



LET'S RECLAIM OUR NIGHT SKY!



President's Letter

I recall when I first came to Carmel Valley in 1980, one of the most delightful aspects of its rural character were the beautiful night skies. I felt far removed from urban glare and noise. I could look up and see spectacular starry night skies, the Milky way, Orion, and other various constellations, and numbers of brilliant stars.

Priscilla Walton

During 2018, we heard from many of you about the growing light pollution and how it has been impacting the Carmel Valley, harming its unique rural character. You have sent photos and letters documenting night glare and reported non-compliance with lighting regulations. Your comments and concerns have corresponded to the increased and widespread use of artificial light at night.

It is important to know that recent research links the increasing night glare directly to negative impacts on energy consumption, the ecosystem and wildlife, and human health.

It is also true that frequently, outdoor lighting is used when it is not actually needed, is inefficient, too bright, not targeted well, and not well shielded. Thus, it just spills into the sky reducing, our beautiful natural starry nights.

The four major causes for light pollution are glare (causing visual discomfort), sky glow (lighting the sky), light trespass (light falling where it is not intended), and clutter (excessive grouping of bright light sources).

These facts have not been lost on Monterey County government. On January 27, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 16-010, establishing the Design Guide-

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POLICE PROTECTION LACKING IN CARMEL VALLEY

by Marlene Martin

Sometimes Carmel Valley residents need a little help from their friends. If that help involves policing, those friends for Carmel Valley residents come primarily from the Monterey County Sheriff's Department. As one of Monterey County's more affluent areas, Carmel Valley contributes heavily to county budget, which was nearly \$1.5 billion last year. During that time period, our Sheriff's Department's share of the county budget was \$109,065,659.



Is anybody home? Photo by Mibs McCarthy

When it comes to law enforcement, the "You get what you pay for" cliché does not work. How much protection for our tax buck do we get from our sheriff? Sheriff Steve Bernal assigns none of his 324 deputies to Carmel Valley from 2 a.m. until 7 a.m. When they are assigned to the Valley, the deputies may be called to Big Sur. The Sheriff's substation in Carmel Valley Village that was once staffed is now an unstaffed rest stop.

For recent crimes in Carmel Valley, no officers were available to help. Most notable is the trio of stabbings when a knifing victim in Quail Meadow phoned 911 shortly before 8 p.m. seeking help for himself and two other knifing victims. The nearest deputy

was in Big Sur. Fortunately, the Carmel-by-the-Sea police picked up the 911 call and dispatched Officer Joe Martis, who earned a commendation for his heroic help as he gained entrance to the house, thus allowing medical personnel to get victims to the hospital. After Officer Martis secured the house, a Monterey County Sheriff's team showed up with a K-9 team. The sheriff's dog found the knifer hiding in a nearby wooded area. As the knifing incident demonstrates, even at hours when Carmel Valley is covered by the sheriff, deputies may not be in the Valley.

An unsolved crime is the theft of the Wells Fargo ATM from Mid Valley Safeway. It occurred at 6 a.m., when no deputies were in the Valley. The criminals tied chains and ropes around the ATM machine and dragged the top half of it out of Safeway. A couple of years previously thieves twice burgled several Mid Valley businesses during hours when there are no deputies in Carmel Valley. In fact, the criminals hit Carmel Valley Coffee Roasting Company twice, attacking its bolted-down safe

Before assigning deputies to an area, the sheriff divides his force into forty-hour work weeks, then figures that there will be sick time and other down time for deputies. According to former Sheriff's spokesperson Commander John Thornburg (who is now in charge at the jail), "There isn't a magic number to guarantee how many deputies will be available at any given time." For Carmel Valley, the assigned number is so small because it is a low-crime area. A greater number of deputies is assigned to the high-crime areas from Marina to the Red Barn, the Toro Park and Salinas areas, and King City.

What is the national standard for police protection? According to the Department of Justice website *Crime in the United States*, three sworn officers per thousand is the

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lines for Exterior Lighting (REF130036, Exterior Lighting Criteria, non-coastal area). The adopted Ordinance 5262 amended Title 21 (non-coastal zoning ordinance) of the Monterey County code to establish a process for adoption of light design guidelines, require review and approval by the Resource Management Director of Planning, and adopt the Design Guidelines for Exterior Lighting.

This is also covered in the 2010 General Plan Land Use Element Policy L.U. 1.113, which states very clearly that "All exterior lighting shall be unobtrusive and constructed or located so that only the intended area is illuminated, long range visibility is reduced, and off site glare is fully controlled."

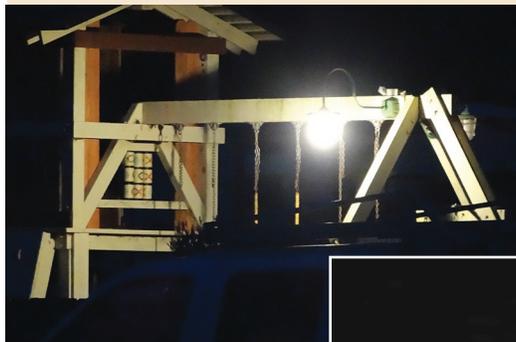
So, it appears that we have the mechanisms in place in the General Plan, the Carmel Valley Master Plan, and an ordinance to implement practices that will reduce light pollution. The solution to our sky pollution is relatively simple. All we need to do is comply with the Design Guidelines for Exterior

Lighting to reclaim our starry Carmel Valley nights!

We don't know how aware existing businesses and residents are of light pollution. I have intentionally written this with the hope of alerting businesses and home owners in the Carmel Valley to the issue and convincing them to comply with the existing requirements. It is also likely that new developments and businesses may not be fully aware of Ordinance 5262 and Land Use Element Policy L.U. 1.113.

It is not often that we can so significantly affect the environment through our direct action. A simple, straightforward small action that each one of us can take in our homes and businesses can add up to a big difference for the Carmel Valley. Further, talking to each other and encouraging one another to comply with the light pollution regulations can multiply these positive effects many fold. So, let's do it!

For dark sky friendly lighting products, see the products page at darksky.org.



Photos by Mibs McCarthy



Yard and spot lights do not belong in Carmel Valley.

Below, appropriate home lighting.

Police Protection, continued from Pg. 1 national average. Carmel Valley Village, by those standards, would have ten sworn officers as opposed to the two part-time sheriff deputies assigned to the entire valley of more than 8,000 people. (A sworn officer is an actual law enforcement officer as opposed to staff.) Carmel-by-the-Sea has 14 sworn police officers for 3,800 residents.

According to a Department of Justice FBI website, the rate of sworn officers in the U.S is 2.4 per 1,000 inhabitants. The rate of full-time law enforcement employees per 1,000 is 3.4. Cities with fewer than 10,000 residents reported an average of 3.5 officers per 1,000. To be "average," Carmel Valley Village alone would require a staff of ten sworn deputies. Carmel Valley as a whole

would need a police staff of approximately twice that number to reach our national average level.

Proponents of incorporating Carmel Valley have argued that residents of the Valley are paying for sheriff's deputies (and numerous other services) elsewhere in Monterey County. If Carmel Valley were an incorporated area, it would contract with the sheriff for more deputies—as areas such as King City have done in recent years. According to Commander Thornburg, "A top priority for the sheriff is to add deputies." That, of course, requires more money for funding those positions, money the sheriff would get from contracting for services. Then that little help for Carmel Valley residents from our police friends would be available.

PURE WATER MONTEREY - TO THE RESCUE! New Peninsula Water Supply Goes Online

by Melodie Chrislock, Managing Director of Public Water Now

Drinking the water from the Pure Water Monterey (PWM) demo plant, one finds it hard to believe that only hours before it was sewer water. It flows endlessly from the taps at the demo plant, but the taste is more like mountain spring water than tap water.

Just outside the demo plant, in the final stages of construction, is the full-scale Pure Water Monterey project. This state-of-the-art advanced water purification facility will begin producing 3,500 acre-feet of water this summer. It's a joint project between two public agencies, Monterey One Water and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. It will provide one-third of the 10,000 acre-feet of water the Peninsula uses annually.

So how does sewer water turn into clean, drinkable "mountain spring" water? Monterey One Water redirects treated wastewater, which would normally be released into the bay, to the PWM plant, where it undergoes an additional four-step purification process. This wastewater is a mix of sewer water, agricultural drainage, agricultural wash water, and storm water.

First the water is treated with ozone, then run through membrane filtration. Next it goes through reverse osmosis and finally oxidation with ultraviolet light and hydrogen peroxide. At this point the purified water is near distilled quality and exceeds all drinking water standards. The last step is to adjust the pH of the purified water by adding minerals like calcium.



Photo by Luana Conley

I'd love to have this water pumped directly to my home, but because recycled water cannot yet legally be used directly as potable water, it must be injected into the Seaside Basin for six months before it can be drawn out and delivered to our taps

Some, who don't understand the process, have called this water toxic, but that could not be further from the truth. This water is so clean it is expected to improve the quality of the groundwater in the Seaside Basin over time. This environmentally sustainable project will also create a 1,000 acre-foot drought reserve in the Seaside Basin.

The completed facility will cost \$124 million, with about 20% of the total funded through grants and about 80% funded through a state loan at 1%. That's quite a bargain compared to Cal Am's desal project at \$320 million, plus 7.6% interest.

Could PWM produce more water? Yes. Within 27 months it could be expanded

to produce another 2,250 acre-feet. In March, the Water Management District and Monterey One Water approved \$1 million in funding for the first phase of the \$39 million PWM expansion. This expansion could meet the state's cease-and-desist order deadline and get us off the Carmel River, but Cal Am would need to sign a water purchase agreement for this additional water to qualify Monterey One for the financing to complete the expansion.

Could the PWM expansion give us enough water without Cal Am's desal plant? That is the \$320 million question. Cal Am and its supporters say the Pure Water Monterey expansion does not solve our water supply needs. But they are basing that on Cal Am's claim that we need 14,000 acre-feet annually, not on the reality that we are using less than 10,000 acre-feet a year.

Do we really need another 4000 acre-feet for growth? In the entire ten years from 1997 to 2006, before the recession, we only needed 126 acre-feet for all new development.

With the Peninsula's current production of 9,264 acre-feet, which includes the 3,500 acre-feet coming online this summer, adding another 2,250 acre-feet from the PWM expansion gives us 11,514 acre-feet annually. That's plenty of water for decades to come and at less than half the cost of desal.

This is why many believe the PWM expansion could replace Cal Am's desal for now, solving our current and future water needs and buying us decades to consider a publicly owned regional desal plant.

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE DAY CELEBRATED AT PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK



Carmel's new park enthusiasts turn sand traps into nature exploration. The March day included wildlife demonstrations, guided walks, and exhibits of current preservation efforts.

Photos by Mibs McCarthy



Paola Berthoin's San Clemente Dam rebar sculpture in the background.

STUDENTS STUDY MICROPLASTICS IN THE CARMEL RIVER

by John R. Olson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Freshwater Ecology, School of Natural Sciences, CSUMB

How much plastic is in the Carmel River? Plastics are a ubiquitous part of modern life, so much so that tiny plastic particles (microplastics) are now found in almost every aquatic ecosystem. Microplastics end up being consumed by animals and work their way through food webs and are now commonly found in humans, too.

To answer the question about the Carmel River, Jilian Aesir's science class from El Sausal Middle School in Salinas went to Dampierre Park last September to collect samples of all particulates in the river. They placed three nets in the flow for an hour to catch anything in the river larger than half a millimeter, collecting all particles from approximately 36 cubic meters of river water.

While waiting for their samples, the students explored the river, learning about the animals and plants that live there. Of course, much of what is washed down a river is not plastic, including sand, algae, leaves, and other naturally occurring organic matter. Natalie Vaughn, a NOAA Undergraduate Research Fellow at California State University Monterey Bay, separated plastic particles from all the detritus in the laboratory. This separation was done by boiling each sample in hydrogen peroxide to dissolve all of the organic matter and

then separating sand from plastics using a density separator. She then examined the remaining material under a microscope and separated out plastic particles.

She found approximately 115 micro-plastic particles, weighing in total about 0.05 milligram, most of which were small fibers. No micro-beads were observed. Determining the type of plastic for these small particles is beyond the scope of this study, but they were likely mostly polypropylene and polyester fibers. Microplastics dominated by fiber have been seen in other rivers (Gallatin River in Montana and Puyallup River in Washington).

The source of the fibers is unknown, but a potential source includes septic systems, as micro-plastics can be transported through soils. The concentration of particles observed in the Carmel River (3 particles/ m^3) was less than what was observed in



Students from El Sausal Middle School placing nets to collect microplastics into the Carmel River near Dampier Park. Photo by Jilian Aesir

Coyote Creek and the Los Angeles River in Southern California (14 and 36 particles/ m^3 respectively), but the Carmel River is still likely delivering over 100 million plastic particles to the ocean annually. The students will be presenting their findings at the El Sausal Middle School science fair later this year.

LOCAL MUSICIANS MAKE THE SUMMER COME ALIVE

by Andy Sudol

The Carmel Bach Festival is just around the corner. It all begins on July 13 with opening night at the Sunset Center. Since 1935, the summer has come alive with classical music as musicians and audiences descend on Carmel and Carmel Valley for dozens of performances.

Since 2015 Carmel Valley resident and trombonist, Suzanne Mudge, has served as the director of community relations for the Bach Festival, and she brings music to many in our community in that role. But prior to that, she created the festival's Family Concert, including characters, stories, and scripts featuring The Epic Adventures of Leonard & Rasmus. Check it out. It is for the child in all of us! She has also performed in numerous symphony orchestras and has been a music teacher in the SF Bay area for over 16 years. She moved to Bend, Oregon, but returned to California and is happy to be woven into our community fabric.

Suzanne continues to teach young musicians in two distinct ways, both of which take place in our beautiful valley. At Carmel Middle School, she assists Ms. Prusasky with the brass musicians as an accomplished trombone player and with the Youth Music Monterey County (YMMC), as the brass

coach. Join the YMMC brass and woodwind ensembles for their end of the year concert on May 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Hidden Valley Music Seminars, 104 W. Carmel Valley Rd.

CARMEL BACH FESTIVAL

One of the local musicians who perform at the Bach Festival is baritone Otto Neely who lives in Carmel Valley and has been a member of the volunteer chorus for three seasons. In case you are interested, auditions for the chorus take place in the fall and rehearsals begin in January and take place once a month Friday through Sunday.

The Bach Festival holds its fifth annual home and garden tour, Cottages, Gardens & Cantatas, on Saturday, April 27, from 11 AM-4 PM. This year's tour features five homes. The tour is highlighting Harmony House, the home built by the Carmel Bach Festival founders. Classical music, performed by young musicians from the Monterey Peninsula, will greet you at several homes. More information on the Carmel Bach Festival may be found at bachfestival.org.

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Two well-attended wildfire preparation meetings were held by the county January 21 and April 3. Attendees were urged to continue preparedness discussions in their neighborhoods.



CVA's 70th Anniversary Annual Meeting, March 24, Palo Corona Regional Park. The topic was the Valley's role in addressing the housing crisis. Top photo by Luana Conley, bottom by Mibs McCarthy

Some names—earth star, witch’s butter, death cap, and destroying angel—sound like names in a science fiction or fantasy novel. But mushroom enthusiasts recognize them as the common names for locally growing fungi.

Joseph Narvaez, a Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District ranger, led a free CVA-sponsored hike in Garland Park in March that was a feast for the eyes but not the tummy, as rules prohibit mushroom collecting in the park with a \$250 fine for apprehended poachers. Foragers can gather at other locations on the Peninsula such as the Del Monte Forest.

After this rainy season, Narvaez found mushrooms along the trail just feet from the park information center. The group learned that prized edible chanterelles are found under oaks, where they grow on dirt, while false chanterelles grow on wood. The edible chanterelles have false gills, while the similar-looking false chanterelles have real gills. Carmel Valley residents Laurie Hastings and Kenn Jackson brought in a mushroom for identification and found it was an inedible false chanterelle that would make a person sick if eaten.

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King Bolete mushrooms, found in November and December, are another favored wild mushroom picked by local foragers, but other mushrooms in the family will make you sick, Narvaez cautioned.

Many mushrooms are edible, while only a few are deadly poisonous, with others causing illness. The problem for beginners is that many look similar. Sometimes young poisonous mushrooms may resemble an edible variety. “If in doubt, throw it out,” Narvaez advises, noting the importance of learning how to positively identify mushrooms from an expert. Death caps pack a deadly poison capable of killing people or dogs. An antidote made from milk thistle has been effective for people poisoned by eating a death cap. The antidote saved five of six people from Aptos who ate them on New Year’s Day 2007. Available in Europe, but unapproved by the FDA, it

requires emergency FDA approval for use by U.S. physicians.

Candy caps taste sweet with a maple syrup flavor and can be used for a gourmet treat on top of ice cream or in sugar cookies, Narvaez suggested.

Narvaez recommended mykoweb.com as an excellent resource for information about local mushrooms.

Narvaez serves on the CVA Natural Resources committee headed by Paola Berthoin. She has organized free hikes for the past two years, led by people knowledgeable on many subjects such as tracking animals, geology, river environment, native American life, and steelhead.

Sign up to receive the free CVA e-bulletin for updates about Carmel Valley activities and issues and at carmelvalleyassociation.org.

THE MEADOWS TRACT *Elizabeth Barratt's History Corner*

If you live between Garland Ranch Park and Valley Greens Drive, you are occupying part of a one-time Mexican land grant whose owner played a role in local history. Known as the Meadows Tract, the 4,592-acre parcel sat on the north side of the Carmel River between Rancho Los Laureles and Cañada de la Segunda. The land was granted to Antonio Romero in 1840. After a succession of owners, Monterey businessman Thomas O. Larkin bought the tract and in 1848 sold it to James Meadows

James Meadows (1817-1902) was an English seaman on the whaler *Indian*. In 1837 he arrived in Monterey, then the capital of Mexican California. He jumped ship at port, finding work as a vaquero at Rancho el Sur. He then joined the mercenary Isaac Graham in an insurrection of Americans and Europeans against Mexican Governor Gutiérrez. The riflemen were imprisoned in Mexico, resulting in a diplomatic crisis called the "Graham Affair." Following a year's exile, the men, including James Meadows, were released and returned to Monterey.

In 1842 James married a widow, Loreta Onesimo de Peralta (1819-1892), who was a descendant of local Mission Indians. The Meadows moved to their tract and settled into an adobe home near the Carmel River. They raised four sons and a daughter: Eduardo, Frank, James, Jr., Thomas, and Isabel. Well-known in Carmel Valley, James Meadows donated land for the Valley's first school. He constructed the building and installed the school's double desks, which

he fashioned from local pine. At first called the Meadows School, it was later renamed the Carmelo School.

Daughter Isabel stands out in particular prominence in the Meadows family history. She was born on July 7, 1846, the day troops under Commodore John Drake Sloat raised the American flag at Monterey's Custom House. During Isabel's formative years, her mother taught her to speak the Rumsien Ohlone language and instructed her in tribal customs and culture. In the 1930s, Isabel was invited to travel to Washington, D.C., by Professor John P. Harrington, a Smithsonian Institution ethnographer-linguist. As a source of vital information on the culture of her mother's tribe and the last known speaker of their language, Isabel spent her remaining years helping the professor record her knowledge of the culture, lore, and languages of the Monterey/Carmel/Big Sur tribal region, as it existed prior to the Spanish arrival. Isabel died in Washington, D.C., in 1939 at age 89.

The James Meadows home is long gone, but the Meadows family legacy remains, both in the name of the Meadows Tract and in the family's imprint upon Carmel Valley history.

Elizabeth Barratt is a historian for the Carmel Valley Historical Society. For info on society activities, visit carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org



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CVA Members Are "Good Eggs"

Photo by Christine Williams



Karin Strasser-Kaufman is a "double-yolk," honored twice at a 25-year interval. Sandy Schachter and Dave Burbidge are the power couple volunteers of the Valley, and are well-known for their good works by all active community members.

'Good Egg Awards' have been a Carmel Valley volunteer recognition tradition since 1953.

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