



Bay Village Homeowners Association

www.bayvillagewatsonville.com

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Spring 2018

Homeowners Annual Meeting Set for November 3

I'm as guilty as most of you Bay Village owners in that I didn't attend our Annual Meeting last November. Participation the previous year was tremendous so I thought that was the norm. We've only owned in BV for the past several years. I realize now the high attendance in 2016 was in response to the Board's "threat" to raise the dues to \$100/year. As we all know that didn't happen, so I guess we sank back into our collective easy chairs and stayed home in 2017. Let's applaud the handful of committed homeowners who cared enough to attend.

Now that non-resident owners like myself are allowed to join, the Board has had new life breathed into it and with it a whole new positive attitude. We're currently brainstorming ideas to make the meeting fun but still interesting and informative. In my mind, this involves caffeine and carbohydrates at a minimum, but we'll be working hard to put together an event so interesting it will be standing room only! (Just kidding, we know no one likes to stand.)

Come meet your Board and your neighbors. There may be free giveaways, and you'll need to be present to win. Stay tuned for more details in the October newsletter. And of course, your ideas are welcome! Please let us know if there are speakers or topics (or snacks) you'd like us to include. Email me at lauren@lcwhite.com.

—Lauren White

Changes to BVHA Board

Last Fall, the BVHA Board made a change to the Bylaws that allowed non-resident Bay Village homeowners to serve on the Board. This resulted in the election, at the Annual Meeting, of Marina Watts, who owns a home on Suncrest; and in December, the Board also elected Lauren White, who owns two homes on Bridge St. Lauren is now our Secretary, In February, we added Bob Erbe, who owns a home on Vivienne. Despite living elsewhere, our new members are very committed to looking after the interests of Bay Village.

At our December meeting, we elected new officers and said goodbye to two members. JoAnna Rottke is now President, replacing John Kegebein, who sold his Bay Village home; and Emil Yappert steps into the Vice-President position, replacing Betty Fiorilla, who resigned from the Board, after many, many years of devoted service. Her husband, Bob was in poor health and passed away in February. Many of you may recall Bob as a longtime member of the Board also.

We'd like to thank Betty and John for their work on the Board, and extend our appreciation for Bob's many years of service, not only to the Board, but to his country as well.

BOARD MEMBERS

JoAnna Rottke, President and Editor
Emil Yappert, VP and Levee
Josephine Seymour, Treasurer
Lauren White, Secretary
Jan Carter
Sarah Cartwright
Bob Erbe
Marina Watts
Jan Vyeda (on leave)

If you would like to be part of your Homeowners Association Board, please go to the web site and download the application form.

You are also encouraged to attend the monthly meetings.

BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of each month 3:00-4:30
YWCA 350 East Beach St.
(note new time)

Get Ready for Assessments and Age Verifications

In July, the Annual Assessments will be mailed and are due in August. Bay Village uses the assessments to enforce our CC&Rs and to maintain our status as a senior community. The Board is currently saving toward an adequate legal reserve in the event we must go to court or mediation again regarding a violation. The Davis-Stirling Act that governs California HOAs allows us to raise assessments by 20% each year. This additional money not only goes to the legal reserve but helps to cover other increases in costs.

The assessment for 2018-19 will be \$43.00. Do not pay this now. Wait for your Assessment Notice in July.

We are required by Federal Law to take a census every two years to confirm that Bay Village **occupants** are conforming to our age restrictions. We understand that many of you have lived here for years and get tired of having to repeat this, but this is a legal requirement in order to keep our status as a senior community and comply with the Federal Fair Housing Act. We are currently in the process of making the forms easier to understand and complete. Landlords must collect and submit this information from their tenants, and we hope you keep this information current by notifying us when you have a change in tenants. Thanks for your cooperation.

CERT Training to Prepare for Emergencies

Help in an Emergency

A major disaster is coming—sometime. It might be an earthquake, landslide, flood, wildfire, tsunami, or other serious occurrence.

When a widespread disaster strikes, emergency agencies are likely to be overwhelmed. People will have to rely on each other—for hours or even days. Under these conditions, experience shows that family members, neighbors, and co-workers will try to help.

Following the 1985 Mexico City earthquake, untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. In the chaos, though, 100 of the rescuers lost their lives. This is too high a price to pay, because training can prevent such tragedy.

Even in a less serious emergency, is there a way to have trained local volunteers come to their neighbors' aid?

CERTainly.

What Does CERT Do?

Community Emergency Response Teams (**CERT**) are trained to provide emergency preparedness information in their neighborhoods. **CERT** members are also trained in life-saving skills, with emphasis on decision-making ability, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

People who have taken the **CERT** training are better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Trained individuals and teams are ready to:

- provide immediate assistance to victims in their neighborhood
- organize spontaneous, untrained volunteers to provide needed services
- collect disaster intelligence to assist professional responders who are trying to allocate limited resources

Training

Training is conducted by firefighters or other trained **CERT** leaders. Sessions are usually scheduled either on successive weekends or weekday evenings. Training sessions will address:

Disaster Preparedness

- actions to take before, during, and after a disaster
- how to operate in a safe and appropriate manner
- **CERT** concept and organization, as well as applicable laws governing volunteers

Fire Suppression

- safe use of fire extinguishers
- sizing up the situation
- controlling utilities
- extinguishing a small fire



Medical Aid

- diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding, and shock, using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques
- head-to-toe assessment for patient evaluation
- establishing a medical treatment area and performing basic first aid in a safe and sanitary manner

Search and Rescue

- planning, size-up, search techniques, and rescue techniques
- rescuer safety

Disaster Psychology and Team Organization

- signs and symptoms that might be experienced by disaster victims and workers
- **CERT** organization, management principles, and the need for documentation

Disaster Simulation

- hands-on practice with skills learned during training sessions

Terrorism Response

- terrorism threats and strategies in response, provided by the Office of Homeland Security

Refresher sessions and drills help **CERT** members keep their skills fresh after completing the training. **CERT** members receive recognition for completing their training, including ID cards, vests, helmets, and other equipment.



Find out what is happening in Santa Cruz County at www.santacruzcountycert.org.

Letter to the Editor: Elder Abuse and the 4th of July

Elder abuse in Watsonville is not always visible. It can be the high decibel noise pollution. We share space in the Pajaro Valley with regular folks and the sound of fireworks here travels unimpeded for miles and miles with intense high decibels like cannon fire explosions. They travel and blanket the entire valley with battle sounds. There is nowhere to go to avoid it. This is a form of torture and stress.

Perhaps the violators are not well educated in this country's history. We are not celebrating a war, nor a battle. We are celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. When the 4th of July holiday is near, they buy up a great deal more fireworks that they can use in one night. Two weeks before the 4th, these invisible thoughtless criminals already start random explosions. The seniors prepare for the 4th with sedative drugs for both our animals and ourselves. But the explosions go on all year round.

We remember our childhood when we too enjoyed the firecrackers on the 4th of July. But these folks think that getting drunk late at night and shooting off more firecrackers in the air with half a stick of dynamite tied on, makes huge explosive sounds. It's abusive. They fire them up at unwelcome and unexpected times. The last big explosion happened here September 25th around 2:30 am. I am a heart attack survivor, getting frightened deeply can kill me. The unexpected explosion is what we do not tolerate nor prepare for. It blasted me out of my bed and I had a near second heart attack, my dog was trembling, we could not relax, our night was ruined. For seniors this means the next day we are tired and cannot function.

I bought my house with the expectation of some quiet times in a senior community for my golden years. Our town has not enough police to find the criminals who keep blowing up the firecrackers late at night. How could they? These things happen late starting around 10:30 pm until about 5:00 am. They are unexpected. It's men who play with them and pay no attention to the fact that we don't celebrate the 4th of July all year round. Any explosions after the 4th are Elder Abuse.

The seniors have no voice here in the land of the strawberries. Seniors are laughed at for getting frightened. An outreach is needed to the minds of the neighbors, hoping that they hear the problem and stop abusing their right to the firecrackers, and abusing the grandparents, veterans, children, and animals.

According to a chart of decibel levels, normal conversation comes in at 60 decibels. Busy traffic comes in at 70 points, but from here on up, prolonged exposure can cause hearing damage. The highest one is a firework at 150 decibels and it is termed "intolerable."

Seniors pay the price for this extravagant permission to use fireworks in Watsonville. Veterans pay a price also; they have PTSD flashbacks, seizures, and all kinds of psychological complications. Children often lose fingers and eyes being around fireworks. All animals, except hunting dogs, fear for their lives. They can run away, sometimes into traffic. This abuse must stop!

Be the good neighbors who report the abusers. When the Police make an arrest it costs the criminals a fine of over a thousand dollars. But public opinion against the abusers would work better.

Solutions??

The public conscience must get educated about the 4th of July. Public announcements, radio ads, Spanish-speaking newspapers must discuss this all year so when we get to the 4th, people will use only the legal and safe firecrackers, and use them only on the 4th. But after that no more explosions please! None! Stop the abuse!

Please join me in working toward a solution. Email me at zbudapest@gmail.com.

—Z. Budapest



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Update on Our Levee Landscaping

Have you looked at the flowers on the levee lately? After a lot of hard work and thanks to the donations by many of you to the levee fund, we've had a good showing of flowers such as daffodils and tulips. The levee has looked great for the past two months. Many of the trees are now in bloom and the evergreens are looking very nice.

We have been able to keep the weeds under control and the irrigation system is complete, at least for now. Recently, just before the rains, everything was fertilized. You might remember that last year we planted about 20 one-gallon plants along the upper side of the levee. They are now well-established and get a small amount of water with each irrigation.

Recently the city mowed the weeds along the levee from Blackburn Ave. to where our levee projects starts. That in itself will help keep the trash and garbage down. If you are walking along the levee and see some trash, please pick it up and help us keep our home area looking good and clean.

Remember, we can always use donations for future projects on the levee. Your yearly assessments cannot be used for any work on the levee. So please help out with a donation to the levee fund. Thank you.

—Emil Yappert

Your BVHA Newsletter

Do you have suggestions for articles you'd like to see in the newsletter? Do you have an interesting neighbor we could interview? Send ideas and comments to the Editor. We now print in Spring and Fall.

Would you like to receive your Bay Village newsletter in your email as a PDF? Same look, same content, but it saves money and trees, and arrives before it hits your neighbor's mailbox. Just send an email to bvhaeditor@gmail.com.