

## 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: C. Richard Smith

Director: Doug Moore

Director: Bob Gunion

\*Historian: Betty Helf

#### **Water Company:**

President: Norma Simmons

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Chris Smits

Director: Jean Swegle

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

### **Office Hours/Days:**

Visit our Website:

**rivierawesthoa.com**

**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 2020

Visit our WEBSITE ... [rivierawesthoa.com](http://rivierawesthoa.com)

Issue 106

**Next Country Club Board Meeting is September 16, 2020 at 4:30 pm.  
Next Mutual Water Co. Board Meeting is September 16, 2020 at 5:30 pm.**

## President's Report

### **Philip Hartley, President, Riviera West Country Club**

I doubt summer 2020 will go down in our dairies as one of our favorites. We are continuing to try to keep our services and facilities up and usable with some necessary adjustments

- The office continues to be closed to in person business. Elvia works some days at home each week. Please continue to use the drop box, email or phone messages to do business, pose questions or request help. Be aware it may be 2-3 days before you receive a response.

The pool continues to be open for its regular hours. We are following mandates and observing restrictions from the County. Please observe the social distancing requirement by noting the 20 x 6 foot by six-foot marked areas around the pool. When these spaces are full, please come back later. The pool is open nine hours a day for general use and 10 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

*(Cont. next page)*

### **Norma Simmons, President, Harbor View Mutual Water Company**

Remember:

- If we are notified of a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), deep water your plants before the shutoff. The backup generators will keep the plant and pumps operating, but you can help reduce demand.
- If we are ordered to evacuate, turn OFF sprinklers or drip systems. Evacuations may be ordered in advance of actual fire danger. Let's keep that water resource available for the firefighters.

### **Water Storage Tank Replacement Project Update**

The project is moving forward! Thank you to all those who have already sent in their checks. While the assessment isn't due until the end of the year, we already have bills to pay for the preliminary work.

The Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, Biological Resources Evaluation and Cultural Resources Assessment have been completed.

*(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)*

- The picnic/bocce ball court is open for use but you need to provide your own equipment. Only one of the picnic tables at a time could be used for a family picnic. The regular hours for park use are dawn to dusk. The park is not available for night use.
- The clubhouse is not available for rental use at this time.
- The marina is open for use. Please observe parking signage.
- The picnic area can accommodate 2-3 small family use by distancing the placement of the picnic tables.

You can monitor air quality in our community by using PurpleAir.com and finding the Riviera West monitoring station.

I am certainly supportive of the Water Company's initiative to secure funding for replacement/repair of our aging water tanks. In Lake County there is sad history of some nearby communities having to resort to water moratoriums (i.e. no further houses allowed) because of neglected water systems. The \$550 investment we have been asked to pay is clearly a good investment in the value of our homes and parcels.

When the virus, smoke, lightning, fires and shortage of my favorite brand of toilet paper ends, we will get back to planning improvements to our facilities and services. On the list are an expanded ability to communicate with members, repair and repainting of the clubhouse, new entrance signage and a renewed social program.

Be well and stay positive.

Phil Hartley

#### **Benefit Zones A Progress Report September 2020**

Sixteen months ago, a majority of the property owners in each of four communities (Buckingham, Clear Lake Riviera, Riviera Heights and Riviera West) voted in favor of creating special benefit zones. These zones were to provide funding and a process for clearing fire hazardous parcels that were long standing and where owners have been unresponsive to efforts by the HOAs to clear the parcels. The County assessed and collected the fees and has established a separate account for each of the four communities. To date the accounts are as follows:

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

These will become part of the final Environmental Report we will submit to USDA as part of our funding application. And Water Works Engineering was on site conducting topographic surveys of the two tank locations.

Geotechnical drilling has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17 at both the Clubhouse and Broadview sites. The results of these soil samples will ensure our project design meets current seismic design standards. This drilling may get noisy!

We'll send out Project Updates via email and post them to the website at [rivierswesthoa.com](http://rivierswesthoa.com). Watch for them over the next few months.

Our next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16.

Stay safe and stay well!

*(Cont. from pg. 2 column 1)*

Zone	Fees Assessed	Fees Collected
Buckingham	\$79,600	\$75,750
Clearlake Riviera	\$294,700	\$276,700
Riviera Heights	\$69,700	\$60,050
Riviera West	\$50,300	\$46,000

Total expenses charged as of 6/30/2020: \$13,600

Although two winter seasons have passed, the progress so far has been slow. Largely this is because of personnel resource issues with the County. The office that has charge of our special zone project also has charge of county wide illegal marijuana eradication and the new Lake County Risk Reduction Authority. A lack of direct communication between the county office and the HOAs has exacerbated the issue.

The good news is that there has been some progress and all parties are in agreement about the goals and use of the funds. At Riviera West we started with a list of 10 “bad boy” lots which we submitted to the County. As a result of the publicity around the program and our own nagging, seven of the lots were cleared by owners. When the measure passed, we added five more lots to our list and to date two have been cleared by the County leaving six uncleared lots on our list.

Representatives from the four communities have been in touch with our county supervisor, Rob Brown, expressing our concerns particularly asking for a more routine and ongoing line of communication between the Lake County Community Development Department and the HOAs.

### **The Black Forest Debris Field**

In Lake County the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forest area referred to as the Black Forest follows Soda Bay Road for approximately 2 miles southeast from the intersection with West Lake Road to about .2 miles south of the intersection with Riviera West Drive. Over the past 18 months the BLM has contracted to have the heavy dead tree detritus cut and stacked creating a large number of debris piles throughout the forest. Recently, CalFire removed a number of these debris piles through chipping. As of this date the greater number of debris piles remain.

### **Architectural Control and Planning Update:**

#### **Three Troublesome Trees**

When members ask for approval to remove a tree, ACP members review the photos provided and visit the property. A number of factors influence our decision. Is the property crowded with too many trees? Is the suspect tree endangering people or property? Are the roots damaging a driveway or threatening a septic system? Would removing the tree cause erosion, etc.

One thing ACP members consider is the species. Three common Riviera West trees have a history of creating problems: gray pine, knob cone pine and Italian cypress. A native species, gray pines grow quickly to towering heights. They shed copious amounts of needles onto roofs and gutters, drop giant cones that can easily shatter a windshield and drop heavy branches. Dropping branches is also a characteristic of mature knob cone pines. These were introduced on Mt. Konocti after a fire in the 1960s. Trees from this generation are reaching the end of their life span and are highly susceptible to bark beetles, as many of our property owners have experienced.

The third tree in our list of undesirables is the Italian cypress. This slim, elegant specimen lends a sophisticated mystique to the landscape – and considerable fire danger. When he spoke at our 2019 annual meeting, UC Forestry Advisor Michael Jones, PhD emphatically discouraged them. He described Italian cypresses as “basically Roman candles” that burn like a torch, endangering structures and spreading the fire.

With these facts in mind, the ACP encourages members to consider replacing these trees with something a little more friendly. You can remove a small tree without ACP approval if the trunk is less than 6” in diameter. Please contact us if you wish to remove a mature tree. And when planning to remove trees and shrubs for any reason, consider the slope of your property. If removing trees would cause erosion, you must replace them with more appropriate plantings.

Thank you to all Riviera West property owners for working with the ACP.

#### **Ladies Club Presidents Report:**

At this time, we have no events planned due to Covid-19. When we are able to have meetings, we will nominate a Board and continue to plan Social and Philanthropic activities.

We continue to enjoy Water Aerobics, weather and conditions permitting. M-W-F, 9-10 am.

Be safe and stay tuned...

Kerry Moore  
Current President

## Lake County Time Capsule: Pomo baskets

### Kathleen Scavone, M.A.

American Indians of Lake County, and what is now the United States, created many varieties of baskets, but the supreme basket makers were the Pomo Indians of Lake and Sonoma counties.

The ancient art of basket making was elevated to a new level by the skilled Pomo Indian basket weavers.

Dr. Greg Sarris, tribal chairman of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, wrote about the world-renowned basket weaver Mabel McKay in his book, "Mabel McKay: Weaving the Dream," part of his "Portraits of American Genius" series. In his book he painstakingly extracts profound truths from McKay, the famed elder basket weaver. He drew out her genius with ongoing conversations and through close contact over time.

McKay was a basket weaver who helped keep the dying tradition alive within her Pomo culture. She gave a lifetime of lessons in showing others the way the spirit heals and speaks through what is called "The Dream."

Her humble life working in a cannery belies the art that came out in her basketry – baskets so rich and beautiful that they are now found in the Smithsonian Museum.

Sarris – who wrote a blurb on the back of my book, "Anderson Marsh State Historic Park – A Walking History, Prehistory, Flora and Fauna Tour of a California State Park" – found that the story of her life was not a "first this, then that" sort of chronology to be told.

Instead, in order to gain understanding of her dual arts of healing and artistry, he needed to suspend the natural inclinations of a writer to document a chronology, and to enter what was natural for McKay's life in dwelling in the supernatural and spiritual worlds.

In his book, "Weaving the Dream," he quotes McKay as follows: "I was born in Nice, Lake County, California, 1907, January 12. My mother, Daisy Hansen. My father, Yanta Boone. Grandma raised me. Her name, Sarah Taylor. I followed everywhere with her.

*(Continued onto next column)*

I marry once in Sulphur Bank. Second time I marry Charlie McKay. We live in Lake County, then Ukiah, then Santa Rosa. I weave baskets, and show them different places. Have son, Marshall. Now grandkids, too. My tribe, Pomo. There, how's that? That's how I can tell my life for the white people's way. Is that what you want? It's more, my life. It's not only the one thing. It's many. You have to listen. You have to know me to know what I'm talking about."

The Pomo Indians who once lived at what is now Anderson Marsh were hunter-gatherers. This lifestyle required an array of basketry containers and implements. There were woven tools for beating the grasses so that they would release their seeds, baskets in which to collect the seeds, special burden baskets for carrying a multitude of items. Fish traps were constructed of woven materials, along with other woven hunting traps for quail and woodpeckers.

The basket hopper was a funnel in shape, without a bottom in its form, and was set over a mortar to collect acorn meal as it was being prepared. It was often constructed of twined redbud, using a geometric pattern.

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