Chantarelle News

Sonoma, California

Chantarelle Homeowners' Association

December 2015 **Volume 26 #12**

DECEMBER

There are so many notable days this month including: first day of Hanukkah on Sunday the 6th; end of Hanukkah on Monday the 14th; the Winter Solstice on Tuesday the 22nd; Christmas Day on Friday the 25th; and New Year's Eve on Thursday the 31st.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hannukkah everyone and have a very happy month!

BOARD MEETING

There is no Board Meeting in December. The next Board Meeting will be at 3pm on Tuesday, January 19th.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We hope to see you at the Chantarelle's Christmas Party in the clubhouse on Friday, December 4th from 5 to 7:30pm.

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

The first installment of the 2015-2016 Sonoma County property taxes must be received in the Tax office by 5pm on December 10th, 2015.

CONDOLENCES TO THE CAFASSO FAMILY

The Chantarelle Community extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Gus Cafasso who passed away last month.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

December is a time of celebration for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. These holidays bring friends and family together for meals, gift giving, and reflecting on who in our busy lives makes us a better person. Stress is also present with purchasing gifts, making sure everyone is included, and planning get-togethers at times is a job unto itself. Once we step back we can see that the season may have hidden costs. Some do not have what others have, children don't always understand why they may not get what others get.

This is a season to give of ourselves, not only financially but with time volunteered to make life memorable for others the way we have experienced it ourselves. Members of our Chantarelle community know what it is to have and not to have. Luckily we are in a community that is comforting and where we can rely on our friends and neighbors to lend a hand, listen when we need to talk and in some instances reinforce what we should do in a time of crisis. Enjoy the season and try to make a difference in someone's life. The rewards far outweigh the effort on our part.

Community Planning:

This is also the season of community planning- celebrating with the Holiday Party, researching irrigation and water use, reviewing the 2016 budget and taking part in activities with our neighbors, such as the Discovery Bay trip.

Irrigation Project:

As of this date we have received two estimates for the irrigation project and we are hoping to get three additional estimates to help us make the best possible decisions for 2016 and future years. The procedures for such an endeavor are also being researched for correctness and alignment with our by-laws. The 2016 budget does not include any increase in association fees, but we will be able to sustain services in Chantarelle.

2016 Activities:

The January 19th HOA meeting will be a critical time for landscape planning and setting up a Nominating Committee. There will be three seats available on the HOA Board, so let us know if you are interested in running for one of these positions.

March will see the new Board seated, new pool keys distributed, and the expansion of various committees.

Please remember to complete your Emergency Response Census Form and return it to Ron Yamato's mail tube at 200 South Temelec Circle. We can also use additional Zone Captains. Thank you to the 7 volunteers who are already on board as of this date.
The Activities Committee needs additional members and at the January and March 2016 HOA meetings there will be a box for suggestions. Let us know your thoughts about possible community group activities.
As I write this article the weather is now cooler, the rains are forecast to start soon and Chantarelle will soon be aglow with colorful holiday lights. All the best on behalf of the HOA Board. This is the time of our lives so enjoy each day.
~ Dave Owens

LANDSCAPE NOTES

Hello Chantarelle Friends!

Your Landscape Committee members, Debbie and myself, have one thing on our minds with regard to our beautiful landscape as the year draws to a close, that is: upgrading our old irrigation system.

Several of you attended the Chantarelle Board Meeting on Nov. 24th, so those of you who were there heard my impassioned plea on behalf of the two of us that as a community, we allocate the funds necessary to implement a major upgrade on our irrigation system during the winter of 2016. Wintertime is the ideal time to do this work while the system is shut down for the rainy season.

You have heard us speak of the need to convert the spray irrigation to drip irrigation in front of each of our homes in order to maximize the efficiency of watering our lovely shrubs. That is still primary on our irrigation upgrade "to do" list. But after consulting with more than one irrigation specialist, we would very much like to add to that list. The first addition would be to upgrade our timers to new, extremely sensitive, state-of-the-art timers that will regulate the running of the irrigation system based on real-time readings on the weather conditions. This upgrade would result in a major savings of our precious resource of well-water. The third upgrade we envision taking place this winter is to change the sprinkler heads that cover our lawns to new, highly efficient sprinkler heads that are designed especially for maximum efficiency in watering lawns. These sprinkler heads would save as much as 30% of the water we currently use. These particular sprinkler heads are also new innovations that have been developed as a result of the extreme drought conditions that we've been dealing with in California.

You may be wondering what happened to our exploration into converting lawns to xeriscaping. We have two words for you on this one: too expensive. More on that in upcoming newsletter articles but for now, suffice it to say that this is not a viable option for our community.

We are still awaiting 2 - 3 bids from irrigation specialists before the Board makes a decision as to how to move forward with the upgrades we are encouraging. The Board's vote on this matter is scheduled for the next Board meeting, January 19, 2016.

If you are an advocate of this upgrade, do please let any one of our Board of Directors know your support of the project.

If you wish to have more information, you can email me at susanmoreschi@me.com and

I will forward to you a letter that Debbie and I sent to our Board members prior to the November meeting. It outlines in detail what I am describing above. Have a most wondrous holiday season, and we look very much

forward to a magnificent 2016 here in our beloved community of Chantarelle. ~ *Debbie and Susan*.

CHANTARELLE LIBRARY

Thank you to all our residents that have generously donated books to our Club House Library over the years. When I took over the duties as Chantarelle Librarian in 2002, the rule that was passed along was very simple: *only fiction paperbacks are allowed,* due to our small space. In order to maintain a current selection, I cull the books about once a month and donate them to the library for their fundraiser sales. However, Peggy Owens has developed a plan to put bookcases under the pass-through kitchen opening. We still will only accept fiction paperbacks but will have a bigger selection. Also, we would like to include DVDs that people could borrow. What do you think? Call Russelle if you have any suggestions, 707-935-8658. So keep up the good work and pass along a good read and a relaxing DVD to your neighbors. *~Russelle Johnson*

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. Willy's number is 996-0661.

SAFETY & WELFARE

Hans Steuck submitted this article from AARP Bulletin.

Nearly half of the complaints about debt collections that older people filed to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau report the same offense — unrelenting attempts to collect money that they don't owe. The Federal Trade Commission also says it receives more complaints about collectors than about any other industry.

What You Can Do:

1. Get details about debt

Ask for the collector's license number, company name, address and phone number. If the collector refuses to provide this information, assume it's a scam. Visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for other signs of bogus collectors.

2. Watch credit reports

When reviewing the three freebies that you can receive each year at AnnualCreditReport.com (get one from each credit reporting firm, spaced out over several months), look for unrecognized debts in your name, as well as inquiries by collectors or creditors.

3. Write letters

Visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's website for sample letters to help you get more information about the alleged debt, dispute it and stop contact from collectors. Send it by certified mail and with "return receipt" to the collector and creditor after initial contact, with copies to the CFPB, the FTC and your state attorney general.

4. Know what to expect

For alleged credit card debt, insist on written proof that you owe it — such as statements detailing the unpaid charge. For medical debt, get a statement or invoice outlining services, dates and names of doctors, and cross-check that with Medicare, private insurers and providers for payment or reimbursement status; collectors may call before payments are processed.

5. Know your rights
Get details from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Please refer to your 2015 Directory for a list of our Board of Directors and Committee Members.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP
Sonoma Garbage Collectors will be collecting Christmas Trees at the curb on Monday, January 4, 2016. Please remove stands and place at the curb the night before. No flocking, tinsel, decorations or stands allowed. There is no charge for this service.

MOVIE NIGHT
There will be no Movie Night in December.

CLUBHOUSE RESERVATIONS
To reserve the clubhouse for an event, please call Michael Hashii at 996-4817.

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE
Our thanks to Cecilia Angel for her continued dedication to delivering the newsletter. Please submit items for the newsletter to John Dodgshon, 933-8395 or email him at: *John_Dodgshon@hotmail.com.* Please submit suggestions for the Chantarelle Website to John Dodgshon, 933-8395 or Mary Howland at 650-468-1119, or send emails to: *John_Dodgshon@hotmail.com* or *char797@aol.com.*

CHANTARELLE WEEKLY CALENDAR				
Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
Yoga 10am **Art Club 1pm**	**Mah Jongg 10am**	**Bridge 12:30pm**	**Rummikub 1:30** **Last Thursday only**	
Flex Exercise Class 4:30pm	**Flex Exercise Class 4:30pm**	**Flex Exercise Class 4:30pm**	**Flex Exercise Class 4:30pm**	**Flex Exercise Class 4:30pm**

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 **Bunco 1-4pm**	2	3	4 **Christmas Party 5pm**	5
6 **Hanukkah Begins**	7	8 **MexicanTrain Dominoes 12:30-4pm**	9	10	11	12
13	14 **Hanukkah Ends**	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 **Winter Solstice**	23	24 **Christmas Eve**	25 **Christmas Day**	26
27	28	29	30	31 **New Year's Eve**		

Waldron Landscaping is now here on Thursday and Friday 8am until 4pm.
Garbage, recycling and garden trash pickup is every Monday.