

Scott Valley Voice

November 6, 2004

Newsletter of Scott Valley

Vol. III, Num. 2

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR BY FRANCINE MILLMAN

It has been another very active year for the SVHA Board, representing the interests of Scott Valley. From successfully purchasing and stocking an Emergency Preparedness Box, to continually tracking and keeping tabs on the local coyote to keeping track of the Alto Tunnel issue, the SVHA Board of Directors is continually responding to your concerns and interests.

One major interest is that of **SPEEDING in Scott Valley**. Please see your letter of invitation from President, Joan Boessenecker, describing the upcoming Annual Meeting, the featured topic (traffic and speeding in Scott Valley), as well as our guest panel, being held on November 16th at 7:00pm. **This will be OUR chance as a community**, to convey to our local leaders not only your complaints, but to offer possible permanent solutions. We encourage EVERYONE to attend. This impacts EVERYONE living in and visiting Scott Valley. Start thinking about *solutions* so that you can present them to the panel that will be at the upcoming Annual Meeting. They are eager to hear your ideas and present theirs.

If you have any other concerns, issues or topics you would like the SVHA Board of Directors to address, please email me at: francine@promptconsulting.com. Please include "SVHA" in the subject line.

We are looking forward to another productive and successful year. We wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

BECOME A SVHA MEMBER

It's that time again! For \$40 a calendar year, your board continues working on your behalf to keep you informed and to represent the interests of Scott Valley. We continue to maintain the landscaping and supplying the emergency preparedness strong box, as well as provide you with The Voice. We need both your community and financial support.

Please send your check to: **Scott Valley Homeowners' Association, P.O. Box 392, Mill Valley, CA 94942.**

SVHA FINANCIAL REPORT BY TOM ASHLEY, TREASURER

This year, our largest purchase was for the strong box and emergency preparedness supplies. Below, you will find the financial report for 2003-2004.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>Through 9/30/04</u>
Opening Balance	\$ 4,069.16	\$ 6,063.33
2003 Memberships	\$ 3,795.00	\$ -
2004 Memberships	<u>\$ 600.00</u>	<u>\$ 120.00</u>
	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 120.00
Landscaping	\$ 1,330.00	\$ 800.00
Other**	<u>\$ 1,070.83</u>	<u>\$ 1,652.18</u>
	<u>\$ 2,400.83</u>	<u>\$ 2,452.18</u>
Net Gain	<u>\$ 1,994.17</u>	<u>\$(2,332.18)</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 6,063.33	\$ 3,731.15

****Note: "Other" expenses in 2004 principally the emergency preparedness supply box & contents.**

THEY'RE BACK!
BY BILL BUCHANAN

Within the last few months, reports of coyote sightings by Scott Valley homeowners have increased. For example, eleven sightings of one or more coyotes were reported in September alone. Locations included Corte Madera Ridge, the mini meadow on Underhill between Middle Court and Upperhill, the back yard of a house on Lower Drive, the back yard of a house on Midhill Drive, the parking lot at Long's Drug Store, the Bob Middagh Trail and along Camino Alto.



Coyote seen at 14 Midhill Drive

Since July, a coyote wearing a green collar has been reported seven times. A local volunteer naturalist identified the green collar coyote as "Clint," an animal who was trapped and fitted with a radio tracking collar by U.S. Geological Survey researchers at the Marin Headlands (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) about two years ago. Using a radio receiver, the local naturalist has detected Clint's presence in Scott Valley or the Mill Valley Golf Course area at least once a week for the last year. Coyote/human conflicts and encounters are on the rise in other areas also. The most recent example is Almaden Villas, a community near San Jose, where coyotes have harassed pets, followed people to their homes, and howl at all hours of the night.

In 2002 a number of coyotes encroached regularly on streets and homes in Scott Valley, taking pets, disrupting sleep and generally unnerving parents whose children attended Edna McGuire elementary school. The SVHA published guidelines for dealing with these predators, but either they were not applied diligently or they did not have the desired effect; only the death of a prominent coyote that had attacked a dog on Horse Hill and stalked a jogger caused the group to retreat back to the wild areas, remaining there for almost two years.

At a meeting last August, SVHA Board members decided to address the issue of the recent increased coyote presence by (1) gathering more information from Scott Valley Homeowners for better understanding of numbers, locations, and behavior of the coyote population (2) coordinating with agencies that have a vested interest in wildlife management such as the Marin County Humane Society, California Fish and Game Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Services, Animal Protection Institute, and the Mill Valley Police Department and (3) publishing a special edition of The Scott Valley Voice containing information that homeowners can use to help reduce coyote incursions and conflicts.

Each Scott Valley resident can enhance the information gathering phase of this initiative by accurate observing and reporting. Note the date and time you saw a coyote, the location, and a description of its activities. A photograph of the animal will help naturalists determine how large the population is. A description of its activities will assist in gauging the threat level and an appropriate response by wildlife managers. E-mail your observations to books@baylaurelpress.com so that they can be entered into the ongoing "Coyote Journal." If you see a coyote, yell at it, throw things at it, run towards it. Try to recondition it to fear humans by using what experts call "aversive techniques." Meanwhile, apply the following list of suggestions faithfully. If the community works together, we can avoid an incident and the resulting lethal response by wildlife specialists towards these resourceful and adaptable predators.

GUIDELINES FOR COYOTE AVERSION

- Pick all ripe fruit that has fallen on the ground and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Keep garbage cans inside the garage until morning. Any garbage cans left in the street during the day should have tight and secure lids.
- Install bright outdoor lights triggered by motion detectors.
- Don't leave pet food or water bowls outside.
- Keep all cats and small dogs inside the house at night.
- Never attempt to feed or tame a coyote.
- "Unhabituate" coyotes moving into urban areas by making loud noises or throwing objects at them (at the body, not the head) whenever you see one.
- Cooperate with your local neighborhood association in maintaining a database of all coyote sightings. Note date, time, place, and number and behavior of coyotes.

SCOTT VALLEY SWIM & TENNIS CLUB DIRECTOR NEEDED

The Scott Valley Homeowners' Association is responsible for appointing two Scott Valley Swimming & Tennis Club proprietary members to the SVSTC Board of Directors. This is to ensure that neighborhood concerns are heard. The appointments are for two-year terms and require attendance at monthly evening meetings. If you have questions or are interested in being appointed for the term running from March 2005 for two years, please call Tom Ashley at 388-0109. This is a fun way to participate in your club and neighborhood!

SCOTT VALLEY EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY BOX BY KEN CAMPBELL

This year, SVHA funded a project to purchase and stock emergency equipment and supply box. We are pleased to announce that this Emergency Equipment Box has been stocked in preparation for a disaster that would leave Scott Valley isolated from receiving immediate emergency response.

As CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members know, it is a good plan to have emergency supplies and equipment stored at home in the event of a major disaster. As the CERT coordinator for the SVHA, I proposed that we expand that emergency equipment and supplies to serve the residents in Scott Valley.

The Emergency Supply Box is located at the Scott Valley Swim and Tennis Club in the lower parking lot. It contains emergency equipment, first aid kits, radios, hand tools and other safety equipment. It is accessible to all CERT trained residents in Scott Valley.

Although the Box is fully equipped, we would like to expand the number of tools and equipment we could have available, if you have any extra of the following that you would like to donate to the Emergency Supply Box please contact Ken Campbell on 381-5952.

➤ Shovels	➤ Saws
➤ Rope	➤ Fire extinguishers
➤ Pick axes	➤ First aid kits
➤ Axes	➤ Walkie-talkies

We live in "earthquake and wildfire country", so we must take responsibility for our own safety and survival as well as our families. We encourage you to take the CERT course and learn how you can protect and survive a major large scale disaster. **For CERT information call Ken Campbell on 381-5952 or Mill Valley CERT 389-4138.**

If you are a CERT member and would like to know the full contents and how to access the emergency supply box please contact Ken Campbell, 381-5952 or email kcfilm@pacbell.net.

SLOW DOWN

Speeding in Scott Valley has become more than merely a nuisance. It recently became a deadly hazard when a dog in Scott Valley was hit and killed by a speeding vehicle.

Please remember that the speed limit is **25mph** in Scott Valley.

Parents: PLEASE speak with your teenagers. This group is the most likely group to drive at higher speeds according to the CHP.

It's easy to gain speed without even trying and it not even feel like it. So look at your speedometer more often to get a sense of your actual speed.

It is up to all of us to PREVENT accidents and have the Mill Valley Police Department from camping out in Scott Valley and issuing tickets. How, you ask?

SLOW DOWN

**MARIN HUMANE SOCIETY
VOLUNTEER WILDLIFE
ADVOCATE POSITION OPENING**

JOB DESCRIPTION: To assist a coalition of non-profit animal protection groups on wildlife issues. Activities include project-driven educational outreach efforts in pre-identified neighborhoods. The project will focus on educating the public about urban wildlife coexistence, specifically coyotes and other large predators.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Learn about native wildlife common to Marin County.
2. Educate the public on peaceful co-existence strategies for wildlife.
3. Educate the public on proper safety techniques regarding large predators.
3. Organize and distribute educational material and handouts.
4. Attend wildlife-training courses and volunteer meetings as needed.
5. Ability to direct the public to available resources upon request.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be in good physical condition and able to perform door-to-door educational outreach sessions throughout the year.
2. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
3. Knowledge of Marin wildlife.
4. Compassion for wildlife and be willing to advocate for their interests.
5. Must have own transportation and ability to arrive at educational locations on time.
6. Ability to work independently and as a member of a team.

INFORMATION:

The Volunteer Wildlife Advocate will work with the Marin Coalition for California Wildlife. The Coalition is served by the Marin Humane Society, Wildcare, In Defense of Animals, The Animal Protection Institute and Earth Island Institute. The first project is focusing on encroaching coyotes in a neighborhood in Mill Valley. For more information or to sign up for this worthwhile position, please contact Captain Cindy Machado at the Marin Humane Society at 506-6209.

**REDUCING WILD LAND FIRE
HAZARDS AND BRUSH
MANAGEMENT
BY KEN CAMPBELL**

Remember the devastating wild fires in Southern California just last year? Heard about the potential wild fire hazards in Mill Valley and on Mount Tamalpais? Scott Valley residents are surrounded by large open spaces that have the potential to be major wild fire hazards. With some simple brush management we can reduce wild land fire hazards and make Scott Valley as wild fire safe as possible.

Here are some vegetation management tips:

- Clear all flammable vegetation (dry grass and broom) and any dead or fallen debris must be cleared a minimum 30' from homes and structures
- Tree limbs extending over rooftops trimmed back 10' from the eaves
- Place firewood piles away from your home or deck
- Dry leaves, debris or pine needles must be cleared from the roof and storm gutters

The City of Mill Valley has a "free chipping" service to residents and neighborhood associations who group together and put flammable vegetation in a central location for removal. We encourage your immediate neighborhood to pool together to clear out your overgrown vegetation.

There are many different people and companies who do this brush clearing work, and you can find them in the Yellow Pages and the local newspapers.

If you would like information on how protect your home, property and family from wild land fire hazards and improving fire-safety contact Mill Valley Fire Dept, Vegetation Hot line 721-4367.

The members of the SVHA Board of Directors wish you and yours a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous Holiday Season and New Year

Your Board of Directors,

- **Joan Boessenecker**
- **Tom Ashley**
- **Ken Campbell**
- **Ann Dye**
- **Jim Finn**
- **Francine Millman**
- **John Palmer**

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Scott Valley Voice

This is a collaborative effort of the Scott Valley Board of Directors

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