



CALENDAR

FREE SENIOR LUNCHEON

**First Monday Monthly
NOON**

Bingo and/or program with
dessert after
CV Community Center
25 Ford Foad

47th ANNUAL

**CARMEL VALLEY
GARDEN CLUB SHOW**

April 30-May 1, 10 am-4 pm
Hidden Valley Music Seminars

6th ANNUAL

**SUDDEN OAK DEATH
BLITZ**

May 7, 10 am-Noon
Garland Park Meeting Room

**CARMEL VALLEY ROTARY
CONCERT**

"Almost Cut My Hair"
May 14, 5-9 pm
The Barnyard

**CARMEL VALLEY
COMMUNITY YOUTH
CENTER POOL OPENS**

June 4, Noon cvcyc.org

12th ANNUAL

ART & WINE CELEBRATION

June 18, 11 am-5 pm
Carmel Valley Village
carmelvalleychamber.com

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OIL & WATER DON'T MIX

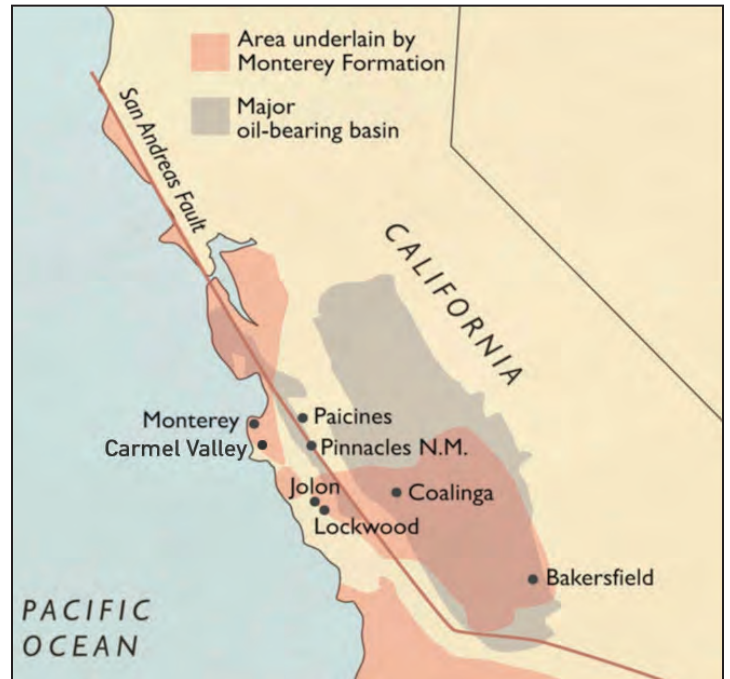
Coalition proposes regulations for risky oil operations

by Luana Conley

The onslaught of radio and television ads touting the benefits of Monterey's oil production is upon us! These ads are sponsored by Californians for Energy Independence, an oil industry proxy group, and are in response to the November ballot initiative that will allow county residents to decide their own future when it comes to risky gas and oil extraction.

Led by a coalition of community members, Protect Monterey County is launching this ballot measure to protect the Salinas River Groundwater Basin from the risks of expanding unconventional extraction techniques. All of the easy-to-extract oil has already been pumped.

The energy-intensive process used to extract the remaining high viscosity oil is risky to our environment. Once confined to rural areas, these heavy industrial oil operations are now being conducted in city centers, near homes, schools, parks, and hospitals throughout California.



Map of Monterey Shale oil deposits

Chevron, Aera, and other oil operators are using high intensity steam injection, requiring 2-4 million gallons of fresh water per well, at approximately one-third of the existing 1,500 wells in the San Ardo Oil fields.

This immense water usage is occurring during a time when

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President's Letter

by Priscilla Walton and Eric Sand



Priscilla Walton

The March 20 annual meeting was a great success. More than 100 valley residents and CVA members turned out for the announcement of the new CVA board and officers and for the Fifth District candidates' forum with Mary Adams and Dave Potter, moderated by the League of Women Voters.

As the first order of business the newly elected Executive Committee was introduced: Priscilla Walton as president, Eric Sand as vice president, Sandy Schachter as secretary, and Kim Williams as treasurer. New members of the board are Hannah Priestley and Jeff Wood.

Completing many years of service to CVA are Luana Conley and Rich Fox. CVA is grateful for their unselfish and committed service and for their willingness to continue to advise and share their expertise with us.

The forum audience asked questions of the candidates after each gave a 5-minute introduction. The candidates responded to each question with

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Café Musique

Monday, May 23
7:30 pm

Folk • Swing • Wild Classical • Gypsy • Tango

Masters Festival Concerts

Monday, June 6 • 7:30 pm

Elaine Douvas

Principal Oboe, Metropolitan Opera

Monday, June 13 • 7:30 pm

Keith Underwood

Flute, Renowned Performer/Instructor

Thursday, June 16 • 7:30 pm

Jazz Flute Club Night

Ali Ryerson

with The Ryerson Quartet

Friday, June 24 • 7:30 pm

Judith LeClair

Principal Bassoon, New York Philharmonic
and

Robert Walters

Solo English Horn, Cleveland Orchestra

Monday, June 27 • 7:30 pm

Mark Nuccio

Principal Clarinet, Houston Philharmonic

Monday, July 25 • 7:30 pm

Mark Kosower

Principal Cello, Cleveland Orchestra

• **Jura Margulis, Pianist** •
Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 pm

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their own views on a number of issues related to Carmel Valley as well as to the county as a whole. Topics of interest were water, traffic, development, Monterey Downs, fracking, and county transparency and efficiency. CVA hopes that members will carefully consider both candidates when deciding which one to vote for, on the basis of the goals and areas of concern that are central to the Carmel Valley Association's mission. These include the following:

- A strong commitment to protect the rural nature, resources and beauty of Carmel Valley;
- A dedication to securing a third vote on the Board of Supervisors to ensure that Carmel Valley's needs and issues are addressed by the county;
- Adherence to the Carmel Valley Master Plan as the basis of decisions on land use;
- Presentation of proposed development projects to the citizens of Carmel Valley in time for public input and evaluation;
- Assurance that during the planning process all aspects are completed in a timely and correct manner and comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements;
- A promise to oppose any development that goes beyond the availability of water for the existing population;
- A commitment to evaluate the cumulative impact of all projects on water and traffic as they affect Carmel Valley Road, Highway 1, and Highway 68.

We in Carmel Valley are looking for a leader who understands and will act to preserve the unique environmental landscape, resources, and rural beauty of Carmel Valley.

Coalition fracking ban

continued from Pg. 1

Monterey County is suffering from an unprecedented drought, and water is at a premium.

For some time, oil companies have been polluting aquifers in the Salinas River Groundwater Basin. California's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board revealed recently that 80% of the wastewater injection wells in Monterey County are injecting into protected aquifers, violating the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act.

In 2008, Venoco tested fracking and acidizing Bradley wells in South County. However, the oil industry tells us they are not currently fracking in Monterey County. Tupper Hull, a spokesman for the Western States Petroleum Association, said, "We have a lot of confidence in the intelligence and skill of our engineers and geologists to find ways to adapt. As the technologies change, the production rates could also change dramatically." In other words, though they're not fracking now, they are preparing to vigorously expand when market conditions become favorable and extraction technologies advance.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommended a moratorium on intensive oil operations, but in March of 2015 our County Board of Supervisors rejected this recommendation along with the regulations

proposed by the Resource Management Agency. The capacity of county officials to provide proper oversight, monitoring, and enforcement is also in question. With our political leaders unwilling or unable to take action, residents have taken this fight into their own hands. We can no longer afford to allow the oil industry to pass off the risks—both environmental and financial—to local residents.

This initiative, proposed by Protect Monterey, bans fracking, acidizing and other risky well stimulation treatments. New oil and gas wells within Monterey County will be banned, because any new drilling would endanger our water, health, and economy with high-risk techniques. The initiative phases out existing and bans new wastewater injection wells and wastewater ponds. This initiative does not affect continued operation of the 1,500+ existing oil and gas wells in Monterey County.

With our vote, Monterey County residents can avoid the disastrous catastrophes that have plagued other communities across the nation.

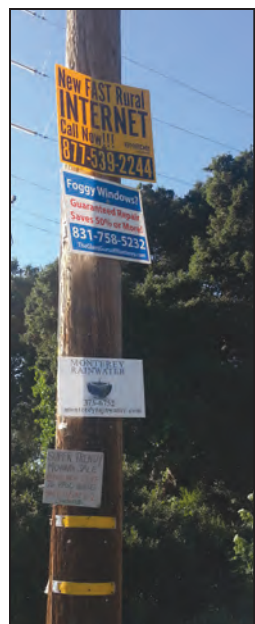
PCM contributions are accepted by mail at P.O. Box 1946, Monterey, CA 93942. For more information visit <http://www.protectmontereycounty.org>, or email info@protectmontereycounty.org.

Does Carmel Valley Village Need a Design Review?

By Mibs McCarthy

How does one community appeal to shoppers and tourists, and another not so much? What is it that draws people to explore and spend their days and money in one area over another? Good buys, tasty food, and unique art and gifts certainly matter. But what about visual appeal?

Take Old Sacramento for example. Tourist shops feature historically nostalgic wares, jewelry featuring local silver and goldsmiths, local art and sculpture, ice cream shops, restaurants... both higher-priced and family friendly. The wooden "sidewalks" and open rail fencing unify the area, adding a distinctive "early California" flavor to the experience. The matching lampposts with the early California gas lamp shape add to the ambiance. The downtown areas of Pleasanton, Yountville, and Sonoma are also examples of similarly attractive unifying design areas. Landscaping, architectural style, materials, lighting, and/or signage can be used to create a place people delight in.



Phone pole clutter photo by Luana Conley

In Carmel Valley Village, if one wanted to create an attractive plan that would give the Village a distinctive look that brands the Village, how would that happen? It seems that such a plan would be a boon to all the businesses. We have great businesses, but honestly, we have quite a hodge-podge of design and signage that doesn't give visitors or locals a sense of "oohs and aahs" when they go into the Village. What's more often heard, is "Did you see that bright orange paint? What are they thinking?" or "How many flags, signs and lights can one building have? It looks sooo junky!"

Oh wait. Someone did put in many hours in meetings with input from all segments of the Village in the 1980's. Honorary mayor Randy Randazzo and local volunteer extraordinaire Peter Coakley were instrumental in bringing the community together to create the Carmel Valley Village Development Criteria. This plan was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1990. When working with applicants for use permits or building permits, county planners not only use the county general plan and Carmel Valley Supplemental Plan, but must include the requirements of the 1990 Carmel Valley Village plan.

Procuring a permit ensures that paint color, lighting, and signage comply with the community standards that were agreed on. All of Carmel Valley is in a design review district, which means that design approval is a big deal here!

Did you know that lighting must face downward and must be shielded from above, not over 70 watts, and a soft yellow in the Village? By the way, BRAVO to the Village businesses for switching to soft yellow lighting. It seems that most businesses have bought into the plan, and Village lighting looks more picturesque at night now.

Paint colors are required to blend with the surrounding scenery. No neon signs or backlit signs are allowed. No off-site advertising.



A jumble of signs in the Village

No flags. No banner signs. No sandwich board signs. No signage above building rooflines. Lighting that glares onto the road is not okay either. Some of these requirements are in the Carmel Valley Master Plan, and some in the Village Plan.

While it sounds like a lot of negatives, the purpose of these guidelines is to keep the Village attractive with some consistency in appearance. It's an attempt to team up and create an environment the locals will be proud of and enjoy and tourists will admire. We live in a beautiful valley, which has been mostly preserved for its scenic beauty.

Look around and see which businesses in the Village are visually attractive. A tourist may come here once every few years. We live here and get to drive through every day or walk around enjoying the shops ourselves. Does our little Village delight our senses and encourage us to hang out there? Or do we find it just hokey enough to cause us to drive on by and take our business elsewhere?

County code enforcement will contact businesses that are out of compliance. Wouldn't it be a happier outcome if businesses would comply and not need to be threatened by fines? We appeal to local businesses to be team players. Let's all get along and follow the existing plan. Of course, if enough citizens think the guidelines should be updated, community meetings via proper channels could be held to consider changing them.

You can read the Carmel Valley Supplemental Plan and the Carmel Valley Village Development Criteria by going to our website: www.carmelvalleyassociation.com.



Orange doors and trim do not comply with local rules
Photos by Mibs McCarthy

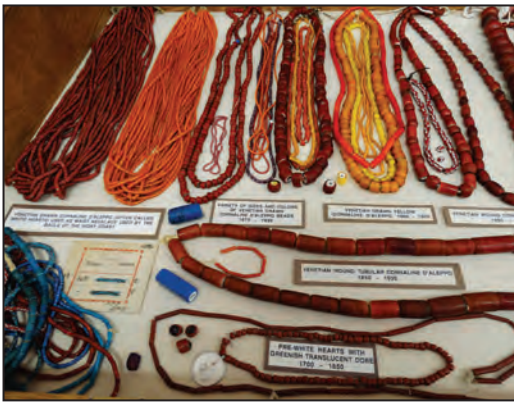
BEAUTIFUL BEADS AND AFRICAN ART DISPLAYED IN CARMEL VALLEY

by Mibs McCarthy

Ruth and John Picard of Carmel Valley set out on an adventure driving across the Sahara Desert from east to west in 1970 driving a 1958 Citroen. In those days everyone was friendly, and people driving knew to carry gas and water for the 1000 kilometer stretch where none was available. This was the beginning of a life-long dedication to collecting, selling, and displaying beads and artifacts from Africa and the eventual museum on Berwick Drive in mid-valley.

When visitors first enter the 4,000 square foot museum they are struck by the size of the space, and the extent and beauty of the colorful collections

The Picards first saw the beads that would make up their amazing collection in Marrakesh, Morocco, sold by the kilo bagful. When they got to West Africa, the beads were less expensive and more plentiful, and they learned that most of the beads had been made in Venice in the 1800s and early 1900s. The beads are made by hand of glass, and gold is added to some for a richer color. Beads also came from France, Germany, Holland, and Bohemia. Germany was known particularly for their glass marble beads. The white heart beads are very famous and popular and have been traded by American Indians



Venetian beads, photos by Mibs McCarthy as well as in South America, South Africa, Asia, and Europe. The African people used beads as personal ornamentation. Beads from Africa are made of shell, stone, silver, or gold.

The Hudson Bay Company spread beads through the Pacific Northwest, and Russian Blue beads may have come across the Bering Strait. In the early 1800s, beads were traded for palm oil, ivory, and gold. The materials and colors are no longer available to make these early glass beads. Only cheaper imitations are made now.

In addition to the museum, the Picards have an online business buying and selling beads at www.picardbeads.com You can make an appointment to visit the museum by calling 831-624-4138.



German marble beads

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Go, Rockin' Robin!

By Sandy Schachter

"Have you seen the robins?" was a query heard frequently among neighbors around the former Carmel Valley airstrip this winter. In January and February this year, early risers thought they were seeing a scene from Hitchcock's *The Birds* when they looked skyward and saw swarms of robins flying overhead, covering the sky for what looked like miles around. At the same time, people looking out their windows saw their yards crowded fence-to-fence with foraging robins. These amazing sights occurred just after dawn every morning and just before sunset in the evening.

Exaggeration, you say? Well, as it turned out, bird counts taken at Holman Road at 7 am January 20 showed as many as 245,500



American Robin, image from wikipedia

American Robins observed in 49 minutes! According to the sighting checklist for that day, it was "absolutely spectacular from 0700-0730. This is certainly an under count, as we were standing back to

••••



Carmel River rushing to the ocean, photo by Mibs McCarthy

back looking in opposite directions, but many birds were traveling up the Valley outside our count zone. A team of 5 people would be needed to do this justice. Counted by 100s and then by 1000s for a few minutes at the peak." On February 8 around 5:30 p.m., 5500 were counted in 25 minutes, and on February 17, there were 1900 in 54 minutes starting at 4:42 p.m. All these counts are available to the public online at www.ebird.org.

It seems the birds were coming here to roost in the trees near the airstrip at night and then going off to forage for berries, fruit, grains, and seeds in some other area during the day, returning to their relatively safe communal roosts at night. How they communicate with each other about the decision of where to roost or where to forage is one of the many mysteries of the species.

According to Don Roberson of the local Audubon Society, there has never been a predictable pattern for American Robin sightings. The counts vary dramatically from year to year. For example, Christmas counts of robins numbered 5200 in 1973 and 5471 in 1975, but only 71 in 1974. No one knows why these numbers vary so widely, but the variation is "usually attributed to food shortages in other areas." Perhaps there were shortages to the north and east of this area this winter which forced the birds to move here.

It is also interesting that the American Robin is a member of the thrush family, whereas other robins found around the world are in different families altogether.

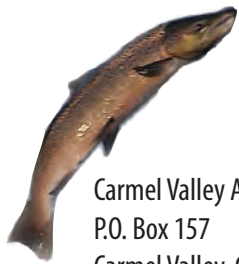
Whatever the reasons for the robin "invasion," it has given us still another reason to love living in Carmel Valley.

QUARTERLY TIPS on Improving Language Usage

Slip #1: "The gift is much appreciated by my wife Myrtle and I." This may sound polite to you, but it is incorrect. The test: eliminate the lovely wife, and you have "The gift was much appreciated by I." Now, you would never say that, would you? It should be "Myrtle and me." Another example: "The Clintons invited Donald and I to their party." But if the Clintons somehow don't care for Donald and didn't invite him, you wouldn't say "The Clintons invited I," would you?



This series is produced by Sandy Schachter, CVA Secretary and retired English and language composition teacher at Columbia, Harvard, the American College of Switzerland, and the Monterey Institute of International Studies.



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Baby goats at Hacienda Hay & Feed
photo by Mibs McCarthy

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SINCE 1949

IMPROVED FIRE SERVICES BENEFIT RESIDENTS



Michael Urquides, photo by Carolyn Rice

Carmel Valley residents in the Monterey County Regional Fire District (MCRFD) may qualify for lower homeowners' insurance premiums due to improved fire ratings, according to Michael Urquides, MCRFD fire chief. He said that because of the improved structural fire suppression capabilities, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) has increased the fire district's Public Protection Class rating from five to three for properties located within five miles of any of the district's six fire stations.

When setting the ratings, the ISO takes many things into account, including the stations' full-time staffing and training, equipment, response time, fire hydrant locations, and the distance of homes from the stations. In the past Urquides said some Carmel Valley areas had a rating as high as eight.

"Since the last rating in 2009, we have vastly improved our service and response times," Urquides noted. He suggested homeowners check with their insurance agent to determine whether the improved rating may reduce their premiums.

Laurie Pike, of the Laurie Pike Insurance Agency in Monterey, said many local companies now determine lot location with Google Maps when writing homeowners' policies. Pike, who lives in Carmel Valley, said besides fire protection scores, ISO has fire line scores that insurance companies consider for homeowners' policies. This score is determined by how easily a fire truck can access the home, as well as the slope and type of brush within one-quarter mile. Some companies no longer write new California homeowners' policies, as they have reached their threshold of liability

by Carolyn Rice

within the state, she noted.

The Tassajara fire and Los Laureles Grade fires, major incidents last September, started within five minutes of each other, creating a challenging situation for MCRFD, Urquides recalled. "We focused heavily on the Grade fire as many more homes were threatened, and we wanted to prevent it from going up over the hill." MCRFD provides mutual aid to the Cachagua Fire Protection District, which covered the other fire.

The Cypress Fire Protection District at the mouth of Carmel Valley is not part of the MCRFD, but has mutual aid agreements, as do all Monterey County fire services.

Urquides noted Carmel Valley residents benefit not only from lower prices but also from improved paramedic services since the Valley fire departments were incorporated into MCRFD. Although there are fewer volunteers, more full-time paid staff are on duty 24 hours a day, and all incident responders are emergency medical technicians or paramedics. The 363-square-mile area served by MCRFD, which stretches from near Marina to below Chualar, has a response system that backs up each area. If the Mid-Valley and Carmel Valley Village stations are both busy on medical calls, personnel from another station, such as the one at Los Laureles Grade and Highway 68, will cover any subsequent emergency call."

The Carmel Valley ambulance services were set up in 1980 under state code, and the district has to fight for them every year, Urquides said. Property owners pay a \$150 assessment annually for the service. Their health insurance is billed for the transport, and the district covers any amount not paid by health coverage. Staff members rotate to different stations every two years so they learn all the streets in each area. "The ambulances all have amazing technology and a rapid response time," Urquides said, adding that the heart monitors cost \$30,000 apiece and that MCRFD operates 17 ambulances.