

Casta Courier

castadelsol.com

The Official Publication of The Casta del Sol Homeowners Association



Keeping Casta Facilities Up to Date

By Liz Rickett, photos by Fred Lake



Colorful cushions and umbrellas at Rec Ctr 1



Replastered pool and spa at Rec Ctr 1

The Facilities Committee has been busy during the first part of 2024 with numerous projects designed to keep Casta del Sol up to date. As you walk or drive in Casta, you will note various completed projects, each of which has

enhanced our community. At Rec Ctr 1, the pool and spa were refurbished, and new cushions and umbrellas were installed. There are new tables, benches, shade

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The Reserve Committee: A Key Element of the Budget

By Liz Rickett, photo by Fred Lake

Casta del Sol is a community with a unique decision-making structure. There are 10 committees, made up of resident homeowners, who report to the Board of Directors. These committees gather information that they provide to the Board so that decisions can be made to benefit the community.

The Reserve Committee exists to ensure that the community has enough funds in the Reserve Fund to maintain the 204 components that make up the Reserve Study. This includes repair and replacement or enhancement of these components, which include big items like spas and pools and smaller items like chairs and umbrellas.

By achieving this goal, the HOA does not need to levy a special assessment on all homeowners for a major repair. The HOA prides itself in the fact there

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Reserve Committee members: Bryan Spafford, Chair Randy Thompson, Nancy Cunningham, Pam Rhodes, Barry Silverman - show their belief that each dollar in Reserve funds is important

Calling All Casta Artisans and Holiday Gift Seekers!

By Parizad Sethna, photo by Fred Lake

The Holiday Boutique is just around the corner so get ready to have a great time at this Casta del Sol yearly community event. The two-day extravaganza will take place on October 4-5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days in the Vista Room.

This is an opportunity for Casta artisans to show and sell their creations. Artisans may reserve a table beginning Friday, September 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Rec Ctr 1. Spots fill up

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Festive Finds: Unique treasures await

September: Ahoy Me Hearties

By Evelyn Rothert

Shiver me timbers! Did you know that September 19 is *International Talk Like a Pirate Day*? On Grandparents Day, which is September 11, I will definitely have to spend time with my grandchildren and teach them a bounty of pirate phrases, so they can annoy their parents.

Okay, back to business. The word September comes from the Latin word

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's Message

John Nethercutt,
President



Personnel changes are normal in every organization and there is a myriad of reasons why they happen. We are currently witnessing and participating in the most significant personnel change in the world, the office of president and vice president of the United States. We have our own mini-election changes in Casta del Sol annually with the election of new Board Directors. Many changes are mandated by governing documents. However, the majority of personnel changes are due to decisions made by employers or employees.

Powerstone, the company that we employ to manage the day-to-day HOA operations, has had five Casta del Sol personnel changes just in the last few months. Reasons range from health, family movement from California, retirement, seeking new opportunities, etc. Although it may be sad not to see those familiar faces, change can be an extremely positive factor in the operation of an organization, as I am sure we have all witnessed in our working life.

Here are some examples of how new team members can benefit Casta:

- **Improved Efficiency and Productivity:** When new team members join, fresh perspectives and skills can enhance overall efficiency. New employees may bring innovative ideas, leading to streamlined processes and increased productivity.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Personnel changes provide opportunities for skill development. New team members can learn from existing employees, fostering a culture of continuous learning and growth.
- **Enhanced Diversity:** Bringing in new talent diversifies the workforce, leading to a broader range of perspectives, creativity, and problem-solving approaches.

So, when you see a new face in the office or out while you are using the amenities, say hi and welcome them with a smile. It may be a new employee or even a new neighbor.

Manager's Report

Marilyn Smith,
General Manager



New Maintenance Supervisor

John Vogel has been hired as the new maintenance supervisor for Casta del Sol. Please note this is not a new staff position. John will be replacing Ed Pedroncelli. Staff is excited to have John join your hardworking onsite team. Please feel free to say hi and introduce yourself when you see him.

New Recreation Services Coordinator

Lynette Vargas has been hired as the new recreation coordinator for Casta del Sol. Please note this is not a new staff position. Lynette will be replacing Evelyn Okura who resigned after working 32+ years at CdS. Evelyn will be sorely missed by our onsite team and we wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors during retirement. Staff is happy to have Lynette join the Recreation staff. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Lynette.

Staffing

There have been many rumors circulating in the community about new staff positions. The only new staff position that has currently been authorized/added by the Board of Directors is Landscape Administrative Assistant Cindy Van Patten who started in February of this year.

We understand change can be scary, but it can also be good and present new opportunities.

The number of requests/concerns/questions/work orders submitted by residents has grown substantially as the community has aged. These items all require a response, many requiring research or action by staff. We would encourage residents to send their requests directly to the appropriate team member that oversees their area of concern.

- Maintenance requests/concerns to ktompkins@powerstonepm.com or jvogel@powerstonepm.com.
- Landscape/Irrigation/Slope/Tree concerns/requests to cvanpatten@powerstonepm.com or bthornton@powerstonepm.com.
- Recreation Center requests/concerns to vhanich@powerstonepm.com.

Emails sent to other team members including the GM will be rerouted

Casta del Sol HOA - Board of Directors -

President:	John Nethercutt	Directors:	Jayne Freed
Vice President:	Karen Warren		Brian McDonald
Treasurer:	Susan Ashby		Linda Silverman
Secretary:	Shelly Lethiot		

Procedure for contacting CdS' Board of Directors (see page 3): Email Marilyn Smith at msmith@powerstonepm.com or Susan Wadsley at swadsley@powerstonepm.com.

For *Courier* staffing contact information, please see page 26.

The Casta Courier is published monthly by the Casta del Sol Homeowners Association. The mailing address is 27651 Casta del Sol Drive, Mission Viejo, Calif. 92692. Deadline for submitting material for the next month is the 6th of each month.

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to the appropriate staff member for response. Please keep in mind that staff must follow the contracts, rules and regulations as well as the policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. Staff does not make the rules/policies for the Association.

2025 Budget Meeting

Casta del Sol is currently in a budget preparation period for 2025. If you want to hear more about the 2025 budget, please plan on attending the budget meeting on September 23. An eblast with login information will be sent out closer to the meeting. We would encourage all property owners to attend.

Marilyn Smith
msmith@powerstonepm.com

Landscape Notes

Bill Thornton,
Landscape Services
Coordinator



Casta del Sol residents have for many years lived with rabbit damage to the landscape. The damage is mainly to lawns and low flowering plants at a high dollar cost to repair and replace plants. When the Board of Directors initially investigated the problem, they approved a volunteer owners Pest Control Committee. The committee members spent many hours interviewing pest control companies for a solution to the rabbit problem.

Initially they approved placing live rabbit traps throughout Casta. Rabbits were captured alive and removed from the property. The problem was that if a

rabbit was captured at midnight, they would make loud sounds and caused distress to residents. Another downside was that the traps also captured skunks, opossums, birds, and rats. It was an ineffective method.

The traps were removed, and the Board voted to shoot rabbits. After much staff time working with the Mission Viejo City Council and police department officers, a variance was approved with conditions.

Cal Ag Control, a licensed pest control company, was selected to patrol the community at night with a clearly marked vehicle and calling the on-duty sergeant announcing that they are on the property, also checking in and out with the Gate 1 attendant. The contractor will conform to all conditions of the variance. The gun is an air rifle that shoots pellets approved for this use.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS *Cont'd*

**The Casta del Sol Board meeting minutes are available within two weeks following each meeting on the CdS website, *castadelsol.com*.

Board Meeting Highlights July 18 and August 1, 2024

July 18, 2024

The Board:

- Approved the delinquency report and the recording of liens on two properties for the total amount of \$3,553.36.
- Approved the replacement of the lighting in the Library and Annex areas at Rec Ctr 1 by One Plus Electric for a not to exceed cost of \$9,234.50.
- Approved the replacement of the fire pit low voltage system including burner rings ignition system in two fire pits at Rec Ctr 1 for a total not to exceed cost of \$4,946.98.
- Regretfully accepted the resignation of the Ad Hoc Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, Jodie Trainer.
- Approved a community-wide emergency preparedness presentation from the City of Mission Viejo and Orange County Fire Authority.
- Approved the purchase of eight signs noting *private property/no trespassing* from MySafetySign for a not to exceed cost of \$497.25.
- Approved the 2024 termite inspection and treatment from Accurate Termite and Pest Control for \$4,560.
- Approved the tree planting project – phase 1 by O’Connell Landscape for the planting of thirty-four 15-gallon community trees in various locations for a total not to exceed cost of \$6,058.80.
- Approved the turf restoration at Espinoza and Torroba by O’Connell Landscape for installation of new sod, removal of existing sod, application of herbicide, irrigation adjustment, fertilizer and gypsum, grade to level, and final irrigation inspection for a total not to exceed cost of \$13,903.18.
- Approved a contract with PD Transport Inc. dba as Southside Towing.
- Authorized staff to send a Request for Proposal to three landscape contractors for the renovation of two interior slopes at El Greco and Alava and Las Casas at Alava. The bid request should include Amelia Herndon-Steen’s slope design and plant palette.
- Approved a property owner’s request for reimbursement for the cost of replacing the concrete patio, required swale, and labor due to common area tree roots lifting and cracking the homeowner’s patio in the amount of \$4,533.
- Approved having staff add budget line item year-to-date balances on agenda items.
- Approved adding the HOA’s *Policies and Procedures* to the Casta del Sol website.

August 1, 2024

The Board:

- Approved the delinquency report and the recording of a lien on one property in the amount of \$2,211.34.
- Approved termite repairs from Accurate Termite and Pest Control in the amount of \$29,510.
- Approved entering into a preventive maintenance agreement with Coast Fitness and approved the purchase of a replacement treadmill from Coast Fitness at a cost of \$3,580.20.

The next regular meetings of the Board of Directors will be held **September 5 at 9 a.m. and September 19 at 1 p.m. in the Vista Room.**

Fran Morgan, Courier staff

**For a copy of the July 2024 Treasurer’s Report, refer to *castadelsol.com*, Recreation Center bulletin boards, and/or eblasts.

July Treasurer’s Report

Total HOA Assets as of July 31, 2024: \$9,758,623

• **Operating Cash: \$2,136,345**

This includes \$272,063 in checking, \$361,048 invested in a money market account, and \$1,500,000 invested in CDs.

• **Reserve Cash: \$6,412,736**

This includes \$479,766 invested in a money market account and \$6,200,000 invested in CDs. Two CDs for \$400,000 matured in July and we invested \$600,000 in three new CDs. Also included in the balance is interest receivable of \$86,409 and Due to Operating of \$353,439. Reserve expenditures in July were \$181,933 which includes house painting, asphalt testing, and taxes.

• **Capital Improvement Cash: \$508,330**

This includes \$352,668 in cash and \$200,000 in a CD. This balance includes \$44,364 Due to Operating. There were no Capital expenditures in July.

• **Outstanding Accounts Receivable (A/R): \$93,753**

Allowance for Bad Debts is \$44,296. Allowance for Bad Debts is an estimate of receivables that will not be paid. The Allowance is adjusted Quarterly (March, June, September, December) and is equal to outstanding receivable balances over 91 days.

The following are highlights of our Operating expenses as of July 31:

- **General & Administration** has a YTD positive variance of \$97,963 due to low activity in several accounts: legal fees, printing, and salaries. **Bad Debt** expense is \$10,826 higher than budget.
- **Land Maintenance** has a YTD positive variance of \$51,396. This is a big decrease from last month. There are large negative variances in the areas of Irrigation Repair and Maintenance and Tree Removals.
- **Recreation, Repairs and Maintenance, and Traffic Control** have a combined positive variance of \$23,287.
- The following have Year-to-Date positive variances: **Utilities:** \$161,509; **Water:** \$122,342; **Gas:** \$21,054; **Trash:** \$7,333; **Electricity:** \$6,418.

Treasurer’s Comments:

The Year-to-Date (YTD) surplus is \$490,802, but the YTD budget to actual surplus is \$373,577 which is a decrease from June. The surplus is primarily due to the large positive variances in General and Administration, Land Maintenance, and Utilities.

*Respectfully submitted by Susan G. Ashby,
Casta del Sol Board of Directors, Treasurer*

Contacts for Communicating HOA Requests or Concerns

For requests/concerns please use the following contacts:

- Maintenance to *ktompkins@powerstonepm.com* or *jvogel@powerstonepm.com*;
- Landscape/Irrigation/Slope/Tree to *cvanpatten@powerstonepm.com* or *bthornton@powerstonepm.com*;
- Recreation Center to *vhanich@powerstonepm.com*.
- Board of Directors to *msmith@powerstonepm.com* or *swadsley@powerstonepm.com*

Note: Individual Directors cannot speak on behalf of the entire Board. Communications will either be sent to the Board for their review or included in a future Board packet.

ASSOCIATION NEWS *Cont'd*

Maintenance Report

John Vogel,
Maintenance
Services Supervisor



Whether you are running a large corporation, trying to win the Super Bowl, or just coordinating dinner with your spouse, they all hinge on one thing for success: communication. In the short time I've been at Casta del Sol, I've seen requests to fix breaks, leaks, drips, dents, squeaks, and cracks throughout the community. We have an incredibly skilled team that I believe could take on any issue our department could face, and being able to communicate the exact issue and the needed repair allows us to solve problems as soon as possible.

The old adage of "See something, say something" still rings true as we work hard to keep CdS beautiful and functioning, and we rely on community members to report issues to our department as soon as possible. Here are my tips for fast and effective communication for any issues that may arise.

- Email will always be faster than a phone call.

- Clear, concise messages listing the issue and location help us immensely. Extra credit if you can send in a photo as well.

- You have your choice of emailing either myself at jvogel@powerstonepm.com or Maintenance Coordinator Katie Tompkins at ktompkins@powerstonepm.com.

- If an email is not an option, you can head into our office located at Rec Ctr 1 and fill out a Maintenance/Custodial Work Request form listing the issue and its location.

You will see me walking around the community, so please feel free to introduce yourself.

*John Vogel, (949) 215-9155,
jvogel@powerstonepm.com,
Katie Tompkins, (949) 455-4671,
Maintenance Coordinator,
ktompkins@powerstonepm.com*

Landscape Notes

Continued from page 2

The 24-month variance, again approved by the City Council, started July 10, 2024 and ends July 2026.

*Bill Thornton, (949) 455-4672,
bthornton@powerstonepm.com
Cindy Van Patten, (949) 215-3146,
Landscape Administrative Assistant,
cvanpatten@powerstonepm.com*

Join Us In Welcoming Our New Residents - August 2024



Wade, Michael & Doreen
28371 Alava
(949) 322-3339

Shepherd, James & Melinda
28131 Espinoza
(513) 550-3675, (513) 549-7437

Elder, Deborah
28078 Espinoza
(562) 706-0046

Farhat, Taher "Tedd" &
Nobui, Hiroko
23871 Villena
Unlisted

Huffner, Diana
23311 El Greco
(541) 280-7961

Tukahashi, Roger & Debbie
28182 Alava
(949) 632-7137, (949) 637-7939

Sikes, Ken & Gladys
Unlisted
(562) 400-8806

Badilla, Jose & Yvette Acosta
Unlisted
(714) 313-5074

Morford, Paul & Marjorie
28151 Manchuca
(949) 280-9839

Cruse, Thomas & Peggy
27820 Espinoza
(760) 855-2254

Minor, Chris & Beth
Unlisted
(657) 245-8727

Dodge, Joseph "Jody" &
Jones, Joanne "Jody"
Unlisted
(310) 266-8790

Eckles, Flo
Unlisted
(949) 677-5991

Simms, Kyoko
Unlisted
(917) 710-8305

Vancura, Kathy
28051 Via Tirso
(959) 201-9879

Ross, Annmarie
27932 Via Granados
(702) 349-3703

Directory Change

Stover, Valorie
28496 Pacheco
(949) 939-1300

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Roadwork Within Casta

What to expect when your streets are being refurbished:

If you live on a street where the roads are either going to have a seal coat, mill and overlay, or full depth reclamation, make sure you are prepared for some inconveniences.

- Between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., the roads during the week will be closed to the people who live on the street. You will need to park your car on another surface street and walk to it when you need to use it. Before and after those times, you can park your car in your garage or driveway.
- Some work is also done on the weekends, but they usually allow people to drive their cars to and from their homes.
- On Wednesdays, you need to have your trash containers out on your cul-de-sac by 6 a.m. because they will empty your carts before 7 a.m.
- Mail delivery will continue to your mailboxes, but it may be at different times – early or later in the day.



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27719 Calle Valdas
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28458 Buena Vista
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
2191 Square Feet
Custom Manterary W/Loft Floorplan
Sold For \$1,030,000
Sold on 8/12/2024



27862 Torroba
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1472 Square Feet
Narciso Floorplan
Sold For \$880,000
Sold on 6/27/2024



28456 Borgona
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1495 Square Feet
Narciso Floorplan
Sold For \$860,000
Sold on 6/20/2024



28566 Cano
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1295 Square Feet
Violeta Floorplan
Sold for \$920,000
Sold on 6/20/24



28331 Yanez
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1295 Square Feet
Violeta Floorplan
Sold For \$842,000
Sold on 6/10/2024



27871 Via Prados
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1287 Square Feet
Dona Floorplan
Sold For \$830,000
Sold on 6/6/2024

We have had 380 sales in Casta Del Sol

Thank you for your business.



28051 Via Tirso
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1606 Square Feet
Cypress Point Floorplan
Sold For \$895,000
Sold on 6/4/2024



28286 Via Zarza
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1230 Square Feet
Maya Floorplan
Sold For \$850,000
5/10/2024



23552 Villena
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1472 Square Feet
Narciso Floorplan
Sold For \$873,000
Sold on 4/30/2024



28132 Via Bello
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1114 Square Feet
Blanca Floorplan
Sold for \$705,000
Sold on 4/16/2024



27701 Via Rodrigo
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1503 Square Feet
Rosa Floorplan
Sold for \$875,000
Sold on 3/28/2024



27881 Calle Valdes
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1188 Square Feet
Blanca Floorplan
SOLD for \$700,000
Sold on 3/20/2024



23541 Via Ventura
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1563 Square Feet
Juanita Floorplan
SOLD for \$915,000
Sold on 3/8/2024



28272 Yanez
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1472 Square Feet
Narciso Floorplan
SOLD for \$1,050,000
Sold on 2/26/2024



28078 Espinoza
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1410 Square Feet
Maya Floorplan
SOLD for \$770,000
Sold on 2/9/2024



23846 Villena
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1279 Square Feet
Violeta Floorplan
SOLD for \$700,000
Sold on 12/28/2023



27856 Torroba
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
1,503 square feet
Rosa Floorplan
SOLD for \$875,000
Sold on 10/25/2023

ASSOCIATION NEWS *Cont'd*

September: Ahoy Me Hearties

Continued from page 1

“septem,” meaning seven, as it was the seventh out of ten months of the year in the old Roman calendar. Today, it is the ninth month of the year because Julius Caesar decided to add January and February in 46 BCE, to form the Julian Calendar of twelve months.

September, in Old England, was called Haerfest-monath, meaning harvest month. This is the time to gather up the rest of the harvest and prepare for the winter months. The full harvest moon is on September

19, followed by the first day of fall on September 22. I’m sure we will all be looking forward to the cooler days and fall colors.

Labor Day, the first Monday of the month, is a celebration of laborers/workers. It also marks the ending of the lazy days of summer and the beginning of a new school year for some and many sports activities.

Have a lovely month enjoying a clap of thunder while watching the leaves fall.

The Reserve Committee: A Key Element of the Budget

Continued from page 1

has never been a special assessment in the more than 50 years of its existence.

The Reserve Fund is the most equitable way to spread the cost of maintaining the community across the years and among the members while they reside in Casta. Currently about 27% of the monthly assessment goes to the Reserve Fund. Industry standard states homeowners should contribute 15-40% of the monthly assessment to the Reserve Fund. Our 27% falls in the middle of that standard.

The Committee has nine owner/members, supported by three members of the Powerstone Property Man-

agement staff. These nine members include a Reserve Committee chair and two leaders from each of the following committees: Facilities, Greenbelt, Traffic, and Budget/Finance.

Randy Thompson is the current chair of the Reserve Committee. Nancy Cunningham and Lisa Shoemaker are the longest serving members on the committee.

Asked about the importance of the Reserve Committee, Chair Randy Thompson replied that it watches over each dollar Casta receives and each dollar it spends. Pam Rhodes indicated that it makes sure that Casta’s facilities are maintained and enhanced.

Calling All Casta Artisans and Holiday Gift Seekers!

Continued from page 1

fast, so don’t miss out.

Calling all shoppers! Are you looking for a holiday, birthday or special occasion handmade gift? Well, look no further. Casta’s Holiday Boutique

has it all. There are treasures for everyone who is looking for a one-of-a-kind, handmade, and unique gift.

Mark your calendars and let’s make this holiday season a time to remember. Any questions? Contact Carol Favreau at (714) 470-8181.



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ASSOCIATION NEWS *Cont'd*

Keeping Casta Facilities Up to Date

Continued from page 1

covering, and other updates next to the Paddle Tennis Courts, and a new driving cage at the Chippers area. The deteriorated fencing near Gate 1 was replaced with aluminum fencing that will wear better and longer.

Not one to sit on its laurels, the Facilities Committee is busy with plans for the remodel of Ceramics/Arts and Crafts and Fiesta Rooms, to include space planning. The Committee is working with the Architecture and Traffic Committees on new cul-de-sac signs.

Not one to sit on its laurels, the Fa-



New shade structure, tables, and umbrellas by Paddle Tennis

Board Meeting Minutes

The Casta del Sol Board minutes of their two meetings per month are available about two weeks after each meeting on our website, castadelsol.com. If you are unable to attend a Board meeting or watch it on Zoom, then you can read the minutes and be up-to-date with current information about CdS.



New driving cage at Chippers area



Replaced fencing by Gate 1





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Christina gave us professional insight and advice about our home and the local Real Estate market. She knew exactly what to set the price of our home and received multiple offers in a few days after putting our home on the market. She gave us efficient, energetic and professional service. It was a very smooth and easy transactions throughout the process.

Any questions we had, Christina gave us a quick response back. We highly recommend Christina for all your Real Estate needs.

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COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Architectural

Since this is a presidential election year, election materials abound with November 5 just over two months away. In Casta del Sol, there are guidelines for where and when political signs and banners may be displayed:

1. Political signs may be placed in the foundation area of a home and may not be larger than nine square feet.

2. Political signs are not permitted in common areas.

3. Political banners may not be larger than 15 square feet.

4. Political materials may be in place no more than 45 days before election day and must be removed no later than five calendar days after election day.

The purpose of having these guidelines is to avoid having election materials displayed for an excessive amount of time both before and after the election.

As always, the Architectural Committee strives to keep the community looking as good as possible for all of us. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. We review applications for exterior modifications on Fridays at 10 a.m.

Residents are welcome to join us.

Priscilla Tripp, Chair,
ptripp1@gmail.com
Fred Wilmott, Vice Chair,
wilmott@cox.net

Budget and Finance

Budget request forms for the 2025 Operating Account were due back from committee chairs and staff by August 15. We began our preliminary budget review of the 2025 draft budget at our August 26 meeting.

The Budget and Finance Committee meets regularly on the third Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Vista Room. Our next meeting will be on September 16 for a final budget review before submitting the 2025 Budget to the Board. A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled for September 23 to discuss the draft 2025 budget. Committee chairs will be present to discuss their budgets. You are encouraged to attend these meetings to give you an understanding of how the process works and the reasoning for the budgeted amounts. Please look for eblasts with additional details about these meetings.

Lisa Shoemaker, Chair,
(949) 305-6336

Courier

The *Courier* Committee is so excited to have a new look for our newsletter. Thanks to committee member Jeff McCoy for the design and Farmer Publications for executing it. We are also considering font changes and perhaps format changes to update the look of the *Courier*.

Thank you to all the club leaders and committee chairs who have helped us the past two years with our focused club and committee articles. As always, let us know if there is anything happening in your club, activity, or committee that you would like featured in the *Courier*.

The *Courier* Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fiesta Room.

Debra Friedman, Chair,
debrafriedman0@gmail.com

Facilities

The Facilities Committee monitors several projects under contract and in progress. Update to the Rec Ctr 2 pool/spa/shower is proceeding with the addition of an emergency shut-off switch for the spa, new coping, new tile, depth markers, and lane and step markers. Asphalt paving this year

includes Borgona and four cul-de-sacs, and Ribalta and all cul-de-sacs. Approximate schedule is September/October. Information will be mailed to homes affected by the paving. The Library will be updated with new lighting, the ignition system in Rec Ctr 1 fire pits will be replaced, and a treadmill in the Fitness Center will be replaced.

Items in progress include an update of the Fiesta and Ceramics/Arts and Crafts Rooms, update of shade covers over benches at Lawn Bowling, working with design firms on reviewing Association amenities, replacement of fencing at Chipper area and Vegetable Garden, replacing lights in the Vista Room kitchen, and possible purchase of a storage container.

Capital items under review include adding swing gates at the exit, pedestrian gates and exit gates at Gate 1, and adding covers over the pool equipment.

Signs are posted at the Chipper area about driving golf balls. Golf balls have been found in the Heritage Garden, Paddle Tennis Court, Vegetable Garden, and the Oso Creek Trail. Use the driving cage to hit long drives.

The Facilities Committee meets on

Continued on page 9

Claire Cho DDS

Dr. Claire Cho & Dr. Alyssa Kim

COMPLIMENTARY FREE EXAM
FOR NEW SENIOR PATIENT

At Dr. Claire Cho's office, we understand the unique dental needs of our senior community. Our dedicated team is here to provide gentle, personalized care that ensures your comfort and health.

- **Comprehensive care:** From routine cleanings to advanced treatments like cosmetic veneers, dental implants, dentures, and gum care, we offer a full range of services tailored to your needs.
- **Comfort First:** Our friendly staff and calming environment make every visit pleasant and stress-free
- **Experienced with Senior Care:** Drs. Claire Cho and Alyssa Kim and the team bring 35 years of expertise and experience treating older adults. We take the time to listen and address your concerns.
- **Convenient Location:** easy access for residents of our elderly home community with flexible appointment scheduling

Dr. Cho is a wonderful, professional and very gentle dentist. The entire staff treated me as if I was the only person in their care. Dr. Cho and everyone in the office took their time and kept me calm. I have never had a more gentle and careful dentist in my life. I highly recommend Dr. Cho! My 82 year old mother and 9 year old daughter also see Dr Cho and they love her. I can't say enough good things. I hope you enjoy the same level of service that I have in her care.
- Cristy Gardner



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COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD *Cont'd*

Facilities

Continued from page 8

the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in the Fiesta Room. Stop by and learn what is happening in maintaining and updating amenities, buildings, streets, and many other projects.

*Nancy Cunningham, Chair,
(949) 350-3562*

Greenbelt

The Board of Directors approved three Greenbelt recommendations at the July 18 Board meeting: an RFP for the Las Casas and El Greco slope renovations project; the planting of 34 community trees by O'Connell along the Torroba greenbelt area including the removal of eight trees; a second Turf Restoration project along Espinoza and Torroba (ten homes in all). At the August 15 Board meeting, the Board was scheduled to review the Turf Transformation project (Turf Rebate) along Unamundo, Pedrell, and Via Ventura; the Artificial Turf Policy; the Tree Management Policy; and the rescinding of the temporary hold on the installation of artificial turf.

The committee is working on finalizing the 2024 Greenbelt Rules and Regulations. The committee will be discussing the Espinoza Open Space Community Improvement Project, Phase 1. If the committee and the Board approve phase 1, there will be two additional phases set for 2025. The first phase of the project does not involve any planting or trees, only preparation of the land. That area has a total of 28,700 square feet of undeveloped land.

Please attend any Greenbelt Committee meeting and keep up with the news for your community. Owner comments are always welcome. You can speak to any agenda item towards the beginning or end of the meeting. Please be aware that Greenbelt Committee meetings may last over two hours. The next committee meeting will take place in the Fiesta room on September 10 at 9 a.m.

*Randy Gish, Chair,
gishra@sbcglobal.net*

Library

New Additions to the Library

Regular Print:

A Death in Cornwall, Daniel Silva

All the Colors of the Dark,

Chris Whitaker

Eruption,

Michael Crichton, James Patterson

Husbands and Lovers,

Beatriz Williams

Resurrection, Danielle Steel

Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Shadow,

Brian Freeman

Roctogenarians,

Mo Rocca, Jonathan Greenberg

The Black Bird Oracle,

Deborah Harkness

The Briar Club, Kate Quinn

The Bright Sword, Lev Grossman

The Cliffs, J. Courtney Sullivan

The God of the Woods, Liz Moore

The Lost Story, Meg Shaffer

Large Print:

A Grave Robbery, Deanna Raybourn

Flashpoint, Catherine Coulter

London Falling, Chanel Cleeton

Shanghai, Joseph Kanon

Some Murders in Berlin,

Karen Robards

The Glassmaker, Tracy Chevalier

The Hollywood Assistant, May Cobb

Audio:

The Rom-Commers, Katherine Center

Westport, James Comey

*Sheila Kessler, Vice Chair,
Rskessler2@gmail.com*

Traffic

By the time you read this, new signs should be installed at Gates 1 and 2. Gate 1 has a sign to the side of the exit lane just before leaving the gated area with the universal traffic graphic for a pedestrian crossing and below it the word *AHEAD*. This is a much larger sign than the crosswalk signs the city installed and it is an earlier visual reminder to drivers leaving the community. The second group of signs is along Albeniz leading into Gate 2. They consist of *NO PARKING ENTIRE BLOCK, unauthorized vehicles towed at vehicle owner's expense*, and have the universal traffic graphic of a vehicle attached to a tow truck being towed away. A second sign states *PRIVATE PROPERTY, NO PUBLIC PARKING, NO TRESPASSING, vehicles will be towed at owner's expense, CVC22658, PC 602, OCSA 949.770.6011#9, Southside Towing (949) 631-9696*. All the code number references and contracted towing company information must be displayed on the sign for rule enforcement. Albeniz has been a particular problem with the opening of the Oso Creek Trail and the summer concerts

in the tunnel. The city places temporary no parking signs along Albeniz and people simply ignore them and park on the street.

*Lynn Yeazel, Co-Chair,
lyhdtv@gamil.com
Fred Wilmott, Co-Chair,
wilmott@cox.net*

Welcome

Members of the Welcome Committee contact new residents to arrange a meeting and provide a packet of information about activities, clubs, and committees in Casta del Sol and Mission Viejo. We love meeting new members of our community, sharing information, answering various questions, and helping them feel at home. If you have not yet been contacted by a member of the Welcome Committee, please don't hesitate to email me at the address below.

We hope you enjoyed the Casta Newcomers Welcome and Community Fair which was held on August

17. Our committee members enjoyed meeting all who stopped by our table and those we met while wandering around and chatting with attendees. We look forward to contacting those of you who had previously missed a welcome visit but signed up for one at our table. If we missed any new residents who did not have a chance to sign up at the event, please do not hesitate to email me.

We hope you are having a wonderful summer. This time of year is a perfect opportunity to meet and make new friends with your neighbors. The Welcome Committee encourages everyone to get involved. The committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Last month, the New Resident list included seven households (a total of nine residents) who will be contacted by committee members with the goal of setting up visits.

*Linda Galloway, Chair
Gallowaylinda27@gmail.com*

Free Shredding Event

Residents and businesses can bring up to five banker-size boxes worth of paper records for immediate shredding during this free drive-through event at City Hall on **Saturday, October 5 from 9 to 11 a.m.** Proof of residency is required. For more information, email greenmv@cityofmissionviejo.org.



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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Bible Study

Any resident of Casta del Sol who has an interest in participating in the study of the Bible is welcome to join us. This is an active group of folks from different churches. Our studies are varied, but always Bible-oriented. We examine and/or question the study of the day, but always keep the discussion on topics from the Bible. The club meets at Rec Ctr 2 every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for study and prayer. Come and join us as we sing the old hymns. We are a no-dues club. All are welcome. For more information, please contact

Peter Filakouridis at (949) 305-1935.

*Peter & Mary Filakouridis,
mrsfila@gmail.com*

Billiards

Those who have visited our Billiards Room may have noticed that some of our more senior residents play on a regular basis. They know that despite the focus and precision it requires, pool is one of the safest sports in the world. The low risk of physical injury makes it an appealing pastime for all of us. It's also a game steeped in history. Here are some intriguing facts about the sport. Thomas Jefferson was an avid billiards player. The dome on his Monticello estate conceals a

billiard room. Why? Because during Jefferson's time, billiards was illegal in Virginia. Billiards has a long history. The earliest record of a billiard table dates to 1470. During the Civil War, billiards results often received wider coverage than war news. Players were so renowned that cigarette cards featuring them were printed. Tune in next month for the story of a trailblazer in women's billiards.

*Fred Wilmott,
BilliardsCdS@cox.net,
(949) 367-6671*

Bridge

Curious? Explore the world of bridge with us. We play duplicate bridge every Tuesday afternoon from noon to about 3 p.m. in the Garden Room at Rec Ctr 1. Whether you're experienced or just want to learn about rubber or duplicate bridge at Casta del Sol, you're welcome to join us. The Murray Center also offers bridge classes if you're interested in honing your skills. CdS duplicate bridge is unsanctioned by the ACBL.

For more casual rubber/party bridge, visit our group on Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m. We usually play in the Fiesta Room or Garden Room. Please check with the Rec Ctr 1 office for the exact location. We occasionally need substitutes. If you'd like to be a substitute or a regular player, just email me with "bridge" in the subject line or leave me a voicemail; I'm listed in the phone book. Hope to see you there.

*Tim McCoy,
mccoytest@cox.net*

Canine Companions

Here we are in September following one of the hottest summer months on record. How does that affect you and your pooch? Shorter and timelier walks, perhaps? Whatever they are, adjustments are necessary, which brings to mind our future plans and events. Last month we had another successful Hot Dawg Feed. This month on Saturday, September 14 at 4 p.m. in the Lawn Bowling Pavilion will be our Yappy Hour (BYOB). You must RSVP. We will have yummy appetizers. I would like to suggest to all our potential newcomers and those interested in joining that you make it to this get-acquainted event. Come down, bring your beloved best friend (in this case, your dog), and join in the fellowship and enjoyment

of our club. Beer and wine are on the house for newcomers. Dogs must be 18. Until then, enjoy our beautiful surroundings and provide all the love your best pal deserves.

*Tom Brockmiller,
Lindabrock1946@gmail.com,
(949) 412-1083*

Casta Creatives

Don't forget to visit the library/front office to see the paintings of four Casta Creative artists: Jacki Keller, Julie Yates, Susan Stanley, and Bonnie Best. The display will last until the end of September. In October, another of our members, Pam Townsend, will display her artwork.

Our Mosaic workshop in July was lots of fun. The next workshop is Acrylic Pour on September 12. Become a member for only \$10 a year to participate. Each week our members meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays for Open Studio from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Room. Our well attended Wine and Paint event will return on October 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. This is open to all Casta residents. Sign ups will begin on September 30. Don't delay as it's usually sold out. For more information, please contact Jacki Keller at (949) 293-5487.

*Debra Friedman,
debrafriedman0@gmail.com,
(949) 230-7195*

Ceramics

The Ceramics Club would like to welcome two new members: Shirley and Rosa. As for all members, training is available in forming and painting techniques. We have two on-site kilns to fire greenware to bisque and to cure paints and glazes. The Ceramics Club provides an atmosphere to relax and discover your creativity. Please stop by Rec Ctr 1 to observe the club activities.

Shelly Lethiot has resigned as our president due to her election to the HOA Board of Directors. We thank Shelly for her long tenure as an officer. Janet Andrechak will be our new president.

*Janet Andrechak,
andrechakjanet@gmail.com,
(714) 747-3046*

Crafts For Charity

The Craft Ladies of Casta del Sol are continuing to work on journals
Continued on page 11

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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES *Cont'd*

Crafts For Charity

Continued from page 10

and inspirational items for the clients of Laura's House, a shelter and resource center for abused women. We will also be getting started on our holiday season tray favors for the recipients of Meals on Wheels in Mission Viejo, including favors for Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year, and Valentines Day. We welcome new project ideas and seek potential recipients. Stop by when you can and lend a hand. We'd love to meet you. Materials will be supplied, and you'll be shown what to do. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends while helping others. Craft Club meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon in Rec Ctr 2. Meetings this month will be held on September 4 and September 18.

Jessica Hollowell,
(310) 480-9093

Cribbage

Wow, have you ever seen a 29-point hand? We have. Recently Chuck Dishon was the lucky guy who stunned us all, playing poker-faced throughout the hand. In the room that night,

only one player thought they had ever witnessed this phenomenon before. When playing partners, the odds of a 29-point hand are 650,000:1. No doubt this will never happen again here at Casta del Sol, but who knows? If you would like to play, come down to the Heritage Room at Rec Ctr 2 on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you have ever played before, the rules will come flooding back to you. If you are new to cribbage, we will happily teach you. There is no sign up or commitment. If you want more information, contact Susan Herrning.

Susan Herrning,
susanherrning@aol.com,
(949) 630-2565

Democrats

We had a great turnout for our summer postcard parties. For months, we have been writing postcards to people in swing states urging them to register to vote. Our goal is to send 3,000 postcards and we will complete that by election time.

On October 20 at 3 p.m. in the Vista Room, we will have a regular meeting with guest speaker Kevin O'Leary. He is the author of the book *Saving Democracy: A Plan for Real*

Representation in America and is a research fellow at the Center for the Study of Democracy at University of California, Irvine. On September 15, we will have a delegate who attended the Democratic National Convention. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Save the date for our Election Night Taco Party on November 5. If you would like to receive emails, please let me know.

Debra Friedman,
debrafriedman0@gmail.com,
(949) 230-7195

Health & Fitness

We're always advised to eat well, get good sleep, and exercise in order to maximize our senior years. How many times have you thought, "I might be 75 but I feel like I'm still 17." That feeling of vitality can be sustained or gained. It's never too late to learn the secrets of aging well in both body and mind. Join us for a Brain Power Lunch in the Vista Room on Tuesday, September 24. Our visiting experts will talk about the latest research in longevity, what the Blue Zone communities are teaching us, and how we can re-train our brains for a positive mindset. We guarantee

you'll be inspired. The cost is \$5 for the seminar and light lunch which will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign ups begin at Rec Ctr 1 on September 16.

Helen Freedman,
PelicanPost123@yahoo.com,
(646) 662-7325

Heritage Garden

Get your camera ready. September casts a beautiful crimson glow on our Heritage Garden as autumn's gentle embrace begins. Silhouetted against a canvas of fiery orange and soft purple, trees sway gracefully in the afternoon breeze. As twilight descends, the garden transforms into a magical tableau. The bench on Calle Valdes offers a front-row seat to this breathtaking spectacle. As days grow shorter, the garden becomes a tranquil haven. The once vibrant chorus of insects softens to a hushed whisper, replaced by the gentle rustling of leaves. Join us as we embrace the changing seasons and watch the shadows elongate. Not a photographer? No worries. We have captured this beauty in our 2025 calendar which makes the perfect holiday gift. Find it at the Holiday Boutique on October 7 in the Vista Room.

Continued on page 12

The proof is in the numbers.

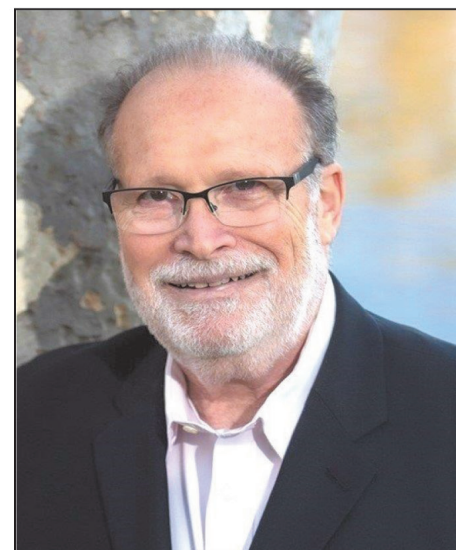
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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES *Cont'd*

Heritage Garden

Continued from page 11

Support the garden and bring a touch of nature home. Your donations make our garden grow for everyone to enjoy. Thank you.

*Parizad Sethna,
parizad9@outlook.com,
(949) 298-007*

Las Damas

Las Damas Club welcomes members and guests to our September luncheon meeting on Wednesday, September 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Vista Room, which will be decorated in patriotic red, white, and blue bunting in honor of 9/11. Table reservations are open until September 8 at Rec Ctr 1. Member tickets are \$25 and non-member tickets are \$30 payable to Las Damas Club. All are welcome; invite a friend. Our luncheon menu features Mandarin orange chicken with steamed rice, vegetable medley, garden salad, rolls, and lemon cream pie. Entertainment following lunch features vocalist Randy Taylor who will delight us with songs from the Great American Songbook, jazz, cabaret, and more. Welcome back from your relaxing summer, as we slip

into our fall and our winter holiday meetings.

*Pat Crowley,
(949) 305-0582*

Mah Jongg Mavens

We play Mah Jongg on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at Rec Ctr 2. Bring the 2024 card and \$3 to play. We are a friendly group and welcome newcomers.

For lessons, starting in September on the Monday and Friday after Labor Day, experienced instructor, Lani Wolff, will schedule four weeks of lessons, two hours each. Email Lani at lanilobo40@gmail.com for details and to register.

Mah Jongg Mavens hold a tournament and potluck lunch on the first Saturday of every month. Bring your card, \$3 to play, and a food item to share.

Winners on August 3: Most Mah Jonggs, Val Ricci; Concealed Hands, Debra Friedman and Ann Loranger; Quints, Madi Jacobson, Myrna Smith, and Jean VanDerford; Jokerless, Linda Clark. No winners in Singles and Pairs. May the Jokers be with you.

*Jean VanDerford,
abutterflylady@cox.net*

Military Veterans

Patriots Day, or Day of Remembrance, is observed on September 11 to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines flight 93. Let's never forget! National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on September 20. To this very day, the veterans of recent past conflicts are supported by the Department of Defense to search for and bring home missing soldiers' remains dating back to WWII.

Our annual potluck will be on September 23. We look forward to a great turnout among our fellow veterans and their spouses/guests. The Casta del Sol Military Veterans Club has great camaraderie. If you haven't joined us for a social event or a formal meeting in CdS yet, please know that all residents who are military veterans are encouraged to attend. We look forward to meeting you.

*Rod Jordan,
rodjy@rodjordan.com,
(714) 746-1158*

Ping Pong

Join us on Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Garden Room for social and competitive play. There is always a table available for newcomers and/or those who need a refresher. In addition, a table will be available for open play on Saturdays until 2 p.m. and most Sundays. All skill levels are welcome. Paddles are available for loan in the Rec Ctr 1 office. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, contact Sherry Hargrove.

*Sherry Hargrove,
(858) 336-5369*

Pinochle

The Pinochle Club meets in the Heritage Room at Rec Ctr 2 every Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. We play six games of pinochle, usually in groups of three, the bidding player against the other two. When we have an even number of players, we sometimes vote to play with partners. In July, Alice McNany, Cathie Joy, and Jane Knesel each had a double pinochle. Cathie Joy and Dawn Hibbs took all the tricks for one hand worth 25 points. Any pinochle player can join us. We welcome players.

*Dawn Hibbs,
idglass@cox.net,
(949) 455-9826*

Republican

Welcome to autumn and the 2024 election season. This will be a busy election season so please save the following date. Our annual Meet the Candidates wine and cheese event will be held on Sunday, October 13 in the Vista Room from 3 to 5 p.m. As usual, we will have a selection of wines and hors d'oeuvres. There will be a sign-up sheet for this event at Rec Ctr 1, and we will also be sending out eblasts with further information. Please come and enjoy a social and informative event.

*Betty Houston,
consultantbetty@gmail.com,
(626) 422-0771*

Social Singles

If you are a Casta del Sol resident who is single, you are invited to join our Singles Club. We have no membership dues. In September, we will be meeting for lunch at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, at Antonucci's in Mission Viejo. To reserve your seat at the table, please RSVP to Carol Kowalsky only at cekewpiel@cox.net by Monday, September 9. To join the group and get on our email list or for more information, please contact Mary Carlson.

*Mary Carlson,
marycarlson28@gmail.com,
(949) 380-0744*

Sol Rock 'n Rollers

Our Under the Stars dinner and dance on August 24 was a great time poolside; lots of fun dancing off the pasta. We thank all who attended. A Night of Jazz with Walter Lakota Jazz Quartet will be on Saturday, September 7 poolside from 7 to 9 p.m. The \$5 cover charge includes two tickets for raffle drawing (BYOB, no glass at the pool). Saturday, October 19, will be our rescheduled Good Morning, Casta Brunch poolside from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The band Calirays will be performing; tickets are \$26. Friday, November 8 will be Ladies Night Out with dancing and munchies from 7 to 9 p.m.; tickets are \$12. More information to follow in Casta eblasts about registering for these events.

*Annie Cabaniss,
Anniecabaniss@gmail.com,
(949) 637-7653*



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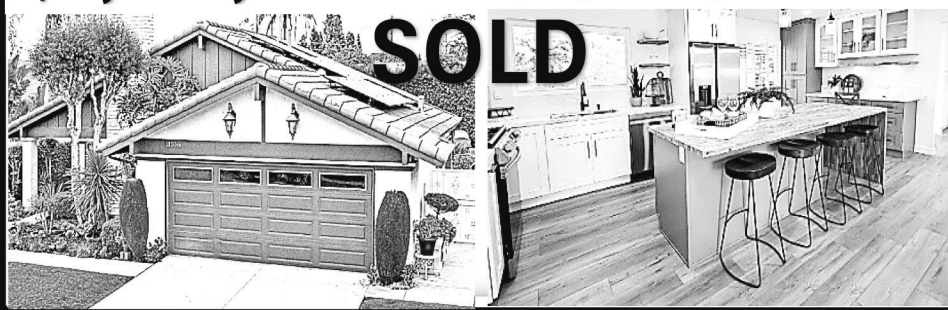


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CLUBS & ACTIVITIES *Cont'd*

Support Group

If you experience grief because of losing a loved one, losing independence due to illness, aging, or caring for a loved one, this is a place for emotional support, sharing experiences, and hearing similar situations. You are not alone on your journey. Come and meet others in similar seasons and situations. We meet twice a month. For more information, contact Kathy Wu.

Kathy Wu,
Kathywu.mv@gmail.com,
(818) 590-8009

Water Exercise

September is one of the most glorious times in the pool. We start our musical workouts at 9 a.m. and they run for about 45 minutes. After the music, you are free to work with noodles, wall exercise, float, or go into the jacuzzi. Even if we have an overcast start, it usually clears up and we have blue skies. Where else can you exercise and help every aspect of your body? We love it; good friends and good times. Join us each Monday through Friday morning at Pool 1. The cost is only \$10 for the entire year. You will need to sign up in the office and

then come and join us for good times. See you at the pool.

Nan Rednall,
nrednall@gmail.com,
(949)-584-4321

Woodworkers

Woodworkers Club members meet weekly to review small wood projects or repair requests from Casta del Sol residents. We are limited in the size of the project and the extent of the repair because we have no woodworking shop within the CdS recreation areas. We are limited to the room in our personal garages to complete the requests.

Club members had a display table along with the other CdS clubs, committees, and activity groups at the recent Newcomers Welcome and Community Fair. We met many new residents. Some of the residents expressed an interest in our work and possibly joining our club. Woodworkers meet Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the Rec Ctr 1 Arts and Crafts Room across from the Vista Room. Drop by if you have a wood project, repair request, or if you are interested in our activities.

Steve Vallely,
(714) 595-5766

Bulletin Board

Please see club reports for more information.



Cover to Cover - Book Group #1

The September selection for our book group is *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. This award-winning story describes the unlikely bond between two brothers, who are freedmen, and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever. We meet on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Casta del Sol Library. Contact Amy Lake at (516) 263-7941 or Arlake225@gmail.com.



Quilters Group

Join us from 1 to 4 p.m. on September 12 and September 26 in the Garden Room at Rec Ctr 1. We are not a club, we have no dues, and we welcome all who enjoy needle art. Contact Victoria Crayne at (949) 587-1853.



Yarn Art Group

Join our friendly yarn craft group! We meet every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Garden Room at Rec Ctr 1. It's open to everyone; no dues or fees required. Contact Teresita at (949) 328-0294 for more details.

Health & Fitness Club

Come join us for a Brain Power Lunch in the Vista Room on September 24, as our visiting experts talk about the latest research in longevity, what the Blue Zone communities are teaching us, and how we can retrain our brains for a positive mindset. The cost is \$5 per person for lunch and seminar. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign ups begin September 16 at Rec Ctr 1. For further details, contact Helen Freedman at PelicanPost123@yahoo.com, or at (646) 662-7325.

Las Damas Club

Las Damas Club members and guests are reminded that sign ups for the October 9 luncheon meeting begins on September 11 and goes through October 6. The special entertainment will feature "Anthony the MAGIC," an amazing magic and illusion team. Sign up early at Rec Ctr 1. Contact Pat Crowley (949) 305-0582



Social Committee

Yee haw! It's cowboy boots and cowboy hat time! The Western Hoedown and Square Dance is on September 21 at 5:30 p.m. Join us poolside at Rec Ctr 1 for an evening of delicious food, music, line dancing, and square dancing. Contact Amy Lake at (516) 263-7941 or Arlake225@gmail.com.

Casta Creatives

A Wine and Paint event open to all community residents will be on October 25 from 4 to 6 p.m. Sign ups will begin on September 30 at Rec Ctr 1. Look for flyers and eblasts to see what will be painted and the cost. For more information, contact Jacki Keller at (949) 293-5487.

Variety Club

The Variety Club is partnering with the Heritage Garden for a Spooktacular Garden Tour on October 6 starting at 10 a.m. Sign ups will be taken at Rec Ctr 1 starting September 16. Contact Barb Turino at (951) 858-7350 or barbturino@gmail.com.



Canine Companions Club

Please join our Yappy Hour on September 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Lawn Bowling Pavilion. This gathering is "BYOB" so please bring whatever you would like to drink and we will provide yummy appetizers. Bring your doggies out for a delightful afternoon with other members and their pals! If you are a new resident and have a dog and would like to check out our club, please RSVP! We would love to meet you. Come join the fun! Contact Linda Brockmiller at (949) 412-1083 or Lindabrock1946@gmail.com.

Submissions to the Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board is to be used by Casta del Sol clubs and organizations to briefly announce activities or changes to activities occurring during the month of, and the following month. Submissions to the Bulletin Board are due the 6th of each month and should be typed in the body of an email or as a Word format attachment. Jeff McCoy, Bulletin Board Editor, jmactr1@gmail.com.

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FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Neighbors and Nature in Casta

By Debra Friedman, photos by various photographers

Casta del Sol is beautiful in so many ways. The lush landscaping, abundance of trees, beautiful homes, well-kept amenities, bountiful Vegetable Garden, and spectacularly colorful and lush Heritage Garden are a testament to its beauty. But there is even more! If you look closely, you will see the many creatures – some cute, some daunting – inhabiting our community. Humans share the environment with the animals that are featured here.



Our resident Egret friend. Photo by April Wilsey



Tree squirrels are becoming rare. Photo by Fran Morgan



Thirsty hummingbird enjoying nectar. Photo by Fred Lake



Stunning monarch butterfly. Photo by Kip Isbell



An unusual site of a coyote in midday. Photo by Kip Isbell



Caterpillar getting nourishment. Photo by Kip Isbell



Morning Dove sitting on her two eggs. Photo by Debra Friedman



Real lizard visiting a monument. Photo by Fred Lake

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SPORTS

Bocce Ball

We play on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights from 7 to 8 p.m. On the second and fourth Friday, we play only one game at 6:30 p.m. so cards can begin at 7 p.m. Bocce is a lot of fun, and I can guarantee that you will come home with a few laughs.

Save the date for our Labor Day potluck and cards event on Monday, September 2 at 5 p.m. at the Lawn Bowling Pavilion. Please bring a dish to share as well as your own drinks. We would like to welcome the following new members to our club: Shirley Rollins and Madison Hermosillo. Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m. in the Fiesta Room. Following a short meeting, we will be playing Bingo.

*Carol Zinsmeister,
(949) 305-9890*

Bowling

The 2024/2025 Casta del Sol league starts on September 12 and ends on April 24. We bowl on Thursdays at 1 p.m. at Saddleback Lanes on Marguerite Parkway. We usually finish by 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join. It is good exercise, lots of laughs, and a great way to visit with friends and meet new people. Teams are now

being set up. If you have a group of four who want to be on the same team, call either Donna Miller at (949) 395-8958 or me with your team members' names. If you have two or three people who want to bowl together, call Donna Miller and she will let you know who is still available to complete your team. Others interested in bowling can also call Donna Miller to be added to the list of available bowlers. All bowlers not listed on a team by September 12 will be set up on a team then.

*Van Quinn,
(949) 842-9151*

Fishing

No change on the Lake Mission Viejo status. Golden Algae are still preventing fish stocking. Laguna Woods Rod and Gun Club continues to welcome Casta del Sol members. They have a variety of ocean fishing day trips from Dana Wharf twice a month. Besides the normal three-quarter-day bass fishing trips, there will be a couple of overnights and a 5-5 trip in August and September. Targets might be dorado, tuna, and bonito if the water is warm enough. Calico bass are also the fallback if the dorado and tuna do not appear. Our

Casta del Sol monthly luncheon meeting is Friday, September 27 at noon in the Fiesta Room. Anyone interested in learning about ocean fishing in local waters is welcome to attend, member or not. There are always discussions about future plans and reports on trips.

*Nick Morenc,
(949) 588 6223*

Golf Chippers

The August Golf Chippers event was a rousing success with a bright sky and enthusiastic players. We honored our good friend, Don Tirrell, who passed away recently. Cash prizes were awarded to Nancy Tirrell, Val Stover, Carol Zinsmeister, Jerry Castro, John Wallin, and Bob Snapp. We welcomed Tom Cruse to his first event. Tom scored quite well. We want you to know that your golf skill level is not important at Chippers. We just want to have fun, so mark your calendar for our next event at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 2. New and old Casta del Sol residents are welcome to participate. Bring \$5 and something extra for our prize table. Everyone takes something home. We accept golf equipment that you no longer need. It can find joy in a new pair of hands. Please call if you have any questions.

*Bob Hrad,
(949) 290-0366*

Men's Golf

Golf Club history (part 1 of 2): the Casta del Sol Men's Club was organized in 1974 at the newly constructed Casta del Sol course designed by Ted Robinson and measuring 3670 yards. The club was open to all local residents. Membership quickly increased to more than 200 golfers playing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The club was well-received with half the membership living in CdS. In 1981, the Saturday players, known as The Skins and Blitzes, decided to form their own club. The majority of the group were not retired or residents of CdS and preferred to play only on Saturdays. They formed the Saddleback Valley Men's Club, which is still active with their Saturday matches.

The September games are: 9/4, Team Scramble; 9/11, Twosome Best Ball; 9/18, Jeopardy; 9/25, Best 15 Holes. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Al Arnott, (714) 425-4320.

*Merl Barrett,
(949) 770-5024*

Paddle Tennis

Our first social event of the year, combined with the Pickleball Club, was the Pizza Olympics and it was a great success. Thanks to those who stopped by our table at the Newcomers Welcome and Community Fair. We are happy to have welcomed some new players these past few months. If you were a former tennis player, this sport should definitely appeal to you.

Our next two events, the Progressive Dinner on September 14 and Oktoberfest Annual Dinner meeting on October 10, are open to Paddle Tennis Club members and their guests. Our Halloween Tournament on October 26 is an opportunity for residents to watch the game.

Open court times are 9 to 10:15 a.m. Monday through Friday and 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Everyone is welcome to play. Our friendly players will help newcomers during these times.

*Debra Friedman,
debrafriedman0@gmail.com,
(949) 230-7195*

Pickleball

The end of the summer brings one more opportunity to support the Pickleball Club by attending our picnic dinner on Labor Day, Monday, September 2 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. We will be offering holiday get-together food for a \$5 donation at the picnic tables behind the courts at Rec Ctr 2. If you want to build up an appetite for the meal, there will be a clinic starting at 3 p.m. where you can work on your game skills. The club also invites you to come and learn more about the sport during any of our open play times on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., and Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8 to 10 a.m. Club members will be happy to get you started and let you know how you can become a member.

*Eric Vanderslice,
(562) 712-1225*

Shuffleboard

The Tuesday morning league and the Wednesday evening Pot of Gold league will resume on September 3 and 4. There is still time to sign up as a sub. For the Tuesday morning league, contact Jim Kinney at dothemath99@yahoo.com. For the Wednesday eve-

Continued on page 17

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SPORTS *Cont'd*

Shuffleboard

Continued from page 16

ning Pot of Gold league, contact Susan Herrning at susanherrning@aol.com.

Winners for the Sunday Potluck Social Shuffle in July were: 1st Ann Loranger/Val Stover; 2nd Jesse Hunt/Marlene Solem; 3rd Myrna Smith/Linda Clark. The next date for the Sunday Potluck Social Shuffle is September 29. The next date for the Sunday Super Shuffle is September 8. Sign ups for both Sunday games are on the bulletin board in the Shuffleboard Pavilion. For further information about leagues or shuffleboard, please contact Jim Kinney at dothemath99@yahoo.com.

*Debra Friedman,
debrafriedman0@gmail.com*

planning now for the annual holiday extravaganza in December.

The summer tennis season is now in full swing along with some very warm days. Fortunately, the morning and evening events provide much more temperate playing conditions. These events include Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. The First Saturday group sessions incorporate Clarity Tennis Tips and include coffee and breakfast munchies. The Third Saturday program includes drills and court fun led by local pro Jimmy Gleason. Catch up on all of the Tennis Club events on FaceBook at *Casta del Sol Tennis Club*.

*Roger Gyger,
(630) 430-9045*

A Good Read: Spare

Book review by Liz Rickett

This is an autobiography by Prince Harry, a member of the British royal family, and ghostwritten by the Pulitzer-prize-winning author J.R. Moehringer. The book describes, in excruciating detail, the life of the prince from the death of his mother to present day.

It is a life filled with pain and privilege, but always overshadowed by the press and paparazzi, relentless in their efforts to capture every moment of his life. The constant pursuit is a daily reminder of the death of his beloved mother who was killed while being chased by the paparazzi.

In relating his life, he goes into his family, the relationships, the expectations, the challenges, his struggles, his former life, and his present life. This book is available in the Casta del Sol Library.

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Tennis

The recent Tennis Club summer extravaganza was a rousing success with an enthusiastic crowd listening and dancing to the great sounds of Ortega Highway and dining on a sumptuous array of Mexican barbecue dishes from the well-known Taco Guys. Although it is still early, start

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CASTA COMMUNITY

On the Road Again Sherman Library and Gardens

New to SoCal, too busy to explore, or perhaps time to revisit? Debra offers suggestions.



Debra Friedman

Sherman Library and Gardens is a hidden gem in Orange County. Albeit much smaller, it rivals larger botanical gardens in nearby counties. As you enter, you are captivated by the profusion of color and the gardens replete with lush plants. The Succulent Garden contains interesting patterns mixing succulents amid stone patterns.

Founded in 1966 by Arnold Haskell, Sherman Gardens boasts eight unique garden areas. There are glorious fountains, quaint ponds, a conservatory, and a fern grotto. The tea garden courtyard allows you to sit and appreciate the surrounding beauty. For the fall season, there are vignettes of pumpkins woven into the landscape.

There are often temporary exhibits such as my favorite one of mosaics. Entitled "Inspired by Nature," there were 30 mosaic pieces placed throughout the gardens, including a massive mosaic butterfly allowing for strategic photo ops. Sherman Gardens is known for rotating special exhibits, classes, plant shows, and lectures.

For "ladies who lunch" the 608 Dahlia restaurant offers a concise menu with delicious food. As an aficionado of museum gift shops, I can happily say that the Sherman Gardens gift shop rivals the best for the array of offerings at reasonable prices.

The Sherman Library houses more than 15,000 volumes, specializing in the history of the Pacific Southwest. The immense collection includes books, photographs, newspapers, and historical maps. The library is in a fired adobe house that was Haskell's office. Arnold Haskell named the gardens after his mentor, Moses Sherman, who worked on railroads and real estate ventures.

I suggest becoming a member and visiting often for all the opportunities provided.

Small Talk A Place Called Gus's

A freelance writer's humorous spin on the ups and downs of life.



Dorothy Frances

In the 50s and 60s, it seemed that every town had a soda fountain/candy store where teens stopped to hang out on the way home from school. At my end of the town where I grew up, it was a small place run by a man named Gus. I don't remember it having a formal name, but we always knew it simply as Gus's.

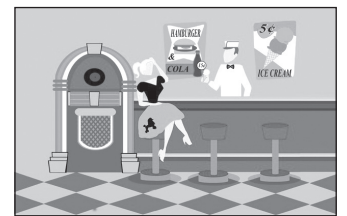
There was nothing fancy about Gus's. It was comprised of a long counter with swivel stools, three booths, and a glass-enclosed candy counter. The booths were popular, and you felt lucky if you managed to secure one or could squeeze into one that your friends occupied. And, oh, life was so good, sitting shoulder to

shoulder with friends, sipping a Coke, and talking non-stop.

I still remember some favorite things at Gus's. There were large, iced mugs of Hires Root Beer with inches of foam on the top, decadent ice cream sodas, and a big scoop of ice cream that sat atop a tasty cone. Candy counter preferences included malted milk balls, popular candy bars, and black and red licorice sticks from the glass jar that resided on top of the counter.

Bursting at the seams with teenagers, Gus's vibrated with chatter, laughter, singing, and sometimes even arguments. And, sadly, in November of 1963, it served as a place to mourn together.

Gus and his delightful store are long gone, but the memories will live on forever in the treasured echoes of our youth. Rest in peace, Gus's.



Reflections of a Casta Neighbor

A resident explores the adventures of Casta.



Nevin Valentine

Many of us moved to Casta del Sol from parts of the United States where we experienced various levels of nighttime noise and city lights. I love the silence that descends over Casta after dark when it seems as if everyone is tucked in for the night. I no longer need to wear ear plugs to sleep.

A little after midnight on July 4, I woke up to find total darkness along with the usual silence in my house. I looked out the window and saw no streetlights or even a single porch lit. My husband Darrell reported our power outage to SoCal Edison, and we were notified 69 homes in Casta would be without electricity until later in the evening. My first thought was my hair. How would I be able to fix my hair without my electric curling brush before the Social Committee's 4th of July picnic scheduled to begin at noon? Next, I began problem solving

on how to keep our frozen berries in the freezer from thawing. Yes, my priorities were a bit focused on appearances over saving food.

First thing in the morning, we sent texts to our neighbors letting them know about the outage situation. We walked down to where the Edison team was gathered and asked for an update. They told us generators for each of the three cul-de-sacs impacted would be installed and we would have power by late morning. This was great news and, indeed, within a few hours the green generators appeared, and our electricity was restored. Darrell helped neighbors with resetting televisions and garage door openers. I fixed my hair for the party.

The generators were noisy and sounded like airplanes were about to take off. The roar of the generators continued for the next seven days. Edison worked diligently and discovered a broken cable was the problem. Once it was repaired and the generators were removed, peace and quiet returned to our neighborhood, just the way we like it here at Casta del Sol.

What are your priorities when the power goes out? Thank goodness for electricity.

What's Cooking at Casta

Want help in the kitchen? Linda shares her favorite recipes.



Linda Brockmiller

Linda's Potato Salad

5 large russet potatoes, peeled and cut
5 eggs, hard boiled
1 cup celery, chopped
1 small yellow onion, chopped
salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp. vinegar
2 Tbsp. yellow mustard
½ cup mayonnaise

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add cut potatoes and cook until

tender but still firm.

Drain and chop into smaller bite size pieces.

Place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and let stand for 14 minutes. Remove from water, plunge into ice water, cool, peel and chop 3 eggs. My favorite new option is hard boiling eggs in an air fryer. Place eggs in fryer at 250 degrees for 18 minutes. Cool in ice water, peel and chop 3 eggs for salad. Save 2 eggs to place on top of salad.

In large bowl, combine diced potatoes, 3 chopped eggs, celery, onion, mustard, mayonnaise. Add salt and pepper. Mix all together. Taste for salt and enough mayonnaise. Slice 2 eggs by hand or egg slicer in rounds and place on top of salad for decoration. Refrigerate until chilled.

Recycle Old Eyeglasses



You may leave your old eyeglasses at the Rec Ctr 1 office. The Mission Viejo Lions Club has a box in the lobby cabinet where you may leave glasses that you no longer need. The Lions Club has programs to get the glasses to people who need them.

PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS

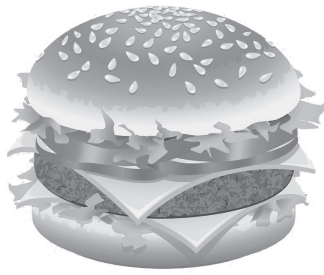
Restaurant Review: In Search of the Best Burger (Part 3)

By Debra Friedman

This is the third in the series of the "Search for the Best Burger."

The Habit located on El Toro Road has been a go-to place for years. However, after trying some of the "build your own" burger places, the *Habit* pales in comparison. In fact, I think there was so much loaded on the burger that you couldn't taste the meat. My favorite element was the butter soaked and toasted buns. There are various other items on the menu including chicken sandwiches, veggie burgers, and impossible burgers. There are many salads, small bites, and a kid's menu. The décor is simple and the price is reasonable so I'll continue to visit.

The angle for Boss Burger, located near Trabuco Hills High School, is the healthy grass-fed meat. An unusual option is a black bean burger. Boss Burgers are considered gourmet, although they are not that different from most other places. The gluten-free bun was thin and did not hold up well to the condiments and meat juice. There was also a lettuce wrap option



in accordance with the health-oriented approach. The electronic screen ordering system to customize the burger was engaging but options were not as extensive as the "build your own" places. There was no choice of cooking gradations, so my burger was too well done. The fries were fresh cut with skins showing but were a bit soggy. The extensive list of dipping sauces for the fries was probably the most unique feature

Puns For Fun

Compiled by Jeff McCoy

- What do you call a pig's karate moves? Pork chops.
- What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A Maybe.

MICK & MIDGE

by Jeff McCoy

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- Frequently back up important work and files on your computer.
- Know how to manually open your automatic garage doors or gates.
- Always keep at least one car with the gas tank or charge level half full. When the power is out, gasoline pumps will not work.
- If you have a portable gas generator, identify an outdoor location where you can safely use it during a power outage, and *never* use it indoors.
- Make a safety preparedness plan for your family, including a list and location of the above items, and a plan for meeting the special needs of the elderly, those with medical needs, and family pets.
- Have no-power entertainment in the form of books and games to keep up your spirits.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee: Keeping Up to Date

By Debra Friedman, photo by Fred Lake



Casta del Sol has 12 ongoing committees, most of which have been operating over 10 years. However, there are sometimes short-term needs for which an “ad hoc” committee is formed. This was the case with the CC&R Committee and Master Plan Committee formed and then dissolved many years ago.

In 2022, when Marci Smith was the board president, she made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee. The purpose of this was to review and revise outdated policies for Casta del Sol. Some policies were deemed unnecessary if they regarded extinct aspects, such as the COVID-19 policies. Other policies were eliminated due to duplication in other areas such as the Rules and Regulations. Of the more than 50 policies and resolutions, the

majority have been updated or rescinded, revised for clarity, and vetted. All policies will be vetted by legal counsel and approved by the Board of Directors.

The current chair of the committee is Lisa Shoemaker. Other long-term participants are Nancy Cunningham, Randy Thompson, Arthur Rosen, Lynn Yeazel, Linda Nohe, Pat Vitti, and Pam Rhoades. Most of the members are also chairs and/or members of other committees. There are also two board members, John Nethercutt and Susan Ashby, serving as non-voting Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures Committee members. It is helpful for members to be detail oriented, good wordsmiths, and interested in the well-being of the community.

This committee has been extremely diligent, meeting regularly twice a month for sessions that last over two hours. The committee will meet until all policies have been reviewed and then disband. We are fortunate to have wonderful volunteers to offer their services for the benefit of Casta del Sol residents.

Beauty of Casta



Sunset at Casta del Sol. Photo by Jeff McCoy

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PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

Paddle/Pickle Pizza Olympics Performance Prevails

By Debra Friedman, photos by Jeff McCoy



Suzy Jolley tosses the bocce ball while coaches Karen Dailey, Tom Dailey, and Richard Scott look on



Patti and Jerry Castro and Don and Deb Allen shoot the shuffleboard discs



Stiff competition at the ping pong tables



Karen Viotto demonstrates her billiards skills

Paris may be the historic site of the 2024 International Olympics, but Rec Ctr 1 at Casta del Sol was the engaging site of the Pizza Olympics. With the Paddle Tennis and Pickleball Clubs collaborating, affectionately known as “Packle,” any event is sure to be a winner. Starting with a Paddle Tennis Club Pizza Fun Night that was held for several years, the event morphed into a loosely structured competition of various sports in 2022.

This year, over 60 enthusiastic members and guests competed in the following six sports: Bocce Ball, Shuffleboard, Billiards, Ping Pong, Corn Hole, and Golf Putting. Each player signed up for 30-minute slots of up to three sports. The competition was fierce for the top three prizes.

Some attendees preferred to just eat, drink, and chat with friends. Others were more casual about their play. But the most focused competitors tried their hardest to win valued points to earn additional raffle tickets and ultimately monetary prizes. The top three Pizza Olympics winners were: Dan Viotto, Nary Kanoor, and Don Allen.

The closing ceremonies were fitting of the dramatic event with winners announced, raffle prizes handed out, and ice cream treats dispensed. It was a fun night of games, camaraderie, refreshments, and prizes.



Residents competing in cornhole and golf putting at the Pizza Olympics

“The top three Pizza Olympics winners were:
Dan Viotto, Nary Kanoor, and Don Allen.”

PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

**Getting to Know Our Neighbors:
Sara Shine Teaching Us How to Age**

By Liz Rickett, photo by Fred Lake



In 2020, I interviewed 102-year-old Sara Shine. I was entranced with her sparkling personality, her positive attitude, and her love of life.

Sara is now 106 years old. I recently had the privilege of visiting her again. Except for some hearing loss and a mobility challenge, she is the same sharp, delightful person.

She has a helper assist at her house two hours each day and has mastered the internet, using it to order groceries, meals, clothing, and other necessities. Her helpful neighbors also lend a hand.

One of Sara's earliest memories is of parading with her classmates in Fairbury, Illinois, to the cemetery on Decoration Day, now called Memorial Day, to decorate the graves with flowers. She remembers seeing a flat-bed truck with two chairs, each of which held a veteran of the Civil War, dressed in blue.

Arthritis has attacked her fingers but using a machine, she sews decorative pillows for her home and as gifts. She likes to read, particularly biographies and historical novels. Watching old movies on TV is another favorite pastime.

Genealogy is one of her interests. In researching her history, trying to find the source of her old age genes, she discovered her Dutch ancestors who arrived in New Jersey Colony in 1657. One ancestor, Altje, had 16 children, most of whom lived to adulthood. When Altje died in 1801 at age 96, she had 346 living descendants.

Sara has never followed a diet, always eating what she likes. She isn't at all athletic, yet all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are talented athletes.

She believes a sense of humor is important to aging well. Her hopes for the future include seeing more civility in this world.

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PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

Casta's Artists Enriching Local Art Scene

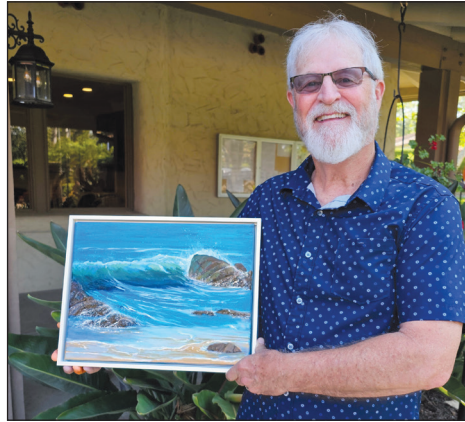
By Debra Friedman, photos by Jeff and Cathy McCoy



Susan Ashby



Sue Menchel



Richard Yates



Jeff McCoy

The Casta del Sol Artist in Residence program is a launching pad for several resident artists. The display spurred the following artists on to exhibit/sell work in additional venues.

Sue Menchel, specializing in collages and abstract acrylic paintings, had such positive experiences in Casta. She went forth and earned an honorable mention for one of four pieces at

the Orange County Fair. At the Annual Saddleback Art League's Spring juried show, she received first place for an acrylic painting. She gained confidence and will be showing mixed media art at the Costa Mesa Art Venture juried show. Having recently joined the San Clemente Art League, Sue will enter additional juried shows.

Susan Ashby creates amazing mo-

saic pieces that are so unique. Before moving to Casta, she had award-winning entries in the Calaveras County Fair. In 2023, she was featured at the Murray Center. Susan commented, "I got so much positive feedback at Casta, it gave me confidence to go on and apply to the Laguna Art-A-Fair where I sold 15 pieces." She was accepted at Art-A-Fair again for a second year. Susan added, "Displaying in the library is an honor and a motivator."

Richard Yates had a small showing in the Mission Viejo Library with his seascapes and has since expanded into the big league. He applied to the Laguna Beach Art-A-Fair in 2022 and

was waitlisted. But in 2023, he was accepted among 115 artists and sold nine paintings. He was again accepted in 2024. Richard notes, "I started painting at the age of 64, which may seem old, but my artistic imagination and excitability when starting a new creation makes me feel young again."

Jeff McCoy has entered his artwork in the Orange County Fair juried show for several years and has won second and third place awards as well as a first-place theme award. He also had an extensive showing recently at the

Continued on page 26

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PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

Summer in Casta Staying Cool

By Debra Friedman, photos by Fred Lake and Kip Isbell

Casta del Sol social activities are scattered throughout the year. Although summer is typically vacationing time, residents were attending activities in droves. The summer of 2024 included large parties given by several clubs. The Shuffleboard Club party included music by DJ Bear Sanchez, a talented actor, writer, director, teacher, and entertainer. He brought the fun factor to the poolside

festivities. The Tennis Club saw the return of the popular Ortega Highway Band who entertained attendees with country style music. In addition, the Strummers had a well-attended concert performing favorite tunes in July. If you missed any events, make sure to view the flyers at Rec Ctr 1 and sign up for the eblasts from the Recreation Office.



Shuffleboard Club Summer Solstice Party. Photo by Fred Lake



Members of the Casta Strummers entertaining in July. Photo by Kip Isbell



Tennis Club Party attendees hit the dance floor. Photo by Kip Isbell



Tennis Club Party attendees. Photo by Kip Isbell

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PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS *Cont'd*

Casta's Artists Enriching Local Art Scene

Continued from page 24

Potocki Center. Jeff's expertise is varied, including watercolor, acrylic, graphite, pen and ink, scratch board, cartoons, and graphic art. Jeff muses,

"For me art is a creative outlet and a most enjoyable hobby."

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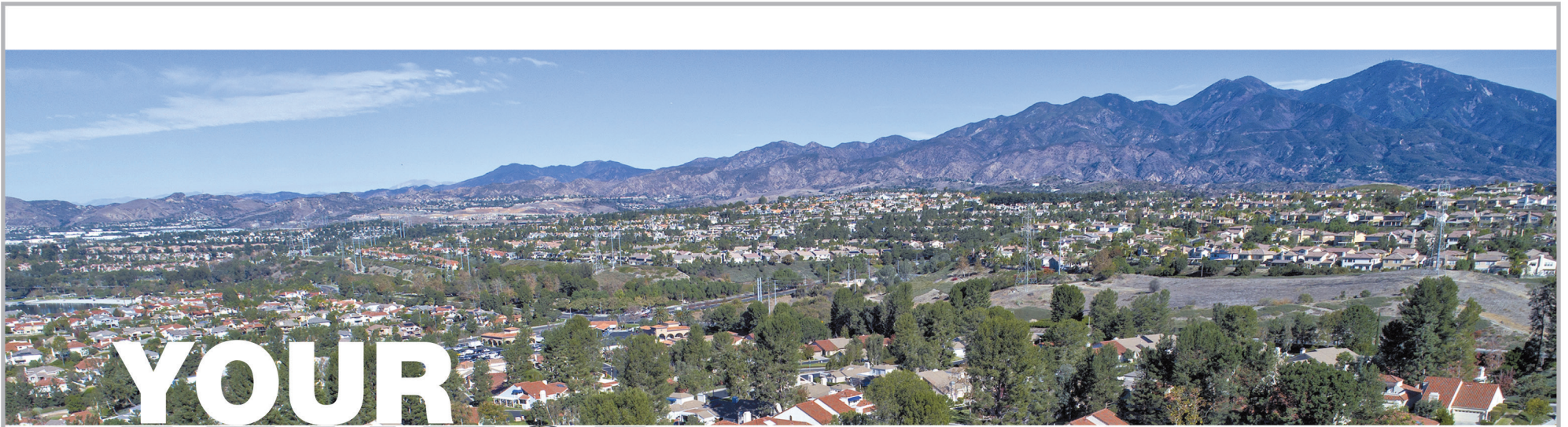
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