



# Chantarelle Gazette

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024 – Issue 35.12

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS . . . OUT AND ABOUT

The last few weeks have been quite busy seeing friends and going to concerts. Besides the monthly concerts I go to presented by the Sonoma Valley Jazz Society, I went to Sacramento with friends Len and Deb Bonamassa to see their son Joe perform.



We got to go backstage and met all his bandmates, backup singers, roadies, sound engineers and manager, Roy.

It was impressive to see how many people it takes to put on a show! Joe had at least 12 guitars on hand that he played during the show – just a smattering of his over 600 guitar collection (one of the largest in the music industry!). His concert was AMAZING! Joe makes it look so easy! He was a child prodigy and at the age of 12 played with B.B. King and got his first record contract! His band and backup singers are so well synchronized. He played to a sold-out crowd of adoring fans. Thank you, Len and Deb, for inviting me to join you. It was an incredible night!

A week or so later, I joined my nephew Jason and two of his friends visiting from Oregon for dinner and a show at the Graton Casino in Rohnert Park. We had a fabulous dinner at their steak house and then went to the ballroom to see Patti LaBelle. Patti is 80 years old, but you would never know it – either by the way she looks or by the energy she exudes! I got tired just watching her! And let me tell you, she can still hit those HIGH notes! She blew the

audience away singing the songs we remember from our youth.



Towards the end of the show (after a costume and wig change) she asked for six male volunteers who could sing and dance to come up on stage. I nudged my nephew and urged him to go up. Here he is with Patti.

What fun we had that night! Graton puts on some great shows.

I can't wait to see what the month of December will bring. Whatever you do, enjoy and Happy Holidays!

--Valerie Camarda

[valerie@marketingsense.net](mailto:valerie@marketingsense.net)



## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We had a good HOA meeting in November, and I would like to report on one of the items. There is a State Executive Order that HOAs must discontinue using ground water (wells) to water ornamental lawns. The order only applies to HOA common areas not individual front yards. This order is not being enforced at this time but when we go into drought conditions, we will see the order enforced. The good part is that we do not have to be in a hurry, but we do need to prepare. At the meeting we identified all HOA common areas such as the

areas around our entrance signs and other spaces.

Tom Flinn will get design plans from two landscape architects, and we will set up a viewing area so we can all view the plans. From these selections we can choose those that can be used for lawn replacement. The Board will revisit the item at our January meeting to plan what will be done in each area and a priority order for conversion of lawn to low water use plants.

We also have a request to revisit installing a bocce court and another request for a ping pong table. We will resurrect the plans for the bocce courts that were done years ago and get estimates for installing one in the common area behind the Clubhouse.

Hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party.

--Steve Rogers



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#### **TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024**

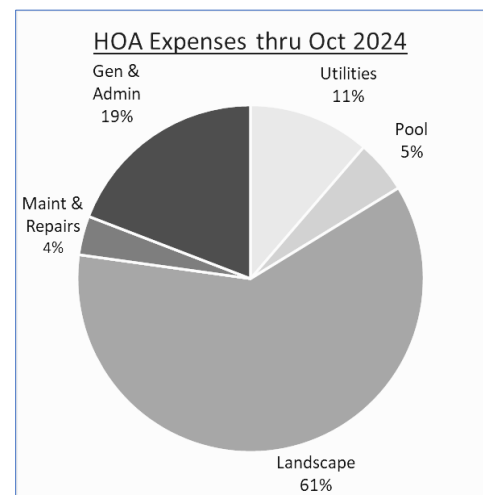
There were two reserve expenses in October in the amounts of \$2,256 and \$2,885, both involving replacement and repairs for common area fences. The reserve fund was still in good shape at \$584,964.11 at the end of October.

Operating expenses through the end of October jumped to being over budget by about \$13,793. The three categories that contributed to this were landscape, utilities and the pool.

Our operating cash stands at about \$21,694. Subtracting operating liabilities of \$16,186

from this amount leaves us with ready cash of about \$5,508. Like last month, this is somewhat tight, but we do have ready reserves that can handle emergencies over the next couple of months.

The number of homeowners who are behind in payments decreased from 8 to 6 from September, and the total delinquent amount went down as well from \$4,216 to \$3,624. In addition, the one homeowner who makes up a large portion of the remaining delinquency amount has agreed to a payment plan, the start of which should be reflected in next month's report.



--Ron Yamato

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#### **CHANTARELLE SOCIAL NEWS**

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Flyers for our upcoming Holiday Party on Friday, December 13th

were distributed to your mail tube (and a few mailboxes) this past

Monday. Hopefully you retrieved yours before our big storms came

rolling in! This event is a really nice way to end our year of get-togethers

and to wish each other a nice holiday!

Since it is a catered event, I do have to submit how many people are attending by December 5th, that is my deadline to receive your form and check from the bottom of the flyer. Our Clubhouse room can only accommodate just

so many people, so that is another reason to get your reservation in early! Please put your check (or cash) in an envelope with your form and drop it in my locked mailbox at 186 Saint James Dr.

I am also looking for volunteers to help make some Holiday Cookies to go on our dessert table.

Hope to see you at the party!

--Lois Rogers, Social Chair

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### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

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#### SAVE WATER AND SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

The biggest news in landscaping is that the HOA can no longer water ornamental lawns around the common areas, by the Clubhouse and entrances to the Clubhouse property. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the State of California prohibits the irrigation and will enforce it if we have a drought or 2029, whichever comes first. So, we have some time to think about what is the best way to proceed.

There was also a discussion that the HOA fee will most likely go up in 2025. One of the ways to save money is by changing the landscaping. We spend approximately \$10,000 a month on landscape maintenance, mowing, pruning, weeding, maintaining an elderly irrigation system and repairs to sprinkler pipes. If we removed some lawns, switched to low water plants, on-going maintenance can be almost nothing. It all depends on what you plant and how you plant it. Ground cover, beautiful rocks, colorful rocks, crushed marble, trees, anything native is usually low water. Thousands of choices in California.

For example, the area that is left of the pool could become a meadow. Lawn removed, a seed company in Santa Rosa sells wildflower seeds, water while seeds are sprouting then as necessary year one. By year three all you should have to do is mow it each spring and new flowers will pop up. It naturalizes and becomes a home for birds, bees and nature

takes over. We could have trails through the meadow, make a path out of named memorial bricks sold to defray the cost of the garden. Could have tables, chairs and benches to sit and enjoy nature.

While we can still water the front lawns now, during a drought, California law gives homeowners the right to remove their lawns and put in low water plants. Imagine the savings to start with all the common areas, no weekly lawn mowing and maintenance? Could we save 20% of the bill without the common area lawns? Add homes into the mix, even if half of the people wanted low water

front yards, could we save \$5,000 a month? Probably. I look at the possibility of having more money to take care of our trees, reduce lawn expenses, watering, maintenance and having a better property value and quality of life. Lawns are a burden in California and good quality low water landscaping is rewarded with higher property values. Imagine us using savings to create a shelter to keep the pool water warm overnight? Reducing landscaping expenses could go to that, to pay the utility bills, to prune trees more often and could keep the HOA fee lower over time.



So, the challenge Steve gave to everyone is to think what kind of landscaping do you want for the common area? A meadow, succulent gardens, a sitting area, a sports area, a meditation garden, etc.? Let me know what



input you have. This is the biggest landscaping we will ever do since the opening of Chantarelle. Think of how you want to use the common spaces, and I am working with two designers to develop drawings of the common areas with the goal of four different concepts so the homeowners can give feedback on what they like best. I know there is nervousness about touching grass. Life changes, lack of water and climate change make it impossible to maintain the current landscaping long-term. Here's your chance to save money, reduce all that mowing and blowing noise and get landscaping pleasing to you and the environment. It's a great thing.

#### CURRENT 2024 LANDSCAPE WORK

Once we get a few dry days, leaf raking will continue. That will be followed by pruning of the short trees (15 feet or less). Tall tree pruning will occur in January 2025. This is dependent on the weather of course.

All the rain reminded me to look at my gutters and downspouts. If you don't know it, the downspouts are connected to underground pipes that take the rainwater to the street sewer. If you stand in front of your house, you will see holes in the sidewalk where the rainwater should exit your yard. You can test it by putting a hose into a downspout. If water does not come out into the street, there's a problem. Landscapers, contractors and handy workers can all fix this problem.

When we moved in five years ago, our pipes were broken causing the rainwater to back up into the yard. Excess water can damage the foundation. We cleaned out the cement sidewalk opening of dirt and leaves and of course, cleaned the gutters thoroughly. A handy person can do this for you, so you don't have to deal with ladders and a slippery roof. It's money well spent for you and your house.

--Tom Flinn

415-621-7572 thomasflinn@gmail.com

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### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SONOMA GARBAGE COLLECTORS

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**Free Christmas tree pick-up:** We will be collecting Christmas Trees at the curb on Monday, January 6, 2025. Please remove stands and place them at the curb the night before. No flocking, tinsel, decorations or stands allowed.



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#### OUR NEW CHANTARELLE NEIGHBORS

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We have no new residents for November, but we are looking forward to greeting our new homeowners or renters for the four now available homes in Chantarelle. We hope our wonderful community will attract new people before the holidays so they can celebrate with all of us. Here's to a thankful and delicious holiday season. The welcome committee, Russelle, Debby, Peggy and Shelley.

Please call me if you have any information about new residents, Russelle Johnson, 707-935-8658 or email rxrjohnson@yahoo.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

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## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

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Know anyone who is feeling a bit under the weather and needs a little cheering up? Please let me know and I'll send a card, call or pay a visit to them. Just let me know.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Debby and Len Bonamassa!

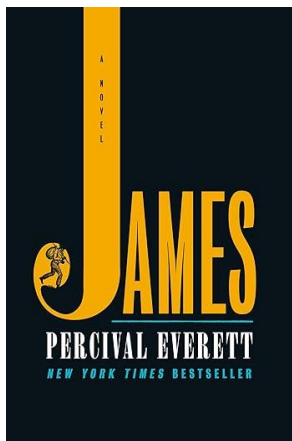
--Jackie O'Neill – 707-292-0261

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## BOOK CLUB NEWS

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The Book Club will take the month of December off and resume its meetings in January. The host for the January meeting is Valerie Camarda. She has chosen the New York Times bestseller, *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett.



AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER and NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER. A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

It currently is in development as a feature film to be produced by Steven Spielberg.

"Genius"—*The Atlantic* • A masterpiece that will help redefine one of the classics of American literature, while also being a major achievement on its own."—*Chicago Tribune* • A provocative, enlightening literary work of art."—*The Boston Globe* • "Everett's most thrilling novel, but also his most soulful."—*The New York Times*

The Book Club will meet on **Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30 p.m.** at Valerie's home, 178 St. James Drive.

--Marybeth Jacobsen

Jacobsenmarybeth@gmail.com

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## CLUBHOUSE NOTES

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**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.

--Linda Jackson

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



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## **MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

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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

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## **CHANTARELLE GAZETTE STAFF**

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Editor - Valerie Camarda  
Proofreader – Linda Jackson  
Creative Director - Tom McKean



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## ART CLUB – OCTOBER EXHIBITS AND FUTURE EXHIBIT THEMES

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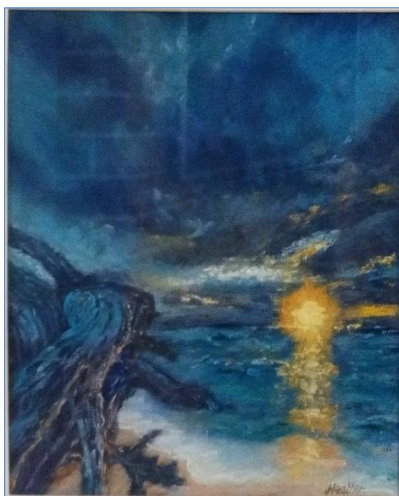
NOVEMBER ART EXHIBITION was Heather Dahlberg's one artist show at the Clubhouse.

Here are some comments from her fellow artists in the Club:

Shelley: "I knew we were all in for a treat, with Heather's paintings. Sunsets are vibrant. My favorite is the path to the beach and promise of a better future." ❤️

Mike: "Heather's use of color makes the sun so real I can feel the warmth."

May: "The contrast with the dark clouds, the bright deep shining red sunset piece, and the last moment of sunset light and gold glaring on the blackened seashore, those are so amazingly dramatic. Along with the other artworks, Heather's Sunset exhibit was great!"



**Future exhibit themes:** Winter and more (December)

**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

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## **SAFETY AND WELFARE**

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### **FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING:**

#### **Why it's important to talk about your feelings during the holidays**

There can be emotional expectations of what the holidays should be like, and feelings of sadness can become more pronounced when others celebrate the season. Understand that your feelings of loss or depression are real and share them with others, whether a family member, friend, or a professional counselor.

#### **Positively remember past holiday traditions or create new ones**

The holidays are often a time of reflection, which can lead to feelings of loss of people and cherished traditions of times past. When reminiscing, focus on your favorite people or traditions. Creating a journal, scrapbook, or recording of holiday traditions can create a legacy of treasured memories for loved ones. We often hold traditions dear this time of year, but you can also start new ones:

- Learn about different cultures and holiday rituals.
- Watch a holiday movie marathon or drive through neighborhoods to enjoy the holiday decorations.
- Find an activity that brings you joy or a sense of meaning.

#### **Stay connected during the holidays**

Being socially isolated can affect your emotional and mental health. Find social activities you can participate in, whether it's with family, friends, church, or a local senior center. Some of these offer transportation services or provide activities remotely for those with computer access.

Become involved in or volunteer with community organizations like homeless and domestic violence shelters, food pantries, SPCA, hospitals, or churches that engage in outreach activities for those in need. If you have limited transportation, you can always write cards, adopt a family, and provide gifts or food. Reach out to others who may be socially isolated. What the past few years have taught us is how to be connected to others in different ways—phone calls, letters, or through the Internet.

#### **Take care of yourself**

Try to eat healthy, stay hydrated and be conscious of your alcohol intake over the holidays. Older adults do not metabolize alcohol like younger adults do, which increases the likelihood of falling, and accidents. Alcohol can also lower your mood. Remember, also, that mixing alcohol with certain medications is dangerous and could lead to more health problems.

Wishing you and yours happy and healthy holidays.

– Peggy Owens, Coordinator

SAFETY/WELFARE Committee

[powens2@juno.com](mailto: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<br>4:00 |         | Flex<br>4:00 |          | Flex<br>4:00 |

### DECEMBER 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE   | WED   | THU                         | FRI  | SAT   |
|-----|-----|---|---|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1   | 2   | 3<br>Bunco<br>1:00-4:00   | 4   | 5                           | 6<br>No<br>1st Friday                        | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10<br>No<br>Mexican<br>Train<br>Dominos<br>Today                            | 11  | 12                          | 13<br><b>Holiday<br/>Party<br/>6:00-8:30</b> | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18<br>Poker<br>Night<br>6:30  | 19<br>Art Club<br>1:00-3:30 | 20   | 21<br>Private<br>Event<br><b>1<sup>st</sup> Day<br/>of Winter</b> |
| 22  | 23  | 24<br>Mexican<br>Train<br>Dominos<br>12:30-4:00<br><b>Christmas<br/>Eve</b> | 25<br><b>Christmas<br/>Day<br/>Hanukkah<br/>Begins at<br/>Sundown</b> | 26                          | 27   | 28  |
| 29  | 30  | 31<br><b>New Year's<br/>Eve</b>   |   |                             |  |   |
|     |     |   |   |                             |  |   |

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.