

## **DECEMBER**

December always seems like one long holiday, coming, as it does, right after Thanksgiving and continuing through Christmas and New Year. Notable days this December include: Hanukkah from December 16 through December 24; Winter Solstice on Sunday, December 21; Christmas Day on Thursday, December 25; and New Year's Eve on Wednesday, December 31. We wish you all a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

### **BOARD MEETING**

There will be no Board Meeting in December. The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20th, 2015.

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Annual Chantarelle Christmas Party will be held in the clubhouse on Friday, December 5th from 5pm to 7:30pm.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Much occurred at the last HOA meeting. The following is a summary of many different ideas that have been voiced and written about.

#### **Homeowner Survey Results:**

We received 75 responses, which represents 62% of our community.

Bocce Ball: 32 yes (43%) and 43 no (57%)

Drip Irrigation: 44 yes (60%) and 29 no (40%)

These results are important to us in planning for the future of Chantarelle. An added bonus was that many suggestions were submitted on the survey form. Requested activities included: table tennis, horse-shoes, walking club, book club, bible study, keyboard or piano for the clubhouse, fine dining, speakers on various subjects, exercise class (one is in progress; please see monthly calendar), day trip events, themed events, and petanque. Others suggestions were to have a longer season for our pool and to hold HOA meetings at 7PM in the summer months to give more homeowners the opportunity to attend. As you can see, there is no shortage of ideas. Though some of the suggestions have been tried in the past, perhaps it is time to try them again. New homeowners (three years or less) represent about 25% of our community, so they would not have known about past activities. All these suggestions have value. Some would require financial support; others would require a group of homeowners to make them a reality. This is an exciting time for Chantarelle. We need the guidance of homeowners who have history here to work with newer residents to see what is possible. As was mentioned at the November HOA meeting, it is time to create an **Activities Committee** to consider the suggestions and see what it would take to implement at least some of them. Your interest, talent, energy and creativity are needed now. What is the next step? Volunteer for the new Activities Committee and begin a new era in Chantarelle. Years from now you can say "2015 was the year we started ----- and I was a part of it". Please contact our HOA Board members to get this new committee off the ground and set things in motion for the future. Some possibilities: themed events could occur at some of our TGIF's; a Super Bowl Party with the game viewed on the big screen TV.

#### **Community Reminders:**

Please try to put out garbage and recycle cans on Sunday night. After sanitation pickup, please move cans promptly out of sight and do not just roll them up the driveway. Please park cars in garage as much as possible and keep cars out of the street. We have also been warned not to send out personal financial materials in our individual mailboxes, making these documents vulnerable to passersby. Instead, mail this type of information using the public mailboxes like the one on Avenida Sebastiani.

**If you are interested in spray painting/staining your fence**, contact the ACC Committee. A suggestion was made that the cost of such would be lessened if a group of homeowners could schedule this work together.

We are in the process of gathering homeowner information for the **2015 Chantarelle Directory**, so please provide John Dodgshon with your updated information. We would like to include email addresses in the directory, as well. Contact John at john\_dodgshon@hotmail.com or call him at 933-8395. If you would like to place a service ad in the monthly newsletter, also contact John.

The Chantarelle HOA Board wishes all of you, and your families and friends, Happy Holidays! *Dave Owens*

#### **BEFORE THE VINE**

Through December 30, The Sonoma Historical Society presents a new exhibit, *Before The Vine* at the Depot Park Museum. Learn about the farms, orchards, poultry ranches & dairies that provided farm-to-table foods that helped feed an entire nation.

#### **MOVIE NIGHT**

Movie Night has been cancelled for the month of December.

#### **CONDOLENCES TO THE TIMS FAMILY**

The Chantarelle Community extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Kees Tims, who passed away last month.

#### **NEW NEIGHBORS**

Please welcome our new neighbors:

**Mia and Mark Cruciani**

1275 Avenida Sebastiani

Tel. 939-9252

**Carol Colglazier**

9 St Mathew Court, 343-1510

#### **LANDSCAPE NOTES**

Hello friends and neighbors in Chantarelle! We are happy to bring you your November Landscape Committee Update. It's been a busy month out there in landscape land! **Happy Trees:** In mid-November, we completed Phase One of our annual tree pruning activity with Ryan Garrison and his team from Art and Science Tree Service. They removed a couple of trees and pruned a great many so more sunlight can come through and the trees can thrive. We will likely schedule another round of pruning early in the new year, when all the leaves have dropped so the tree experts can see more clearly how to shape the tree limbs. **Happy Shrubs:** The week before Thanksgiving, we completed the planting project that has been in the works for some time. Alex Barragan and his

team did a great job removing old plants from a number of homes and replacing them with new, healthy ones. We hope this project will lend more beauty and delight to our homeowners, as our intention is to continually beautify our neighborhood while ensuring the thriving health of our lawns, shrubs, and trees.

**And Then There's the Watering:** Thank goodness the rains have begun! We have discontinued watering the lawns and intend not to start watering them again until the spring rains complete. The shrubs are still receiving water two days a week, and as soon as the rainy season arrives in full swing, we can discontinue that watering as well. Even with the rains beginning, it is so important to be mindful of the drought.

**Our irrigation updating program** is near completion. Juvenal Gutierrez from Waldron Landscaping has now replaced over 200 damaged sprinkler heads. This should lead to much more efficient watering in the coming years, as well as eliminating problem soggy spots that several of you have reported to us.

**Ideas Are Bubbling:** Debbie and I are turning our attention toward planning for landscaping projects in 2015, which is very exciting and we'll keep you updated as ideas percolate. We always appreciate hearing from you, whether you have a concern to report or a suggestion to make. Have the most glorious holiday season! *Debbie & Susan*

#### **BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT**

Hans Steuck alerts us to the **ready.gov** website, which has a wealth of disaster preparedness information. The website recommends a basic emergency supplies kit that could include the following items:

- \* One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking & sanitation
- \* Non-perishable food: 3-day supply at least
- \* Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- \* Flashlight and extra batteries
- \* First aid kit
- \* Whistle to signal for help
- \* Dust masks to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering in place
- \* Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- \* Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- \* Manual can opener for food
- \* Local maps
- \* Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger
- \* Prescription medicines and glasses
- \* Food and extra water for pets
- \* Cash or travelers checks and change