

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

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Upcoming Activities

Daily: Walking Club, 7 AM, Vientos Bajos

On Call: Libraries: DVD, CD, Books, Picture Puzzles

Vientos Bajos Update—The Virus Continues—and continues—and continues.

Another month, and the virus continues to dominate the local, regional, national, and global news. Here at Vientos Bajos, as we enter August, Costa Rica has experienced a surge, now averaging almost 1,000 cases daily. The canton of San Ramon, continues to report increased cases, mostly among the agricultural workers and youth communities, but numbers have been much slower to rise in the San Ramon area than in other parts of Costa Rica. Bottom line: Social distance, wear masks when going out, and guard your bubble.

So, What's Happening at VB?

1. Upcoming Events.

a. TubaChristmas.



TubaChristmas 2019, SiNEM

Calling all B flat instrument players! Wow! It's only August and we're writing about Christmas? Yup! One thing any skilled person knows is that it takes practice to develop and maintain any skill. Band and orchestra instrumentalists aren't an exception. We have both treble and bass clef sheet music and plan to distribute music in AUG. The virus shouldn't stop us from individual practice, even if we don't begin group practice yet. If you're interested in playing in this year's TubaChristmas, let us know. We'll get music into your hands, and perhaps even put an instrument in your hands if you're short one.

b. Christmas Madrigal Dinner. Cattle Call!!



Ready for the Boar's Head Carol!

The Christmas Madrigal Dinner Needs You! As all of you who have attended one or more of our seven consecutive annual Christmas Madrigal Dinners, know, the annual Dinner is the Vientos Bajos major event of the year and a major undertaking with LOTS of moving parts. Our usual complement of those bringing you the show and meal is 30 to 40 people. We Need You!

If you would like to participate in any capacity as part of the court/cast (skits, readings, story-telling, musical instrument, vocal, directing, sound & lights), or behind-the-scenes coordination (decorating, set-up and break-down, serving, preparing, parking, seating, table coordination, marketing, sales)—let us know. As of today, we're beginning to build the cast, crew, and show so now's the time to jump on board. We plan to distribute music (brass, recorder, and lute (ukulele) ensembles) in August or early September. For a select few, we may have instruments available. As with low brass, we can provide music even if we don't start with group practices yet.

Go Slow Policy. We have our eye clearly focused on the COVID-19 ball. We will take this slowly. After getting a list of participants and your preferences on what you'd like to do, we'll get assignments into everyone's hands. For musicians, we will provide music for home practice. We'll keep cast and crew informed, and will make the decision for green or red light in mid-NOV. That date is WAY too late to start rehearsals if we're cleared to hold either or both TubaChristmas and the Christmas Madrigal Dinner, so let's put together a plan, and begin to work the plan, understanding that like all plans, it's subject to change.

2. Activities.

- a. **Pickleball:** We continue to offer space for two pickleball groups, one a more competitive group, the second a leisure group. Days and times vary, so if you're interested, please contact us to get on the WhatsApp list. Both groups continue to protect their bubble, playing with people with whom they've been playing for months, if not years.
- b. **Poker:** On Friday afternoons, we continue our small group for penny-ante poker. Again, this small bubble is about eight in size. If interested in either of these groups/activities, please contact us.

- c. **Golf Simulator.** The upscale golf simulator and all its pieces remain in FL due to continued flight restrictions. We can leave—we just can't get back--yet. Costa Rica cautiously is opening up for international travel, although the United States is not on the list of countries from whom they will accept flights, visitors, or passengers. Our August tickets have now been moved to SEP tickets. Fingers crossed!



Simulation of the Simulator

- 3. Landscaping the New Acquisition.** The property adjacent to Jardin La Torre continues to develop. Now, three months along in the process, we have finished the off-road parking lot for about 20 cars. Within the next two weeks, we hope to finish the service road to the four residences on the upper part of Jardin La Torre. These units will be accessible by golf cart, scooter, or ATV. Asphalt for the entrance was laid in July. We hope to have hung our new decorative, secure gate by the end of August. Linear gardens are being planted, and garden paths developed.



- 4. Roadwork.** By mid-July, the municipality completed the initial work leading up to asphaltting the roadway that collapsed just after Vientos Bajos for the past two years. Due to the exploding costs faced by Costa Rica, the national government pulled back funds from major municipalities which had been earmarked for road work, as well as other projects. That left the impending roadwork without financial support. We asked for contributions from the neighborhood and many stepped forward to help pay for asphalt, not only to seal the repair work, but also to repair potholes the distance of Calle Empalme. We're still accepting donations, but the good news is that the asphalt repair work is now in place.
- 5. Activities Room, Vientos Bajos.** There is no change in converting the upper pickleball court to an activities room yet. The workers continue with the landscaping of the new acquisition and completion of the master suites in Rana and Colibri (see below).
- 6. Jardin La Torre Residences, for sale or rent.** If you're looking for a modern residence on a secure campus with friendly neighbors, a great view, and a few activities thrown in, visit our websites at www.latorrecostarica.com and www.vientosbajos.com for more information or contact jcbuford@aol.com
 - a. Duplex, Colibri and Rana:** The work continues on the additions of master suites to the duplex units of Rana and Colibri. Both are rented, with Rana currently occupied, and Colibri to receive its new resident upon completion—hopefully in the next two to three weeks.
 - b. Loro:** Two-bed, one bath. Upon completion of Colibri, the current tenant of Loro will move to Colibri, so if you're looking for a great location, friendly neighbors, a drop-dead view of the Pacific coast, security, and across-the-road access to Vientos Bajos Activity Center, give us a call!
 - c. Toucan:** Two-bed, two bath. Mark Lemke, the new owner of Toucan, is still working in the States, and has asked us to notify anyone interested that Toucan is available for a long-term lease. Same conditions—security, friendliness, views, etc.
 - d. Mariposa:** Two-bed, three bath. When we complete Amapola, the two-bedroom apartment in Vientos Bajos, Caryl and I plan to move across the street to this apartment, freeing up the house we have called home for the past five years.

In the meantime, watch our Facebook page for any mid-month updates, keep your heads down, stay safe, and healthy. We hope to see you as this pandemic slows down and allows us to circulate more.