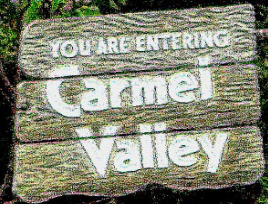


Carmel Valley Association

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



CVA Newsletter ~ August 2011

www.carmelvalleyassociation.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

August 2, 8pm

Hidden Valley
Masters Festival
Thomas Stacy
English horn recital
Hidden Valley
CV & Ford Roads
hiddenvalleymusic.org

August 5-7

Carmel Valley Kiwanis'
Fiesta Week
& Hoopla
Events at Trail & Saddle Club
& CV Community Park
644-6180 ~ cvkclub.org

Aug 19-Sep 4

Composer Philip Glass'
Days & Nights
Festival
Hidden Valley
daysandnightsfestival.com

September 9-11

CV Historical Society
RUMMAGE SALE
659-4925 ~ 659-2038
Hidden Valley

September 18

11:30am-2:30pm
Carmel Valley Association
ANNUAL PICNIC
CV Trail & Saddle Club
end of Boronda Road
Guest Speaker: Planning
Commissioner Martha Diehl
carmelvalleyassociation.org

'Crown jewel' as county AO sees it

By Lew Bauman
Monterey County Administrative Officer

Carmel Valley is among the crown jewels of our county. The valley is a unique area not only because of its breathtaking geology and scenery, but also because of its activist community deeply concerned and involved in land use issues. In the 1980s, the County and the Carmel Valley community framed the Carmel Valley Master Plan to serve as the foundation of land use for the valley. One stipulation of that Plan was that most developments, including single-family homes, are subject to a discretionary permit process. Excepting the Coastal Zone, this requirement is atypical for those who build homes in most of the county, where property owners simply pull over-the-counter building permits without discretionary review and focused analysis by county planners. Carmel Valley's planning environment, as well as the region's resource constraints, often provides for tensions within the community when development is proposed.

Infrastructure and resource limitations, and no-growth sentiments, are a common theme one sees in land use throughout the state. The *Institute for Local Government* frames it this way: "Land-use decisions are inherently volatile: developers want entitlements, environmentalists want growth management, and neighborhood organizations want a say in the approval process. Plus, any number of historic preservation groups, cultural groups, unions, taxpayer organizations, and affordable hous-

ing advocates may take issue with any given decision." Despite these pressures, the obligation of the professional planner is to stay true to the general and area plan documents, make informed and evidence-based decisions, engage the public when appropriate, balance the benefits and burdens, and most importantly, be objective, fair, and consistent.

The Carmel Valley Association provides a powerful voice on land use processes and projects in the valley. Along with local residents, county staff is expected to understand the unique nature and constraints to development in Carmel Valley. The CVA actively participated in helping us shape the updated General Plan to reflect the desires of the community. Many of the policies from the CV Master Plan developed in the '80s live on in the 2010 General Plan including a growth-cap for new units and the requirement for discretionary permits for most new development.

In typical cases, project proponents have a property right they wish to exercise, and the neighbors and community likewise have property rights they legitimately try to protect. These interests often result in inherent tensions. One of the key challenges for staff is that they must apply the specific rules applicable to the valley, concurrently applying more general rules applied county-wide in a fair and consistent manner while balancing the competing interests of the project applicant and the community at large. When projects are consistent with the adopted CV Master

Continued on Page 3



President's Letter By Christine Williams

County politics! Don't you love 'em? The Collins/Weeks fiasco and alleged consent concerning the Regional Water Plan by supervisors Calcagno and Potter have us all scratching our heads. What were they thinking? Who were they fooling? Kudos to Ed Mitchell from North County for breaking the story on Collins' conflict of interest! Like-

wise the heroic forensics of Julie Engell! (See our Water Committee proposals for solving the water issue, on our webpage.) And what about the magical way the 4.8 acre-feet of water per year allotted for the 78-bed Cottages of Carmel assisted living project "will surely be enough," in spite of a flawed water analysis? Yet it was voted in!

Our planning commissioners, Martha Diehl and Keith Vandevere, consistently study the issues, read the plans and ask astute questions. The Commission has recently been showing its smarts by voting down or asking for modifications on pro-

Continued Page 2, column 1

Continued from Page 1

jects that fail to meet established standards. Unfortunately, the supervisors often overturn the PC's wisdom. Case in point: on July 12 the supervisors voted 3-2 to approve the shopping mall development at Corral de Tierra and Highway 68. Thanks to Supervisors Potter and Parker for standing their ground. As with Carmel Valley, traffic and water are the issues there.

Of grave concern is the supervisors' 4-1 vote to approve the MST project at Whispering Oaks, Ft. Ord. It's disturbing that Potter voted for it, especially since MST owns two other sites on Ft. Ord that are already blighted.

Such clear-cutting of forested land has ominous implications for future proposals in Carmel Valley, which is changing quickly, in spite of a slow down of local "big" development! The once rural and agricultural fields are gradually disappearing. Several new homes being built measure in the 6,000 to 10,000 square foot range, with caretaker's cottages and extra garages. It's common these days to see requests to build on slopes over 30 percent.

We ask residents to scrub out the invasive Genista to help protect our native plants, (even though Home Depot sells it!) We have a common goal of keeping low lighting to protect our valued and unique night sky, yet bright porch lights and commercial lighting have exploded. These are just two examples of changes to our natural, rural culture.

Our lawsuit against the county on the traffic measurement methods only on Carmel Valley Road is still in process, no court date set. Alan Delfino, owner of the old airport property, is hoping the Park District will buy it. The neighbors' efforts to keep Hitchcock Creek clean are paying off. So far the steelhead folks have gathered 500 fry from the drying creek and released them into the river; last year there were only nine. Congrats to the Holman neighbors who have successfully gotten the Planning Commission to require AT&T to search for other viable sites for their cell tower.

In the midst of our activism, we continue to enjoy the friendships of many of you. We live in an amazing place, with amazing people! One of them was **Grace Darcy**, who, sadly, passed away recently. Grace lived in a remote Carmel Valley canyon for 38 years. She founded the Carmel Valley Women's Network and edited and published their Carmel Valley Uproar. Its first issue headlined, "Save Rippling River." She loved politics, cats, forests, opera, stopping developers, and keeping wild places wild.

If you aren't a CVA member or on our email list, you are missing all the up-to-date reports we send out. We invite you to send your email address to carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com. (It will be held in strict confidence.) We are proud to announce that nearly 10 percent of the voters in Carmel Valley are CVA members. We'd love 50 percent, so find some friends and sign them up online.

Carmel Valley

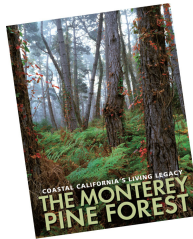


Left: The wrought iron fence that fronts Carmel Valley Manor along Carmel Valley Road consists of elevator cage panels recycled from the (flatiron) Phelan Building in San Francisco. Before his death in 1956, Noel Sullivan—James Phelan's nephew—lived large at this CV estancia, famous for his parties and high profile guests, including those who were denied lodging at Monterey Peninsula hotels, notably Langston Hughes and Marian Anderson. An arts lover, especially music, Sullivan sang bass in the Carmel Bach Festival chorus. His family bought and paid for Carmel's Carmelite Monastery building on Highway 1 opposite Monastery Beach. The Farris of Carmel are among other local Phelan descendants.

Below: piglets for sale on Schulte Road; San Carlos Road bridge finally reopened, June 12



Handsome new book supports Monterey pine habitats



Forests of Monterey pine exist in only five limited coastal ecosystems: the Monterey Peninsula, Año Nuevo in Santa Cruz County, Cambria in San Luis Obispo County and two islands off the Baja California coast. Celebrating the rich biodiversity of these habitats in its 200 pages, the new volume has just been released by the non-profit Monterey Pine Forest Watch.

The new edition recounts the history of the Monterey pine beginning with excerpts quoted from the earliest inhabitants right up to today's efforts to preserve remaining stands. With lavish color photography, the book profiles the flora and fauna found within these forests along with a field guide to exploring their parks and preserves.

The Monterey Pine Forest, Coastal California's Living Legacy is available at River House Books at the Crossroads Shopping Center in Carmel, Pilgrims Way bookstore and Carmel Bay Company in Carmel, and the Wild Bird Center in Del Monte Center, Monterey. Copies sell for \$22 plus tax and all proceeds go to preserve Monterey Pine Forest habitat.

Gallery

Continued from Bauman, Page 1

Plan, meet other applicable standards and policies, do not have significant environmental effects, and do not adversely affect the area, staff recommends approval of the project. It may not always be apparent, but staff seriously considers public input, causing some projects to be redesigned at the staff level, Land Use Advisory Committee level, or by the decision-making body. Decision makers weigh all the information from staff and the public before making a decision, balancing competing interests related to the protection of scarce resources, the environment, and the property rights of all parties. Unfortunately, even with the attempts at balancing those interests and rights, sometimes the result is dissatisfaction on the part of one of the parties.

Currently, Carmel Valley has several development proposals that have generated a lot of attention. Due to pending litigation, I can only speak in general terms about those projects. A couple of the active project proposals are the Cottages of Carmel, behind Brinton's, and Rancho Cañada Village. The Cottages of Carmel is currently in the process of meeting its final conditions of approval so that it can open this summer. Rancho Cañada Village continues extensive environmental evaluation before proceeding to public hearings. Both of these projects have generated a lot of participation from the CVA and the citizens of the valley in the planning process. County staff is doing its best to ensure that project requirements are met, to raise the issues the public is concerned with, and to bring those issues forward to a hearing for debate.

We appreciate that many citizens of Carmel Valley like the community the way it is and are trying to assist in retaining that character. The input of the CVA and individuals in the valley provides valuable information for planning in the community and for project specific decisions. We value your continuing participation in the land-use planning toward making the valley a community consistent with the adopted planning vision.

The County Administrative Officer (CAO) is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the administration of county government and to implement decisions made by the BOS.



Above: First visit to Carmel Valley by the annual AMGEN Tour of California, May 19; at CV Village the leaders (inset) were two minutes ahead of the pack.

Below: Renowned American composer Philip Glass launches his new Days & Nights Festival, Aug 19-Sept 4, at Hidden Valley Music Seminars



Focus on Carmel Valley Business The Running Iron Restaurant & Saloon

By John Walton

Closed for two months last winter, the Running Iron reopened in February after a thorough cleaning and staff reorganization. Owners Jan and Nelson Foreman are back in active management along with daughter and supervisor, Tanni, and new chef Danny Locklar. The restaurant, bar, and adjacent Stirrup Cup pizza parlor have a bright new look while retaining the traditional Carmel Valley western ambience. Even the boots hung from the ceiling came down for a cleaning.

The Running Iron typifies the colorful, friendly, rural ambience of Carmel Valley. Even its name conjures the

Old West. The running iron was a handy implement used by rustlers for altering the brands on wandering cattle. Memorabilia of the ranching era decorate the cozy interior.

Business is picking up after a lull due to the closure and a slow economy. The menu has been redesigned to include original favorites, fresh fish, local produce, and special selections for "Little Cowpokes." Restaurant hours start with brunch at 10 am and continue to 9:30 pm. The outside patio is dog friendly and smoking is discouraged anywhere in the vicinity. Private parties and service club functions are easily arranged.

The Running Iron is a local family business owned and managed by the Foremans for the past 26 years. The reopening emphasizes Carmel Valley and family trade, although it is also a regular stop for tourists. Christmas and Fiesta Days Parades embark from this central point in the village.



Owner Jan Foreman and Chef Danny Locklar



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Carmel Valley Non-Profit Profile
Carmel Valley Women's Club
By Sandy Schachter

Just over half a century ago, a group of Carmel Valley women began to get together to play bridge and socialize. Before long, their discussions turned to meaningful ways of contributing their time and efforts to the community, and the Carmel Valley Women's Club was born! The organization, presently at 150 members, concentrates its efforts on fund-raising in order to support not-for-profit local groups and to provide college scholarships for 15-22 young Carmel Valley women every year. The applicants are interviewed and chosen for awards by a committee, and the scholarships

are awarded every June at a luncheon meeting.


The club schedules monthly luncheon meetings from September to June, featuring programs of interest to Carmel Valley residents. Other annual fund-raising events are a Christmas program in December and a popular April fashion show at the Inn at Spanish Bay. The group also publishes a monthly newsletter.

According to the club's president, Sharon Pezzolo, "It is a joy to work with these wonderful women and to be able to help our amazing young women who live in Carmel Valley."

The group's annual membership event will be held on September 7 of this year from 4-6 pm at Los Laureles Lodge. Anyone wishing to join should call the President, Sharon Pezzolo, at 659-3110, or Membership Chairwoman, June Dawson, at 659-1261.

Mark your calendar!
SUNDAY, SEPT 18
11:30AM—2:30PM
CVA's ANNUAL
FAMILY PICNIC
CV Trail & Saddle Club
Catering by
Carmel Valley Kiwanis
Guest speaker:
Planning Commissioner
Martha Diehl
"Appearance and Reality"
RSVP: 659-0815
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