

Vientos Bajos Codger

Activities in and around San Ramon

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Upcoming Activities and Events

Daily: Walking Club, 7 AM, Vientos Bajos

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

Activities:

- Contract Bridge: 1:30 PM, TUE (Join WhatsApp List)
- Ukulele practice: 10:30 AM, WED
- Recorder Ensemble practice: 1 PM, WED
- Bluegrass pick-up band: 2 PM, WED
- Low Brass practice: 3 PM, WED
- Poker: 12:30 PM FRI (Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym: Open 7 AM-4 PM DAILY
- Golf Simulator: Reservations required. (Join WhatsApp List)
- Pickleball: Per reservations. (Join WhatsApp List)

Events: Veterans of Service Organizations Day, SUN MAY 16

Vientos Bajos Social Calendar Update. Rumor has it that March will see the beginning of administration of the COVID vaccine for seniors in the San Ramon area. While we're waiting for its arrival and general distribution, we continue our small bubbles in the activities listed above and detailed below. We continue to plan and practice for a SUN MAY 16 *Veterans of Service Organizations Day*.

Here's what's happening at Vientos Bajos now:

1) Activities.

- 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.
- Golf Simulator:** The golf simulator continues to improve. We've added a 36" monitor in addition to the 12' x 16' screen. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, has played all fifteen courses and is more than willing to walk you through the use of the simulator. Play requires knowledge of the system, and Rick will be happy to set you up and accompany your initial play. Please contact us 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.



- c. **Poker:** Penny-ante Poker continues on Fridays. If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the place. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Play begins at 12:30 PM and goes to 3:30 PM, but feel free to come late or leave early. Please get on our SignUp Genius app to ensure you're included for the Friday game.
- d. **Contract Bridge:** Tuesdays, 1:30 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. Most of us are pretty rusty on our skills. 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.
- e. **Music groups.** All practice groups are now in session. Since we're now in practice for a MAY show, we're not open to new players unless you know your way around your instrument. We provide sheet music for all groups.
- i. **Ukulele Band, 10:30 AM, WED.** We're now well on our way to perfecting our program for the May 16 presentation. This is a fun beginning music group, and although we're now closed to enrolment until after the May performance, please check in with us if you're interested in learning to play the ukulele and enjoy singalong with the rest of us Brentown musicians.
 - ii. **Recorder Ensemble, 1 PM, WED.** This group is for those who read music and have been exposed to the recorder. We currently have openings for all four parts—soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We can provide a soprano recorder, but if you want to play an alto, tenor, or bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument.
 - iii. **Blue Grass, 2 PM, WED.** Right now this is considered a Blue Grass jam. We're currently i blessed to have Terry Handler for a cello fiddle lead, along with a mandolin, guitar, and bass. Although we're focusing on the May program, if you play, you're welcome to join us. Advance notice is appreciated since we're playing from sheet music and we'll need to make copies for you.
 - iv. **Low Brass, 3 PM, WED.** Trombones, baritones/euphoniums, and tubas. All musicians in the group can read music, but none is ready to play in the Boston Pops Orchestra. Our sheet music is generally level 1.5 to 2.5. As with all the other groups, we're currently closed to new players unless you've played with us before or can sight read easily. If you fit that category, you're more than welcome—but please let us know ahead of time so we can copy music for you.

f. **Other:** The gym and library remain available for members. FYI: Recently, we added an inversion table/board to our gym equipment. The court is available for basketball when pickleball is not in play. We also have a professional ping pong table, which we will be setting up in the new recreation room.

2) **Upcoming Events: Veterans of Service Organizations Day, SUN, MAY 16.** Saturday, May 15, is US Armed Forces Day. We plan to celebrate it on SUNDAY by hosting a recognition day for anyone and everyone who has served in uniform. This includes first responders, such as police, medical, or firefighters, and also uniformed government veterans such as postal workers and state and national park employees. The celebration will consist of a noon potluck and be accompanied by entertainment provided by our various musical groups. There will be a small fee to cover set-up, service, and clean-up, and it will be BYOB. The event will be open to both veterans and those who want to celebrate the contributions of veterans. If interested, please contact us.



3) **VB Construction/Changes: Conversion of upper pickleball court to Activities Room.** Vientos Bajos began the year with new construction—beginning the long-planned third floor activities room. This 36' x 40' room will hold concerts, community theater, music rehearsals, ping-pong matches, card and other table games, potlucks, big-screen cinema, and any other recreational and social activities that fit comfortably into this large space. We are also installing a small kitchenette, which will be available for the various activities. Design also includes an additional area for storage, the library, and a music practice room. Completion is expected by the end of March, although the room currently is in use.

4) In the past month, windows and patio doors have been added as well as the ceiling. The photo doesn't show work on the music room and library (the door opens to the right):



Photo from 1 FEB 2021



Photo from 26 FEB 2021

5) **Vientos Altos, Construction and Changes.** February was a busy month for our landscaping crew. They worked hard to complete the curb and guttering and catch basins for flood water before we start laying asphalt which will begin on the main street this week. In March and April, we will continue with anti-erosion work. *Vientos Altos* offers residential lots of various sizes, all with phenomenal views of the Gulf of Nicoya, the Nicoya peninsula, Puntarenas and Esparza, and the Pacific Ocean. By the end of April, we will have electricity and potable water running to the edges of all lots. If you're interested in seeing what we're doing, please contact us for a free tour.



Our latest family addition, "Freckles," inspects the work

- 6) **Improvements to Jardin La Torre.** In keeping with our environmentally-friendly posture, we've added solar street/pathway lights to the walkways that lead to the houses in Jardin La Torre.



Similar streetlights will be added to Vientos Altos and other pathways

And Caryl has been working diligently in the gardens to make Jardin La Torre a really special place to visit and live:



- 7) **Residence Availability: Jardin La Torre & Vientos Bajos Residences for sale or rent.**

a. **Colibri.** Two bed, one bath, \$750/month. Now ready for move-in, furnished or unfurnished:



b. **Mariposa.** Two bed, three bath with lock-out/mother-in-law apartment, furnished or unfurnished, \$1200/month:



c. **Amapola.** Two bed, two bath, furnished or unfurnished (\$1100/month), Vientos Bajos:



Remembering Ben Knab. We recently received word that Ben Knab passed away February 26th. Ben and his wife, Susan, have been staunch supporters of the San Ramon community during their time here in Costa Rica, in both leadership and followership roles. Susan is a past president of the Community Action Alliance, and Ben has been extremely active with Vientos Bajos, participating in many of our music groups and theatrical enterprises. Ben was known for his extremely friendly demeanor and his willingness to help in any way he could. He also will be remembered for his great sense of humor. Rest in peace, Ben. You are treasured in our memories.



New Addition to the Family—meet Freckles! Several months ago, a very friendly pup about a year old began visiting Vientos Bajos and Jardin La Torre to play with our dog, Torre, and some of the other local canines. In early January, she limped in and collapsed. A quick scan indicated that she had been scalded on her underbelly with hot water, and we immediately took her to the veterinarian, where she received a couple of shots and two night's stay for observation. In an unexpected plot twist, when we took her back to her owners, they gave us the dog. She's about as sweet a dog as we've ever met and has already endeared herself to the tenants, workers, visitors, Torre, and us. Her original name is "Akira" but the gringos call her "Freckles." She looks forward to meeting you! (Photo courtesy of Andreas Turner.)

