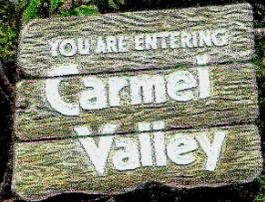


Carmel Valley Association

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



CVA Newsletter ~ November 2012

www.carmelvalleyassociation.org

CALENDAR

Nov 6

ELECTION DAY

Polls open 7am-8pm

Nov 11, 3pm

Monterey County Composers Forum

Hidden Valley Theater
385-0973

Nov 17, 5:30-9pm

Wine Lovers' Delight

Friends of the CV Library
Annual Benefit Fundraiser
Hidden Valley Theater
659-2377 (limited seating)

Nov 22, Noon-3pm

Thanksgiving Dinner

Free to the community
CV Village Community
Center, Ford Road

Nov 24, 1-5pm

Art & Wine Walk

Carmel Valley Art Association
Carmel Valley Village
carmelvalleyartassociation.org

Dec 8, 10am

SANTA FLY-IN

Carmel Valley Airfield

Dec 31, 9pm

New Years Eve Party Sentimental Journey

David Gordon and
The George Young
Jazz Quartet

Hidden Valley Theater
\$62.50 single; \$125 couple
Reservations 659-3115

The hills are alive with... **POT!**

By Scott MacClelland

Carmel Valley is surrounded by high ridges and deep canyons, many on private lands with limited public access and little or no outside scrutiny. Beyond the southern ridges lies the vast Ventana wilderness. That 'window,' and other virtually inaccessible terrain, stands open to wily scofflaws who cultivate illegal marijuana gardens.

With so many avid trail hikers in the Carmel Valley community, we asked Sheriff Scott Miller to shed some light on these activities and the dangers they pose. Firstly, he confirmed that individuals with a doctor's recommendation may possess and grow a "reasonable" amount of marijuana under Health & Safety code 11362.5, subject to district attorney determination. 11362.5 entered the code as a voter initiative and has been knocked through the courts enough times so that "now we are stuck with a vague and ambiguous law that is a nightmare for law enforcement to enforce," says Miller. Federal law bans marijuana possession outright, but must meet Federal Threshold rules before it can be enforced. "Monterey County has taken the approach of investigating marijuana related issues on a case by case basis," Miller says. "Usually, prior to arrest, an officer will contact a prosecutor and review the facts of the case."



A nail-studded booby trap on a trail in Los Padres leading to an illegal marijuana garden

est, which in part borders the Carmel Valley area." He explains that the majority of these growers plant their gardens in remote concealed areas, "typically to support some type of large drug operation." In the national forest, they get their irrigation water from streams and springs. Addition-

Continued on Page 3



President's Letter

By Mibs McCarthy

These last few months have been packed with issues and events. With 7000 of each issue of our full color newsletter, 6700 going to all residential addresses in Carmel Valley, and our weekly e-mail bulletins reaching 422, we are trying to keep everyone in Carmel Valley informed about the issues and activities of interest.

In mid-summer, when PG&E announced that they would be replacing the Village light poles in September, it caused quite a stir. They were going to replace them with steel poles, with a globe on top. The 22 wooden poles, with a pendant light hanging from an arm—specifically designed and put in decades ago due to the efforts of the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee (CVVIC)—provide visual definition to the Village area, are themed "rustic," and abide by the lighting requirements of the Carmel Valley Master Plan.

Continued on Page 2, column 1

Carmel Valley

Continued from Page 1

To further complicate matters, PG&E owns only some of the poles, but not all. Thus, they were (or are) planning to replace only theirs. Others are owned by businesses. A community meeting attended by 65 people was organized by Christine Williams which put community-wide public pressure on PG&E, augmenting work already started by Supervisor Dave Potter and CVCIC. PG&E has postponed any action until September of 2013. Potter's office has pulled together representatives from CVCIC, the Chamber of Commerce, and CVA to work with PG&E to come to an acceptable outcome.

In September, we announced the settlement of our lawsuit against Monterey County for violating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In the General Plan for Monterey County, the County used a new model for traffic assessment on Carmel Valley Road that would count decreasingly smaller numbers of cars as traffic increased. Changing the method for measuring traffic required a public hearing on that issue which was not held. CVA argued that using this new methodology would undercut traffic reporting, thus artificially diminishing traffic impacts from new development.

The settlement calls for continuing to use the historically established traffic counting system for which there are over two decades of data, in addition to reporting the calculations from the new method. Using the existing counting mechanism, where one car counts as one car, will reduce the possibility of the County bypassing traffic congestion as a serious issue in the consideration of new development plans. This settlement also lowers new development in Carmel Valley under the General Plan from 266 new units to 190 units, as well as strengthens environmental protections.

Without the outstanding traffic analysis by CVA volunteer Dr. Tim Sanders and legal representation by Ron DeHoff, as well as the considerable efforts of former CVA presidents Glenn Robinson and Christine Williams, the victory for the residents of Carmel Valley would not have been possible.

County policy requires that the proposed General Plan amendments agreed to in the lawsuit settlement receive recommendations for approval by the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee (it did) and the Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors must then approve it.

At our annual picnic, Sept. 30, which well

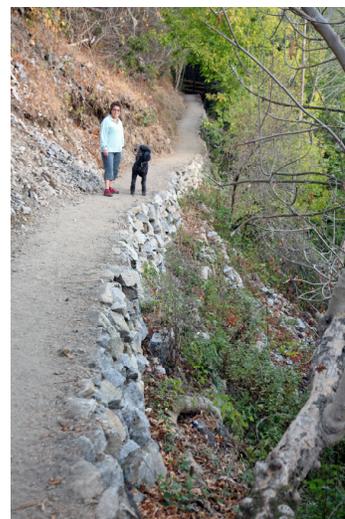


Above: 1200 riders participated in the Best Buddies benefit ride from Quail Lodge to Hearst Castle, Sept. 8



Left: Election season advisory

Below: Bleu and friend on the recently restored river trail east of Trail & Saddle Club



Above: CV's international conductor Stewart Robertson (center) and the stars of Puccini's La Boheme at Hidden Valley



over 100 valley residents and guests attended, we recognized Tim Sanders (see photo on Page 3) for first proposing the same result that was achieved by the lawsuit in countless hours of meetings with County officials to no avail, and then following through with the lawsuit mediation until the desired goal was achieved.

Other highlights of our picnic were remembering Rod and Anne Mills for their love of the Valley and their dedication to keeping Carmel Valley rural. We concluded the picnic with a question and answer session with our District 5 Supervisor candidates, Dave Potter and Marc Del Piero. It looks as if it will be a very close race, and WE URGE EVERYONE TO VOTE! We are very lucky to have two such qualified candidates.

Our website carmelvalleyassociation.org has detailed information and links to issues of interest to Carmel Valley residents. We also maintain a calendar of events in Carmel Valley. Please let us know of any events that are open to the public. You can add your e-mail address to our weekly bulletin list and join Carmel Valley Association online. We want to represent everyone who cares about Carmel Valley and protecting its rural nature.

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At **Doctors on Duty**, we're here for you with 10 locations throughout Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties with flexible nighttime and weekend hours. Our clinics are staffed by qualified health professionals who are ready to treat a wide range of your healthcare needs.

Find us in the Yellow and White pages and DoctorsonDuty.com.

Gallery



*Above: CVA Picnic, Sept. 30, Trail and Saddle Club
Left to right: Facepainter Sophie White and client;
Tim Sanders receives a Pete Poitras ridgetop photo from Christine Williams*



Left & above: The most talked about and photographed entry at the Concours d'Elegance, the 'one and only' McLaren X-1, built to unique specifications for a (very) wealthy British collector. A true 'one-off,' its custom design was said to have been inspired by 'classic car designs, a black and white photograph of Audrey Hepburn and an eggplant.'

Continued from Page 1

ally, “the growers introduce chemicals, including banned DDT, and various commercial fertilizers that impact indigenous vegetation and wildlife, leave food and trash behind, affecting the environment, and even kill local wildlife that enter their cropland.”

While growers use existing trails, “they will almost always pick a spot to leave the trail and then will cut their own, to maintain security of their operation,” says Miller. “They take great measures to camouflage the trails so they don’t reveal the grow site.”

How likely would hikers come into contact with marijuana gardens and growers? “Very likely,” he says. “With the amount of hikers who use the public lands in Monterey County the interactions are increasingly more frequent. Every year deputies receive reports from hikers and hunters alike regarding the discovery of marijuana cultivation sites. It is not uncommon for members of the public to encounter armed individuals that are suspected of cultivating marijuana.”

What should hikers do if they come across a marijuana garden? “Ideally a GPS location of the garden would be best, but any specific location on the map will help, including the name of a trail or canyon and taking a mental note of landmarks or distance traveled.” Finally, Sheriff Miller warns hikers:

“Immediately exit the garden the same way they entered it, so they do not further expose themselves to the possibility of booby traps. As soon as possible, the individual or individuals should notify the Sheriff’s Dept. of their findings.”

*Monterey County Sheriff
Scott Miller*



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Former 5th District Supervisor

Jean Grace
Former Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea

Ken White
Former Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea

“Del Piero... has the knowledge, experience and the personality to provide the county with some real leadership...”

Monterey County
The Herald



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*****ECRWSS*****

Local
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Carmel Valley Association needs you!
Join CVA to make sure your voice is heard on future county decisions impacting Carmel Valley
Learn more at carmelvalleyassociation.org

NEW FIRE PREVENTION FEE

By Kim Williams

Asssembly bill X1-29 became law in 2011, designating high-risk areas within CalFire's State Responsibility Areas and authorizing the levying of fire prevention fees. If you own habitable structures in these high-risk areas, you

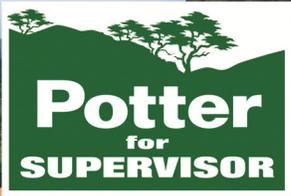
may expect to receive two bills this year, one for the state's 2011-2012 fiscal year, and a second one for its 2012-2013 fiscal year. Each bill will be \$150 per habitable structure on your property. For example, if you have one house on your property, and no other habitable structures, the two bills you receive this year will total \$300. On each of these bills there should be a \$35 credit if you already pay a special tax or assessment to a local fire

protection agency. Pay close attention to the Due Date. You may have fewer than 30 days to pay. If you are late, there is a 10% penalty, plus interest, with additional interest and penalties accruing.

For more information on the new law:
www.firepreventionfee.org/sra_faqs.php

Those who feel they are being unfairly burdened can register complaints at www.firetaxprotest.org

paid political advertisement



Preserving and Protecting Carmel Valley



- Worked to save Rippling River and Pacific Meadows
- Opposed the Hatton Canyon Freeway and worked to get a climbing lane in its place
- Fought for the streetlight replacement program in Carmel Valley Village
- Opposed Villas Del Carmelo, Mirabito Self Storage and Carmel Cottages
- Coordinated flood plain planning on the Carmel River and the replacement of key bridges
- Ensured there is a cap on the number of units allowed in Carmel Valley
- Incorporated the Carmel Valley Road Committee into the General Plan, ensuring permanent status
- Fought the proliferation of stop lights on Carmel Valley Road
- Worked to craft a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the creation of a Fire Warden position
- Partnered with the Big Sur Land Trust on the Southbank River Trail and other projects

I would be honored to receive your vote on November 6th

Paid for and authorized by Potter for Supervisor. FPPC ID# 952057

www.davepotterforsupervisor.com

