

# Vientos Bajos Codger

## Activities in and around San Ramon

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### Activities and Upcoming Events (Details in newsletter)

**Events Oktoberfest** SUN, September 4, 2022 ([See Below](#))

#### **Music Groups** (Membership Not Required)

- Weekly sessions for all music groups: ukuleles, recorders, bluegrass, B-flat instruments, chorus

#### **Daily Activities** ([Membership Required](#))

- Pickleball (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Gym 7AM–4PM
- Multi-Media Library 7AM–4PM
- Golf Simulator (Reservations required—Join WhatsApp List)
- Ping-Pong 7AM–NOON (table closed on Wednesdays)

#### **Other Daily Activities** (Membership Not Required)

- Walking Club, 7AM

#### **Weekly Activities** ([Membership Required](#))

- **NEW!** Ping Pong 10 AM, SU, MO, TH ([See below for sign-up info](#))
- Contract Bridge 1:30PM TUE (Join WhatsApp List)
- Beginning/Advanced Contract Bridge Class 1:30PM, THU
- Poker 1PM SAT (Join WhatsApp List)
- Sunday Cinema SUN, 10:30 AM ([On Request](#))

## What's New?

### Road Work, El Empalme

As you can see from the photos below, and for those of you who have visited Jardin La Torre/Vientos Bajos in the past couple of months, the potholes and road breaks in the public street, El Empalme, have been difficult to negotiate without slowing to about two MPH—and even then, staying on the road wasn't easy.

Over the past year, we have tried to work with the San Ramon municipality, which has the responsibility for maintenance, all to no avail. With permission from the Village Chief, Braulio Salas, and financial assistance from our neighbor, Felicia Stayner Sibaja, the JLT management has contributed to buying the culverts, gravel fill, and asphalt to better the situation, if not fix the problem. We hope to offer you a better travel experience in the near future!



*Left: Before. (Yes, that's JLT in the background.) Right: During. (David Ugalde, JLT Work Foreman, leads the JLT work crew in culvert placement.)*

**Stay tuned for next month's Codger to see the "After!"**

## **San Ramón Days**

This past Sunday, August 28, several of our musical groups presented on the main stage for San Ramón Days. We thank the Municipality of San Ramón for extending the invitation, and we thank all our artists for their long hours of practice and their participation.



*Barbershop Quartet, L-R: Ian Fetterly, John Buford, Al Sargent, Terry Handler*

## **Vista Alta Subdivision**

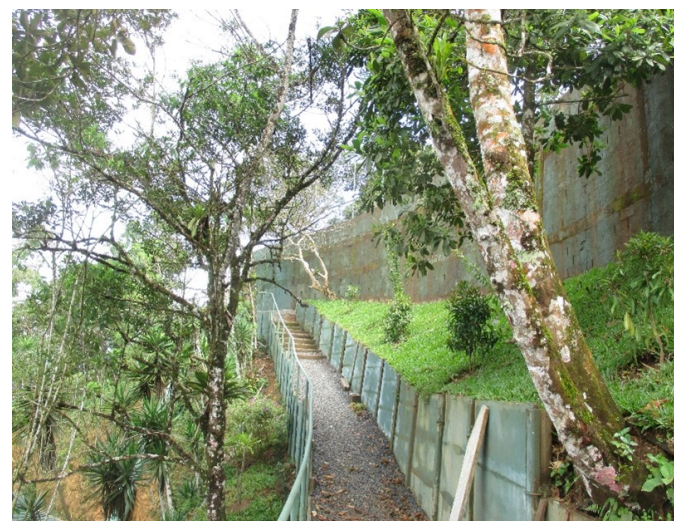
Although we've been facing rain almost daily, our workers have been putting in long hours to continue developing Vista Alta. In the past four months, we

completed the black-water leach field, retaining walls, garden paths and walkways, and installed solid septic systems for the lots.

In August, we laid more than 400 square meters of sod and planted more than twenty trees. In September, we begin construction of a residence for our full-time security and maintenance person. We are on track to meet our goal of having all lots ready to build by January 1, 2023. Prices begin at \$50,000 and include black and gray water systems, lot access to potable water and electricity, asphalt streets, street lighting, community areas, landscaping, paths, walkways, gardens, and use of *Vientos Bajos Activity Center*. Please contact us at [info@jardinlatorre.com](mailto:info@jardinlatorre.com) for more information.



*Left: One of the many garden paths, with new sod on left. Right: New retaining walls and LOTS of new sod.*



*Left: View of Calle Empalme from one of the paths. Right: Another of the many garden paths.”*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oktoberfest!! Sunday, September 4, 12 PM (NOON) – 3:00 PM!**

We're sold out for our annual celebration of Oktoberfest! For entertainment, in addition to the German tuba band, Laura Handler and Jose Daniel will join us for



cello and other string instrument duo. Our recorder ensemble bluegrass band and barbershop quartet will be featured, and we'll end with our ukulele band leading a sing-along of famous drinking and Oktoberfest songs!

Your requested donation of 5k CRC will get you the full-meal-deal plus a couple of beers—or iced tea or wine if you prefer. Andy Robinson has made his famous brats for the gathering and Shirley Anderson has put up 14 pounds of sauerkraut. We have something for the

vegetarians, too. Call to see if we've had any cancelations! John Buford at 8649-0777 or email us at [vientosbajos@gmail.com](mailto:vientosbajos@gmail.com)

## **Christmas Madrigal Dinner and Murder Mystery! Sunday, December 11, NOON.**

Join us for something old, something new. Although we're continuing with our tenth consecutive year of the Christmas Madrigal Dinner, this year has a twist—of a knife, you might say. Welcome to “A Knight of Murder.”



We'll begin as usual: procession of the court, wecloming of the houses, toasts, the boar's head carol, the wonderful pork chop meal, but things are guaranteed to go awry. And unlike previous years, there won't be a difference between performers and audience members. Everyone will participate! Sign up early to receive your role, and contact us about costuming. After we solve the murder, we'll still end the festivities with a Christmas song sing-along, so tune up your voices! Contact us at [vientosbajos.com](http://vientosbajos.com) to get on the list!

*Vientos Bajos 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. 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.*

## **PARTICIPATIVE MUSIC GROUPS**

**General information:** All activities and practices take place at Vientos Bajos. 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.

There is no charge to participate in any of the instrumental groups. Review the individual write-ups for the various groups below to see if you'd like to join us. Ukulele band meets on Wednesday mornings. All other groups currently are meeting Friday mornings. Please contact us for more information.

### **Ukulele Band, 10:00AM, 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 backup sing-along group—we chord while our audience joins us for singalong songs. If you want to learn a musical instrument and spend some time socializing, this is your opportunity.



### **Bluegrass Band, 8:30 AM FRI**

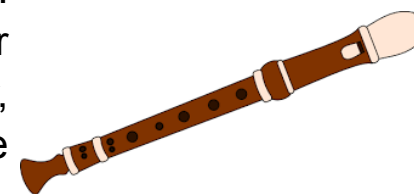
**Experience required.**

Our bluegrass band began playing together in 2021. We are a jam session but provide chord charts. We 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.



### **Recorder Ensemble, 9:30 AM FRI**

**Must read music.** This group is for those who read music. Most of us were exposed to the recorder in the third or 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, alto, or tenor recorder, but if you want to play bass, you'll need to provide your own instrument—or notify us so we can find one for you. On a scale of zero to 5, the music we choose is probably 1.5 to 2.0 level.



### **B-flat Instruments, 10:15 AM FRI**

**Must read music and have experience with a B-flat instrument.** Any B flat instrument, 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, trombone, 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

We're holding off until the new year, hoping everyone will feel more comfortable in getting together to sing. If you feel you can carry a tune, we'd love to have you join us. Reading music is not required, but extremely helpful. No formal musical training is required—just bring your voice and we'll go from there. We'll be singing unison or two-part numbers, and all music will be beginning-easy level. We're looking for all ranges—sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. If you don't know which you are, we'll figure it out for you.



## DAILY ACTIVITIES

### Pickleball: 3 sessions daily—8–10AM, 10:30AM–12:30PM, and 1:30–3:30PM



All signups via *SignUp Genius* limit play to two hours per signup time, and up to six players per signup time. All levels of players are welcome to sign up. If you're interested, please contact us to get on the *SignUp Genius* list.

### Gym: 7AM–4PM

The gym is available for members and includes electronic as well as manual equipment.



### Library: 7AM–4PM



Again, thank you to all who have contributed books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. We continue to collect, and of course the library remains free to all members.

### Golf Simulator: 7AM–4PM

Our golf simulator remains popular. We have recently added an additional 35 courses, giving us a total of 50 courses to play. Rick Reimer, our resident golf pro, will walk you through the use of the simulator. We have clubs available for all except men's LH. 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](mailto: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.





**Ping Pong: SU, M, TH: 10 AM–Noon** Activities Room, third floor, Vientos Bajos. **Contact Kelly Bennett, +1 425 317-0812 to get on the list!**

### **Walks: 7AM (Membership Not Required)**

Meet at the 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.



## **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

### **Sundays: Sunday Cinema**



General info: Cost is 2k CRC/person, free to VB members. Start time is tentative for 10:30 AM or 1:30 PM, upon request. Reservations are required and attendance is limited to 25. Children under 18 are not permitted without a parent. New titles will be announced weekly on our Facebook page.

### **Mondays: Ping Pong**

### **Tuesdays: Ping Pong 10AM–12PM; Contract/Party Bridge, 1:30–3:30PM.**

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 played bridge before or who have attended two or three sessions of our beginner group on Thursdays are welcome to join us.

### **Wednesdays: Ukulele Practice.**

### **Thursdays**

### **Beginner Contract Bridge Classes, 1:30–3:30 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 or have been away from the table for a very long time. Please contact us if you're interested so we can set up the correct number of tables.



## Fridays

**Music Groups, beginning 1PM.**

## Saturdays



**Penny-Ante Poker, 1–4PM.** If you want to get in on a big game, this isn't the one. The bets are small, but the fun is big. Feel free to come late or leave early. Please get on our WhatsApp list to ensure you're included for the "big" game.

## VIENTOS BAJOS—UNITS FOR RENT

We currently have two units available for rent. Minimum lease is six months, non-smokers please.

### Heliconia Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,000-square-foot apartment, located on the fourth (top) floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,000/month, all utilities included.



### Buganvilla Apartment (Vientos Bajos)

This two-bedroom, one-bath, 1,200-square-foot apartment, located on the third floor of our activities center, Vientos Bajos, is now available. This fully-furnished apartment, in addition to the usual amenities, also has a bathtub. It provides drive-in, covered, secured parking. With a westward-facing patio, the apartment provides sunset views over Esparza, Puntarenas, the Gulf of Nicoya, and the Pacific Ocean. \$1,100/month, all utilities included.

