absorb the great bulk of traffic from the project, increasing the number of vehicles on the local roads by about 10%. This project, coupled with building on existing lots of record, guarantees permanent mouth of the Valley traffic jams.

Continued below

8. The Carmel Valley Master Plan calls for Carmel Valley to be a rural enclave. CVA is dedicated to keeping Carmel Valley rural, and our membership, in survey after survey, overwhelmingly supports this goal. Yet we are threatened with an urban project at the very entrance to the Valley.

These concerns, coupled with many others, have caused the CVA Board to take the unusual step of voting to oppose the RCV project in its present form and with or near its present densities. This vote was issued as a caution to the developers. We are open to working with them on a project that respects the health, safety, well-being and rural nature of the Valley and its peoples. But we will oppose the present plan and anything like it with all of our considerable resources.