

# VIEW

## from the West

*Riviera West/Harbor View Bimonthly Newsletter*

### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

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

As we step past the summer equinox, we have been spared a major wildfire in our immediate area although we endured weeks of smoke-filled skies from major wildfires to the north. Our annual fire safety program has wound down with the posting of fines for non-compliance. We issued 132 citations this year and 80% of the owners cleared their parcels as proscribed.

The marina repair projects that will extend the boat launch ramp and replace both 30-year-old wooden piers are making their way through the County permit process which is routine but time consuming. Three separate processes are involved; a lake encroachment permit, a California Environmental Quality Assessment, and a building permit. We have employed a contractor, Clearlake Marine Construction. It is interesting to note that this is the same company that built the wooden piers thirty year ago.

The swimming pool was closed for the season on September 28. We keep the pool open as long as our two heating systems can maintain a comfortable water temperature. The prime determinate of this balance is the ambient temperature at night since that is when the pool temperature loss is the greatest. As soon as the pool closes, we will install the new entrance area fencing and gate. A new paved access road has been installed from the back parking lot down to the pool service area. The old, rusted storage shed has been removed and a new shed will be built on a concrete pad. Decades of broken, obsolete or otherwise unusable junk that was stored in the old shed was removed.

The picnic park, bocce ball court and horseshoe pit beckon for your use. Equipment is available for your use in the locker box at the park. Call the office for the combination to the lock. Some bocce ball teams have formed and we hope to identify a few more to organize a formal tournament. Call or email the office if you want to be included.

Cheers, Phil Hartley, President

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

"May you live in interesting times" is an expression many of us have heard. And these sure are interesting times!

As if wildfires and power shutoffs aren't enough, there is a lot of concern about the level of cyanotoxins in Clear Lake and the effect on our water quality. Our state-of-the-art water treatment plant effectively filters out these toxins. Our Operators have been testing both raw and finished water since last May and no cyanotoxin breakthroughs have occurred. You can be confident of the safety of the water coming out of your tap.

You may start seeing some activity around both our water storage tank locations soon. We have secured both our USDA loan and interim financing; and our contractor, engineer, and operators have met to discuss the demolition and construction sequence. As of this writing, we may see some preliminary work at the clubhouse tank in mid-October and work at the Broadview tanks site in early November. A lot depends on the availability of labor and materials as well as weather and fire safety issues.

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October 2021 Issue 113



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

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#### **Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday and  
Thursday: 9 am – 3 pm  
Wednesday: 9 – 11 am  
Friday: 9 am – 3:30 pm

All visitors to the office must wear a properly fitting mask, whether vaccinated or not. Thank you.

#### **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  
Director: 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.

Editor: Elvia Cubilla

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How will this impact our customers? This \$1,822,000 project will be financed by a low-cost 40-year loan from USDA. (Current interest rate is quoted at 1.75%.) This will add up to an additional \$42 line item to each bi-monthly bill once the project is completed. We're hoping that the new epoxy-lined steel bolted tanks will offset some operating costs as we reduce the amount of finished water lost to leaks.

There has been some interest in the redwood from the tanks. We will have more information as we get closer to demolition. Our goal is to have all the redwood safely and completely removed from the site. If you have any interest, please contact us via email at harborviewwater@gmail.com and we'll put you on the list.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE A WATER QUALITY OR WATER PRESSURE ISSUE,  
CALL THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT 707-279-4143

## Social Activities Club



Fall is here and hopefully some cooler temperatures along with it.

The new and improved Social Activities Club has gotten off to a good start. We've had three TGIFs so far, and a fourth by the time this newsletter goes out.

Thanks to Tina Gordon and Tony Cruz for hosting the pool party. It was windy but that didn't deter us from having a good time.

Dale and Dave Dubowy hosted the TGIF at the clubhouse deck. The turnout was great, with enough room to social distance when needed. The weather also cooperated.

Amber Chatwin and Bill Bartolucci Hosted a Tri Tip and sides meal at the Bocci court. Everyone went home full and happy.

By the time this comes out, Norma Simmons and Chris Smits will have hosted a Hawaiian themed TGIF on the clubhouse deck.

Thanks to all of you for stepping up and adding your personality to these events!

There will be a TGIF on October 8 and possibly one more, depending on the weather. We have decided to forego the Halloween Party this year out of caution regarding Covid and possible indoor transmission. If things improve, we will have our annual Soup Contest on November 13. Check your email box for updates. Also on the agenda for December are the Tree Trimming Festivities for Social Activities Club members (Dec. 1), our Holiday Open House (Dec. 4), and collection of food and toys for those in need in our community throughout the month.

Think about joining us as we keep our community vibrant and connected!

Kerry Moore, President

## Have Fun and Make a Difference. Volunteer!

Every single party or event at Riviera West is coordinated by your neighbors who volunteer their time. Volunteers are at the heart of our community from the Boards of Directors to the folks planting daffodils on Riviera West Drive. Interested in social events? Join the Social Activities Club. Want to strengthen our fire resiliency? Join the Fire Safety Committee. Keep our pool orderly and pleasant by joining the Pool Committee. There are also special opportunities including informal work parties announced from time to time. Contact the office if you want to learn more, and THANK YOU to our active volunteers!

## Important Dates

- ▶ October 8: TGIF at the clubhouse, with a sports theme. Starts at 5:00 PM.
- ▶ October 29: Deadline for TRAP program tree removal nominations to be received at the clubhouse: October 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM.
- ▶ October 16: Bocce Tournament, 11:30 AM.
- ▶ November 2: Social Activities Club meeting, 6:30 PM at the clubhouse.
- ▶ November 13: Annual Soup Contest at the clubhouse: stay tuned for further details.
- ▶ Wednesday, November 17: 4:30 PM: Regular meeting of the Riviera West HOA Board (via Zoom) Members will receive an email with the zoom invitation.
- ▶ Wednesday, November 17: 5:30 PM: Regular meeting of the Harbor View Mutual Water Company Board (via Zoom) Members will receive an email with the zoom invitation.
- ▶ November 24-26 office closed for Thanksgiving holiday.
- ▶ November 30: water payment due.
- ▶ December 1: Tree-trimming party at the clubhouse for Social Activities Club members.
- ▶ December 4: Riviera West Holiday Open House: stay tuned for more information.

### WATER COMPANY EMERGENCY?

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



## Sharpen Your Fire Response Skills

As fire season continues into the Fall, take the time to review and practice your family emergency response plan. First responders remind us that it's always better to evacuate early whenever a fire threatens. By leaving early, you avoid stressful traffic situations and have an easier time finding lodging and other resources.

Following is a list of actions to consider and practice before an emergency:

- ▶ Reviewing real-time media from the Sheriff's Office and other authorized sites
- ▶ Deciding whether to leave early (before a fire starts) when fire danger is high
- ▶ Using Zonehaven.com to practice assessing which zones are under evacuation warning or order
- ▶ Checking that you have the Watch Duty app (<https://www.watchduty.org/>) installed to keep track of nearby fires
- ▶ Practicing your options for car evacuation routes and walking routes
- ▶ Checking your go bag
- ▶ Packing your car
- ▶ Contacting the place you'd stay during an evacuation
- ▶ Using social media to inform your loved ones of your status
- ▶ Reviewing preparation steps for your house and property
- ▶ Making sure you've provided for your pets' needs

Now is a good time to think through other actions before a real emergency

### Help firefighters by preparing your home.

If you must evacuate, follow these CalFire recommendations before you leave:

(For a complete list and more evacuation advice, visit [readyforwildfire.org](http://readyforwildfire.org).)

- ▶ Bring flammable items inside (patio furniture, toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.)
- ▶ Turn off propane tanks.
- ▶ Move propane BBQs away from structures.
- ▶ Connect garden hoses to outside spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- ▶ Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- ▶ Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.

## Tree Removal Assistance Program



This program is designed to make headway on the removal of certain trees in the community that pose a fire safety threat, a threat to nearby homes and/or a treat to evacuation. The program is limited to those trees that pose the greatest risk due to their species, size and age. To qualify for this program trees must be:

- ▶ Knob cone pine trees (*Pinus attenuata*) or gray pine trees (*Pinus sabinianae*)
- ▶ At least 40 feet tall

Each property owner may nominate one tree in each fiscal year. To nominate a tree for removal, send a written request via email, phone, U.S. mail or stop by the HOA office.

Please include:

- ▶ Your name
- ▶ The address of the parcel where the tree is located
- ▶ An approximate location of the tree on the parcel expressed as front-left, front-right, middle-left, middle-right, back-left or back-right where "front" = street side
- ▶ Property owners may nominate a tree that is not on their property. If a non-owned tree is selected for removal, the Board will secure permission for removal from the property owner of the tree
- ▶ All nominations must be received by the HOA Office no later than Friday, October 29 at 3:00 pm
- ▶ Trees will be selected for removal through a random drawing from submitted nominations

## The Rumsey Gauge: Unique to Clear Lake

We share our water with Yolo County, which uses it for agricultural irrigation. Following are some excerpts from the Lake County Department of Public Works' Water Resources Division website:

### Historical Water Levels of Clear Lake

The level of Clear Lake is measured in reference to the "RUMSEY GAUGE".

Zero Rumsey is equal to 1318.257 feet above mean sea level. A full lake, by definition, is reached when the lake measures 7.56 feet on the Rumsey Gauge.

The level of Clear Lake is controlled by Cache Creek Dam which was constructed on Cache Creek in 1914. This dam is owned and operated by Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and is operated in conformance with two court decrees.

The Gopcevic Decree of 1920 stipulated that the lake shall be operated between zero and 7.56 feet, except for unforeseen storms that raise the level faster than the Cache Creek channel capacity can draw down.

The Solano Decree of 1978 very specifically outlines the operation of Clear Lake for Yolo irrigation purposes. If the lake is full on May 1, Yolo may withdraw 150,000 acre-feet of water and the level on October 31 may not be below 1.25 feet Rumsey. If the lake is 3.22 feet or lower on May 1, no water may be released. Evaporation on Clear Lake through the average summer is 3 feet. As a point of interest, when Clear Lake is full it has a surface area of 43,790 acres and contains 1,155,000 acre-feet of water.

The Lake's level can be checked daily at the USGS website: [waterdata.usgs.gov](https://waterdata.usgs.gov).



The Grigsby Riffle at the Lake Street Bridge in Lower Lake, California during low water, 10/23/2014. (Photo by: Will Evans)  
Photo Courtesy of Clear Lake Environmental Research Center website.

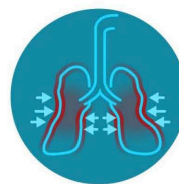
## Please do not enter if you have



**FEVER**



**COUGH**



**SHORTNESS OF  
BREATH**

For health and safety of our staff and others, please do not visit the office if you are ill.

Please mask up! All persons entering the office are required to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status. Thank you for your cooperation.





## Infrastructure Improvements

Exciting new upgrades for the pool area have been happening this year, from a new access road to new entry fencing. The project started with having two pine trees removed to open up an existing dirt access driveway to the pool. Almost immediately it was discovered that the water line to the clubhouse hadn't been installed properly when the tractor drove over it and broke the water pipe. Before the new asphalt was put down a proper trench was dug of about 120 foot and new pipe was installed to replace the existing decayed plastic pipe.

The landscapers have removed the old funky metal pool furniture storage shed and they're pouring a nice level concrete pad to install a new upgraded storage shed. When that project is wrapped up, they will start on installing the new entry fencing, made of prefabricated powder coated steel six-foot-tall panels. This will include a new upgraded entry gate which will use the same key cards to gain entry into the pool next season. Keep an eye out for all the exciting new changes this year.



## Goats and Loggers

The grant funded project to remove hazardous fire fuel in the community is proceeding on schedule. The 200+ herd of goats brought in to clear the firebreaks on our boundary have completed their work. Our tree removal contractor has now started removing trees. Members of the RW Fire Safety Committee had identified 138 trees that meet the criteria for removal. Of these requests for permission to remove were sent out for 61 trees. After receiving bids from four contractors and negotiating with the selected contractor, the communities calculated they could remove 90 trees, 45 in each community. Trees selected for their highest relative hazard have been tagged for removal.



*Left: A typical Riviera West overgrown knob cone pine. 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.*

## Safe Interaction with Wildlife

In recent weeks people in our area have circulated posts showing bears, mountain lions and other wildlife on their property. Click [wildlife.ca.gov](https://wildlife.ca.gov) for expert advice from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding laws and guidelines about interacting with wildlife.

Please follow recommended measures to keep your family and pets safe.



## Swimming Pool Updates



This year's closing date for the swimming pool was Tuesday, September 28. The pool is usually open from around Memorial Day weekend until sometime in September. The exact date for closing the pool is determined primarily by the weather. As nighttime temperatures cool more and more, it becomes too difficult to keep the pool warm enough. We look forward to seeing members at the pool again next summer!

## Know Your Zone: KEL E-122

Throughout the year and especially during fire season, it is vital to have accurate and timely information. Whether it is an advisory, a recommended or mandatory evacuation, the Sheriff's Office will refer to your ZONE. Each area of the county has a zone code.

The zone for Riviera West is KEL E-122. For more information, visit [zonehaven.com](http://zonehaven.com).

## The Wine-Maker Next Door

Rows of bright green vines will soon replace the old walnut trees along our southern boundary. We recently got the exciting news that the land was purchased by a distinguished California wine-making business, Robledo Family Winery. The company got right to work, converting the land from walnut production to wine grape production.

*"Our family came to the United States and began working in the vineyards in the 1940s. Today our family has established the first winery in the United States to be founded by Mexican vineyard workers on their own land. Our parents Reynaldo and Maria Robledo began commercial wine production from our estate grapes in 1997 at our family winery in Sonoma Valley, California."*

From the family's website, [robledofamilywinery.com](http://robledofamilywinery.com)

Mr. Robledo has owned vineyard property in California for many years and today, with his nine children, oversees more than 650 acres of vineyards throughout Sonoma, Napa and Lake Counties. Today the company is managed by Jenaro Robledo. The family and their award-winning wines have been featured in a number of publications including *Uncorked*, *Saveur* and *People* Magazines.

We welcome our new neighbors and look forward to following their progress with this new venture.

## Pear and Walnut Cake

### A Delicious Celebration of Lake County Harvests

Once again, it is pear season in Lake County. Harbor View Board member Chris Smits contributed this excellent recipe published in the *Bon Appetit* February 1988 issue. This dessert is also a great use for local walnuts.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 5 ripe firm Bartlett pears (unpeeled), cored and cut into ½-inch cubes
- ½ cup chopped toasted walnuts
- Vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter and flour a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Sift the first five ingredients into a medium bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat brown sugar, oil, eggs, white sugar, water and vanilla in a large bowl until very smooth.

Blend in the dry ingredients. Then stir in pears and walnuts (batter will be lumpy).

Pour batter into the prepared pan. Bake until the top is brown and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Cool completely.

Cut the cake into pieces and serve with vanilla ice cream.

## Wildflowers of Riviera West: Giant Blazing Star

*One of the pleasures of living in Riviera West is enjoying the wild plants that thrive on Mount Konocti and nearby areas. 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. This month's featured flower is not usually seen in our neighborhood, but merits inclusion because of its stunning beauty and its importance as an emblem of Western wilderness. The Blazing Star is seen along Lake County roadsides and bloomed abundantly this year in the gravelly bed of Kelsey Creek after the creek dried up for the summer.*

### GIANT BLAZING STAR

*Mentzelia laevicaulis* is a showy wildflower native to western North America. In California it is found in most counties throughout the state. Its common names include Giant Blazing Star and Smoothstem Blazing Star. It grows a weedy-looking, branched stem which may reach a meter in height. The whitish-green stem and its lateral branches bear the occasional triangular sawtoothed leaf. At the tip of each branch blooms a spectacular yellow flower.

The star-shaped flower has five narrow, pointed petals with shiny yellow surfaces, each up to 8 centimeters long. Between the petals are long, thin yellow sepals. The center of the open-faced flower is filled with a great many whiskery yellow stamens. Beneath the petals are long, curling leaves. The plant bears capsule fruits containing winged seeds. This is a widespread plant which can be found in sandy, rocky, and disturbed areas, such as roadsides.

### Cultivation

Gardeners have had success in growing the Giant Blazing Star by Fall planting in fast-draining, sandy soil.

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>



### GIANT BLAZING STAR

- ✓ Large, brilliant yellow flowers and serrated leaves
- ✓ 3 to 5 feet tall
- ✓ Seen in sunny areas and disturbed land such as roadsides.

*Text credit: Calscape.org*

*California Native Plant Society;*

*Calscape.org, 9/27/21*

*Photo credit: gardenia.net, 9/27/21*