

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

March 2020

Visit our WEBSITE ... rivierawesthoa.com

Issue 104

**Next Country Club Board Meeting is January 15, 2020 at 4:30 pm.
Next Mutual Water Co. Board Meeting is January 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm.**

President's Report

Philip Hartley, President, Riviera West Country Club

We enjoyed the guilty pleasure of a rainless February (nice weather, but needed rain). The clear weather also allowed our projects to move ahead a little earlier. The Executive Committee of the Board approved contracts with Coastal Mountain Electric to replace and enhance the lighting in the kitchen, hallway and offices; with Tapia Landscape to build a new stairway from the pool area down to the new park; and Shelden Signs and Davis Fabrication to construct new signage for the community entrance and clubhouse. We have entered into a service contract with Lake County Landscaping to provide grounds maintenance as well as clearing street drains, making repairs to hardscaping and other special projects.

Replacement of the antiquated electrical panel and associated wiring has been completed and our emergency automatic generator has been fully installed.

(Cont. next page)

Norma Simmons, President, Harbor View Mutual Water Company

Spring is just around the corner! And with the nicer weather, trees and plants will put on a growth spurt. Keep an eye on tree roots that are near your pipes and meter box. And keep the meter box clear of brush and undergrowth to allow company employees access for meter reading.

The emergency backup generator at the treatment plant is completely installed and passed its first official 2-hour test run. The three additional backup generators have been delivered and the concrete pad at the Marina has been poured. The other pads will be completed by the end of the month. Installation and testing of the equipment are targeted for completion before the fire season begins.

Our new billing system is slowly but surely progressing. Our software company (Cusi) has installed the shell program on our micro-server and is working on converting the client data and client history to the new format.

(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)

Been a while since we have had a contested local election, so the number of campaign signs in the community came as a surprise. The Board has developed a list of guidelines for future campaign signs that it will consider at its March 18 meeting.

Happy to report that at a regular meeting of the County Board of Supervisors last month, it was announced that all the hazardous non-responsive parcels, that had been identified by the four HOAs participating in the special benefit districts established by a vote of the owners (i.e. the \$100 one-time assessment), have been surveyed and papers served. County representative Andy Williams indicated that the plan is to have these properties cleared before the coming fire season.

Cheers,
Phil Hartley

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Speeding endangers others as well as yourself. With the winter weather and shorter days, it's more important than ever to reduce your speed in residential areas like ours.

Let's keep in mind that our vehicles can be lethal when operated without due consideration on our hilly, curvy roads. Driving safely and keeping it at 25 helps protect pedestrians, including seniors and children, pets and wildlife. Remember that gaining a few minutes by speeding isn't worth the risk of an accident.

Help us prevent tragedy on the roads by abiding by traffic laws.

If you consistently obey traffic rules, you have the heartfelt thanks of your Riviera West neighbors.

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

Once the data is converted and downloaded, the office will perform a trial billing to identify any problems and report them to the software company to correct. Our goal is to be on the new system by the start of the new fiscal year in July.

The Board will begin working on the Budget and Rate Review for 2020-2021. The Water Tank Replacement Project is a major concern for our company and we are looking at a combination of grants, loans, and self-funding measures for the project.

If you want to see how the inside of our Broadview and Clubhouse water tanks look to a "tank diver", there are videos on youtube.com. These videos were taken last February when we did some patching. Search for "Harbor View Water Tanks" on youtube or use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mpy5LxFwxXE&list=PLg5KBMaZyw7jtGzIG9NuQRWIJB8nonRX>

CALL FOR CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS

Riviera West and Harbor View Mutual Water Company Boards of Directors 2020-2022.

If you wish to run for a Board position, follow the instructions on the candidacy application and be sure your application reaches the Riviera West office by 3:00 PM Friday, April 3, 2020. Candidacy applications can also be downloaded from rivierawesthoa.com.

Please contact the office if you have any questions or need further information.

Social Committee:

Upcoming Events

Our first Game Night was a hit. About 15 people who attended were from both the Riviera West and Riviera Heights neighborhoods. Thanks Lara and Mike for organizing this. And we have another Game Night scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Although Super Bowl LIV was a disappointment for 49ers fans, the party hosted at the clubhouse by Sandra and Alan Estrada helped ease the pain. Great food, lots of laughs, and a fun group of people.

The Ladies Club is planning their Second Annual Spring Tea. If you are interested in helping or hostessing a table, please contact Chris Smits at ccsmits@yahoo.com. The committee will be meeting at Chris's house on Friday, March 13.

Mark your calendars for these events at the Clubhouse:

March 25 10:00 am – Riviera West Ladies Club meeting.

Saturday March 28 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Game Night. Bring your favorite game, snack to share & BYOB.

TBA - Ladies Club Spring Tea

(Cont. from pg. 3 column 1)

Social Committee:

As many of you know, the Ladies Club has been in hiatus last year as a slate of officers was not elected in 2019. Many of the events were not held due to a lack of volunteer hosts. The Ladies Club will have a meeting at the Clubhouse on March 25 at 10:00 am to decide how it will proceed. If you would like to see the Ladies Club re-energized, please consider coming to the meeting and becoming an active member.

Watch for future emails with more information.

Information will also be posted on the Riviera West website.

If you've got an idea for an event and want to get it started, please email Chris Smits at ccsmits@yahoo.com.

Please make sure you put "RW Social Committee" in the subject line and include your name and phone number so you can be reached.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The Annual Meeting for the Riviera West Country Club and Harbor View Mutual Water Co. will be held Saturday, June 20th.

Riviera West Country Club at 9:00 am

Harbor View Mutual Water Co. at 11:00 am

We urge you to attend the Annual Meeting. Your ideas and involvement can make a positive impact in the community.

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:

(Continued onto next column)

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 Yellow jacket were being worked. Some, such as the Mirabel mined silver, as well.

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 a retired 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 formerly wrote 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.