

BOARD MEETINGS

**Third Wednesday,
every other month**

Country Club at 4:30 pm

Mutual Water Co. at 5:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS:

Country Club:

President: Philip Hartley

Treasurer: Clelia Baur

Secretary: Clelia Baur

Director: Doug Bridges

Director: Doug Moore

Director: Bob Gunion

*Historian: Betty Helf

Water Company:

President: Norma Simmons

Secretary/Treasurer:
Chris Smits

Director: Jean Swegle

Director: Richard Tracy

Director: Carina DeHererra

Administration Office

8475 Harbor View Drive

Financial info: 707-279-8544

Fax: 707-279-0118

Send eMail messages to
RivieraWest@gmail.com

Visit our Website:

rivierawesthoa.com

Office Hours/Days:

Mon., Tues., Thurs.

9 am to 3 pm

Wed. 9am to 11 am

Friday 9am to 3:30 pm



Riviera West Country Club

News

September 2019

Visit our WEBSITE ... rivierawesthoa.com

Issue 101

**Next Country Club Board Meeting is September 18, 2019 at 4:30 pm.
Next Mutual Water Co. Board Meeting is September 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm.**

President's Report

Philip Hartley, President, Riviera West Country Club

Our near miss fire on August 8 gave each of us an opportunity to assess our readiness for an emergency evacuation. Hope everyone was able to leave in a timely manner and will make changes to their evacuation plans as needed.

August 17 brought an overwhelming response from community members as more than 30 joined with other residents along the Soda Bay Road corridor to clear six miles of the southbound lane. Volunteers were joined by volunteer county workers, CalFire, Kelseyville Fire Department and law enforcement officers from the Sheriff's Department and CHP in the "1000 Hands" effort spearheaded by Supervisor Rob Brown. Congratulations and many thanks to all who participated.

PG&E initiated a project in the community to spray its power poles with flame retardant and to cut down trees in close proximity to their poles. At present they have not returned to clear away the resulting debris piles.

(Cont. next page)

Norma Simmons, President, Harbor View Mutual Water Company

Fellow Property Owners,

The Golf fire was a close call and a good practice run for evacuation, water usage, and emergency protocols. The water tanks were full and ready at the time of the fire, and the clubhouse tank was used by firefighters on Chaparral for structure defense which used about 40,000 gallons of water. Fortunately we didn't run out of water in that tank. PG&E turned off the power in the community before the evacuations were done and the pumps weren't able to produce any more. There was some confusion as to the identity of our two water operators so we have purchased them some new shirts with the company logo and name on them to help validate them to first responders easily identify them as authorized persons.

The backup generator project is in motion with a few setbacks, we have received the first generator from Cummins last week that was unfortunately shipped to us in error.

(Cont. next page)

Water bills

Meters are read during the first few days of every other month, billings are created immediately thereafter, and water bills are sent out, usually by the 5th. Your water bill is DUE UPON RECEIPT since it is for service you received during the two months just prior to the billing. Any question? Call the office ... 707-279-8544.

(Hartley, Cont. from pg. 1 column 1)

We have been in touch with PG&E to express our concern and to ask for their plan/timeline for removal.

Our annual fire safety program including inspections and citations is nearly complete for this season. We issued 118 citations for unsafe fire conditions. To date 75% of the parcels cited have been cleared and we can expect some to follow before the Board of Directors gives final approval to assessed fines on September 18.

Three projects underway are making progress. The garden park next to the clubhouse is in the final stages of completion. Construction has begun on the picnic park including a BBQ/picnic table area, bocce ball court and horseshoe pit. We have contracted with Jonas Electric to install an automatic emergency generator for the clubhouse and to refurbish and replace outdated electrical panels and wiring. As expected, the demand for generators is at its peak so it will be about six weeks before we receive our generator. This system will allow us to offer a comfortable respite center for community residents in the case of power outages and enable us to continue HOA operations.

We are keeping a close eye on Clear Lake Riviera HOA's efforts to install an emergency siren alarm system. County reluctance to operate such a system has been a hurdle to installation but it appears that our neighboring HOA may have successfully cleared this hurdle. They are using the same company and equipment that we researched a year ago. If CLR is successful it will provide a blueprint we can consider for Riviera West.

KEEP OUR POOL SAFE AND HEALTHY!

- No smoking or vaping at the pool.
- Large floats are great in the lake, but not OK in the pool!
- You MUST keep babies who are not toilet trained out of the pool. They can use the baby pools placed there for their enjoyment.
- Please do not rinse things off in the pool. Use the garden hose by the wall.
- Make sure anything you place in the pool is already clean.

(Simmons, Cont. from pg. 1 column 2)

Since it was for a different customer, this unit will be shipped. The other three units have been ordered from Cummins and are now in the build queue that is averaging 8 to 12 weeks due to the huge current demand for emergency back up power. We will continue to push forward with this important project as fast as possible between the manufacturer and contractor.

See it? Like it? A Volunteer Probably Made it Happen.

Whether working alone or in teams, Riviera West neighbors donate their time on everything from research to remodeling to rototilling. They serve on committees, organize events and do the unsung, routine work that keeps our administrative wheels turning.

We admire and appreciate their work. Volunteers coordinate infrastructure projects and fire safety programs that make Riviera West a safe and attractive place to live. And everyone's quality of life is enhanced when they host events and launch special projects. Our beautiful new kitchen, wide-screen TV install, new landscaping and upgraded pool surroundings are all there because of volunteer effort.

The bottom line benefits too; without the participation of our fellow residents, Riviera West homeowners would be paying many thousands of dollars more every year. That is because volunteers handle tasks – large and small – that would ordinarily be done by outside services.

Why not join us?

We always need new volunteers. We do not want to overload the people who consistently step up to help. Everyone in Riviera West—full-time residents, absentee owners, tenants, friends and family—is invited to participate! It would be great to see some new faces along with the folks who always help out. You can contribute a skill you already have, or opt to learn something new. If you can donate even a little time, give the office a call or speak to someone on the Board or a committee member. We will help you find an activity that suits you best, from helping in the office to just being on call when we need a helping hand for a project.

Riviera West loves its Volunteers! When you join, everyone benefits!

Annual Yard Sale

Time to start thinking about the annual Riviera West community yard sale! All residents are invited to participate on October 5 and 6. Each yard saler pays \$5 to cover advertising, signage and map hand-outs. Contact the office for more information and stay tuned to your email for updates.

Social Committee:

While the Ladies' Club is taking a one year break, our social calendar is a bit leaner. But there are still events happening at Riviera West.

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 6 – TGIF at the Marina hosted by Carina DeHerrera and Bobby Gunion

Saturday, September 21 – HOA BBQ Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Riviera West

Saturday, December 7 – HOA Christmas Open House

If you are missing a favorite potluck dinner, think about volunteering to host it and if you'd like to serve on the Social Committee, just contact me at ccsmits@yahoo.com. Events happen only when people get involved.

Please write "RW Social Club" in the subject line and include your name, address, and phone number. We will hold very informal meetings and have some fun!

Watch for emails with more information on each event.

Make Phos-Chek part of your fire prevention strategy

Phos-Chek s in stock. Riviera West is making this fire retardant available at the wholesale price (50% off) for all Riviera West property owners. Contact the Riviera West office to arrange for payment and pick-up. Thanks to everyone for continuing to make their properties more fire-resistant.



Hello,

I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in and supported the Ladies' Club the last three years while I have been President. We have decided to take a year off and have the community explore the idea of a "Social Committee" to coordinate many of the events enjoyed by Riviera West members. The Ladies' Club hopes to continue sponsoring Ladies events such as our Teas and Luncheon. More details to follow. Stay tuned to the website for future announcements. I have enjoyed meeting so many neighbors and we have made many great memories together!

Warmly,
Kerry Moore

Lake County Time Capsule: Superior Middletown

Kathleen Scavone, M.A.

Unnumbered springs and rills that from the earth
Leap forth in melody,

And take, down mountain-side, and valley sweep,
Their graceful, sinuous way."

– From "In Lake County" by poet Carrie Stevens Walter

Lake County's southernmost town, Middletown, sits near the heart of the Loconoma Valley on St. Helena Creek, with beautiful Mt. St. Helena standing watch. The southwestern portion of Middletown is guarded by the Mayacamas Mountains, which range to southeastern Mendocino County and northeastern Sonoma County.

Our special part of Lake County hosts rocks of the Franciscan assemblage and the Great Valley sequence with their magnificent igneous rock groupings.

Over time, landslides have occurred in association with the unique serpentine terrain here. If you look carefully, evidence of the Tertiary age and its marine sedimentary rocks can be seen, along with Pliocene volcanic rocks, according to Brice 1953; Bedrossian 1980; Wagner and Bortugno 1982.

Middletown is 16 miles from the town of Calistoga and nearly as close to the town of Lower Lake. Since it sits at this halfway juncture it was given the moniker of Middletown. Once upon a time it was known as Middle Station, then it was called Middleton.

In 1871 we were furnished with our own post office. Later, in 1875 our town's name was changed to Middletown.

According to the USGS Geographic Names System, Middletown was founded in 1871. The first house constructed in Middletown was J.H. Berry's home, built in 1870.

Here in Middletown was a thriving mercury, or quicksilver mining industry which was ongoing until the conclusion of the 19th century. The Bradfords once owned the Mirabel Mine, later selling it to three gentlemen: Mills, Randol and Bell, hence the name "Mirabel" which combined the first parts of the three names. Mines such as the Great Western, Ida Clayton, Oat Hill and Yellowjacket were being worked. Some, such as the Mirabel mined silver, as well.

(Continued onto next column)

While driving in south Lake County, note the names of these old mines on street signs. Also seen on Middletown's street signs are the names Young, Armstrong and Berry.

O. Armstrong opened his saloon in 1870, then a brewery followed, by Muntz and Scott in 1875.

Charles March Young, who hailed from Illinois arrived in Coyote Valley in 1867, then settled in the Middletown region. He learned to plow at a tender age and once dragged 4,000 pounds of spuds to Sonoma.

Young constructed the first hotel in Middletown, a brick building, in 1875, which was the reason for the first brickyard here. He was the proprietor of a general store, as well, but unfortunately it burned down long ago.

The book entitled, "A Description of Lake County, California: Showing its Advantages as a Place of Residence," published by Authority of the Board of Supervisors 1888, states, "This section possesses superior and peculiar advantages that recommend it to home and health-seekers. The atmosphere is exceedingly pure and bracing and remarkable for a softness caused by the entire absence of sea winds or fogs. Malaria does not exist, and gnats, bugs and mosquitoes are unknown."

It further expounds on Middletown's wonders: "This location is undoubtedly the sanitarium for asthmatics, consumptives and persons affected with nervous diseases; and in this respect it has no superior on the continent."

Kathleen Scavone, M.A., is an educator, potter, writer and author of "Anderson Marsh State Historic Park: A Walking History, Prehistory, Flora, and Fauna Tour of a California State Park" and "Native Americans of Lake County." She also writes for NASA and JPL as one of their "Solar System Ambassadors." She was selected "Lake County Teacher of the Year, 1998-99" by the Lake County Office of Education, and chosen as one of 10 state finalists the same year by the California Department of Education.

For these historical documents, we wish to a special thanks to Betty Helf for her efforts.