

Carmel Valley Association

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



CVA Newsletter ~ February 2010

www.carmelvalleyassociation.org

Coming Events

Feb 28, 2pm
CVA Annual Meeting

Community Room
Del Mesa Carmel

Mar 14, 2-3:30pm
Food for Life

"India's Poorest of the Poor"
Lindsay McMillan
& Sonja Huff

Apr 11, 2-3:30pm
Local Writers' Roundtable

Unless otherwise noted
all Carmel Valley Voices
Programs are held on
Sundays, 2-3:30 pm, at
Sanctuary Bible Church
Faith Hall
8340 Carmel Valley Road
(at Schulte Road)

FREE OF CHARGE

CVA Annual Meeting, Feb 28, 2pm, Del Mesa Carmel **Board of Directors election & approval of bylaws changes**

In keeping with our bylaws, we have submitted our nominating committee's proposed slate of Directors. The slate of candidates and instructions on how to nominate other candidates were mailed to members January 14. If any further nominations are received by the February 4 deadline, ballots will be mailed to members in time to vote before the Annual Meeting on Feb 28. Any nominee must have been a member as of Dec 31, 2009 to qualify. If no further nominees are received, the slate as presented will automatically be ratified and accepted.

The purpose of changing the bylaws is to refine some of the procedures to match what actually works. Some editing has been done to make it less wordy. You can find the changes on our website:

(www.carmelvalleyassociation.org)

To receive a hard copy by mail, call Sandy Schachter, 659-5877. Feel free to email comments to us at our new email: carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com.

Join us. Get involved with CVA

- *Meet the new Board*
- *Vote on Bylaws changes*
- *Catch up on CVA's efforts to protect Carmel Valley*
- *Post election ideas (Learn about MACs)*

Nominees for Carmel Valley Ass'n Board of Directors, 2010 Officers:

Christine Williams
President

Todd Norgaard
Vice President

Sandy Schachter
Secretary

Edward Surprenant
Treasurer

Directors to be elected:

Mibs McCarthy

Rich Fox

Robert Greenwood

Tim Sanders

Donna Kneeland

Max Chaplin

Margaret Robbins

Loren Steck

Directors in midterm:

John Walton

Rod Mills

Dale Agron

Glenn Robinson

Emergency Preparedness

CERT is coming!

By Dave Burbidge

At long last. Capt. Jeff Frye of the Carmel Valley Fire District is organizing Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for Carmel Valley. The first class, sponsored

by the Tierra Grande homeowners association, will start in mid-February specifically for the Tierra Grande neighborhood.

Classes are in the planning stage for other parts of the valley in the near future.

If your neighborhood is interested in holding a CERT class, contact Jeff at (831) 238-2772, or by e-mail at

jeff@thefryegroup.com

These classes consist of 20 hours of training in such areas as The Incident Command System, Basic Medical Procedures, Fire Safety and Light Search and Rescue. Additional emergency preparedness information can be had by contacting me, David Burbidge, at (831) 659-5877, or by email at burbidgedj@netscape.net.

CARMEL VALLEY



President's Letter By Christine Williams

Someone dumped four large mattresses and other moving castoffs on private property near my home. This happens several times a year. It's NOT okay! Why not? Because

most of us follow the rules. Because the property owner shouldn't have to use his time nor money to take someone else's garbage to the dump. Because the neighbors have to deal with the unsightliness of it. Because the dumper violated two county codes, our laws. We collectively "get" those reasons.

What does this have to do with CVA? In the same way that we don't want someone spoiling our neighborhood environment, CVA doesn't want developers coming into the Valley with plans that require not just one, but multiple variances, zoning changes to the Master Plan, and project proposals that are legally flawed. We believe most residents would agree with us.

So what is CVA's motive in watching out for the greater good of Carmel Valley residents? It's just that, and only that.

CVA's volunteer board and members sincerely believe that preserving the beauty of Carmel Valley is worth our time and effort. We believe the Master Plan is there to be followed, not disregarded. We believe that our river is a critical resource that needs to be protected from more overdrafting. It's a lifeline for all of us. We believe projects should be approved only if water is available, traffic circulation won't be compromised, and applicable legal requirements are met.

At one time, Pt. Lobos was subdivided for development. In 1898 Alexander and Satie Allen rescued the area by buying up the lots, saving it from development. Although some might have been disappointed about not being able to build there, aren't we so glad it's preserved as the beautiful natural environment it is!

Where was common sense when condos were built on the ocean cliffs in Pacifica? Or houses were built in the flood plains of the Mississippi? Or right here in Monterey near the ocean? Some of us come from areas that were built out, right under our noses. Orchards turned into parking lots. Ridgelines covered with "ticky tacky." Traffic gridlock every day.

We've seen it happen and we know Carmel Valley is just one more "prime space" to conquer in the developer world. CVA represents those common sense interests so we will still



Carmel Valley's Future By Glenn E. Robinson

In the wake of November's defeat of Measure G to incorporate Carmel Valley, the five top vote-getters for the (unimplemented) town council met to discuss steps that could be taken to preserve Carmel Valley's rural character and quality of life. Those candidates—Karin Strasser Kaufmann, Larry Bacon, Amy Anderson, Priscilla Walton, and I—all agreed that the development challenges facing Carmel Valley were too great to rely on ostrich-like wishful thinking, and that land-use-by-lawsuit was no way to undertake planning.

We arrived at six recommendations, subsequently published in the Herald in January. Four recommendations were specific to the county's new General Plan ("GPU5") which may be adopted as early as March (after a decade's battle), and two recommendations revolved around institutional change.

The four GPU5 recommendations were: 1) maintain a distinct Carmel Valley Master Plan as currently the CVMP is going away in favor of a few pages of "supplemental" policies to GPU5; 2) limit further development in Carmel Valley to existing legal lots of record (there are about 500 undeveloped parcels in the CVMP area); 3) maintain strong traffic standards, or "triggers," for Carmel Valley Road in order to limit congestion; and 4) eliminate the "special treatment area" at Rancho Canada, which seeks to transform five parcels into hundreds of houses in and around the flood

plain of the Carmel River.

These recommendations are consistent with CVA policies, and we will continue to push them with the county.

We also recommended two institutional changes. First, we recommended that each supervisor have a veto over projects in his or her district. The time has come to end the practice of our supervisor being outvoted by other supervisors representing Salinas, north county and south county on projects in Carmel Valley. Finally, we recommended that the county establish a Carmel Valley Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC).

We believe the MAC holds the most promise for enhancing local control over land use in Carmel Valley. A MAC would create a powerful and formal institutional voice for Carmel Valley in the county where none now exists. It could also streamline county government by replacing the CV Land Use Advisory Committee, the CV Roads Committee, and the county's zoning administrator and planning commission for all land use issues in Carmel Valley. The minimal funding to operate a MAC would come from the county.

MACs are commonplace in California where it appears about 60 exist. At least 15 have their own websites, so I encourage you to explore them on your own. I am still researching the details of MACs in other communities and will have more to say in the next few months. In the meantime, please share your thoughts about these ideas with me at aahq@comcast.net.

LEY GALLERY



Left top row CVA Annual Family Picnic: Tim Sanders, Martha Diehl, Amy White & Neil Agron; Molly & Carole Erickson; Robert Greenwood and friend

Left bottom row Carmel Valley Voices: Donna Kneeland introduced historian Peter Hiller in November; Youth Music Monterey musicians performing in January were Joy Yamaguchi (Honors Orchestra concertmaster), violinists Edie Ellison & Peter Mellinger with pianist Gabby Micheletti, and clarinetist Perry Choi

Above: Kudos to whoever cleared a footpath next to the fence allowing Middle School students to walk home safe from vehicle traffic on CV Road

Water update

By Todd Norgaard

Concerns for the Carmel River and our water supply continue as the court-imposed deadline for CalAm pumping reduction nears. A desal solution appears to be on the horizon, but details and its possible governance are not at all clear. Even higher water rates and prohibitions on landscape watering could be in our future. Members of the CVA water committee continue to participate in the many water agency meetings and public forums to represent the interests of CV residents, along with monitoring development projects that could further threaten our water supply.

Mark your calendar now for Sunday afternoon, May 16, when CVA will sponsor a Water Forum, to bring all of us up to date on these important water developments, to be held at Sanctuary Bible Church, at Schulte and CV Roads.

GPU5 is supposed to be out by the end of January with a 21 day public comment period. The new General Plan (over 1000 pages) will govern land, traffic and water decisions affecting all County residents for the next 20 years. Any who want to help us review should email us at carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com or call Christine at 659-1307 to be included in our sessions.

Traffic update

By Tim Sanders

Carmel Valley Road (CVR), from Rancho San Carlos Road to east of Holman Road, consists of seven two-lane segments, to which the following comments apply:

- The draft EIR for GPU5 contains inconsistent and contradictory statements concerning these segments; for example, in different places D and F (poor and very bad) are listed as the current levels of service (LOS) for the same segments
- In the same document, the County proposes to change the *meaning* of LOS for CVR by modifying the measurement scheme in such a way that *roadway standards would be weakened* by from 19% to 81% (based on information currently available)
- The change in meaning of LOS would *mask the weakening* of standards
- To prevent the enfeeblement of standards, CVA proposed to the Planning Commission that the County adopt specific standards consistent with historic traffic patterns and standards
- In spite of LUAC approval of the CVA proposal, Public Works has resolutely opposed the CVA initiative, and has insisted on the drastic weakening of CVR standards, as in the draft EIR for GPU5.

Soon the final EIR for GPU5 will be released for public review, and this is one of the critical issues for Carmel Valley residents. It will be up to you to make known your will concerning the acceptable level

Pulse of Carmel Valley

By "The Doctor"

February is a month closely associated with affairs of the heart, which got The Doctor thinking about all the ways that living in Carmel Valley keeps our hearts healthy and strong.

The valley's young people are one source of good health, both for the heart and the mind. Take Lindsay McMillan, daughter of Michael and Vicki McMillan. For two years now, Lindsay has taken it upon herself to raise funds for the Sandipani Muni School in Vrindavan, India. The Sandipani Muni School serves Vrindavan's poorest families. When Lindsay found out about the school through the Food for Life program, she was inspired to help. In 2008, with the help of her Carmel Middle School Leadership class, she was able to raise \$400. Last year, she increased that amount just a bit and collected a whopping \$16,000! But Lindsay didn't stop with fundraising. Both times, she traveled to Vrindavan to deliver the money she'd raised and to meet the children she was helping. It does the heart good to hear about a person who is so motivated to do good. It also does the heart good to help others. The Doctor prescribes a strict exercise regimen just like Lindsay's: one in which we all exercise our generosity for those less fortunate. (See Coming Events on P. 1, CV Voices, March 14.)

Those who are not quite so young are also good for the heart. Robert Greenwood, a geologist by training, has served as CVA's treasurer for an entire epoch. In addition to taking excellent care of the organization's fiscal health, he's also kept his eye on the health of the Carmel River and its aquifer. Nobody in Carmel Valley knows more about water issues in Carmel Valley than Robert. After devoting many years to CVA, Robert is taking his second retirement and stepping down as treasurer and water wizard. The Doctor sends a hearty tip of the stethoscope to Professor Greenwood for keeping CVA's and Carmel Valley's arteries so clear for so long.

Rosie's Cracker Barrel is open for business again in the heart of the village. The old gas station is now a cozy country store, with soups, meals to go, fresh baked goods from Nola's Organic Bakery, and all manner of Carmel Valley-related things for sale. Stop in and say hello to Kiki and her staff sometime soon. Ask what's in store for the old store when the renovation there is complete.

The Doctor has been following with great interest the latest medical research showing that dark chocolate and red wine are heart-healthy. Here's a Carmel Valley Valentine's Day prescription: treat your sweetheart to a box of dark chocolates from Lula's in the Crossroads, a glass of Joullian Winery's Retro Rouge, a massage at Harmony Day Spa, and a romantic fondue dinner at Lugano Swiss Bistro in the Barnyard. Good health never tasted so good!



Carmel Valley Association
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Donna Kneeland, Vice-President - Outreach 625-0929
Sandy Schachter, Secretary 659-5877
Robert Greenwood, Treasurer 625-5316
Glenn Robinson, Pres. Emeritus 659-1152
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Margaret Robbins, Co-Chair - Water 624-1153
Loren Steck, Chair - Membership 626-8761
John Walton 659-1519
Eleanor Avila, Historian 624-1156

Dear Reader: If there is a yellow line on this label, your membership is past due. This will be your last newsletter unless we hear from you. Please renew!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Outreach Committee
A look back at 2009**

By Donna Kneeland, Committee Chair

Over the past year your CVA Outreach Committee has met monthly to consider and promote such important activities as **Emergency Preparedness**, headed by Dave Burbidge; **Membership**, with the active oversight of Loren Steck, Tony Dann and Andrew Allison; our regular editions of the **Carmel Valley Newsletter**, edited by Scott MacClelland, and our monthly free presentations of **Carmel Valley Voices**, ably handled by Sandy Schachter and Dave Burbidge. Pete Jones, another member of the Outreach Committee, has been a steady and reliable

support in everything from distribution of the newsletter to implementation of our many planned activities. As President, Christine Williams is an ex-officio member of the committee helping to coordinate activities with Carmel Valley Association plans and goals.

The Outreach Committee again worked actively with the committee that planned and put together our very successful **Annual Picnic** at the Trail & Saddle Club. All of us join in thanking the Picnic Committee. The group put on a picnic that attracted the largest crowd we have ever had—approximately 170 people. So, a huge round of applause for them all: Lorraine and Ed Surprenant, Sharon Bacon, Dave Burbidge, Jeff

Cornell, Marilu Lichtlen, Ann Flood, Ellen McGrath, Susan Francis, Rod Mills, Robert Greenwood, Elizabeth and Glenn Robinson, Cynthia Hogan, Sandy Schachter, Peggy and Pete Jones and Christine and Kim Williams.

We also want to give a huge thank-you to Rob Baker, of *Me and the Hound* who did a great catering job AND also donated a case of his own Kinser wine; Rick Chelew and his *Cachagua Playboys*; Donna Leify for her donation of wine; the Farmer family at *Running Iron* for their donation of ice; and Cynthia Hogan's "green" donations of tableware. And, as always, we are grateful to the Trail & Saddle Club for making the grounds available to us. It's the perfect picnic spot!

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