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Our Village VOICE

The logo for Clayton Valley Village is a circular emblem with a gold border. Inside the circle, there is a stylized landscape with mountains, a sun, and a cluster of houses. Below the landscape, the text "Clayton Valley" is written in a simple font, and "Village" is written in a cursive script below it.

A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village (February 2018 Edition)

Our Clayton Valley Village newsletter has a new name, a new look and new editors. Diane Berger and Carol Hansen Grey have accepted the role of newsletter co-editors following the retirement of editor Gary Carr who helped launch our village and promote it through the publication of our monthly newsletter for over three years! Thank you, Gary, for your hard work and devoted service to Clayton Valley Village. It takes two editors to fill your shoes!!

Our Village Voice will feature articles of interest and a variety of monthly columns written by our members and volunteers. We hope you will find them enjoyable and informative.

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CVV Board Members

Sonja Wilkin, President

Jim Whitfield, Past President

Sue Manning, Secretary



**Thank you, Gary
for your hard work
and devoted service to
Clayton Valley Village.
It takes two editors
to fill your shoes!**

Joanne Wasak, Treasurer
Diane Berger
Fiona Hughes
Kathy Geddes
Pete Bardea
Neil Brennan

President's Message



by Sonja Wilkin

Congratulations to Carol Hansen Grey and Diane Berger as they begin their term as Co-Editors of our monthly newsletter. We thank Gary Carr immensely for his diligent and constant hard work through **The Villager**, informing members, volunteers and “the world” on all aspects of Clayton Valley Village since November 2014. I will use my own “corner” to convey what seems important to me at the moment and for the future...

My interest in the Village Movement began in 2013 and has continued to this day. It struck the right chord for me when I saw how Villages can help people remain in their own homes, with help when

needed, while enjoying varied activities with others in the community. Our Clayton Valley area is greatly enhanced by having our Village which started with a small hardworking and visionary neighborhood group and over the years has expanded and grown into our fun-loving, warm and caring community.

2017 Highlights: Our village officially launched on May 1st and members now submit free service requests from our volunteers. I encourage each member to do so as our screened and trained volunteers are standing by waiting to fill those service requests! Our CVV calendar was filled with mixers, bocce ball, fundraisers, programs, involvement in Clayton's July 4th parade and other local organizations' events.

2018 Highlights: A very active and talented Board of Directors took office January 1st; our calendar is filling up with events and programs; and new interest groups (circles) are forming. Our many committees are in place but still welcome additional members and volunteers. We will continue to work closely with neighboring Villages in the Bay Area, as well as others in California and across the country. I am so proud that we are part of this wonderful national movement!

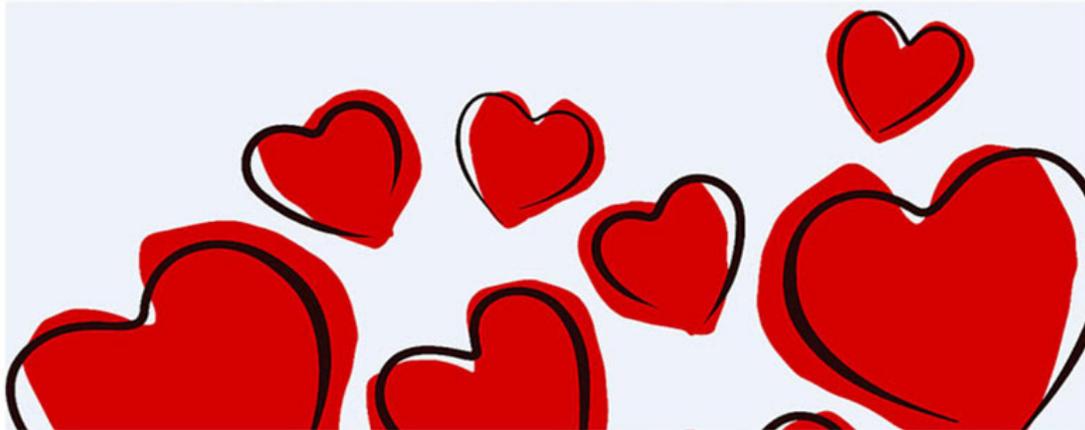
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[Click here for further information on our upcoming events.](#)

February

2018

CVV Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 CVV Spring League Bocce Time: 10:00am	2 Rachel Dunn Chocolate Experience Time: 1:00 PM	3 CVV Volunteer Training Session Time: 10:30 PM
4	5	6 CVV Board Meeting Time: 3:00pm	7 Savvy Senior Living - Tax, Legal & Financial Issues Time: 10:am	8	9	10
11	12	13 CVV Member Service Meeting Time: 12:15pm	14 Valentine's Day 	15 CVV Tech Meeting Time: 10:am	16	17
18 President's Day 	19	20 CVV Mixer Place: Inca Grill Time: 4:00 PM	21	22	23 CVV Events Committee Meeting Time: 1:00pm	24
25	26	27	28			

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[Click here for further information on our upcoming events.](#)

Past Events

CVV Member, Joanne Wasak, hosted our holiday party on Dec. 29 for members and volunteers at her beautiful home in Clayton.



2017 Clayton Valley Village Holiday Party

JANUARY 16th MIXER The Pavillion Bar & Grill



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Adopt a Family



by Fiona Hughes

For the second year running, St. Bonaventure Church and Clayton Valley Village (CVV) teamed up for the Adopt-a-Family program to give back to the community and ensure a local family in need has a happy holiday. The Ahmadi family were the appreciative recipients of wrapped gifts for each family member, as well as money gifted by CVV. Making like Santa and delivering a trunk full of gifts to the Ahmadi family's Concord home on December 21 was Jim Whitfield, CVV past president, Fiona Hughes, CVV volunteer, and Sandy Fogarty, member of St. Bonaventure and dear friend of the Ahmadi family.

Sandy's close relationship with the Ahmadi family started when St. Bonaventure members and Family-to-Family Ministry began helping and supporting the family on their 2016 arrival in the United States as refugees from war-torn Afghanistan, with a price on their heads from the Taliban. Since arriving in the U.S., the father of the family, Najib, has been indebted to the sponsorship and help that St. Bonaventure Church members provide and grateful for the generous donations from the Adopt-a-Family program.

Najib is highly motivated to provide a better life for his family and has recently secured work as a security officer in San Francisco. He speaks multiple languages, is driven to support his growing family, and is on his way to becoming fully self-sufficient. His wife, Zainab, is taking English lessons at DVC which is building her confidence in speaking English.

Najib, responding to the outpouring of holiday gifts, thanked us and added, "We are speechless for the many blessings shown to us and the help this provides to our family. Our children are thriving, we have a baby on the way, and our family is very happy now. And even our 5-year-old now corrects *my* English!" ***Thanks to all members of Clayton Valley Village and St. Bonaventure Church for making the Adopt-a-Family program another great success this year!***



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My Service Request Experience



by Sue Manning

Being a founding member of Clayton Valley Village and working on the task force for 3-4 years, I have been well-aware of the various services available to me. But, perhaps like you, I have been hesitant to put in a service request because I don't want to be an imposition.

Well, I recently decided to "impose" because two of my smoke detectors started chirping, meaning the batteries needed to be changed. My husband can no longer get up on a step-stool and reach for the ceiling, and this was a household job he always tackled. I put in a service request and was so pleased with the quick response from Jim. It would have been very unpleasant if those smoke detectors "chirped" in the middle of the night!

Jim not only changed seven smoke alarm batteries within a 10-15 minute time-frame, but he also educated me about smoke alarm detectors. Did you know they are only good for so many years? And then the whole thing needs to be replaced, not just the battery. He also wrote the date on the new batteries so we would know when they were installed next time we needed them checked or changed. It may seem like a small thing, but it was actually a big deal to have a caring volunteer from our own neighborhood come into our home to give us a hand. Thank you, Jim, and to all the CVV volunteers! We love our volunteers!



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Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

Clayton Valley Village has a number of standing committees that meet on a regular basis. These include: Finance, Governance, Member Services (*member promotion, interest groups, service providers, volunteer coordination, expansion, training*), Nominating, Outreach (*communications, newsletter, promotion presentations, advocacy, events*). Our Ad Hoc Committees include: Communications, Events, Fundraising/Business Plan, Newsletter, Promotion, Publicity, Technical/Website, Volunteer Coordination/Training. Below is a report from the Events Committee:

The Events Committee Report by Sonja Wilkin

This committee was formed 4 years ago and has been responsible for putting together an enormous array of events in order to provide wonderful social activities and raise funds with specific events throughout our Development Phase and now into our Open Phase.

We initiated Monthly Mixers at various locales in Clayton and South Concord, usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 4:00-6:00 pm.

We have had six fundraisers including four **Sunday Suppers and Silent Auctions** at La Veranda each Fall, the **Taste of Spring—Wine and Art Fundraiser** at Oakhurst Country Club and a **Bingo Night** at Oakmont, Montecito.

The Events team also coordinated the preparations and refreshments for our quarterly **Lunch 'n Learn** programs, for our **Launch Event** on May 1st and for **Annual Meeting** in November. We have come up with many ideas for day trips and have plans for additional activities.

The committee meets on the last Friday of the month between 1-3 pm and welcomes anyone to our hardworking team! We enjoy our meetings and the satisfaction of pitching in to make sure our events run smoothly.

I am looking for a new Events Chair or Co-Chair to head this very important Committee for Clayton Valley Village. Please contact me directly for more information. (Sonja - [925-672-2689](tel:925-672-2689))

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Affinity Interest Circles

Clayton Valley Village has formed two types of Affinity Interest Circles: **Open Circles** that are available to members as well as non-members and **Closed Circles** that are available



only to members. Examples of Open Circles are: Movie Circle, Bocce Ball Circle and Reading Circle. Examples of Closed Circles are Book Club, Bowling, Creative Writing Circle.



Movie Circle Activities

by Jeanne Boyd



The Movie Group has been very busy in January. In the last week of December we tried to see the *Shape of Water* not realizing that the theaters were packed during this last holiday week. Only one of us got to see the above movie. Reserved seats are now almost a requirement with the new cushy recliner seats. So most of us went to see *All the Money in the World*, the story of the kidnapping of J. Paul Getty's grandson. Christopher Plummer did an excellent job as Getty stepping in for Kevin Spacey. (*Need I say more!*)

The next film we saw was *Darkest Hour* in which Gary Oldman plays Churchill in the early days of WWII. Both the movie and the performance were outstanding! This time, instead of going to Pleasant Hill, we went to the Walnut Creek theater and were pleasantly surprised to find the old type seats and cheaper prices (\$7 instead of \$9.25).

The Post was our final film for January on Tuesday the 23rd. Moving into February, no movies have been chosen yet but I am always open to suggestions. We'd love for you to join our circle.

FYI! We always carpool and if needed will arrange for pickup of non-drivers.

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Our Village Voice is a free, electronic publication of Clayton Valley Village.

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