



Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

December 2023 – Issue 34.12

EDITOR'S COLUMN

As I walk around our community the brilliant golds, reds and orange of the leaves remind me of the changing seasons I experienced growing up in New York. It's a fond memory.

I've just returned from a Wine and Castles River cruise down the Rhine River. I went with my nephew and a few friends from Sonoma. We started off in Amsterdam, stopped in Cologne and Heidelberg in Germany, Strasbourg, France and wound up in Basel, Switzerland. There were two wine experts on the cruise who taught the guests about the local wines of Germany. Germany produces a lot of wine but very little of it is exported. As we sailed down the Rhine we saw 25 castles nestled in the hills and mountains. We visited Heidelberg Castle which is mostly in ruins now, but we saw remnants of the grandeur it once had.

My nephew and I have a cousin who lives in Zurich, Switzerland. Christopher picked us up in Basel and served as our tour guide for the next two days. We went to the beautiful city of Lucerne and had lunch in a lovely bistro with friendly staff, great music and delicious food! The conversations we had with the locals were some of the highlights of our trip. In my opinion, the best food we had was in Zurich at the world's oldest vegetarian restaurant – Haus Hilti. My cousin bought me one of their cookbooks because I loved the food so much!

After thirteen days abroad I was ready to come home. I was exhausted, tired of the cold and rain (yes, it rained everyday but one) and wearing the same clothes, missed my pet menagerie and was eager to sleep in my own bed. All I can say is Sonoma is a wonderful place to come home to! We really do live in a very special place!

At this time of year, we often think about giving gifts to friends and family. It's a nice gesture but giving your time as a volunteer for something you believe in is even more precious. This year I've volunteered with three groups I enjoy being a part of – the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society, the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club and the Chantarelle Gazette. What about you? How are you giving back to your community?

Have a wonderful Holiday Season! Don't forget to join us for the Chantarelle Holiday Party on Friday, December 8th.

--Valerie Camarda



PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

At our last meeting, Tuesday Nov. 21st, the Board approved the Budget for 2024. The operating budget was only slightly higher than 2023 (4%) but the Reserve Allocation needed to be raised to keep the reserves from falling below 80% funded. We are a little over 100% funded today but we have some expensive projects for the next couple of years and if we had not raised the allocation, the reserve funding would be at 30% which is too low. The increase in Reserve Allocation will mean that the monthly dues will increase \$20 and will now be at \$185. If you have questions on how

to change the payment of this fee please contact Paul Strong.

A big project that has been projected to start in 2024 is the fence replacement along Arnold and Watmaugh. These fences are paid ½ by the HOA and ½ by the individual homeowner that back these fences. I am doubtful we will start replacing the fences in 2024 however, as there is a significant amount of work to prepare. First we must get all the homes that are impacted by this project with the number of feet their portion amounts to, so we can partition the costs. We also want to give everyone a lot of time to accumulate the funds to pay for their share of the fence. We have formed a Fence Committee to start working on this process.

Every year at this time of giving, we take a collection up to divide among the Landscape crew, as a small monetary thank you gift for all the hard work they do for us over this past year. If you would like to donate please put your donation in an envelope and drop in my locking mailbox at 186 Saint James before December 15th.

--Steve Rogers

TREASURER'S REPORT

THROUGH THE END OF OCTOBER 2023

There was one reserve expense in October (tree and stump removals), but the amount in the reserve fund is still in good shape at \$530,401 at the end of October. As for operating expenses, we were over budget by about \$2,260 in utility expenses, which, like last month, was mainly caused by the use of gas to heat the pool. In Landscape, we were over budget by about \$11,094 so far through the end of October. I'm still hoping that the \$1,700 per month savings due to the lower monthly maintenance cost will help offset the overage somewhat by the end of the year, but I still think we will end the year at about \$7,000 over budget in the landscape category. We were under budget in the other operating expense categories. Overall, we were about \$7,285 over budget for total expenses through the end of

October, an improvement of about \$3,200 from last month. I'm still hopeful that we have a chance of further reducing the overage somewhat by the end of the year, barring unforeseen circumstances.

Our operating cash stands at about \$33,798. Subtracting the current liabilities leaves us with ready cash of about \$12,363, which should be enough to tide us over for the remainder of the year.

There were four delinquent accounts at the end of October for a total of \$3,682.50. One of them has been delinquent since at least January of this year, with occasional payments and partial payments being made. Another account has had the bank account frozen, so we're not sure what's happening there. The other two residents are about 3 or 4 months in arrears. Strong Management has notified every one of these, and the board will be discussing this situation in a future meeting.

--Ron Yamato



LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

REQUEST FOR YOUR OPINION

As we had agreed in a previous meeting, I gave a report card for Waldron's 90 day performance. Despite my below average findings for them, Steve Rogers said he would require a significant number of requests from the Chantarelle community before he would consider replacing them. So, I open the question to all my neighbors, do you want to replace Waldron with another landscaper. It's not a question of who do you like as people, it's

who will give you the best work as we spend close to \$100,000 a year on landscaping?

If you have complaints about Waldron's work, mowing, weeding or trimming trees and shrubs and would like to consider another landscaping company, please email me. If you don't have email access, you can also drop it in my mailbox at 266 S Temelec Circle. There is a list of homeowners who only have Waldron mow, nothing else on their front yards. They take care of everything else themselves. The majority of the HOA Board does that, including me. I do it because they damaged my shrubs and I have an invasive weed in my lawn that is spreading down the street. I want better for myself and for everyone else.

I know you all value your lawns, and want to make them better. I do too. If you agree, then please email me and I will tally the results for the January newsletter.

Happy Holidays to each and every one of my neighbors in Chantarelle.

--Tom Flinn

415-621-7572 thomasflinn@gmail.com

SAFETY & WELFARE

HELPING YOURSELF

Holiday tips for seniors:

The key is to keep up your healthy choices as much as possible, even in the rush and excitement of the holidays.

1. Stick to your walking/exercise routine.
2. Stay as close as possible to your healthy diet. Limit extra fat and sugar, e.g.
3. Take a break (a nap, even) when you need it.
4. Stay hydrated. (This is easy to forget; stay on it.)
5. Don't rush. Watch your step.
6. Stick to your medication schedule. Set reminders if necessary.
7. Increase exposure to sunlight. Open the drapes and curtains during the day.

8. Prevent infections and illness. Talk to your health professional. Get the vaccinations. Get the boosters.

HELPING OTHERS

Thinking of making a donation in the spirit of the season?

Visit www.charitynavigator.org to help with your decision.

There you can find charities that align with your own mission, and ratings to show which charities have the best percentage of giving vs. administrative fees.

For example, two of my favorites, World Central Kitchen and the Salvation Army, earn a 100 % rating. In any case, thanks for considering donating to a worthy cause.

The SAFETY/WELFARE Committee wishes you and yours happy and healthy holidays.

--Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

powens2@juno.com



A sign I saw outside a restaurant in Zurich

--Val

CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS

Final Reminder: If you have not submitted your reservation for the upcoming Holiday Party coming up on Friday, December 8th, today is the day to get it in! I do need to give the caterers a final head count by Dec. 1st. HOWEVER, since my daughter is the catering manager, she said she will let me stretch the final day to sign up to Sunday Dec. 3rd! But that is as late as I can receive reservations, so

please get them to me by this Sunday! Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

--Lois Rogers, Social Chair

OUR NEW CHANTARELLE NEIGHBORS

We are so happy to welcome our new Chantarelle residents, Carol and Rick Facas. We hope they come to our Christmas party so you all can meet them and hear their very interesting story. They are waiting to get their furniture, so Carol said they are "Camping Out" at 20 South Temelec Circle. Please add their information to your yellow Chantarelle directory:

Rick - 415-238-2543 - rfacas@gmail.com

Carol - 415-830-2334 - carolfacas@gmail.com

--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

ART CLUB – DECEMBER EXHIBITION

"WINTER AND MORE"

IN THE CLUBHOUSE

HEATHER DAHLBERG

Farm in the Snow, Soft pastels on pastel paper

Winter wonderland, Soft pastels on pastel paper

JOHN DODGSHON

"Tyger Tyger burning bright" -- William Blake

JUNE DEBUSK

Tufted Titmouse on Snowy Branch

MIKE HASHII

Japanese Heritage site, Snowy Shirakawa-Go

SHELLEY LAWRENCE

TBA

HOME WINDOW GALLERIES

SHELLEY LAWRENCE (121 S Temelec)

TBA

MAY HASHII (141 S Temelec)

Warmth in Winter

--Mike Hashii

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club met on November 14th at Kris and Ivan's beautiful home! We had a full group and enjoyed discussing ***And Then There Were None*** by Agatha Christie. Because of the holidays, we will not be meeting in December but will resume our regular meeting date on January 16th from 4:00-5:30.

As always, we welcome any other neighbors who are interested in joining or feel free to just read the book for your own pleasure. If you have any questions, please call 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.

LOOSE ENDS

A Heartwarming Way to Give Back

'Loose Ends' mends broken hearts by finishing projects left behind by deceased loved ones.

While in Europe a few weeks ago, I watched a news story on BBC that featured an American non-profit called Loose Ends, an organization of volunteers that finish the knitting, crocheting and quilting projects of those who have died or are physically unable. Founded by two Americans, Masey Kaplan and Jen Simonic, the word about what the non-profit does is spreading around the world.

One of their first endeavors was a knitting project. The women were asked if they could find someone to finish a project for a family who had lost their mother. The mother had been working on a blanket but died before she could finish it. Loose Ends stepped in and found Sarah deDoes, an avid knitter for over 70 years. "It's something of myself that I can give to others," she said.

"We had been asked by friends who had lost loved ones if we could finish projects for them," Kaplan said. "By finishing it, they would be able to wear that person's love on that, basically. And after we had each done a number of projects, it occurred to us that there was an opportunity to let other people express that kind of generosity to each other as well. Many have since jumped at that opportunity, as Loose Ends has grown through word of mouth to over 1000 volunteers in 19 countries and all but two states, all in search of the satisfaction of delivering a part of who's gone to their loved ones.

Kaplan hopes that word can continue to spread about Loose Ends, and that the legacies of those who leave projects behind can be finished one stitch at a time.

Seeing this story reminded me of the labor of love my brother-in-law and I undertook when my husband passed last year. Joel's brother is an accomplished author and has written three novels. Joel asked his brother to publish his memoirs he had been writing since he retired. After Joel passed, Leonard and I put the pieces of Joel's memoirs and short stories together and I had them published. I distributed the books to members of his family and to his friends mentioned in his memoirs. Leonard and I were glad we were able to fulfill Joel's wishes.

--Valerie Camarda

COMMUNITY NEWS

From Sonoma Garbage

For free Christmas tree pick up we will be collecting Christmas Trees at the curb on Monday, January 8, 2024. Please remove stands and place the trees at the curb the night before. No flocking, tinsel, decorations or stands allowed.

From USPS

Get your gifts there on time by using these cut-off dates for service.

Dec 16 - USPS Ground Advantage Service

Dec 18 - Priority Mail Service

Dec 20 - Priority Mail Express

Parkinson's Support Group

Meets every fourth Friday each month

10-12:00 p.m.

Sonoma Community Center

276 E. Napa Street

More info: wendyhoffman@comcast.net or call 209-915-1270

Parkinson's Caregivers Support Group

Meets third Wednesday each month 3:00 p.m.

Sonoma Hills, 405 W. MacArthur St

More info: wendyhoffman@comcast.net or call
209-915-1270

--Valerie Camarda

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

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ODE TO SONOMA'S COLORFUL 2023 FALL



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

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 Bunco 1:00-4:00	6	7 Hanukkah Begins At Sundown	8 HOA Holiday Party 6:00-8:30	9
10	11	12 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	13	14	15 Hanukkah Ends	16
17	18	19	20 Poker 6:30	21 Art Club 1:00-3:30 First Day Of Winter	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30-4:00	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

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.