

JANUARY

January brings new beginnings: a new month, a new year, a new volume of our newsletter, new opportunities, or perhaps new chances to seize old opportunities. As 2015 begins to unfold, we hope it turns out well for all of you. Notable days this January include: New Year's day on Thursday, January 1; The Orthodox Christmas Day on Wednesday, January 7; and Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 19. A very Happy New Year to you all!

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is in the clubhouse at 3pm on **Tuesday, January 20th**. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the open forum, which allows members to voice concerns and bring matters to the board's attention.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Happy New Year and have a great 2015. The new year is now here and for some it is a chance to look back at the past year and assess what we have accomplished. For others it is a chance to look to the future and move on to new ideas and objectives. In Chantarelle, I think we can do both.

What have we been able to accomplish?

Our landscape agenda was a lengthy and complex one. We were able to prune and mulch (an increase in the number of homes), as well as spray the birch trees. We saw to the repair of numerous sprinkler heads, evaluated the bushes and trees that needed to be replaced. We conserved water and made plans to purchase drought-resistant replacements for landscaping. We were able to quickly repair our well pump, and locate the leaks that occurred after the earthquake.

Other accomplishments: We obtained three estimates for a bocce ball court, sent out a community survey, established a website, and successfully ran our annual BBQ and Holiday Party, as well as a community 25th Anniversary Celebration. We began a monthly movie night, semimonthly Mexican train dominoes game, and a daily exercise class.

Now onward to 2015-- We have gathered some additional backflow pipe information to continue our quest for the best outcome for our community. We continue to consider the recommendations that were listed on our Community Survey. Some of the ideas are not costly and hopefully with the establishment of the new Activities Committee we can realize social, cultural and personal experiences that will benefit our Chantarelle community. Our HOA Board is striving to bring the best quality of life to our 122 homeowners. Some community members have passed on and new neighbors have moved into Chantarelle. Changes continue in the cycle of life. The objective to deliver necessary services and keep our monthly fee at \$150 has been accomplished for the time being.

Thanks to all who have made good things happen here this year! Let's celebrate our successes and broaden our horizons, expanding our hopes and dreams for a happy and healthy Chantarelle in 2015.

Dave Owens, on behalf of your HOA Board of Directors

MOVIE NIGHT

Our January movie will be shown in the Clubhouse at 7pm on Wednesday, January 21. The feature is a French language film (with English subtitles) **Le Chef**, starring Jean Reno.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

If you want Sonoma Garbage to collect your Christmas tree, leave it at curbside on the

morning of **Monday, January 5th**. Flocked trees will not be collected and tree stands should first be removed.

LANDSCAPE NOTES

Greetings and happiest of Happy New Years to all of you here in Chantarelle! Debbie and Susan here to report for you on the latest happenings in our Chantarelle landscape.

Nature's Irrigation: As you all know blissfully well, December has been a month of much rain! Our plants and trees are singing in the rain, the ground is soft and damp, the streams are running, and our precious ground water is hopefully on the path to be restored to some semblance of normal levels. Nonetheless, we must still be conscientious about our water usage, as the drought is far from over. And even if it were to be miraculously over, we still need to alter our ways and become more mindful and conservative in our water usage. For that reason, during the entire month of December, the irrigation has been turned off. If the rains continue, you may not hear that familiar sound of the sprinklers going off until well into late spring. That is our hope! But we will be monitoring our usage needs closely as the winter progresses.

Fallen Leaves: As our gardens and lawns go into their version of hibernation in this time of winter, the main task of our Waldron Landscape Crew is to remove fallen leaves. We are watching closely to ensure that they do so in a timely manner so that our residents are safe from slipping on wet leaves on the pavement, as well as simply tidying up the neighborhood.

Pruning Elves: Debbie and I are going to commence with a project in early January of hand-pruning the shrubs that are in the front entry ways of some of your homes. It is our hope that we can preserve some of the plants that do blossom in spring so that they don't get the "shaving" treatment that is the time-efficient but less than attractive pruning method that our Landscape Crew necessarily employs. So if you see the two of us in your front yard any time soon, that's what we are up to.

By the way, if you enjoy a bit of gardening and would like to be in charge of pruning your own front entryway shrubs, please let us know. We can notify the Waldron Crew to leave your shrubs alone so that you can tend them in the manner you prefer.

That's our report for December. Looking forward to seeing you and working with you to continually improve our community's landscape in 2015. *Debbie & Susan*

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Chantarelle Christmas Party on Friday, December 5th was well attended, with a good mix of old and new residents. As always, our thanks go to the Social Committee for their hard work in organizing the event.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Please welcome our new neighbors:

Paul and Arna Munford

254 So. Temelec Circle

Tel. 415-300-7273

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Our 2015 Directory will be printed in March, in time for the Annual Meeting. If you are a new owner or resident, or if your details have changed, please advise John Dodgshon at 933-8395 or email him at

John_Dodgshon@hotmail.com.

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

TGIF PARTY

The next TGIF is at the clubhouse on Friday, January 2nd, 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.

SAFETY & WELFARE NOTES

Hans Steuck reminds us that disaster preparedness begins at home but needn't end there. In planning for the worst we can all do our best to keep our communities safe and secure...

Be prepared everywhere: Trouble may strike at any time, so be ready for it in all the places you might be. Have a plan for what you'll do if a calamity occurs while you're at the office, commuting, or running errands. In addition to your 3-day home emergency kit (see *ready.gov*), keep similar supplies in your car and office. The more self-sufficient you are, the more resources you leave for others who may be in greater need.

Customize your knowledge: Seek out location-specific training such as the 'Ready, Set, Respond' workshops offered at AAA branches. You'll learn how to help prepare for the disasters most likely to occur locally.

Don't neglect the basics: If you haven't already done so, take first-aid and CPR classes; sign up at *redcross.org*. Learn how to use the defibrillators found at many airports, malls, and other public places. In a disaster's aftermath, your participations can be a vital stopgap during the time it takes for emergency responders to arrive.

(This text was taken from an article by Josh Sens that appeared in AARP Magazine).