



PRESIDENT'S LETTER **DARBY BECAME SOIL FOR THE EARTH**

~ AND SO CAN YOU

by Mibs McCarthy



Collective Impact

Priscilla Walton

As we head into the holiday season, our Carmel Valley Association members can be very proud of what we have accomplished together over the past three months. CVA has successfully completed work on some longstanding issues and has continued to make a significant impact on several others.

CVA has finally come to an excellent agreement with the applicants of the Rancho Canada Village project. After months of negotiation, we signed off on plans for a project that will provide 40 well-designed, energy efficient, affordable housing units. These units will be fully integrated within Rancho Canada Village, and they promise to serve as a model for affordable housing projects elsewhere.

The units will be made available to employees already working in Carmel Valley, thereby helping to reduce the traffic generated by those who travel long distances to work. Further, they will be strategically located near a transportation hub, Carmel Valley Middle School, shopping, and the beautiful Palo Corona Regional Park.

Together, CVA, represented by Larry Bacon and myself, and Rancho Canada Village, represented by Allan Williams and Michael Waxer, explained the benefits of the project at meetings of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. As a result, the plans were unanimously approved by both boards.

CVA has also been involved in the development of a vacation rental ordinance since 2016. Over the years, we have reviewed and commented, seemingly

Do you remember Darby Moss Worth? She was a long-time member of Carmel Valley Association who wanted to be buried in her front yard but couldn't get permission. She made collages of herself as a tree and said, "Someday I will be soil for the earth." She despised the funeral industry and its predatory practices.

Then she discovered Katrina Spade and the Urban Death Project (now called Recompose). Katrina and Darby became good friends. Katrina reasoned that we are running out of room to bury people in the ground or in vaults. She knew of the excessive use of fossil fuels and the air pollution caused by cremation. Katrina is an architect, and Recompose is the product of a graduate degree project from Washington State University.

After her death in 2019, Darby was one of six persons to be composted in the experimental program. A funeral home in Seaside agreed to pack her body for shipping by plane without embalming, and she was refrigerated until the time when the composting process could begin. Darby's compost was donated to the Bells Mountain Conservation Forest in Washington, a legally protected natural wilderness that will remain so in perpetuity.

Last December, the country's first funeral home offering natural organic reduction – the formal term for human composting – opened in Washington, the first state to legalize the process. Since then, Colorado and Oregon have passed laws allowing it. The California Assembly Bill 501, "Reduction of human remains and the disposition of reduced human remains," passed the Assembly by 75-0 and is currently held under submission in a committee of the Senate.

Natural organic reduction is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burial or cremation. In this process a human body is transformed into nutrient-rich soil. At



Darby Worth, photo by Elizabeth Murray

the Recompose facility, a body is placed inside a metal cylinder along with alfalfa, wood chips, and straw. Over the course of 30 days, during which the mixture receives oxygen and is periodically turned, natural microbes in the body and organic material raise the temperature in the vessel to 150 degrees Fahrenheit and break down the remains, including teeth and bone, into a soft soil. After another few weeks of drying the mixture, it is ready to distribute. One body produces about one cubic yard (two wheelbarrows full) nutrient-rich soil amendment. A designated party can claim the entire amount of soil or have a small portion sent to them. The soil created returns the nutrients from our bodies to the natural world. It restores forests, sequesters carbon, and nourishes new life.

I have signed up for Precompose (the planning part of Recompose) to be composted when my time comes, and I am making monthly payments.

If you would like to know more, go to the Recompose website. <https://recompose.life/planning-ahead/> or contact me at mibsmccarthy@comcast.net.

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in vain, on the many iterations of the proposed ordinance. Finally, in July 2021, our board decided to appoint a CVA Vacation Rental Taskforce to summarize our work thus far and to mount a strong campaign for the development of a coherent, well thought-out, equitable, and enforceable vacation rental ordinance, consistent with the Carmel Valley Master Plan.

Our taskforce has done a terrific job in responding to the July draft ordinance and to the guidelines recommended by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. It has also spearheaded a letter writing campaign through which nearly 500 of you have already sent letters to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and planning staff. Your letters have clearly outlined the major elements a vacation ordinance should have in order to be consistent with the Carmel Valley Master Plan.

Those include the following:

The ordinance should treat any vacation or short-term rental of a residential property for remuneration as a visitor-serving unit and enforce existing ordinances consistent with Title 21.64.28.

- ▶ The ordinance should seek to encourage home stays with the owner present and limit corporate or third-party whole-house commercial rentals. The opposite is the case in the draft ordinance.
- ▶ The ordinance must maintain any existing rural residential zoning by reducing permitted vacation rentals on administrative permits to less than 2% of residential homes—not 6% as planned—to keep the ordinance consistent with Title 21.64.28.
- ▶ Any permit fees and transient occupancy taxes collected for vacation rentals in the unincorporated county areas should be used solely for enforcement of the vacation rental ordinance, as recommended in the Grand Jury report.

During this past quarter, we also had to turn our attention to a proposed special event scheduled for August 14th in Carmel Valley Village. As a result of our members' efforts, the proposed event – the Legends of the Autobahn organized by Destination by Design, a tourism promotion company—did not happen.

We learned of the proposed event through

one of our members. When we followed up, we discovered that the event would bring over 300 cars for display and at least 1,000 spectators to our small village park and the surrounding streets. We became even more concerned when we learned that the event was heading toward approval by the county's Special Event Task Force, with no public knowledge or input.

So CVA asked the county to provide an opportunity for the residents to weigh in on the matter. And weigh in you did! Many of you contacted the Monterey County Special Event Task Force and made comments, thereby greatly impacting the decision.

Ultimately, the county did not issue a permit for the event in the village, moving it instead to the far more appropriate location of the Monterey Fairgrounds. We are grateful to our supervisor and Monterey County staff for their sound decision, and for protecting the safety of local residents by denying the permit.

A CVA forum dedicated to the topic of special events will be held in the near future. In the meantime, CVA has created a special events task force to begin to review the number of ongoing events and all of the event venues, with an eye toward developing recommendations as to the appropriate size and locations of special events for Carmel Valley.

Finally, as we head toward the holidays, we want to wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. We also want to express our gratitude for all of your support of our efforts to save and protect the natural resources, rural quality, and beauty of Carmel Valley.

If you haven't joined CVA, please do so. We need everyone with us. If you already are a CVA member, please consider an extra donation in support of our important work. To join or donate, please visit our website at carmelvalleyassociation.org. Thank you again!



BIG LITTLE ISSUES

Carmel Valley 2021

by Jeff Wood and Andy Sudol

As the year comes to an end, we look back at the key areas where CVA focused our attention and thank everyone who contributed to our community's success. Our Land Use Committee (LUC) met on a regular basis with Monterey County staff in the Department of Housing and Development and examined land use issues, small and large. One of its guides is the Carmel Valley Master Plan (CVMP), part of the Monterey County General Plan. It serves to preserve and restore Carmel Valley's rural nature, beauty, and resources.

In addition to the important successes mentioned by Pris Walton in her President's Letter regarding vacation rentals, Rancho Canada Village, and special events, the LUC has worked with the county on the following:

- ▶ Educating residents about down lighting regulations, which allow us to see the stars so much better at night - another unique reason people like to live here
- ▶ Addressing public access issues along the Carmel River, which is publicly owned
- ▶ Promoting action to remove invasive plants and trash through coordinated volunteer activities
- ▶ Helping determine the historical significance of Mid-Valley Shopping Center and what changes are allowed at the center under the CVMP
- ▶ Informing locals on important issues through our weekly email bulletins and quarterly mailer

We are grateful for everyone's participation. CVA board members invite you to join our volunteers and contribute to our efforts. Donations are much appreciated. Your work to preserve our community's natural resources is vital! Thanks in advance for doing your part!! Together we can sustain Carmel Valley's beauty.



Proper lighting is described in the County's Design Guidelines for Exterior Lighting

OLD AND NEW CVA MEMBERS GATHER AT THE ANNUAL PICNIC

by Mibs McCarthy

Photos from Eric Sand and Luana Conley



On Sunday, October 10, 160 old and new CVA members gathered at the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club for the annual (except 2020) fall picnic. The food prepared by Tim Wood of Woody's at the Airport, the wine donated by Hubert Fabre of Vineyard Brands, and the music by Rick Chelew and Nick Leahy all contributed to the festive atmosphere. The silent auction table was a big attraction with generous donations from Peninsula businesses.



Supervisor Mary Adams and Planning Commissioner Kate Daniels spoke about valley issues and housing needs. Supervisor Adams announced that county planners have been asked to develop a pilot plan for our 5th District

for the enforcement and regulation of vacation rentals. The goal is to bring the plan back to the Board of Supervisors in mid-November with enforcement to begin in January 2022. Kate Daniels reported that the Planning Commission has been reviewing the impacts of the Vacation Rental and the Accessory-Dwelling Unit ordinances on housing supply and for consistency with the General Plan and Carmel Valley Master Plan (CVMP). Only persistent attention to the CVMP will protect Carmel Valley's rural character.

It was great to see so many new and young faces at the picnic and to have people offer to become more active in CVA by joining a committee or the board. Perhaps you would like to do the same.



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HACIENDA HAY & FEED REBORN

~Retaining Community Focus

by Marlene Martin



It's time for good news. Those of us who relied on Hacienda Hay and Feed to provide cheer for ourselves and supplies for our animals are excited about the prospect of a larger, more diverse Hacienda Hay and Feed. This much-loved venue is returning with a zippy, fresh format as soon as contractors finish their work and the owners get a green light from the Monterey County supervisors.

They plan is to make Hacienda Hay and Feed a community hub that will provide a much-needed place for animal supplies and for Carmel Valley community organizations to meet. It will also be an inviting spot for locals to stop and chat while sipping a cup of coffee from the coffee cart or enjoying the horseshoe pits. There will be a kid zone the new owners are calling "Rascals Roundup." The new Hacienda hopes to serve beer and wine Thursdays through Saturdays for gatherings that will end by 8 p.m. The owners also plan to share the space for community events such as harvest festivals, holiday markets, community meetings, and workshops for activities like candle-making and pickling.

Nile Estep, one of the new owners and their spokesperson, is a local who grew up in Carmel Valley on Esquiline Road. He graduated from Carmel High in 2009 and then went off to college at Sonoma State. More recently, he managed farmers' markets and worked on food security in the Bay Area. Next he came home to work with Carmel-by-the-Sea to revitalize its Thursday farmers' market.

Now Estep is working with partners who want to create what he calls "our little piece of

heaven in Carmel Valley." He had long talked with realtors Doug and Lisa Steiny (Estep's aunt and uncle) about creating a family business, so they ran a test by helping Nile's 89-year-old grandfather John Estep launch his business, Jam'In Carmel Valley.

The property, which started out as the Wolter family's cattle ranch in the early days of agriculture in the Valley, evolved into a fruit and vegetable farm in the 1940s, selling produce on sales routes in town. Later it became Wolter's Hacienda Market, a popular rural produce market with a famous annual pumpkin display, and then a prosperous and unusual feed store, where visitors could enjoy the company of a menagerie of animals, including a tortoise named Donna and an emu named Sydney.

When the Steinys began to work with the Wolters to sell their historic land, a light clicked on for all of them. They wanted to restore Hacienda Hay and Feed to its cherished place in Carmel Valley. However, the new owners will create a larger (2.5 acres), more multipurpose Hacienda Hay and Feed.

Estep's group is eager to work with the community. Thus far, it is working with the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club to establish an



agricultural scholarship. It is also working with the Carmel Valley Historical Society. Estep says, "The Historical Society is giving us some awesome historical farm equipment we can't wait to display." The new group is exploring ways to partner with the 4H Club by building a book barn. They hope 4-H members can show off their livestock at the new venue. The owners plan to work with other community businesses so that they represent the interests of the community stakeholders.

Hacienda Hay and Feed will carry the products its aficionados know and love. Among the items to be stocked are poultry, horse, swine, goat, rabbit, dog, cat, and beekeeping supplies with organic options. It will also carry birdseed, seeds and grains such as black oil sunflower seeds, barley, oats, corn, wheat, and peanuts. In addition, Hacienda will market Carmel Valley products such as olive oil, honey, jam, clothing, skincare items, candles, and home goods. While it won't have all of the former animals, Hacienda Hay and Feed will have a Chick Inn and a Bunny Barn with bunnies for all to enjoy on site.

What's happening with the orchid man? Estep says, "Yan will be back! He and his family have been a joy to work with, and we can't wait to build them a new home." Because of code violations, the old orchid building was torn down. "We are just waiting for permits to rebuild. Not only will the new building include Yan's bonsai & orchids, but it will also be adding fresh-cut flowers and bouquets," Estep says.

In keeping with its desire to be a community hub, Hacienda has worked with neighboring food venues such as Baja Cantina and Earthbound Farms to avoid competing, while having food truck vendors provide farm-to-table dishes along with a bake shop for selling local breads, pies and pastries.



Fall display at the old Hacienda Hay & Feed.

Photos by Mibs McCarthy

SANTA FLY-IN WILL CONTINUE TO DELIGHT

by Danielle Carlson

The 2021 Carmel Valley Santa Fly-In is just around the corner! Once again, the Santa Fly-in will be hosted by the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center (CVCYC) in partnership with the Kiwanis, Rotary Club, and Ken and Catherine Griggs. With help from sponsors, the CVCYC is able to bring this event to Carmel Valley for people from across Monterey County and beyond. As you can imagine, it takes a village to make this event a success, and your help is needed!

This fun-filled event will take place Saturday, December 11th, at the Griggs property, formerly the Carmel Valley Airfield. At 11am, all eyes will be looking up at the winter sky waiting for the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus via helicopter. After their exciting helicopter ride, Mr. & Mrs. Claus will lead a parade around the community on their way to the community center.

Following the parade, many holiday festivities will take place at the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, along with food and entertainment. Children will also have the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and talk to Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Sponsorships and donations are charitable contributions that not only help put on the Santa Fly-In but also support the CVCYC community center, pool, and educational programs for children. The CVCYC will also be putting up holiday lights on Carmel Valley Road in the center of the Village for all to enjoy. The lights will go up the weekend before Thanksgiving. If you're interested in sponsorship, volunteering, or participating in the parade, please don't hesitate to reach out.

For more information, please contact Danielle Carlson at danielle@cvcyc.org or call/text 831-613-1661, or visit the CVCYC website at www.cvcyc.org.

Community Thanksgiving Feast and Angel Project Holiday Store

by Tina Jackson

Another year has passed and we have so much to be thankful for as a community. The Carmel Valley Angel Project will once again be organizing the free Community Thanksgiving Drive-Through, with a twist -- due to popular request, meals will be provided on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day.

The Angel Project Store will also be available on a drive-through basis for local families needing a bit of help in making the season "merry and bright."

Reservations for turkey dinner pick-up and for Angel Store visits will be open soon. And, as always, if you can help support these great events, we will welcome it. Visit us at www.cvangelproject.org to make a contribution today!



Meal pickup volunteers, Angel Project photo



The Carmel Valley
Angel Project



Photos provided by Carmel Valley Village Community Youth Center

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Page 1 banner photo by Ron Pierce of the River Trail, exploring upriver from the footbridge.

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