

DECEMBER 2020

# THE BUZZ

## BAY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



**NOTE: If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, please provide us with your email address; it will help save paper & costs. Thanks!  
[contact@bayvillagewatsonville.com](mailto:contact@bayvillagewatsonville.com)**



**Black & white photos taken from 228 Interesting, Odd, Beautiful & Historic Things to See in Santa Cruz County by Steven Bignell and Susan Bruijnes.**



**Artichoke Pickers Mural: The bonus feature of the California Agricultural Workers' History Center is the mural surrounding the exhibit. It depicts migrant workers harvesting artichokes near Elkhorn Slough during the Great Depression. The mural wraps around three sides of the exhibit and its compelling images and bold colors brighten the entire second floor of the Watsonville Public Library.**



**cityofwatsonvillegov**



**cityofwatsonvillegov** Great photo of our historical City Plaza, photo taken sometime in the 1920s....

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# Did you know...?

## Garage Sales and Yard Sales in Bay Village

Garage/Yard sales are so fun in Bay Village. We get a chance to see something we've always wanted or something we've never seen before. It's a chance to say hi to our neighbors (while wearing Covid 19 masks!). Of course, on the other side, it's a chance to make a little extra coin and lessen the impact on our storage space!

We do want to be sure that you know that, as Watsonville residents, you must have a Watsonville City permit to have either a garage sale or a yard sale. Those permits must be posted at the sale site.

There are a few City rules (<https://cityofwatsonville.org/250/Garage-Sale-Ordinance>) that you might want to know:

You may have up to two sales a year. Each sale may last two days, and they must be six months apart. Your sign (no bigger than 3 square feet) may only be posted on your property.

The permit fee is currently \$30. You can't transfer your permit to someone else.

You must own and have had possession of the items to be sold for at least the last 90 days. The items must be used. Other than that, have fun!

## Good Neighbor Fences

Do you need to fix or repair a common fence between your property and your neighbor's? California has a law called the Good Neighbor Fence Law. It says that each neighbor benefits from a common fence and, in most cases, the cost of the building, maintenance and necessary replacement of that fence should be shared.

The law directs us to send our neighbor a notice of what needs to be done, how you suggest the problem be solved, how to split the costs and the timeline.

Now about the cost sharing:

(1) If your idea of a fence is grand and is a result of your architectural or aesthetic preferences and, therefore, expensive; or (2) your property gets more benefit from the fence than your neighbor; or (3) the neighbor does not have the money to pay for their share, then a court may not smile on your request for equal share in the cost.

Your Bay Village Homeowners' Association's Architectural Committee must approve the fence, and you must have a Watsonville Fence Permit before any re-construction. In most cases, friendly neighbors will be able to work out any cost sharing without going to court because good fences may make good neighbors, but good communication makes even better neighbors!

First Impressions....by Marina Watts

Bay Village Homeowners' Association, Former President (2017-2020)

I moved to Bay Village in August, 2020 after living six years in Santa Cruz. Somehow, I had turned the "golden" age of 55. I could now move in to the house I bought three years earlier in the "senior community" of Bay Village.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions and the smoke from so many wildfires in the area, my move in went smoothly. Friendly neighbors on my street waved and welcomed me from behind their masks. My cat settled in quickly and soon began exploring her new territory and looking for new friends.

I feel I discovered a quiet, scenic haven nestled in this agricultural city. Groups of small birds, including hummingbirds, come regularly to visit the honeysuckle in my front and backyards. On warmer days, to my cat's and my delight, tiny blue-belly lizards peek out between rocks along the garden beds. Driving home around 9:00pm one night, the streets in the neighborhood were quiet. Suddenly, I spotted a jack rabbit hopping across the street! It seemed to be going from one front yard to the next (an early trick-or-treater?). At night, I read in bed. I can't help but notice just how quiet my new home is. Inside and around the house, no noise except the distant hum and occasional squeal of my refrigerator. I give thanks for this peacefulness and all the surrounding neighbors who make it so.

Looking forward to getting to know the neighborhood better, as well as more of my neighbors who make up Bay Village.



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## Interview with Bill Meade

Bill Meade, a former member and President of our Board of Directors, remains one of our heartiest cheerleaders for Bay Village! He bought his home in 1998, so he has lived here for 22 years. He loves our village. "The people are the friendliest, they are the easiest going, and most helpful. My neighbors and I get together for dinner at our homes or at restaurants. We help others on our street, like our friend who has come down with Alzheimer's, or we help someone with their electronic TV. It is a delightful opportunity to reach out and help others. Isn't that the purpose in life - to help others? Our lives become much more rewarding. And, we are in a similar age bracket!"

For over 30 years, Bill owned a nationwide architecture firm with offices around the country. Now, in his retirement years, he sincerely wants to assist each of us homeowners who would like some suggestions for refreshing the appearance of our individual homes. He wants to help us improve the curb appeal of our homes, so that they do not lose value and so that our neighborhood continues to look inviting. He has worked on dozens of homes in both our Village and in Pajaro Village, helping to select new paint colors, new trim or some landscaping touches, such as adding a small patch of artificial turf, instead of lawns that need watering and mowing.

Bill sees Bay Village as a great opportunity for folks to get together and to volunteer a weekend to help a senior or a disabled homeowner, whose home has fallen into disrepair and add a fresh coat of paint, clean up weeds and maybe add a bit of trim, such as shutters to offer a bit of color, or perhaps, a new door color or a new light fixture.

Regarding the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and the Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs) issue that is happening in Watsonville, Bill's feeling is that only a few Bay Village homes may qualify for ADU or JADU units (our lots and homes are too small). He personally feels the ADU and JADU concept would be fine for large homes with big lots, but that it would harm small, compact neighborhoods like our Bay Village by over-congesting homes and parking.

If you are interested in talking to Bill about improvements to your own home in Bay Village, you may contact him at his home here in Bay Village at (831) 722-3253. He would like to provide design help for homeowners for no charge. Please understand, however, this is design work (which can guide your worker), but it is not stamped architectural working drawings (which can be provided only by a California licensed architecture firm).

Likewise, in the spirit of making Bay Village a nicer place to live, perhaps you too can offer to help a neighbor with the curb appeal of their home!



# Did you know...?

Your Board is looking to clarify the landscaping requirements for our properties. It is our intention to keep our neighborhood from sliding into disrepair. These are the minimum landscaping guidelines for homeowners in order to make our Bay Village an inviting place to live and to allow your Board to fairly enforce the rules. These rules also are designed to encourage individual preferences and flair. At our January Board meeting, your Board plans to vote on the below changes to Section 7 of our Rules and Regulations; the proposed new language is underlined. If you have a comment, please contact the Board by writing to Bay Village Homeowners' Association; PO Box 986, Watsonville, CA 95077 by December 31, 2020.

## MAINTENANCE OF THE PREMISES.

Owners assume full responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of his/her own property. Front yards must feature some kind of ground cover, including but not limited to, landscaping, rocks, grass, mulch, flowers, shrubs, and/or trees. Simply leaving nothing but dirt in your front yard will not conform with Association rules.

Owners are responsible for trees and tree removal, trimming or pruning for those trees which are located on his/her Lot. Trees and plants must be pruned so that they do not interfere with pedestrian safety on the sidewalks. Fruit that falls from trees must be promptly removed to avoid attracting rodents. Each lot and residence shall be well-maintained and attractively painted as reasonably determined by the Board; yards shall be neat and free of garbage and debris. Dead plants, flowers and trees, as well as trash, unused landscaping/building materials, tools, deteriorating furniture, etc. must be removed promptly. Weeds must be controlled; weeds are unattractive and when allowed to flower and go to seed, can spread to our neighbors' yards.

Laundry, towels, swimwear, or other apparel may not be hung outdoors in view from the street, except as otherwise approved by the Board. Laundry lines must be placed discreetly out of sight from the street. Owners shall dispose of all trash, garbage, and debris of any kind in a proper trash receptacle or container. Recyclable materials shall be deposited in the appropriate container(s) in accordance with refuse removal rules adopted by the City of Watsonville. Garbage and refuse containers shall be returned to an out-of-sight location following City pick up on the same day as City pick up. Warning letters will be sent to homeowners not in compliance with minimum guidelines for maintenance of premises. Failure to comply could result in fines.

## **Interview with Dr. Nancy Bilicich:**

**Education:** Graduate of Watsonville High School; B.S. in Political Science, Santa Clara University; M.A. in Counseling/Psychology and a Doctorate in Education from Nova Southeastern in Florida.

**Former:** Teacher in Oak Grove School District in San Jose; Counselor at Seaside High School and principal at Aromas Elementary, Aptos Junior High, and Watsonville High Schools. Former Watsonville Mayor, Watsonville City Council, and Woman of the Year.

**Member:** of Soroptimist; Watsonville High School Foundation; Watsonville Woman's Club; Chamber of Commerce Board; Pajaro Valley Historical Association, and member of the Bay Village Homeowners' Association.

**Wow! Busy person!** Nancy first came to Bay Village about 10 years ago and purchased a wonderful home in a nice neighborhood. "You can drive into the garage and walk right into the kitchen!"

Nancy was born and raised on East Beach Street in Watsonville. Her father, Louis, was born and raised on Lincoln Street near Watsonville High School (WHS) where he became the janitor's helper. At his graduation, the janitor retired and Nancy's father, at the age of 18, took over the job for 4 years before serving in World War II. He came back from the War and went right back to being the head custodian where he met his future bride, Louise, a Physical Education teacher. When they retired from WHS, he had worked there 47 years as a custodian and she had worked there over 37 years. During football season, Nancy's dad carried her the few blocks from home to the football games and wrapped her in a blanket to keep her warm. Wonderful memories. Nancy, herself has been in the local school district for over 33 years and in education 45 years!

Now, Nancy is the Director of Adult Education for Watsonville/Aptos/Santa Cruz, as well as on the District 7 Flood Control Board, Co-Chair, and the Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (composed of 4 counties), Chair. She credits Congressman Panetta and Supervisors Caput and Friend working together to acquire State and Federal funds to help with our Levee. We know that we may need to vote to have our property taxes increased to help pay our share to improve the levee system. She wants us to sleep soundly at night when the heavy rains come!



Another of Nancy's current concerns is the potential impact on parking brought on by Watsonville's new regulations permitting Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units. The City Council has to address the parking issues; perhaps the Bay Village Board can limit the number of vehicles per address.

Her wish for us? "If we all pull together, we can make our own quality of life here in Watsonville a priority. I need help from every person in making things happen in our community. I would love to see more people attend the Government meetings, backing improvements to our levee system to keep us safe!"

Nancy, we will find out when the next meetings are and we will put it on our web page calendar. Thank you, Nancy, for all that you do!

Photo of Dr. Nancy Bilicich



# CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are still in need of new Board members to replace outgoing members!

Please volunteer to join our Board by either nominating yourself or a neighbor. We strive to work together to keep our community top-notch!

Forms can be found at:

<https://watsonvillebayvillage.com/forms>

Please mail the filled out forms to:

BVHOA, PO BOX 986,

WATSONVILLE, CA 95077

**NOTE: EMAIL AND INTERNET ARE REQUIRED SINCE OUR MEETINGS ARE BEING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.**

The postcard we sent out in October - requesting Bay Village residents to volunteer for Board membership - failed to get any response. Due to the new regulation governing HOA elections, your Board may not accept any late applications for the scheduled February General Meeting. However, our rules incorrectly stated that we could not accept nominations from the floor, but we can. Therefore, at the planned General Meeting in February, we hope that some of you will volunteer to help the Board at that time, and we can vote on your candidacy at that time.



## PROJECT SCOUT'S VITA/TCE FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

**LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN  
HELPING OUR COMMUNITY WITH TAX  
PREPARATION AND CLIENT CALL SUPPORT.**

## **E-MAIL/CALL PROJECT SCOUT**

**eduardos@seniorscouncil.org**  
**831-318-1014**

**projectscoutoffice@gmail.com**  
**831-724-2606**

Leave a detailed message with your full name, and your contact info. We will contact you about volunteering options, trainings, etc.

## **PROJECT SCOUT**

AN AGENCY OF THE SENIOR'S COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ AND SAN BENITO  
COUNTIES

[HTTP://WWW.SENIORSCOUNCIL.ORG/PROGRAMS/PROJECTSCOUT/](http://www.seniorscouncil.org/programs/projectscout/)



# DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

## PROJECT SCOUT'S FREE TAX PREP IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

### FOR FREE TAX PREP YOU WILL NEED:

- Fill out form 13614c INTAKE SHEET (PROVIDED) so we know what you need to declare in your taxes.
- Fill out form 14446 VITA/TCE taxpayer Consent (PROVIDED) allowing us to help you online.
- Provide your Social Security Card, or your SSA-1099 form if receiving Social Security Income.
- Provide your Driver's License or ID that is valid and that has your picture on it.
- Your most recent tax return prepared, complete.
- All of your employment income W-2s, 1099s, etc.
- All 1099s reporting income other than wages, salaries, and tips.
- Any expenses or costs incurred for 1099s, fully broken down.
- Breakdown of donations to charity and to whom, and the dollar amounts or the value of items donated.
- Payments or other contributions you have made that may be deductible from your taxable income 1098s.
- Forms that report your health insurance coverage 1095s.

### E-MAIL/CALL PROJECT SCOUT :

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831-724-2606

Leave a detailed message with your full name, your age, the city where you live, and what you need to report in your taxes. One of our IRS Certificated Volunteers will contact you.

PROJECT SCOUT VITA/TCE SERVICES  
A PROGRAM OF SENIOR'S COUNCIL OF  
SANTA CRUZ AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES



# POR COVID-19 PRECAUCION

## AYUDA GRATUITA DE IMPUESTOS POR PROJECT SCOUT ES CON CITA SOLAMENTE

### PARA AYUDA GRATUITA CON IMPUESTOS NECESITA:

- Llenar forma 13614c Hoja de Entrevista (PROVEIDA) para verificar que necesita declarar en sus impuestos.
- Llenar forma 14446 VITA/TCE Consentimiento de Servicios Virtuales (PROVEIDA).
- Proveer su Seguro Social, o su forma SSA-1099 si recibe ingresos del seguro social.
- Proveer su Licencia de manejar or Identificacion vigente con foto.
- Sus impuestos preparados mas recientes, completos.
- Todo su ingresos de empleo W-2s, 1099s, etc.
- Todo ingreso que reportar otro que empleo, salario, y tips 1099s.
- Costos relacionados a 1099s, completamente ordenados.
- Donaciones a caridad y a quien, y cantidades o valor de articulos donados.
- Pagos o contribuciones que son deducibles de sus ingresos 1098s.
- Formas para reportar su seguro medico 1095s.

### E-MAIL/LLAME A PROJECT SCOUT :

eduardos@seniorscouncil.org  
831-318-1014

projectscoutoffice@gmail.com  
831-724-2606

Deje un mensaje detallado con su nombre completo, su edad, en que ciudad vive, y que necesita reportar en sus impuestos. Uno de nuestros voluntarios certificados por el IRS le contactara.

SERVICIOS VITA/TCE POR PROJECT SCOUT  
UN PROGRAMA DE SENIOR'S COUNCIL OF  
SANTA CRUZ AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES