

MONTEREY DOWNS UPDATE

By Amy L. White, Executive Director, LandWatch Monterey County

The Monterey Downs project proposed in Seaside and the unincorporated county is one of the largest and most complicated applications in the history of Monterey County. If built, the impacts from Monterey Downs would be felt all over the region. The project's components include a 225,000-square-foot horse training facility; a 6,500-seat arena; a 330,000-square-foot commercial center; a 15,000-square-foot horse park with a visitors' center, office space, veterinary clinic, and stables; three hotels with a total of 356 units; 1,280 residential units; a 100,000-square-foot office park; a 5,000-square-foot tennis and swim club; a 73-acre habitat preservation area; 74 acres of open space; and the removal of 41,000 oak trees.

Originally the application was being processed through the county. However, in 2012 the lead agency became the City of Seaside, despite the fact that the majority of the project area lies within the county. The draft environmental review, or DEIR, for the project was released on March 31, 2015, and the review period lasted until June 19th. Not surprisingly, the DEIR identified myriad significant concerns: lack of adequate water supply, significant and unavoidable traffic impacts, loss of oak woodland habitat, and significant noise impacts. LandWatch along with numerous other groups and individuals submitted

extensive comments on the DEIR. We are now waiting for the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) to be released. Once the FEIR is released, Planning Commission hearings will begin and will be followed by the Seaside City Council hearings.

This application is incredibly complicated because the proposal straddles two jurisdictions: the City of Seaside and the County of Monterey. If the project wins approval, the Local Area Formation Commission, or LAFCO, will then consider whether or not it will allow Seaside to annex the land that lies within the county's jurisdiction. The Board of Supervisors will need to decide the terms of the annexation, and it will need to negotiate with the people and taxpayers of Monterey County in mind. The land of Fort Ord was gifted by the federal government to the people of Monterey County – it is public land and therefore the public's resource. The supervisors will have to grapple with questions such as the appropriate sale price of the land, whether the county requires sharing of tax revenues from the project, whether the County will give its water allocation in Fort Ord to the project, and which jurisdiction will maintain the infrastructure. These are serious questions with enormous implications. The good news is that the county seems to be in no hurry to negotiate with Seaside. The supervisors appear to understand that this project, while moving through the process, still has numerous hurdles to overcome such as legal action by the opponents. Negotiating with Seaside now is too soon.

"It may be nice to have a horse park, but beware of that thing that goes with it!"
May Waldroup



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The Angel Project Takes Wing

By Sandy Schachter



The angels will be flying again this holiday season, as the Carmel Valley Angel Project takes off from its new website, thecvap.org, ready to serve the community once again for the 20th year. The website was created and donated by Luana Conley, and Lisa Taylor designed and donated the new logo.

The annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, free to all, will be held on November 26, and the Holiday Store will be open at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in mid-December.

At this time, Valley families who need some help to brighten their holidays can come by appointment and pick up needed food, clothing, and gifts, for free.

The Angel Project, local in its administration and its beneficiaries, has been a popular event each year because it unifies the Valley in its commitment to community, as a direct expression of the good will of Valley residents. Volunteers organize the activities, serve

the Thanksgiving dinner, and shop for and staff the holiday store, while the Community Center, Carmel Valley Park District, and local Catholic church donate space for the dinner and for all collected items.

Thanksgiving Dinner participants praise the event because it provides a special sense of community. As for the holiday store, "It's a beautiful, beautiful, BEAUTIFUL project," says a former "shopper." "It made all the difference in the world to my family to be able to get through the holidays without using our survival funds. It's hard for people to reach out when they need help because of pride, but every day a new family is faced with a life catastrophe. The project brings tears to your eyes."

"It made all the difference in the world to my family"

For donation of new, unwrapped gifts and clothing, barrels will be set up at various locations around the valley.

If you would like to donate to the project, you may go to the website or send a check to The Carmel Valley Angel Project, PO Box 1305, Carmel Valley 93924.

Contacts: for Thanksgiving Dinner, Terry Pershall, pershall@gmail.com; for Holiday Store volunteering, Cynthia Hall, cynthiahall@comcast.net; for merchandise donations, Marilyn Rose, 659-0420; for appointments to shop at the Holiday Store, Susan MacDonald at 601-7590; and for general questions, 659-5877.

COMING IN APRIL 2016

A Community Art Show

Theme: *Preserving Our Rural Legacy: Images of Carmel Valley*
The Carmel Valley Association and the Carmel Valley Art Association are joining to hold a celebration of art by local residents - from the youngest to the oldest.

Start planning your entry now. Details to follow. . .

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November 2015

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CALENDAR

Olive Oil Lovers' "FETE"

Jan de Luz, 1 East CV Rd
Sat., Nov. 7, 11am - 4pm
831-659-7966

TRUTH & BEAUTY Fort Ord Habitats

Paintings & Photographs
by Local Artists
The Press Club
1123 Fremont, Seaside
Display through Nov. 25

FREE Annual Community THANKSGIVING DINNER

Nov. 26 noon - 3pm
CV Community Center
thecvap.org

Barnyard Holiday Festival and TREE LIGHTING

Sat., Dec. 5, 4-6 p.m.

Only in America: JEWISH SONGWRITERS in America

Sat., Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Free
Congregation Beth Israel
5716 CV Road

SANTA FLY-IN

Dec. 12, 10:30 a.m.
CV Village Airport

Free SENIOR LUNCHEON

First Monday each month
Noon with bingo at 1:30
CV Community Center
25 Ford Road

Subscribe to our free e-bulletin for weekly calendar updates at carmelvalleyassociation.org.

MEET CARMEL VALLEY OLIVE GROWERS

Story and photo by Carolyn Rice

"We don't have butter in this house," Kathy Herbermann enthusiastically claims when describing her pleasure in using her homegrown olive oil. She drizzles it on her toast at breakfast, splashes it on her salad at lunch, and when eating fish for dinner, will dribble olive oil and spices on it.

In 2000 Kathy and her husband, Alfred, planted their Carmel Valley olive orchard with 500 arbequina saplings they imported from Spain. They were among the first commercial olive growers in Carmel Valley and harvested their first crop two years after planting the orchard.

The yield varies each year, depending on weather and the amount of water. "The trees are thrifty. They don't take too much rain," she explained, noting they are dormant in the winter and take some irrigation during the summer. Temperatures below 17 degrees or too much water can kill olive trees, and a frost before harvest will damage the berries.

The Herbermanns like to pick when the berries show a balance of color. An olive first is green and then changes to light green, yellow, purple, and finally black. The Herbermanns prefer to



harvest when a tree has all colors of berries. The first green berries produce a peppery, greenish-tasting oil and add a little kick to the balance while the mature berries have a more mellow flavor, she explained. Time is of the essence after the olives are picked, as they immediately start to ferment.

Other local growers include Dean Griggs, Malcolm Cleary, Charlotte and Carl Muia, Jan de Luz, Suzanne and Geoff Ashton, along with the Holman Ranch. Steve Brabeck features Carmel Valley olive oil and gives shoppers a chance to sample many varieties of central California olive

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President's Letter



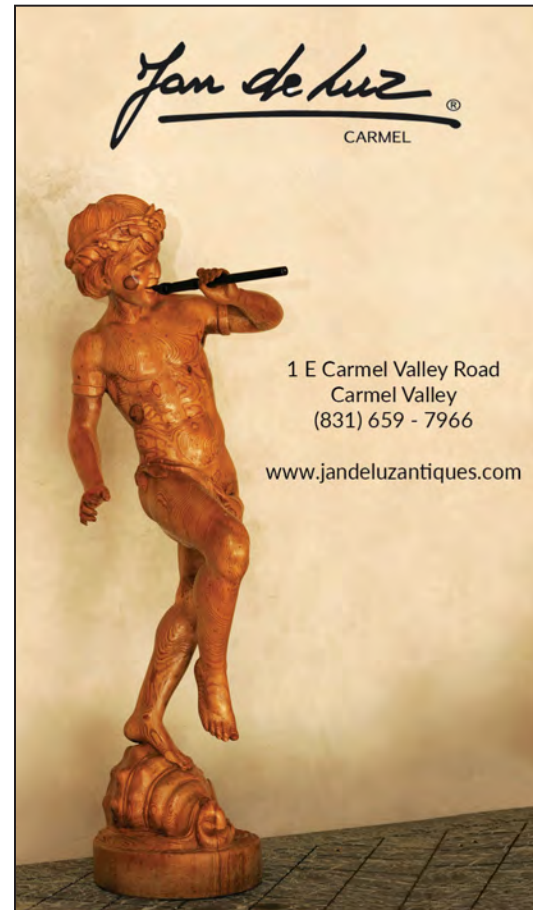
Priscilla Walton

The Carmel Valley Association's mission is "to preserve, protect and defend the natural beauty, resources and rural character of the Carmel Valley," and in so doing to give due consideration to the pertinent interests and rights of residents and property owners. We do this by encouraging appropriate residential and commercial growth and development that preserve and enhance scenic values, air and water quality, natural resources, traffic circulation and safety, and the general quality of life of our residents. We do this by following and supporting a rigorous planning process.

Hence CVA's great disappointment that the County Planning Commission approved the Carmel Canine Sports Center, a "dog country club" advertised as a benign dog-training center that would enhance our scenic and rural environment. The image promoted by project sponsors is both deceptive and incorrect. In reality, this project is a major private event center set in the middle of the Quail neighborhood, on what has

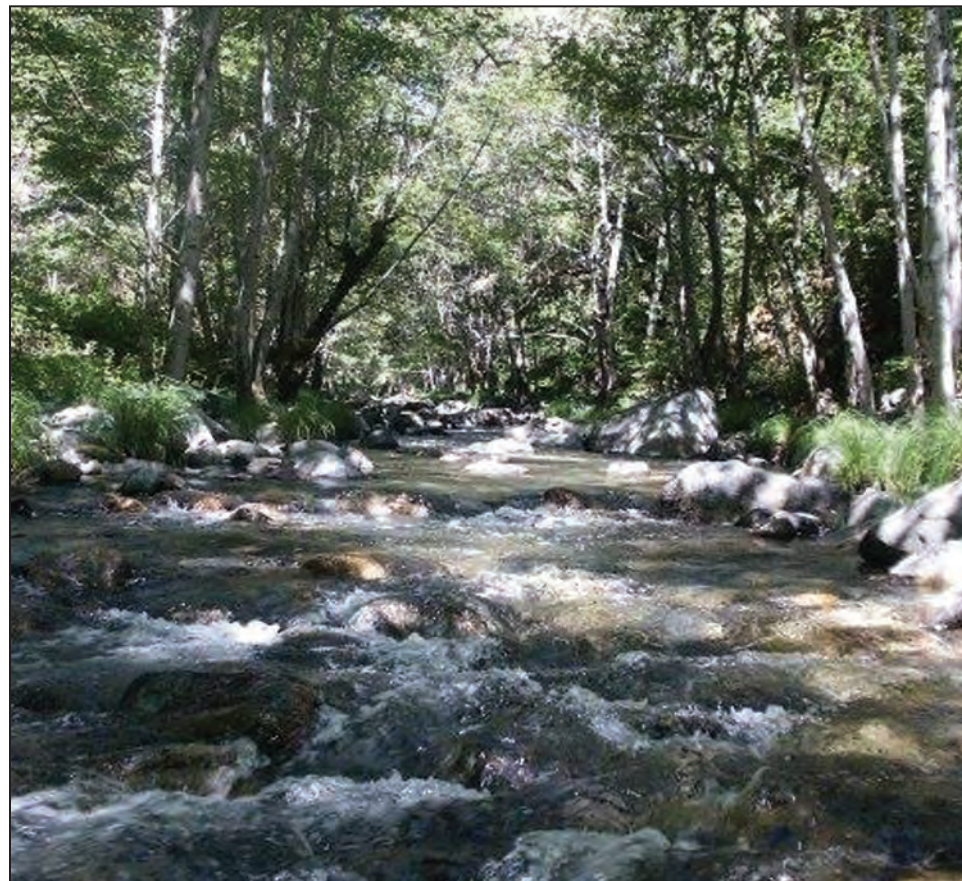
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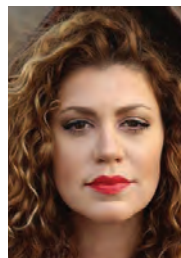
'Carmel River As It Should Be' by Will Colas

Hidden Valley Holiday Performances



Friday December 4, 7:00 p.m. Hello Again! The Songs of Allan Sherman

singer/comedienne Linden Waddell



December 5-20th Gift of the Magi

chamber opera based on classic holiday tale



Sunday December 13, 2:30 p.m. Cascada de Flores

ravishingly reimagined Mexican & Cuban traditional music

TICKETS

659-3115

hiddenvalleymusic.org 104 W. Carmel Valley Rd

President's Letter

historically been agricultural land. It will impact all of the assets that CVA is committed to protecting.

CVA has written and spoken numerous times in opposition to the project. I will not repeat all the defects of the EIR, but rather focus on the process by which this project was approved by the Monterey County Planning Commission. Our CVA Board and members love dogs, so this is not about who loves dogs the most. The issue is about the planning process, the roles of planning commissioners, and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the current general plan.

The CVA board questions whether sitting planning commissioners should remain on the commission if they are applicants for projects which will be considered by the planning commission. While all that is required legally is for planning commissioners who are applicants to recuse themselves, legitimate questions arise regarding whether or not other commissioners and staff can maintain their objectivity when dealing with projects involving commission members. I believe that applicants whose projects come before the planning commission should not simultaneously be members of the planning commission, and that they should resign in the event of any such situation.

I particularly object to the process by which the Planning Commission approved the Carmel Canine Sports Center-- one commissioner recused herself because she was the applicant, another recused himself because of his long-time friendship with the applicant, and yet another recused herself because she worked on a similar project sometime earlier. The withdrawal of three planning commissioners, two of which represented the 5th District, left residents of the 5th District without any representation. The remaining planning commissioners in attendance, all of whom voted for the project, were from other districts in the county and did not engage in any substantive questioning of the factual issues presented during the hearing. In fact, based upon their comments, it was not even clear that they had examined the document closely.

It is the opinion of the CVA board that serious issues with the project remain, including traffic, noise, and water demand. Although the project is clearly inconsistent with several transportation policies in the general plan, planning staff argued that a project does not have to be consistent with all general plan policies. It is my understanding that projects must be consistent with all substantive general plan policies. If traffic policies designed to insure the safety of Carmel Valley residents and visitors are not considered substantive, I wonder what policies would be. Even though the environmental impact report identified an environmentally superior project, which would have addressed many of the impacts, commissioners never even considered it.

The attitude expressed by one of the commissioners was particularly outrageous -- that residents should get used to adverse traffic conditions. Yet not one of the commissioners objected to or contradicted this statement.

The Carmel Valley Association will continue to provide vigorous opposition to this project because it would do serious harm to both the safety of our residents and the quality of life of our community. We hope you will join us in opposition.



Fall at Hacienda Hay and Feed, photo by Mibs McCarthy

AMIDST THE TASSAJARA FIRE

By Dave Burbidge

"I'm baaack" with another exciting tale of volunteerism in action. It was a warm and sunny afternoon in paradise on September 19th when I heard the call on the emergency radio from Fire Command that there was a vegetation fire in Cachagua. I knew it was going to be a bad one. Immediately a strike team consisting of five engines, along with a bulldozer and helicopter, was called out, and within an hour additional teams were dispatched.

1 a.m. on the Cal Fire Communications Task Force, and at 4:37 p.m. the call went out to report to the Emergency Command Center (ECC). I got my safety gear ready and met the rest of the team at the ECC to prepare the equipment for deployment.

We arrived at the staging area on the Quail Oaks Ranch at Tassajara and Carmel Valley Roads around 8:00, and after checking in with the incident commander, began to set up the equipment that would allow firefighters to communicate with each other and with the command center. We immediately established service on satellite telephone, internet, and numerous radios. Later that evening we were asked to set up a remote radio at the MIRA observatory and set out around 11:00 p.m. with the equipment. Traveling on Tassajara Road proved very hazardous with fallen trees on the road and showers of embers coming down the hills. The fire had burned so fast and at such a high temperature that there was "moonscaping" (where everything was completely gone) on both sides of the road. We finished around 4:00 a.m. and got a couple of hours' sleep wherever we could find a place to lay our heads.

At 6:00 a.m. we began setting up the rest of the communications base with antennas, tents, and other equipment. About this time additional strike teams and prison crews began arriving from Riverside, L.A., and other southern cities. Our communications base also served as a quasi-command center until other equipment was brought in. Eventually mobile kitchens and other support equipment were set up to take care of over 750 firefighters. We kept busy coordinating with the ranch manager and other personnel assigned to the incident. We also interacted with the media on numerous occasions and made sure that everyone had drinks and food.

The rest of the week was spent insuring that good communications were in place and running back and forth to the command center at Toro Park and to Carmel for food and other supplies. We camped out at the ranch (my idea of camping is Motel 6) the rest of the week and were demobilized on Saturday morning, September 26th.

The outpouring from the community was especially gratifying, and we received donations of drinks and food from many sources. We really appreciated the thanks when we would stop for a drink or snack and people insisted on buying for us. Javier, the Quail Oaks Ranch manager, deserves a special thanks for all he did to insure we and the other firefighters had everything we needed to do the job.

Olive Growers, cont. from pg.1

oil at The Quail and Olive shop in the Village on Pilot Road.

Dean Griggs also touts the health benefits of olive oil. His 2,000 olive trees are tucked off the north side of Carmel Valley Road at mid-valley. Planted in 2004, his grove is still young, but he has been bottling his Tres Osos Olive Oil for six or seven years.

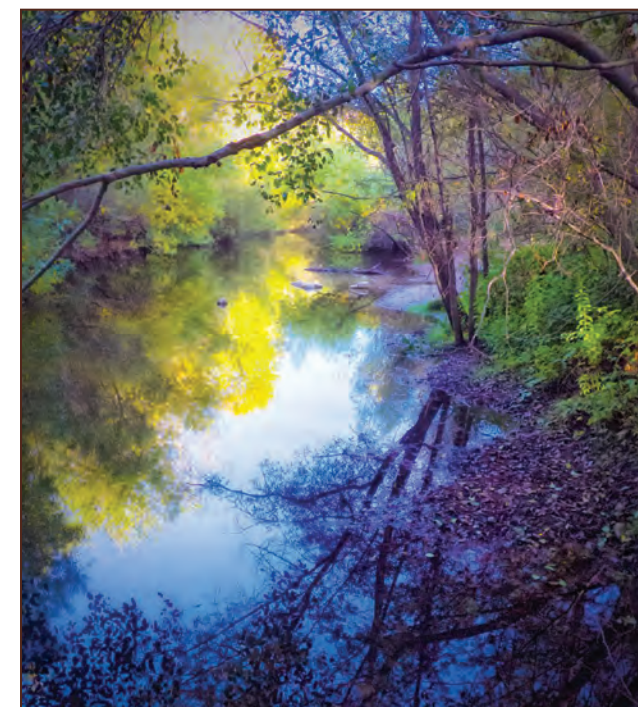
Another grower, Jan de Luz, who planted trees about the same time as the Herbermanns, has his orchards just past Carmel Valley Village and in Greenfield. He sells his oil at his local shops and online.

Carmel Valley olive oils are offered at several locally-owned markets, including Carmel Valley Market, Star Market in Salinas, and Grove Market in Pacific Grove. Earth-bound Farms offers three Carmel Valley olive oils: Tres Osos produced by Dean Griggs, Carmel Valley Olive Oil, grown by the Herbermanns, and Bellevue, Malcolm Cleary's oil.

Malcolm Cleary planted five acres of olives on his property off Los Laureles Grade in 2003 and has won gold ribbons with his Bellevue label in the California Olive Oil Council competitions every year. He imported three French varieties -- algandau, picholine and bourteillan, which produce a mild, fruity oil. "It's a little different than the Spanish or Italian," he noted. For the maximum health benefit, the oil should be used uncooked as a condiment.

The Ashtons have their arbequina and arbosana trees planted high in the hills above Scarlett Road at 1,200 feet elevation. Their oil is labeled Bobcat Ridge after the location where it is grown.

Peter Charles, Holman Ranch tasting room host and event manager, said the ranch planted six varieties of trees -- four Tuscan, one French and one Spanish. The ranch sells it at the Holman Ranch wine tasting room on East Carmel Valley Road in the Village. The blend from all six varieties is "beautiful, peppery, grassy -- extremely fresh."



Carmel River in Garland Park 2014

By Timothy L. Smith

Carmel Welcomes New Superintendent

Story and photo by Carolyn Rice



Superintendent Scott Laurence

Scott Laurence, the recently hired Carmel Unified School District superintendent, tackled many different jobs during his 30 years in education. His diverse background as social studies teacher, head baseball and head football coach, teacher advisor, dean of students, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent should help him relate to many people.

He comes to the Carmel schools with a friendly, open, easy manner and positive enthusiasm. When asked what goals he has for the district, he said, "I plan to listen and learn. The existing district is well run with lots of good families and staff. I have no big changes on the agenda. This is a lovely place."

Plucked from a field of 27 candidates competing for the

Carmel job, Laurence came from San Mateo Union High School District, where he was superintendent and responsible for 8,200 students with six high schools, an alternative school, and the largest adult school in the county. Prior to that job he worked in Palo Alto schools. Laurence earned his bachelor's degree and a master's from Stanford University and additional administrative credentials from San Jose State University.

The Carmel district has about 2,500 students and a \$43 million budget. Laurence said the district will focus on implementing the Common Core program during the next three to five years. The new approach focuses more on critical thinking and less on memorization than the recently utilized No Student Left Behind program. "California has embraced Common Core, unlike some states," he noted.

Career education is important these days, but such courses are harder to implement in a small district like Carmel because of the small number of students interested in robotics or other specialized areas, Laurence said. When asked if he thought too much pressure is being put on students these days, Laurence responded, "Society is putting a lot of pressure on families. It is a struggle for parents to find a balance, but I think we have a fairly healthy climate here."

Laurence will commute daily from San Martin where he and his wife, Kathie, live and grow a vegetable garden and have two goats, two dogs, and five cats. The couple has two sons: Tucker, 26, and Cody, 21. He avoids heavy traffic by traveling early. Laurence said compared to the two-hour commutes he had in the past, he finds his current 50-minute trek a beautiful, doable drive.

On a recent trip to Captain Cooper Elementary School in Big Sur, Laurence said on the beautiful drive he had to ask himself, "This is work? I'm getting paid to do this?"

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