

Activities and Upcoming Events

Daily:

- Walking Club: 7 AM, Vientos Bajos (membership not required; details below)
- Gym: 7 AM-4 PM

On Call for Members: DVD, CD, Book, and Picture Puzzle Libraries

Activities: (Membership Required)

- Contract Bridge 1:30 PM, TUE (Join WhatsApp List)
- Beginning/Advanced Contract Bridge Class 1:30 PM, THU
- **Game Day (Table and Board Games) 1:30-4 PM, FRI (New)**
- Poker: 1 PM, SAT (Join WhatsApp List)
- Golf Simulator: (Reservations required. Join WhatsApp List)
- Pickleball: Per reservations. (Join WhatsApp List)
- Ping-Pong: 7AM-NOON (except Wednesdays)

Events:

- **Superbowl Party, Dinner: 5 PM, Kick-off 6:30 PM), SUN, Feb 13**
- Movie Matinees: 1:30 PM, every SUN, (details below) **SUN, 2 Jan CANCELLED!**

Vientos Bajos (VB) is a private activities center. Free membership for general activities and facility use is extended to owners and tenants of Jardin La Torre/Vientos Bajos (JLT/VB). Membership, allowing entrance to all **activities**, is available for 10k CRC/month per person for those not owning or renting from the facility. The price of all **events** is based on our cost and applies to owners and tenants of JLT/VB as well as VB general members. The use of the golf simulator requires an additional membership fee and monthly dues for those not living at JLT/VB.

Until further notice, attendance at all VB events requires a Covid virus vaccination record reflecting full immunization. If you've already on our list as having had the vaccinations, you don't need to bring your shot card.

Vientos Bajos Update



Happy New Year!! We have lots of activities and several events to share with you!

1. EVENTS

a. Super Bowl Dinner and Party



Announcing our first-ever “Heart-y” Super Bowl Dinner and Party. NEW! As I was putting together the newsletter for January, I wanted to plan two events: a Valentine’s Day dinner and a Super Bowl Party for February. Imagine my surprise when I found that they fall one day apart. So...we’re having a HEARTFELT SUPER BOWL PARTY on **SUN, Feb 13**. (How’s that for compromise?!) We will begin at 5 PM with a potluck supper. Vientos Bajos will provide hot dogs, buns, two kinds of chili (regular and vegan), fixings, soft drinks, and beer. (How romantic!!) It’s a potluck, so bring whatever you want to put on the table to share with others. A guaranteed LOVE-ly time!

The game kicks off at 6:30 PM. We’ll keep the chili and hot dogs hot and the beer cold, in case you don’t care to come earlier. Our big-screen cinema, 8’ x 16’, should catch all the action, and if you’re not a football fan, we’ll have games set up for you while the game is in progress.

Attendance is limited to 40 people. Reservations required, so please sign up early: vientosbajos@gmail.com Cost is 5k CRC/person to cover food, set-up, break-down, decorations, clean-up, etc. Let us know what food item you will bring when you RSVP.

b. Sunday Cinema: [SUN, Jan 2 CANCELLED] In December, we began our Sunday Cinema series. Join us in front of our 9’ x 16’ screen and new Bose sound system as Mae Worth presents a weekly movie. General info: Cost is 2k CRC/person, free to VB members. Start time is 1:30. Reservations are required (Mae Worth 8410-5035, phone or WhatsApp) and attendance is limited to 25. Masks are required, as is proof of vaccination (bring your card if you are not already on our list). Children under 18 are not permitted without a parent. New titles will be announced on our Facebook page. Some snacks provided, but BYOB.



2. PROGRAMED ACTIVITIES

With the noted exceptions below, all activities take place at Vientos Bajos, El Empalme.

a. Music Groups

Our music groups are now forming for 2022. We will begin rehearsals Wednesday, January 12. All groups have open enrollment. We provide sheet music for all groups, and instruments for many. If you're interested in any of our groups, please contact us so we can put you on the special contact list. We begin our music groups. In order to give us lots of practice time, we're focusing on our first presentation to be for Earth Day, Friday, April 22, which we will celebrate Sunday, April 24. There is no charge to participate in any of the instrumental groups. Chorus requires a fee of 1k CRC per session.

- ✦ **Ukulele Band, 10:00 AM, WED. (No experience required.)** This is a fun, beginning music group. You do not need a music background to participate. A basic knowledge of ukulele or guitar chords is helpful, but not required. This is a back-up sing-along group—we chord while our audience joins us for sing-along songs. If you want to learn a musical instrument and spend some time socializing, this is your opportunity.
- ✦ **Recorder Ensemble, 1 PM, WED. (Must read music)** This group is for those who read music. Most of were exposed to the recorder in the fourth grade. Even if you have never played the recorder, it's a fairly easy instrument to learn—if you read music. We currently have openings for all four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We can provide a soprano or alto recorder, but if you want to play a, tenor or bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument. The music we choose is probably 1.5 to 2.0 level.
- ✦ **Bluegrass Band (NEW), 2 PM WED. (Experience required.)** Our bluegrass band began playing in 2021. We are a jam session, but provide music. We will provide music and develop sets to play for various events. If you play any bluegrass instrument and can read chord charts, you're invited to join us. Please contact us if you're interested and let us know what instrument you'll be playing.
- ✦ **B-flat instruments, 3:00 PM, WED. (Must read music and have experience with a b flat instrument)** Trumpets, clarinets, oboes, trombones, bassoons, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. All musicians in the group should be able to read music and have experience with their instrument. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 3.0 and we have sheet music for both bass and treble clef. We have an extra trumpet and baritone for your use. If you need a different instrument, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.
- ✦ **Mixed Chorus (NEW!)** We are beginning mixed chorus on **10 AM, TUE off-campus at the Jose Figueres Cultural Center** in downtown San Ramon. No formal musical training is required. Just bring your voice and we'll go from there. The numbers we will be singing will be unison or two-part, and all will be beginning-easy level. Because these numbers are easy, rehearsals will begin in early January. There is a 1k CRC charge per person per rehearsal for the use of the hall and the cost of the music. If you're interested, PLEASE contact us so we can start a roster. Please note: The Figueres Center requires any participant to be fully vaccinated. **Masks are also required.**

3. UNPROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

a. Daily:

- ✦ **Pickleball: Three sessions daily.** Vientos Bajos offers the opportunity to sign up via SignUp Genius for three sessions daily. All sign-ups limit play to two hours per sign-up time, and up to six players per sign-up time. All levels of players are welcome to sign up. There are three sign-up times daily: **8 AM–10 AM; 10:30 AM–12:30 PM; 1:30–3:30 PM**. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the SignUp Genius list.
- ✦ **Gym: 7 AM-4 PM.** The gym is available for members. In December we purchased a new treadmill to accompany our other equipment.
- ✦ **Library: 7 AM-4 PM.** We thank Laura and Janine Mitchell who have been busy sorting and arranging the books, DVDs, and CDs we offer for your use. We also thank all those who have contributed to the collection. We also have an assortment of picture puzzles for your use, and have been accumulating board games with the goal of beginning a board game afternoon in 2022.
- ✦ **Golf Simulator: 7 AM-4 PM.** Our golf simulator remains popular. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, has played all fifteen courses and will walk you through the use of the simulator. We have clubs available for all except men's LH. Al Sargent has allowed us to use his set of women's LH, so if you're a left-handed man willing to play with a club that's shorter by 1", you're welcome to use these. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact Rick, rickreimer49@gmail.com to schedule a time if you want to try it out or join the league, now forming. Regular use is for golf club members only.
- ✦ **Walks: 7 AM.** Meet at front gate of Jardin La Torre Monday through Saturday or call or email to be placed on the roster for special, longer walks from different locations on Sunday.
- ✦ **Ping Pong: 7 AM-Noon.** Except Wednesday. Activities Room, third floor, Vientos Bajos.

b. Weekly:

- ✦ **Sundays: Sunday cinema**
- ✦ **Mondays:** Currently no scheduled weekly activities.
- ✦ **Tuesdays: Mixed Chorus, 10:00 AM,** Jose Figueres Cultural Center, San Ramon. (See above. Extra charge applies.)
 - ✦ **Also Tuesdays: Contract/Party Bridge, 1:30-3:30 PM.** Also known as party bridge, this is for those who want to spend a couple of hours together playing a little less competitive form of bridge than duplicate bridge. Play is more social than competitive. Please contact us beforehand if you want to play. We'd like to form groups in tables of four and would hate to have you come without having enough to complete a table. Those who have bridge before or who have attended two or three sessions of our beginner group on Thursdays are welcome to join us.
- ✦ **Wednesdays: Instrumental groups. See above for schedule.**
- ✦ **Thursdays: Beginner Contract Bridge Classes: THU, 1:30 PM.** This is an ongoing class and we have openings for those wanting to learn the basics of

contract bridge. This class is for those who may or may not have card-playing experience but have not played bridge before. Please contact us if you're interested so we can set up the correct number of tables.

◆ **Fridays: (NEW!)**

▶ **Board/Table Game Day: 1:30 PM-4 PM.**

- ▶ We have been accumulating board games and are offering a Friday afternoon Board/Table Game Day beginning January 14. If you are interested, please contact us with a list of games that interest you. We'll start a roster for the various games.



◆ **Saturdays:**

- ▶ **Poker: 1 PM-4 PM** The time slot for “Penny-ante” poker has now been stabilized at 1 PM on Saturdays and goes until 4 PM, but feel free to come late or leave early. If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the place. The bets are small, but the fun is big. **Please get on our WhatsApp list to ensure you're included for the “big” game.**

- ◆ **And don't forget to drive by to see our Christmas Lights!** Our Digital Christmas light display will run only through **THU, Jan 6**. Feel free to drive by nightly between the hours of 6 PM and 8 PM for the light show!

- ◆ **Line Dance, 11 AM, TUE, Jan 11 Jose Figueres Cultural Center, San Ramon. (NEW!)** The following is not a Vientos Bajos activity, but is being supported by VB. It will immediately follow mixed chorus at Figueres. Dance instructor Marian Latham and learn a really fun new skill while enjoying an hour of exercise, fellowship, and great music. You will learn to cha-cha, waltz, and jive while performing choreographed dance steps. Join us at 11:00 AM, TUE, Jan 11 in the upstairs Dance Studio at Jose Figueres. There is a 2k CRC/person voluntary contribution per class. There is parking across the street in the Parochial parking lot. Space is limited so call Marian at 6067-2904 or email marianmlatham@gmail.com to let her know of your interest before January 7th. Please note: The Figueres Center requires any participant to be fully vaccinated. **Masks are also required.**



4. LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

TubaChristmas and Our Tenth Annual Christmas Madrigal

Photos by Janice & Geno Summers



*Twelfth Annual TubaChristmas!
L to R: Ralph, Caryl, John, Ian, Shirley, Kirk*



Friar Milt, EmCee



Ladies Linda and Janice



Sir Knight Kirk and Lord Ian



Lord Remington's Recorder Group



And a Ukulele Sing-Along Band!



Three Wise Men: Alan, Rick, Ron



Quartet: Al, Ian, John, Terry



Mae on Sound and Lights



And a little Medieval Bluegrass

5. VISTA ALTA UPDATE

We continue development of Vista Alta. During the month of December, our backhoe operator began the work to shape the six new lots we're adding to the subdivision. The workers have spent the month constructing a 15' high x 60' long block wall which will form a new outdoor recreation area for badminton, croquet, bocce, horseshoe, and perhaps even a golf chipping area. We hope to have this in use by mid-May.



Only Four More Rows!



12 Feet and Rising



The Park Takes Shape



New Lots Are Roughed In

6. UNITS FOR RENT

We have two units coming available for rent in 2022. Minimum lease is six months, non-smokers only:

Mariposa: Our largest residence will be available, as of January 15, 2022, either furnished (\$1,200/month) or unfurnished (\$1,100/month). This unit includes a mother-in-law/lock out apartment with two bedrooms, three baths in 1,800 square feet of living space.



Buganvilla: Our newest apartment will become available on February 1, 2022. Located in Vientos Bajos, this fully-furnished 900 square foot apartment is two-bedroom, one bath with large balcony and fifty-mile views of the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Nicoya, and rents for \$1,000 per month.



7. ON A VERY SAD NOTE...

We've hear the sad news that Jane Hammond Riddick has recently left us and we send our best wishes to Jeff Garner - both friends of many here.