

# THE PAJARO VILLAGER

The Official Newsletter of the Pajaro Village Homeowners Association

February 2020

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## If you shoot pool, read books or play cards, come to the board meeting

If you have an opinion about where the clubhouse pool table should be located; if you want to be part of the discussion about whether the lending library should be moved; if you have ideas about the best location for the poker players; or if you're interested in changes suggested for the community garden ... **COME TO THE PVHOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ON FEB. 12!!!!**

Here is the PRELIMINARY agenda for the board's monthly meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. in the clubhouse:

\* Moving the pool table and/or the lending library. Because of feedback from the community, the board will reopen for discussion which room is the best place for the pool table. Also reopened for discussion is whether the lending library should be relocated. Any relocation also could involve moving the tables used by card players.

\* Community garden. Issues include how the Garden Club can spend money raised to improve the garden; money for fence repairs out of the reserve fund; putting in a cement slab where the association's rototiller would be washed after each use; and the question of charging community gardeners an assessment to pay for such things as the slab or replacing the shed.

\* RV Lot. Discussion on whether people who share a space in the lot should both be charged full price.

\* Board priorities. Begin a discussion of the board's priorities for the coming year, and how community members can be polled to prioritize those priorities.

***(This is a preliminary agenda. A final agenda will be posted on the clubhouse door and on the website four days before the Feb. 12 meeting.)***

## Hollywood glamor comes to PV with Oscar Night at clubhouse

Break out your boas and bottles of champagne, and mark your calendars for Sunday, Feb. 9, when Pajaro Village will host an Oscar Night at the clubhouse to watch the Academy Awards television broadcast.

"We were trying to think of something that would attract people who don't normally attend our events," said Marie Coffey, co-chairwoman of the PVHOA Events Committee. "I believe this is the first time we've ever had an Oscar party."

Coffey said that in addition to champagne, there will be freshly cooked Costco pizza, a red carpet, lots of glitzy decorations to set the Hollywood mood, and even a contest to see who can pick Oscar winners in the most categories.

Anyone interested in filling out an Oscar ballot for the competition must arrive by 4:45 p.m. in order to have time to check off your picks before the Academy Awards broadcast starts at 5 p.m. Be ready to choose (or guess?) winners in even the obscure categories, because those will be used as tie-breakers.

The top 3 winners will receive fun Oscar "swag" bags donated by association members Karen



Clark, Bobbie Grennier, Josette Winkler and Patricia Guevara.

They won't be filled with thousands of dollars worth of swag like the bags given to the stars who present the Oscars, but they will be filled with fun stuff.

Coffey says she hopes attendees show a little Hollywood glamor in their choice of dress, but don't worry if your closet doesn't include a tux or a feather boa. Everyone is welcome. Coffey said just bring whatever you'd like to drink, and an appetizer to share (but that's optional).

***(Oscar Night begins at 4:45 p.m. in the clubhouse on Sunday, Feb. 9.)***

## What's great about living here? Neighbors who go above and beyond



There are good neighbors, great neighbors ... and then there are neighbors like Marie Coffey.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, when torrential rains were keeping many of us indoors, Marie learned from a neighbor, Rob Glass, that a dog owned by their neighbor, Lisa Norris, had gotten loose. It's a fact that Marie is afraid of large dogs because she was bitten by one as a youngster, but that didn't stop her from putting on her shoes and dashing out into the downpour.

"I called out to Dia, and she came close, but then she ran away," said Marie. "She took off fast, so I decided to get my car, some treats and a leash and try to catch her."

Marie pulled into a nearby driveway to block Dia, and the white dog came close enough for Marie to swing the leash out in an attempt to loop it over the dog's head, but Dia was too skittish, and ran away.

"She ran toward the (community) garden, and I pulled into another driveway to block her," said Marie. "I had a long scarf, and I used both hands to swing it over her head and gently pulled her into my car."

### **We've got your back with medical equipment**

One of the benefits of living in Pajaro Village is that the association has your back when you're not feeling your best.

Squirreled away in a storage area of the clubhouse is a variety of medical equipment that is available to loan any association resident. The equipment includes wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, toilet-seat risers and crutches.

"We loan them out, and when we get them back, families often donate other pieces of medical equipment we can use," said Holly Browne, who coordinates the program.

"Donations also are gratefully accepted," said Holly, adding "more walkers are needed."

***(If you need a piece of medical equipment, or if you have something to donate, call Holly at 726-2705.)***

Marie took Dia home, put her in the garage with a dish of water, and then tried to get word to Lisa that Dia was safe. Lisa wasn't listed in the Pajaro Village Homeowners Association directory (which currently is being updated by the board of directors), but Marie called another neighbor, who got word to Lisa, and she was reunited with Dia. Lisa was so grateful, she sent Marie a "beautiful thank-you note" the next day.

"I think it was the epitome of what's great about living here — that a neighbor would go out in the pouring rain ... to chase down my dog," said Lisa, adding with a smile that she later found out that Marie did it even on a "good hair day."

Dia got out by slipping through a broken fence board, crossing another backyard and running out an open gate. And that's when Marie and Rob stepped it. "It was amazing," said Lisa. "I've told everyone how appreciative I am."

Marie was quick to deflect praise, noting that any neighbor would have done the same.

"I know how much Lisa loves that dog, so I thought, 'my goodness, I have to do what I can to get Dia,'" said Marie, explaining why she decided to corral Dia despite her fear of large dogs. "I don't think of my fears when I do something, but then afterward, I think, 'oh my.'"

***(Do you have an exceptional neighbor who has gone above and beyond? We'd like to tell his/her story. Just call the clubhouse at 761-3855 and leave a message.)***



It's election time in California, and just like you're getting ready for California's March 3 presidential primary, so are the folks at the County Clerk/Elections Office.

As always, the office is seeking volunteers to staff precincts, including our own in the Pajaro Village clubhouse. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you're interested in being a precinct volunteer, call 831-454-2060, or email [info@votescount.com](mailto:info@votescount.com). There also are poll worker application forms to fill out online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com).

## Staying fit gets easier with new, revitalized clubhouse equipment



If you've been in the Clubhouse's impressive workout room in the past couple of months, you no doubt have noticed a few upgrades, thanks to association member Bob Leonard, who volunteers his time to keep our exercise equipment in top shape.

It's normal for the equipment to be serviced in December to keep each piece safe and in proper running condition, said Bob, noting that it usually costs about \$200 to clean and lubricate the treadmills and assess the other equipment for repairs and remaining lifespan.

This year, however, required more than this usual maintenance, and Bob came to the PVHOA board of directors to request a larger contribution from the reserve budget.

"Our top-rated (Life Fitness T3) treadmill needed a new belt, the side foot rails needed to be replaced or repaired, and the motor needed to be

overhauled with new bearings," said Bob. "This cost an additional \$550, an expense the board deemed worthwhile because a new treadmill of this caliber would cost at least \$4,000. The treadmill is now working like new."

But the service professional who revitalized the treadmill also noted that the gym's stationary recumbent bike didn't have many more miles in it. "He advised the recumbent bike was overdue to be replaced, and could soon become a safety hazard," said Bob, noting that it already was hard to adjust the bike's seat and to pedal smoothly.

Bob's presentation to the board led members to authorize finding even more money in the budget to replace the recumbent bike, a piece of equipment that sees a lot of use in our gym.

"We now have a brand new Schwinn 270 recumbent bike that retails for \$600, but we got it for \$550, which included assembly, delivery, set-up, and hauling away the old bike," said Bob, adding that he selected this model because it is senior-friendly. "It's easy to get on and off, without any climbing or stepping over a bar to avoid tripping. The seat is easily adjustable with a large, easy-to-see red handle, and the back support is larger, more comfortable and effective than our old one."

Money for the recumbent bike also came from the association's reserve fund.

In large part because of Bob's dedication to keeping the exercise equipment in working order, use of the clubhouse gym is increasing.

"People are taking advantage of the many kinds of equipment that are available," said Bob. "The exercise room is open only to member residents, and we ask that users kindly clean off equipment after each workout."

## Big clubhouse doings are planned, but volunteers are needed to make them happen

The Pajaro Village Homeowners Association is only as strong as the volunteers who form its backbone. One of the association's most visible groups is the Events Committee, which is responsible for creating the events and parties that bring so many of us together.

Holly Browne, co-chairwoman of the Events Committee, has put out a call for neighbors who would like to "join this very creative, lively and fun group."

\* St. Patrick's Day Potluck in March (a host is still needed).

\* Ladies Tea on April 25.

\* Garden Tour in the spring (may be canceled if no volunteers come forward).

\* Hawaiian celebration Pajaro Village style on June 6.

\* Village barbecue on July 4.

\* Halloween/Fall Party in October.

\* Veterans celebration on Nov. 7.

\* Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. (host needed).

\* Christmas potluck on Dec. 25 (host needed).

***(If you're interested in joining the Events Committee, call Holly at 831-726-2705.)***

## PVHOA's Library Committee is about so much more than books

Since being established a year ago, the Library Committee has — of course — worked to revitalize the lending library in the PVHOA Clubhouse. But that's far from the only thing committee members have done ... or plan to do.

"The Library Committee was developed to bring literature, art and music (to association members)," said committee Chairman Peter Hirose, a retired librarian who earned a master's degree in Library Science from San Jose State University and spent more than 20 years in the field. "We want to sponsor cultural and educational events, possibly even with guest speakers, within our Pajaro Village community."

In just the past year, said Peter, the committee "successfully cleaned, reorganized, and revitalized the library book area; hosted an open house in June; led a lively sing-a-long in August; sold books at the Community Yard Sale in September to benefit the Neighbors Helping Neighbors fund; and ended the year with a well-attended caroling event in December."

**SING** *All Together Now* **ALONG**

"It's been fun this past year, and the events seem to have been well-received," he said.

In addition to Peter, members of the Library Committee include Holly Browne (who helped create the group last year), Joaquina Daniel, Mariel Halupa, Sandie Martinez, Jean Mendez, and Mary Siqueiros.

"This year, we hope to continue to promote more fun community activities for our neighbors," said Peter, adding that upcoming events will be posted in the newsletter calendar. "We hope to see you there."

***(If you have ideas for future events/presentations, email Peter at [phirose2@gmail.com](mailto:phirose2@gmail.com) and he will share your ideas with the full committee.)***

## New furniture gives clubhouse a fresh, vibrant look

Seating in the clubhouse got a bit more comfortable in January after board members bought a new sectional for the main room and donated the old pieces of furniture that had been well used for years.

"It's so nice, so modern, so clean and so comfortable," said Holly Browne, co-chairwoman of the PVHOA Events Committee, about the new sectional. "It really has brought us out of the 70s, in my book."

The sectional, along with a new gaming table and chairs, cost nearly \$1,417, with the money coming out of the association's reserve fund.

"The gaming table has drawers to hold checkers, chess pieces and cards," said association Vice President Josette Winkler, who, along with Director Diane Repp, researched and purchased the new furniture. "It's a place for people to socialize and play games. We're always trying to find different ways for people to enjoy the clubhouse."

The pair worked long hours on the day they drove Josette's pickup to Gilroy (they actually had to ask passersby in the Costco parking lot for help in tying down the large load). Once back in Watsonville, they got help from association Director

Keith Winkelman, his wife, Thais; and residents Willy Rich and Joe Surwald.

"We worked all day and into the night," said Diane, adding that she and board President Patricia Guevara, purchased throw pillows for the new sectional.

The couches, chairs and round wooden table in the main room mostly were donated to Goodwill. "The coffee table was in such bad shape, Goodwill refused to take it ... so it went to the dump," said Diane.

One of the reasons the old couches were replaced was because they were tattered and frayed, and one had a piece of metal protruding that actually tore a member's pants and scratched her leg.

"And the chairs were so unstable, we were concerned that someone could get hurt sitting down on them," said Diane.

The board may consider buying another sectional to provide even more seating for members.

***(Please take care when eating on the new furniture, because there already has been an instance where chocolate stains were discovered. We all would like to keep the sectional looking as nice as it does now for as long as possible.)***

## Soup Night brings neighbors together



Nearly 30 of our neighbors found “a wonderful way to spend a cold night” when they grabbed a spoon and joined PVHOA’s “Meet and Greet on Soup Night” in mid-January.

“It was a darn good turnout,” said Holly Browne, co-chairwoman of the association’s Events Committee. “We use these Meet and Greet events to reach out and invite new neighbors to come join us.”

The turnout was so large that the committee had to add another table at the last minute. The gathering included two new neighbors — Chris Lynch on Pippin Lane; and Maria Alonso, and her daughter, Nancy — who all enjoyed a variety of soups and desserts with others from Pajaro Village.

These Meet and Greet events are conducted periodically on Friday evenings throughout the year. Keep an eye on the newsletter to learn when the next one is scheduled.

## Board of directors required to approve your architectural, landscaping changes

As a reminder to residents, or a head’s up to new Pajaro Village members, there are policies that must be followed whenever you’re considering architectural or landscaping changes on your property.

Work can only begin after proposals that have been submitted in writing to the PVHOA board of directors are approved. The board meets on the second Wednesday of every month, and members are diligent about reviewing all submissions in a timely fashion.

In addition to their architectural-change requests, members must seek approval before repainting the outside of their houses. This includes

## Mark your calendars!

FEB. 1 — **Memorial for Joann Leonard** between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at clubhouse

FEB. 6 — **Bingo Night** 7 p.m. at clubhouse

FEB. 9 — **Oscar Night at the Clubhouse** (See full story elsewhere in newsletter)

FEB. 12 — **PVHOA Board of Directors Meeting** at 6 p.m. at clubhouse

FEB. 20 — **Bingo Night** 7 p.m.

FEB. 26 — **Pajaro Village Voices Potluck** 6 p.m. at clubhouse

APRIL 25 — **Hats Off To Us Ladies Tea** (A fun afternoon of sweet treats; if you also would like to set a table with your special tea sets, call Holly at 726-2705)

JUNE 6 — **Let’s Get Our Aloha On** (A Hawaiian celebration Pajaro Village style)

JULY 4 — **Village Barbecue Honoring America’s Birthday** (Join in our biggest family event of the year, featuring fun, food and friends ... and games)

## Weekly Meetings

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS — **Yoga Stretch Class for Seniors** 10 a.m. at clubhouse

TUESDAYS — **Card games** 2 p.m. at clubhouse

WEDNESDAYS — **Poker games** 1 p.m. at clubhouse

THURSDAYS — **Grey Bears Grocery Bags** 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

instances when the same paint color is to be used, and that’s because the board would like to have on file all paint hues used in the village. It not only guides the board, but also helps other village residents who like what you’ve done and would like to use the same color.

A site plan for construction or landscaping projects must be submitted along with the application. These rules are in place to help us maintain a community we all admire.

***(PVHOA architectural and landscaping review forms can be found in the front lobby of the clubhouse.)***

## Our new management company ready to hit the ground running

There are exciting changes coming to Pajaro Village on April 1, when Anderson & Co., a long-respected management company in Santa Cruz County, adds our own PVHOA to its list of clients.

"We at Anderson & Co. (ACO, for short), are excited to have the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you," said Nate Summer, owner of the small, local management group that works exclusively with homeowners associations.

ACO will provide comprehensive management services and advice to the PVHOA and its board of directors.

"We are proud to be part of this community," said Anderson, whose company is located in the Deer Park shopping center in Aptos. "ACO has over 30 years of experience dealing with HOAs, and we look forward to assisting the board as they continue to

expand transparency and community within Pajaro Village."

One of the first steps, he said, will be to learn about our community. "We hope we can bring new ideas and approaches to improve the quality of the HOA, and the quality of life for all its residents."

In the coming weeks, ACO will be receiving more information from the board about the community and its residents. "We look forward to working together and getting to know you," said Anderson.

"We'll be in the community in the coming weeks getting familiar with the properties. If you see us, please say hello."

*(If you're curious about the company and its history, visit the website at [www.acomgt.com](http://www.acomgt.com))*

## Here's an abbreviated look at what happened at the January board meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Board members present: President Patricia Guevara, Vice President Josette Winkler, Secretary Karen Clark, Treasurer Keith Winkelman and Director Diane Repp. \*\*\* The association's monthly financial report was reviewed, and the board voted unanimously to pay the bills.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Trujillo encouraged the board to repair the association saunas. He also expressed concern that personal items (four stockings and a tree ornament from Bali) were taken from the clubhouse between Dec. 24 and Jan. 4. Security cameras will be reviewed.

### CLOSED SESSION

The board reported that no action was taken in the closed session conducted earlier with Nate Summer of Anderson and Co., the management company that will take over association business on April 1.

### NEW BUSINESS

\*\*\* Bids: Director Repp reported on several agenda items, but no action was taken.

\*\*\* Architectural review requests: The board unanimously approved an expansion request by the owner of 750 Bronte Ave.

\*\*\* Association CC&R complaints: One complaint received about the need to repair the saunas.

### OLD BUSINESS

\*\*\* Pool table placement: Treasurer Winkelman outlined five options for the association's pool table: Move it to the Clubhouse main room, move it to the dining room, return it to the exercise room, leave it in the small room off the bathrooms, eliminate it altogether.

The majority of association members present supported relocating the pool table to the main room, and that support was even stronger after a suggestion to move the library to the back room where the pool table is now. The board voted 5-0 to relocate the pool table to the Main Room.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

\*\*\* Community Garden: Burt Gibson reported gardeners had each paid their annual water bill.

\*\*\* Clubhouse reservations: No report. \*\*\* Sunshine and Welcome committees: No report.

\*\*\* Library Committee: No report.

\*\*\* Clubhouse Landscaping Committee: Trujillo reported that the Clubhouse gardener is continuing to mow once a week, and hasn't substantially cut back on watering during these colder months. The board said the gardener should be directed to make those changes. President Guevara will inform gardener.

\*\*\* RV Lot: Coordinator Willie Rich reported there now are four spaces available.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



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