



Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025 – Issue 36.2

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Here's a little history of the holiday taken from History.com... "In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th century, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

Today, according to Hallmark, an estimated 145 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second

largest card-sending holiday of the year (more cards are sent at Christmas)."

Valerie Camarda, Editor

415.370.9396

valerie@marketingsense.net

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We had a productive HOA meeting this week and I would like to share some of our decisions. We need to start planning for the removal of some of the HOA lawns and I am committed to do this only when required. The HOA has at least 8 areas that will need to have the lawns removed but it could take 5-7 years to complete. We need to be armed with landscape plans that have been vetted by everyone and have good cost controls.

Tom Flinn is working with landscape architects to develop plans that can be used to develop costs so we can budget the funds to start some small projects, maybe next year. The Board prioritized one area to start the first of these projects, which is at the large lawn site to the left of the pool.

We are working on plans for a Bocce Court which also includes ping pong. After we get a handle on the project cost we can then have some meetings where we can discuss how to pay for this improvement.

Ron Yamato went over the year end budget numbers and last year we were over budget for a variety of reasons. We want to go slow, especially at the start of the year to make sure we stay within budget this year.

Look forward to seeing you at First Friday, February 7th

--Steve Rogers, President

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

There were no reserve expenses in December, so the reserve fund remains in good shape at \$595,380.68 at the end of the month.

Operating expenses through the end of December were over budget by about \$13,598 for 2024. The three categories that affected this the most were landscape, utilities and administrative expenses.

Our operating cash stands at about \$21,561, which is comfortable enough with which to start the new year.

The number of homeowners who are behind in payments remained at 7, but the amount in arrears decreased to \$4,130. The one homeowner who accounts for a large portion of this amount made a first payment on the agreed-upon payment plan, so hopefully the delinquency will be eventually paid off. Also, there are two other homeowners who have shown continued payment problems and who now owe \$721 and \$662.50 respectively. I have asked Strong Management to contact these two homeowners to determine if we can assist them in this matter.

—Ron Yamato, Treasurer

CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS

Our first social event of 2025 will take place on Friday, February 7th. To those of you who are new to Chantarelle, this is referred to as "First Friday." We meet in our Clubhouse on the first Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Each household brings an appetizer or a dessert to share, and whatever your preferred drink may be. It is a very laidback casual event, and a great time for you to meet your new neighbors, and for us to meet you! Our theme for February will be Valentine's Day! I look forward to seeing many of you there!

—Lois Rogers, Social Chair

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

In case anyone is wondering, ChatGPT works! I started researching this and decided to try ChatGPT. This took less than two minutes to

do. Enjoy! I'm going to make chicken soup with the time I saved writing this article. 😊



Incorporating California native plants that are both drought-tolerant and fire-resistant is a strategic approach to creating sustainable and safe landscapes. While no plant is entirely fireproof, certain species possess characteristics that make them less susceptible to ignition and the spread of fire. These plants typically have high moisture content, low levels of flammable oils or resins, and maintain a hydrated state even in arid conditions.

Recommended California Native Plants:

- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*): A perennial herb with feathery foliage and clusters of white to pink flowers. Yarrow is drought-tolerant and has a high moisture content, making it less flammable.
- California Fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*): Known for its tubular red or orange flowers, this perennial is both drought-resistant and has low fuel volume, reducing fire risk.
- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*): Also called California holly, this evergreen shrub bears red berries and has a low flammability rating, especially when adequately watered.
- California Lilac (*Ceanothus* spp.): These shrubs offer abundant blue flowers and are noted for their relative resistance to burning, particularly when maintained with occasional watering.
- Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.): With its smooth red bark and clusters of small flowers, manzanita is adapted to dry environments and, when properly spaced and maintained, can be part of a fire-resistant landscape.

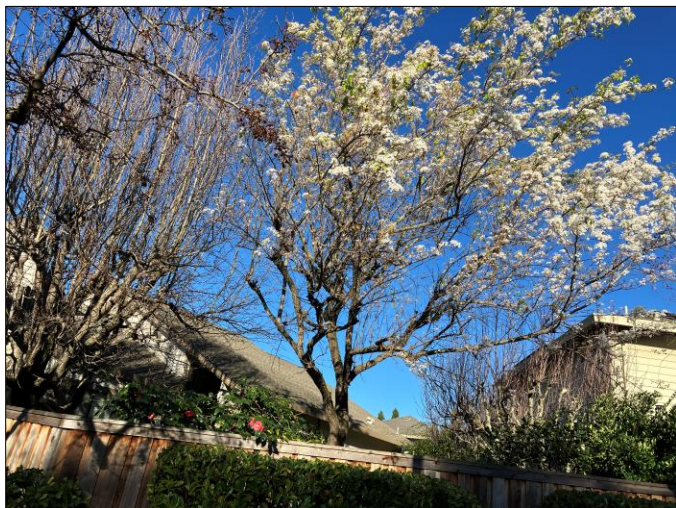
Additional Resources:

- California Native Plant Society (CNPS): Offers detailed information on fire-resistant landscaping with native plants.
- Fire Safe Council of San Diego County: Provides a comprehensive list of fire-resistant plants suitable for landscaping in fire-prone areas.
- Sustainable Defensible Space: Features a curated list of California native plants that are both fire-resistant and beneficial to wildlife.

By selecting and properly maintaining these native plants, homeowners can contribute to water conservation efforts and enhance the defensibility of their properties against wildfires.

--Tom Flinn, Landscape Chairman
415-621-7572 thomasflinn@gmail.com

SPRING COMES EARLY TO CHANTARELLE



WELCOME COMMITTEE

Happy Valentine's Day 2025 to all our Chantarelle Neighbors. As of this printing we do not have any new neighbors to report on. Hopefully, with the following houses on the market we will have new neighbors moving in soon.

209 South Temelec Circle

169 South Temelec Circle

140 South Temelec Circle

150 St. James Drive

With spring weather just around the corner, we look forward to welcoming our new Chantarelle neighbors. Let one of us know if you see any action concerning any of these houses.

--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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a neighbor who is feeling under the weather or needs a little cheering up, please let us know. We would like to show that our lovely community cares.

--Jackie O'Neill - 707-292-0261

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Valerie Camarda, 178 St. James Drive. We'll be discussing the #1 Best Seller – *James, A Novel*. Since it is the #1 best seller, it has been difficult for some of our members to find it in the library, thus the delay in our meeting date.

--Marybeth Jacobsen

Jacobsenmarybeth@gmail.com

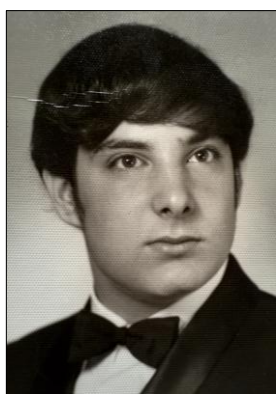
GUESS WHO . . .

In an effort to get to know our neighbors better, we started a new column last month called *Guess Who?* Below are the January photos of two of our Chantarelle residents taken when they were a bit younger, with their names and, below, who identified them.



Steve O'Neill

--Russelle Johnson--



Len Bonamassa

--Art Feretti--

For February, can you guess who these two residents are?



--Valerie Camarda

CLUBHOUSE NOTES

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 our new Clubhouse coordinator, Marianne Sullivan, at msullivan101010@gmail.com or 530-575-9386
--Marianne Sullivan, new coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Rogers, President
707-771-9290

Susan Carlisle, Vice-President
415-302-8935

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

Editor - Valerie Camarda

Proofreader – Linda Jackson

Creative Director - Tom McKean

ART CLUB – JANUARY EXHIBIT

JANUARY ART EXHIBITION was themed “New Year's Thoughts and More”



John Dodgshon



May Hashii



Shelley Lawrence



June DeBusk



Mike Hashii

More Art welcomed! If you're interested in showing your art piece for future exhibit(s), please contact Mike Hashii (mhashii@gmail.com)

–Mike Hashii

SAFETY AND WELFARE

From the Inn at Belden Village – 5 Winter Health and Safety Tips for Seniors

1. Ward Off Seasonal Depression

Winter can be hard on all of us. It's cold and gloomy, and there's little sun to give us our daily dose of vitamin D. Seniors can be more prone to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

There are 2 major ways to combat the gloom and isolation of winter: visiting with friends and family and staying active. Even just taking a stroll around the neighborhood each day is enough for seniors to feel like they're part of a community, plus walking is great exercise! Since it can be more difficult for seniors to leave the house during winter, it's important that friends and family make frequent visits or calls to remind them that they are loved.

2. Protect Yourself from the Cold

While it may seem obvious that you should dress warmly in the winter, this is especially important for older adults as they are more prone to hypothermia. When seniors go outside in freezing temperatures, it's important to wear layers, cover the head and hands, and breathe through a scarf to prevent lung damage. Layers should be worn in any kind of cold weather, freezing or not, as shivering puts extra stress on the body.

3. Wear Proper Footwear

Snow and freezing temperatures make for dangerous situations that can lead to serious falls. Any time an older adult goes outside, even if it's just to get in the car or check the mail, they should ensure they are wearing proper non-slip footwear with plenty of tread. Loved ones and caregivers should always keep an eye out for icy patches and offer assistance to seniors when walking outside. After all, it's much easier to prevent a fall than to recover from one.

4. Eat a Balanced Diet

Vitamin D deficiency is one of the biggest concerns during winter. To make up for the lack of vitamin D we normally receive from the sun, it's important that seniors eat a varied diet that includes vitamin D and calcium-rich foods such as milk, eggs, and fish. It may be beneficial for seniors who aren't taking a multivitamin to start now to ensure they're getting all the vitamins and minerals necessary for good health and a strong immune system.

5. Monitor Temperatures

Take special care to monitor temperatures both indoor and outdoor, as well as internal body temperature. Indoor temperatures should stay consistently warm, never dropping too low at night. Seniors should stay away from any drafty areas in the home or wear extra layers or blankets to compensate.

Body temperature should never drop below 95 degrees Fahrenheit as that is a sign of illness. Seniors should seek medical attention if they are exposed to cold temperatures for a long period of time, or if your body temperature begins to drop.

Enjoy a happy and healthy February.

February is Black History month.

The Super Bowl will be played on February 9th.

Hope your team wins!

Valentine's Day is February 14th.

President's Day is February 17th.

– Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

powens2@juno.com

POOL 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		Flex 4:00		Flex 4:00

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Bunco 1:00-4:00	5	6	7 1st Friday 5:30	8
9	10	11	12	13 Book Club 2:00-3:30	14 Valentine's Day <i>"Love is in the Air"</i>	15
16	17 Holiday Presidents' Day	18	19 Poker Night 6:30	20 Art Club 1:00-3:30	21	22
23	24	25 Mexican Train Dominos 12:30-4:00	26	27	28	

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.