

Riviera West/Harbor View Bimonthly Newsletter

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Philip Hartley, President, Riviera West Country Club

It has been busy and hot around the Riviera West community.

Owing to the big snowfall in January, Riviera West experienced an unprecedented amount of tree damage. We scheduled an extra chipping day in June and a second chipping service is underway to deal with the large amount of limb debris needing removal. Our fire safety program was also affected, resulting in a larger than normal number of citations (132).

The high temperatures and drought have significantly lowered the lake levels resulting in the closures of some marinas and boat launching facilities. Our marina's boat launch is now all above water making it hazardous to trailers and vehicles. While our docks and pilings are in great shape, the low lake levels have revealed decades of wear to the gangways to the docks. The Board has decided on a major renovation of the boat launch ramp and the two gangways. This will be an expensive set of projects. Fortunately, we have the reserve funds to cover this expense although it may take 2-3 years to complete all the projects. First order of business will be to extend the launch ramp and we have applied for the necessary County permit to begin work.

The grant funded project to clear the fire breaks that border the community and remove a number of hazardous trees along the major roads is proceeding on schedule.

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Norma Simmons, President, Harbor View Mutual Water Company

Temperatures are staying high as Clear Lake's water level gets lower.

Currently, the State of California is asking for a voluntary 15% reduction in water consumption. In the past, our residents have always responded positively to calls for conservation. Some things you can do to lower your water consumption are:

- ▶ Reduce outdoor watering and irrigate more efficiently.
- ▶ Run dishwashers only with a full load; run laundry machines less frequently.
- ▶ Find and fix leaks. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste nearly 3,200 gallons of water per year.
- ▶ Install water-efficient showerheads and take shorter showers. Keeping showers under five minutes can save 12.5 gallons per shower when using a water-efficient showerhead.
- ▶ Use a shut-off nozzle on hoses and take cars to commercial car washes that use recycled water.

Our Operators monitor and test for the cyanotoxins in both the raw water at the intake point and the post-treatment water where it enters our distribution system. We are back-flushing our filters more frequently to remove organic materials. If you experience any discoloration or unpleasant odor in the water from your tap, please contact the treatment plant at 707-279-4143.

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**Riviera West Country Club****Harbor View Mutual Water Company**

8475 Harbor View Drive

Kelseyville, CA 95451

707-279-8544 • fax 707-279-0118

rivierawest@gmail.com

harborviewwater@gmail.com

website: www.rivierawesthoa.com

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and

Thursday: 9 am – 3 pm

Wednesday: 9 – 11 am

Friday: 9 am – 3:30 pm

The office is open for phone and email only; we are temporarily closed to visitors due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Riviera West Board:

President: Philip Hartley

Treasurer: C. Richard Smith

Secretary: Clelia Baur

Director: Doug Moore

Director: Bob Gunion

Harbor View Mutual**Water Company Board:**

President: Norma Simmons

Treasurer: Chris Smits

Secretary: Laurie Baum

Director: Carina DeHererra

Director: Jean Swegle

Regular Board Meetings:

Third Wednesday every other month beginning in January. Riviera West meeting is 4:30 PM via zoom, Harbor View meeting is 5:30 PM via zoom.

Meetings may be in person, via Zoom or a hybrid of both. Please follow the meeting instructions sent to you via email, check the website or call the office for specific meeting information.

Riviera West President's Message, continued

A large herd of goats is currently eating its way along the firebreak. (A few escaped their fencing and wandered around the community for a short time to the general amusement of residents.) Removal of 49 hazardous trees will begin August 18 and will take several months to complete.

The new entrance sign is installed, new fencing for the swimming pool is on its way and a new driveway is being installed from the back parking lot down to the pool area to facilitate safe delivery of pool equipment and supplies and access to the propane storage tanks.

We finished our 2020-2021 fiscal year in good financial shape. Revenues for the year totaled \$267,580, expenses totaled \$238,864 including a \$70,000 contribution to our reserve fund. The reserve fund had an ending balance of \$313,202, an amount that exceeds the State required minimum.

A celebratory Community BBQ scheduled for July 30 was postponed due to the rise in Covid cases in the County. We hope to reschedule in the fall. Community members did enjoy a friendly bocce ball contest, played a game and began forming teams for the Riviera West Bocce League. three teams were formed. The winner of the contest was Lee Beery and second and third place went to Dave Worswick and Bill Lillo respectively. If you would like to join or form a team, contact the HOA Office. Anyone can play; you can learn this social, friendly game in five minutes and enjoy the second-most played game in the U.S.

Harbor View President's Message, continued

In June, we revised our Drought Management Plan in keeping with current requirements. We modeled our plan on that used by Lake County Special Districts. A copy of the Harbor View Mutual Water Company Drought Management Plan is available on our website. Should we be notified by the State of California of a mandatory reduction, we will alert our residents by email and US mail.

And we are already experiencing wildfires in our area. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened and need to leave. Whenever you decide to leave the area due to safety concerns or an evacuation order, please DO NOT leave sprinklers running. This may unnecessarily deplete our water resources that are best left to the firefighters.

In the meantime, relax and enjoy our beautiful Lake views!

Social Activities Club



etc. we will include those in calendar form in the newsletter (every other month) and on the website, www.rivierawesthoa.com.

Check out our event schedule on the website! Click the News and Events tab to access the Community Calendar. More information on each event will reach you via email when we get closer to the date. If you do want to join the Social Activities Club, dues are \$15 a year per person, \$25 per couple. Please make your check out to: Riviera West Ladies Club or RWLC.

Cheers, Kerry Moore, President

Happy Summer from the newly named Riviera West Social Activities Club!

We enjoyed our first (informal) meeting and TGIF on July 9, which was well attended by both "seasoned" and new members. We talked about new activities and ideas involving the community as we move forward. One format that seems to work well is the TGIF or "potluck" type of event. The main discussion was the need for a Community Calendar. As people volunteer for the TGIFs,

Important Dates

- ▶ August 13: TGIF, Pool deck
- ▶ August 27: TGIF, Clubhouse deck
- ▶ September 6: Office closed for Labor Day
- ▶ September 10: TGIF, Location TBD
- ▶ Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 4:30 PM: Regular meeting of the Riviera West Board (in person and via Zoom)
- ▶ Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 5:30 PM: Regular meeting of the Harbor View Mutual Water Company Board (in person and via Zoom) Members will receive an email with the zoom invitation.
- ▶ September 14: Social Activities Club Meeting, 6:30 pm, 8222 North Heights Drive
- ▶ September 17, TGIF, Marina
- ▶ September 24, TGIF, Location TBD
- ▶ September 31: September water payment due
- ▶ October 8, TGIF, Location TBD

Members, please watch your email from the Social Activities Club for TGIF details!

WATER COMPANY EMERGENCY?

If you cannot reach the office, call
707-279-4143.



Fire Season: Planning and Preparation

Fires are unpredictable; we may or may not have much warning of an approaching fire. Fire season is always stressful, and most of us could use a few tips on how to reduce risk without a huge expense of time and money. Taking action now will help protect your family and your property; following are some ideas to help you get started.

Harden Your Home

Structures can catch fire from radiant heat, direct contact with fire from houses or trees nearby, or from burning embers. Last year's horrific fire season taught us a lot, so this year the Riviera West Homeowners Association is recommending the Five-Foot Program to help protect your home from "ember cast."

Statistics show that at least 90% of all wildland structure fires occur within a five-foot "Home Ignition Zone." Focus on clearing a five-foot perimeter around your house and remove combustibles in this zone. Maintaining this five-foot clear space is the easiest and most cost-effective action you can take to protect your house from ember cast during a wildfire.

Remove flammables on and around your roof and along exterior walls. Wildfires can create their own weather patterns, and strong winds can blow glowing hot embers onto your roof, against your walls and onto flammable materials near your house.

Items to cut/prune/remove if they are within five feet of your home:

- ▶ Flammable landscaping bark (fire-resistant mulch or decorative rock are good alternatives)
- ▶ Leaves, yard waste, weeds, grasses, plants
- ▶ Shrubs and branches
- ▶ Pine needles and leaves on the roof and in the rain gutter
- ▶ Wood piles
- ▶ Flammable debris such as wooden pallets

Be ready to evacuate – and practice evacuation

Hot weather, high winds and lightning have brought the threat of wildland fire too close for comfort. As we share concern for people in the fire's direct path, we too must prepare for evacuation. The next fire could be close by. Know what you can do NOW to prepare, and know what you need to do when a wildfire threatens.

Planning and packing for evacuation ahead of time is the best investment you can make in saving lives during fire season. And fire authorities agree: the key element is to EVACUATE EARLY. Leaving at the first sign of danger improves your chance of survival and allows responders to come in and try to save our homes.

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with alternate routes out, including paths for walking out. Explore all possible routes now, before the stress and chaos of an approaching fire.
- ▶ Evacuate with one vehicle. The fewer vehicles on the road, the easier the evacuation will be for everyone, including emergency response agencies.

- ▶ Evacuation to the lake may become necessary. In recent fires, people survived in swimming pools, creeks and ponds. It's a good idea to pack flotation devices for your family.
- ▶ Stay tuned to the Sheriff's Office and reliable news sources for up-to-date information.

Strategic steps

- ▶ Have a family conference about the evacuation process and conduct a family evacuation drill
- ▶ Pack a go-bag of essentials for people and pets
- ▶ During fire season, keep your gas tank full and your cell phone charged
- ▶ Know how to open your garage if the power is out
- ▶ Program emergency numbers into your phone
- ▶ Keep out-of-area family informed about your evacuation plans and locations
- ▶ Plan back-up resources as cell signals and internet service may be interrupted

Preparing your "go-bag"

Pack your bag in advance with the most essential items and keep it accessible in case you have to leave immediately.

- ▶ Cell phones and chargers
- ▶ Driver's license, ID cards, insurance information and irreplaceable documents
- ▶ Medication, medical devices, copies of prescriptions
- ▶ Laptop, power supply, back-up drives
- ▶ Cash and credit cards
- ▶ Bottled water and compact, high-energy snacks
- ▶ Food and water for pets
- ▶ Personal hygiene and sanitation necessities
- ▶ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ▶ Contact information (good idea to print out your contact list)
- ▶ Change of clothing and sturdy shoes
- ▶ Safe deposit keys, other important keys



Photo credit: calfireprevention.org July 29, 2021

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Fire Season: Planning and Preparation

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What to do if there is an evacuation order:

Fire authorities agree: the key to a successful evacuation is to LEAVE EARLY. Evacuating at the first sign of danger improves your chance of survival and allows responders to enter and try to save our homes. If you feel threatened by a nearby fire, evacuate immediately even if there is no official evacuation notice.

As we have seen in recent years, some communities had no notice at all and the fire swept through in the middle of the night. In many cases, lives were saved simply because people took the initiative to protect themselves. By leaving early, you face less traffic and fewer road obstructions, and you will have an easier time finding lodging if needed. You can always return if things improve.

As soon as you get the notice or feel a fire is getting too close, pull your car out of the garage. Park it facing the street with the doors and windows closed. Put your go-bag in the car. Be sure you have your cell phones. If you have time, check if neighbors received the evacuation notice.

Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from doors and windows. Turn off the propane tank. Leave lights on so firefighters can see your house in smoky conditions. Turn off air conditioning and shut all doors and windows, leaving them unlocked.

Put your pet carriers in the car, make your way to Soda Bay Road and follow instructions from law enforcement staff in the area. You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location.

We urge you to research home hardening and evacuation. There are numerous official websites with abundant helpful information. It's up to us. Taking personal responsibility and acting quickly can be the deciding factor in surviving a wildfire.

Online resources for preparation and evacuation:

CalFire *Hardening Your Home* web page:

www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/

CalFire Incident Page:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/>

CalFire Emergency Supply Kit advice:

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Emergency-Supply-Kit/>

US Department of Homeland Security evacuation info:

<https://www.ready.gov/evacuating-yourself-and-your-family>

Kelseyville Fire Protection District:

<http://www.kelseyvillefire.com/contact/>

Lake County Sheriff's Office:

<http://www.lakesheriff.com/Contact/contact.htm>

Lake County Office of Emergency Services:

<http://www.lakesheriff.com/Page10546.aspx>

Firesafe Marin – Good Fire and Evacuation Advice:

<https://firesafemarin.org/>

Members Enjoy the Bocce Contest

July 30, 2021:

The Board hosted an afternoon of fun to introduce members to the ever-popular pasttime of bocce. Members enjoyed refreshments and a friendly contest at the Riviera West Park.



Start a Bocce Ball Team!

The Riviera West Bocce League is now up and running. Some teams have already formed, with neighbors and friends joining together. We encourage new teams to join. Bocce is easy to learn and can be played by practically anyone.

Teams can consist of 2, 3 or 4 members.

(Smaller teams do pay a penalty in the form of fewer ball throws per game.)

No experience necessary.

Instruction, Coaching and Equipment will be Provided.

Request a Roster Form from the Office or click here to download it from the website.

Sign Up, then Recruit Your Team Members.

Turn in Roster to the HOA Office.

Tournaments are being organized for this Fall.

Join us as we plan league events. The court is ready and waiting!



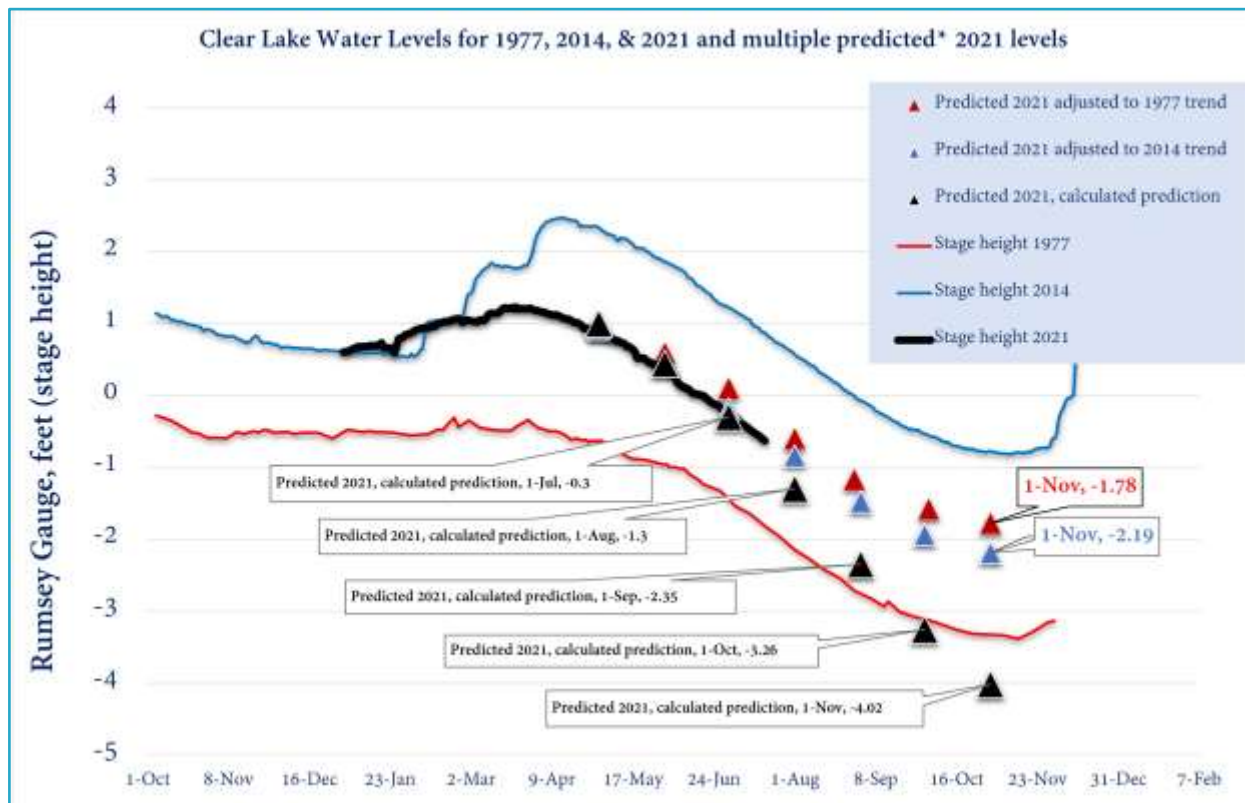
Good News!

The USDA has notified Harbor View Mutual Water Company that our Water Storage Tank Replacement Project has been selected for funding and will receive up to \$1,822,000 in loan funds to complete the project. We will be awarding the construction contract shortly and expect preliminary work to begin next month. We anticipate that the new tanks will be completely installed and operational by the end of May next year. No more lost water!

Clear Lake in Drought

As an ancient lake with a long history, Clear Lake has experienced many droughts. In the late 70s the Lake level reportedly dropped to -3.39 feet Rumsey.

In the 1920s it dipped even lower than that. Click here to learn more about the Rumsey scale, a water level measure that is unique to Clear Lake (Lake County Water Resources).



Facilities Improvements

Our new entryway sign was installed in July. It was designed for durability and low maintenance.

It was manufactured by Davis Fabrications, 707-263-5858.

Installation and construction of the base and frame by Tapia Construction, 707-349-0182.

Updated Office Procedures During Covid-19

As the pandemic situation continues to evolve this summer, the Riviera West Board of Directors is monitoring State and County disease prevention measures. To help protect the health of our staff and essential workers, we may announce restrictions on visiting the office and our common areas.

Please follow the guidelines sent via email, and indicated on signage at the clubhouse, pool, park and marina. You can use the drop box near the office entrance for payments and paperwork. If you are concerned about entering the office, you can conduct most business by phone or email. The Office Administrator will make an appointment for secure drop-off and pick-up.

Maintaining best practices for public health during these next few months will help keep every-one healthier in the long run. For California's public health guidelines, visit [covid19.ca.gov/](https://www.cdph.ca/covid19).

Summer 2021 Water Aerobics



Join the Riviera West Water Aerobics group every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

The program is centered on simple aquatic exercises that are easy on your joints, tone muscles and build endurance.

Best of all, you can enjoy the workout while socializing with neighbors.

**Attendance is free.
See you at the pool!**

An Update from the Architectural Control and Planning Committee

The following is a reprint of an ACP article from our May 2018 newsletter. It is timely information as we work to reduce fire danger in our community.

Q: A little pine tree started growing at the edge of my property. Should I keep it?

A: That little tree could grow into a giant that threatens your home, your neighbor's home or nearby power lines.

In Riviera West, volunteer pines may be members of some species that can cause trouble when they mature. Some of the large pine species have caused problems in the past, such as dropping branches that damage houses, fences and vehicles. Two types of pines seem to cause the most trouble: knob cone pines and gray pines.

Knob cones were introduced to this neighborhood decades ago to re-vegetate after a fire. Many are now at the end of their life spans. Over the past five years, several knob cone pines have fallen or dropped branches that caused power outages or damage to property. Gray pines (also known as bull pines or digger pines), can grow to 100 feet at maturity. They are the grayish-green, sparse growing pines seen along Soda Bay Road and on Mt. Konocti. Their pine cones, which are 10" to 12" long and weigh more than 1.5 lb., can cause considerable damage when they fall.

We encourage property owners to consider removing mature knob cone and gray pines before they cause problems. Removing them when they are young is much easier and less expensive. Replanting with a smaller species is recommended. Smaller trees do not threaten power or cable lines, and can be less hazardous during a wildfire. And you can select smaller species that have spring flowers or other attractive features. The Riviera West office has a chart of trees recommended by PG&E for our region, or you can visit PG&E's website for tree selection advice.



Gray Pine (Pinus sabiniana)

Photo credit: ucanr.edu July 29, 2021

An additional note as we move through fire season 2021: A wildland fire expert from the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources office advised us that Italian cypress trees can also be extreme fire hazards. If you have these on your property, consider replacing them with less dangerous trees.

Wildflowers of Riviera West: Western Larkspur

One of the pleasures of living in Riviera West is enjoying the wild plants that thrive on Mount Konocti. As a special feature, our newsletter will highlight a different local wildflower in every issue. These delightful volunteers are a cheerful presence in the neighborhood, particularly on vacant properties and in the surrounding countryside. Please do not pick the wildflowers; try taking a selfie instead! Left undisturbed, they will create seeds and bulbs and we will be able to enjoy future generations of beautiful flowers.

WESTERN LARKSPUR

[Delphinium hesperium](#) is a species of larkspur known by the common name foothill larkspur. It is also sometimes called western larkspur and coastal larkspur, but these names are less specific since other species share them. It is endemic to California, where it grows in woodland and grassland in the northern half of the state. This wildflower generally reaches one half to one meter in height. It has deeply lobed, prominently veined leaves, mostly located near the base of the plant. The flower cluster may hold very few to over 100 flowers, each on a long, thick pedicel. The flowers are usually a brilliant blue or purple, and sometimes lighter pinkish to white. Often the sepals are dark in color and the petals lighter. The spur is about one to two centimeters long

Cultivation

Various delphinium cultivars are available for home gardens.

HELP OUR WILDFLOWER population survive by not planting invasive species. Invasive plants can spread aggressively, endangering wild plants and the wildlife that depends on them. Invasives in our area include vinca major (periwinkle), pampas grass, leafy spurge, purple vetch, French broom, Scotch broom and other broom plants, and the infamous yellow star thistle. Some of these bad actors were planted by folks who didn't know they were introducing a problem. And some even continue to be sold at local nurseries! Before buying, be sure your selection is not an invasive plant. If you have a problem plant on your property, ask a reputable nursery or the UC Master Gardener program (<http://mg.ucanr.edu/index.cfm>) for advice on non-invasive alternatives.

HELPFUL LINKS:

California Native Plant Society <https://calscape.org/>
California Invasive Plants Council <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/profiles/>
and <https://www.lakercd.org/2019-native-plant-list.html>



WESTERN LARKSPUR

- ✓ Purple, blue, white or pink flowers
- ✓ 1.5 to 3 ft tall
- ✓ Seen in open woodland and along roadsides in Lake County

Text credit: Calscape.org, 7/29/21

Photo credit: gardenia.net, 7/29/21