

MARCH

March will bring lighter evenings and, hopefully, the rain that we need so badly! Notable days this month include: Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8; St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday, March 17; and Palm Sunday on March 29. Have a happy month!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON MARCH 8

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on Sunday, March 8th. Please remember to set all of your clocks forward one hour.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be the annual homeowners meeting on Tuesday, March 17th, commencing at 3pm.

The main item of business at the annual meeting will be the election of two board members. We wish to thank the two incumbents, Pat Chace and Benny Lee, who have volunteered to continue their service on the board. Because there are only two nominees for the two available seats, the nominees will be elected by acclamation at the Board Meeting. Also on the meeting agenda is an important motion to approve carrying forward excess assessments into the next fiscal year in accordance with IRS Ruling 70-604. It is important for the Chantarelle community that this motion be passed. Homeowners should have received a package of materials from our Management Company (Strong Property Management) which includes detailed instructions.

TGIF PARTY

The next TGIF is at the clubhouse on Friday, March 6th, starting at 5:45pm. All residents are invited and we look forward to seeing you there.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Your Board Was Listening:

Several suggestions and ideas were stated on the Community Survey and also raised at HOA meetings and in social venues. The HOA Board discussed them and I am happy to report that the pool will open two weeks early this year on April 15th. (That date rings a bell-- something to do with taxes.) **Committees:** Don Sjolund has volunteered for the Pool Committee and now we have the A Team with Carl, Jon, Mark, Ron and Don. And speaking of volunteers, we have also added Mike Dietrich to the Finance committees. I don't think we could be in better shape than to have Larry, Bob, Ron and Mike looking to safeguard our budget for 2015 and beyond. Thank you to both committees. We still need additional members for the Website, Clubhouse, Health/Safety, and Activities committees. Please consider putting your talents to use by giving a few hours a month. That will make Chantarelle an even better community.

How about the **Mardi Gras celebration** on Feb. 15th! John Dodgshon and his jazz band were really at the top of their game and we thank you, John, for all your hard work. Scotty even jammed during one of the breaks. We certainly have musical talent in our community.

As was mentioned at the last HOA meeting, a **Community Service Day** would also bring us together. Saturday April 25th would be a good day, falling between Earth Day and Arbor Day. Mark your calendars, and more info to follow. So far, we have these plans for this service day: drought resistant plants will be purchased for planting at both the Arnold Drive and Hermosa entrances, as well as in front of the Club-house; 3 community benches will be refinished; and food collected at the Clubhouse for Sonoma distribution. These endeavors may need to be spread out over several days, but as you can see, we are moving in the right Community Service direction.

Clubhouse: Another request was for blinds to be added to minimize glare on the many days that the Clubhouse is used for activities. One of our homeowners has a beautiful gazebo in her backyard that she is willing to donate to the Clubhouse area. If we can arrange the move,

wouldn't that look great for the summer season? Also accomplished this past month was the temporary installation of the wheelchair ramp (donated to Chantarelle in the name of Helen Stimac) at the home of one of our residents. Glad that this good deed is helping one of our current homeowners. The ramp will remain in Chanterelle for future use by other home-owners, as needed. We are also exploring the purchase of a portable heater for the ladies room at the Clubhouse.

Ballot: Please remember to send in your ballot form to Paul Strong or bring it to the next HOA meeting on March 17th, which just so happens to be St. Patrick's Day.

Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand. Dave Owens

MOVIE NIGHT

March's movie will be shown at the Clubhouse at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th. The feature is **Gosford Park**, a murder mystery set at an English country house party.

LANDSCAPE NOTES

Hello everyone here in our lovely Chantarelle community. As I sit here to write our landscape update, I gaze out my window into our garden. It is a gorgeous sunny day. Yes, *another* sunny day. As beautiful as it is, and it IS gorgeous with spring about to burst all around us, we need more rain! What was a lovely rainy December has sadly and unfortunately not continued into this new year. So this has become the "landscape" of our landscape work at Chantarelle: to continue to adapt to the conditions that are upon us and which are clearly becoming a longer term trend. So at the risk of your tiring of hearing about this, no doubt it will be a consistent theme in our newsletter updates each month.

Drought-saving Measures: With winter's cooler temperatures, even though we haven't had much rain this year, our irrigation for the lawns is turned off. We keep a watchful eye out, and if we see the brown patches increase too much, we will slowly re-introduce watering to our lawns. Meanwhile, we are watering the shrubs in front of everyone's home once a week to ensure they thrive through this winter, particularly the new ones we planted last fall. As the year progresses, Debbie and I will continue to educate ourselves about the best practices for stewarding our landscape through this ongoing dry condition.

Our Beautiful Trees: Ryan Garrison and his team from Art and Science Tree Service did an excellent job of pruning and trimming a number of our trees in mid-February. As you know, this is an annual practice we engage in order to maintain the health and aesthetics of our trees. We are soon to schedule Ryan to remove the Mistletoe that is growing in at least a dozen trees lining our streets. Even though Mistletoe has an enchanting name and much mythology associated with it, it is an invasive species and damages healthy trees. We will ensure it is removed before it spreads to even more of our community's trees.

Creativity Percolating: Debbie and I meet regularly, and one topic we always discuss is how we can improve the beauty of our neighborhood. This year we are budgeting for three upgrading and beautifying projects: our Chantarelle entrance on Arnold Drive, the front of the clubhouse, and our entrance to Chantarelle on Watmaugh Drive. In all of our planning, we are orienting our ideas toward low water and low maintenance plants, preferably ones that flower abundantly and also create habitat for birds, butterflies and bees. Northern California natives would be the most ideal of all! We will keep you posted as these projects develop.

Colorful ideas: For those of you who would like to add the delight of more color to the entrance of your home, we recommend creating window boxes to put on the ledge in front of your garage window. If you've ever traveled to Switzerland in the summer, you no doubt have seen what amazing beauty almost everyone there creates with color in their window boxes! Annuals such as Petunias, Zinnias, Geraniums, Marigolds and Pansies work well for those of you who have plenty of sun. For those of us who have more shaded window areas, you can try Begonias, Impatiens, Forget-me-nots, and even Lobelia. Our local nurseries such as Sonoma Mission Gardens have wonderful folks who can help you create a bit of magic with your

window boxes. And now is the time to start planting so you can enjoy that color all summer long. Until next month, have a happy March!

Debbie & Susan

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Our 2015 Directory will be printed in early March. If you are a new owner or resident, or if your details have changed, please advise John Dodgshon.

The required details for the directory are: Name(s), address, phone number(s) and email address(es).

CLUBHOUSE RESERVATIONS

To reserve the clubhouse for an event, please call Liz Wardimon.

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.

SAFETY & WELFARE NOTES

Hans Steuck has provided this timely advice from AARP...

What is it Tax ID Theft? Personal information is stolen for a fraudulent refund. More specifically, tax identity theft can involve: filing a tax return using another person's Social Security number; claiming someone else's children as dependents; or claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer's information. Personal information can be stolen in a number of ways, including theft of mail or tax returns, corrupt tax preparation services, or phony emails from imposters. Con artists can quickly learn a lot about you in order to take your money while also defrauding the government.

What to do? To avoid tax identity theft: mail tax returns as early in the tax season as possible before the cons beat you to it; don't give out personal information unless you know who's asking for it and why they need it; shred personal and financial documents; know your tax preparer; check the status of your refund after filing at irs.gov/Refunds.

For help, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490 and visit irs.gov/identitytheft.

Advertisement

All Walks of Life: Need a little help around the house for you or a loved one? Personal Assistance and Elder Care available. Certified & Bonded. References available.

I live here in Chantarelle. Flyers and Cards are in the Club House.

Dona Kinkead 415-425-3110

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