



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Getting to Know You

Hello Carmel Valley,

I can't say that I don't know you, as I've been a resident of Carmel Valley since 2013. Though having newly stepped into the role of CVA president at CVA's Annual Meeting in April, it's my great pleasure to get to know you in a whole new way.

C.S. Noel

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, I want to thank everyone who came out to show their support. We had well over 100 members there, along with our dedicated CVA board members, who are ready to take on any challenge, and also our hardworking elected officials. CVA has long had strong relationships with California State Senator John Laird, California State Assemblymember Mark Stone, Monterey County District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams, and District 5 Planning Commissioner Kate Daniels, all of whom were present. We in Carmel Valley so appreciate the interest and support for our community that we receive from them. I'm looking forward to maintaining and strengthening our connections.

Perhaps you'd like to get to know a little bit about me, too. My hometown was a suburb on the shores of Lake Michigan outside of Chicago. And by some crazy chance, my high school had the world's best ever Spanish teacher – wait for it – Pris Walton! Though I took Latin and was never in Pris' class, I've sure been going to school on her CVA president emerita wisdom these days!

Between then and now I moved to Monterey, got my first job out of college at a small peninsula ad agency, where I worked my way up to copy writing;

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THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP GOES TO WORK HAVING FUN & MORE

by Luana Conley



Photo of Grand Opening from the Village Workshop

Judging by the turnout and ecstatic attitude at several local events, we can see that the one thing people are most eager for since Covid restrictions have eased is the company of others. A sense of community and all it entails—belonging, conviviality, meeting old friends and making new ones, the kindling of new ideas, and simple frivolity—have been sorely missed by all but the most die-hard misogynists and loners.

Enter the Village Workshop at 8 Pilot Road, conceived as a creative arts and community space, founded by Daniela Estlin and Paul McCollum. Daniela met Paul along her path for a creative space, and Paul saw the *For Rent* sign at the former site of a spa, nursery, and housewares shop, and they moved into action. As they considered how to move past the pandemic into a community-oriented new normal, they found collaborators in natural healer and acupuncturist Kristan Roth, M.T.C.M, L.Ac., D.A.O.M.; Cari Herthel, the vice chair of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County; Dana Mellinger, woodcrafter and owner of Cowboy Pens; and Saul Reos of Big Sur Taco.

The scope of what the founders hope to build is wide: the goal is to spark neighbor-to-neighbor solutions for social, spiritual, and physical health, well beyond the strictly commercial uses of the acre.

Paul, an experienced carpenter and home builder, uses sustainable principles and reclaimed materials and is sprucing up the outbuildings for gathering space. He is pleased to find the tin-roofed barn has excellent acoustics. Daniela is building partnerships with the creative and healing community. Cari is on site with her Esselen Spirit Medicine body-centered therapy, including massage, hypnotherapy and polarity therapy. Kristan's Acubloom enterprise occupies the front cottage, where she encourages self-healing through the use of traditional Chinese medicine, tinctures, herbs, acupuncture, aromatherapy, yoga, and other integrative medicine skills. Also present Wednesday through Saturday is the Big Sur Taco truck, a favorite of locals and visitors. The workshop is hoping to include a spot for smoothies and other healthy, affordable snacks; meanwhile, it's a place to pick up your weekly community-supported



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graduated from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (now Middlebury Institute) with an MBA in Marketing and International Management; and spent over two decades in the Bay Area leading large software development projects for AT&T, implemented by teams located in multiple domestic and international regions. Now, when I don't have my CVA hat on, I enjoy my free time horseback riding, taking long dog walks, and playing an active role in the Firewise neighborhood where I live.

But back to business. In addition to a new president, CVA has also welcomed three new CVA board members: Mike Kimes, Janice Robertson, and Lamont Wiltsee. All have deep ties to our community and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience across fields as diverse as agribusiness, hospitality, theology and ministry, and small business management. You can find out more about Mike, Janice, Lamont, me, and all of our board members on the CVA website.

So how's it going, you ask? My answer is GREAT, thanks to you! Over CVA's 73-year history, right from the start its mission has been preserving, protecting, and defending the rural nature of the Valley. Time and again, residents have stepped up to make their voices heard on issues that matter. Just recently when the important topic of historic designation for Mid-Valley Shopping Center was being discussed for a vote, more than sixty members of the community attended the meeting to speak out, and over eighty had participated in a previous session.



Chef Michael Jones was recognized for his outstanding charitable and volunteer work for the community of Carmel Valley by a supervisory resolution for public service to the county, and certificates from the State Senate and United States Congress.

Community participation like this happens time and again. And, time and again, your voice has made a difference.

Another case in point: the blossoming of Firewise communities throughout Carmel Valley. As of mid-April, Monterey County has 17 recognized Firewise communities, with another 21 Firewise communities in progress moving toward recognition. And almost all of these new communities are located in Carmel Valley. Hats off to the Monterey County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) for its effective Firewise support. CVA is looking at ways to collaborate with MCFSC and help foster these neighborhood self-starters who are coming together to make their properties more fire safe, and as a result, making all of our valley more fire safe too.

You are reading this perhaps because something in the CVA mission strikes a chord in you. If you are a CVA member, thank you for your support. If you are not yet a CVA member, thank you for what is within you that cherishes this valley. We need and invite you to join this fine organization and take part in continuing its long tradition in service to community.

I know there will be lots of questions and challenges as we continue to move forward together. The first question I will be seeking to answer is "How can I best be of service to you?" If you have thoughts, ideas, or suggestions regarding CVA, please let me know.

I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Pris Walton, retiring after seven years, lauded by Vice-President Manning as she handed over the presidency to newly elected president C. S. Noel.
CVA member photos



GET YOUR BURNING QUESTIONS ANSWERED! WILDFIRE SAFETY & PREPARE FAIR

by C.S. Noel

Fire season is here before we know it this year, leaving many of us hustling to prepare and get ahead of the curve but unsure of where to start and how to prioritize the work for our biggest return on safety.

For the second year in a row, our friends from Carmel Valley's Robles Firewise group are putting on the **Wildfire Safety & Prepare Fair**, June 18, from 10am to 4pm at the Carmel Valley Community Park. Robles Firewise president & co-founder Stacey Wood says it's "all the 411 on your 911 wildfire needs."

YES!! Robles Firewise has gone bigger and better this year, and you're sure to find all the fire safety information you need at this all-day event. Based on Firewise's mission statement of "Empower, Educate Inspire and Serve," the lineup includes the following:

Fire safety literature that you can take home to help you prioritize and execute key tasks most critical for the safety of your home and family.

Agencies and specialists with products and services designed to help:

- Pacific Wildfire Management, sponsor of the event, bringing a wealth of knowledge for mitigating the impacts of wildfire, with custom solutions for creating defensible space and home hardening
- Vulcan Vent products: state-of-the-art vent solutions that will block penetration of embers – the #1 ignition threat to your home – during a wildfire



A dramatic demo conducted at the '21 Firewise event shows how quickly a fire can ignite and spread in a structure lacking fire safety preparations. Robles Firewise photos

- Professional insurance advice from a market leader with advice for those who may be having issues with homeowners' insurance
- Local area businesses such as Tope's Tree Service; Valley Hills Nursery, who can advise on fire resistant plantings; and Peace of Mind Preparedness, specializing in customized disaster plans
- Representation from a host of support services such as Monterey County Regional Fire District, Monterey County Office of Emergency Services, Carmel Valley Association, Monterey County Red Cross, SPCA, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Fire Safe Council of Monterey County, Carmel Valley Garden Club,...the list goes on.

There will be a fundraising auction filled with

items and services that will help you on your way to a fire safe property or as a pleasant respite from tasks at hand. Check out the Vulcan Vent package with vents for a full retrofit on a home of up to 3,000 square feet, disaster plan consultation with Peace of Mind Preparedness, Holman Ranch Vineyard tour and tasting experience for four, farmer's market artisan crafts, gift certificates for restaurants and wineries, and many more items that will please and surprise.

Stacey Wood and the folks from Robles Firewise have an event and a message for all of us. Stacey captures what so many of us are feeling when she says, "When we first moved here, I had no experience with fire. I felt helpless at first because I didn't know what to do; it was a very steep and stressful learning curve. But information is power, and the more we learned, the more empowered we became, and the safer our property has become." Wood continues, "There are fundamental, simple, inexpensive ways to protect your home, yourself, your family, and your pets. You need information and then you become empowered. When you are empowered with information, things get better. That is why we want to do events like this."

Come to the Robles Firewise Fire Safety & Prepare Fair. You'll learn a lot, have some fun, and feel better.

What better way is there to spend some of your day?!



Stacey Wood, with Robles Del Rio Firewise and CV Rotary members, discuss fire safety practices for brush clearing, limbing trees, and chipping activities at a residential work site.

ONE-STOP SENIOR SERVICES NOW AT THE HUB

Story and photos by Luana Conley

Billie (not her real name) moved to Carmel Valley from the East Coast a few years ago to be closer to her long-term boyfriend, as they'd both tired of a bi-coastal relationship. She was hoping to strengthen bonds and discover new opportunities. Instead, the relationship fractured, and Billie found herself with few resources and needing another place to live. Although working throughout her life at a variety of careers, her personal resources were depleted from helping her children and aging parents, and she was left with no other income than Social Security.

The immediate need was to check on the gaps in her medical plan. She also lacked transportation, as medical issues interfered with her ability to drive. After describing her plight to a neighbor, she was directed to the Alliance on Aging with its range of services. Billie found out she needed only one phone number for a gateway to helpful services.

The Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) initiative is the "No Wrong Door" approach created by state and federal agencies to avoid the confusion of having to call one number after another for the range of available resources. Embracing this initiative, Monterey County's Alliance on Aging just opened the "Hub" after acquiring access to more office space at 236 Monterey Street in Salinas, right behind the former Alliance offices on Main Street.

The Alliance on Aging, founded in 1970, is the largest non-profit provider of senior services in Monterey County. With funding through federal, state, county, and foundation grants and generous private donors, the Alliance has become the virtual one-stop center for senior services, including a benefits checkup for low-income assistance programs to connect seniors with reduced rates and services they may not be aware are available. Staff and well-trained volunteers offer Medicare counseling, free tax preparation, transportation resources, and connections to other services, like a home share program, legal help, case management for independent disabled individuals, and senior peer counselors and support groups for talking through problems. They are also the home base for the Ombudsman Program, whose state-certified staff and volunteers advocate for

the residents in long-term care facilities.

Alliance partners are now providing appointments and services on site at the Hub. Their community and conference rooms host activities and informational and educational workshops. Along with technology training for digital devices, their Internet Café will be a place to meet for coffee and a chat, perhaps after browsing their new Spirals-by-the-Arch benefit shop, which will soon open on Main Street. The original Spirals, the well-curated fashion and homewares store, will remain on Lighthouse Avenue in downtown Pacific Grove.

Billie now feels connected to solutions for what she considered an unmanageable list of impossible problems. See for yourself by scanning the website at allianceonaging.org, signing up for the alliance's informative newsletter, or calling 831-655-1334, and see what you might be missing!



Pictures from arguably the most fun fundraiser in the county, the Alliance on Aging's 'Trashion' Show. Volunteers create and parade in garments created with recycled and repurposed material.



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If you live, work, or own property in Carmel Valley, please support the CVA today!

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YOUNG LIVES TOUCHED BY COLLABORATIVE MAGIC

Story and photos by Susan Bancroft

Carmel Valley Trail & Saddle Club has teamed up with Regina Mason, co-founder of the Village Project in Seaside, to come up with a potent potion for changing the lives of some of our area's disadvantaged kids. Together these great organizations have put together a program based on the healing magic that contact with horses and an afternoon outdoors can give a child.

Youth from five to seventeen build their confidence by enjoying riding lessons on the wise and gentle lesson horses of Bancroft Ranch in Cachagua. The horses love the

attention and the hugs they get. The kids learn basic riding, horsemanship skills, and responsibility and finish the day sitting taller in the saddle. If you'd like to help make a difference in a young kid's dreams, learn how at <https://www.villageprojectinc.org/>, or to find out how to sponsor a child at the Trail & Saddle Club, contact Susan Bancroft at info@trailandsaddle.club for more information.



Above: Youth rider has help from beautiful 22-year-old palomino gelding and retired rope horse Taz in learning how to get down the trail on a horse, and in life. Left: The gentle, at least 25-year-old Arabian gelding Sterling, an SPCA rescue, helps young rider keep his head up and heels down for a safe and steady ride.

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agriculture (CSA) box of fresh produce and dairy products.

There is a Free Store on the second Saturday of each month for people to donate what they don't need and take what they do, while local artisans have a place to display their creative wares.

Workshop plans include art installations; organic permaculture by transforming the former nursery; open mic nights for poetry and music; a film series; afterschool programs for children; and workshops focused on learning skills, encouraging well-being, self-sufficiency, community resilience, and just plain fun.

The grand opening focused on everything local, with a local art exhibit, a Central Coast DJ, a raffle of local products, and savories and beverages from various local eateries. Daniela says they are proceeding with a deliberately slow evolution to meet the needs as expressed by the community. There can be as many reasons to visit and spend some time at the Village Workshop as there are residents of the valley who value gathering in community.

Subscribe for updates and event news at villageworkshopcv.com.



Above, visitors enjoy the taco truck and arts and crafts displays. Below, Workshop co-founders, Paul McCollum and Daniela Estlin. Photos by Luana Conley



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PRIS WALTON HONORED WITH SUPERVISORIAL ACCLAMATION AT CVA ANNUAL MEETING

by Sandy Schachter

Want to speak to your local representatives without having to travel to Salinas or Sacramento? Then come to a CVA annual meeting! The Annual General Meeting for 2022 took place on April 2 at Hidden Valley Music Seminars and featured presentations by State Senator John Laird, retiring Assemblymember Mark Stone, District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams, and District 5 Planning Commissioner Kate Daniels. A special award was also presented to retiring CVA president Pris Walton.

At the meeting, President Walton presented Mark Stone with a gift in appreciation of

his work for the community and for the environment. Supervisor Adams and Senator Laird then recognized chef Michael Jones for his outstanding charitable work for the community of Carmel Valley. Supervisor Adams presented President Walton, retiring after seven years, with a supervisory acclamation, which "loudly and enthusiastically" proclaimed the county's appreciation of her tireless work for the community. Certificates were also presented from the State Senate and United States Congress.

Many thanks to Peter Meckel, Hubert Fabre, and Jerome Viel for their contributions to making the meeting a success.

MID-VALLEY SHOPPING CENTER DECLARED HISTORIC RESOURCE

by Sandra Schachter and Larry Bacon

Affirming CVA's position, Monterey County's Historical Resource Review Board (HRRB) has found the Mid-Valley Shopping Center eligible for listing as a historic resource. Since 2019 CVA has sought to protect the architectural integrity of the center, designed in the 1960s by Olaf Dahlstrand, from offensive design changes proposed by a new owner and developer.

What is a historic building? Is it only one whose architect is considered a "master," that is, someone who has greatly influenced other architects with innovative styles? Or is it a building which has had a historic

relationship with its community, as CVA has argued? The HRRB on April 7 tended toward the second definition when it voted 6-1 to send a recommendation to the county Board of Supervisors that the Mid-Valley Shopping Center be listed as a historical resource.

More than 60 attendees zoomed into the meeting, a continuation of a February 3rd hearing, and several presented their opinions on the matter. In addition to the issue of whether Olaf Dahlstrand was to be considered a master architect was the question of whether the "historical integrity" of the architecture had been compromised over the years.

The board recognized that Dahlstrand's body of work is significant within the Monterey Bay area, that the center occupies a prominent place in our community, that its architecture is worthy of protection, and that the center's design retains its integrity even after considering changes made over the years.

Valley residents now await the vote of the board of supervisors to see what kind of changes the owner of the shopping center is allowed to make in his attempts at modernization.

For updates, subscribe to the free weekly e-bulletin at carmelvalleyassociation.org.



Left, some of the columns painted white prior to permitting, right, an original exposed aggregate column.

