



Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

February 2024 – Issue 35.1

SPREAD THE SPIRIT



MOTIVATING – REFLECTING - ENERGIZING

Last month I wrote about New Year's resolutions versus goals. One of the goals I set for myself was to get to know more of my neighbors. My involvement with the Bunco Babes and the Chantarelle Book Club is helping me accomplish that goal. I also set a goal to volunteer to help my Sonoma community. I was asked to head up the marketing committee for the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club – a 123-year-old organization that helped create the Sonoma Town Plaza and was instrumental in starting our library with the assistance of Andrew Carnegie back in the early 1900s. Who knew? They have a lovely Clubhouse on First Street, a block away from the Plaza. They're a well-kept secret. But, with the help from my marketing committee, we're going to change that!

Now, they have a program where they will deliver muffins to senior woman living alone.

Lovely idea, but they don't have enough volunteers. I mentioned that we have some single senior women that might really benefit from a visit here in Chantarelle. If we get some volunteers, then we can initiate that program here. Interested? Let me know.

Volunteering feels good! When I was on the Board of Directors for the American Marketing Association, I found my work for them very rewarding. I did marketing communications and helped mentor young marketers just starting their careers. As a result of the Board's team efforts, the San Francisco Chapter won "Turn Around Chapter of the Year" and I won the "Volunteer of the Year" award. Phew! It was a lot of work but oh, so rewarding!

I know there are many of you who already do a lot of volunteer work. Tell us about it and let us know how we can help. What do you love doing and would venture to do for free? Think about it!

--Valerie Camarda

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The year for our HOA has started off uneventfully which is the way I like it. I was not able to attend the Board meeting on the 16th, but from what I have been told it went smoothly and everything was taken care of. We have our annual meeting in March, which includes the election of 3 directors and a Board election for the Officers next year. I am still hoping for some new neighbors to step forward and volunteer for a position on the Board. This means any of you ladies, as well as the men, can apply!! We need some new talent, and new ideas, to help keep our wonderful Community thriving.

The HOA is important to all the homeowners here for a lot of reasons. The Board manages the finances which set your dues and keeps up

the physical appearances. Keeping up the look of the neighborhood keeps up our property values and makes this the place we feel comfortable and proud to be living in. So please take a little time to think about how you can contribute to helping our HOA.

We are starting the update to the Directory for next year so if there are changes to your household, changes to phone numbers or email addresses please send updates to me by the 15th of February so we can get these changes made. Email changes to: steverogers10@sbcglobal.net or drop in the mailbox at 165 Saint James.

I hope to see you at the First Friday in the Clubhouse on February 2nd!

--Steve Rogers

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023 END OF YEAR REPORT

There were no reserve expenses in December, so the amount in the reserve fund ended the year in decent shape at \$538,903. Although this is about \$10,000 more than what the reserve study projected starting 2024 with, this would not have been sufficient to prevent our "percent funded" figure from falling to a precipitous 46% by 2029 (contingent upon adhering to the reserve expenditures projected over the next few years). That's the main reason for the \$20 increase in the HOA dues starting this year. Of course, the issue of rising costs also factored into the dues increase. As mentioned previously, the last increase was in January of 2018, so we had six stable years of reasonable and consistent homeowners' fees. Current HOA dues for Creekside, Temelec and Country Meadows are \$240, \$220 and \$175 respectively.

For total expenses, we were about \$3,904 over budget for the year, an improvement of about \$2,000 from the previous month.

Our operating cash stands at about \$33,276. Subtracting the current liabilities leaves us with ready cash of about \$16,660. Although this amount is less than what we've experienced in

previous years, it's still a comfortable amount with which to begin the new year.

There were four delinquent accounts at the end of December for a total of \$3,337. Of the two homeowners having the most arrears, one has paid up the amount owed and is no longer in arrears. The other has not, and so the Board will have voted on placing a lien on that property at the January 16, 2024 Board meeting. The other two delinquencies are relatively new and Strong Management is in contact with both parties.

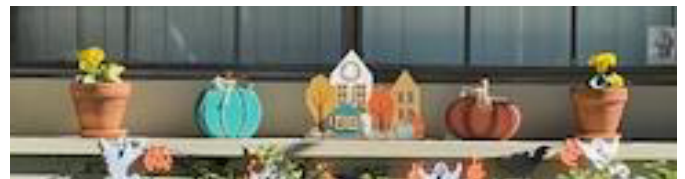
--Ron Yamato

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

Spring often starts in February in Sonoma. Look for buds bursting, sometimes when there are leaves still falling from other trees.

By the time this is published, I will have had 17 dead, diseased or dying trees removed and 19 stumps - twelve white birch, four ornamental pear and three liquid amber trees. I'm very happy to say all this work is being done for \$7,300. Next bid was \$18,000. Getting bids in winter worked to our advantage. I continue to look for the best bang for the buck.

Once this is completed, I will work on a plan to plant trees, shrubs, anything that likes to live in Sonoma and can survive on less water. I know the trees get water from the grass, but if we have another bad drought, we may have to stop watering the lawns or reduce the water or remove the lawns. So, I want everything that is planted to have a long and productive life despite the weather. Anything in front of the Clubhouse has to be short to allow the sun to heat our pool. I'm also looking to plant blooming plants and trees.



I noticed something that I think is worth addressing. I love the ceramic pots and other planting vessels in the front yards of several neighbors. It shows the wonderful creativity

and ingenuity of our residents. If you have an empty space or hole in your hedge, feel free to fill a pot with herbs or plants. These additions will give our houses variety and reflect individual personalities.



--Tom Flinn

415-621-7572 thomasflinn@gmail.com

CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS

Since we didn't have a First Friday in January it's time for us to get together and reconnect. The February First Friday will be held beginning at 5:30 on February 2nd. We'll have a Valentine's Day theme, so hearts of all kinds are welcome! Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage and let's enjoy each other's company and catch up. Hope to see you there!

--Lois Rogers, Social Chair

OUR NEW CHANTARELLE NEIGHBORS

Hi to all our Chantarelle neighbors! **No new neighbors this month.**

--Russelle Johnson - 707-935-8658

rxrjohnson@yahoo.com

--Peggy Owens - 707-343-7087

powens2@juno.com

--Shelley Lawrence - 951-202-0459

pashelaw@gmail.com

--Debby Bonamassa - 315-725-8047

debbonamassa@yahoo.com

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

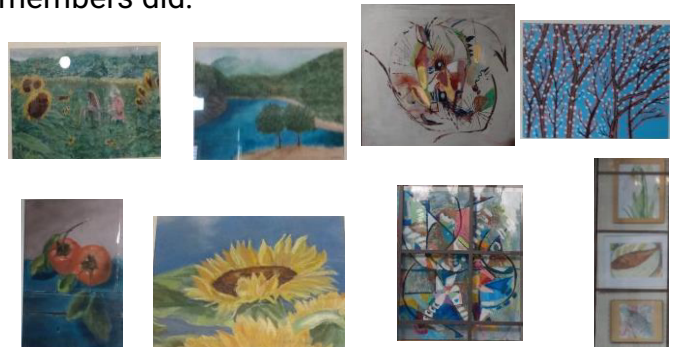
The Sunshine Committee is up and running again! As the chair of the committee, I would like to recruit some volunteers to help. The Committee will reach out to our neighbors who are ill, injured, hospitalized or have experienced

a death in the family. We're a tight knit community and need to help one another whenever we can. If you would like to help or know of anyone in need, please contact Jackie O'Niell at 707-292-0261.

--Jackie O'Niell

ART CLUB – FEBRUARY EXHIBITS

We hope our community neighbors enjoyed the January Art exhibition as much as we club members did.



John's hint of Spring with beautiful color combinations and balanced movement.

Heather's praying for Ukraine visualized in her peaceful sweet sunflowers,

Mike's hiking aspirations from memory of the misty lake,

Shelley's magical abstract painting of golden dragon,

June's bright red orange color of yummy looking persimmons painting.

and Heather's other powerfully growing sunflowers were all in the clubhouse.

Home window galleries showed Shelley's joyful Abstract painting and May's favorite fish paintings and January Birth Flower Snowdrops.

The February art exhibition theme will be Valentine's Day and more.

In the Clubhouse you will see the following paintings on display:

A Flower for Valentines Day by Heather Dahlberg

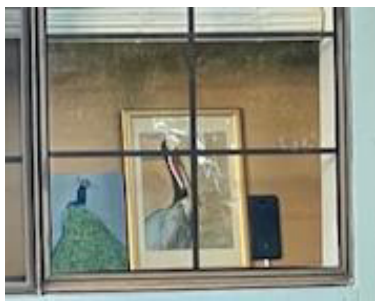
Mr. Valentine by John Dodgshon

A Garden for Lovebirds by June DeBusk

Got Everything...hmm? by Mike Hashii

A painting TBD by Shelley Lawrence

We have two homes with Window Displays:



Untitled by Shelley Lawrence @ 121 S Temelec,
February Birth Flower, and *Lovely house with you!* by May Hashii @ 141 S Temelec

--Mike Hashii, Art Steward

BOOK CLUB NEWS

We met in January to discuss ***Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah**. The majority of the group really enjoyed the novel and many have read (and recommend!) several of her other books.

The February selection is the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner, ***March*, by Geraldine Brooks**. This novel retells **Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women***, from the point of view of the father, who went off to fight in the American Civil War. Doesn't it sound interesting?

We will meet in the Clubhouse on February 20, from 4:00-5:30. As always, we welcome any interested neighbors to attend or, if you prefer, just read the book for your own pleasure.

If you have any questions, please call or text Marybeth (940-290-4757) or Barbara (415-377-8712).

--Marybeth Jacobsen

Jacobsenmarybeth@gmail.com

CLUBHOUSE NOTES

All Chantarelle HOA members are welcome to join in fun activities with your neighbors. If you have an interest in joining a Clubhouse activity, please contact the club coordinators for the groups with scheduled activities:

Water Aerobics/Flex Exercise

Peggy Owens – 707-343-7087

Bunco Babes

Russelle Johnson – 707-935-8658

Mexican Train Dominoes

Peggy Owens – 707-343-7087

Art Club

Mike Hashii – 415-686-5512

Poker Night

Ron Yamato – 415-305-1400

Book Club

Marybeth Jacobsen - 949-290-4757

Barbara White - 415-377-8712.

The days and times for those groups with scheduled activities are located on the calendar at the back of this newsletter.

If you are interested in knowing more about starting a new club activity or renting the Clubhouse facility for your next family and friends event, please contact Linda Jackson 415-987-0021 for more details.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club had a concert on January 13 featuring well-known local singing group MaMaMa and acapella group Voices in My Head. A good time was had by all, despite the rain. Attending the concert were Len and Debby Bonamassa, Valerie Camarda and Terri Barnett.



"TUCK IN" WITH TOM

In British slang, to "tuck in" means to eat enthusiastically or hungrily. I have found four restaurants where I like to tuck in and I think you will want to, too.



**Buck's Place - 401
Grove Street in El
Verano - [www.bucks-
place.com](http://www.bucks-place.com)**

As of now, Buck's Place is not taking orders over the phone. You must come in at 5 pm sharp if you want to be first in

line for take-out. Ted and I went there on a Friday; we were there 5 minutes early, but you can't order 'til 5 pm.

The friendly bar opens at 3 pm, so you can come in for a few drinks before dinner. At 5 you can order food from the bar area too. This is a well-lit, long bar with tables in



addition to bar service. The bar is decorated with vintage pieces, including a Four Roses advertisement. Offerings are expansive, including a variety of beers on tap, as well as alcoholic cider. Something I've never seen before was a wood-clad cabinet that when opened revealed chilled glasses. Now, that's a good idea!

We have had two different pizzas, most recently "Grandma Pie." It's a delicious square pizza with a thick but airy crust topped with mozzarella, sharp cheddar, parmesan, tomato sauce and oregano. I've had house-made meatballs, sausage and pepperoni toppings, all excellent and freshly made. It's pizza heaven!

We've had their thin crust pie, which was also delicious. There are specialty pizzas like burrata, sausage and fennel, spicy garlic and red onion, bacon a la vodka, and upside down

arrabiatta. White pizzas include mortadella, potato skin and artichoke bianco.

They have very tasty salads, too.

I look forward to tasting their plated dinners, especially Pork Milanese and Meatballs and Polenta. If you like Straus soft serve, you're in luck. They offer vanilla and chocolate, served in stoneware diner cups and saucers, as well as sundaes and affogato.

I love Glen Ellen Star pizza, especially Tomato Soup Pie, but these are earthier, cheesier, hearty homemade style pizzas made in a 4 star restaurant format. Some of the best pizza I have ever "tucked in" to.

Buck's has an extensive patio and promises live bands. If you come at 5 you will easily get a table in their large dining room.

--Tom Flinn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Rogers, President
707-771-9290

Tom Flinn, Vice-President
415-621-7572

Ron Yamato, Treasurer
415-305-1400

Cindy Adamson, Secretary
707-931-8832

Pat Chace, Director
707-935-7301

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Strong Property Management
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Paul Strong 707-933-9151

Email: paul@strongmgt.com

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From Stellar Living

While your life might look different now than it did when you were younger, it's never too late to set goals and improve yourself. These new year's resolutions for seniors will prove that you don't ever have to settle for things the way they are. You still have the power to improve your life, your future, and yourself, no matter what stage of life you're in. Here are 10 ideas for New Year's resolutions for seniors.

1. Eat more nutritious foods.

Your health matters now more than ever. Adding more nutrient-dense foods to your diet can help you feel better and have better energy.

2. Move joyfully.

Find a method of movement or exercise you truly enjoy and incorporate it into your daily habits. Physical activity is especially important for older people as it supports heart health, strengthens joints, and reduces the risk of injury from falls.

3. Learn something new.

What have you always wanted to do, but never had the time for? A language, sport, or hobby? Learn it now! Set a goal to keep learning this year.

4. Make new friends or spend more time with old ones.

Feeling lonely and isolated actually has serious health concerns. Loneliness increases the risk of heart attack and stroke as much as smoking! So set a goal either to make new friends or keep in regular contact with old ones.

5. Organize your life.

If you need to create a will, organize your finances, clean out the garage, or coordinate your medical records, this is the year to do it! What can you organize this year that will make your life easier in the future?

6. Sleep better.

Stop settling for low-quality sleep! Find solutions to sleep problems you might have, create a better nighttime routine, or talk to your doctor about insomnia or other concerns you might have about your sleep.

7. Stay creative.

Find creative outlets for your mind this year. You can try a new form of art, like watercolor painting or sculpting, or take up an old hobby you haven't visited in a while. Creativity is important for brain function, so prioritize being creative.

8. Preserve your life story.

Your grandchildren and great-grandchildren want to know about your life, all of it, including the parts before they were born. Memorialize your life story in some way for your descendants to read or watch. You could scrapbook, compile photo albums, write a memoir, or record videos of yourself talking about your life.

9. Learn new technology.

It can seem pointless or impossible to keep up with technology these days, but failing to do so means you're missing out on ways to connect with the people who matter most to you. Try to learn and keep up with today's tech, so you can continue to experience everything good the world has to offer.

10. Be more authentic.

We sometimes spend most of our lives *not* having the hard conversations and *not* saying how we really feel about things. Now is the time to be truly honest with all those around you. Be your most authentic self. What do you have to lose?

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024.

Happy Valentine's Day. Remember to love yourself.

--Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

powens2@juno.com



WISH YOU HAD SEEN THIS?



POOL IS CLOSED

If you are at the Clubhouse/pool and have children who are minors using the bathroom,
please supervise them so that the bathroom remains clean.

CHANTARELLE WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Flex 4:00-5:00		Flex 4:00-5:00		Flex 4:00-5:00

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 First Friday 5:30 to	3
4	5	6 Bunco 1:00-4:00	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	14 Valentines Day	15 Art Club 1:00-3:30	16	17
18	19 Presidents Day	20 Book Club 4:00-5:30	21 Poker 6:30	22	23	24
25	26	27 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	28	29 Leap Day		

Waldron Landscaping is now here on Monday 8:00-4:00 and Tuesday 8:00-4:00.
Garbage, recycling & garden trash pickup is on Monday.