



CARMEL VALLEY AIRPORT OPEN SPACE AT RISK by *Pris Walton*



President's Letter

The Carmel Valley Association's mission to protect the beauty, natural resources, and rural character of Carmel Valley comes into sharp focus when one thinks of the Carmel Valley Vintage Airfield – thirty acres of privately-owned, undeveloped land in Carmel Valley Village also known as the Delfino Family Property.

Priscilla Walton

People who have taken a morning jog, walked dogs, or ridden a horse there recognize how integral the airport is to Carmel Valley Village life. CVA believes that it is imperative to preserve and protect this open space and ensure its continued public use by local residents and in emergency situations.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The airport is located right in the heart of Carmel Valley Village. It is the site of the former Carmel Valley Airfield that originated in the 1940s. The airport was closed down in 2002 due to public and private pressure. The pilots and their planes are long gone, and the paving is now in disrepair.

Now the airport is used by locals and visitors informally as an open space and has served as an important staging facility for fire suppression efforts. The current property owner (the Delfino Family Trust) has generously allowed local residents to use the 30 acres of flat, open space for exercise and casual recreation.

The potential benefits of saving the airport property for public use are numerous. As well as providing valuable open space for recreation and vital emergency response efforts, it would save the property from development. This in turn would help to serve the environmental protection

interests of the broader community. It would add to the conservation of water and soil, reduce traffic, and create less additional demand on existing infrastructure.

The development pressures on the Monterey region are intense. In the next 20 years, Monterey County is projected to grow by almost 20% to a population of more than 500,000 people. As the demand for housing increases, farmland, open space, and natural resources may be lost. Traffic congestion will continue to increase.

We think it is important that we try to rally the community for a plan to preserve and protect this vital piece of property. One can only begin to imagine some of the potential uses such as:

Below: A 1945 photo of 4 single-engine taildraggers at CV Airport.



photo from *Abandoned & Little-Known Airfields* at www.airfields-freeman.com

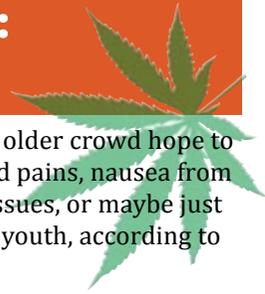
- ▶ Community open space that could allow for public access with designated trails and landscaping
- ▶ Community garden for growing fruits and vegetables that could be operated and maintained by residents
- ▶ Permanent emergency staging facility
- ▶ Community events such as the annual Santa Fly-In

WILL YOU HELP?

We believe that finding a way to acquire the property would benefit the public by ensuring that these important uses remain forever. Please let us know if you support such an effort by CVA and if you will help us achieve this goal. Contact me at president@carmelvalleyassociation.org.

FIRST VALLEY CANNABIS STORE: Who Shops There?

by *Carolyn Rice*



Local baby boomers are beating a path to the sleekly decorated cannabis store in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center. The oldest client to come through the door was 96, according to Aram Stoney, a co-owner of Big Sur Canna Botanicals.

Making up a significant percentage of his

customers, the 55 and older crowd hope to combat their aches and pains, nausea from chemotherapy, sleep issues, or maybe just try to rediscover their youth, according to Stoney.

No longer restricted to medical marijuana sales with the state's legalization of

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Monday, June 11
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Monday, June 25
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and
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CV COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER

Plans for the Future

by David Burbidge



Community Youth Center board members from left to right: Bud Carlson; Heather Lichtenegger; Dave Burbidge; Danielle Carlson; Brian Granbery; Bill Carmichael. Not shown, Ed Lake, Teresa Goldberg, and Danielle Price
Photo by Luana Conley

As a result of the analysis of the recent survey sent out soliciting thoughts and comments from the Valley public, the 2018 Carmel Valley Community Youth Center Board, under the leadership of newly elected president Bill Carmichael, is initiating plans for activities and events that better reflect the wishes of the community. The board wants to thank all of the respondents to the survey, which elicited over 150 responses.

The most common wish expressed on the survey was for extended pool hours. In response to this wish, pool committee members are now in the planning process and will offer longer pool hours, adult swim, possible aqua aerobics/therapy, and other pool activities such as competitive swim lessons this summer. Sign-up for summer lessons begins on May 11th, and an opening pool party and the first of several proposed Friday night community dinners will be held on May 18th.

In response to a number of comments about making the center the focus of the community again, the board plans not only to re-invigorate the Friday night dinners but also to continue other community events such as the senior lunches, which take place on the first Monday of each month. The center has also been involved with the revived Easter

egg hunt in cooperation with the Carmel Valley Recreation and Park District and Kiwanis Club. Community groups, such as homeowners' associations or civic groups, will be welcomed to use the hall at very reasonable prices. For youth (or young at heart) two ping pong tables have been ordered for after-school recreation and weekend play in the hall. They will likely become available starting with one day/night per week for ping pong and expand as demand builds. Other after-school activities are being considered, and a possible day-camp during the summer is being investigated.

The new management team welcomes any other thoughts about the center's operation. Current board members include David Burbidge, Bud Carlson, Danielle Carlson, Bill Carmichael, Teresa Goldberg, Brian Granbery, Ed Lake, Heather Lichtenegger, and Danielle Price. You can contact them at office@cvcyc.org or 831-659-3983.

The center wants to build up a cadre of volunteers to be able to offer more and better events for the community, so let the board know how you can help. Our local Community Youth Center needs your support. Become a member to help implement the current and new programs to benefit our youth and community. Check out our web site at cvcyc.org.

WATER WASTED TO THE SEA?

Reprinted by permission of Cloern, J.E., J. Kay, W. Kimmerer, J. Mount, P.B. Moyle, A. Mueller-Solger. 2017. *Water Wasted to Sea? San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, 15(2), Article 1.

If we farmed the Central Valley or managed water supplies for San Francisco, San Jose, or Los Angeles, we might think that freshwater flowing from the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers through the Delta to San Francisco Bay is "wasted" because it ends up in the Pacific Ocean as an unused resource.

However, different perspectives emerge as we follow the downstream movement of river water through the Delta and into San Francisco Bay.

If we were Delta farmers or administered Contra Costa County's water supply, we would value river water that flows through the Delta because it repels salt intrusion (Jassby et al. 1995) and protects water quality for drinking, growing crops, and meeting other customer needs.

If we were responsible for protecting at-risk species, we would value river water that flows through the Delta to the bay and ocean because it stimulates migration and spawning of native salmon, Delta Smelt, Longfin Smelt and Sacramento Splittail while reducing the potential for colonization and spread of non-native fish (Brown et al. 2016). River flow reduces toxic selenium concentrations in clams eaten by sturgeon, splittail and diving ducks (Stewart et al. 2014).

If we managed a Bay Area storm water district or sewage treatment plant, we would value water that flows from the Delta into the bay because it dilutes and flushes such urban pollutants as metals, microplastics, and nutrients (McCulloch et al. 1970).

If we directed restoration projects around the bay, we would value water that flows from the Delta into the bay because it brings sediment required to sustain marshes that otherwise would be lost to subsidence and sea level

rise (Stralberg et al. 2011; Schoelhamer et al. 2016). Sediment supplies from rivers also sustain mudflats (Jaffe et al. 2007) used as habitat and probed for food by more than a million willets, sandpipers, dunlins, and other shorebirds during spring migration (Stenzel et al 2002).

If we fished the Pacific for a living, we would value river flow into the bay because it carries cues used by adult salmon to find their home streams and spawn (Dittman and Quinn 1996), it brings young salmon to the sea where they grow and mature, and it creates bottom currents that carry young English Sole, California Halibut, and Dungeness crabs into the bay (Raimonet ad Cloern 2016) where they feed and grow before returning to the ocean.

If we like to romp along the shore or serve on the California Coastal Commission, we would value rivers that flow to the sea because they supply the sand that keeps California's beaches from eroding (Barnard et al. 2017).

Finally, if we were among those who want to conserve California's landscape and biological diversity, we would value river water that flows to the sea because it creates one of the nation's iconic estuaries and sustains plant and animal communities found only where seawater and freshwater mix (Cloern et al. 2016).

Is the fresh river water that naturally flows through the Delta to San Francisco Bay and on to the Pacific Ocean "wasted?" No. The seaward flow of freshwater is essential to farmers, fishers, conservationists, seashore lovers and government agencies that manage drinking water supplies, restore wetlands, protect coastlines, and clean up sewage and storm pollution. Wasted water to some is essential water to others.

PARK IT!

by Rick Manning

Any driver going from Monterey to Big Sur on the weekend knows how many vehicles are likely to be parked on the shoulder of Highway 1 at the entrance to Point Lobos, Soberanes trail head, or Bixby Creek Bridge. A possible solution to managing parking needs and initiating a shuttle service to these popular sites would follow the successful model of the AT&T golf event, as well as other parks, in handling large numbers of visitors.

A new community-based initiative has been developed to improve parklands access and sustainable traffic flow in Monterey County and Big Sur: PARK IT!

While plans are in the early stages, a number of local park officials, politicians, transportation groups, and interested citizens have defined the following goals:

1. Minimize traffic congestion, especially along Highway 1
2. Improve road safety for all modes of transportation and mobility
3. Provide broad public access to now-restricted parklands such as Palo Corona, San Jose Creek and Lobos Ranch
4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation to the parklands and other popular sites
5. Enable sustainable economic and community vitality in Monterey County

Numerous meetings with those currently discussing PARK IT! have identified where parking areas might be located, how a shuttle service would work, and how a trial or demonstration period could be implemented. Participants in these meetings express great enthusiasm for the initiative's potential and demonstrate keen awareness of the legal requirements that would have to be met. The contributors are thoroughly experienced with state and regional park operations and look forward to enhancing the experience of visitors to these treasured sites. Such a project would probably need an executive director to refine the PARK IT! vision, to continue developing key projects, to provide leadership in identifying short-term and long-term project resource requirements and to identify funding sources.

The number of cars parked along Highway 1 near Point Lobos on a busy weekend can approach 300, and as a solution to the



Photo by Mibs McCarthy

condition PARK IT! would offer a major step forward towards safety. Having a shuttle which could drop people off at Highway 1 park trailheads so they could hike back through Palo Corona or Sand Jose Creek to their vehicle parked at Rancho Canada would open access to extended trails and a wonderful hiking experience within those park areas.

Senator Bill Monning, Assembly members Mark Stone and Anna Caballero, Supervisor Mary Adams, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks General Manager Rafael Payan all have been introduced to PARK IT!, as have local groups: The Point Lobos Foundation, The Big Sur International Marathon, Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers, Big Sur Land Trust, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, Monterey-Salinas Transit, and others. Various state agencies now know about the initiative as well. The Carmel Valley Association has already endorsed the PARK IT! initiative and recommends that residents throughout the county consider the need and value of the project.

The state and regional parks of our area, which are such important, beautiful, and natural attractions for us, all demand and deserve our attention. Their growing popularity poses questions of access, safety, and stewardship that must be faced. PARK IT! wants to meet that challenge, and it is anxious to receive suggestions and assistance from the community in order to accomplish that goal.

Since there is not a PARK IT! website or administrative office at the moment, please check the CVA weekly e-Bulletin for information about the initiative. If you have an interest in learning more about the initiative or lending your support and assistance to it, please contact CVA at president@carmelvalleyassociation.org.

NATIVE vs. NON-NATIVE PLANTS, WHY CARE?

by Paola Berthoin

With the rain that finally came in March, we are fortunate to enjoy wildflowers and new green growth all around. Unfortunately, this also means weeds that overtake the native plants and wildflowers. Please do what you can to eradicate genista (French and Scotch broom), Italian thistle, pampas grass, and other invasive, non-native plants such as ice plant and vinca (periwinkle) from where you live.

Additionally, on the subject of non-native plants, eucalyptus is highly flammable and creates a soil monoculture that is inhospitable to supporting native plants and, thus, the animals that have evolved to depend on those native habitats.

According to the Carmel Valley Master Plan, CV-3.10:

"Predominant landscaping and erosion control material shall consist of plants native to the valley that are similar in habitat, form, and water requirements. The following guidelines shall apply for landscape and erosion control plans:

- a. *Existing native vegetation should be maintained as much as possible throughout the valley.*
- b. *Valley oaks should be incorporated on floodplain terraces.*
- c. *Weedy species such as pampas grass and genista shall not be planted in the Valley.*
- d. *Eradication plans for weedy species shall be incorporated.*
- e. *The chaparral community shall be maintained in its natural state to the maximum extent feasible in order to preserve soil stability and wildlife habitat and also be consistent with fire safety standards."*



Paola says "pull it out by the roots" about genista at May's CVA general member meeting. photo by Luana Conley

From the Monterey County General Plan OS-5.5:

"Landowners and developers shall be encouraged to preserve the integrity of existing terrain and native vegetation in visually sensitive areas such as hillsides, ridges, and watersheds.

OS-5.11:

Conservation of large, continuous expanses of native trees and vegetation shall be promoted as the most suitable habitat for maintaining abundant and diverse wildlife."

Please do your part to help the ecology of the valley thrive! Everything is connected.



Carmel Valley's gardens in spring photos by Mibs McCarthy, baby flycatcher photo by Paola Berthoin



recreational marijuana in January 2018, the customer base has diversified with Stoney witnessing an uptick in sales. The City of Carmel placed a moratorium on cannabis stores locating within its borders, but this shop is within county boundaries.

Monterey County regulations require cannabis stores be located 1,500 feet from each other. Stoney's partner John DeFloria wanted to be ahead of other applicants, so the first day the county offered permits, he arrived in Salinas at 5 a.m. to be first in line.

Paula Lotz, a Carmel Valley resident, testified in support of the business at the planning commission hearing. In the past she traveled to Santa Cruz to buy medicinal cannabis for her now 90-year-old mother, who has congestive heart failure and anxiety triggered by her symptoms. A spray she squirts under her tongue calms her, Lotz said, and helped her get off the morphine she used for a year while in a hospice program. "It has been a godsend," Lotz stated. Her mother also uses cannabis pain patches for lower back pain and a mint lozenge to help her sleep.

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Photo by Mibs McCarthy

Some balms and tinctures sold at the store do not contain THC, the psychoactive, mood-altering substance in marijuana, but other products for sleeping, eating or smoking do contain THC. The store also offers products for pets who suffer from the same medical problems that humans do, Stoney notes.

Stoney said he and his staff advise clients to go "low and slow," using a low dosage and increasing it gradually. "Everyone has a different level of tolerance."

Todd Kodet, who spoke to the Carmel Valley Garden Club at a recent meeting about his consulting work with a Monterey County marijuana grower, said Monterey County has required growers to use existing greenhouses and grow the marijuana plants indoors. County requirements are stringent and require large investments. Kodet predicts about half of the growers who have ventured into the business will go bankrupt, as the price for one pound of marijuana has dropped from \$1,500 to between \$800 and \$1,000.



CVA members met at Del Mesa Carmel on March 25 for our annual meeting. Members voted to approve the new Natural Resources Committee, and CVA board and officers were announced. We heard from our supervisor Mary Adams and Public Water Now President, George Riley. CVA supports Public Water Now.

Photo by Mibs McCarthy

EXPLORING A SENSE OF PLACE

by Paola Berthoin

The Natural Resources Committee (a new standing committee of CVA) has put together a series of outings for 2018. Our first outing for the year was held at Hastings Natural Reserve, 25 miles out Carmel Valley Road. Dawn Reis, wildlife and aquatic ecologist who specializes in endangered CA red-legged frogs, led a tracking exploration, bringing to life in our imaginations the animals who had been traversing the land before we arrived. Tuning into the marks on the ground and sounds in the trees opens our minds to whom we share the land with.

Our upcoming outings include one in June with Donna Zahn, an active member of the Carmel Valley History Center. She will share her zeal for geology of the watershed and what stories the rocks have to tell us from millions of years ago. In August, Doug Smith, geomorphologist and professor at CSUMB, will share his extensive knowledge about the land and how it forms over geologic time as we hike Palo Corona Ranch up to Inspiration Point.

In November, we will be fortunate to have Dr. Bob Crabtree, chief scientist from the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center in Montana and a science advisor for Project Coyote. He will share his passion about the importance of apex predators in the watershed, primarily the mountain lion and coyote.

All outings include opportunities to stop and reflect in some creative way what we are learning and experiencing. Other outings may be planned for this year as well, so keep your eyes and ears open for all our announcements! We look forward to your participation.



photo by Paola Berthoin



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president@carmelvalleyassociation.org

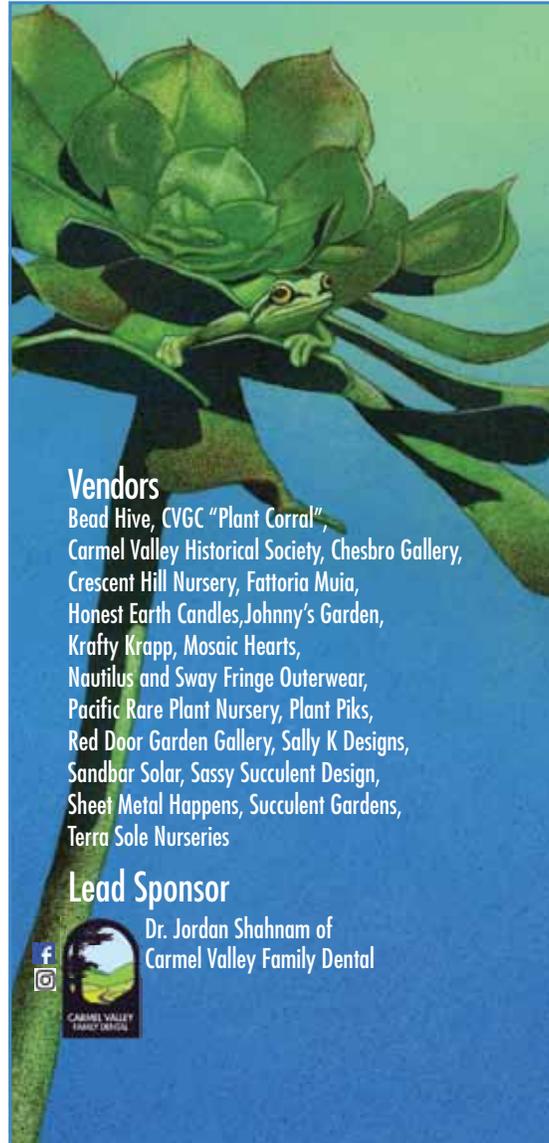
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