

VIVA!

VINEYARD VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 50

OCTOBER 2026

NUMBER 8



OCTOBER EVENTS

VVHA Sponsored:

Lobster Boil Dinner, October 4

BINGO, October 9

VVHA Board Meeting, October 21

Friday Night Social, October 23

Community Sponsored:

Sidewalk Sales, Downtown St. Helena, October 2-4

Festa Italiana, Lyman Park in St. Helena, October 3

Festa della Pasta, October 18






Lobster Boil Dinner

Sunday, October 4

5:30 Silent Auction opens
6:30 Lobster Pour

\$95 /person
auction benefits Vineyard Valley General Fund

Catering by our friends at the
 Napa Valley Lobster Co.
Friends and Family Welcome!
BYOB

*Sign up and Purchase tickets
 in the mailroom
 Deadline September 30*







October

2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Festa Italiana Lyman Park 12-4PM
Tu, Thurs Water Aerobics w/Stacey 10-11:00AM Community Pool						
4 Lobster Boil Dinner 5:30PM	5	6	7	8	9 BINGO 6:00PM	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18 Festa della Pasta 4PM	19	20	21 VVHA Board Meeting 3PM	22	23 Friday Night Social 5:30PM	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween
Red-VVHA Community Black-Public Observance Green-Local Event Violet-VVHA						

printabulls

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.

October Birthdays

- 1 Terry Maurer
- 2 Leona Aves, Cynthia Lane, Jennifer Warner
- 3 Ken Bergeron, Audrey Pniower
- 4 Lori Zumwalt
- 5 Carl Myers, Teri Scalzo, Minna Williams
- 7 Anne Marie Clifford, Linda Titus
- 10 Gary Crosman
- 12 Laurel Giuliani, Rick Wood
- 14 Kathy Canum, Doug Schmidt
- 15 Vivian Robison
- 17 Diana Lavagnino
- 18 Janet Schmidt
- 20 Chuck Pniower
- 21 Patty Welsh
- 26 Bob Distad
- 27 Cathy Small

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

Staff

Consultant

Janeen di Rienzo

VIVA

21 Del Rio Court
St. Helena, CA 94574
email: viva.vineyardvalley@gmail.com
content deadline: 22nd of each month

The Prez Sez . . . by Janet Schmidt

The Prez is on vacation and will catch up next month!



VINEYARD VALLEY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Meeting was Called to Order by Janet Schmidt at 3:05 and a Quorum was confirmed.

Minutes of August 2026 Meeting were approved.

August Treasurer's report- Checking \$12,607.06; Savings \$9,014.62; VIVA \$4,705.83.; Bocce \$667.91; Total \$26,995.91.

Reports:

Newcomer's Potluck attended by 72 guests, including 11 of our newest residents. Thanks go to VV Park Management who contributed \$350 to help us put on a wonderful evening.

Men in the Kitchen: 56 Breakfasts were served on Labor Day, followed by bocce.

September Bingo - 49 people had fun and prizes along with Pasta, Salad and Garlic Bread

Upcoming Events: Beyond Google Search - AI for everyday life Presentation on Wednesday, September 23rd; 4th Annual Lobster Boil and Fundraiser on Sunday, October 4th

Open Discussion:

- » It was suggested that during Bingo games if there is more than one winner per game, each winner gets the full prize rather than splitting it. The Board will discuss and render a decision.
- » The new Covid shots are available--contact your pharmacy or doctor to get yours.
- » Emergency Preparedness Meeting is Sept 24th and Evacuation Drill Sept 28th.
- » A suggestion was made to change the VVHA name to clarify it was a social organization and not a typical Homeowners Association. It was pointed out that the Association also serves as a liaison between residents and management (per the ByLaws) and labeling it purely Social would take away that distinction.
- » Janeen invited all residents to her free Pasta Dinner on October 18th.

President Janet Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

OK TIRE inc.

Complete Tire Service



Michelin
BF Goodrich
Uniroyal
Goodyear
Coopertires
Yokohama
Continental

1025A Dowdell Lane, St. Helena

707 963-2343

Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am to 5 pm, Closed Sat-Sun

SWITZER ENTERPRISES, LLC

SPECIALIZING IN NETWORK SOLUTIONS

COMPUTER SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | CONTRACTS

Switzer Enterprises, LLC provides Remote Computer Support for Pc's, Servers & Macs

Great Value and Convenience:

- Available 24 / 7
- Sit back and watch our technician fix your PC
- No surcharges or additional fees
- Secure and Reliable Technicians

With "Remote House Call"™ we can remotely fix any PC anywhere on the Internet. Just run the application and let us do the rest.

707-451-1096
www.switzerenterprises.com



PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

October 2026

Happy Fall! As we move into the cooler weather and overcast mornings, we are still in the drier season with increased risk for Red Flag Warnings and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Because high winds may cause trees and debris to contact powerlines and start a wildfire, PG&E may need to turn off power to

protect the community. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff, or PSPS. Update your contact information at pge.com/myalerts. You will be notified throughout a PSPS to share updates and estimated restoration times by call, text and email to help you prepare. Contact 211 California to speak with a live agent about your outage needs. Dial 211, text "PREPARE" to 211-211 or visit pge.com/211.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING & EVACUATION DRILL

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Emergency Preparedness Meeting on September 24 and Evacuation Drill on September 28. We also thank the St. Helena Police and Fire Departments for providing valuable emergency preparedness information and leading a smooth and efficient evacuation drill.

As a reminder, please review your emergency plan with your family and make sure you are prepared to evacuate if necessary. Keep your go bag and pet's go bag ready, your vehicle fueled, and pet carriers easily accessible. Please also review the emergency preparedness packet delivered to your cubby, which includes important information and an "Evacuated" tag from the St. Helena Police Department. If you need a tag, you may request one from the Police Department.

SULPHUR CREEK BANK REPAIR PROJECT

The final restoration of areas temporarily disturbed to provide construction access have been restored. The concrete walkway affected by the construction was repaired. Trees and vegetation will be replanted in October.

CORPORATION YARD DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS

Repairs were recently completed to the storm drainage system in the Corporation Yard to help manage rainwater more effectively during the rainy season. The project included excavating a trench between the two light poles and replacing approximately 300 feet of 6-inch underground drainpipe. The new gravity-fed drain directs rainwater toward the pumps, where it can be efficiently moved out to Sulphur Creek.

These repairs will improve drainage in the Corporation Yard, reduce standing water during periods of heavy rain, and help ensure the drainage and pumping system operate effectively throughout the winter months.

ST. HELENA WATER QUALITY

Residents continue to experience sporadic water quality issues. If you experience discolored water the City of St. Helena recommends taking the following steps:

- Report concerns through the [St. Helena Grapevine](http://St.HelenaGrapevine) 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](#).

continued on p.8

Italian Heritage Month

Celebrate Upper Valley's Italian Heritage

SAT OCT 3, LYMAN PARK ST HELENA



12:00-12:15 ITALIAN FLAG RAISING

12:15-4:00 FESTA ITALIANA!

FOOD Enjoy fresh pizza, sausage, pasta and much more!

WINE Sample local wines: Italian varietals, winemakers & wineries!

MUSIC Experience world class live Italian music

FUN Celebrate our Italian heritage with neighbors and friends

Join the Sons & Daughters of Italy in America #2077 at this community event made possible by the generous donations of local businesses, wineries, individuals and the dedication of neighbors and friends who volunteer! Thank you all!!!

The minimal \$10 ticket helps cover costs, helps ensure accessibility and preserve this wonderful tradition for future generations!

For additional information please contact Anthony Micheli 707.486.3832 or anthonymmicheli@yahoo.com

PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATE, cont'd

AFTER HOURS AND WEEKEND MANAGERS

As a reminder after hours and weekends managers are available for emergencies or urgent matters.

Weekdays after 4:00 p.m. please contact Rebecca Soret, 408-489-0880. On weekends, please contact Kay Bettinelli, 831-869-5914.

FLU VACCINE OPPORTUNITY AT VINEYARD VALLEY

A Flu Vaccine opportunity for Vineyard Valley residents has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please contact the office for additional details or to be added to the list. Thank you to the team at Adventist Health Mobile Clinic for keeping our community safe and healthy.

come join the fun!

THURSDAY POKER NIGHTS

6:30-8:30PM | Vineyard Valley Club Room | \$5 buy-in



**Beginners welcome! Dealer's choice.
Sign-up list inside the post office.**

A WARM WELCOME TO ST. HELENA'S NEW POLICE OFFICERS

By Elizabeth Green

St. Helena has added four new police officers to its department which is overseen by interim Police Chief Justin Tharp. It is my pleasure to introduce them to our Vineyard Valley community. Below are the three questions that I posed to each officer; I hope you will enjoy their heartfelt responses.

OFFICER MICHAEL FREESE

What inspired you to pursue a career in law?

I grew up in a home where both of my parents were public servants. My father was a police officer with Calistoga PD for more than 25 years, and to this day my mother is actively working as a fire/medical dispatcher. Growing up watching my parents serve their communities, going to work every day with the mindset of trying to make the world a little better, and being able to see the impact they have made on their community, is what inspired me to pursue a career in law.



How do you plan to build trust with the community you serve?

I plan to build trust with the community of St Helena by being approachable, fair, and open minded. Working in law enforcement is not just about writing traffic tickets or arresting criminals. It's about being a part of the community, knowing the community, and being able to talk to the community.

What is the hardest part of the job that people outside the force do not see?

I would say the hardest part of the job is the hours. We work 12 hours shifts, 24/7 to ensure the community of St Helena is safe, and whenever someone calls 9-1-1, we are there to help. I don't think people see or realize how many hours we actually spend away from our families, homes, and personal lives to be here.

OFFICER JESUS MARTINEZ

What inspired you to pursue a career in law?

I have 7 years in the Army National Guard and enjoyed being part of an organization dedicated to helping communities in times of need. I found that law enforcement is a great way to continue helping communities and to assimilate back into civilian life

How do you plan to build trust with the community you serve?

I would build trust by listening to community concerns, communicating openly, treating everyone fairly, and being visible and approachable to show the community that their safety and concerns genuinely matter.



continued on next page

Officer Jesus Martinez, cont'd:

What is the hardest part of the job that people outside the force do not see?

I think the hardest part is letting people know that we understand situations and concerns, but we have to be fair and impartial with the decisions we make while trying to resolve the situations.

OFFICER JUSTIN RAY

What inspired you to pursue a career in law?

I wanted a career where I could help people solve problems and make a difference. I value standing up for what is right.

How do you plan to build trust with the community you serve?

Handling stressful situations while staying professional and calm. The emotional impact of the job can be difficult, you just have to lean on your support system and be willing to ask for help.



What is the hardest part of the job that people outside the force do not see?

Handling stressful situations while staying professional and calm. The emotional impact of the job can be difficult, you just have to lean on your support system and be willing to ask for help.

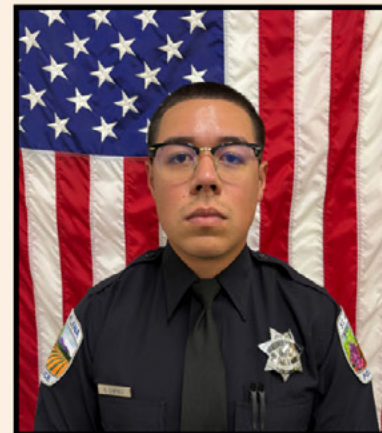
OFFICER CHRISTIAN CHIPREZ

What inspired you to pursue a career in law?

What inspired me to pursue a career in law is that every day is a learning experience with all the laws that pertain to us as we make contact with people on an everyday basis.

How do you plan to build trust with the community you serve?

I plan to be engaged and show respect to everyone who needs our assistance. Embracing and understanding people's feelings and what they need help with shows who we are as law enforcement officers.



What is the hardest part of the job that people outside the force do not see?

The hardest part of the job is not knowing how to clock yourself out from work when your shift or work week is over. I constantly think of the next shift and how I can better myself every day.

To all our new officers and interim Chief Tharp, we look forward to meeting you and thank you for keeping our community safe.

~Elizabeth Green

Fred Abruzzini: Beringer's Pioneer of Napa Valley Tourism

reported by Mariam Hansen, St. Helena Historical Society

As wine maker at Beringer Vineyards from 1932 until he retired in 1956, Fred Abruzzini was one of the original promoters of Napa Valley wine and of the Napa Valley as a tourist attraction. Following is an interview with him from 1987.

Interviewer: Well, did Beringer have tours that would come in buses and things like that?

Fred Abruzzini: Oh, buses after buses.

Interviewer: Where would they come from?

Fred Abruzzini: I can show you where I had over 2,000. General Electric convention came to California from Chicago, the rest went to New York. And these were all dealers-sixty buses. This fella came from back east from General Electric and came with [SF restaurateur] George Mardikian and I showed him the winery. He was going to see Mardikian's Ranch (today Quintessa Winery), and this was about three months before the convention in San Francisco he was seeing what he could do for the convention. So, Mardikian brings him up to the winery and I showed him the winery and he told me, he says he's going to have about 2,000 people. I says, well, bring them up to the winery. I'll take care of them. He says, by the time the bus comes in, and goes back they'll have to have lunch. How you going to feed them? That's easy. I says, you got the chef right with you. We'll get the old chef [Mardikian] here to do something.



General Electric Dealers' convention at Napa County Fairgrounds, 1952

We got talking and he says where can we feed them? I says I'm a director of the Napa County Fair Association at Napa. Take one of the big buildings. Let George bring in all the tables. And he says, what about the stoves? I says I'll get Mitchell to make a bunch of barbecues and he can barbecue. I had six of them made. I designed them. And we made these barbecues. And they were four feet long and about 14 inches wide and you put all the meats in there –Shish kabob.

I told them all I wanted is one thing: there'll be only one wine served and that's Beringer Brothers. I don't want nothing for what I do or anything, but you serve Beringer. I'll get the rest of the wineries to give them tours so they'll take them through.

We formed a committee: head of the union, a banker, George Mardikian. The head of the union was one of my best friends and that's him right here, see? (points to photo album) This was the committee to take care of the whole thing. 'Cause you can't do it all alone. We fed over 2,000 people. No trouble at all.

Interviewer: But did you have a regular program of buses coming up? Did you have an agent or somebody down there in the city?

Fred Abruzzini: Oh, one right after the other. Airplane, pictures and everything. I've got them all there. Look in this book here and you'll see every other year I'd have the State Senate. Every other year I've have the Assembly come from Sacramento. Parties. There's what they gave me when – the Senate gave me that one time. Businesspeople used to come in. I can tell you about businesspeople, big business people. Like City of Paris [SF department store] and I. Magnin store.

Interviewer: You had a lot of celebrities come and go. And then you had a few people that seemed to be around a lot more, such as the Max Baers [boxer and his famous actor son, junior].

Fred Abruzzini: Oh, [SF Police] Chief Tom Cahill, Highway Patrol. Anytime that I wanted Mardikian he'd be there. Any time anybody came from Europe, he got most of 'em – and he'd bring them to me. I had the mayor of Rome, Italy, and his wife and I had the mayor of Athens, Greece and I had a general from France. I had a general from Belgium. I had a lot of generals because George Mardikian used to bring them all.

Interviewer: What stands out as the biggest thing you did to further the Beringer name in public relations? Can you remember anything that really stands out?

Fred Abruzzini: Publicity was the biggest thing. I used to keep all the names. I used to write to them. I used to get about 5,000, sometimes more –cards a year. And I had to answer them all.



Fred Abruzzini was born in Canada in 1903, moving to Gilroy in 1906. He worked for his uncle (father's brother-in-law) Mr. Benjamin Cribari until 1932, when he started working for Beringer and moved to St. Helena. He invited people to tour the winery and taste the wines. Many celebrities visited the valley at his invitation: Carole Lombard & Clark Gable, Elvis Presley, Rudy Vallee, Abbott & Costello, Laurel & Hardy. His children were Alfred, Jack & Ron Abruzzini. Fred died in when a tree in his yard fell on him at age 85 in 1988.



Fred Abruzzini (left) uncorks a bottle of Beringer wine in 1952



SEPTEMBER BINGO WINNERS

(l-r): Miguel Segura, Ed Smith, Bernie Casey, John Smith, Janet Schmidt, Sheryl Zumwalt, Briget Davidson



QUALITY INSTALLATIONS ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS

Steve's Heating & Cooling

SALES, SERVICE & MAINTENANCE
LICENSED and INSURED

Steve Ambrosini
Owner
(707) 252-4328

Lic. #612317

Free estimates for
Replacement Units

Doing business in Vineyard Valley since 1986



Steve offers same quality work with no contracts needed.



SHDS

St Helena's Premier Dental Services

Comprehensive dental care in a relaxed and friendly environment

Call us at 707-963-2321 to schedule an appointment or a consultation.

Pauline Demetrakopolus DDS *Cosmetic & General Dentistry*

Dr. Kris Hilado DDS *General Dentistry*

Rachel Brinker DMD *Periodontics*

ST HELENA DENTAL STUDIO

1510 Railroad Ave St Helena, CA 94574 • 707 963-2321



LET'S HAVE A BALL!
Friday Night BINGO
October 9 | 6:00pm

- \$15.00 Entry Pack includes 3 x 6 games, dauber, and dinner
- Food requirements or allergies? Feel free to bring your own
- BYO beverage
- Extra Game Packs \$10.00
- Clubhouse Doors open 6pm, Games start 6:30



CWE
CALIFORNIA WINDOW EXTERIORS INC.

Thinking about window replacement?
 If so, see what California Window Exteriors has to offer:

- Keeps out heat in the summer and cold in the winter
- Reduces noise
- Anlin Window Systems
- Expert Installation
- Competitive pricing
- Lifetime warranty
- 25 years experience
- Licensed, bonded and insured #947878

Call Jeff Petty at 916-996-6062

for a free estimate.
 References from park residents available

jmpetty1@att.net

CWE
CALIFORNIA WINDOW EXTERIORS INC.



Beaulieu Vineyard (BV) has officially reopened its tasting room after an extensive renovation. This was one of the first wineries to be created in the Napa Valley. Back in 1900, when viewing the valley land, Fernande de Latour famously exclaimed, “Quel beau lieu!” And thus, Beaulieu (meaning beautiful place) was named. Georges and Fernande Latour shared a partnership that helped BV flourish. They followed their initial 4-acre purchase with 127 acres in 1903 and another 120 acres in 1907. These early parcels laid the foundation for BV’s legacy, now known as Ranch No. 1 and Ranch No. 2. In 1907, the winery obtained a warrant to produce sacramental wine, making them a primary distributor to the Catholic Church nationwide. This allowed BV to not only survive but actively expand during Prohibition. In 1923, they capitalized on this growth by purchasing their neighbor’s historic stone winery, originally built in 1885. In 1938, winemaker André Tchelistcheff arrived in Napa after meeting and bonding with Georges in France. Following Georges’ passing in 1940, Fernande took the reins as president of the winery, successfully leading operations until her death in 1951, with Andre continuing as winemaker extraordinaire. He worked tirelessly at BV sharing his knowledge with many throughout the valley. And that accounts for just the first 50 years of this inventive, resilient winery.



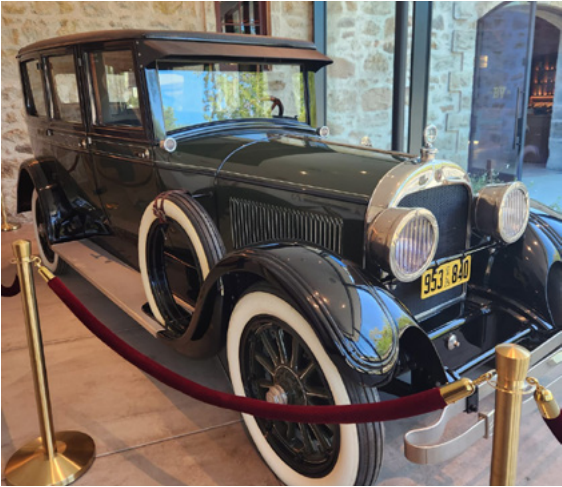
The newly renovated tasting room replaces the small, round building adjacent to the Rutherford Grill where tastings were previously held. The historic 1885 stone walls have been refreshed and exposed, creating a lovely open, and airy space. Upon walking in, we were greeted with a glass of Sauvignon Blanc and given a brief tour of the heritage museum. The highlight for me was the restored Cadillac that Georges de Latour used to travel between San Francisco and the Valley. There is also a display of the legacy of André Tchelistcheff, “The Maestro.”

From there, we were shown to our table to begin the formal tasting. First up was the 2024 Maestro Collection Chardonnay. Sourced from Los Carneros and aged in 25% new oak, it showed a nice complexity. Hints of minerality with a creamy palate of crisp apple and quince. It had a very appealing quaff ability. Next was a comparative tasting of the two original estate vineyards, Ranch No. 1 and Ranch No. 2. Side by side, they showcased the distinct elegance of BV’s core properties: Ranch No. 1 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon: Blended with 19% Petit Verdot, it featured subdued dark berry fruit flavors and medium, polished tannins. Ranch No. 2 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon aged for 16 months in 70% new oak. It had more pronounced blackberry and pomegranate flavors, ending with that nice, “Rutherford Dust” component. We were then treated to a third wine to compare alongside the first two: the Clone 169 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, which blends fruit from both ranches. Crafted with 5% Petit Verdot and aged for 20 months in new oak, it opened with a spicy nose. It offered a richer, more pronounced fruit profile highlighted by grainy tannins. Lots of age ability in this wine.



We finished with a side-by-side pouring of the 2021 Hewitt Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon and the flagship 2023 Georges de Latour Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. Hewitt is a historic 60-acre vineyard situated in the heart of the Rutherford Bench, where André Tchelistcheff helped replant and upgrade the vines in the 1960s. It is now being reproduced at BV. Beautiful and full-bodied, it as well as the Georges de Latour are elegant, top-tier expressions of Rutherford Cabernet Sauvignon. Both were real treats to end to the tasting experience.

Our tasting was \$50 for the wine flight of reserve tier wines, and no food was included. For those looking for food pairings, BV lists two other experiences: a \$95 option that accompanies an in-depth reserve tasting with a small sampling of artisanal sandwiches and cheeses, and a 5-course lunch tasting for \$150 which seems like a bargain in this day and age of inflated prices. I was impressed with the quality of the wines chosen. These were well beyond the everyday wines that can be found in the store.



On display is the the restored 1925 Cadillac belonging to Georges de Latour.

RIANDA HOUSE SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

String Band Music: Back in Touch! Glenn Smith & Ann Carr
Thursday, October 8, 3:30-5:00, American Legion
Reconnect with dusty instruments—guitar, mandolin, ukulele, violin, banjo, bass, autoharp, or voice. Join fellow pickers to jam and learn. Some experience required; group lyrics and chords provided. **RSVP**

Vineyard Walk | Brad Skibbins
Friday, October 9, 9:30-10:30 | Rianda House
Meet new friends and boost your health with a flat, 1.5 mile vineyard walk taking approximately 45 minutes. Bring your pup to walk with us! Must be on leash. **RSVP**

Lunch & Learn | Rianda House, UpValley Family Center, Calistoga Parks & Rec.
Wednesday, October 21, 11:00-1:00, Calistoga Community Center
Presentations are focused on enhancing community connections and providing informational resources through guest speakers on a variety of topics. This month we will have a speaker from Redwood Credit Union on how to build a better budget. **RSVP**

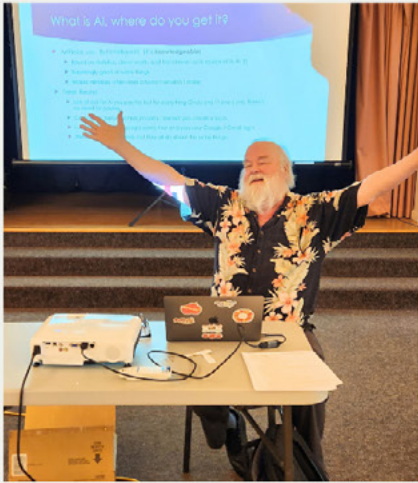
SongShine | Eve-Anne Wiles & Ellen Patterson
Monday, October 19 - November 9, 1:00-2:30 | American Legion Hall
A fun singing class for adults looking to strengthen voices affected by aging or neurological conditions. Using the science-based SongShine method you'll boost vocal strength, build confidence, and join a supportive community of singers! **RSVP**



Chris Killion and Celia Rehnberg



Roger Collins, presenter



John and Lucy Urias, Patricia Laguna, Chris Killion, Celia Rehnberg

AI Presentation with Roger Collins

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE

09/23/2026



Linda Bertoli



Polly Keegan and Robin McGuire

Debbie Austin Styles

At the Salon
in
Vineyard Valley



Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays

Call for an Appointment

cell: 707-334-1112



Specializing in

- Window cleaning
- Rain gutter cleaning
- Handyman projects in the House and Yard

Junk removal? Furniture assembly?

Hanging a curtain rod?

Christmas lights? No job is too small!

.....

Contact Ben Hartelt : 707-321-0270

*Offering 20 years experience and the most
reasonable prices in the Calistoga area.*

Know Thy Neighbor



by Suzanne James

Our neighbor In the spotlight this month has a remarkable life story of public and personal service she plans to continue into her seventies and beyond. “I have a motto: ‘Don’t complain unless you are willing to act!’” But let us start at the beginning and be aware of the influences that led to her motto.

She was born in Berkeley although most of her childhood years were spent in nearby El Cerrito. She was the middle of three siblings, having an older brother, who is deceased, and a younger brother who lives in L.A. Our neighbor describes a “normal, happy childhood growing up in a lovely environment.”

Her mother became a college professor after completing her Ph.D. at UC Berkeley, “teaching teachers” at CA State East. Her father was a chemist, later becoming an insurance salesman. “He loved being a Dad and spoiled us rotten! Mom was the disciplinarian—they were a great team!” Her mother started a non-profit, the “Read Aloud Program” where volunteers taught children to read. The organization is still active; her brother was on the Board until he moved to LA.

Our neighbor received her degree in Economics from UC Davis in 1976, but in her senior year realized Accounting was a field she was interested in and after graduation took the balance of classes needed to pursue that direction. She met her husband during her college years and they married in 1978. Her work history describes working as an accountant at several successive wineries. She was employed at Domain Chandon in Yountville for twenty years, followed by a position at Stags Leap Wine Cellars for ten years. When that winery was sold she moved on to Saint Supery and then finished her career at Cuivaison Winery.

*“I have a motto: Don't
complain unless you
are willing to act!”*

She and her husband adopted two sons over the years. The older son, Evan, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at six months old. Our neighbor expressed her gratitude to the St. Helena School District for all the services they provided him which permitted a lot of social contact along with studies. “He was a wonderful boy, always cheerful, never complaining, popular at school where other students made him feel welcome. He died at age 17 when his heart just stopped.” Her younger son, Galen, lives in Montana and is father to her two grandchildren, Jaxon (9) and Sedona (7).

Our neighbor and her husband, Nikko, moved to St Helena in 1978. “I love this town!” They lived in several homes until ending up on Boyton Lane for almost 40 years. She divorced Nikko after twenty years of marriage, although remained friends with him until his death in 2006. Our neighbor got to know Vineyard Valley when her Aunt Betty (Cope) moved here for five years until her sudden death from a stroke.

Our neighbor stayed busy and active in the community during the years after moving here in addition to caring for her family. She was on the St. Helena School Board from 1996-2003 “while my sons were in school.” She finished two terms then decided to run for City Council where she served for eight years. Currently she now consults with two clients and after six years of serving on the Board of the Up Valley Family Center, now serves on the Boards of Rianda House and the



JAVI ELECTRIC

Javier Gutierrez

Certified Professional Electrician
License # 1045771

707-481-8686

355 Lafata St. St. Helena 94574
javig022@yahoo.com

FITNESS · INJURY RECOVERY
POSTURE ANALYSIS · PAIN FREE MOVEMENT



Amy Ellingson | Vineyard Valley resident
Owner, Instructor, Registered Yoga Teacher

Classes or private lessons

INSPIRE PILATES STUDIO
1461 RAILROAD AVENUE, SUITE 202
ST. HELENA, CA 94574
707.963.6141 | STUDIO
707.225.5137 | MOBILE
AMY@INSPIRENAPAVALLEY.COM



"Providing local knowledge and exceptional service to assist you in achieving your real estate goals. Chris shows up and does the hard work, continually taking advantage of contract training so that he can provide information to help his clients make informed decisions and protect their best interests.

As a lifelong Napa Valley Native, he can provide insights into neighborhoods and helpful resources to ensure that the process of buying or selling a home is a smooth one. If you have any questions or would like a complimentary evaluation of your home, give Chris a call!"

Chris Colzani
REALTOR®

DRE# 02123634

Coldwell Banker Brokers of the Valley
(707) 812-8973



Up Valley Family Center. Now she is also running for Mayor in St. Helena. All of that is based on her motto of “act if you don’t like what is going on.”

Asked what she likes to do in her free time she becomes animated as she describes her love of entertaining and her phenomenal group of friends. They often travel together and are planning on visiting Australia and New Zealand next summer.

Join me in giving a salute to this enthusiastic, cheerful, and civic minded neighbor, **Bonnie Schoch**, who lives at 52 Laguna Seca.

Referrals for this column are encouraged and welcome.



YOU'RE INVITED

FRIDAY NIGHT Social

CLUBHOUSE LANAI

OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM

BRING A BEVERAGE AND AN APPETIZER TO SHARE

ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Presents

Festa della Pasta

Join us for an evening of delicious pasta dishes and more!

Good Food Good Company Great Times

Good Food Brings People Together

La Dolce Vita

FOOD FRIENDS FAMILY TRADITION

Featuring:

- Lasagna
- Baked Rigatoni
- Spaghetti
- Pesto Pasta
- and more ...

SUNDAY, OCT. 18, at 4:00 pm

VINEYARD VALLEY CLUBHOUSE

Dinner Menu Includes:

- Antipasto, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert

BRING YOUR PLACE SETTINGS AND DRINKS

FREE

SPONSORED BY THE DI RIENZO FAMILY & FRIENDS

For more information or if you want to help, contact Janeen @ 707-294-8307

Please sign up on the sheet that has been provided

ECONOMY APPLIANCE REPAIR

FAST AND FRIENDLY SERVICE!
We service all major brands.

Gunter Pirchner

OWNER & VINEYARD VALLEY RESIDENT

(707) 318-9590

economyappliance@yahoo.com
www.ApplianceRepairNapa.com

Steves Hardware & Housewares

A St. Helena Institution since 1878

Full Service, open 7 days a week.



963-3423

Friendly Service, and
Expert Advice

1370 Main Street, St. Helena
Parking in the back

Welcome Home to... Silverado Orchards Retirement Community We ♥ our Residents!

Affordable, All-Inclusive Monthly Rent
No Lease, Buy-ins or Add-ons

- Three Nutritious Meals Every Day • Delicious, Fresh Salad Bar
- Activities & Excursions • Housekeeping • Transportation
- Beauty Salon • Health & Wellness Program
- And Much More...



Family Owned Since 1978

(707) 963-3688

601 Pope Street
St. Helena, CA 94574

www.SilveradoOrchards.com



Old Fashioned Service since 1874

Free Delivery

Pharmacist Always on Duty

Huge Gift Selection
Premium Pet Supplies

Toys, Cards
Office Supplies

963-2794

Located in Safeway Plaza

Sahini Chidipotu, Owner

1390 Railroad Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574



Founded in 1905, **Mechanics Bank** provides
personal banking, business banking, trust
and estate services, brokerage and wealth
management services throughout California.
As a community bank, we invest in the
same communities in which we live and work.

1015 Adams Street
St Helena, California 94574
707.967.4980

Things Getting Harder at Home?

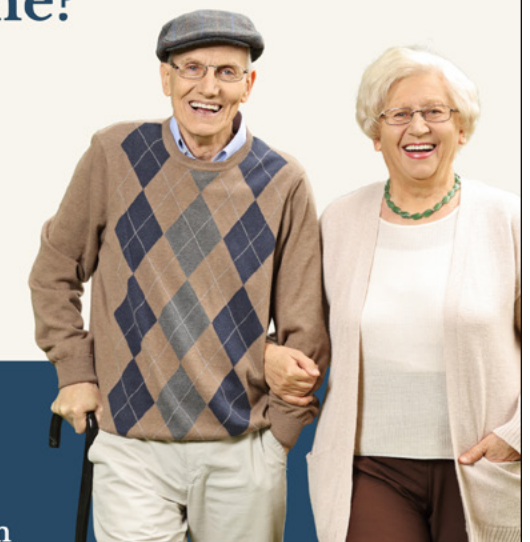
Get local, in-person guidance when it's
time to explore Independent Living,
Assisted Living or Memory Care options.

- FREE and private consultations
- Personalized and escorted community tours
- Moving resources available



All 4 Seniors
SENIOR LIVING PLACEMENT
& CARE GUIDANCE

(707)724-0165 All4Seniors.com



JERRY'S AUTO DETAILING

- Full Interior & Exterior Detailing
- Headlights, Glass and Mirror Care
- Mobile Service
- Licensed
- 25 years' experience

707-321-7030

jerryautodetailing@gmail.com



LEARN MORE Visit www.jerryautodetailing.com for examples



HOLMES

VAN AND STORAGE, INC.

Local & Worldwide

Full Service Moving & Storage

Office• Household Piece Moving

Free Estimates

Moving Equipment Sales/Rentals

Locally Owned since 1945

<https://holmes-van-and-storage-inc.business.site/>

(707) 226-7379

253 Walnut Street, Napa



1078-A Fulton Ave, St. Helena
(707) 963-9551

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTS & STAINS

- CUSTOM COLORS

THE PAINT WORKS

Vineyard Valley Dining Values

Please present coupon for redemption.
Feel free to copy this page if you wish to use these coupons more than once.



St. Helena Bistro, Avocado Salad



Keeping it fresh & tasty!

Our menu is a selection of popular Mexican "antojitos" (cravings), Burritos, seafood & meat specialties.

Oh yeah, we serve breakfast too!

Mon. to Sat. 9am - 8pm
Closed Sundays

10% discount for Vineyard Valley residents!

Villa Corona St. Helena location only

1138 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94574, USA



Soups & Salads | American & Italian Entrees
Small Plates & Desserts | Wine & Beer

Tuesday thru Thursday
Lunch 11:30 - 3:30 | Dinner 5:00 - 9:00
Friday thru Sunday
11:30 - 9:00

STHELENABISTRO.COM
1146 Main Street, St. Helena • 707.963.3371



Villa Corona, Coctel de Camaron Whole Prawn Cocktail with avocado, cilantro and onions

VVHA FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

"Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling with us. Be swift to love, make haste to be kind."

~ Henri-Frédéric Amiel

VIVA NEWSLETTER
printed by



707-257-6260
2407 California Blvd #2
Napa