

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Now that fire season is in full swing and we have had several small earthquakes recently, it's time to take stock of your disaster preparations. Research from the Naval Postgraduate School has found that communities cannot be prepared without first ensuring the safety of responders and their families.

Don't be one of those that have ignored PREPARATION!!

Individuals and households should play an important role in the overall emergency management strategy by

- Reducing hazards in and around their homes



Sample preparedness kit

- Preparing an emergency supply kit and household emergency plan
- Monitoring emergency communications carefully on radio and television.

All members of the community should

- Learn about community alerts and warnings from the Office of Emergency Services (796-1900)
- Practice skills and personal plans through periodic drills in multiple settings
- Network and be able to help others
- Participate in community feedback opportunities

Preparedness requires active participation from all

- Start the process by talking to your friends and family about the hazards in your area and what steps you all need to take to be able to help each other in a crisis – large or small.
- Ask about emergency planning at your workplace, your schools, your place of worship, and other social settings.
- Consider volunteer opportunities to get

By Dave Burbidge

your community better prepared for any emergency, including



- Become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may affect their area. The program trains team members in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. For more information go to: <https://www.citizen corps.gov/cert/>.
- Volunteer with a nonprofit organization and be trained before the next disaster. There are many organizations (such as the Red Cross) and faith-based groups in your community that have active disaster programs and need volunteers.

Carmel Valley Association
P.O. Box 157
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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Since 1949 *The Carmel Valley Association Needs You!*
Join CVA to make sure our voice is heard on county decisions impacting Carmel Valley.
Become a member at carmelvalleyassociation.org.

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Valley Residents Wish to Retain Library Building's Charm

By Sandy Schachter and Karin Strasser Kauffman

You probably participated in the recent survey regarding the future of our wonderful little library. The results are finally in!

On March 1, Valley residents attended the first of a proposed series of presentations by library officials, who presented the survey results and explained the beginnings of the planning process for a renovated or new library building. Eighty percent of the over 700 survey respondents want the library to stay in the village. Furthermore, the majority expressed a definite preference for keeping the current building. (The survey results may be accessed at www.MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org.)

Respondents and meeting attendees stressed the importance of retaining the present comfortable, home-like atmosphere of the library and keeping the rural character of the community reflected in the building, expressing some fear of a future sterile and charmless structure.

The County Library will be reviewing options based on community input, future service needs, and a planned architectural study of the existing leased facility. Among possible future options are to continue to lease or buy the present building with improvements, or to lease, buy or construct another building in the village area. The county plans to work carefully on this process and develop a detailed work plan. A capital campaign will eventually be launched with community participation.

CVA Position on Fracking

It is the mission of the Carmel Valley Association to preserve, protect and defend the natural beauty, resources and rural character of Carmel Valley.



In furtherance of this mission, the Board of Directors of the CVA hereby urges the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to impose a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and other enhanced oil and gas drilling techniques throughout Monterey County, until such time as full scientific evaluation and environmental impact studies clearly show that any such proposed drilling techniques will have no adverse impact on the water supply, air quality, seismic activity, traffic, noise, or the beauty and rural character of Carmel Valley and the surrounding areas of the County of Monterey.



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Carmel Valley Association

To preserve, protect, and defend the natural beauty, resources, and rural character of Carmel Valley

YOU ARE ENTERING Carmel Valley

CVA Newsletter ~ May 2014 carmelvalleyassociation.org

MAY CALENDAR

May 3 & 4, 9am-4pm
Carmel Valley Garden Club
Annual Flower Show
at Hidden Valley Music

Tuesdays, 9am-1pm
Barnyard Farmer's Market begins May 6

Now-August 10
"Wildflowers of Garland Park"
Art Exhibit at the Visitor's Center

May 16-June 15
"GOOD PEOPLE"
Magic Circle Theatre
magiccircletheatre.net

May 17, Noon - 4:00pm
2nd Annual Taste of The Barnyard

June 9-July 10
Master's Festival Concerts
Hidden Valley Music
Hiddenvalleymusic.org

June 14-15, 10am-4pm
14th Annual Garland Park Wildflower Show

SAVE THE DATE!
September 21
CVA Annual Picnic
11:30am-3pm
Trail and Saddle Club

Worth a Visit! Garland Park's Renovated Visitor Center

By Debbie Wyatt, Environmental Education, Volunteer Coordinator, Monterey Regional Parks District

Garland Park is an easy-to-access gem in Carmel Valley that serves as a gateway to experiencing the Carmel River Watershed. Hundreds of people a week enjoy the outdoors and hike the trails through a variety of terrain and habitat in the 3,500 acre park. On April 19, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) dedicated the first of several permanent visitor center interpretive exhibits at Garland. The first phase of restoring the Drought Resistant Native Plant Demonstration Garden was showcased and dedicated as well.



Garland Park Interpretive Center, photo by Mibs McCarthy

and increased space for educational programs and future displays. The project was partially funded through a generous grant of \$195,000 from an anonymous donor, with the balance of about \$300,000 paid with district funds.

The new center provides a comfortable place for visitors to orient themselves through the assistance of knowledgeable volunteer naturalists and educational maps and exhibits before they head out on the trails. Participants involved in the *Let's Go Outdoors!* programs utilize the outdoor area

Since the visitor center is the primary point of public information for Garland Ranch Regional Park and the entire regional park system, an expanded center was needed. The remodeled center features a new roof, ADA compliance and the addition of 400 square feet. The expansion includes an additional office, a visitor interaction and information area

near the visitor center, while the interpretive displays and native plant garden offers school groups and visitors interactive ways to learn about the watershed.

The center also provides space for special exhibits like the "Wildflowers of Garland Park" art exhibit on display now through August 10. (See calendar, left.)

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From the President



Mibs McCarthy

Foremost on my mind at this time is the passage of Measure O on the June 3 ballot. I am so tired of the mismanagement of our water by CalAm and the profit taken from our pockets for delivering to us what is already ours. Every time CalAm incurs an expense as with the removal of the San Clemente Dam, which is only necessary because the silt buildup has been ignored for so many years, they pass the costs along to us, the ratepayers, with profit added on. The California Public Utilities Commission almost always grants CalAm's requests for rate increases because one of the PUC's functions is to see that CalAm makes money for its shareholders. Then there is the issue of the home office of CalAm being in New Jersey. I want to have local control, transparency, and lower costs for managing our own water resource.

I'm also concerned about the increased number of robberies in Carmel Valley. We've been discovered by the thieves and many of us are too complacent. After years of leaving my house and

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May 26th
7:30 pm

Jura Margulis
Russian pianist



Cascada de Flores
June 4th, 7:30 pm

Hidden Valley
Music Seminars
hiddenvalleymusic.org
88 W. Carmel Valley Rd
659-3115

CVA Endorses Measure O

By George Riley

The CVA Board recently voted to endorse Measure O, the Public Water Now ballot initiative that provides for a feasibility study of public ownership of CalAm facilities.

The most convincing argument in favor of Measure O is the specific prospect of lowering water costs. There have been numerous state and educational studies comparing costs between public and private water providers. In every case, public water was about 25% cheaper than private water. There are two reasons for this: 1) no profit and corporation taxes in public water costs and 2) lower interest rates on bonds for capital project financing.

Another convincing argument includes the many democratic rights surrounding public ownership. These include public hearings and access, transparency, public interest responsibilities, local elected leadership, voter oversight, public rate-setting and local management. Not a single one of these principles exists with corporate CalAm ownership.

The traditional role of comprehensive watershed stewardship by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District further persuades us to vote for Measure O. The public interest jurisdiction of the district is essential for our water-scarce area. And



Carmel River Lagoon, photo by Joe McCarthy

it is appropriate as costs and project failures call attention to the narrow focus of Cal Am - which is to produce and deliver water at a profit.



There is a lack of detailed factual information on public ownership. This subject has been discussed for years but never studied in depth. Measure O assures that the full impact of public ownership will be professionally evaluated and presented to the public. And Measure O promises that if the professional evaluation shows that acquisition is both feasible and beneficial to the community as a whole, the district will initiate purchase procedures.

The opposition seems to want to avoid looking at the facts. This is disappointing, since the full community will benefit from having the facts followed by public discussion. A community with no facts is a community in ignorance.

CVA believes that it is time for a full analysis. Too much time has already gone by without an in-depth professional feasibility study. Many ratepayers have lost confidence in CalAm, based on past project failures, with all costs passed on to ratepayers. These failures have called attention to poor performance by CalAm and have stimulated community interest in looking at another option. Public ownership is that option.

Down the Drain

By Luana Conley

Monterey County residents are often praised for water conservation practices put in place since the last drought, but have we really done enough?

Grey water and rainwater collection systems gained momentum, but are still not nearly as spread as they could be, even though there are or permits required for laundry diversion. Until August of 2010, it was actually illegal to divert grey water outdoors. The recent Governor's drought alarm sounded the same week as rules were relaxed for county residents.

Peninsula cities have a fairly cohesive and simple set of regulations. The County Health Department and Planning Department are just now coordinating the permitting structure and fees.

Keeping it simple is key, but do-it-yourselfers can hit snags if complications arise inside interior walls or if hose placement doesn't follow gravity and sloping. Pumps are made specifically for shower systems, and on/off controls are required for washer loads. Holding tanks are not necessary as saved water goes directly from laundry to landscape, and aerates into mulch, preventing bacterial growth.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District offers incentives (<http://montereywaterinfo.org>). A comprehensive website on grey water is www.waterawareness.org.



have wide-no fees



Speakers Kristi Markey, Lorin Letendre, Karin Strasser Kauffman, (l-r standing), with Rich Fox and Margaret Robbins (foreground) at our April Annual Meeting. Photo by Joe McCarthy.



Steve Brabeck, new CVA board member. Photo by Christine Williams

President, cont. from page 1

car unlocked, I am having to break that habit. It's not easy. There are lots of good tips at the sheriff's website www.co.monterey.ca.us/sheriff. You can check the Daily Patrol Call Log there to find crime reports from the previous day. The Sheriff's Department's crime prevention specialist, Donna Galletti, 647-7909, will meet with groups interested in setting up a neighborhood watch program.

To keep you up-to-date on valley news, CVA provides a weekly e-bulletin and calendar of events. Sign up on our website, carmelvalleyassociation.org. You can join CVA or renew your membership on our website also. Our members are the backbone of our organization and enable us to monitor land use, water, and traffic issues to protect Carmel Valley's natural beauty, resources and rural character. If you're not already a member, please join us to help influence county decisions.

Garland, cont. from page 1

A new display map in the Visitor Center patio showcases all the MPRPD's parks as well as a topographical map of Garland's 50+ miles of trails.

Staff and volunteers are currently working on restoring the native plant garden and the area adjacent to the center. Here, visitors can learn about various plant species that are drought tolerant, fire resistant, or bee, butterfly and insect attractant that can be used for landscaping. Staff is also planning to construct a cistern and water-catchment system.

The center is generally staffed by volunteers daily from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Maps and displays are available when the center is unstaffed. The district is currently recruiting volunteers. Please

contact Debbie Wyatt at wyatt@mprpd.org about volunteering.

More information can be found at www.mprpd.org.

The park is located 8.6 miles east from Hwy 1, or about 1/2 mile west from Laureles Grade Rd.



Kim Williams feeds a pig on Schulte Rd. Photo by Christine Williams

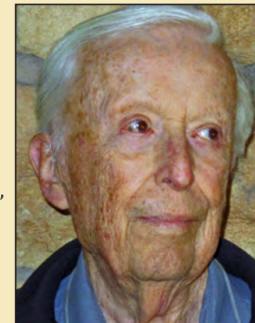


Saddle Mountain, photo by Christine Williams

A Quietly Effective Gentleman

By Sandra Schachter

"Sweet, competent, faithful, gentle, thoughtful, committed, experienced, easy to work with, his word is gold": These are the ways friends and colleagues describe Max Chaplin, one of Carmel Valley's most active and effective community leaders for many years. A graduate of the National War College in Washington, DC, Max also studied economics at the University of Michigan and international relations at U.C. Berkeley. After serving for 34 years as a Foreign Service officer in various countries of South America, Max and his wife Cynthia came to Carmel Valley in 1984 to build a house off Laureles Grade. A few years later, he was asked to join the Carmel Valley Property Owners' Association (now Carmel Valley Association) as a member of the Water Committee and soon found himself the only member of the



Max Chaplin
Photo by Miibs McCarthy

Water Committee when the issue of building a new dam on the Carmel River was paramount. He served as president of the CVA board in 1989-90 and worked for nine years on the incorporation effort. In addition, while serving as president of the Big Sur Land Trust board, he oversaw the acquisition of the Point Lobos Ranch property and management of the Mit-teldorf Preserve. He has also been actively involved in the Carmel Valley Forum, Sierra Club board and League of Women Voters. Closer to home, in his own subdivision, he has worked at maintaining a community water company. And all this he has done with sincere commitment and a quiet competence. He is simply, as one friend says, "a good guy."

World Class Observatory in CV

By Miibs McCarthy



MIRA Telescope by MIRA

mirror in Paso Robles in 1977. The six graduate students who founded MIRA wanted to seek private funding and pursue useful projects that might not get done at a university with its emphasis on "publish or perish." Unfettered by an institutional location, they chose what they felt was the best site for optical astronomy in the continental United States.

The observing station is completely off the grid, supplied with electrical power from solar cells, a wind turbine, propane-fired generators, and a water-catchment system. It consists of two three-story towers. The south tower encompasses the 36-inch roller-drive telescope and is unheated; the heated north tower contains the dormitory, control room and utility rooms.

Have you wondered why we have no streetlights in Carmel Valley and our outdoor lighting is required to face downward? One reason is to preserve the night sky because of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy (MIRA). Until recently, I didn't know we had an astronomical observatory in our backyard. I wanted to know more. I met with astronomers Dr. Arthur Babcock and Dr. Bruce Weaver to learn about this extraordinary resource.

MIRA is a non-profit astronomical observatory founded in 1972 and dedicated to research and education in astronomy. The offices, library, and shops are located at the Richard W. Hamming Astronomy Center on Eighth Street in Marina. MIRA is a world-class astronomical observatory, with the Oliver Observing Station located 5000 feet high on Chews Ridge overlooking Carmel Valley. Because of the steadiness of the upper atmosphere coming off the ocean, and the dark skies of the Los Padres National Forest, the conditions are among the best in the world for optical astronomy. The telescope was built with a 36-inch

Dr. Weaver explained more reasons for controlling light pollution. All living things use light to reset their bodies in the morning, and light at night confuses these biological systems. He pointed out that reducing lighting is one conservation method that saves money. It is also a matter of basic politeness to your neighbors not to shine lights in their eyes.

Have you wondered why we have no streetlights?

MIRA accepts advanced high school and college students as interns in astronomy. Students work on a one-on-one basis with professional astronomers on current research topics such as star formation, gravitational lenses, small solar system bodies, and instrumentation. Recent research has included comet studies using data from the

NASA Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) satellite, a program in which MIRA astronomers participate.

Free visits to the observatory are available to the public in the summer. You can find out more online at www.MIRA.org