



## President's Letter



C.S. Noel

### ON CONNECTED COMMUNITY & YEAR-IN-REVIEW

**Life's a Picnic When  
You're a Member of CVA**  
Hello Carmel Valley!! This is our final Carmel Valley Voice newsletter for 2023.

As I write this in early October, CVA has just this week hosted our annual picnic. It seemed but moments ago that I was shining up my CVA President's Pin<sup>1</sup>, putting my CVA baseball cap on at a jaunty angle, slipping a copy of the Carmel Valley Master Plan (aka the CVA Constitution), into my inside pocket, making myself ready for **last** year's picnic. Where did the year go?<sup>2</sup> And how to keep track of it speeding by?<sup>3</sup> But, I digress.

### A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER

Back to the picnic, which I think, was particularly noteworthy this year. It had all the elements you could want in a picnic...a convivial blend of Carmel Valley members and residents, a lovely country setting under verdant trees on a lush and perfectly manicured lawn, rolled out before us like a magic carpet of emerald at the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club along the banks of the Carmel River.

The day broke perfectly for us, bestowing Carmel Valley's weather at its most spectacular with temperate climes, robin's egg blue skies above, and gentle onshore zephyrs from the ocean reaching out to Carmel Valley and softly tickling leafy trees and picnickers alike; a fine selection of the superb La Vielle Ferme wines was generously provided by Hubert Fabre for a "Taste of France" right here in our own hometown; Chef Tim Wood and crew

<sup>1</sup>Confidential Note: There is NO CVA President's pin! But there should be, don't cha think?

<sup>2</sup>By the time this newsletter is in your hands, the holidays will almost be upon us!

<sup>3</sup>President's tip: Always Read the Footnotes!

## IS IT TIME FOR A CAR WEEK SURVEY?

by *Danielle Martin*

Car Week! Is there a more controversial event on the Peninsula's annual calendar? Not if you judge by social media.

Hope springs eternal each year that this constellation of local car events could be tweaked by the event organizers, cities, and Monterey County so that all of us local residents might easily fulfill our ongoing weekly work and family obligations during the event's ten-day week.

The local rallying cheer is that Car Week brings in so much money each year that it's worth any challenges that may occur at the local residents' expense. Might the claim that millions may be donated to nonprofits be compared to lost earnings and time that negate the nonprofit donations by many times over? It's not unimportant that, according to the California Development Department, 100,000 or more workers in service, medical, or trade professions lose a minimum of \$1000 of income and many hours of productive time over the ten-day event period. Surely that's a value that also bears some respect. This amount of locals' overall earnings is multiplied each Car Week year after year.

The US Census 2020 for Monterey County reports that thousands of us between 16 and 65 years of age typically need to leave our homes for work, errands, and school. Many travel miles every day on limited Monterey County roadways to get from home to our destinations, and these routes are heavily impacted on Car Week event days, often unpredictably.

Car Week events are claimed to be a keystone of dollars to the local tourism industry, yet do thousands of us in other major business segments get some form of public subsidy to increase our business?

Many of us are employed or own tourism-related businesses. It is reinforced from year to year that Monterey County needs these Car Week events because the TOT, sales



taxes, and infusion of attendees' spending make the year successful for many in the local tourism industries. But, if Monterey County's quarterly revenues for TOT and sales tax are examined, often other quarters (like April-June) also show significant revenue without the paralyzing gridlock that Car Week brings to our few local highways.

Many of us also have concerns about excessive speeding in addition to the traffic delays.

Why can't Car Week event planners figure out how to time or coordinate the events to reduce the highway congestion?

Car Week 2023 caused social media storms on the locals' pages on Facebook and Nextdoor with many Valley residents participating. It may be the time to organize public response into some statistics from our collective experiences in the hope that event organizers, cities, and Monterey County leadership will conjure up some improvements in consideration of equally worthwhile residential needs.

If any of you reading this article would like to help develop a survey that could help find out how Car Week events impact schedules and costs to our work and personal lives, let CVA know. Together, we can make this Car Week event work more smoothly for all of us.

If you are interested in pursuing a survey or a county audit on public costs vs. benefits of Car Week events, (such as maintenance, public safety, clean-up, lost productivity or business impact), please send your comments to [cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org](mailto:cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org).



If you want to help Hidden Valley and the work it does in our local community, this is the right year and NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME!

Please visit MCGives starting November 10th [montereycountygives.org/hvms](http://montereycountygives.org/hvms)



**MCGIVES!**  
[montereycountygives.org/hvms](http://montereycountygives.org/hvms)

prepared an amazing picnic repast, with a banquet table groaning under the weight of a cornucopia of delectables from fab roasted chicken to fudgy deserts.

Somehow all of these elements merged and became perfectly connected and intertwined by the lovely musical vibes of Rick Chelew and Nick Leahy, who set the pitch-perfect tone with their tunes, for a memorable gathering. And, to wrap the afternoon up with a bow, Nikki Nedeff led a delightful,



Picnic photo by Andy Sudol. VP Rick Manning gathers guests for candidates' Q&A.

informative, and most welcome walk along beautiful Carmel River.

### GET THE CONNECTION

Yet there is one more thing that set this afternoon apart. It was the gift of coming together in a way that offered fun and fraternity, but also something more that is critical to community, a space where folks share a connection and can work together to improve our community's vitality and tackle difficult issues. And we all had a chance to participate together in this, in real time in our "Meet the Candidates Forum" with Kate Daniels and Alan Haffa, who are running for the Fifth District Supervisor's seat in the upcoming 2024 election.

The candidates had the opportunity to provide a brief introduction of themselves, speaking of their experience and positions on a range of topics. Then the floor was opened up to questions from attendees, with both candidates weighing in with a response to each question. It was a forum that was lively and light as moderated by CVA's eminently capable Vice President, Rick Manning, while also addressing important issues and questions that ranged from roads to rentals and water to well-being, topics that we as residents will be continuing to deal with in the years ahead. How fortunate are we to have two terrific candidates!

### THE CONNECTED COMMUNITY

With contentions today running rampant

on so many issues in the country at large, we have a rare and precious commodity here in Carmel Valley. And that commodity is each of us who contributes to creating the uniquely connected community we share.

In fact, the more I think about it, the more I realize that there are connections we all enjoy all over the place in our community, from businesses who support us with their products and services that we then support with our patronage of them.

Members of our community like Alan Haffa, Kate Daniels, and others that walk among us and will be working with all of us to come up with solutions for seeing that more folks are able to live close to where they work, which is connected to lowering carbon emissions, which is connected to reducing the damaging effects of climate change. These solutions may go unnoticed or be taken for granted, but they are not the norm for many living in our country. We are living in a connected community which brings us tremendous quality of life benefits.

CVA has long fostered connection on a community level, with our eBulletin that goes out to over 1,600 people on a weekly basis and our quarterly newsletter that has a circulation to about 7,000 addresses. These publications share information on events and topics that residents are interested in, and the residents in turn also bring issues of concern to our attention, for a vibrant two-way connection.

In fact, this connectivity thing has been popping up all over the CVA map like mushrooms! Here's a quick year-end summary on some of the many such activities connecting our community:

- CVA and other civic and water-minded organizations communicated on the Carmel Valley Ranch wastewater spill incident to share information, communicate with residents, and convey concerns to the county and other monitoring entities.

# CVA Collaborates with Hartnell and MIRA to Promote Dark Skies

by John Heyl

August 10, as often happens, was a clear day in the valley until just before sunset. And then the fog advanced up into the valley, and our little group of stargazers lost sight of the sky just before full darkness. But we didn't let that destroy our fun!

Thirty or forty folks turned up at Hidden Valley's field, under the good graces of Peter Meckel and staff, to try to look through telescopes and enjoy the night sky. Local

Letter, continued from Pg. 2

- CVA has tracked short-term rentals and been in touch with impacted neighborhoods wanting to effectively address these issues with the county. Our local neighborhoods are gaining experience in advocating directly with the county. Recently even neighborhoods beyond Carmel Valley, such as Corral de Tierra, are having great success advocating on their own behalf.

- CVA has connected with interns from Hartnell College, Garland Park resources, and local lighting expert Meredith Nole in pursuit of achieving DarkSky International Places certification, has conducted DarkSky lectures and events in the field, resulting in connections with the great folks at MIRA and Hartnell College professors, along with many interested residents of Carmel Valley. Community interest and support has been strong!

- The most recent emergence of something that is crying out for a connected and collaborative community effort is Carmel Valley's very own Grange building, which would be an important objective for historic preservation as one of the last standing historic buildings in Carmel Valley, which dates all the way back to the late 1800s. Many community groups are starting to recognize the significance of this opportunity. Despite Carmel Valley's rich cultural heritage, there is not a single structure on the State or National Historic Registry in Carmel Valley. Let's all roll up our sleeves and come together for a modern-day community barn raising and preserve this historic treasure! Can't wait to see you there.

**Keep Up the Connection!!**

Noel



Julie San Pablo, student at Hartnell College and summer intern helping with CVA's dark skies initiative, presented her poster on "The Importance of Dark Skies and the Effects of Light Pollution" at the Hartnell College STEM Internship Symposium on September 30th. Julie helped organize CVA's dark skies party this summer. Shown above are John Heyl (CVA board member), Julie, and her astronomy teacher, Dr. Pimol Moth.

amateur astronomers Carl Christenson and Greg Bosler brought their telescopes, and a professional astronomer, Dr. Daniel Cotton from the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy, brought along a big 13" instrument and a star chart for that night. MIRA also lent us five other reflector telescopes that CVA members and excited visitors got to set up and look through before full dark. Kids got to use laser pointers to locate where stars could be seen later (and play with them in the trees and the fog). Some got to view the Snively's Ridge Fire Tower upside down before the fog rolled in. Later, the sky opened briefly at zenith and Vega appeared, reluctantly.

This was our first DarkSky International affiliated stargazing effort and, even though the sky didn't fully cooperate, everyone there had a chance for some refreshments and some informative talk about CVA's efforts to promote dark sky in our valley. We shared the work we did over the summer to initiate Garland Ranch Regional Park's application for certification by DarkSky International. Meredith Nole was on hand to talk about her work with CVA in inventorying lighting in the village

and along Carmel Valley Road in the hope that eventually we can reduce excess glare and spill to offer everyone who lives here and visitors, too, a clear view of the night sky from wherever they are in the valley. Keeping the sky dark depends on us to raise consciousness about the beauty and necessity of letting darkness rule at night.

Our thanks go out to the STEM program at Hartnell College for funding an internship for the summer to help CVA advance its dark sky work. A big round of applause and full kudos to Julie San Pablo, this summer's intern from the Hartnell College Astronomy Club, for all the work she put in organizing this stargazing event and working with Meredith Nole, Rick Manning, and myself on lighting inventories of the Garland Ranch exterior lighting and downtown streetlights in the village.

On Saturday, December 9, there will be a stargazing party at Garland Park Visitor Center.

Register at the Let's Go Outdoors website.

We look forward to more events in the future, and don't forget, especially at night, to KEEP LOOKING UP!

# OVERSIGHT TWO VIEWS

## **The Monterey County Sheriff's Office:**

### **Existing Oversight and Public Trust**

*by Sheriff Tina Nieto*

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office operates under a comprehensive framework of oversight that ensures accountability, transparency, and adherence to the law. This memorandum outlines and describes the various oversight functions that are already in place for both the Sheriff's Office and our Jail Operations. In addition, recent polls have demonstrated a high level of public trust in the Sheriff's Office, indicating that the existing oversight mechanisms are effective and sufficient.

**Federal Oversight** - One significant aspect of oversight is the federal involvement in the form of the Hernandez Lawsuit settlement agreement, which has been in place since 2015. This agreement covers a wide range of areas, including medical, mental health, safety and security, ADA compliance, and dental care within the Monterey County Jail. Court-appointed monitors conduct annual inspections and submit reports to the court with corrective action recommendations.

**State Oversight** - The California Department of Justice (DOJ) plays a crucial role in investigating illegal activities within law enforcement organizations in the state. DOJ also monitors the use of law enforcement databases, with severe sanctions for any misuse. The Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) and the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) further contribute to oversight by addressing issues of racial profiling and maintaining high training standards.

The Peace Officer Standards and Accountability bill empowers POST to review investigations and take action against officers in cases of serious misconduct. Senate Bill (SB) 1421 mandates the release of certain peace officer personnel records to the public, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The California Standards and Training for Corrections and the Bureau of State and Community Corrections provide oversight of training compliance and jail operations, respectively. These agencies ensure that the Monterey County Jail maintains high standards in correctional practices.

Medical and psychological care within the jail

is overseen by the Medical Board of California and the California Board of Psychology, respectively. The Board of Registered Nursing ensures the quality of nursing care provided to inmates.

**Local Oversight** - At the local level, the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, the Sheriff's Office Professional Standards Division, the District Attorney's Office, the Monterey County Health Department, and Coroner Operations all contribute to oversight. These entities investigate complaints, inspect health and food preparation standards, and handle in-custody deaths impartially and transparently.

**Election Process** - The Sheriff's Office operates under the scrutiny of the public, as the sheriff is an elected position. Every four years, the people of Monterey County can vote for their sheriff, ensuring accountability through the democratic process.

**Public Trust and Polling** - Recent polls have shown that the majority of the public trusts the Sheriff's Office and does not believe additional oversight is necessary. Furthermore, most respondents do not support reallocating funds from the Sheriff's Office to support additional oversight. These poll results indicate that the existing oversight mechanisms are not only effective but also aligned with the preferences of the community, and they foster a sense of trust and confidence in the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office is subject to a robust system of oversight at the federal, state, and local levels. These oversight mechanisms are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and adherence to the law. Recent polling data suggests that the public has confidence in the Sheriff's Office and is not in favor of additional oversight. Existing oversight is both comprehensive and responsive to the needs and preferences of the community, making additional oversight unnecessary at this time. The strong foundation of oversight, coupled with public trust, ensures the Sheriff's Office continues to serve the community effectively and responsibly.

### **Monterey County Needs Citizen Oversight of Sheriff's Office**

*by Mickey Welch, Professor of Constitutional Law at Monterey College of Law, and Board Member of ACLU Monterey County Chapter*

The Monterey County Sheriff's department is currently overseen by government agencies.

Monterey County does not have citizen oversight of the sheriff's department. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors has historically remained unwilling to assert any control or oversight of the sheriff because the sheriff is also an elected official. The law does not establish authority by the Board of Supervisors other than to control the Sheriff's Department budget.

After the numerous serious problems in the sheriff's department during the previous administration, it became obvious that a system of effective citizen oversight is necessary in Monterey County. This opinion is not directed towards the current sheriff or any individual; the problems are systemic as evidenced by the Hernandez lawsuit which became a form of "oversight," but it was imposed by the court only after litigation. Current types of oversight were in existence during the past administrations and did not effectively curtail improper and illegal behavior, nor have they prevented deaths and injuries in the jail. The community needs and deserves citizen oversight. A new law in California authorizes the Board of Supervisors to enact an ordinance establishing citizen oversight by a citizen oversight board or commission, or by an inspector general, or both. A large coalition of community organizations has urged the Board of Supervisors to adopt an ordinance with both a Citizen Review Commission and an inspector general. The local Sheriff Oversight Coalition includes ACLU Monterey County Chapter, LULAC Salinas, LULAC North Monterey County, League of Women Voters; NAACP Monterey County Branch, MILPA, Monterey Peace and Justice Center, and Caste Action Alliance. And others have expressed interest in joining. Together the membership of these combined organizations advocating for citizen review represents thousands of Monterey County residents and voters.

In addition, the local coalition is a member of a statewide group representing California counties where citizen oversight is being sought or advanced. The statewide Coalition County Partners are Sacramento, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Orange, and San Mateo.

The majority of California residents and voters favor citizen oversight of law enforcement, including oversight of our county sheriffs. Several counties have already enacted citizen review under the new law; Monterey County should join them.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RESOLUTION

Whereas, District 5 in general, and Carmel Valley specifically, has witnessed Supervisor Adams meet the several and severe challenges of fire, flood, and pestilence with calm, effective response; and

Whereas, Supervisor Adams has endured numberless hours of meetings in closed door session, open door session, and out door session, as well as interminable discussions with individuals, groups, and Carmel Valley Association board members; and

Whereas, Supervisor Adams has participated in breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners, as well as day, week, and month-long festivals, with patient, sympathetic, compassionate demeanor; and

Whereas, Supervisor Adams has demonstrated the most faithful, polite, and attentive attendance at Carmel Valley Association Annual Meetings, Community Forums, and picnics; and

Whereas, Supervisor Adams has perused numerous and extensive Draft Environmental Impact Reports, Final Environmental Impact Reports, and Reports of the Impact of Impact Reports without concern for her own eyesight or mental health, but all in the service of District 5 and its inhabitants and environment;

Now, therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of Carmel Valley Association on behalf of the members of CVA and the residents of Carmel Valley and District 5, asks each resident to join in thanking Supervisor Adams, not only for the work she has done, but also for the way she has done the work, and additionally, to collectively express our best wishes for her future success and extended good health.

*Passed and Adopted on this day, October 7, 2023*

**CARMEL VALLEY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## Running Iron Boots

*Story and picture by Ron Pierce, Village Observer*

The Running Iron, a famous bar/restaurant in Carmel Valley Village, has a long and interesting history. A great mystery is immediately apparent to some entrants, and eventually noticed by all but the severely incapacitated. Those pairs of boots in the ceiling...many many dozens of them...

An astute observer, even before entering the Running Iron, might look up and see a strange sight. A four-wheeled cart, attached to the ceiling, clearly large enough to hold, well, a person. Inside, a very astute observer might notice the stuffed head of a mountain lion, in the rafters...

But, above all, anyone but the most unaware would notice the many pairs of boots, hanging from the ceiling... and this is their story...

*Editors' Note:* If you'd like the rest of the story, involving thieves, rustlers, deadbeats, trained mountain lions and mules, drop by and ask bartender Brent for the free monograph on the mystery, or request a copy from [cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org](mailto:cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org).



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Car Week, continued from Pg. 1

### ABOUT THE DATA SOURCES:

- **Revenue:** Search Monterey County's website for the "Expenditure/Revenue Dashboard."
- **TOT:** Search Monterey County pages for the "Statistical Summary Report."
- **Census:** Monterey County population in 2020 was 439,036. Sixty percent were between the ages of 16 and 65, equaling 263,422, most of whom traveled for employment, school, or errands. US Census Quick Facts Monterey County CA
- **Employment:** There are 60,600 employees in accommodations, food services, leisure and hospitality, leaving a majority of working age residents in other services and industries. (<https://data.edd.ca.gov/>).



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Editors' Note: CVA asked Sheriff Nieto to provide a short reflection on the activities of her office, and she has shared her thoughts on the topic of oversight, which is being widely discussed by many in our community. Mickey Welch, Professor at Monterey College of Law, has provided us with some additional insight on this sensitive area. See page 4.

Page 1 banner photo courtesy, Ron Pierce, 2023.

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The *Carmel Valley Voice*, the publication you are reading now, has its own new email address: [cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org](mailto:cvvoice@carmelvalleyassociation.org). Valley residents may submit comments, photographs, ideas for articles, or advertising requests directly to the editorial board for consideration. We hope this new communication channel will encourage community discussion and involvement in local issues.

Do you know the difference between the Carmel Valley Voice and the CVA eBulletin? This newsletter, containing in-depth articles on issues and subjects relating to Carmel Valley, is published quarterly and mailed free to all residence and business addresses within the Carmel Valley Master Plan area. The eBulletin, distributed digitally every Thursday morning, includes announcements and short articles on breaking news or introductions to Valley issues.

You may subscribe for free to the weekly eBulletin by signing up at the SUBSCRIBE link on the home page at <https://carmelvalleyassociation.org/>.

