

LOMA VISTA FARM NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 2008

LOMA VISTA FARM PROUDLY ANNOUNCES GARDENING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2008! PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP TODAY! - February 12, 2008

Loma Vista Farm announces gardening classes for you that focus on the connections between healthy plants, soil and most importantly, you! Loma Vista Farm is excited to offer Gardening Workshops to the public. It's an exciting new way to learn tips about gardening and plant care from a certified Horticulturist. Rita LeRoy will teach classes on topics of interest from indoor plants to gardening out doors.

Gardening Workshop Schedule:

- March 14, 2008 - Healthy Soil for Healthy Plants
- May 9, 2008 - Accessible Gardening
- July 11, 2008 - Weeds, Disease and Bugs! Oh my!
- Sept 12, 2008 - Grow Yourself Healthy
- Nov 14, 2008 - Plant Propagation

Learn more about the workshop details by visiting "The Greenhouse" button. Classes are held at Loma Vista Farm from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Limited seats are available. Please call or email at least one week ahead of class to register, or earlier. Suggested donations are \$5.00 per person per class.

Loma Vista's greenhouse left in tatters by storms - February 12, 2008, Times-Herald, Vallejo, CA

By Tony Burchyns/Times-Herald staff writer, Article Launched: 02/12/2008 07:04:43 AM PST



MORRIS VELASCO, Loma Vista Farm's treasurer, looks over temporary repairs to the Loma Vista greenhouse, which was damaged by recent storms. Farm staffer Rita LeRoy, at rear, conducts a telephone interview. (Mike Jory/Times-Herald)

Storm winds huffed and puffed and blew Loma Vista Farm's greenhouse down last month. Now volunteers are appealing for donations to help make repairs.

The longtime popular destination for elementary school field trips needs \$6,000 to \$8,000 to fix things up, said volunteer Morris Velasco.

"The whole top was off," Velasco said of the effects of January's worst storm. "It was laying off to the side on top of a tree. Fortunately we were able to get some volunteers out to give us a hand to put it back up."

But that fix is just temporary, Velasco said. Another windy day could blow the ripped tarps away again, he said.

Farm staff member Rita LeRoy said the 110-foot-long greenhouse is used year-round by visiting children. Additionally, special education students regularly visit to learn about gardening.

"Everything starts in the greenhouse," LeRoy said. "It's the heart of the horticulture program."

Since the 1970s, the greenhouse - the only one on the farm - has played a vital role, LeRoy said. "But if another storm comes, it could rip the plastic off," she said. "There are a lot of holes in the tarp."

While the farm's budget includes a small emergency fund to care for sick animals, more money is needed to fix the storm damages, said the nonprofit's president John Muras.

Muras said a bulk mailing to more than 2,000 farm supporters was issued Friday, appealing for donations. As part of the solution, he said farm staff hope to sell more tickets to the March 15 pasta feed fundraiser at the Vallejo Elks Lodge.

"Three hundred tickets is normal," Muras said of the annual event, now in its fifth year. "We're hoping to sell between 500 and 600."

In a year when farm staff hope to replace an aging cow barn, repairing the greenhouse - which was just refurbished last September - could be a major setback, LeRoy said.

"It's a big expense and a lot of labor," LeRoy said. "And we really need to spend the money we have now to replace the barn."

For more information about the pasta feed, or to make donations online, visit lomavistafarm.org. Checks may be mailed to Loma Vista Farm, 150 Rainier Ave., Vallejo, CA 94589.

- E-mail Tony Burchyns at tburchyns@thnewsnet.com or call 553-6831.

Grateful at Loma Vista - February 12, 2008, Times-Herald, Vallejo, CA

Article Launched: 02/12/2008 07:09:18 AM PST

Thanks to Scouts and Elk Members for saving Loma Vista Farm Greenhouse.

On Sunday morning, Jan. 27, we received a message from Cal and Beverly Calvert of Loma Vista Farm. Upon returning the message we were informed of the storm damage at the farm and that the farm had lost the plastic roof and screening that covers the greenhouse. I made some phone calls to Elk friends and they made some calls and by noon time we had assembled at least 15 volunteers to come repair the damage and try and save the greenhouse and plants.

The Loma Vista Farm Board members thank: Patti Sweet and son, Brian; Venture Crew 222; Robert Mangosing and son, Adam; Lance Johannessen and son, Patrick; Mike and Kelly Rettinhouse and sons, Garrett and Patrick and their friends from Troop 64. Board Members: Merry Serecki, Morris and Barbara Velasco, Beverly Calvert, John Muras, President of the Board and myself, Arlene Hoffman. It was wet, muddy, windy and a dirty job getting the 100 foot plastic back up on this very high greenhouse roof and securing it and making the necessary repairs; only to have to start over again and cover the greenhouse with the black 150-foot screening necessary to protect the plants. We also added six heavy rope securing lines to keep it in place and to make sure the wind does not lift it again. It is a quick fix until the farm can afford replacing the quite heavy plastic material, which the Lions and Elks just replaced last year at a cost of \$3,000.

Special thanks to all who responded. The Greenhouse has been a part of the Loma Vista Farm for some 30 years and losing it would have been an added disaster to the farm needs of rebuilding and replacing some housing for the animals and the earlier loss of our kitchen and stove this past year, which will be very costly to replace. The friends of Loma Vista Farm could not do without its wonderful scouting friends and Elk volunteers. We wish we had more like you. Thank you one and all.

We hope the Vallejo community will come forward and support our upcoming Pasta Dinner on March 15, the spring and fall festivals, and our added Wine Tasting Evening in October.

All the money the board and volunteers raised goes to our Summer School on the Farm Program for children, to help feed and house the animals and the general farm repairs.

Arlene Hoffman, Vallejo

**CHRISTINE GOMEZ JOINS THE STAFF AT LOMA VISTA FARM - WELCOME! -
February 8, 2008**

Christine Gomez joined the staff at Loma Vista Farm today, bright and early at 8:30 a.m. Christine is a Para Educator at the farm. She will be working from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dolly McInnes, principal at Loma Vista Elementary School, and Mel Jordan, VCUSD central offices, came down to welcome Christine to Loma Vista Farm. Christine was also greeted by Rita LeRoy (Farmer Rita) and Morris Velasco, Vice President of Friends of Loma Vista Farm. Loma Vista Farm is delighted and excited to welcome Christine to the Farm.
