



WE'RE PROUD OF OUR SUCCESS



President's Letter

The Carmel Valley Association has had many successes this year that we can be proud of. Our lawsuit against the Rancho Canada development has been resolved largely in

our favor. The Cima Collina Hilltop Ranch event venue matter was to be determined on July 11. For updates, watch your weekly e-bulletin. If our original concern is upheld, then attempting to create event centers in residentially-zoned areas of Carmel Valley will be stopped.

CVA has been busy collaborating on short-term rental concerns with a number of groups in the Carmel area. We have written a consensus position that will have been delivered to the planning commission and board of supervisors by the end of July, when it is expected that the county will present another draft of the short-term rental ordinance to the board of supervisors.

Our Land Use Committee has been on top of a number of issues brought to us by residents responding to the Advocacy Project. Those include the building of non-permitted structures at Carmel Valley Ranch that we continue to monitor to make certain that county regulations and permits are not violated. There has also been an increase in the number and type of events and activities at Folktale Winery and Vineyards that continue to be of concern because they are occurring in a residentially-zoned area. Whether or not Folktale can continue the type and volume of activities currently occurring is in question. We are working with county staff to ensure the activities conform to the legal use permit currently held by Folktale.

September Ranch proposed development, after many years of remaining dormant,

Letter continued on page 2

Valley Residents Unite to Preserve Open Space



photo by Luana Conley

by Sandra Schachter

Carmel Valley residents have responded enthusiastically to an urgent call from the Carmel Valley Association to protect the Carmel Valley airstrip property as open space. About 50 concerned individuals attended a meeting on June 6th at the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, ready to work for the good of the community, and about the same number were present at a follow-up meeting on June 19th.

In introductory remarks at the first meeting, CVA President Priscilla Walton noted that over 90% of respondents to a recent CVA questionnaire believed that "CVA should take an active part in encouraging the purchase of the airfield by a buyer who will preserve it as a park and staging area for emergency services."

CVA called these meetings in the hope of facilitating community action on this issue, since the property could be sold to developers at any moment.

At the first meeting, after a message of support from Kate Daniels of Supervisor Adams' office and a historical outline of previous attempts to buy the property by Joe Hertlein of the Carmel Valley Recreation and Parks Department, the participants rolled up their sleeves and divided into committees to begin work on finding a way to protect the former airfield property.

The committees and their chairs were designated as Methods of Acquisition (Dale McCauley), Fundraising (Eric

Sand), Outreach (Kathleen Hendricks), Public Uses (Joe Narvaez), and Property Governance (Joe Hertlein). The groups met to design a structure and outline their initial suggestions, and then they reported back to the full group with their preliminary ideas and areas of action. A plan was also presented for a possible seven-home development on the eastern end of the property. Each committee had eight to ten members at the beginning, but some have grown since then. If anyone would like to join one of these committees, please contact Carmel Valley Save Our Space at CVSaveOpenSpace@cvos.org or Joe Hertlein at joe Hertlein@gmail.com.

As follow-up, a smaller group of airfield neighbors met separately on June 18 to brainstorm ideas and reinforce opposition to any form of development on the property. The full community meeting on June 19th presented possibilities for funding mechanisms for purchase of the property, heard updates from the committees, and outlined the preliminary structure of a the new CVSOS group. The present committee heads and a recording secretary form the executive committee, which is meeting weekly, with Joe Hertlein as chair. Another full community meeting was scheduled for July 10th, when pledge cards would be available.

Meanwhile, pledges to preserve the airport property can be sent to CVSOS, PO Box 28, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, and more information can be obtained by phone at 831-659-7788 or email CVSaveOpenSpace@CVSOS.org.

HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC SEMINARS

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2:30 pm**

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659-3115
hiddenvalleymusic.org
104 W. Carmel Valley Road

President's Letter, continued from Pg. 1 is now becoming active. CVA is closely monitoring the situation so that the nearly 200 conditions in the 2010 county general plan on this project will be met. We are in close communication with both the developers and county staff meeting bi-monthly.

Our Natural Resources Committee has arranged a number of successful outings this year that have been well attended.

A beautiful video about the Carmel Valley Association, its history and mission, has been completed by Richard Cheatham and is on our website and on our Facebook page.

Carmel Valley residents responded positively to the call for finding a way to save the Carmel Valley Vintage Airfield in our last issue. Please see the article in this newsletter.

We are grateful that the residents of Carmel Valley are so committed to preserving the beauty, natural resources, and rural character of Carmel Valley. We urge those of you who do not belong to CVA to join and participate actively on our committees. We are actively searching for committee and board members with expertise in traffic, land use, natural resources, water, and computer skills. Join us, help save Carmel Valley, meet your wonderful neighbors, and have fun in the process!

PG&E DEBRIS FUELS NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION

*by Jeff Wood, CVA Homeowners'
Association Liaison*

It recently came to CVA's attention this past winter that PG&E has been hiring the Davey Tree Company to cut away trees and brush that have grown up around or are too close to power lines in Carmel Valley and elsewhere. Rather than cut and remove this fire fuel debris, Davey is told by their client, PG&E, to leave the cuttings and debris in place. When asked why the debris was not hauled away, the PG&E rep said there was no budget for that.

The Rancho Rio Vista Property Owners Association (RRVPOA) at the mouth of the Valley contacted CVA recently to get help in trying to figure out what to do in this situation when a private company is creating fire fuel for the next wildfire in

the area. At the same time, CA state agency CALFire is trying to get more property owners to remove fire fuel like dead trees, dense brush, and long grasses. Monterey County also has regulations that require the same fire fuel abatement all over the county. The county does not have the staff or budget to enforce this regulation as it should. With the county's looming budget crunch, it may be reducing rather than increasing staff.



Part of the solution to removing the dangerous fire fuels from private property is to get a matching grant from CALFire to institute a residential chipper program.

The Carmel Views POA east of RRVPOA got one of these grants and removed significant fire fuels from its collective properties. Inspired by Carmel Views, RRVPOA applied for a similar grant with Carmel Knolls POA next door to the west. They were successful in getting a \$10,000 matching grant from CALFire and are setting up a chipper schedule for 2018. It's a good use of public funds as the cost of fighting large wildfires in the last several years has skyrocketed.

The problem is that this well-spent public money is being partially used to remedy the actions of a private company. If PG&E had to haul out its cuttings, this would put a dent in its profits. Is it illegal to use public funds to remedy a private company's decision to leave cuttings in place? Probably not, but is it unethical for public funds to be used to increase a private company's profits? You bet!

CVA intends to work with Carmel Valley HOAs, county staff and CA state officials to investigate what can be done to remedy this situation. CVA is also working with county officials to try to get more property owners and HOAs to enforce the current regulations that will reduce the accumulating fire fuels in Carmel Valley and other areas of the county.

NEWEST PARK OPENS TO PUBLIC

by Donna Kneeland



photo credit: Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

On September 28 the partnership composed of The Trust for Public Land, the Santa Lucia Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and others will host a dedication ceremony celebrating the district's acquisition of the former Rancho Canada golf course. Renamed the Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit, this property provides access to Palo Corona's hiking trails, formerly accessible only from Highway 1 and a designated parking area off Rancho San Carlos Road. The Rancho Canada Unit is open to hikers, naturalists, their on-leash canine family members, and all who love to enjoy the beauty of our local parks. Bicycle access into the Rancho Canada area may soon be phased in. Visitors will have access to this newest recreation area "from sunrise to sunset." There will be a "soft opening" in summer, giving the public a chance to experience some of what the new park has to offer.

Planning is a key component of this achievement. Rafael Payan, General Manager for the district, explained the process: "The property's acquisition was possible through a shared interest between former owners, State of California, County of Monterey, and the aforementioned partners to preserve this beautiful open space." The park developed along educational as well as recreational lines, with a special emphasis on reestablishing habitat. A habitat restoration plan is to be coordinated with the State of California. Conservationists and scientists believe it will take 20 years for 100% completion. Included in the long-range plan is an eventual underpass allowing access to Jack's Peak from trails adjacent to Carmel Valley Road.

The former golf pro shop has been

renamed the Discovery Center and will serve as an information center staffed by docents and park personnel. Trails will be named and color-coded, while maps will show the degree of difficulty for each trail as well as the distance and average amount of time to allow for each trail hike. Golf cart paths that were part of the former golf club will either be covered over or repaired, providing visitors an accessible and sturdy surface. Amenities planned for future construction soon will include an enclosed dog park, snack bar, picnic area, and restroom next to the small pond where the putting green once was. Wedgewood concessionaires will continue to provide banquet services for civic organizations and private events for larger groups using dining rooms.

With the help of others, access is arranged to adjacent properties. Jeff Taylor has given an easement from his property to the South Bank Trail. Big Sur Land Trust is allowing the gate between South Bank Trail and Palo Corona to remain unlocked as part of the partnership in maintaining a joint trail system. Access to the Carmel River has been identified and is being coordinated by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Water Management District, designating one or two points of access from existing bridges for this purpose.

Hiking/parking permits will continue to be required to gain access to Palo Corona Regional Park through the Highway 1 and Quail Lodge entrances due to limited parking. However, access to Palo Corona from Carmel Valley Road through the new Rancho Canada Unit (former golf course parking lot) will NOT require a permit. There is free parking near the former club house so visitors can take full advantage of their new park.

Succulent Drought-Res

by Carolyn Rice

Gardeners hooked on succulents are always on the prowl for new and unusual specimens. These days the hundreds of succulents native to many countries with temperate climates are increasingly available and have come into favor with Carmel Valley gardeners due to their ability to survive with little water. Ranging in size from tiny to six-foot tall, the plants come in a variety of colors and shapes, providing the opportunity for creative designs in landscaping and pot plantings. Besides low water requirements, succulents may improve the fire safety of a home because the water content in their thick leaves makes them less flammable than other types of plantings.

Gordon Dill, Carmel Valley Garden Club president, has grown them for the past ten years at the Carmel Valley Manor, where he oversees the extensive landscaping. He plants them in sunny areas, now using them for about 10 percent of the grounds. "They do better in the ground," he notes. "They hold up better to drought and cold when in the ground." He has lost some plants to rabbits, squirrels, and deer, calling rabbits the most voracious pest of them all. He notes animals generally seem to avoid plants from the echeveria family.

Some plants thrive in part shade, but others get fungus or rot if they don't get enough sun, Dill said. He uses them close to walks as the interesting shapes, textures, and colors invite people to touch them as they walk by. "They are different than other types of plants."

Steve Hoch, who moved to his sunny hillside home near Garland Park eight years ago, prefers to grow his succulents in pots so he can control the water. He waters his pots about once every three weeks during the dry weather. He has shopped all over for his extensive collection and was

ts Provide istant Beauty

attracted to succulents as they are “location appropriate.”

Many nurseries, garden centers, farmer’s markets, garden club plant shows, and arboretums sell succulents. As most are easy to propagate, a good source is friends who grow them and are willing to part with snippets from their plants. All it takes is a little patience but not much, according to Hoch.

Tracy Battles lives at the mouth of Carmel Valley and prefers raised beds for her succulent gardening, noting the plants do well in mounded beds, as they require good drainage. A challenge for her is remembering the names of her plants and the family to which each plant belongs. “It’s easy to confuse aeoniums and agaves.” She also likes to share starts with friends. “Just stick it in the ground,” she advises, adding she has found plants in the jade family are particularly easy to root. After taking a cutting, gardeners recommend letting the end seal for several days before planting it to avoid rot.

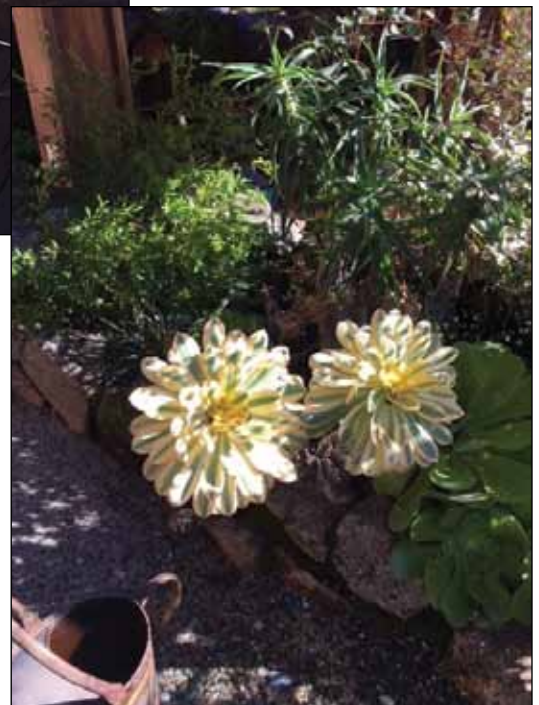
Dana Herz created an extensive succulent garden combined with other plants at her home at the mouth of Carmel Valley. She started it six years ago when she and her husband moved here from Washington state, replacing an old garden planted with rhododendrons, laurel, azaleas, and lawn. She began with plants she purchased at the Carmel Valley Garden Club annual flower show.

For pots she mixes a combination of potting soil and sand to ensure good drainage. Snails and slugs can be destructive to some types of succulents such as aeoniums. She recommends snail and slug bait to protect them.

“I just love them. Their forms are very sculptural and many look like flowers,” she said.



Dana Herz provided these photos of her garden at the mouth of the Valley. Dana successfully mingles succulents with other types of plants in her garden.





The perpetrators of phone fraud continually contrive devious new methods to adjust to consumer awareness. In addition to the fake callers pretending to be a grandchild in need or a Windows technician calling back to “repair” your computer, they can even match the first six digits of your phone number to perform “neighborhood spoofing” and fool you into thinking it’s a neighbor or nearby business call. The most vicious of their schemes threaten arrest, deportation, or IRS repercussions if you refuse orders to call back and pay a phony penalty.

Defrauding techniques use social

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engineering by “phishing” and “smishing” to fake a problem with one of your financial accounts to ask you for data, pitch low-cost mortgages and credit cards, or promise Social Security increases. If you respond by texting back confidential information or push a designated key to opt out of future messages, your identity is up for grabs.

Using caller ID or simply letting calls go to voicemail are two options, but if you need or like to be available by phone in the

otherwise digital communications age, what can you do? Being cautious with your phone number requires reading the fine print on popular apps to be sure the user agreement doesn’t sell your number. You can do a “Reverse Phone Lookup” to see if that local number is really local. Most of those who have registered with the “Do Not Call” list report no abatement, but the good news is that you can eliminate most of the risky nuisance of unwanted calls by installing a scam blocker. NoMoRobo.com is one free phone-scam blocking service locals say provides significant relief and is highly rated by *Consumer Reports*. NoMoRobo.com and other such services operate by blocking the types of calls likely to be fraudulent because they come from certain types of phone numbers.

You’ll find more discussion of phone scams and what to do at these links: consumer.ftc.gov; fcc.gov (search: phone scams); and <https://wapo.st/2sjkfwU>.

OFF LEASH AND READY FOR FUN



By Donna Kneeland

Dog owners and their pets will soon be able to enjoy exercise and social time with each other in the fenced park located at the former Rancho Canada Golf Club.

Overwhelming support for the dog park was evident at preliminary public meetings, as well as in online surveys. Over 300 emails of support have been received, with more arriving daily at RCDP@gmail.com.

To be located on the former 10th fairway, paralleling Carmel Valley Road, the park will be completely enclosed. Its construction is expected to begin and be completed this summer. The large-dog park location on the east side will be about 3.5 to 4+ acres while a separate small-dog area will consist of almost one acre. Fencing will be in keeping with Carmel Valley’s rural character. There will be benches, a ramada-type structure for shade, a doggie water foundation, doggie waste bag dispenser, as well as posted rules and regulations for the safety and enjoyment of all furry friends and their owners.

Careful thought has gone into the planning and development of the dog park. Linda and David Mullally, with friends Norman and Fran Leve, have designed the fencing

to have more rounded, rather than square corners to avoid the risk of dogs feeling cornered by exuberant playmates. The entrance to the fenced area will also be fenced and is designed to avoid potential chaos between dogs entering and exiting. Park surface will be the robust natural grass that is now in place. Existing cart paths in the dog park area will also serve dog owners who may prefer a sturdy and accessible surface, making the playground more ADA compatible. “While Garland Park and the beach are wonderful playgrounds for our beloved pups,” said Linda Mullally, “a fenced area is more desirable for people who cannot navigate the beach and trails or deal with seasonal hazards, such as sandy, salty coats of hair or ticks, foxtails, and snakes.”

The Mullallys and the Leves feel it is important for the dog owner community to feel invested in the creation of the park and the success of its operation. A partnership between the dog owner community and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District is what is hoped for. To move in this direction, a joint work party has been proposed. Those wishing to participate may email RCDP@gmail.com for details and schedule.



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Local

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Life In the Fast Lane, Carmel Valley Village Style



May's Amgen race filled the village with racers and cheering spectators
Photo by Marie Taney

Don't miss the Friday Night Dinners poolside at the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, served from 6-7pm. Come early and bring the kids, or grandkids; the pool opens at 5:30. The next dinner dates are 7/13, 7/27 and 8/10. Special guest chefs will be announced.

The newest applicant for the swim team choosing his lane?
Photo by Ed Lake

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