



Happy New Year! CVA's 70th Anniversary



President's Letter

On behalf of the Carmel Valley Association, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. Last year passed much too quickly and was full of challenges and many successes for us.

Priscilla Walton

The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary for CVA. It is hard to believe we have been in existence since 1949. Be on the watch for writings and events celebrating this milestone throughout the year.

Looking back, we have traveled a long way since 1949. We will chronicle this history in a special *Carmel Valley Voice* edition early this year. Suffice it to say, times have changed drastically. We have moved into the digital age, in which it is difficult to keep secret the wonders of Carmel Valley. The virtues and beauty of our valley have hit the big time nationally and internationally. We have made the travel sections of the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and many other publications. Facebook and other internet platforms have further increased our visibility.

As a result, we are now beginning to experience what is called "over-tourism." Like other unique places, we are impacted in ways that threaten the rural environment. While we want to share our bounty and support local businesses, we don't want to see our valley fundamentally altered. It will take all of our efforts to maintain a balance so that we remain a thriving residential community and don't become just another tourist center populated by a transient population, with a service sector that must live somewhere

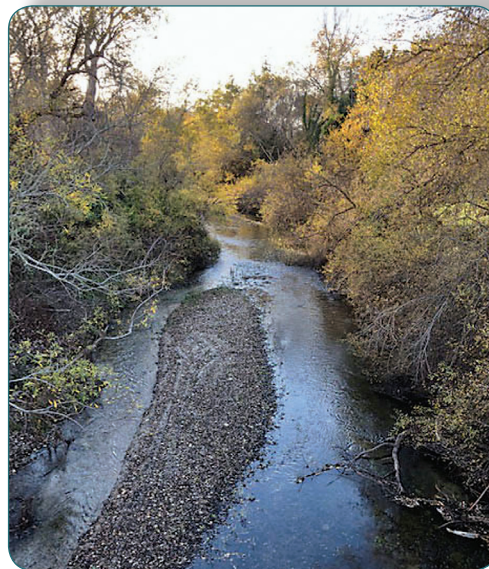
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TAKE THAT - YOU DIRTY RAT!

by Carolyn Rice

Many Carmel Valley residents have been fighting a persistent battle with rodents and frequently share ideas on the best ways to rid homes of them. "It has been the year of the vermin," according to Robert Wells, manager at M.J. Murphy Lumber and Hardware in Carmel Valley Village. "I'm not 100 percent sure why, but rats and gophers have been a huge problem," said Wells, who has lived in Carmel Valley since 1995 and thinks the last two years have been the worst he's ever seen. He personally experienced rat damage to two of his three family vehicles, which he attributes to the soy used in wiring covers. He, along with other Valley residents, recommends leaving the hood open on vehicles parked outside to prevent providing a warm, dry shelter for rodents. He said electronic rat traps seem to be a favorite with his customers. "I hear many good success stories."

One Mid-Valley resident who prefers to remain unidentified has caught 73 rats outdoors near his vehicles with electronic traps. He has stopped keeping a tally but continues to catch rats. He baits his



Carmel River Jan. 1, 2019

photo by Mibs McCarthy

traps with dried, sweetened cranberries. Other residents favor peanut butter or dog food for bait.



At Carmel Valley Ace Hardware in Mid-Valley, an employee recently explained to a customer how to bait a large black, plastic trap equipped with vicious teeth, so that a rodent cannot take the food without springing it. He cautioned the customer to set it in places inaccessible to pets or small children as the trap could cause severe injuries. A resident who has new flexible, plastic heating ducts under his house caught a non-native rat using this type of trap. "I've lived here more than 40 years and never had rodents in the crawl space until recently," he noted. He heard stories from the duct installers about rodents causing serious damage to plastic ducts. Upon checking, he found rodents had chewed through several metal screen air vents to gain entry to the crawl space, so he replaced those screens with a heavier grade screen.

Many residents relate stories about the cleverness of the rodents. Some varmints manage to drag the traps away while others steal the bait without getting caught. Wells described gluing dog food to his traps to prevent this. He then ties his traps down with a securely anchored string. Another man said he resorted to tying his trap to a heavy pipe wrench as rodents had drug away several traps.

Preventive measures can be taken. The hardware stores sell expandable foam to squirt around small spaces where pipes enter homes. People also use steel wool and metal net fabric to plug spaces and spray peppermint oil in car engine compartments as a deterrent. Professional

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HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC SEMINARS



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TICKETS
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else because Carmel Valley is no longer affordable. We don't want the valley to end up like Carmel-by-the-Sea, where it is reported 72% of the homes are second homes, and the base population of year-round residents is only 28%. As a result, the residential quality of the community has been severely impacted. We also don't want to see the valley businesses taken over by chains, large corporate entities, overpriced restaurants, and tourism shops, as has happened elsewhere.

Over the past year, we have stayed on top of all the recent developments that have been of concern to our residents (Rancho Canada, September Ranch, Carmel Valley Ranch, Folktale Winery, Hilltop Vineyard, Rio Market Place, and the Carmel Valley airfield property).

At the same time, we are actively working to reduce and control short-term rentals, as well as the magnitude and intrusion of event centers. We have been fortunate in having Mary Adams as a supervisor who supports many of our efforts, and we are grateful to have developed a working relationship with the county and its staff.

As it has always been, our focus continues to be on retaining the valley's rural characteristics and preserving its natural resources. We are also working to retain our open space and to develop a fully sustainable community. That means

keeping a local year-round resident population, maintaining a sustainable traffic infrastructure, and encouraging sensible management of our water sources, landscapes, and open spaces. We also call for supporting sustainable businesses, many of which promote local resources, such as wineries, olive oil producers, and organic food and flower growers.

Looking forward, given the threats that we now face, we must continue to work hard to keep at bay the forces that would turn us into simply an overused tourist destination. For, once gone, the valley's rural character would be gone forever and could never be restored.

So, we urge you to make an important New Year's resolution right now. We urge you to become a CVA member, and to actively participate in one of our many committees (Land Use, Communications, Natural Resources, Membership, Events). We cannot preserve and protect our valley without your active support. As well as becoming a CVA member, please lend your talents, skills, and time to CVA.

For if you do, years from now you will be able to look back at what we have accomplished together and be glad that you did.

Thank you and Happy New Year once again!

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST SEEKS WORK SPACE

I'm a working professional sculptor seeking to rent a work site in a rural location, preferably west of Carmel Valley Village.

The simple requirements:

- > Accommodation for an 8x8' work surface,
- > Space for a palette or two for materials, and
- > Access to electricity

My artistic pursuit makes noise, I hammer, and use a compressor, so need to be away from close neighbors. If you have, or can refer me to such a situation, please contact Chris Sawyer by email at cns@cnsawyer.com or phone: 831-595-1177.

Read about me and my work:
<https://www.cnsawyer.com>



A budding gymnast practices her balance beam near Robles del Rio meadow.

Photo by Luana Conley

BRUCE FORMAN ~ Local Guitar Virtuoso

by Andy Sudol



Carmel Valley has always attracted horse lovers and artists for good reason. Nature inspires. Around the turn of the century, guitarist Bruce Forman and his wife, Pammie, also a talented artist and singer, decided to call this beautiful place their home and join the legacy of our artistic community.

Born in Texas, this musical cowboy lived on the Monterey Peninsula and studied guitar with musicians affiliated with the Monterey Jazz Festival (MJF) before moving to San Francisco and New York City. Bruce has played and recorded with a variety of jazz greats and achieved international acclaim. His prolific career took many fascinating twists and turns. Upon return to California, Bruce befriended and worked with Buddy Jones, a bass player who also lived in Carmel Valley in the 1990's. Jones met legendary sax player, Charlie "Bird" Parker as a teenager. Parker was immortalized on film by jazz pianist and movie-maker, Clint Eastwood, who recognized Bruce's talents and invited him to play on three movie soundtracks, including the one for the feature film entitled *Bird*.

The people at the Monterey Jazz Festival would influence Bruce's career in many ways. And in true jazz form, in turn, as a music teacher, Bruce continues to inspire youth with his music. He teaches at the University of Southern California's

Thornton School of Music, where he has been on the faculty for over a decade. Bruce also taught thousands of Monterey County youth through the Monterey Jazz Festival's local education, including summer jazz camps, and visited high schools in Monterey County as a member of the MJF Travelling Jazz Clinicians.

Bruce's most recent project is a theatrical one-man show, "The Red Guitar," which showcases his virtuosity on his custom-made red guitar and humorous stories of his relationship with sound. He sold out Carmel's Cherry Center for the Arts in December and is scheduling additional performances around our community. He

also does local gigs with saxophonist Roger Eddy at places like the Trailside Café in Camel Valley Village, so keep your eyes and ears open and visit bruceforman.com for updates.

(photos from bruceforman.com)



SOCIAL MEDIA for Nonprofit Outreach

by Luana Conley

The CVA reaches supporters and potential members various ways. Some are relatively static, and some are lively and interactive. The traditional methods are through public events, public forums, regular annual membership meetings, and the annual Picnic and Holiday Party, to which all Carmel Valley residents are invited. We also circulate our position letters to county officials and other leaders of Monterey County.

In the digital realm, our volunteer website editor, [[carmelvalleyassociation.org](https://www.facebook.com/carmelvalleyassociation/)] Dick Stott, also manages every Thursday's e-bulletin that goes out to eleven hundred addresses. Let your friends know to subscribe to the free weekly bulletin; that's where our calendar of events is listed, along with other vital news you need to know to keep Carmel Valley livable and beautiful. Our website statistics showed a thousand unique visits last month.

We created a Facebook page a few years ago, [<https://www.facebook.com/carmelvalleyassociation/>] and, depending on the topic, our reach can go as high as the hundreds or as low as four, according to Facebook reports. Our page is set to be interactive, meaning followers are welcome to post directly to the page and allowed to share our posts. The CVA also routinely shares items of interest to Valley residents on other CV pages - Carmel Valley Happenings, Carmel Valley Community Youth Center, Carmel Valley Village Gives Back - and gathers news from Carmel Valley Community Watch, You KNOW you're from Carmel Valley if..., Carmel Valley Library (make sure it's not the San Diego Carmel Valley!), and the Carmel Valley History Center. All the sharing back and forth might seem repetitive, but it multiplies the potential audience.

Pick your preferred method, but stay connected, whether face-to-face or digitally.

Dirty Rat, continued from Pg. 1

exterminators caution the foam may not be a permanent fix as it contains a soy-based plastic that rats can chew. They suggest attaching wire screens over gaps where pipes come into homes.

Christy Wyckoff, a wildlife ecologist at the Santa Lucia Conservancy, lives in Carmel Valley Village and has had her own personal encounters with rodents. She said people will never rid them from their homes until they find and seal all openings around pipes and other areas with gaps. Rodents can squeeze through a space the size of a dime to enter. She uses a live animal trap at work and at home and sometimes marks the rodents to identify them. One day at work she caught a California mouse and two hours later caught the same mouse.

She attributes the current high rodent population to the above-average 2016 rainfall, which resulted in a huge production of plants, grasses, and tree seeds, and a rapid increase in rodent population. "We had field mice running under our feet when doing work in the tall grasses," she recalled. The rodent explosion spiked a raptor increase that spring, along with bobcats and coyotes, but the deer and mountain lion population has not changed that much, according to her.

Rodents like the comfort of warm, dry quarters, Wyckoff noted. The natives that come into homes are dusky-footed wood rats with large ears, big black eyes, and furry tails. The wood rat is seven to nine inches long with a six-to-eight-inch-long tail and has dark hair on its feet. The California mouse also has big ears and is about three and one-half to four and one-half inches long with a five-to-six inch tail and white furry feet. Some individuals find the natives cute but usually have a more adverse reaction to the non-native European rodents, which include the Norwegian roof rat, the black rat, and the common house mouse. They have hairless tails and pointy noses and usually are found around clusters of houses rather than in open country. The non-natives' teeth grow throughout their lives and are very strong, allowing them to chew holes in wood and metal.

Wyckoff is not a fan of using poison to get rid of rodents as it takes them a couple of days to die, and during their weakened state they may be easy prey for owls,

bobcats, coyotes, and hawks, who may also be poisoned. "If people are desperate, the electronic rat traps work great."

Owl boxes attract an owl about 50 percent of the time, and during breeding season one owl can eat 1,500 rodents, Wyckoff said.

Wyckoff anticipates the rodent population will drop off if the area has an average winter rainfall.

HISTORY: Robles del Rio

by Donna Kneeland, with thanks to the Carmel Valley Historical Society for use of its archives.

Robles del Rio subdivision was created from a part of the Rancho Los Laureles. As its history tells us, it was first granted to Jose Antonio Romero in 1835. The Robles del Rio subdivision then changed ownership to Jose Manuel Boronda and Blas Martinez in 1839. By 1851 it was owned solely by Boronda.

Did you know Monterey Jack cheese was "invented" by Maria Juana Cota Boronda? It was while she was living in the Boronda Adobe on Boronda Road, where the family lived, that she made the first cheeses that have come to be so closely identified with the Monterey area. The original house where she lived has since been restored and is now a private residence.

After California became a state in 1849, Mexican landowners had to petition to prove ownership to keep their property, a long process requiring documentation that many Mexican families didn't have, and thus they were dispossessed of their land. The Borondas, however, were successful with their petition, and in 1854, Jose Manuel Boronda and his son Juan de Mata Boronda became official owners of the Rancho Los Laureles, where they had been living for many years

The Rancho changed hands many times and was finally owned by the Pacific Improvement Company, later known as Del Monte Properties. This is the same company that owned the Del Monte Hotel, now the Naval Postgraduate School, and used the ranch as a dairy farm.

In 1927, a Salinas realtor, George S. Gould, Jr., bought the section of Rancho Los Laureles that was to become Robles



Photo by Luana Conley

del Rio. Included in the scope of it were Esquiline Road, Lower and Upper Circles, and lots on both sides of Los Helechos. A second subdivision for Robles del Rio was submitted the same year by George S. Gould, Jr., and Frank Porter. This subdivision was farther up the hill and included roads to and around the meadow. By 1932, a third subdivision was filed by Frank Porter and E.B. Martin for lots beyond the meadow. For the most part summer cabins were built on the properties. Rosie's Cracker Barrel originally served as the real estate office for the Robles del Rio subdivision. During the 1930s, lots and acreage sold at up to 40% discount. Residential lots sold for \$150 and up, with river lot prices as low at \$90.

The famed Robles del Rio Lodge was designed and built by M.J. Murphy in the late 1920s. Originally named Robles del Rio Country Club, it later became the Robles del Rio Lodge in the mid-1930s. There were 31 rooms for guests, a 21-acre golf course, and hiking trails, as well as tennis, swimming, a spa, theater, horseback riding, and other outdoor sports. Its restaurant was a favorite of locals. Chef Andre Chavez was the last chef, leaving to become chef at Gardiner's Resort for several years.

Once listed on Monterey County's Historic Resources Register, the Lodge burned to the ground in May 2010 after standing for eight decades. In 2012 the Lee Sang Duk family purchased the Lodge; as of 2018 the future of the property is unknown.

For further information, contact the Carmel Valley Historical Society, 831-659-5715.

LET'S KEEP SANTA FLYING IN!

by Sandra Schachter

Is there anything more nostalgic for Valley residents during the holiday season than to watch Santa and Mrs. Claus fly into Carmel Valley airport? The long-awaited helicopter appears as a dot in the western sky and then circles down over the crowd, with Santa clearly visible waving through the window, and then descends to the shouts of waiting children.

The 60th annual Fly-In held on December 10th proved to be one of the best ever. The



Photos by Kim Williams

weather was perfect and the arrival on time. The parade, headed by airstrip property owner Mary Delfino and attended by Supervisor Mary Adams, proceeded steadily through the village to the Community Youth Center, where food, rides, a petting zoo, and, of course, Santa, waited.



As you may know, the airport property is now for sale, and a new local organization, Carmel Valley Save Open Space (CVSOS), is leading the effort to purchase it for the community. If this property is lost to us, there will be no more Santa Fly-Ins and no more space for helicopter staging during fire season. If you want to keep Santa flying in and keep the valley safe, please go to the website cvsos.org to see how you can help.



Mary Delfino kicked off the fun



Joe Hertlein, chair of CV Save Open Space,, checks with Santa about his Christmas wish.

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www.carmelvalleychapel.org

CVA ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY MARCH 24

2 - 4 p.m. Rancho Canada Merienda Room
4860 Carmel Valley Road

Presentation: Mark Thompson on *Affordable Housing*

Free • Open to Public • Refreshments

ELECTION INFORMATION

In keeping with our bylaws, the slate listed below is member notification of the Carmel Valley Association board nominees for the next term.

Any CVA member in good standing may nominate other candidates by gathering 15 member signatures and submitting them by February 21st. If other candidates are submitted, ballots will be sent out by e-mail (or mailed, on request) by March

1st, with votes due back by March 15th. If there are no new petition candidates, the slate will automatically be appointed.

The new board and board-designated officers will be introduced at the annual meeting.

Current board members nominated for a new three-year term are **Karin Strasser Kauffman, Edie McDonald, Sandra Schachter, Andy Sudol, and Jeff Wood.**



PRESERVING THE BEAUTY, RESOURCES, AND RURAL CHARACTER OF THE VALLEY SINCE 1949
CARMELVALLEYASSOCIATION.ORG



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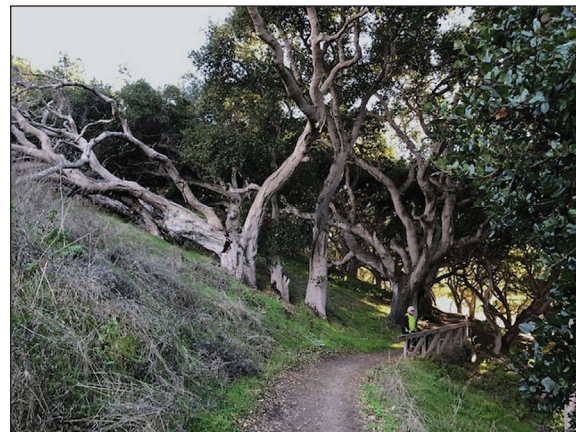
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Newsletter Production Mgr
- * Rich Fox, ex officio

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
Local
Residential Customer

Hiking Palo Corona Regional Park~January 1, 2019

Below, Joe McCarthy and Bleu

Photos by Mibs McCarthy



CV Angel Project

Community Thanksgiving Feast and Angel Store

Photos by Kim Williams



Front page banner
photo courtesy of
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