

Carmel Valley Voice

A quarterly publication of the Carmel Valley Association

To preserve, protect, and defend the natural resources, beauty, and rural character of Carmel Valley

YOU ARE ENTERING
Carmel
Valley

CVA Newsletter~August 2015

carmelvalleyassociation.org

CALENDAR

A Royal Ball Benefit

Aug. 8, Quail Lodge
(Details page 5)

Party in the Village

Aug. 22, 6:30-11 pm
Concert/Barn Dance
Hidden Valley
659-4204

CV Chili Cook-Off

Sept. 17, 5-8 pm
The River Ranch at
CV Ranch
659-4000

Fall Meet the Artist Reception

Sept. 26, 4-7 pm
CV Art Association
659-2441

Pt. Lobos Easy Access Adventures

Wed. & Sat. 10-noon
Sea Lion Point
Aug., 5, 15, Sept. 2, 19
625-1470

Farmers' Market

Fridays 2-6 pm
CV Community Youth
Center

Carmel Farmers' Market

Tuesdays 9 am-1 pm
South end of the Barnyard

SHORT-TERM RENTALS: A HOT ISSUE IN CARMEL VALLEY

By Carolyn Rice

Carmel Valley residents and second-home owners are among those attracting short-term vacation renters through websites. Emotions run high concerning these short-term rentals, with Valley residents coming down on both sides of whether or not they should be allowed. Currently, no permits are issued by the county for rentals of less than seven days.

A task force of about 20 people, including a member of the CVA board, organized by Supervisor Dave Potter's office has met twice a month for several months and anticipates bringing forth an ordinance on short-term rentals for public comment by late summer, according to Melanie Beretti, program manager at the County Resource Management Agency and task force facilitator.

The internet has flung open the door for rentals arranged directly between homeowners and vacationers with a significant number of Carmel Valley rooms, granny units or whole houses advertised on Airbnb, Vacation Rental by Owner, HomeAway, and Craigslist. The websites offer a huge variety of accommodations ranging

from a yurt for \$150 a night to a Tehama eight-bedroom mansion going for \$4,500 to \$10,000 a night.

Currently County Title 21 regulations in place since 1997 allow for seven-to-thirty-day rentals but include no provisions for shorter rentals. The current permit fee is \$6,000, Beretti said, adding the county has issued a permit for a 2,700-square foot home near Arroyo Seco with a guesthouse and another permit for one in Carmel Valley. Beretti said the new ordinance will make a clear distinction between home-stays versus home rentals for events such as weddings.

Enforcement in Carmel Valley of any permits and regulations presents an issue, Beretti noted. "One of the key triggers for complaints is when there is an event with parking issues or noise." She noted homes in rural areas of Carmel Valley can be so isolated they would be difficult to monitor.

One Valley resident, who asked not to be identified for fear of being targeted, rents her home often to families attending weddings. The renters frequently are multi-generational, and she and

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President's Letter



Priscilla Walton

As the tourism industry has grown on the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley is becoming a major new tourist destination. Historically a pastoral and bucolic off-the-beaten-track place frequented only by locals and Peninsula residents fleeing the fog, Carmel Valley is now becoming a must-see on the tourist circuit. Now tourists who would have in the past come only to see the Monterey Bay Aquarium, 17-Mile Drive, Big Sur, and Carmel now come also to hike in Garland Park, tour our rustic Carmel Valley Village, stay at our world-class resorts, and visit our many wine-tasting rooms and excellent restaurants.

Though tourism has been an economic boost to many of our local businesses, it has also presented new problems and risks. Have you tried to park in Carmel Valley Village recently? If so, you have probably found yourself circling the block for a space, and then parking some distance from your destination. Though a sign of vitality on the

continued on page 2

Hidden Valley's Masters Festival

For 35 years a vibrant Summer tradition of presenting extraordinary musicians



Tuesday August 11, 7:30 p.m.

Mark Kosower
Principal Cello
The Cleveland Orchestra
with pianist Jee-Won Oh



Monday August 17, 7:30 p.m.

Robert Walters
Solo English Horn
The Cleveland Orchestra
with pianist Teddy Neidermaier

TICKETS
659-3115
hiddenvalleymusic.org
104 W. Carmel Valley Rd

CARMEL VALLEY - NEPAL CONNECTION



Christine Kolisch at her Village shop photo by Mibs McCarthy

By Mibs McCarthy

When the big earthquake hit Nepal on April 25th, Christine Kolisch, her husband Craig Lovell, and her son Bodhi Garrett went into action. Christine is the owner of Cheppu From Himalaya, where she sells unique

clothing that she designs and has made in Nepal. Craig is a well-known photographer, and Bodhi lives in Thailand, where he specializes in disaster relief and started a tsunami relief program after the Thailand tsunami. Christine has had a relationship with Nepal for 43 years. She maintains successful programs of student scholarships and micro credit loans for women.



Christine Kolisch with her son Bodhi in Nepal, photo by Craig Lovell

The first earthquake occurred primarily around Katmandu. One week later there was a second earthquake that devastated remote villages closer to Mt. Everest. Since then people have been sleeping outside, enduring, at first, continuous tremors of up to 150 a day that are now down to ten a day at the level of four to five points.

Because of her connections and her son's disaster relief expertise, Christine had a website up (www.WeHelpNepal.org) within a day after the first quake. Christine and her

President's Letter, continued from Pg. 1

one hand, this is also a sign of lack of planning and a threat to our established local businesses, whose customers often become discouraged from shopping and dining here.

Similarly, you have probably found yourself being inconvenienced more often by heavy traffic. As more wine-tasting rooms open, more and more cars drive to visit them, and all too often, drive back from them with a driver who may be under the influence. With as many as 23 wine-tasting rooms already in operation or approved for upcoming opening, when will it end? And, what will be the consequences to our local mom and pop businesses that provide the services we locals depend upon day in and day out? How can local businesses compete for scarce commercial space with high-end tourist-serving businesses?

You have also probably observed more and more special events in Carmel Valley, many of them without permits. The resulting noise and traffic congestion are more than just an inconvenience. In an emergency, this could be catastrophic.

As a result of lack of planning, this growing tourism has created an imbalance, reducing our community's ability to prevent social and environmental degradation.

Carmel Valley is at a crossroads. We need to think seriously about how to maximize the benefits of destination tourism for the local community economically and socially, while at the same time, minimize the negative impacts of overdeveloped tourism on the local residents and on our fragile environment. This means developing a consensus vision about how to take advantage of the inflow of money to help our local businesses remain sustainable, while managing the growth in order to keep our community sustainable. If we don't do this soon, it may be too late.

We at CVA want to work with you to develop and implement such a sustainable vision. We welcome your input and support in these efforts. Please let me hear from you. You can reach me by email at carmelvalleyassociation@gmail.com.

PROVIDES EARTHQUAKE AID

Short-Term Rentals, continued from Pg. 1

family and friends support locally-led, peer-to-peer efforts to fill in the gaps where larger organizations have not reached. Roads and trails to villages are damaged, and there are still areas no one can get to that have not received help. Electricity is gone from the villages though it has been restored in Katmandu. Christine says, "Cell phones have been a life-saver." Her group recently distributed 600 solar lights, which they were able to get at cost. These lights also serve as cell phone chargers.



with children in Craig Lovell

WeHelpNepal is under the non-profit umbrella of Global Purpose. So far over \$473,000.00 has been raised. Christine points out that much good has come out of the disaster. The Nepali people have gained tremendous confidence and self-esteem from helping each other and themselves. Christine's tailor got back to work after four days even though he was living in the open. Now Christine's group is having tents made in Katmandu, employing local people,

instead of buying them from the outside. Another good thing that has come from the earthquakes is the crossing of caste lines. The priest class is sharing space and food with the untouchables.

There is still so much to do, especially with the monsoon season coming up. "Anyone who has been to Nepal never forgets the people, who are so kind and generous," says Christine. You can donate at Cheppu From Himalaya in the Center Street shopping center behind Wills Fargo in Carmel Valley Village or at www.WeHelpNepal.org.

her husband live on the property in their on site guest house. "I'm just trying to get out of a terrible recession," she noted, adding that many neighbors probably are not even aware of her guests. She pays the county a transient occupancy tax (TOT) and said it amounted to around \$6,000 last year, and she believes others like her have filed with the county and pay the TOT tax.

Although the county may receive TOT money from homeowners who rent, it does not mean such vacation rental activities are consistent with county regulations, Beretti noted.

Valley residents, some of whom are quite outspoken in their opposition to vacation rentals, fear they will change the character of their neighborhood, bringing more parties, traffic, and late-night noise. Locals also fear the practice will limit housing available for those who live and work here.

Pacific Grove has a short-term ordinance in place with a \$200 annual fee. Jan Leasure, a Peninsula property manager, said 174 residences are registered in Pacific Grove and this injected a half million dollars into the city coffers last year. The permit requires the owner's name to be on file along with someone who could show up at the property within 30 minutes if there were any problem. Pacific Grove officials received just four complaints related to short-term rentals last year, Leasure said.

California Senate Bill 593, introduced this past spring, laid out provisions to require the websites that facilitate private vacation rentals to disclose information to cities and counties on addresses and the number of nights the property was rented and to collect transient occupancy taxes. The bill may come back next year but has been shelved for now, Leasure said.

Editor's note: The CVA Board has not yet taken a position on this issue.

DON'T PANIC!

By Dave Burbidge

When the phone rings at 3 in the morning, most people panic. I don't. I'm a Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) lead volunteer, so I know it's probably a disaster call. The dispatcher on the other end of the phone tells me that there is a fire. I jot down the details and contact the Incident Commander (IC) for an update before hopping in the car to proceed to the incident, which might be anywhere in the county. Once there, I check with the IC as to the damage and number of people needing help and begin, along with the rest of the team members called up from all over the county, dealing with the clients to assess their needs.



Red Cross photo

help the clients continue their lives.

Besides middle-of-the-night calls to aid disaster victims, I also get DAT calls to assist fire or law-enforcement agencies with food and drinks, or I might be called to a hospital to provide services to clients so that they can be released to an appropriate location. Other DAT requests may involve help with national emergencies such as floods, fires, earthquakes, or mud slides,

when the Red Cross opens up shelters and provides other services. Some of these national disasters mean being deployed for several days or weeks.

The major point is this: if you or your family suffers a disaster, don't fret as to what to do. Let the Red Cross person in charge of the incident know your needs, and the Red Cross will be there to help! In spite of sometimes having to get up in the middle of the night, I have found the work to be a most satisfying experience, and I would recommend anyone interested in helping others in need to become a Red Cross volunteer. If you are interested, please call the Red Cross office at 831-624-6921.

The Red Cross is able to provide immediate assistance to help clients, regardless of income level, with immediate needs, such as shelter, food, clothing and medicines. Depending on the nature of the disaster, Red Cross Mental Health counselors may be called in to comfort the individuals involved. Once DAT has taken care of these immediate services, Red Cross Client Services is notified of the disaster and can provide additional services such as funds for rent, utilities, household items, and other longer-term needs to

RAISING CHICKENS IN PARADISE

By Marlene Martin

If you've wondered about chicken farming, you no longer have to keep your curiosity cooped up. Here in Carmel Valley, a couple of thousand chicks a year cross the road to get into the coops of local residents. Approximately 1,500 a year are adopted through Hacienda Hay and Feed—at \$5.00 a pop. Others arrive by mail or by hatching out of eggs laid by resident chickens.

Despite their cleverness at adapting, chickens were, until recently, under appreciated as status companions. No longer. Cool coops are everywhere in trendy magazines and home décor shops. Home-raised eggs with their vibrant orange yolks are delicious. And it is a major endorphin booster to gather eggs that come in a variety of colors and sizes. My hens are a walking, clucking garden of hues and sizes.

I buy chickens for their graceful beauty and for their eggs. They lay from about age seven months until who-knows-what-age? My banty chickens, now in their second decade, lay occasional eggs. The others lay about an egg a day for a couple of years and then lay irregularly for a few more years.

Like most Homo sapiens, chickens are omnivorous eaters, and they adore treats, some of which aren't especially good for them. Unlike most of the world, my chickens would beat a path to my door if they could. Hoping for a treat, they gather, clucking happily when I come near. A Fed Ex driver friend of my flock gets old bread from health food stores for them, while I share the snails and bugs from my garden. Chickens need the calcium and protein in a balanced chicken food to create all those eggs and shells. They prefer French fries and left-over cake.

As with human babies, chicken babies need much supervision. Carmel Valley is home to numerous non-human residents who also love chickens—bobcats, mountain lions, raccoons, and red-tailed hawks among them, so those trendy chicken coops are not just pretty faces: their protection is essential to chicken longevity.



Marlene Martin's Chickens, photo by the author's son, Ian Martin

For the "how" of chicken raising, there is a large flock of material. Google "Raising Chickens" and you will find a plethora of information. Among the on-line material is Sunset's concise *How to Raise Chickens*. The iconic book *Chickens in Your Backyard* is a more detailed guide. For information and entertainment, the magazine *Backyard Poultry* has a nest full of information about chicken shows and chicken problems. You can question experts in its "Poultry Talk" section and contemplate issues such as "Do Chickens Need Toys" and "How to Make a Chicken Swing."

Many Homo Sapiens regard chickens as dumb clucks. But they thrive here in one of the most expensive places on our small, blue planet because they bring peace and joy and beauty to our world.

They nourish the land and its inhabitants. They give a lot more than they take.



Rattlesnakes are more commonly seen in hot, dry weather.

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How To Stay in CalAm's Tier 1

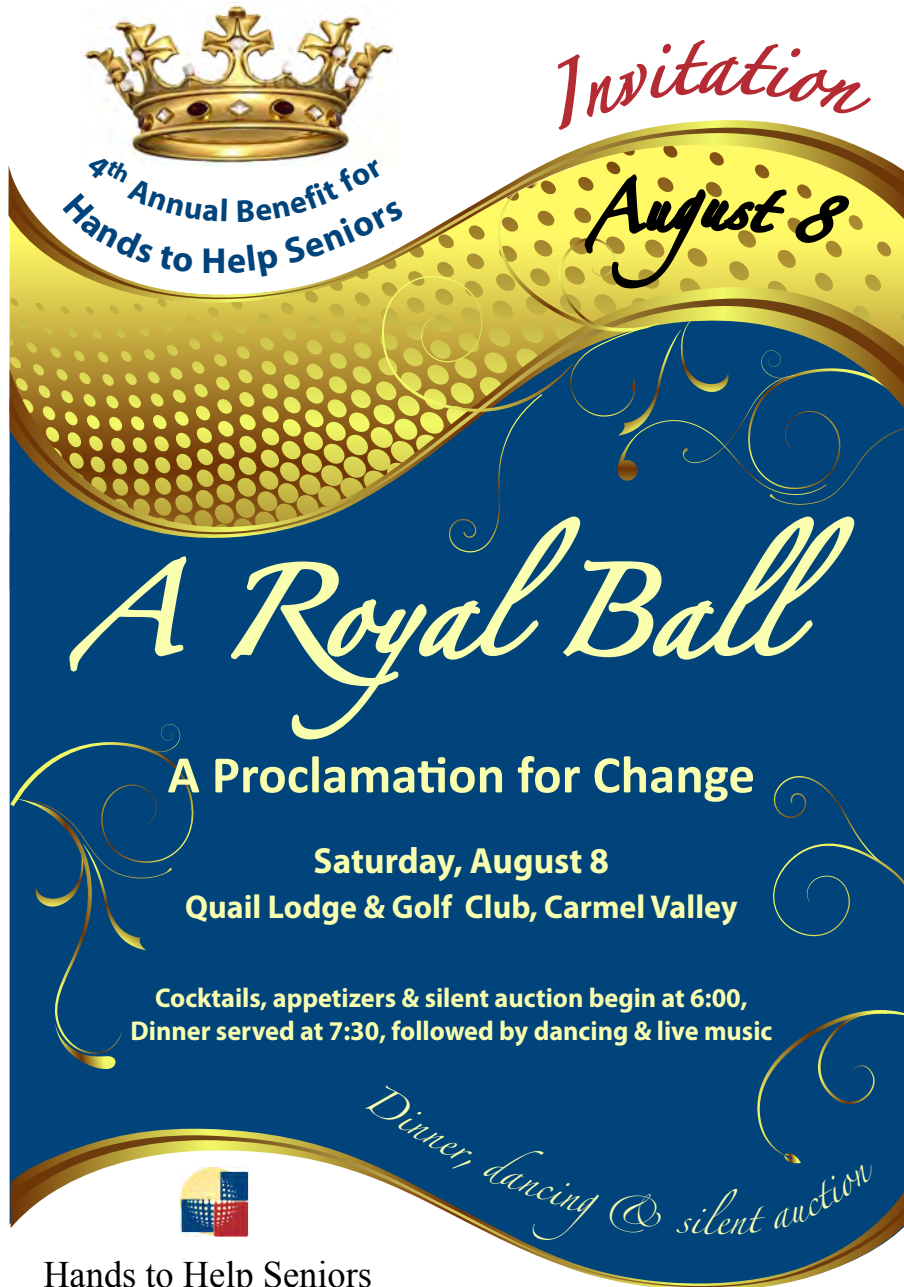
By Helga Fellay

How do I manage to live in sunny Carmel Valley, have a backyard, and still stay in Tier 1? I wouldn't call it convenient, but it can be done. I think of water as the most precious thing I use, and that I can't afford to waste even a drop.

Here are some of the ways I keep my water consumption low:

I catch rainwater in containers set at all downspouts around my house. As they fill up, I empty the containers into other containers, to fill as many containers as I can. (Yes, I get wet doing that during rainstorms.) Plastic buckets and containers are relatively inexpensive, and one good rainstorm provides me with

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Invitation
August 8


A Royal Ball

A Proclamation for Change

Saturday, August 8
Quail Lodge & Golf Club, Carmel Valley

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Dinner, dancing & silent auction



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Helga in her garden

enough to water my plants for several weeks.

I wash my car with a rag, using one bucket of water - no hose. It does not get quite as clean and shiny that way, but it's good enough. I don't have a dishwasher, and I rinse my washed dishes into a bucket, which I then use to flush the toilet. Waiting for hot water, I catch the cold water in a bucket, which can then be used to either flush the toilet or else water plants.



Photos by Luana Conley

Before steaming vegetables, I rinse them into the steamer, so the same water that washed them can also steam them in the pot.

I plug the drain before taking a shower. After the shower, I scoop the water into buckets to flush the toilet. I usually take navy showers, which use only a fraction of the water an ordinary shower uses. For those who might forget to take navy showers, I would recommend the Monarch SS-2100 Showerhead by Evolve (\$49.95), which shuts off automatically because its trickle/savings mode activates when water reaches 95° F (35° C). It resets automatically after each shower. It gives you just enough time to get wet before it shuts off, so you can scrub down at leisure and then reactivate it to rinse off.



Carmel Valley Association
 P.O. Box 157
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924

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Artist's Windows Move from Carmel Valley to San Francisco

By Mibs McCarthy



Photo by Alan Masaoka

Alan Masaoka's beautiful windows (as reported on in our November 2014 newsletter) have been moved from his studio in Carmel Valley Village and installed on the seventh floor of San Francisco General Hospital.

During the installation one window broke and the installers were devastated. But Alan said, "Glass breaks, and I can fix it because I'm a glass artist." The crack was in an arc, so Alan just used lead to mend it and make it part of the design.

Alan said in our previous article that he saw the windows as being like a river. He anticipated the beautiful reflection on the floor. "I didn't know for sure that it was going to create this illusion of water, but it did," Alan says. "And the nice thing about it is it will change throughout the day. When you walk across the windows, you're bathed in blue. And to me it's a healing color."

The windows are in a new acute care center and the seventh floor is the Alzheimer's ward. The corridor where the windows are installed leads out to a roof-top garden, so the patients can go through the corridor and go out to the garden and have a wonderful view of San Francisco. "It's an ideal situation for my art," Alan says.

This is Alan's third public art project and he really enjoys doing public art because of the scale of the project and it's accessibility to everyone. "This one," he says, "turned out perfectly." See more of Alan's work at www.masaokaglassdesign.com or at his studio on Center Street in the Village.

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