



# San Juan Canyon News

An occasional publication of the San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust

Volume II, Issue I

September 2005

## News in the Canyon...

- Campbell looking into building a partial road off Monte Cresta to build a house.
- City Council sponsored Initiative Measure for the November 8, 2005 ballot requiring voter approval of any modifications which would allow increased development in HRO-1, HRO-2, and HRO-3 zoning districts. See page 2 for more details.

## Board Members

Carol Rossi—President

George Kranen—Secretary

Hartley Laughead

Al Bullock

Deke Johnson

Kim Beauchamp - Executive Director, Treasurer

## Help Save Belmont's Beautiful San Juan Canyon!

We need you! We need your neighbors! We need your family and friends! We need the greater Belmont community if we are going to keep the beautiful wilderness that surrounds us pristine and accessible for public use.

What continues to set Belmont apart from many of the other cities around us is the 100+ acres of beautiful untouched nature we call San Juan Canyon.

This pristine nature continues to be at risk for over development by private land owners.

Please understand, the San Juan Canyon Trust is not here to take away people's right to build on their land. Rather, we are here to acquire land at fair prices and ensure public access for recreational use of the Canyon.

To do this, we need to raise money so we can afford to offer land owners reasonable rates for their property.

There have been opportunities for the Trust to purchase land but

with lack of funds and difficulty gaining access to grants, we have limited resources. In addition, the rising cost of land in the current market has made it more difficult for us.

We need your help. If you're interested in donating or volunteering, please email us at: [info@sanjuancanyon.org](mailto:info@sanjuancanyon.org).



## A Message from the Trust President

I want to extend my greetings as President of the San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust to all Belmont residents. The Board is made up of concerned Belmont community members, who meet monthly to discuss Canyon-related issues. The Trust is a non-

profit organization in the State of California. Our mission is to work with the landowners and the community to preserve open space for the enjoyment of all residents. Recently, we added a part-time Executive Director, who will help facilitate upcoming projects. We are

also looking to increase our Board with new members. I encourage you to consider joining our efforts by either volunteering or by joining the Board. For more information, please visit us at [www.sanjuancanyon.org](http://www.sanjuancanyon.org) or email us at [info@sanjuancanyon.org](mailto:info@sanjuancanyon.org).

# Measure F Initiative on November Ballot

The Belmont City Council has placed an initiative, Measure F, on the November Ballot. Specifically, the passage of Measure F will require that any new subdivision request for **more units than is legally allowed** by the current zoning ordinance must be approved by the voters. Measure F only applies to un-subdivided property in the San Juan Canyon and the Western Hills above Carlmont High School. This measure does not

impact remodels or additions on existing structures.

For example, if there is a 10 acre parcel of un-subdivided land, today's current zoning allows a developer to subdivide the 10 acre parcel into 6 houses. To divide the same parcel into more houses, the 5 member City Council would have to vote to approve it. With the passage of Measure F, the developer

cannot build more than 6 houses on that parcel of land without the vote of the people of Belmont. The developer requesting more units than allowed must pay for that portion of the election.

Similar measures have already been passed in other communities on the Peninsula. For more information on Measure F you can go to our website and click on the link to Measure F.

## Keeping San Juan Canyon Safe From Fire

The canyon is beautiful but it is loaded with properties which haven't been trimmed or cleared in years. The fire department simply doesn't have the manpower or budget to monitor, control, or help clear these areas.

It appears the question isn't "if" but rather "when" will the canyon catch fire. Until the city and county force land owners to keep their land relatively free of over-

growth, they will remain full and continue to be a major risk and liability.

When a fire breaks out, hundreds of homes will be at risk. The amount of fuel (over growth, dead, fallen trees, etc.) is so high, it won't take much for the whole

area to catch fire if and when such a travesty happens.

Please do your part and clear your area. The San Mateo County Fire Department has issued the new guidelines stating the minimum clearance around structures increases from 30 ft. to 100 ft.

*"The question isn't 'if' but rather 'when' will the canyon catch on fire."*

## The Baby Deer are here... Spots and all



## What is the San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust?

During the last 30 or so years, ever since Sugar Loaf Mountain in San Mateo was kept as open space, there has been action to try to preserve the section of Belmont adjacent to it known as San Juan Canyon.

It almost happened when our City Planner presented a plan to transfer the building rights to a cluster of houses and keep the rest open. This plan did not materialize.

Later, action by a retiring Planning Commissioner caused the Council to appoint a committee to try again. This resulted in the creation of the San Juan Area Plan that was adopted by the Council. This laid out specific rules that must be applied to any request to build.

Following further study, the San Juan Preservation Trust (a non-profit group) was established and is working to maintain as

much of the area as open space. Belmont is 4 square miles (4 X 640 = 2,560 acres). Open Space in Belmont is roughly 150 acres in size, or less than 6% of the total.

In order to succeed as fully as possible, it is necessary that the residents support these efforts.

## Are there really Deer resistant plants?

Few plants are truly deer resistant but many are undesirable enough to deer that they will leave them alone as long as other food is available.

During droughts and other food-shortage situations, deer can become more hungry and may eat plants they would normally avoid. With this in mind, there are some plants that the deer generally don't eat that you could try:

### Shrubs

Lavender, Lantana, Mexican Buckeye, Pampas Grass, Rosemary, Wax Myrtle, Juniper, California Poppy, Oleander

### Vines

Star Jasmine, Bougainvillea, Honey-suckle

### Ground Cover

Vinca minor, Vinca Major, Asiatic

Jasmine, Thyme, Santolina, Spearmint, Stone Crop

### Flowers

Black-eyed Susan, Begonia, Black-foot Daisy, Cosmos, Daffodil, Lavender, Mexican Brush Sage, Periwinkle, Shasta Daisy, Verbena, Iris

You can find a larger list on the internet.

[www.gardenadventures.com/deer](http://www.gardenadventures.com/deer)

## Clean up day....

Looking for an opportunity to include the kids in an environmental awareness activity to clean up our beaches and waterways? Come join the San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust in helping Belmont clean up the local creeks in our community on September 17th, from 9am-12pm. Volunteers will collect and categorize the trash around the local creeks and have it weighed. This information is then

collated statewide and nationally.

Belmont has been involved in participating in this national clean up day through the organization Save Our Shores. The mission of Save Our Shores is to protect and conserve the marine ecosystems of California's central coast for generations. Please visit their website at [www.saveourshores.org](http://www.saveourshores.org). What a difference we can make for our eco-

system. In the past, the group has met behind Lunardi's, but check our new website at [www.sanjuancanyon.org](http://www.sanjuancanyon.org) for the latest information and email us if you're interested in attending. You may also call us with any questions at 594-2999. See you at the annual clean up day, sponsored by Save Our Shores, on Sept. 17th from 9am-12pm.

**NEWS OF THE CANYON FROM YOUR BELMONT NEIGHBORS.**

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U.S. Postage Paid  
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**How Can You Help?**

**A membership contribution will allow you to receive a biannual newsletter, email updates regarding upcoming meetings, and volunteer opportunities.**

I wish to join the San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust Membership Group. My 2005-2006 membership contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Member \$20.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporter \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustainer: \$100.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Tax Deductible

Contribution (car, boat, recreational vehicle)

Make check payable to: San Juan Canyon Preservation Trust

I would like to volunteer my skills in order to help save the San Juan Canyon:

\_\_\_\_\_ Accountant

\_\_\_\_\_ Tax Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Writer

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Tree Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain)

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_