



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

2022 Year-In-Review: On Giving & Receiving

As of the distribution date of this newsletter, it has been seven months since beloved and respected CVA President, Pris Walton, stepped back after seven years in that role, and at CVA's annual meeting on April 2nd, I swallowed hard and stepped into a very big and very empty pair of presidential shoes. But, with support from our wonderful CVA board, as well as help from all involved with CVA and members of the community, I've started filling them.



C.S. Noel

So often, I've been surprised and delighted at the number of folks in our community who pass on their thanks and positive words about CVA, as well as pertinent suggestions for improvements. I'd like to convey my tremendous gratitude to all for the gift of such a rewarding experience and the rich opportunity for personal growth it has provided.

Thank you!

Although CVA's stated mission is preserving and protecting the beauty, natural resources, and rural character of the Valley, I have come to feel there is something much more ephemeral that we must also safeguard. It is that "je ne sais quoi" state, so intangible until you suddenly realize some thing has melted away... the secret elixir responsible for engendering that most precious of conditions - Quality of Life.

The recent past has brought turbulent times. Bumps in the road that are more the wild ride of Mr. Toad than a trip on the magic carpet. As the financial sector often says, "Past performance is no guarantee of future results." But it is a good starting point. So, let's check the forecast.

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HOLIDAY EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE VALLEY

by *Tina Jackson and Luana Conley*



Village Lights

Holiday events kick off Saturday, November 19, at 10:30 a.m. with volunteers setting up the lights that will dazzle the village throughout the holidays. Volunteers, donations, and business participation are welcome, so if you'd like to be a part of creating these very visible and much appreciated holiday decorations, please contact organizer Danielle Carlson at daniellectarlson.01@gmail.com or 619-504-5417. New colorful LED string lights are especially needed.

Angel Project Holiday Services Return to Village

Another year has passed, and we have so much to be thankful for in our little Village. The Carmel Valley Angel Project is once again organizing the free Community Thanksgiving Dinner - served on Wednesday, November 23rd, the day before Thanksgiving.

Meals—with all the trimmings—will be prepared by our friends at the Carmel Valley Kiwanis club, and we're happy to announce that this year's celebration will be returning

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to a buffet service and sit-down event at the CV Community Youth Center at 25 Ford Road. Reservations are required, so look for signs and banners in the village to make your arrangements for this annual tradition. The reservation line (831) 659-5639 will be open beginning in late October.

The Angel Project Store will also be available this year for local families needing a bit of help in making the season "merry and bright." Call or text Alicia at 831-298-7425 by December 2nd to schedule a visit.

Financial contribution baskets will be available during Thanksgiving meal service for those who are able to help with costs, or visit www.cvangelproject.org to make a contribution today. As always, support from our community is appreciated, so the Carmel Valley Angel Project can continue to serve both dinner AND the holiday store!

Santa Fly-In

For the 64th Annual Carmel Valley Santa's Fly-In Saturday, December 10, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be landing in their helicopter sleigh at the former airfield above the

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These are Hidden Valley's Holiday gifts to our community!

OCTOBER 23

Pacific Brass Band

NOVEMBER 5

Party in the Village

NOVEMBER 6

Monterey County Composers Forum

NOVEMBER 7

Peter Toth, Hungarian Pianist

NOVEMBER 12

Linda Ronstadt Tribute

NOVEMBER 19

Radio KSDQ Benefit

NOVEMBER 20

Santa Catarina Celebration

DECEMBER 3

Kiwanis Holiday Gathering

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE
FOR DETAILS

hiddenvalleymusic.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

104 W. Carmel Valley Road
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

THE WEATHERMAN'S OUTLOOK ON QUALITY OF LIFE ITEMS

Stormy Skies — Vacation Rentals: No doubt about it, this is the 800-pound gorilla eyeing our Valley. It's King Kong come to visit with the paparazzi. From Mallorca to Miami and beyond, short-term rentals have changed the texture of communities by shifting the balance from residents to commercial rentals. October was an important month, with the county deadline on October 6th for comments on the Notice of Project (NOP), a very lengthy document in which, among other things, environmental impacts due to vacation rentals were to be identified. CVA's Vacation Rental Task Force prepared a well-researched and detailed response with comments calling out key concerns with the county's assessment. CVA's full report can be found on our website.

Many residents also provided the county with their comments. This community support and feedback is so important. CVA thanks all who shared their thoughts with the county. But the process is far from finished and will likely take over a year to move through. The next key juncture will be when the county calls for comments on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). When this document becomes available, we urge the community to consider its contents. Your comments will be even more critical then.

CLEAR DAYS AHEAD — MID VALLEY CENTER:

As many may remember, plans for updating the Mid Valley Center well over a year ago got off to a rocky start. New owner, Russell Stanley, wanted to move fast to refurbish the center, and our community had concerns that this would negatively impact the historic nature of this important community resource and gathering place. Since that time, CVA and Mr. Stanley have come together in collaborative discussions on ways to address community concerns, while also recognizing the owner's need to make upgrades. CVA looks forward to further opportunities for collaborating with Mr. Stanley again in the future.

STARRY, STARRY NIGHTS — DARK SKY DESIGNATION:

In keeping with CVA's mission to protect and preserve our Valley's natural resources, CVA is exploring how best to do this with an amazing resource that has never before seen

the light of day! Our area's incredible night skies. And what a quality of life treasure it is. As of January 2022, there were only 195 certified International Dark Sky Places in the world.

Becoming an approved International Dark Sky Association (IDA) member requires meeting stipulated criteria. Santa Cruz has an IDA chapter. Our area also has the potential to form a combined IDA community with neighboring areas such as the Santa Lucia Preserve and Big Sur for even more impact. Located as we are, adjacent to the Ventana Wilderness, this could make a startling difference in the views of our night skies and would also provide much needed reprieve to migrating birds whose health and navigating capabilities are seriously impacted by excessive lights at night. More investigation to come.

FALL IS IN THE AIR — REMEMBER SEPTEMBER RANCH:

That red barn on Carmel Valley Road. It's September Ranch and a longstanding landmark at the entry to Carmel Valley. CVA and the entire community have long had our eye on this, as we have watched and waited over the years to see the future unfold for this beautiful property. This August the new owners of the property (now known as One Carmel) were at last able to break ground. See article for details in this newsletter.

Long-Term Forecast is Rein -- Reindeer that is! Before you know it, holiday lights will be up around the Village, and it will be time for the annual Santa Fly-In and parade. Let's get our jingle bells on and go have a wassailing good time together.

WARNING! BAROMETER LEVELS DROPPING — EXPECT SHOWERS OF THANKS & GRATITUDE EVERYWHERE:

See this issue's article on what's being planned by the Angel Project's free community Thanksgiving dinner and holiday store this year. Carmel Valley is truly a caring community helping to make this an inclusive holiday for families and those in need of a holiday blessing.

And, in keeping with Thanksgiving, from all of us at CVA, we want to thank you, our CVA members and everyone in our Carmel Valley community. We are grateful for your support of our organization and for your dedication to the well-being of our cherished Valley home. Wishing you joy and happiness throughout this holiday season and always.

Village Post Office. The Carmel Valley Rotary and Griggs Nursery are partnering to get them here on time, 11 a.m. sharp. Come early to get a spot. The CV Kiwanis is organizing the parade to accompany Santa and Mrs. Claus through the village to the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center. Carmel Valley Road between Via Contenta and Ford Road will be shut down for 45 minutes, with a detour. The center will have lots of fun events arranged for families after the parade.

The anticipation grows as everyone scans the sky for the first sign of the helicopter's arrival. The parade begins after Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive, starting at the corner of Carmel Valley and Flight Roads and ending at the CV Community Youth Center on Ford Road. The fun festivities include free photos with Santa, MyMuseum, a bounce house,



exhibits, a petting zoo, face painting, and more. Contact organizer Dan Loberg for more information at dan@cvcyc.org.

CVVIC Party in the Village

The Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee (CVVIC) is hosting the Ninth Annual Party in the Village on November 5th, with doors open at 5:30, sponsored by Hidden Valley Music Seminars. The benefit features dinner and dancing to local favorites, The Money Band. CVVIC volunteers have created and maintained the Welcome Garden and the Pathway Safety Project, and worked with Monterey County for safe crosswalks, among many other material improvements.

Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door, and are available at the Carmel Valley Business

Center, the Running Iron, Kasey's, and the Mid Valley UPS Store, or online at www.piv.cvvic.org.



Photos courtesy of the Angel Project and Fly-In organizers



CVA Approves Shopping Center Painting Update

by Larry Bacon

In a brief meeting on August 3rd, the Carmel Valley Land Use Advisory Committee approved a painting scheme for the Mid-Valley Shopping Center. Henry Ruhnke, architect, proposed a paint palette of earth tones for the arcades and store fronts. CVA representatives at the meeting supported the applicant, having previously reviewed the color choices on site. Final approval for the permit rests with the county.

Earlier this year plans for altering the architecture of the center were withdrawn by the owner, Russ Stanley, and a new application limited to a painting permit was submitted. In cooperation with CVA, Stanley agreed to strip the white paint from the aggregate sections of the arcade columns – a design feature – and keep the stone in its natural state.

The new colors will be a welcome improvement over the white paint that resulted in the County red-tagging the project in 2020. We look forward to seeing the center's updated and refreshed look.

IN THIS SEASON OF GIVING

All of us at Carmel Valley Association would like to express our gratitude for this wonderful community we all call home and to give thanks for our many, many friends, neighbors, and fellow residents who unflinchingly take notice and action, giving back when community needs arise.

As year-end approaches, we ask you to consider a donation to CVA.

Our organization runs entirely on the time and effort of volunteers who make up our board of directors, dedicated team of advisors, and concerned and committed fellow residents.

That is not to say that we don't have tangible expenses, such as the cost of printing our quarterly newsletter that goes out to approximately 7,000 residents at no charge, surveys, consultations on matters requiring specific expertise, the tools to maintain our online presence and distribute our free weekly e-bulletin

enjoyed by a readership of over 1,600, gatherings and educational events that CVA sponsors for the community, CVA members, and more.

Please help us maintain the special quality of life we have in this lovely Valley. We thank you for your support in our mission of preserving the beauty, resources, and rural character of the Valley.

How to make a donation:

Use the COUPON in this newsletter on page 6, follow the directions, or go to our website: www.carmelvalleyassociation.org and click on "Donate to CVA" at the bottom of the home page. Either way, you can select the dollar amount level of support you want to give and you can change the amount when you renew.

All gifts received will be used in support of our cherished Valley's well-being.

Wishing you many blessings and much joy in this holiday season.

VILLAGE WELCOMES NEW FOOD OPTIONS

Story and photos by Luana Conley

There are some happy developments on the food front in the village. The former location for a series of restaurants, most recently the Chop House, is now transformed into Mirth Kitchen, operated by A Taste of Elegance, caterers in operation since 1988. In addition to catering events, they plan to feature a grab-and-go menu to take home, for a day's outing, or to enjoy on their patio. Offering locally sourced and seasonal ingredients, they specialize in creating themes through artful presentation and serving in remote and challenging sites.



in television productions with celebrity chefs. She also founded a chefs' association, offering training and certification, to elevate her field.

Analuisa plans to extend the lunch hours, increase local offerings, and expand the wholesome menu, while baker George continues to turn out excellent breads and pastries every day. She especially praises the baristas, Heydi, Kate, and Mariana, as essential to the hospitable atmosphere.

The cafe is also ideal for what Heather Alyson hopes to create by inviting locals to join her every Thursday at 10 a.m. for a group she is calling the Weekly Spark. The Spark is intended for new and long-time residents to connect and gain inspiration from each other to improve our lives and our shared community. Heather is credentialed in psychology and specializes in well-being, coping methods, and grief counseling.

Drop by and get connected. Enjoy the local art displays, wonderful breakfast and lunch menus, and community, at the Sunny Cafe.



Top, George the Baker, owner Analuisa, and barista Mariana in the kitchen of the Sunny Cafe. Below, a new best friend brings apples from his tree to see what treat can be created with them. Bottom, guests line up in the renovated dining room.



Also welcome to many locals is the opening of the Sunny Cafe, formerly the Wild Goose. Many are delighted that the rehabilitated hangout remains a bakery and coffee shop, and not another wine tasting room! The new owner, Analuisa, has family ties to Carmel Valley and visited here often when she learned of the opportunity to buy the business. She has extensive experience in food and hospitality from the theoretical to practical, having cooked in Canada, New York, and Mexico City; published magazines; written books; and partnered



September Ranch is Now One Carmel

by John Heyl and Larry Bacon

September Ranch's owners hosted a gala groundbreaking ceremony at the property in August. Driving by at that time, you may have noticed a large white tent. The event was well attended by representatives of the owners from Hong Kong, the Morgans family (former owners), local elected officials, architects and landscape designers, and CVA board members and others invited from our community. Several guests were there scouting out lots for their future homes in Carmel Valley.

The project is now marketed on a website as One Carmel, and golden shovels and confetti cannons marked the groundbreaking event. Those attending listened to brief remarks under the tent, watched a slide show,

enjoyed generous refreshments, and were serenaded by a trio of string musicians and entertained by a master of ceremonies. Images of the land and local horses were projected on a massive video screen, along with other promotional material with Chinese subtitles.

The first phase of the project will build out the eastern side of the property. Progress at the county has been slow in clearing some 200 conditions for the project, and reaching the groundbreaking stage was a significant milestone for the owners. With the main entrance located across from Brookdale Drive, the full project is planned for 73 market-rate homes and 22 affordable units. The frontage of the ranch is expected to feature an equestrian facility, and much of the 891 acres will be open space, including a trail to Jacks Peak Park. Carmel Valley Road will be widened to add a center turning lane.

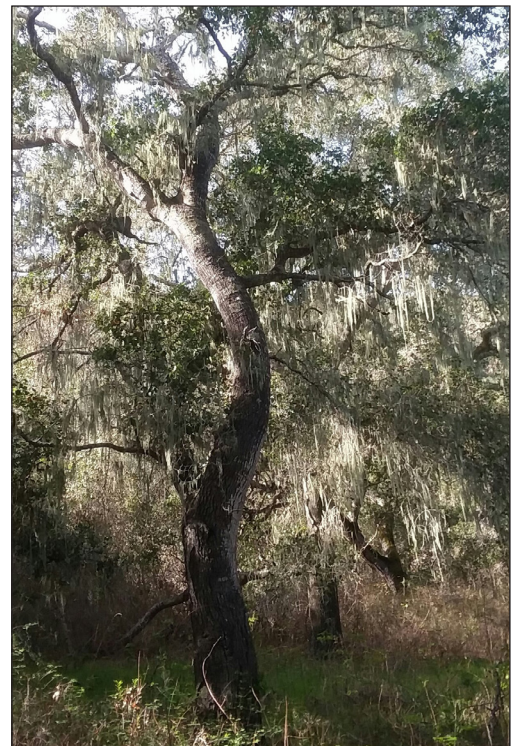


All Saints Day School is undergoing infrastructure improvements that include increasing the size and access to the parking lot, installing sewer pipes, and upgrading athletic fields with artificial turf to conserve water. Photo by Mibs McCarthy

WHAT'S UP WITH THE TREES?



Oak tree moths are a natural phenomenon. A healthy oak will leaf out not too long after all the leaves have been eaten by the caterpillars. The frass left by the caterpillars provides nutrients for the oak trees. The caterpillars and moths are food for birds and insects. Spraying oaks with insecticides is harmful to the ecosystem balance. Protect the health of your oaks by leaving oak leaves on the ground as mulch to decompose. Oak trees have evolved with winter rains and dry summers. Moth info provided by Paola Berthoin.



What some call Spanish moss is really our state lichen, the lace lichen. We also have beard lichens. Lichens help capture fog drip and micronutrients. Photo taken along the Carmel Valley River trail by Kathy Sanders.

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If you live, work, or own property in Carmel Valley, please support the CVA today!

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Banner page one photo of a foggy September day, by Ron Pierce.

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Right, the sun broke through the clouds around noon on October 16th, perfect picnic weather, and about 100 Carmel Valley Association members enjoyed a pleasant annual get-together at the Trail and Saddle Club. Picnic-goers talked with old friends, met new ones, feasted on a buffet provided by chef Tim Wood, tasted wines donated by Hubert Fabre of La Vielle Ferme, enjoyed music by Rick Chelew & Nick Leahy, and heard updates on Valley issues by Supervisor Mary Adams and CVA member Larry Bacon. A very fun and fine afternoon!



Left, the Tatum's Treehouse benefit was a smashing success, hosted by Joyce Wine House. The August affair kicked off the project that will create an accessible, inclusive playground near the community pool.