

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 50

AUGUST 2026

NUMBER 7



Photograph by Hans Mauli

AUGUST EVENTS

VVHA Sponsored:

BINGO, August 14

VVHA Board Meeting, August 19

Newcomers' Social, August 22 (replaces Friday Night Social)



LET'S RAISE
A GLASS TOGETHER
AND WELCOME OUR
NEW NEIGHBORS IN
VINEYARD VALLEY

SAT, AUGUST 22
5:30 PM

Vineyard Valley
Clubhouse

VVHA PRESENTS
NEWCOMERS'
POTLUCK
SOCIAL

**SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE POSTED IN THE MAILROOM.
NEWCOMERS, YOU WILL BE OUR GUESTS, SO JUST BRING
YOURSELVES. NOTE THAT THIS EVENT REPLACES AUGUST'S
FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL.**

August | twenty twenty six

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Tu, Thurs Water Aerobics w/Stacey 10-11:00AM Community Pool						1
Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 BINGO 6:00PM	15
16	17	18	19 VVHA Board Meeting 3PM	20	21	22 Newcomers Social 5:30PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2026-2027 VVHA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President, Janet Schmidt
Vice President, Rick Wood
Secretary, Mae Van Nett
Treasurer, Henk Brok

Directors:

Chris Killion
Steve Kinney
Inger Laidley
Vivian Pichner
Audrey Ward



Committee/Activity Chairs

VVHA Clubhouse Coordinator:
Mae VanNett

Hospitality:
Co-chairs: Chris Killion and Bernie Casey

Memorials and VV Clubhouse Coordinator:
Janeen di Rienzo

Directory:
Chris Killion

Library:
Joyce Cahill, Rick Wood

Bocce Committee Chair:
Rick Wood

VVHA Website:
Michael Merriman



Non-Social Resident-formed Groups

Community Education: Grace Kistner

If there is a death, call Janeen di Rienzo at 707-294-8307 so she can post it on the bulletin board and arrange for the \$50 donation to the organization you designate. She will explain how to schedule the clubhouse for a memorial.

August Birthdays

- 1 Janell Myhre
- 4 Pam Shroeder, Luana Navarro
- 7 Roger Collins
- 10 Mark Siobal
- 13 Gina Papale-White
- 14 Bonnie Schoch
- 16 Fred Camacho
- 17 Janeen di Rienzo
- 19 Francine Freeman,
Jennifer Phelps-Montgomery
- 23 Phipps Moran, John Pitts
- 25 Luci Urias
- 26 Pat Dell
- 29 Michael Merriman

VIVA!

VIVA! Mission Statement: To provide a periodic newsletter concerning current and upcoming events, VVHA news, activities, neighborly news, and other non-political and local items of interest to all Vineyard Valley residents.

Editor

Francine Freeman

Business Manager

Henk Brok

Advertising

Henk Brok

Contributors

Mariam Hansen, Suzanne James, Steve Kinney,
Mae VanNett, Janet Schmidt

Photography

Hans Mauli, Staff

Consultant

Janeen di Rienzo

VIVA

21 Del Rio Court
St. Helena, CA 94574
email: viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com

The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

Hi Neighbors,

Now that the all-day activities of the 4th of July are behind us, we can look forward to our next event, the Newcomers' Potluck. For those not familiar with the event, we invite all the Newcomers (those who purchased homes in the park after August 2025) who are available to attend the party. We bring the food—newcomers are only responsible to bring their wit and charm. We do ask that they stand for an introduction and tell us something about themselves.

There is a signup sheet on the VVHA bulletin board to not only tell us you are coming, but what you are contributing to the potluck. The portions should serve 8-10 people. It's a fun event and everyone has a good time. Remember that the Newcomers' Potluck event on Saturday, August 22 replaces our Friday Night Social this month.

The rest of August is filled with Bingo, and hopefully a couple of guest speakers (we're working on it). Hope to see you at all the events and the board meeting this month.

See you around the park,
Janet

VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Janet Schmidt at 3:00 PM. Minutes of June 2026 Meeting were approved and seconded.

June Treasurer's report: Checking \$12,154.30; Savings \$9,014.62; VIVA \$4,030.17; Bocce \$737.91; Total \$25,937.00. Reports: July 4th Bingo - 27 people; July Bingo - 53 players for fun and Gumbo for dinner with a net profit of about \$400 for the 2 days.

4th of July festivities – Another successful year at VV celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States – 62 dinners were served after a day of Flag Raising, Bocce, and Bingo.

Upcoming Events: Newcomers' Potluck Social Aug 29th – Residents who have moved into the park after August 2025 are invited to be hosted in the Clubroom. Chris Killion will reach out to you with details. Please reach out to her if you don't hear from her to make sure she has your correct contact information. mspickill@gmail.com or 707-968-5670.

Open Discussion:

► Jean Martin requested a copy of the VIVA monthly calendar be posted on the VVHA bulletin board outside the mailroom.

► John Rehnberg has a friend who would like to make a Red Cross presentation to VV residents about safety. Details to follow.

► John Urias had some mail put in the wrong box and didn't receive it in his cubby until a week later. If mail is delivered to you by mistake, please promptly put it in the correct recipient's cubby.

► Roger Collins has created a flyer that will be passed out at our events asking active residents for their ideas on how they would like to see the profits from events to be used.

President Janet Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

August 2026

HCD INSPECTION FOLLOW UP

Thank you for your cooperation with the HCD inspection on July 28th, 29th and 30th. Residents who received a Notice of Violation letter have 60 days to correct the violation. The Park will not be notified of the violations unless the violation constitutes an imminent health and safety hazard representing an immediate risk to life, health or safety. The initial notice of violation allows for 60 days from the date on the letter to correct the violations. Please refer to the Mobilehome Park Maintenance Inspection Resident Booklet on hcd.ca.gov website for more information on correcting violations.

SULPHUR CREEK BANK RESTORATION PROJECT

The Sulphur Creek Bank Stabilization Project began Monday, July 27 and is anticipated to continue until August 20th. There will be limited access to the Hobby building until the project is completed, please use caution and follow any directional signs or any requests from traffic control while in this area. Please contact the office with any questions.

ST. HELENA WATER QUALITY

Residents have experienced sporadic water quality issues this summer. If you experience discolored water the City recommends taking the following steps:

- Report concerns through the [St. Helena Grapevine](#) so staff can track affected locations and prioritize response.
- Avoid consuming discolored water.
- Avoid using discolored water for activities where appearance may be important, such as laundry, until the water clears.
- Run a cold-water faucet for several minutes to help clear water from the service line if discoloration is present. If the issue continues, please [report it to the City](#).

AUGUST RULES REMINDER

Pet Rules

There has been a noticeable increase in the numbers of complaints from residents regarding violations of the pet rules. This is a reminder that all residents are required to comply with the pet rules at all times in order to keep a pet in Vineyard Valley. As a reminder, below are the pet rules--thank you for complying with these rules.

Residents must obtain special permission from the Management to keep no more than two (2) domesticated house pets in this Park and must sign the "House Pet Agreement" and return it to the office.

- Disturbances such as barking, snarling, growling, etc., which will annoy your neighbors are cause for revoking permission to keep your pet.*
- Any pet, when not inside your home or contained within a fenced yard, must be kept on a short leash. It is your responsibility to always "clean-up" while walking your pet.*
- No pet may invade the privacy of anyone's homesite, garden, flower beds, shrubs, yard, etc. **The California Health and Safety Code 18603: 1608 states: Dogs, cats and other animals are not permitted to run at large in a Mobile Home Park.***
- With the exception of guide dogs, signal dogs for the hearing impaired, and service dogs, pets are not allowed in the Clubhouse, pool area, Mail Room or Hobby Building.*
- Pet litter must be removed daily from your premises. Pet owners are responsible for removing pet's litter when walking pets.*
- Residents are permitted to have INDOOR CATS ONLY.*

4th of July Celebration

Flag Raising & Pet Parade



Jack Casserly and Bette Antor



Jeff Bernys with dogs Onyx and Ruby



Tony Navarro with Pat Dell and Janelle Myre



Mary Ann Mauer and dog, Annie



Wendy Strachan and Becky Soret with dogs on parade

BOCCE TOURNAMENT



l-r: Eve Breckenridge and Joyce Cahill celebrate a point; John Pitts aims precisely; spectators Inger Laidley and Nancy King; congratulations to prize-winning bocce team members: Gunter Pirchner, John Pitts, Grace Kistner, Miguel Segura.



BINGO

l-r: Henk Brok, Joyce Brok, Joyce Cahill, Steve Kinney (caller and comedian), Gale Lane, and Chris Killion



Stevenson in California
August 20 @ 4:00pm

Featuring Alex Lyman
Executive Director of the Museum



Lyman will share Stevenson's experiences in California, including his spending his honeymoon squatting in an abandoned Silverado mining camp. This kind of experience helped shape his work.

Lyman is focused on public education—growing programs so the local community can have a place to learn about and experience museums.



A St. Helena Historical Society Production
At the Heritage Center Museum | 1255 Oak Ave. St. Helena

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References from park residents available

jmpetty1@att.net

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Do you know where to turn if an older adult loved one may be victim of a crime?

On June 23, the Office of District Attorney Allison Haley and a outstanding group of community partners hosted the 3rd Annual S.A.F.E. event where they shared valuable information on recognizing and preventing scams, protecting their finances, practicing safe banking, and knowing where to turn if they or a senior loved one become a victim of fraud.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Napa County District Attorney's Office, Molly's Angels, Napa County Health & Human Services Comprehensive Services for Older Adults, Monarch Justice Center, Napa Valley College, Providence Health, and the Napa County Commission on Aging** for providing this important educational event and helping empower older adults to stay informed, connected, and protected.

To learn more about resources for older adults or to report suspected elder financial abuse, visit Napa County District Attorney's Office or contact Napa County. Comprehensive Services for Older Adults at (707) 253-3818.



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Rachel Brinker DMD Periodontics

ST HELENA DENTAL STUDIO

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Hi All,

This month I am writing a review of a local restaurant, Cook. I wanted to expand my reviews to include restaurants occasionally. My love of food and wine and the business surrounding them will be my focus. I will continue to check out tasting rooms and new trends in the wine business. Restaurants will be the secondary focus, as we all need to eat something with the wines we love to drink.

Cheers,
SK

Cook – Not plural or possessive, just Cook! And that's what you get when you go to this quaint local restaurant. Great Cook-ing.

Cook is located at 1310 Main Street in downtown St Helena. Fun and lively, this small establishment is only open Monday through Friday. The bar (only 10 seats) is where we like to dine when we can get in. We'll generally call ahead but often arrive in the 7pm time frame and wait for a spot. And generally, we do get in.

Jude Wilmouth is chef/owner and his presence in front of the kitchen is always sure handed. Over 20 years old, Cook has been a fixture on Main Street. For a short time, there was also Cook Tavern located next door (now Ray Rays). This closed during the Pandemic. Also, it was during this time that they changed his operation to Monday through Friday only! An unusual model for sure, but here it works as the focus has been on locals. And Jude and his wife get to do family things on the weekend.

Cook serves Northern Italian fare with locally sourced ingredients. Pasta is handmade and features a daily fettucine. Also, a daily risotto focuses on fresh ingredients and is a favorite go-to. The menu changes regularly. Features include braised pork, a daily fish special, spaghetti vongole with shrimp and many other items. The bar is stocked with a nice selection of wines by the glass as well as many half bottles, and a nice collection of premium spirits.

We started our most recent meal with the Burrata (\$18). Perfect, creamy burrata paired with roasted garlic bulb and some grilled bread. A drizzle of balsamic completed the plate. Perfect for sharing, this was a perfectly delicious beginning. We also had a Ceasar Salad (\$16). The dressing has plenty of anchovy and garlic flavors to offset the lemon tang. Fresh Reggiano Parmesan and crispy croutons complete the salad. Next, our entrees were one of the risotto dishes with halibut and a lemon piccata sauce (\$52). The risotto is rich and creamy and is a nice contrast to the piquant tartness of the capers. A special with fettucine (\$29) included guanciale, cherry tomatoes, wild mushrooms and a rich, fresh tomato broth. Deliciously filling and complex!

Other favorite dishes are the Spaghetti alle Vongole (\$38). The clams are simmered in a delicious white wine broth with gulf prawns. There is a slow-roasted pork dish (\$34) that is substantial and quite delicious. Tender, fall-apart pork in a rich heirloom tomato sauce is amazing.

For dessert (not often indulged, as, generally, we are well satiated by this time) we love the Affogato (\$15). Just a scoop of handmade vanilla gelato with a side of espresso, which they pour over at the table. There is also a panna cotta (\$14) with seasonal fruit.

There is much to be admired and tried at Cook. Service is always friendly and efficient even when everyone is going at full speed. When we do split a dish it comes as two dishes. They regularly offer an additional “half glass” of wine instead of a second full glass. Next time you're looking for some Italian food, reach out and try Cook!



Photo courtesy of Cook, St. Helena

2026 Summer Concerts in the Park

St. Helena 2026 Summer Concert Series

Wednesdays, July 8 to August 12

The 2026 St. Helena Summer Concert Series returns to Lyman Park on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Listed below is the lineup remaining through August 19. The free, family-friendly events feature live music, local food vendors, and community activities.

Wednesday Evening Concert Lineup at Lyman Park

- August 5: Sounds of Selena (English/Spanish Cover Band)
- August 12: Cassie B (San Diego's Premier Cover Band)
- August 19: Dueling Pianos Featuring James Michael Day and Jason Marion (Modern Dueling Pianos Performance)

Lyman Park is located at
1498 Main Street, St. Helena

Calistoga 2026 Concerts in the Park

Thursdays, August 6 to August 20 | 6:30 - 8:30PM

Thursday Evening Concert Lineup at Pioneer Park

- August 6: Jane Blonde and the Goldfingers (British Rock, Soul and Pop)
- August 13: Miko Marks (Country Americana and Roots Music)
- August 20: Maya (Latin Tribute Band)

Pioneer Park is located at
1308 Cedar Street, Calistoga

RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

Music in the Vineyards | Maple String Quartet

Tuesday, August 11, 4:30-5:30, American Legion Hall

Music in the Vineyards is pleased to announce the Maple Quartet as the 2026 Fellowship String Quartet. Selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants representing top conservatory and university music programs nationwide and abroad, the Maple Quartet will spend three weeks in Napa Valley performing alongside festival musicians, receiving mentorship from internationally acclaimed artists, and engaging with audiences throughout the community. **RSVP**

Spanish Language with Lorraine Ruston (3 Levels offered on different dates)

Advanced Beginner: Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30, August 11-November 17, Rianda House

For learners who have already studied at a beginner level. Lessons will be based on vocabulary and grammar that is introduced in Section 3 and 4 of Duolingo. New grammar study will include the past tense. **RSVP**

Intermediate Spanish Thursdays, 1:00-2:30, August 13-November 19, Rianda House

For learners who have previously studied Spanish. Conversational practice will be based on grammar and vocabulary that is introduced in Section 4 of Duolingo. **RSVP**

Advanced level: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30, August 12-November 18, Rianda House

For students who want to practice Spanish conversation on an advanced level. In addition to practicing grammar and new vocabulary, we read & discuss a book by a Hispanic author. **RSVP**

Yountville Walk | Amanda Cole & Alzheimer's Association

Friday, August 14, 9:00-10:00 | Yountville Park, 2900 Lincoln Ave

Join us for a 1-mile walk as we prepare for our annual Walk to End Alzheimer's event on September 26. This walk will include a warmup and cool down stretch. Come learn about the latest resources and information from the Alzheimer's Association. **RSVP**

Bothe State Park Hike | Kerry Brackett

Tuesday, August 18, 9:00-10:00 | Bothe State Park, 3801 St. Helena Hwy

Meet at the Redwood Trailhead. The walk meanders up through the campground and onto the Vine trail, along the Schramsberg Vineyard. This out and back walk will include some incline, up one hill on the road to the campground to another incline on the gravel trail. Nothing extreme, but it will warm us up! Entry fee is waived for Rianda House participants. **RSVP**

SoulCollage® Workshop Anne House Tuesday, August 25, 3:00-4:30 | Rianda House

SoulCollage® involves intuitively creating small collage cards from meaningful images and reflecting on them through journaling and dialogue. Explore your inner journey of loss, allowing the possibility for sorrow, gratitude and healing to exist together. You may bring an image of your deceased loved one to use in a card if desired. You do not have to be an artist to enjoy this powerful practice. All materials provided. **RSVP 6 maximum**

Valley Transportation Authority Dexter Cypress

Monday, August 31, 1:00-2:00 | Rianda House

Come discover Napa Valley's fixed-routes, community shuttles, fare payment options, trip planning & how to request a travel training. Learn about VineGo Paratransit, Taxi Scrip, and Vine Up-Valley Link, our new Uber/ Lyft voucher program for residents of Yountville, St. Helena & Calistoga. Staff from NVTa is available to assist members with individual trip planning following the presentation. **RSVP**

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Sign up for the Rianda House Mind Body app today! Benefits include finding and booking classes, seeing class history, and getting class notifications. Download this in your app store. Questions? Call Rianda House and speak to a staff member for more information.

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Know Thy Neighbor



by Suzanne James

A review of previous Neighbor interviews during this past year reveals a dearth of male interviews with just one or two exceptions. We will remedy that with our interview this month by talking with a relatively recent newcomer to Vineyard Valley, now retired and surprised by how much he is enjoying that status!

Our neighbor highlighted this month was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the middle child of three siblings, having an older sister (who passed away a couple of years ago) and a younger sister who lives in Santa Rosa and visits frequently. His father was employed at Western Electric, which is now AT&T, and his mother was a secretary at the elementary school our neighbor attended. "We were suburban type people, having a midwestern up-bringing. I loved visiting the farms of my grandparent as both my parents were born and grew up in Nebraska. We were all diehard Cornhusker fans!"

The family made many trips to California, both the southern and northern parts of the state, as his father's family had relocated to Sonoma County. Our neighbor's family moved to Santa Rosa when his younger sister graduated from high school.

"We were suburban type people, having a midwestern up-bringing. I loved visiting the farms of my grandparents . . . in Nebraska."

After his own graduation from high school in Omaha our neighbor attended and graduated from Sonoma State with a degree in English Literature. "I liked reading and writing so I decided to be a teacher, and possibly the next great American writer!"

However, fate intervened when a neighbor of the family introduced him to the high-tech industry. That neighbor had started a floppy disk company. "Both my Dad and I decided to work for him and I stayed on for many years, working up to Operations Manager. I remained there until 1993 when the company was bought out by the Polaroid Corporation and I took a similar position at Polaroid as Operations Manager until 1998."

His next step was working at Optical Coating Company in Procurement Management. "JDS Uniphase, a huge telecom company, purchased us in 2006. While still employed by JDS, I transferred to the San Jose headquarters in 2008 where I stayed for ten years, ultimately becoming the Senior Director of the supply chain by 2018.

"At that time, I accepted an offer to join a start-up in Boston, Acacia Communications, specializing in telecom optical networking components where I became the Procurement Manager. In 2022 Cisco Systems acquired Acacia Communications. During the Covid period I worked from home. It was then that I decided to buy a house in California to be closer to family and friends, including my close friends the Bradleys who encouraged me to look at homes in Vineyard Valley where they reside. I decided to buy a home here in 2021, travelling back and forth to Boston. I decided to retire in 2023 and have been living here full time since.

"One of the best things about my career was the extensive travelling it allowed--including East Asia, China, Thailand and Japan. I got to see a lot of the world! I want to do more travelling in the US now. I bought an Airstream Camper recently. And I want to get out on the road and see as many of the State and National Parks as possible. I also love hiking whenever I can!"

Other pursuits during his leisure time include reading history and fiction books, (he mentions author John le Carré) golfing, and spectator sports, saying he played a lot of street basketball and biked often when he was younger. He recently joined the East Side Gym in Napa. As mentioned above he is very much enjoying retirement, much to his surprise, savoring the independence and freedom to live as he pleases, unable to think of any major regrets as he reviews his life story.

Join me in welcoming Patrick Mumm who is a wonderful addition to our community. He lives happily at 30 Redondo Court.



Referrals and volunteers for this column are encouraged and welcomed.

Vintage Barn Dance to Benefit Rianda House

Sip, Supper and Swing!
A VINTAGE NAPA VALLEY BARN DANCE

TICKETS ON SALE
July 15-Aug 21
Early Bird Discount: \$100
After Aug 12: \$125

5:00 pm
Doors Swing Open for Sips & Social
6:15 pm
BBQ Supper is served
After dinner we'll burn up the dance floor with live music and a caller! (NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED)

Attire
Napa County Casual
Native Sons Hall
1313 Spring Street
Saint Helena

AUGUST 29 2026
★ TIME: ★
5 PM COCKTAILS
6:15 BBQ
Followed by a swinging good time!

Dr. Daniel W. Hamlin, DC
Introducing StemWave Therapy*

Have you noticed that many people in our community are struggling with knee pain? Knee pain can make it difficult to enjoy the activities that matter most, like gardening, golf, walking, pickleball, playing with grandchildren, traveling, and more. At St. Helena Chiropractic, we regularly see patients who are frustrated because of their chronic knee pain. That’s why we’re excited to introduce a new treatment option that may help people stay active and get back to doing what they love.

Why We Added StemWave at St. Helena Chiropractic
We’re always looking for ways to better serve our patients and help them achieve lasting results. We decided to add StemWave therapy because many patients were looking for options that were non-invasive, drug-free, and designed to support the body’s natural healing process. Our practice is focused on helping patients return to their favorite activities so we wanted to offer a solution that aligned with our commitment to helping patients improve function, mobility, and quality of life.

What is StemWave?
StemWave is a non-invasive therapy that uses acoustic wave technology to stimulate the body’s natural healing response. During treatment, acoustic waves are delivered to targeted areas of the body. These waves help encourage circulation and cellular activity, supporting the body’s ability to repair and recover. Many patients appreciate that treatments are quick, require little to no downtime, and can easily fit into their normal routine.

Who Can Benefit?
At our practice, StemWave is commonly used to help patients dealing with: Joint pain: tendon and ligament issues; Chronic pain conditions: sports and activity-related injuries; Mobility limitations: everyday aches and pains associated with aging. Many of the patients we see simply want to stay active and continue enjoying the activities that are important to them. Our mission has always been to help members of our community live healthier, more active lives. By adding StemWave therapy, we’re able to provide another resource for individuals looking to stay mobile, reduce discomfort, and continue participating in the activities that bring them joy. We believe healthy, active people create stronger, healthier communities.

Provider Perspective
One of the reasons I’m so excited to offer StemWave is because it gives our patients another option for addressing pain and improving function without surgery or extended recovery time. Seeing patients return to the activities they love, whether that’s golfing, gardening, exercising, traveling, or spending time with family, is incredibly rewarding.

Learn More
If you’re interested in learning whether StemWave therapy may be right for you, we invite you to contact our office to schedule a consultation:

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