

Chantarelle News - September 2014

GARBAGE PICKUP ALERT

Please note that there will be no garbage and recycling pickup on LABOR DAY, Monday, September 1st. Pickup will be on Tuesday, September 2nd instead.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The September monthly HOA meeting has been changed from Sept 16th to Sept 30th. The VOM reps will be in attendance to explain the water requirements that seem to be necessary for all 122 home owners of Chantarelle. This is a very important meeting for all residents to attend and get info and ask questions as to where we go next.

I would like to thank the Social Committee members, Gail, Willy, Peggy and Liz for a job well done at the Community BBQ as well as our Master Grillers-Mike Holman, Ron Yamato and Mike Hashii for all of their efforts to insure a smooth and timely dining experience. Without these community volunteers we would not have had a great social experience.

Speaking of volunteers the Pool Committee works tirelessly to make sure that our community pool is heated properly, chemicals are added for clarity, skimming, signage, chairs, tables and umbrellas are all in working order and the clubhouse area is kept clean. Please say thanks when you see Jon Yonkers, Ron Yamato, Mark Costales and Carl Hofman for all of their hard work. Speaking of hard work and dedication Carl is in a class by himself, he makes sure that the Chantarelle pool is the best that it can be, he spends hours of his own time making sure that we all have a great looking pool and all that is in the pool area that at times is taken foregranted. Carl purchased, assembled, and painted the picnic table that is a recent addition and which has been used many times for outside meetings. We cannot thank Carl enough for his dedication to the entire community. Pride and dedication make us a proud community in which to live. Imagine if our committee volunteers did not exist, our way of life would not be 'Heaven on Earth' as Sonoma is often called in the press and Chantarelle would not be the community that all 122 of us are lucky enough to live in.

On Sunday August 24th we all felt the effects of the earthquake. Our community pool lost nine and half inches of water. At 6:30am Carl was at the pool turning off the power since the water level had dropped below the skimmer level, Carl then filled the pool and turned the power back on, Always on the job the pool once again is open and most of us were not aware of this situation, Thank you again, Carl.

TGIF PARTY

The next TGIF is at the clubhouse on **Friday, September 5th**, starting at 5:45pm. All residents are invited and we look forward to seeing you there. Newcomers to the community are especially encouraged to come along, meet their neighbors, and make new friends. There is no admission charge, just bring a beverage of your choice and a small item of food to share.

GAS VALVE PROBLEM

Roger Jack Young reports: After the earthquake I went out to shut off the PG&E natural gas valve at the meter. I could not get a wrench on the valve as it was in

a position that would not allow me to do that. If anyone else has this problem just call PG&E customer service (877-743-7782) and explain this and they will take care of it.

YOGA CLASS

Chantarelle residents are invited to attend yoga classes at Creekside Clubhouse, 159 Avenida Barbera. The classes are on Monday mornings, 8:30-10:30. \$5 donation per class. For information call Lindy at 938-7766.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of anyone at Chantarelle who is sick or if you have a new neighbor, please let Willy Hoekstra know, so that she can contact them. Willy's number is 996-0661.

CHANTARELLE WEBSITE

Chantarelle now has its own website. The address is

www.CHANTARELLE.ORG.

Not all features of the site are fully operational yet. Please submit questions or suggested improvements to John Dodgshon.

MOVIE NIGHT Our next movie night will be on September 17th at 7 pm. The feature will be *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. Plot summary: British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel. They are surprised and charmed by the Marigold, and their lives are changed in a variety of ways. **BOARD MEETING**

Please note that the next board meeting has been moved from the normal third Tuesday to **Tuesday, September 30th**, starting at 3pm. Please see the President's Remarks for more details. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the open forum, with which the meeting always starts. This allows members to voice concerns and bring matters to the board's attention.

LANDSCAPE NOTES Hello, friends and neighbors! Here is the latest news from your neighborhood landscape committee, Debbie and Susan.

Farewell, Dead Branches! Ryan Garrison, our skilled and conscientious arborist from Art and Science Tree Service, made a community-wide evaluation of our trees with Debbie and me, as well as Dave Owens and Mike Hashii. It was an excellent education on trees for us, as well as bringing us up to date on what needs to be done. We planned the annual pruning that will take place after the leaves have fallen. Also we scheduled a special pruning session for Monday, Sept. 15, specifically to cut out the dead branches. While we still have leaves on the trees, it will be easy for Ryan to see which ones are dead and prune them out. This will add to the beauty of our trees and also provide more safety for us all, as those branches can blow down in winter storms or even just fall in the middle of a bright, sunny summer day! So this project will help us avoid all that. If you know of any particularly large branch that is clearly dead, please let Debbie or me know so that we can include it in this pruning session.

Pesky Borers, Be Gone! Another discovery we made with Ryan is that our birch trees are being infested with a pest called the "Bronze Birch Borer". You may have noticed that these gracious trees are not as healthy as they might be. We have two clear choices: either allow the pests to progress and ultimately kill the trees, or remedy them now, while they are still healthy enough to thrive again.

I'm sure you aren't surprised to hear that we are opting for choice #2. Ryan and his crew will have already completed the first in a series of treatments by the time you read this. The entire process will actually take a couple of years to complete. **Mulch, mulch, mulch!** Previously we have said that it is time to mulch our front shrub areas and common areas. Mulch helps to blend the landscape together, adding to its attractiveness. But even more importantly, in this time of drought, it helps to keep the water from evaporating too quickly. Waldron's crew are scheduled to begin on Friday, August 29th and will cover about 40 homes as well as common areas. We will schedule two more "mulching sessions" in the near future so that when the rains come, we will have completed the process.

Our Watering System Debbie, Dave and I did a second "walkabout" in the neighborhood recently, this time with Rafael, the leader of our landscaping crew. We turned on the sprinkling system section by section, searching for leaks, misdirected sprays, and other irrigation problems that are leading to water loss or lack of proper watering on our lawns and shrubs. As you might imagine, we came up with a whole list of fixes. What we realized is that because our landscape crew is so busy just keeping up with all the work in our neighborhood, they don't have time to properly assess issues with our irrigation as they come up. So we are in the process of working out a plan to have a dedicated irrigation person review and fix our system on a regular basis. This should be an excellent new strategy to help us conserve water as well as take the best care of our plants and lawns as possible.

New Landscape Alteration Form Debbie has created a new form for all residents to use to initiate a change in the landscaping in front of your house or to report a problem. This way we can keep better track of everything that is going on, and do our best to follow through. There are copies of the form in the clubhouse and you can also now find a copy of that form on the new Chantarelle website. We thank you for utilizing these forms! One last item: Debbie and I both want to thank all of you who contact us to let us know of landscape issues, and also those phone calls or meetings on the sidewalks when you let us know what is working well! Both are valuable feedback for us.