



Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

September 2023 – Issue 34.9

CHANTARELLE GAZETTE STAFF

Editor - Valerie Camarda

Proofreader – Linda Jackson

WELCOME TO SEPTEMBER



I am taking over the reins as editor of the Chantarelle newsletter with this issue.

Tom Flinn has moved on to heading up the Landscape Committee assisted by Terri Barnett. I wish them both well in their new roles. Thanks to Debbie Yamato for overseeing that committee for over nine years! That is quite an accomplishment!

My goal as your new editor is to hear more from our wonderful community and write about it. Of course, I'll still include all of the Board's reports but I also want to write about events and other happenings you've all attended and enjoyed. I also want to get to know our neighbors.

When my husband Joel and I moved to Chantarelle on March 5, 2020 we only knew Lois and Steve Rogers. Joel, the consummate car enthusiast noticed Steve's Alfa Romeo in the garage when we first looked at the house we bought. We both took it as a good sign. Joel and I owned an Alfa Romeo Spider in the '70s and it always had been one of his favorite

cars. We went to the First Friday potluck on March 6 and met lots of great neighbors. Then we didn't see them again for almost two years due to Covid. Now, almost three and a half years later, I've gotten to know so many neighbors especially when my husband passed from Pancreatic Cancer. They helped and supported me in so many ways and still do. Joel and I lived in San Francisco for close to 40 years and knew only three neighbors on our block on Russian Hill. What a difference! I love living here!

Don't forget to sign up now for the Annual BBQ on Saturday, September 9th at 5:00 p.m. Your payment is due on September 1. At only \$15.00, it's a great deal for all of the food you'll get. BYOB.

I'm introducing three new sections: *Pet's Corner*, *Out and About* and *Get to Know Your Neighbor*. I hope you like them and will send me your contributions for these sections. Your feedback is always welcome. You can reach me at: valerie@marketingsense.net or by phone 415.370.9396.

Have a great September!

--Valerie Camarda

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

A proposal was made at our July HOA meeting to investigate costs of mowing our lawns every two weeks throughout the year, instead of our current practice of mowing every week most of the year. Bids were received from two companies, Waldron our current contractor, and Nyberg both which reduced the monthly contract amount by over \$1,600 a month. Both contractors' bids were then relatively the same. The Board voted to stay with Waldron. The Landscape Committee however, had some issues that will need to be resolved, so it was decided to review Waldron's performance in

three months, to ensure we are satisfied that they are meeting our contract terms.

On a personal note, for the most part I am pleased to be on the Board and serve as your president, however as stated once before, I don't want to do this job forever. We need residents to step up and show interest in serving on the Board, particularly in our leadership positions. There are elections in March of this next year and it would be good to have more candidates in the running. I would be happy to discuss the open positions, and the amount of work each one entails. Talk to me, or any other current Board member to gather more information about serving on the Board.

I am looking forward to our Barbecue on September 9th and hope to see you all there. Don't forget to turn in your form and money to Lois by September 1st (Friday). We need to go grocery shopping and it's important to know how many to buy for! Thank you from her!

--Steve Rogers

TREASURER'S REPORT

Through the end of July 2023

There were no reserve expenses in July, and the amount in the reserve fund is still in good shape at \$520,338. In August, two Umpqua Bank CDs matured, so these, along with a small Umpqua money market account, were cashed out and used to open two new CDs at U.S. Bank, each for \$112,463.10. One CD is for 11 months at an APR of 4.95%, and the other is for 19 months at an APR of 4.85%. For the time frames we wanted and the interest rates offered, U.S. Bank was the most convenient.

We were under budget in most of our expense categories, but were over budget by about \$14,014 in our landscape budget. This was the result of both the fire prevention tree trimming project and the higher Waldron contract rate as mentioned in previous newsletters. By the time you read this newsletter, the board hopefully would have voted on a new lower landscape contract, so expenses in this category for the rest of the year may not be quite as dire as

previously thought. However, total expenses were about \$9,392 over budget up through the end of July, so budget frugality will still be the watchword (or phrase) for the remainder of the year.

Our operating cash stands at about \$34,964. Subtracting the current liabilities leaves us with ready cash of about \$13,621. Hopefully, with the steady influx of HOA dues in conjunction with a stringent focus on expenses, this will be enough to tide us over for the year.

There were two delinquent accounts at the end of July for a total of \$2,385, both of which are the same two homeowners who have been delinquent the last several months. One is making partial payments in good faith, but the other has not reacted favorably even after continued contacts from Strong Management. Stronger measures are being considered.

--Ron Yamato

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT



Hello Chanterelle HOA community. The new landscaping committee has been working hard on how to keep our yards looking beautiful while keeping expenses down.

A new schedule has been worked out with Waldron and approved by the Chanterelle HOA board. Waldron will be in the community two full days per week and our yards will now be mowed every two weeks instead of weekly. This change resulted in a new contract being negotiated and the pricing substantially reduced from our old contract. In this time of

rising costs this feels like such a breath of fresh air.

Currently we still have zero dollars in the landscaping budget for anything other than basic work until year-end. Hopefully the renegotiation of the landscaping contract and resulting reduction in the pricing will go a long way towards replenishing that budget.

As always if you have questions in regards to landscaping please feel free to reach out to either Tom Flinn or myself, Terri Barnett.

Tom Flinn 415-621-7572

thomasflinn@gmail.com

Terri Barnett 707-303-0534

Leeb110@gmail.com

SAFETY & WELFARE

In case you have not applied for REAL ID, this is just a reminder.

WHAT IS REAL ID?

A REAL ID is a driver's license or identification card that is also a federally accepted form of identification.

The federal REAL ID Act places new rules on which forms of identification may be used to board flights within the United States (U.S.) and enter secure federal facilities, such as military bases, federal courthouses, and other federal facilities.

A California issued REAL ID driver's license or identification card meets these new requirements and is marked with a gold bear and star. The deadline for having a REAL ID in California has been moved several times by DHS, mostly as a result of the pandemic. The latest deadline is **May 7, 2025**.

For more information, go to dmv.ca.gov.

Wishing you and your families a happy and safe Labor Day.

--Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

powens2@juno.com



WELCOME COMMITTEE

New Neighbors...Update Your Directory

Hi to all our Chantarelle Neighbors. So happy to announce that Nancy and Art Ferretti have moved from 20 S. Temelec to their new home at 141 Saint James.

anferretti@comcast.net

A-707-338-2087 - N-707-815-5366

H-707-939-7921

Enjoy your new neighbors!

--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

CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS

Flyers about the upcoming HOA BBQ have been distributed to all mailbox tubes, and I am currently accepting your filled out form and money to hold your spot. For those that didn't read my Social News Column last month (what!??) **our Chanterelle BBQ is coming up on September 9th.** if you can't find your newsletter/flyer let me know, and I'll tell you the details.

Some people may wonder why the \$15 for a hamburger, so let me explain that. It isn't JUST the meat (although those prices have gone up this past year) it's also the various buns for the meat, all the fixings for the meat- lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, ketchup, and mustard, plus it's potato chips, bags of ice, water, ice cream treats, etc. Also, there are costs for things like plates, napkins, flatware,

tablecloths, and so forth. In general, many different fees are involved. We also hope to make a little bit on our BBQ participation, as some of that money is held to help pay for our Christmas party in December.

Help Needed - Please consider volunteering to make salads and cookies. If you'd like to help, please sign up. We also need assistance in setting up. You'll find the sign-up board located just left of the main doors in the Clubhouse.

It will be great to see you all there! It's lots of fun, and very laid back! Call me if you have any questions! (707) 591-1909

There will be NO First Friday on September 1st due to our BBQ on the 9th.

--Lois Rogers, Social Chair

ART CLUB – ARTIST OF THE MONTH

The September Artist of the month will feature the beautiful pastels of visiting artist June DeBusk. We appreciate that June accepted neighbor Heather Dahlberg's invitation to share her artistic talents with our Chantarelle community.

Please stop by the clubhouse to enjoy June's paintings.

--Shelley Lawrence – Art Club Steward

BOOK CLUB – UPDATE

We have 8 people interested in joining the Book Club! We will have our first meeting at the Clubhouse on Thursday, September 14, from 5-6:30. At that time, we will decide the format and goals of the club. If you have not reached out to us yet but are interested in joining in the fun, please feel free to come to that first meeting. If you have any additional questions, please call or text Barbara White (415-377-8712) or Marybeth Jacobsen (949-290-4757).

Happy Reading!!

--Mary Beth Jacobsen

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Candace Craven



You've probably seen Candace walking her Golden Doodle, Gracie Mae D'Or (Gracie for short) down the streets of Chantarelle and Creekside. Candace moved here from Dallas, Texas in June 2017 because she wanted to be closer to her siblings living in the Bay Area.

After graduating from Jacksonville University with a BA in Art History and the Humanities, Candace enrolled in Macy's Buyer Training program in Atlanta. Thus began an illustrious career as a Head Buyer, Merchandiser and Category Director for some of the country's leading department and specialty retail stores. Guiding the design, sampling and product development, her work literally took her around the world. Many of her manufacturers were in Asia as well as in Europe. She worked on a long-term project with Fendi and travelled back and forth to Rome. She's also lived in Manhattan for eight years on W. 73rd and Central Park West, right across the street from the well-known Dakota.

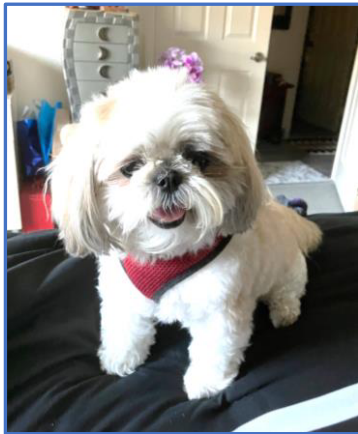
One of her favorite trips was traveling from Maine to Florida visiting most of the major museums and national parks along the way. When I asked Candace what her favorite countries and cities were she thought India was the most exotic and Paris was the most interesting.

Nowadays, Candace is happy to tend to her garden and entertain family and friends. Traveling is the very last thing on her mind.

--Valerie Camarda

PET'S CORNER

The Pros and Cons of Pet Insurance



As many of you may know, I adopted Willy Hoekstra's two adorable Shih Zus. Never having owned a dog before, there's a lot for me to learn. I'm relying on my neighbors and friends to guide me

through the early stages of dog parenthood.

I've asked a few of my friends about pet insurance. None have it and I wondered why since I know vet bills can be exorbitant. I happened to catch a segment on CBS Mornings featuring an editor from Consumer Reports who talked about the Pros and Cons of buying pet insurance. Here's what I learned. The average cost for insurance is \$47/month which comes to about \$600/year. The average claim filed for insurance reimbursement is \$387 per year. The average deductible is \$1,000/yr. (Doesn't seem to make sense, does it?!) When you think about the Return on Investment for insurance it all comes down to whether or not you anticipate catastrophic costs or just want peace of mind. Only 3% of Americans have insurance for their pets while 61% of Brits have it. We've all heard the stories from friends who have spent thousands on medical bills for their animals. My first week of pet ownership I incurred a vet bill for \$241 for my little boy dog. I think I'm going to play the odds and not get insurance . . . for now. What do you think?

--Valerie Camarda

OUT AND ABOUT

What neighbors have been up to in and around Sonoma



Saw Amary salsa dancing with neighbors Martha and Zolla at the Tuesday

Night Farmer's Market in the Plaza. A Cuban Jazz band was playing sponsored by the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society. The band was so good it was hard to stay seated! Also spotted at the Farmer's Market were Jan and Chris.

On August 9th Len and Debbie Bonamassa drove down to Los Angeles to see their son, the extraordinary blues guitarist Joe Bonamassa, play at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. It was an incredible performance! They just recently returned from a luxury Blues cruise on the Mediterranean in Greece sponsored by their son, Joe.

Speaking of cruising, Steve and Jackie O'Neill have just returned from a river cruise down the Rhone starting in Nice in southern France. On the way back they stopped in Paris. Oh-la-la!

Terri, Valerie and Gayle and her husband attended the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society's Jazz in the Barn featuring trumpeter Charlie Porter. It was a "Wow" concert and a lovely setting!

--Valerie Camarda

CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Check Chantarelle.org under Resources for recommendations from your neighbors - or contact Mary Howland, our Website Manager, via email for more information.

--Mary Howland

Char797@aol.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

Shelley Lawrence - 951-202-0459

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.

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

POOL OPEN

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
Pool Aerobics 11:30		Pool Aerobics 11:30		Pool Aerobics 11:30

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 No First Friday	2
3	4 Labor Day Holiday	5 Bunco 1:00-4:00	6	7	8	9 HOA BBQ
10	11	12 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	13	14 Book Club 5:00-6:30	15 Rosh Hashanah Begins	16
17 Rosh Hashanah Ends	18	19 Board Meeting 2:00	20 Poker 6:30	21 Art Club 1:00-3:30	22	23 1st Day Autumn
24 Yom Kippur Begins	25 Yom Kippur Ends	26 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	27	28	29	30
31						

Waldron Landscaping is now here on Monday 9:00am-3:45pm, Tuesday 9:00am-3:45pm, and Friday 10:00am-3:45pm.

Garbage, recycling & garden trash pickup is on Monday.