Mudslides, Flooding and Road Closures…and More on the Way

La Honda has suffered from a series of storms, which has caused widespread mudslides, land movements, flooding, downed trees/power lines and road closures. Extensive ground movements are now occurring near the landslide that struck the area during the El Niño storms of 1998 with the slide continuing in 2005. The repair of that slide cost San Mateo County and the homeowners in La Honda millions of dollars, and the homeowners are still paying for the repair of the slide. The new slide is still moving, and Scenic Drive between Recreation Drive and Fir View is closed to traffic. The ground movement broke a water main and the additional water from the main contributed to the problem. Three homes have been red-tagged and other nearby homes are threatened. The La Honda area is riddled with ancient landslides, so some residents aren’t surprised by this latest development.

Light Pollution in La Honda?

by Kathleen Moazed

It’s easy to think light pollution – the brightening of the night sky by artificial outdoor lighting – is not a problem in a small town like La Honda. But those bright porch lights left on long after the homeowner’s return, the brilliant motion detector yard lights triggered by just a passing cat, and the Christmas lights left up long after the season’s over are all common in our community. It may seem harmless, but it takes a toll on both humans and wildlife. According to How Stuff Works, “sleeping cycles, breeding cycles, migration cycles, feeding cycles -- animals follow all the proper patterns of life by taking cues from the sun, the moon, the seasons and other earthly phenomenon. An abundance of light confuses them and makes them act out of accordance with nature. It might not seem like a big deal if a flock of birds migrates a month early, but what if it's too cold when they get to their destination or the nesting conditions aren't right?” (http://bit.ly/2jy6J6P) (continued on page 3)

Zumba in La Honda continues!

It’s Tax Season
Spanish Classes in La Honda
Save the date for Parenting Sunday!
Meditation class in La Honda
Group Meditation in La Honda
Health Insurance, Covered California, CalFresh and other benefits available at Puente!

Puente also offers free Wi Fi, black and white prints, Fax and Notary Services (by appointment) (information on page 2)
La Honda Slides (continued from pg. 1)
The Community, CERT and Puente have supported the red-tagged residents and most affected by the storms. Unfortunately, most homeowners’ policies will not cover land movement.

Governor Brown had already declared an emergency for most of California, including San Mateo County, because of storms in the past two months. The County Office of Emergency Services have also been monitoring the situation.

Be careful of road conditions
(photo taken 2/9 on Hwy 84)

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need to be extra aware when traveling in the area for downed power lines and mudslides/rocks on the roads. Many of the routes and even alternate routes to get out of the area have been closed, and it is advised to check before leaving the area. Another set of storms is expected next Thursday, 2/16.

GoFundMe accounts have been set up on behalf of affected residents: David and Carolyn Worthington, Robbie and Chelsea Worthington, and Marty Bollman. If you can, please help at:

Robbie & Chelsa’s Landslide Fund:
https://www.gofundme.com/ worthingtons-landslide-fund

Worthington’s Landslide Recovery:
https://www.gofundme.com/ worthingtons-landslide-recovery

Marty Bollman Landslide Support:
https://www.gofundme.com/ ShowUpForMarty

You can use the CalTran link to share concerns or ask questions about traffic or work zone on the state highway system. Your email is read during business hours only. This form should NOT be used to report highway emergencies. Please report highway emergencies by calling 911
http://www.dot.ca.gov/paffairs/pioform.html

You can also sign up for the SMC Alert service for both text and email alerts at no charge. These alerts will include road closure information in the area.
http://hsd.smcsheriff.com/smcalert

Zumba in La Honda continues!

Wednesdays at 6pm at La Honda Elementary
Suggested donation is $3 with no one turned away for lack of funds.
Contact Siobahn at bella@lahondafilms.com for questions

It’s Tax Season

Call today to make your appointment at Puente with an IRS certified Tax Preparer 650-879-1691.
We will prepare tax returns at no cost to you for anyone making under $54,000 in 2016. Appointments are Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 15.

Spanish Classes in La Honda

Come and work on your Spanish with local teacher Georgina Snyders in La Honda!
Beginner classes are Mondays from 6-7:30pm.
The Intermediate/Advanced class will be Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm
Both classes will be at the La Honda Puente Office, 8865 La Honda Rd Suite 4.
Donations gladly accepted!
Any questions please contact Lizeth Hernandez at LHernandez@mypuente.org

Save the date for Parenting Sunday!

Sunday, March 12 in Pescadero will be Parenting Sunday! There will be workshops, speakers, and lots of great info for parents from 10:30-4pm. Parents will learn about developmental changes in children K-12 and the challenges they will encounter. Topics addressed will be Social Media, Child Abuse Prevention Education, Alcohol and other drugs, Developmental Milestones, Relational Aggression, Parenting Strategies and education about trauma and depression. Lunch will be provided and there will also be a soccer tournament for children to play in while parents participate. There will also be a raffle! For more information or questions, contact Iris at IFernandez@mypuente.org or call 650-879-1691
Meditation class in La Honda (Puente continued)
Tuesdays in February from 1-2pm
Public Health Nurse Lily Broberg will be leading guided Instruction on Sitting meditation, walking meditation, body scan meditation and mindful eating. Join any or all classes! Questions can be directed to lbroberg@smcgov.org

Group Meditation in La Honda
In addition to meditation class, Health Promoter Samantha Warner will be leading group meditation on Saturdays starting February 25th at the La Honda office from 9-10am. All are welcome. For any questions contact Swaran@mypuente.org or call 650-747-0248

Health Insurance, Covered California, CalFresh and other benefits available at Puente!
Know someone that needs health insurance or food stamps, or need it for yourself and/or your family? Tired of driving over the hill to do everything? Puente can help!
Appointments are available every weekday including evening appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Pescadero.
We offer enrollment into and support for the following programs, and others:
-Medi-Cal, Covered California, ACE & DHC (for low-income undocumented individuals), and CalFresh (food stamps)
Call 650-879-1691 for more information, or to make an appointment. Or, drop on by and visit the Puente office in La Honda, if you see the door open. We are next to the Post Office!

Light Pollution in La Honda (continued from pg. 1)
The International Dark-Sky Association explains more in Light Pollution Effects on Wildlife and Ecosystems, “Plants and animals depend on Earth’s daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and plants.” (http://darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/)

Even our spectacular redwoods and coastal live oak can be adversely effected, as described in Missing the Dark: Health Effects of Light Pollution.

“The ecologic effects of artificial light have been well documented. Light pollution has been shown to affect both flora and fauna. For instance, prolonged exposure to artificial light prevents many trees from adjusting to seasonal variations, according to Winslow Briggs’s chapter on plant responses in the 2006 book Ecological Consequences of Artificial Night Lighting. This, in turn, has implications for the wildlife that depend on trees for their natural habitat. Research on insects, turtles, birds, fish, reptiles, and other wildlife species shows that light pollution can alter behaviors, foraging areas, and breeding cycles, and not just in urban centers but in rural areas as well.” (NIH’s Environmental Health Perspectives, http://bit.ly/2jy4vV8)

For humans, the negative consequences of light pollution may not be as severe as they are for wildlife, but it can still disrupt our lives in a way we may have hoped to escape by living in La Honda. When you can’t sleep, even with your curtains closed, because a nearby porch light continues to burn into the wee hours of the morning, you’re experiencing a disruption in melatonin production caused by light pollution. Melatonin as we’ve all come to know, is a naturally occurring hormone which is released by darkness and inhibited by light. It serves many functions in the human body, primarily regulating the daily cycles of our systemic activities. Reduction or elimination of light at night can help maintain a robust melatonin rhythm (http://bit.ly/2kXM9Jy).

But aside from the negative health consequences of light pollution, there is the loss of the simple beauty of the night sky, with its cascade of stars, lightly illuminated clouds and a half moon that is lost when those natural elements are masked by blazing porch lights and blinking Christmas lights.

No doubt, porch lights illuminating your path home are useful, but they can be turned off once you step inside. Motion detector lights may make you feel safer, but they can be adjusted to be triggered only by large critters and humans, not by a flying bat or creeping cat. And Christmas lights are delightful in December, but less special as the year goes on. Finally, to really take the light pollution down a notch, we can all choose warmer and softer yellow bulbs that will shed needed light but without that stadium parking lot look and make it just a little easier for the wildlife around us to continue to live, breed and sleep as nature meant them to.
2016 Real Estate Year in Review
by Karin Bird and Scott Hayes, Alain-Pinel Realtors

What a year! - As we do every year we summarized the past year of Real Estate sales in the area. Often times our feeling of the market and the numbers line up, but sometimes they don't. We do this to help you be better informed about your market which will ultimately help you make a more educated decision when it comes to buying or selling Real Estate.

La Honda - The La Honda area, like many rural areas is not an easy one for comps. You have small cottages and large ranches, so the comp numbers can be all over the place, but you can get a general trend usually.

This year the actual sales price was down by about 5% but on average the homes sold for 1% over their asking price. The median list price was $564,000 which leads me to believe that most of the inventory this year was on the lower end (who would have thought half a million dollars would ever be on the lower end of the market). Given that, the days on market were up 36% going from 41 to 64 and the number of sales was almost half of last year, from 27 to 14.

You can see from the chart below that the number of homes that didn’t sell is rising, but still below the ones that did. You can tell what prices do when this trend flips.

We really think La Honda’s time has come if we can get some more inventory. The median price per sq ft of $348 vs Redwood City of $739, and the commute time to some of the largest tech companies during rush hour La Honda only adds about 10 min-ish, it seems like a no brainer.

Conclusion - So what are the takeaways from this?
- Have we hit a peak? It looks like we may be turning a corner, but the Spring will tell.
- Expired/canceled and withdrawn properties are starting to rise, which may slow price appreciation.
- Inventories are still pretty tight, which is good for sellers as long as we are priced right in the market. New listings are getting stuck in the pipeline due to our intense winter.
- The traffic in the Bay Area along with huge price increases on the flats are now making buyers reexamine our area as a viable alternative.
- If you are thinking about selling now may be a good time. Contact your Realtor (we live locally and would be eager to help you) for a consultation on what you can do to stand out in this market, if the market does slow, your home needs to be at its best for you to get the best price. There are several factors that could still slow the market, including rising interest rates.

Just Say No to Herbicide Spraying
by Lynnette Vega
Do you need “No Spray” signs? For free, laminated signs and signs on wooden posts, please come by the La Honda Post Office, 10:30 am til 12:30 pm on Saturday, Feb. 11 and Saturday, March 11. You can download the signs anytime on our website and to contact us for more signs or to join our private email list for latest updates: www.protectourwatershed.org

Caltrans starts broadcast herbicide spraying along Hwys. 84, 35, 1, 280, and 92 at this time of year, so have your signs posted NOW, please!

Caltrans’ Public Information Officer Gidget Navarro wrote, "We will notify residents and businesses prior to spraying..." (Nov.10th), so put yourself on her contact list : gidget.navarro@dot.ca.gov 510-286-5574, office 510-715-8770, cell Let her know what you think about this issue and that we need notifications before, during and after spraying for warning all people using the state roads! Better yet, END this unnecessary toxic risk to our lives, wildlife, and watershed, and just mow the roadside vegetation (as done on our County roads since 2012)! If you witness any broadcast roadside spraying, please try to photograph, and let us know on our website, thank you! Protect Our Watershed SMC protectourwatershed.org
The Western Wheelers Bicycle Club by Vickie Romo

[Vickie Romo is a neighbor and La Honda Rest Stop captain for the (WW) Western Wheelers Bicycle Club.]

According to the Flat Tyre Newsletter of the (WW) Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, Randall Braun, Sequoia Chair and Robert Sexton, President of WW say, “Our goal for the Sequoia is to be known as a valuable event for the Coastside community ... We'll work to create Bridges - new methods to raise funds, bring support and make new connections with these two organizations [Fire Brigade and Puente], as well as local businesses. The first is Puente, www.mypuente.org. Puente supports the Coastside farm worker family community in every way imaginable. Second is the La Honda Fire Brigade, www.lahondafire.org - whenever anyone needs help over there, these people respond...the Sequoia route is a tour of the coastal range and the towns of La Honda and Pescadero are a key part of what makes it special. This year, the Sequoia is partnering with the La Honda Fire Brigade… and Puente ... Both of these organizations are loved within their communities and we're proud to work with them... We'll be taking donations on behalf of our two partner organizations (Puente and the La Honda Fire Brigade)....as in the past, we again thank Charlie Catania for use of the La Honda Center lot for the La Honda Rest Stop open from 7 to 10 a.m. on June 4, Sequoia Sunday for 1,000 cyclists spread across four scenic routes. More information is here: https://westernwheelersbicycleclub.wildapricot.org/event-2431620?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=6/10/2017

Help the La Honda Voice
Interested in writing or helping in other ways to keep this paper going? This paper has been created and published entirely by volunteers of the Community and printed by the generosity of Puente. Contact Bob Dougherty at 747.0102 or voice@lahonda.com

The La Honda Voice News Sources
The La Honda Voice uses a variety of sources, including articles written by local writers exclusively for this publication and short excerpts from other sources. Links are always provided for these other sources and the intention is for the reader to read the entire article from the original source. It is important that the La Honda Voice readers support these other publications!
We would like to let everyone in Cuesta know that not only are the folks whose properties were damaged by the slide in our hearts and minds, but also, our thoughts and best wishes go out to the whole community. If there is any service or support that we can give you, please don’t hesitate to call. Gail Hafelfinger, 650-996-5354, BRE#01338252. Dante Razzini 650-868-2593, BRE#01087277. Intero Real Estate Services, La Honda.
LEARNING STRATEGIES
HAVE YOUR CHILD WORK ON ACADEMICS
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SPECIAL REDUCED LA HONDA RATES

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FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE

Victoria Skinner, Director, Learning Strategies
phone/fax (650) 747-9651
victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com
www.creative-learning-strategies.com
# February 2017

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<td><strong>The La Honda Voice</strong></td>
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<td>2 <strong>Yoga with Mary</strong></td>
<td>3 <strong>Puente open</strong></td>
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<td><em>- 8:00p open session</em>*</td>
<td><em>Mary, 6-7:30p, Clubhouse</em>*</td>
<td><em>open in La Honda, 2-5</em>*</td>
<td><strong>San Gregorio Food, 10-3</strong></td>
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<td>Zumba @ LHES 6-7pm with Siobhan</td>
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<td><strong>San Gregorio Store:</strong></td>
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<td>Cooper @7-9pm</td>
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<td>Atkinson/Bundy Browne,11-6</td>
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<td>5 <strong>Second Harvest Food, OLR Church, 12-1</strong></td>
<td>6 <strong>Yoga with Mary @ Clubhouse, 4-5:30p Intro to Spanish,</strong> 6pm, LH Puente <strong>Puente open in La Honda, 2-5pm</strong></td>
<td>7 <strong>Bookmobile, 11:45-1:15pm @ LHES; 1:45-2:30 @ Market Inter Spanish, 6:30pm LH Puente</strong> Med 1-2p</td>
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<td>12 <strong>Second Harvest Food 12-1 San Gregorio Store:</strong> Flying Sylvas and John Gang, 11-5</td>
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<td>19 <strong>Second Harvest Food,12-1 San Gregorio Store:</strong> Nervous Pinatas and San Bruno Mountain Bovs. 11-5</td>
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<td>21 <strong>Bookmobile, 12-2pm @ Market Inter Spanish, 6:30pm LH Puente</strong> Meditation 1-2p</td>
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<td>26 <strong>Second Harvest Food, 12-1 San Gregorio Store:</strong> Jay Howlett &amp; Jon Wittenburg, 11-5</td>
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