



Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

March 2024 – Issue 35.3

SPRING IS ON THE WAY . . .



MOTIVATING – REFLECTING - ENERGIZING

Most people in our community are retired, but not all of us are. I know Dale and Ruthie are working full-time and I'm sure there are many others. I'm still working, but have slowed down a lot on purpose. Since my husband passed, I have been reflecting on what I want to do with the rest of my life. I've had to build a new life without him. It has not been easy. My work has been my constant, my anchor and I will probably never give it up. I've been asking myself, "When do you know it's time to retire?" I think when it's no longer fun to do what you've been doing. I'm still enjoying my consulting work so I'm not quite there yet. My husband was a workaholic and waited too long to retire. My friends were concerned that he would get under my feet when he did retire. That wasn't the case at all! He loved his retirement! He pursued hobbies and interests he had developed early in life. He loved cars and being so close to Sonoma Raceway was a dream come true for him. He loved talking and writing

about cars! He produced an annual car calendar of photographs he'd taken while at all the races and car shows he'd been to. His passion for cars brought him joy in his retirement. Too bad it was so short-lived.

Retirement is the time to do what you want to do. There are so many choices! Travel, take classes, learn a new language, paint, write and volunteer. As I mentioned in last month's column, I volunteer with Sonoma Valley Jazz Society and with the SV Woman's Club. For those of you who are retired, are you making the most out of your retirement and doing what YOU want to do?

–Valerie Camarda

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It appears the rain does not want to stop, but at least we will not have drought restrictions for another year. I have heard several reports of some slick spots on a few sidewalks in our area where people have slipped and fallen. The places that seem to be the most impacted are areas that appear having newer concrete or light-colored concrete. I would walk carefully on or around these areas, and also stay away from the driveway curb cuts where the sidewalk starts to slope toward the street.

We have elections for our Board coming up very soon! I have been pleased to be on the Chantarelle Board of Directors serving as your President, and I have also decided to run once again. I would be most appreciative of your vote and thank you for your consideration.

Daylight Savings time rolls around once again on March 10th, don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour. I would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and also a very Happy Easter on March 31st.

–Steve Rogers

INSPECTOR OF ELECTIONS NEEDED

The new laws require that HOAs have election inspectors that count the ballots for the election. If you would like to help and count ballots, please call Paul Strong. The ballots will be counted at the meeting on March 19th.

–Paul Strong

TREASURER'S REPORT - THRU JANUARY 31

The beginning of the year usually sees minimal activity spending-wise, and this year is no different. There were no reserve expenses in January, so the amount in the reserve fund stands at about \$544,313. For total operating expenses, we were about \$5,667 under budget for the month. Our operating cash stands at about \$29,570, which is a decent amount this early in the year.

There were four delinquent accounts at the end of January for a total of \$3,387. Of the two homeowners having the most arrears, the management company taking care of one has been contacted and is in the process of paying off the arrears. The owner of the second home has been sent a 10-day letter and could face more stringent disciplinary action soon if not paid. The other two homeowners each owe about two months back dues and have been contacted by Strong Management.

–Ron Yamato

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

Tree removal update: I quoted a tree removal count in last month's newsletter, I stand corrected, we found 5 more liquid amber trees as we went through the neighborhood cutting down trees last month. I think we removed 24 trees and 27 stumps, can't be sure it was like a blur. At one point, watching the biggest liquid amber tree falling, it looked like an avalanche of the round, pointy



seed pods came hurling towards the group assembled to see tree removal. We ran like



fools, but those seed pods are spiked, hard and numerous. Why anyone planted those trees anywhere, I'll never know. They are in the McDonald's parking lot, along the road, everywhere. I'm glad they are all gone.

The photos show a tree being removed. The very first tree they climbed the arborist pulled on a branch and it came off in his hand! See website for a picture of the rotten branch and a video.

I'm working with Debra Rogers and thinking about what we should plant to replace some of the trees and make it work within the budget.

–Tom Flinn

415-621-7572 thomasflinn@gmail.com



CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS

March is looking to be a very busy month with two holidays to celebrate: Saint Patrick's Day on March 17th and Easter which is coming early, on March 31st! (And, you also must remember to change your clocks once again as Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th!)

We will be celebrating both Saint Patrick's Day and Easter at our monthly **First Friday on March 8th**. This party month allows you several options if you wish to bring a themed appetizer/dessert for either holiday! Don't forget to bring your favorite beverage too. I can't wait to celebrate, so 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

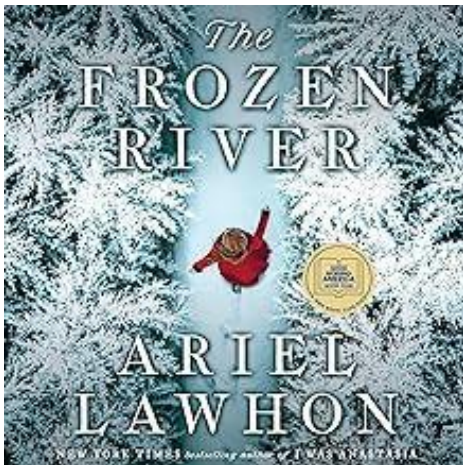
I've been doing my best to reach out to those residents in our community who are feeling a bit under the weather or suffered a recent loss by sending greeting cards and making phone calls. Please let me know if you would like me to reach out to neighbors you know who might need a little cheering up.

–Jackie O'Neill – 707-292-0261

BOOK CLUB NEWS

We met in February to discuss ***March***, by **Geraldine Brooks**. We had a spirited discussion about this fascinating Civil War novel and its relationship with the classic story ***Little Women***.

We will meet next on March 19, from 4-5:30, to discuss ***The Frozen River***, by **Ariel Lawhon**.



This is a historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of an 18th-century midwife who found herself at the center of a murder trial. Read

along with us and guess who did it!

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.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR – STEVE O'NEILL



Steve and his wife Jackie moved from Healdsburg into their new home on Saint James in March of 2022. They moved to be closer to their kids and

grandchildren who live in Novato and Sonoma. Steve and Jackie met in a grieving group after they had lost their spouses. They've been happily married now for 12 years.

Steve has been an elder care attorney for the last 15 years and has been practicing law for 49 years. He's decided that he will retire from his practice at the end of May. He feels he has done everything he's wanted to do in his career and now it's time to retire and have some "ME" and "US" time. I asked Steve what he'll do once he's retired. "We'll travel, take long road trips, kayak, and spend more time with my four granddaughters and enjoy this beautiful community," he said with a smile.

Originally from Boston, his family moved and headed west along Route 66 in 1965. Steve has deep roots in Sonoma, especially in Chantarelle. In the 1980s, his parents bought a home in Creekside and lived there for a couple of years. Moved, and then came back and moved into a new home on South Temelec in Chantarelle. Little did he realize that 30+ years later he'd be living right around the corner from where his parents had lived.

GO FETCH . . . OH NO . . .



PETS CORNER

My Australian Barraband parrot, Enzo, has been going through some behavior modification therapy. He's feeling threatened by my two little Shih Tzus, Paolo and Sophia and taking it out on me by dive bombing my head. The dogs are curious about Enzo and run after him if he flies close by. Enzo has the advantage though, since he can fly high and fast. Thank goodness! There have been some close calls that I've had to intercept.

I went to the only bird Vet in Sonoma County, in Petaluma and explained my problem. He said the bird is jealous of the attention I've been giving the dogs and is dive bombing my head to push me towards his nest. (He doesn't have a nest he has a big cage and I definitely won't fit in that!) The Vet's solution was to modify his food and take away all his treats and give him bland, but nutritious pellet food. After two weeks of that, I have to start to hand feed him hulled sunflower seeds and talk to him softly. I was doubtful this would work. Enzo is a scavenger and will eat anything and everything he can get his little beak on. He even eats the dogs' hard kibble! Well, guess what? It's working! Enzo is no longer dive bombing me and is a lot more mellow.

My little menagerie follows me everywhere! From room to room...even to the bathroom! The dogs sit at my feet and Enzo perches on the shower stall looking down at me and asks, "Did you poop?" Pretty smart, huh?

–Valerie Camarda

"TUCK IN" WITH TOM

This article is more of an adventure than a restaurant review. Sometimes it takes a journey to find the best. I've been looking for a superior hamburger bun for years. Now I found it. My journey began when a new restaurant, called Valley Swim Club, was going to open on Arnold where Delicious Dish had been. We decided to visit their original restaurant, Valley Bottle Club, on Sonoma Square and see what they were all about. Valley Bottle Club says:



"Our mission at Valley is to provide simple, delicious food, matched with

domestic and imported wines that we feel passionate about." We went there on a sunny Saturday for lunch. We sat outside in a creative, well-designed patio that was comfortable, minimal, and clean. You can taste the care they take to provide the best. They are flexible and aim to please; they even iced an unusual tea for me. I had a salad, crisp and fresh, and something unusual for me, a Mortadella sandwich. It's a small menu and this was their sandwich of the day. I watched lots of big, delicious looking salads being placed on tables. My Mortadella

sandwich came on the most beautiful yeast and brioche-like bun. Big and puffy, lighter than air, chewy and substantial enough to not break, bleed through toppings and cause bun failure. The meat was tasty, not oily, and speckled with



lots of pistachios. The dressing on the Mortadella was the star. They chopped Giardiniera and mixed it with mayonnaise, maybe sour cream and pepper. Slathered on that perfect fluffy roll. It was heaven on a plate! I spoke with one of the owners about their new restaurant that was under construction, Valley Swim Club, (now open) on Arnold. She also shared that their secret ingredient was using Giardiniera on the sandwiches. Now I'm on the hunt for where I can buy the world's best hamburger bun.

-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

PO Box 1368, Sonoma, 95476

Paul Strong 707-933-9151

Email: paul@strongmgt.com

24 hour Emergency Number:

1-800-359-2362

CHANTARELLE GAZETTE STAFF

Editor - Valerie Camarda

Proofreader - Linda Jackson

Art Director - Tom McKean

ART CLUB – FEBRUARY EXHIBITS AND MARCH THEME

Our art club members had a successful February art exhibition. Thank you very much to the friendly neighbors who expressed their comments to our members.



Heather's passionate and deep depth of red poppy showed clearly even from further distance, just like a photo. Mike's puffins look like love birds.



Our members liked Shelley's abstract painting with beautiful blue which the red contrast, and faces coming



vase from heart makes a those sweet colors of the bubbles with out.



June's love birds sitting quietly on the ceramic bird bath is highlighted and make a nice contrast with the dark green bush. We were impressed with John's witty and Handsome Mr. Valentine. One of our members said he reminds her of James Bond! Full of heart patterns in the neat tie and shirt, and even on the back wall.



The Home Window Gallery showed

May's acrylic painting of Ural owls' snowy house. Shelley's windows had big paintings. One was a powerful abstract and the other was a beautiful realistic which was inspired by Charlie's painting in the clubhouse.



March's Exhibition theme will be

"Spring, St. David's, St. Patrick's, Easter and more."

Members will display in the clubhouse and two homes' windows. March Hare, Kanzan (Sakura), the spring memory, Daffodils, etc.

You can see the details on the poster for the exhibition on the bulletin board soon, please come and see the members' creations. We are looking forward to hearing your comments.

–Mike Hashii, Art Steward

FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY CELEBRANTS



SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Committee is working on updating our emergency contact forms, as recommended by SCOPE (Sonoma Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies).

Some of our more recent neighbors have submitted their forms, following a visit from our Welcoming Committee. But many of our previous submitted forms are a few (or more) years out of date.

If your last submitted form is more than a year old, we'd suggest completing the Emergency Contact form on the next page of this Newsletter. You can send the completed form to Peggy Owens via mail tube (104 S. Temelec Circle), via email (powens2@juno.com) or snail mail. You can also drop it near my door, if you prefer. If you're unable to use these methods, call me (707-343-7087) and I'll be glad to pick it up.

The updated forms were very useful during the 2017 fires. We hope never to have that sort of emergency again, but let's be prepared.

By the way, you can read the entire SCOPE brochure in the Resources section of our Chantarelle website (www.chantarelle.org).

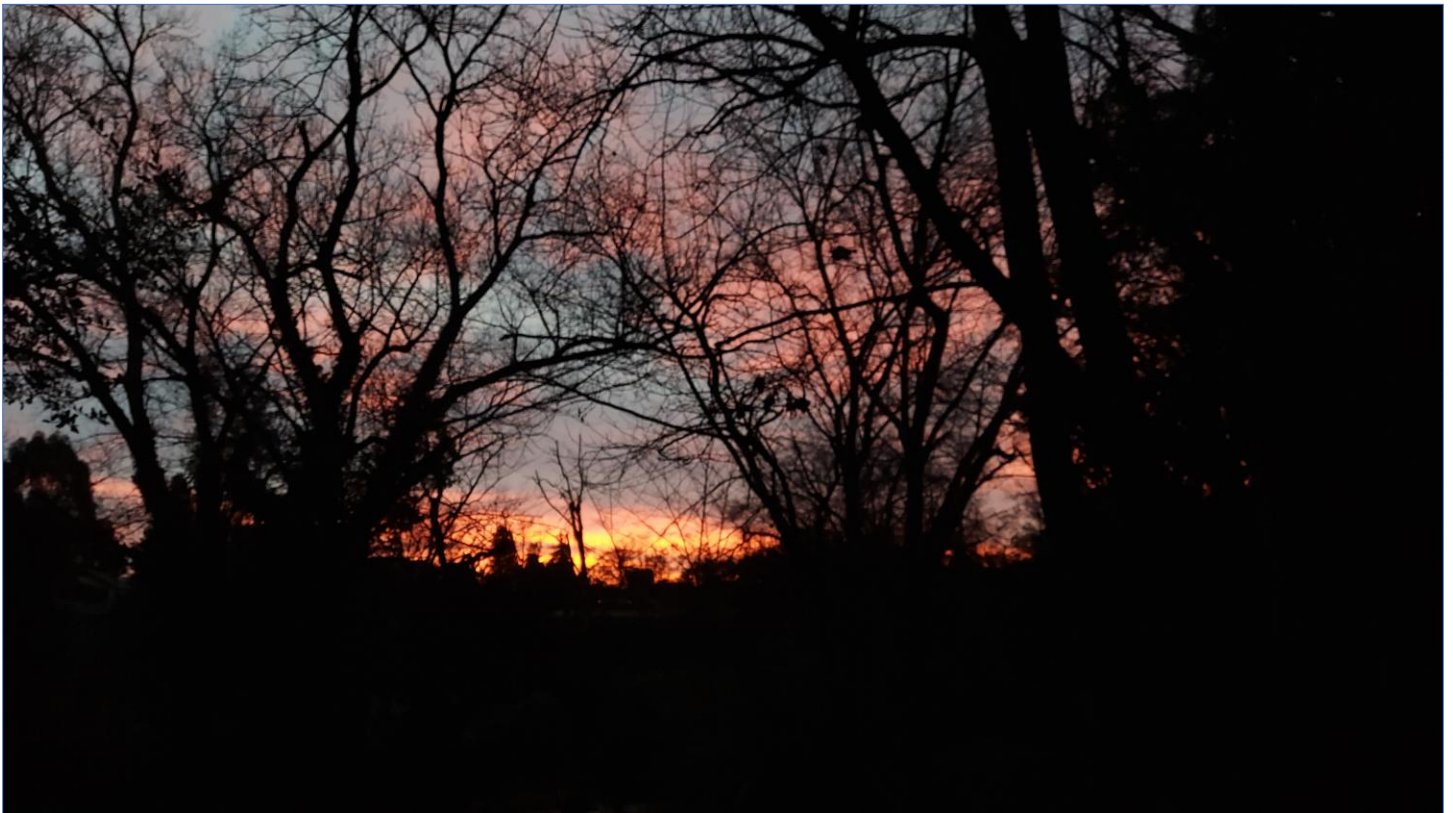
Special thanks to Debbie Yamato for volunteering to take over the Emergency Preparedness duties of the Committee.

Hope you have a happy St. Patrick's Day!

–Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

powens2@juno.com



CHANTARELLE EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENSUS FORM

1/1/2024

Please contact Peggy Owens (powens2@juno.com), SAFETY/WELFARE Committee, with any questions.

*The information will be used for HOA purposes only, and all reasonable efforts will be made to maintain the privacy of said information.***HOME INFORMATION:**

Street Address:		HOA Use - Blk #:
Home Ph. No.:	Cell Ph. No.	
Add'l Cell Ph. No.:	Email address	

PLEASE LIST ALL PERSONS LIVING AT THIS ADDRESS:

Name (s)	Ambulatory?	Critical Needs (oxygen, insulin, dialysis, heart or blood pressure medications, wheelchair, walker, other)
	yes / no / with assistance	
	yes / no / with assistance	
	yes / no / with assistance	

PETS:	Dogs (how many):	Cats (how many):
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EMERGENCY CONTACT(S): name(s) and phone number(s).	1.	
	2.	
	3.	

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (name & phone number):	
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SHUTOFF LOCATIONS FOR:	Water:	
	Electricity:	
	Gas:	
	Is there a shutoff wrench at the gas meter?	yes / no

ANY SPECIFIC FIRE DANGERS (wood shingle roof, toxic/flammable substances stored in home or garage, etc.)?**SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS OR EQUIPMENT:**

Do you have knowledge and skills that would help in an emergency (medical, communications, trades, etc.)?

Do you have any equipment that would be useful in an emergency (generators, 2-way radios, chain saw, etc.)?

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

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

MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 Bunco 1:00-4:00	6	7	8 First Friday 5:30	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	13	14	15	16
17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 Board Meeting 2:00 1 st Day of Spring	20 Poker 6:30	21 Art Club 1:00-3:30	22	23
24	25	26 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	27	28	29	30
31 Easter						

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.