

Scott Valley Voice

February 1, 2011

Newsletter of Beautiful Scott Valley

Vol. VII, Num. 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT BY FRANCINE MILLMAN

Dear Scott Valley Residents:

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Your board continues its commitment to represent the interests of our Scott Valley neighbors on a variety of local matters impacting our lives. Just some of the topics include: Alto Tunnel/Horse Hill/Camino Alto; the Blithedale Terrace project, (*update in this issue*), Emergency Preparedness (CERT) and a variety of other topics we believe are important to all of us.

Homeowner Dues Notice: For only \$40 a year, the SVHOA can continue to **maintain the landscape and emergency preparedness box**, as well as send you The Voice to keep you informed. **Without your support, these projects cannot be maintained!** Your membership also gives you the ability to vote for board members at elections.

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

Confidential Email List: In our attempt to keep you notified, we have created a **strictly confidential** email list. We have used that list to email Scott Valley residents of **last minute time-sensitive information** we believe you need to know. We currently have approximately 85 email addresses and we would like to reach as many households as possible, when necessary. If you have not received one of the handfuls of emails sent this past year, that means you are not on our email list.

Please email me with your name and at our new email address- info@scottvalleyhoa.org and you will be added to our confidential email list.

We look forward to a very productive year and hope that you read and enjoy this very informative edition of The Voice.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful Spring.

EXCITING NEWS!!! NEW – SVHOA WEBSITE! NEW – SVHOA EMAIL ADDRESS!

NEW SVHOA WEBSITE

We'd like to announce the new SVHOA website! You will be able to find updates about important Scott Valley topics here! Check it out! If you have any suggestions or wish to contribute an article to the website, email us and let us know!

The new website is: www.scottvalleyhoa.org

NEW SVHOA EMAIL ADDRESS

Along with the new website, we have a new email address. For those who have emailed the HOA previously, please update your email address book with: info@scottvalleyhoa.org.

SVHA FINANCIAL REPORT BY KEN CAMPBELL, TREASURER

Below, you will find the financial report for 2009-2010.

	2009	2010
Opening Balance	\$3,576.56	\$2,660.60
2009 Memberships	\$3,080.00	\$1,830.00
	\$6,656.56	\$4,490.60
Expenses		
Landscaping	(\$1,400)	(\$1,440)
Other*	(\$2,595.96)	(\$375)
Balance	\$2,660.60	\$2,675.60

*Other expenses includes: Consulting fees for Tunnel Research, photocopying of The Voice, stamps, website domain purchase, PO Box rental

**ALTO TUNNEL UPDATE
BY JOHN PALMER**

Francine Millman and I met with Marin County Supervisor Charles McGlashan, the representative of our district, last fall and discussed the Alto Tunnel, among other issues. We learned that County officials would be reluctant to use the condemnation process to obtain the transit rights needed to perfect access to the Tunnel, so the research I did last year into property rights issues has begun to come into play.

We also learned that there is political will (but no funds at the moment) at the County level to improve the Horse Hill route, and that improving Camino Alto is a distant second on the list. As for reconstructing the Tunnel, the Supervisor told us that the cost of the Tunnel makes it a tough sell at this time, implying that if the economy, and therefore funding sources, were to improve, the chances of the Tunnel project moving forward would likewise improve. Mr. McGlashan also told us that the Supervisors would continue to explore the reconstruction of the Tunnel in incremental steps, meaning that there would be funds set aside for further study of the proposed project if the County were to continue to receive funds from the Federal Government for non-motorized transportation. At the moment, the only actual activity on the Tunnel has been a series of pro-tunnel articles in the Pacific Sun, triggering rebuttals from me and a few of our neighbors, and an editorial in the Marin IJ which echoed some of our neighborhood's concerns about the Tunnel and its existing alternatives, although not as forcefully as I would have liked.

Finally, on the Corte Madera side, I attended a neighborhood meeting of Chapman Meadows homeowners, chaired by one of Corte Madera's town councilmembers, at which the depth of that neighborhood's opposition to the Tunnel was on full display. The Corte Madera side is both well-organized and represented at the Council level.

**LOOKING OUT YOUR BACK DOOR
BY RAE GREENLEE**

We have the most incredible gift right in our own backyard. It is the Camino Alto Open space preserve which is part of the Marin County Open Space District. The entrance that I have used on many occasions is at the top of Overhill Drive at the Escalon Trailhead. This is actually a fire road so it is wide and relatively even to walk on, although I would recommend a hiking shoe as there are many rocks embedded in the trail.

If you start at the Escalon trailhead, you will soon come to an intersection that allows you to proceed in three directions. The trail directly ahead of you is flat and a very gentle, a slightly uphill walk that will take you about an hour round trip. Halfway on your round trip will be an exquisite view out over Corte Madera looking toward San Quentin. If you choose to go to the right at the intersection, you will have a steep uphill climb to the top of a hill with a beautiful



San Francisco view and then a long downhill trip which takes you back to Camino Alto. A round trip on this trail will give you a great workout. I recommend this walk or run for the heartier souls. If you choose to go the left you will have a shorter uphill climb and it will end relatively soon.

This is a dog lover's paradise as most of the dogs are off leash and exceedingly happy and delighted to be so free. They are generally 10-20 feet in front of their owner. After you have been on the trails many times, you know who is following which dog. My dogs (each about 7 pounds) need to be leashed for their own protection. My little Yorkshire Terrier considers this to be her kingdom

and she needs to keep the other dogs in line which means I need to rescue both of us regularly. My Chihuahua is actually more mellow and easy to walk but a little shy about being identified by the sniff test by other dogs. The dog owners are very conscientious about cleaning up after their pets and the trails are clean.

The types of trees that you will see are coastal oaks, toyon, coyote brush, madrone, bays and many others. If you walk past the intersection and past the pump house along the way, you will



enter a Redwood forest that is incredibly peaceful, deeply shaded and relatively short. It is a place for some introspection and cool air on a hot summer day.

One problem that I have seen is an incredible amount of Scottish or French Broom. I was thinking that one way of controlling this incredible fire hazard could be to ask those travelling on this trail to pull up two broom plants each time the trail is used. Last year, Marin Open Space committed thousands of dollars to reducing the underbrush and broom so that the fire hazard could be controlled, due to the proximity to many of our homes. This is an ongoing project and is to be continued this spring.

I have seen many coyotes, heard of a mountain lion (not ten seconds in front of me last year) and some smaller creatures along the way. The coyotes are generally only seen very early in the morning.

A wonderful dog by the name of Rocket followed us home on Christmas Day. Rocket was aptly named. He was ready to go for a walk before his owners were and we kept waiting for the owners to show up before we realized he was taking himself on a walk! We were able to find a couple just starting on their walk to escort him home to

his anxious family. (Thanks to good dog tags.) For me, this is the best part of any day! Happy Hiking!

For more information visit:

www.bahiker.com/northbayhikes/altobowl.html

**BLITHEDALE TERRACE
DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
BY JOHN PALMER**

At last year's Planning Commission meeting on the Blithedale Terrace proposal, your Scott Valley Homeowner's Association Board presented its analysis of project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR). As you may recall, the meeting was well-attended by thoughtful opponents of the project, and all of the speeches except for the developer's representatives opposed the project. The Planning Commissioners thanked audience members themselves for their detailed analyses, there went on to present even more points citing the EIR's weaknesses.

About a month or so after that meeting, I met with Phil Richardson, the project's owner/developer, and urged him to consider selling the land so that it could remain open space. He was somewhat receptive to the idea, but quoted what I believe to be an overly optimistic opinion of the parcel's value. My conclusion – he's going to have to go through the process a lot further before his selling price reflects the reality of the lot's value, given the depth of opposition both from the affected neighborhoods and from the Planning Commission.

Check out the NEW SVHOA website!

www.scottvalleyhoa.org

Email us at: info@scottvalleyhoa.org

SWIM & TENNIS CLUB NEWS
BY TOM ASHLEY

NEW FACILITIES AND HOURS:

You may have noticed more activity at the swim and tennis club since it reopened the pool and exercise facility in time for the 4th of July weekend. Besides updating all the infrastructure for the pool, the hot tub was enlarged and moved, the deck was expanded, improved equipment was added to a bigger exercise room and a café was opened (serving members only). This followed the resurfacing of the tennis courts the previous year with a softer surface. The club welcomes neighbors to come see what it's very proud of. Call the general manager, Patsy Love @ 383-3483 to arrange a visit.

Recognizing the needs of its members, particularly working members, the club obtained approval from the city to expand the hours for the pool and exercise room so that they are now open from 6 am to 9 pm. An hour was added to both the morning and evening. To minimize the impact on neighbors, use is limited to adults.

BECOMING A MEMBER / DEALS FOR HOMEOWNERS:

For your information, new members from the Scott Valley neighborhood are given 3 months of free use (no dues) when they join. While there are a limited number of memberships available, over the past year the club has filled a significant portion of its vacancies. When the club reaches its capacity of 400 family memberships, residents of the Scott Valley neighborhood will be offered priority on the waiting list. These provisions were negotiated by the Homeowners Association to encourage neighbors to join and keep the club neighbor focused. Call the club if you have any questions.

DIRECTORS:

Newer neighbors may not know that the

Homeowners Association appoints 2 of the 9 directors of the Swim and Tennis Club's Board. This feature ensures that the neighborhood is considered in its decision making process. Those appointed are required to be members of the club. Contact the Homeowners' Association if you would be interested in serving on the board. Seats on the board are for 2 year terms starting March 1st, with the principle responsibility being to attend a monthly evening meeting. Steve Daane and Tom Ashley are the association's current representatives.

If you have any questions, Call Tom at 388-0109.

BECOME A SVHA MEMBER
FOR ONLY \$40/YEAR

It's that time again! Dues are due!

For *only* \$40 a year, the Homeowners' Association can continue to **maintain the landscape** and **emergency preparedness box**, as well as send you The Voice to keep you informed. **Without your support, these projects cannot be maintained!**

Your membership also gives you the ability to vote for board members each year. Please send your check to: **Scott Valley Homeowners' Association, P.O. Box 392, Mill Valley, CA 94942.**

EDNA MAGUIRE
RENOVATION UPDATE
BY KEN CAMPBELL

As most everyone knows, Edna Maguire is currently reviewing its plans to expand and remodel.

2011 is the year for the public to attend meetings and work with the design committee to help design how we would like Edna to look, work and function. This is your opportunity to give your

ideas and suggestions.

For more information, go to

<http://www.mvschools.org/bond/>

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A DISASTER?
STEVE CUVIN, EPC**

What is the Emergency Preparedness Commission (E.P.C.)? Though known to some, there are many who are not aware of our existence or our purpose. This article is to inform you of who we are, and what we do, discuss some of the potential disasters that may strike Mill Valley and offer some possible actions you, as a resident/homeowner, may take to be prepared.

The E.P.C. consists of seven volunteer residents appointed by the City Council to assist the City of Mill Valley to help prepare our businesses, residents and schools for a natural disaster by fostering risk awareness, education, and advocating emergency and disaster preparedness. We provide the City with recommendations and support regarding response planning, recovery processes and disaster impact mitigation. We also promote Community Emergency Response Training (C.E.R.T.), Get Ready and Fire classes. Our basic purpose is to **prepare you to be prepared.**

Will Mill Valley be affected by a natural disaster? Absolutely. In the last few years, floods have affected us. An earthquake along the right (or should we say wrong) fault would bring much damage to our city. Storms also leave much damage, mudslides, blackouts etc. If a fire were to strike under certain conditions, the Oakland fire could potentially pale in comparison in damage and cost of life. Most people are not aware of the effect and power of a fire, of the deafening sound and disorientation and panic it provokes. Are you prepared, do you know how to

respond to each possible emergency, do you and your family have a plan for evacuating or staying in your home without running water and electricity?

The E.P.C. has been very active in reaching out to residents over the last few years on a one to one, or small group, basis. This year we have shifted gears and are in the process of designing a 6 week program designed to assist neighborhood and homeowner associations to be prepared for an emergency, so we can reach more people and increase the City's preparedness. In early 2011, three to four of these associations will go through our pilot program, the purpose of which is to have neighbors help each other in getting prepared with the help of a structure provided by the E.P.C. The program will provide residents with the information and direction needed to be prepared in the eventuality of an emergency.

There are many ways for you to participate:

The **very best way** you can help get prepared is to take a **Get Ready Marin** class which will give you the information and tools to make an emergency plan for your family and household. Get Ready is a free, 1 ½ hour class given at the Mill Valley Community Center. Upcoming dates are January 15th from 1:00-2:30PM, February 10th from 7:00 – 8:30PM and March 10th from 10:00-11:30AM.

Website: www.getreadymarin.org or 415-380-1105

C.E.R.T. is a wonderful program presented by the fire department, and graduates are certified to assist Fire and Police departments in the event of a disaster. This course has just been completely re-designed to align with the national CERT program. Websites: www.southernmarinfire.org or cityofmillvalley.org (click on "I want to" on the right hand side, then click on "sign up for CERT")

You can sign up for the **Marin Emergency Automated Notification System (MEANS)**, which will notify you by telephone in advance of natural disasters. To enroll, fill out the short form on

www.CityofMillValley.org (click on "I want to" on the right hand side, then click on "sign up for MEANS")

We offer many "Fire in Mill Valley" classes starting in late summer. These are incredibly well presented courses on the dangers of fire within our community and provide very practical ways to be prepared. For class schedules and to enroll, call Katherine at 415 269 6836.

The Fire Department offers free **vegetation management** advice to residents in high fire danger areas wanting to protect their homes and landscaping. See the Fire Department page on www.CityofMillValley.org.

IMPORTANT INFO!
NEW – SVHOA WEBSITE!
NEW – SVHOA EMAIL ADDRESS!

NEW SVHOA WEBSITE

We'd like to announce our new SVHOA website which will be available within the next few weeks!

The new website is: www.scottvalleyhoa.org

NEW SVHOA EMAIL ADDRESS

There is also a new email address. For those who have emailed the HOA previously, please update your email address book with: info@scottvalleyhoa.org.

This new email address is active now, so you may start sending emails to that address anytime.

RECOMMENDATION FOR AT-HOME SUPPORT FOR MARIN "OLDSTERS"

Martha and Roger Fleischmann kindly sent the following information they wish to share with those in our community who are navigating the uncharted waters of aging and wanting to remain at home.

"Homestead Village" and "Marin Village" and the

resources those organizations have developed for assistance to "oldsters" who have decided to stay in their homes as their age advances may be of interest to some of our homeowners in Scott Valley.

Homestead Village is located on the other side of Miller Avenue, toward downtown MV from Tam High School. Their telephone number is 388-9315 and the contact email address for that organization is: david@homsteadvalley.org.

There is also a book which may be of interest entitled "Stay or Move – the Seniors' Dilemma" by Bruce Wrisley.

Another helpful book for relatives of those who are entering the twilight years of their life is "Another Country – Navigating the Emotional Terrain of our Elders" by Mary Pipher, PhD.

WANT TO BE A SVHOA BOARD MEMBER?

We are always looking for Scott Valley residents who are interested in volunteering to serve on the Board.

Terms are two years, with a commitment to attend approximately six board meetings a year.

If you are interested, please contact Francine Millman at info@scottvalleyhoa.org.

CERT "GET READY" DATES BY KEN CAMPBELL

GET READY is a free 1 ½ hour class, sponsored by the Mill Valley and Southern Marin Fire Departments, which teaches you how to prepare your home and family for all types of emergencies.

In case of an earthquake, public safety officials recommend having enough food and water to last up to 7 days. If we have a catastrophic fire, you

may need to evacuate in 10 minutes or less. GET READY is a free 1 ½ hour class, sponsored by the Mill Valley and Southern Marin Fire Departments, that teaches you how to prepare your home and family for all types of emergencies.

Sign up now for 2011 classes. Pre-registration encouraged.

Send an email to: getready@smfd.org or call 380-1105 and leave your name, phone, email, and class you want to attend.

- **February 10th** - Thursday, 7 – 8:30 PM
MV Comm. Center, 180 Camino Alto
- **March 10th** - Thursday, 10 -11:30AM
MV Comm. Center, 180 Camino Alto

**SCOTT VALLEY
BABY/CHILDCARE SITTERS**

As a community service, we will be happy to publish your ad for Scott Valley baby/child sitter services. The SVHA has not met, nor screened any of these individuals and encourage you to do so before hiring.

**ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO
OUR CONFIDENTIAL EMAIL LIST**

While it is still our goal to keep you informed via The Voice a few times a year, there are always things happening in our quiet little valley we would like to communicate.

The best way is via email. Please send an email to info@scottvalleyhoa.org with your name, your email address and your address.

This list is 100% confidential and will never be used for any purpose other than to keep you informed We keep these emails to a minimum and respect your privacy.

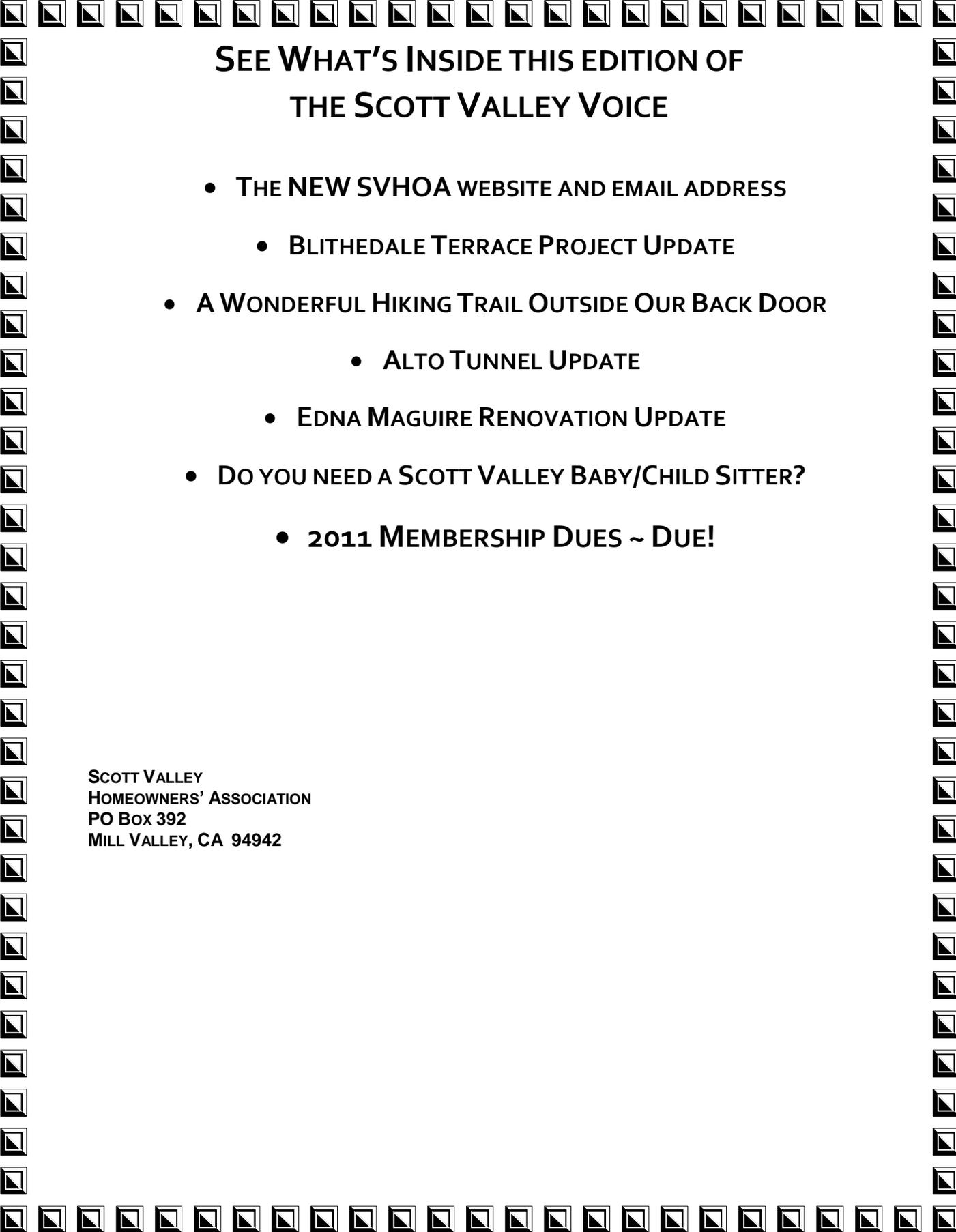
**EARLIER WARM WEATHER
BRINGING OUT TICKS!**

While Lyme Disease is thought to be more of an east coast issue, the fact is that there are increasing incidents of Lyme Disease being identified right here in Marin County.

If you have been bitten by a tick and you experience some of the classic symptoms (a rash, often in the shape of a “bull’s-eye” around the bite mark), flu-like symptoms, fevers and chills, sore throat, malaise, fatigue, headache, neck ache, sore and aching muscles and joints, swollen lymph nodes, and forgetfulness, see a professional immediately.

Scott Valley Voice
This is a collaborative effort of the
Scott Valley Board of Directors & Friends

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<i>Letter from the President</i>	Francine Millman
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<i>Alto Bowl Hiking</i>	Rae Greenlee
<i>Alto Tunnel Update</i>	John Palmer
<i>Emergency Preparedness</i>	Ken Campbell
<i>Swim & Tennis Club Info</i>	Tom Ashley
<i>Layout & Design</i>	Francine Millman



**SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION OF
THE SCOTT VALLEY VOICE**

- **THE NEW SVHOA WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESS**
 - **BLITHEDALE TERRACE PROJECT UPDATE**
- **A WONDERFUL HIKING TRAIL OUTSIDE OUR BACK DOOR**
 - **ALTO TUNNEL UPDATE**
 - **EDNA MAGUIRE RENOVATION UPDATE**
- **DO YOU NEED A SCOTT VALLEY BABY/CHILD SITTER?**
 - **2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES ~ DUE!**

**SCOTT VALLEY
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
PO Box 392
MILL VALLEY, CA 94942**