

CRESTON FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

Recent Annual Summer Party

The party was a success with 95 attendees...old and new neighbors. The food as always was good and everyone had a great time! Pat Musachia still has an unclaimed plate from the party. Maybe it belongs to someone who is not getting our emails.

Recent Annual Meeting

We had a very informative meeting in June. Those of you who are on our email list know that two deputies came to meet with us. They discussed security for our homes, their patrol coverage, identity theft, school traffic issues and much more. You can view our minutes at our website (www.creston-ca.org) for more details or ask Pat Musachia to send you a copy pamusachia@gmail.com if you have not already gotten a copy.

Other topics discussed were the Progressive Dinner and the annual party. Although the Progressive Dinner was well received by those who attended, some thought the name was not definitive enough. "Meet and Eat" was suggested as an option name. Also discussed was the issue of families with young children. We will look into setting up a home with babysitters in the vicinity of the host homes. Some of the neighbors may not have gotten the information on it because they do not have emails listed with Pat.

Progressive Dinner Meet and Eat

Our next "dinner" consists of three homes who host those neighbors who wish to come for some food and conversation. We have had two homes with appetizers and one with desserts. Some neighbors share hosting responsibilities by making different dishes for the host home. Participants may bring their own beverage. We are looking for hosts for our next dinner in the Spring 2016. If you are interested in planning to be a food provider, along with a couple neighbors, email:

Lesley.reid@sbcglobal.net.

Wildlife Hazards

We had a cat killed this summer by a coyote. One was spotted last month on Creston Drive and earlier this year a mother was spotted at Varian Park with her pups. In the past we have also had bobcats. Watch out for small pets. Although coyotes probably can't jump fences, bobcats can. A "huge coyote" was seen recently on Hartman Ave.

New Garbage Pickup Information

You all should have received the guidelines from Recology about being able to put organics in your yard bin. Many attending the annual party were unaware of the change. Basically, you can put your old, over-ripened fruit (pit and all), scraps from your meal including bones, soiled paper plates, milk cartons, etc. This should reduce the amount you put in your garbage cans. And maybe, you can order a smaller garbage container... depending on your family size. What is not to go into the yard bin is anything plastic such as eating utensils, bags, cups.

Stevens Creek -- El Nino.

A substantial number of earth moving trucks have been busy in recent weeks. Many were working in the Creston area locally, upstream of the SouthEasterly end of Creston Drive, and downstream of Stevens Creek Blvd. Tractor work has been to improve the throughput of creek water and to better control soil erosion that threatens the homes overlooking from the cliff a hundred feet above. To protect against creek bed and bank erosion, about twenty big logs have been dragged into the creek bed, then dug-in cross-wise, against direction of river flow. These logs now rest in the Creek bed, as if they float in the dirt, constrained with big chains. The chains, in turn, are lashed down vertically to earthen anchors drilled or driven to ten or more feet below creek bottom. Some pictures of the recent creek bed work will be at page 3 here or in color at:

creston-ca.org/pics/2015/creekAnchors.pdf

Meet Your Neighbor

Jerry and Nancy Humpal moved into their home on Starling Drive in the summer of 1968. Daughters Megan and Ashley attended Stevens Creek Elementary, Cupertino Junior High and Homestead High schools before the school boundaries were changed. Nancy was a busy volunteer and tennis player. She was a member of the Jr. League of Palo Alto, Southern Peninsula Hearing League, ESL teacher and a volunteer in the girls' schools. Jerry and Nancy coached and managed Bobby Sox softball for six or seven years. Nancy started the Superschools Foundation benefiting the five high schools in the Fremont High School district. In 1981 Nancy helped with the first all night graduation-on-location at Homestead High School. She then helped other high schools start their own graduation parties. Nancy's husband, Jerry Humpal, passed away three years ago. Jerry moved to Mountain View where he attended Mountain View Elementary and Mountain View High School. Jerry graduated from San Jose State University. Upon completion of his service with the U.S. Army, Jerry was able to pursue his creative interests by working in the advertising field, eventually becoming the owner of Humpal, Leftwich and Sinn Advertising agency. An avid fly fisherman, painter and golfer, Jerry enjoyed traveling and photographing landscapes. Daughters Megan and Ashley live in San Diego and Camarillo. Nancy Humpal's grandchildren are grown: one is in flight school in Pensacola, Florida; a granddaughter is in her junior year at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee; and a grandson just started at Colorado State. Nancy plays golf, gardens, travels and is moving on in her life in transition with various activities as well as having started a volunteer job at the Los Altos History Museum.

Emergency Preparedness

Two Emergency Preparedness meetings this spring and summer, were attended by Jack Truher and Pat Musachia. The first meeting was an intro to Los Altos' Personal emergency Preparedness Training three-hour meetings. The overall message at both meetings was that in a widespread emergency we are on our own.

We need to have at least three days of sustaining supplies. Our fire, police and sheriff departments will not be able to address all emergencies. They will assess where the biggest needs are and will meet those first.

Just a few tips from those meetings: Set up a Disaster Supply Kit. Store 1 gallon of water per person per day (at least 3 days) including pets. Stored water has a shelf life of 6-12 months. To purify water, use 4 drops of bleach to each quart. Freeze dried foods have a longer shelf life than canned goods, but include a manual can opener for canned goods. Perishable and refrigerated foods should be eaten first. A solar charger for phones should be helpful. Having a second pair of glasses and a week or so of prescription drugs are just a few of the many items on the list handed out at the meeting. Work gloves and sturdy shoes were recommended.

The leader also showed how to turn off your gas to the house if you think there is a leak. However, he warned to let PG&E turn it back on. Evacuation plans from the home as well as the neighborhood should also be planned for the family. Types of fire extinguishers and their use were also discussed.

There is a Smart Phone application for First Aid that should be handy. There was so much information given to the attendees, that it's not possible to pass it on here. If you would like a copy of the handouts, contact:

pamusachia@gmail.com.



for color pic: <http://www.creston-ca.org/pics/2015/creekAnchors.pdf>



Picture at bottom-right is of the temporary pump station which pushes minimal November 2015 creek water downstream via yellow hoses past creek work area.

TRASH TREK by Jiya Singh

As you all know, California is in a drought. We all are trying the best we can to save on water but don't let water get stuck to your mind. There's one more thing that needs your support - trash. Trash is one thing that will always be a problem. There are many ways to help.

- First of all, try recycling. I know you all must have heard on and on about how you should recycle, but it's a lot easier than it looks.

All you have to do is get one more bin for recycle. Then, you can separate your trash from recycle. You also can get one more bin for compost and leave it in your backyard, so bugs don't come inside. Compost helps in many ways. First of all, the bugs get to eat a little food too. Compost also turns into soil after you dump it out and mix it with soil. Wasting food is not much of a shame anymore!



- Another way to reduce trash is to put a re-useable bag in your trunk at all times, that way you won't have to buy paper bags when you go shopping.
- Also, remember that buying in bulk rather than individual packages will save you lots of money and reduce waste! Packaging makes up 30% of the weight and 50% of trash by volume. Buy juice, snacks, and other lunch items in bulk and use those reusable containers each day.

And that is all the steps to help reuse, reduce, recycle and help our environment.

Note: Author Jiya Singh is in 5th Grade at Stevens Creek Elementary.

Grant Senior Drop-In Program

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

City of Los Altos, Recreation & Community Services, Senior Program

The Grant Park Multi-Purpose Room auxiliary area welcomes Creston seniors (50+) to drop-in on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There are ethnically diverse programs of interest to older age-groups, from our hopefully robust 50+ neighbors, to families with concern for some more seriously impaired by age. All with a vigorous team of volunteers, lively, still inventing itself.

Recreation & Community Services

<http://www.losaltosca.gov/recreation/page/senior-program>

Spotlight Newsletter - Nov. & Dec. 2015

http://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/Recreation%20%26amp%3B%20Community%20Services/page/536/nov.dec_.pdf

For more detail on Grant Center Senior Programs; email jack.truher@creston-ca.org.

Creston docs in color ; <http://www.creston-ca.org/news/> -> user = creston ; passw = foothills14