

December 2025

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# The CARRIER



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# THE CRIER

## December 2025

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Terry Bales**

[tbales01@gmail.com](mailto:tbales01@gmail.com)

Ho, Ho, Ho, Lakeview Villagers.

As we begin the final weeks before Christmas, take a moment to think about the meaning of Christmas. Christmas can mean whatever you have in your heart that is good and pure and in the spirit of giving. We have just given thanks for our life's bounties. Now let's contemplate on what we can do for each other here in our village.

A gift for a neighbor may be to run to the grocery store or to pick up a prescription. Another gift may be to help them rake up the leaves from the yard. It can be an anonymous plate of cookies. The Christmas spirit can be contagious. One kind Christmas act can create a ripple effect of goodwill. No matter how you celebrate, do it with love and kindness. They are universal aspects of Christmas giving.

Take a look at the articles here in the Crier for upcoming holiday events. Christmas in Lakeview Village has a magic all its own. Embrace It, Experience It and Live It.

Here is a little more about the genesis of Christmas.

Christmas is a global holiday celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> that blends religious and secular traditions, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ for Christians while also involving widespread cultural practices like gift-giving and decorating. Many modern Christmas traditions have roots in

ancient festivals, such as the use of evergreen trees from winter solstice celebrations and the exchange of gifts from the Roman festival of Saturnalia. The holiday has evolved over two millennia into a major cultural and commercial event that includes festive decorations, family meals, and the figure of Santa Claus.

### **Religious origins**

- **Anniversary of Jesus' birth:** For Christians, Christmas is a sacred holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader.
- **Biblical narrative:** The Christmas story, as told in the Bible, involves the angel Gabriel's message to Mary, Joseph's dream, their travel to Bethlehem for a census, and the birth of Jesus in a stable.
- **The Magi:** Later, wise men (Magi) followed a star to Bethlehem to present Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

### **Secular and cultural traditions**

- **Winter Solstice roots:** Many traditions stem from ancient winter solstice celebrations in the Northern Hemisphere, which marked the shortest day of the year.
  - **Evergreen trees:** The use of evergreen boughs was a symbol of life in the darkest days of winter, a tradition that evolved into the modern Christmas tree.
  - **Candles:** The idea of decorating trees with lights can be linked to pagan traditions of lighting bonfires on the winter solstice to welcome the sun's return.
- **Gift-giving:** The practice of exchanging gifts during the holiday

season has roots in ancient Roman celebrations like Saturnalia.

- **Santa Claus:** The modern image of Santa Claus developed from figures like Saint Nicholas and incorporates traditions from various cultures and figures.
- **Modern celebrations:** Today's celebrations are a mix of old and new, featuring festive decorations, Christmas trees, family gatherings, festive meals, and Santa Claus. Many people in the Southern Hemisphere, like in Australia, celebrate by going to the beach or having backyard barbecues, as it is summer.

Santa Claus is a legendary figure who brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve, embodying the spirit of generosity. His popular image, a jolly man in a red suit who lives at the North Pole with elves, stems from Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his secret gift-giving. Today, Santa is a beloved symbol of the Christmas holiday and a source of joy for many.

- **Origins in Saint Nicholas:** The character of Santa Claus is based on the historical figure of Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century in what is now Turkey. He was known for his generosity and the legend grew around his secret acts of giving.
- **Evolution of the legend:** Over centuries, stories of Saint Nicholas evolved, blending with other figures and traditions to form the modern Santa Claus. The Dutch name "Sinterklaas" was a key influence on the name "Santa Claus".
- **Modern-day persona:** In the United States and Canada, Santa Claus is depicted as a jolly old man who lives at

the North Pole. He is said to manufacture toys with his elves and travel the world in a sleigh pulled by reindeer to deliver them to children.

- **Symbol of Christmas:** Santa Claus represents the themes of joy, charity, and giving that are central to the Christmas holiday. His story has become a global phenomenon, uniting the celebration of Christmas for people around the world.

## **SHENANIGANS BAR**

### **Al Fichera**



Shenanigans in December includes the third Karaoke event with Sam and Brian at the console. Stay tuned for a separate mailing with all the details about our third Karaoke event!

For the New Year's Eve Party, we will continue with the free champagne toast for you at 10:00 p.m. Why 10:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 a.m., simple most of you are still up at 10:00 p.m. and have not left the clubhouse yet! Haha. Besides, its New Year's in Chicago, that ought to count for something, right? For those of you still young-at-heart and body that manage to make it to midnight, Shenanigans will be open, and our Signature Bar will be featuring Cosmos as the celebratory beverage for only \$3.00 until we run out.

After all the fun at our events, why not try this festive cocktail at home?

### **Cosmopolitan Cocktail Recipe**

- 1 1/2 oz **Vodka** (*I promise not to say anything if it is a little more than a jigger of vodka.*)
- 1/2 oz **Cointreau** (*Cointreau is not cheap, however it is a holiday, and you might like a Cosmo or two again.*)

- 1/2 oz fresh squeezed **Lime Juice** (*Santa Cruz 100% Lime Juice or Sicilian Bottled Lime Juice is good also.*)
- 1 oz **Cranberry Juice** (*We use 2 1/2 oz at Shenanigans for a larger cocktail.*)

Shake with Ice, strain the ice, and serve. This recipe is easy to increase if being made for a small party of friends.

### Behind the Crier Cover this month:

I was planning to paint a shapely shiny Christmas tree ornament reflecting what was happening in the room. Sadly, I spent far too much time searching for a blown glass ornament to paint before I realized something was inherently wrong with my plan. A tall shapely ornament would leave a vast amount of empty space to fill. All right let me scrap the shapely ornament idea and go for the more sensible round shape instead. My next job was to figure out what that shape was going to reflect.

As we all know, December has a full month of activities for us to take part in the village; that became the true source of my choices. It took only a few minutes for me to understand something important, there was going to be a need for more than one round ornament to paint to cover these events plus whatever else December has in store for us.

However, when I thought I was finished with the design, uh, oh, the Teddy Bear Luncheon, how could I forget that! Yeah Al, but do you want another ornament to paint and hang on the tree? No!

And then I exclaimed to myself, where are all the tree branches to hold these ornaments? I guess I had not thought that completely through yet! Now I needed to paint some tree branches to fill-in the background spaces. Well, that did add

another week of painting for me. However, during that extra week of painting, I did become aware of one more thing, if there was something I forgot to add to the scene, too bad, this year's cover is complete, and I am now on to designing the January 2026 cover.

Happy Holidays! Wishing everyone a joyful season—see you at Shenanigans.

## FROM DIANE'S KITCHEN

### Diane Perry



### Crab-Ricotta Quiche Bites

A quick and tasty appetizer for the holidays.

#### Ingredients

- 2 Packages Athens Phyllo Shells (15 per package, available at Raley's, Smart & Final, & Bel Air)
- 1/2 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup crab meat finely chopped
- Grated parmesan cheese

#### Directions

1. Crisp phyllo shells in 350° oven. This will take 3 – 5 minutes.
2. Increase oven temperature to 400°. Arrange the filo cups on a rimmed baking sheet.
3. In a blender, combine the ricotta, eggs, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Blend until very smooth.
4. Stir the crab meat into the egg mixture.
5. Fill each phyllo shell with the crab mixture and top with parmesan cheese.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the filling is set and starting to brown.

6. The quiche bites can be served hot, at room temperature, or chilled.

### **Thank You Kitchen Magicians**

If it wasn't for the wonderful people who help in the kitchen, we'd all be very hungry. As we enter the holiday season, I'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered this year. Lori Withers, Cindi Johnson, Cathy Jones, Diane Weber, Sue Wright, Cathy Wheeler, Karen Petersen, and Pete Skipworth have volunteered this year.

### **Farmer's Market News**

#### **Diane Perry**

The Farmer's market will be giving our volunteers a much-deserved break in December. The market will be open through December, but our volunteers won't be there on December 19<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>. However, if you have something to share, please leave it in the lunchroom. I'll make sure it gets cleaned up. We should have lots of lemons, oranges, and grapefruit. Contributions of extra food—such as potatoes, bananas, canned goods or packaged food—are always welcome. Homegrown vegetables are especially appreciated.

Questions? Fruit trees to harvest? Want to volunteer? Call or text Diane Perry at (408) 242-3502.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS UPDATE**

#### **Duane and Annette Coller**



As citizens of this very unique country whose founding documents acknowledge human dignity under God, we enjoy the resultant great blessings of relative peace, security, freedom and prosperity. And as neighbors in a senior living

community, we are especially privileged to share more in common than people in traditional neighborhoods. Because of our similar age, my wife Annette and I will often both be triggered by a current event to remember something from our childhood about which younger people would be clueless. One day recently after hearing on TV about the need to work together one of us recalled what the other was already thinking---a song where children join hands, pump them back and forth and sing "If We All Will Pull Together How Happy We'll Be". I bet many of you can relate.

One of the things our season of life tends to reveal is the contrast in true value between material things and warm-hearted personal relationships. Though basic material needs can still be a concern, it is our relationships that primarily invigorate and reward our daily lives. So, although work, health, families and personal schedules sometimes limit our ability to get together, when we are able to do so we are enriched by connecting and sharing with others.

A pastor friend of mine once said, "Everybody is a blessing...some when they come and some when they go." As true as we all know that to be, two take-aways from it are significant. One, that if we don't get together we will miss the benefits from the ones who are a blessing. Two, each of us has the choice which kind of blessing we want to be to others. Our world needs people who choose to be a blessing when they come. And without making the effort and taking the risks of getting together we can neither be a true blessing to others nor receive the blessings that others can be to us.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons help us remember our blessings of country and of God's love, mercy and grace, and can incentivize us to check or reset the focus and purpose of our lives, even as we find ourselves in our senior years. We are

blessed, and by God's grace in us we can each be a blessing to one another when we come together. **God bless each of you is our prayer in this season and always.**

**Regarding the security proposals for our park and RV lot,** all the bids are in and the proposal is ready. Since last month's appeal I have received several more new emails from RV space renters who support the appeal. We are now looking to schedule with the park owners and present the need and the solution.

**REMINDER: ALL SOLICITORS COMING TO YOUR DOOR ARE VIOLATING THE RULES OF LAKEVIEW VILLAGE WHICH ARE CLEARLY POSTED. THAT IN ITSELF SHOULD BE A CLUE THAT THEY ARE UP TO NO GOOD AND DO NOT DESERVE AN OPEN DOOR OR ANY INFORMATION THEY MAY WANT FROM YOU OR BE OFFERING TO YOU. CALLING 911 IS APPROPRIATE WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY A STRANGER IN THE PARK.**

**COMMUNICATION:** I invite all residents to use email to make me aware of your security experiences or concerns. Email provides an articulate record of two-way conversations that is helpful for productive follow-up.



up.

[DCOLLER58@gmail.com](mailto:DCOLLER58@gmail.com) – If you have nothing to report you can just type: “Keep me informed.”

**WHEN YOU SEE TROUBLE:** We have an attentive police department in Citrus Heights with whom we are having ongoing conversations. They encourage us to **call 911 and identify ourselves as Lakeview Village residents** when we

have current safety or security concerns for ourselves or others.

**AS ALWAYS** – Keep your eyes and ears open, and if something seems amiss with your neighbors' check it out. You would want them to do the same for you. We are all better off TOGETHER.

Contacts:

CHPD: 911/916-727-5500  
DUANE COLLER [dcoller58@gmail.com](mailto:dcoller58@gmail.com)  
JAY GLUCK: 916-728-6194(updated#)  
RICK SHAFER: 916-485-2523  
JON 916-708-0544(John3:16)  
ZWANZIGER

### **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Peggy Hillis**



Thanksgiving is over and I hope all of you had a wonderful day with family and friends. I am looking forward to all the activities we have planned in December.

On **Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** come help us decorate the clubhouse Christmas Tree. I know you have your own trees to decorate but please attend and enjoy talking and laughing with your neighbors and friends.

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** is our Teddy Bear luncheon potluck. The association has been supporting this event for many years to help children in stressful situations by collecting stuffed animals and donating them to the police and fire departments. The Citrus Heights City manager will be attending along with other dignitaries and of course police officers and firemen. Please bring a potluck dish to share. We have hearty eaters so bring a little extra. The property management is providing ham for lunch. Thank you so much for your support and attendance.

Last but not least is **New Years Eve! The party begins at 7:30 p.m.** We have the B Side Band performing and along with your appetizers we will have a wonderful end to 2025 and bring in 2026 with a bang. Like the previous years we are asking attendees to bring an appetizer to share. You will be surprised to see how many of us party until midnight. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and will be on **sale Tuesday, 12/16, Wednesday, 12/17 and Thursday, 12/18** in the clubhouse from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Social Committee has many new events planned for 2026. We have a Beatles tribute band scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> and Elvis will be back in April along with dinner and dances throughout the year. Look for day and time on the Crier calendar.

### **TECH4SENIORS** **Scott Hillis**



The holidays are just right around the corner. It's time to think about presents for family and friends. How about a gift for your computer "nerds"? Simple gifts are

inexpensive and useful. Mouse pads are ideal. They can be simple or intricate. You can have a pad customized with pictures of friends and/or families. Make it special by ordering a mouse pad and matching coasters. Wrist rests are also thoughtful gifts. If you know of someone who has carpal tunnel syndrome or wants to prevent getting it, a wrist rest provides support for wrists during those long computer hours. Thumb drives for file storage, are inexpensive and when combined with a lottery scratcher ticket they can become a wonderful present! Credit card RFID sleeves are both popular and practical. Pay a visit to a local retailer (such as Best Buy, Walmart or Costco) and browse their aisles. Of course, Amazon has everything!

Caution is the keyword as we approach Christmas. The scammers are close cousins to Scrooge and Grinch. Protect your credit cards. A scammer can read your cards if they are close enough to you. Sleeves can block RFID readers. They have the technology. Also, if you have a keypad for operating your car, wrap it in aluminum foil. It's a protective coating to block the gadgets scammers use to access your car's systems. Goodbye car! Be very cautious when using ATM machines. Only use those machines that are linked to your bank or to a major bank. Scammers are using false ATMs to access your information and money.

Have a great holiday season, just beware of the Grinches and Scrooges out there. We will not have a meeting in December but we will regroup next year. Take care.

Scott Hillis  
[scott.hillis2013@gmail.com](mailto:scott.hillis2013@gmail.com)

### **LET'S GET TECHNICAL** **Scott Hillis**

By now you have probably heard that the association's Bylaws and Standing Rules have been thoroughly examined and amended. Fine, but what are the Bylaws and Standing Rules? Bylaws are the formal written rules that govern how an organization operates. They act as the organization's internal "constitution," defining how business is conducted and who has the authority to make decisions. Bylaws establish structure, consistency, and fairness in how an organization functions. They help ensure that everyone—officers, directors, and members—understands their responsibilities and rights. **Standing Rules** are the *detailed procedures and day-to-day guidelines* that describe **how** an organization carries out the broader framework established by its **Bylaws**. They are more flexible than bylaws and can be changed or updated easily by the governing body (often by a simple majority vote). Standing Rules deal with *specific operations*,

*duties, and practices* rather than fundamental structure.

Our association has a formal structure. We are a non-profit Social Club and we must maintain formal Bylaws and Standing Rules to comply with IRS rules and retain our tax-free status. Now all this sounds technical and it can be but just keep in mind that we are a community, and like any community we have laws and regulations to protect our citizens and provide a pleasant and enjoyable environment. Please attend one of our board meetings and our quarterly association meetings in order to fully understand how we function. Also, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Just a reminder, both the Bylaws and Standing Rules are in a binder located in the clubhouse library and on our website: [www.lakevv.com](http://www.lakevv.com)

Scott Hillis  
[scott.hillis2013@gmail.com](mailto:scott.hillis2013@gmail.com)

## **BINGO**

**Judy Wilson**

Bingo....Every other Thursday, schedule is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Any questions feel free to contact me, call or txt (916) 878-7125 or [judywilson6236@gmail.com](mailto:judywilson6236@gmail.com).

## **BUNCO**

**Val Lea**

Happy Holidays! I hope you all have a great holiday season.

Bunco will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. sharp at the clubhouse. See you all then.

Valerie 408-460-6345.

## **MORNING WAKE UP**

**Leslie Beecher**

I want to thank everyone who continues to show up and support MORNING WAKE UP...it seems to be working! This is a free

event for residents as a thank you for being you. There is no agenda, no tickets to buy, or need to dress up. Just show up and enjoy fellowship with your friends and neighbors.

December is a busy month and because of that MORNING WAKE UP will take a break and start up again in January 2026.

The dates for January are...

—January 8<sup>th</sup>

—January 29<sup>th</sup>

—10:00 a.m. to 12:00 NOON in the clubhouse

—No tickets to buy

—No waiting in line

—Just COFFEE and DONUTS with good friends and fellow residents

### **Please note:**

We will continue MORNING WAKE UP February through April twice per month. Stay tuned and I will keep you posted on future dates.

## **BOTTLES AND CANS**

**Bob Hossack (916) 220-8654**

Good job Lakeview Village!

This month's collection was a success despite the rainy weather. Thanks to all who donated. Many thanks go to our hardworking volunteers, who collect, sort and recycle the bottles and cans each month.

We raised \$406.63 for the month of November. Again, I wish to thank everyone who donated to this fundraiser. We collected 141.2 lbs of aluminum cans, 259.70 lbs of plastics and 332.2 lbs of glass. Next pickup day is **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**. Please have your bagged cans and bottles on the curbside by 9:00 a.m.

Please remember to sort your bottles and cans. Make sure there is no trash or containers with liquid. It is very much appreciated. Please don't remove the labels

from the bottles and cans. The recycler will refuse to take them. Look for the letters: CA CRV on the label of the container to see if it qualifies to recycle for money.

If anyone saw or knows about bags being taken or disappearing, please let me know.

Again, thanks to everyone who donated to this fundraiser.

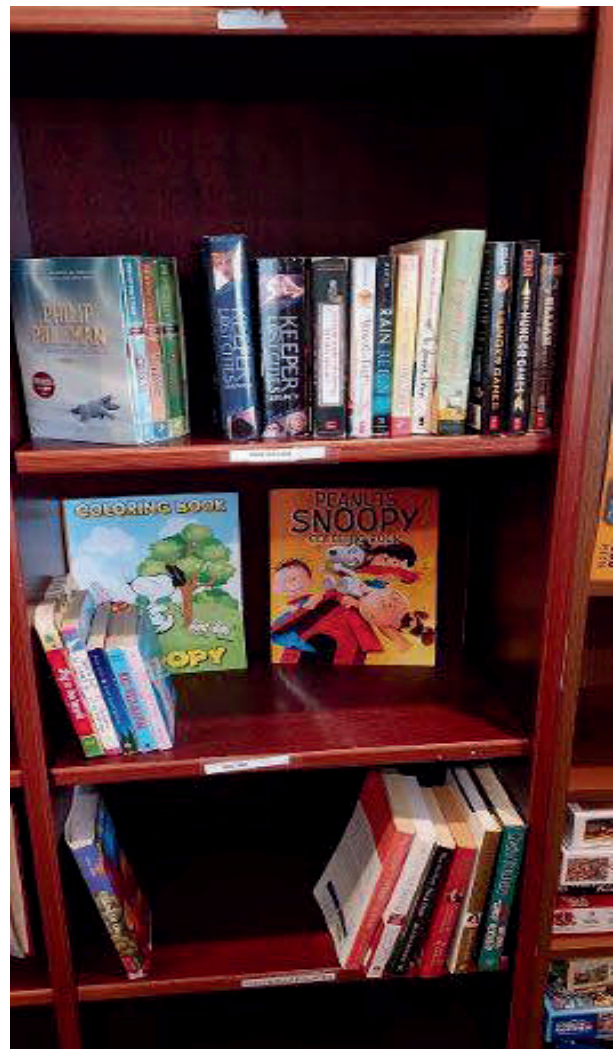
## **LIBRARY** **Judy Ludwick**

“HO! HO! HO!” The holidays have arrived early at our library, with gifts for all ages! Browse the “newly-loaded” shelves with donations of over 100 “new-to-us” hard cover and paperback books, as well as puzzles, games, and book surprises for younger readers. A multi-box contribution from an Estate Sale and several bags of additional books have reenergized our collection.

A new section has been added in response to suggestions from residents whose grandchildren visit throughout the year and especially stay over during the holidays: Children’s and Teen Books”. It’s located just beyond the Community Puzzle table, and Autobiographies/Biographies section on the left wall of the library. You may find age-appropriate suspense and coming-of-age novels; coloring books and books for younger kids including early readers.

Consider doing some “holiday shopping” in our library. Many of the recent acquisitions are recent releases in new or like-new condition. More than 20 new puzzles are available. Remember that you do not check out or need to return anything from our library. Take as many items as you wish, keep them, share them, return them...

We are overstocked with puzzles. Can you possibly reach out and find homes for some of them at a skilled nursing facility, American Legion Post, hospital children’s or Cancer waiting room, or...



FYI: Scott Hillis left a copy of the new “LAKEVIEW VILLAGE BY-LAWS” on the round table in the library for all residents to read. Please don’t remove it from the library.

Special thanks to Betty Rentsch and Larry Carter for their ongoing library support. Please forward any feedback to Judy at (916) 719-0594.

## **THE BOOK CLUB** **Glenda Tinsley**



The Lakeview Book Club will be **Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** at the cozy couches and chairs in the clubhouse.

Glenda Tinsley; Director (831) 252-9440

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

### **Norm Schoch (Hazardous Hairy)**



Hello again fellow LVV residents. Hazardous Hairy here again. We will NOT have a collection in December because of the Christmas and New Year holidays. We do plan to resume full force again on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to check the January CRIER for further information.

There are information sheets in a folder in the clubhouse foyer as well. If you still have questions, you may call me at (916) 801-1937

Norm Schoch, Ken Ingle, and Don Hellar, your LVV “Dukes of Hazardous”

## CORNHOLE

### **Peter Beeman**



December's Cornhole dates are: December 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the clubhouse.

## VETERANS' GROUP

### **Diane Weber**



Veterans Day 2025 was a wonderful event

that took place in the clubhouse. Our very own Fred Ritter was honored by his son Jeff, who shared some of his story, as well as music on the piano, the Theme From MASH. The above photo was taken as the veterans stood to salute while the military branch songs were sung.

The next scheduled Lakeview Veterans' meeting will be on **Thursday December 18, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. in the clubhouse as the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is Christmas Day. Make note of the day change.

Just a gentle reminder of December's history: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy” during his request to congress on December 8<sup>th</sup> that it declare war against Japan.

### *Public Domain*

We honor all veterans from all eras and branches. If you have any questions, please call Diane Weber at 530-828-5777.

## CRAFT THURSDAYS

### **Peggy Robles**

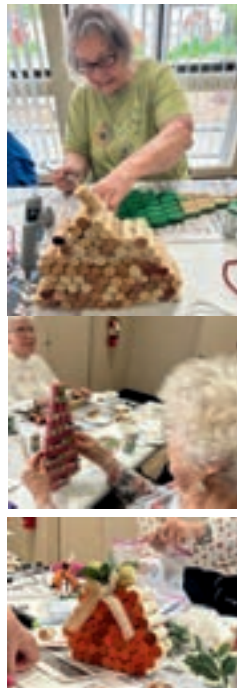


Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. several of us get together to work on our individual craft items and talk. The talk is often more fun than the work. In September we did a group craft together. We worked on Mandala rock paintings. No one

person led the group. Several had purchased the tools recommended

for the project to share. Some came with talent. Most came with just the want to create something different. Best of all were the ideas that people came with. Check out the pictures of just a few of the rocks that were created those days.

Some people donated wine corks to our group, so we decided to make something with them. Last Thursday several of us gathered to make pumpkins and/or Christmas trees.



Sandra Huddleston is the lead for this group. She sends out reminder every Wednesday. If you want to be added to the e-mail list, contact Sandra. Her contact information is in the park's phone list.

## **JACK'S JOKES**

### **Jack Barry**

A woman walked into the kitchen and found her husband walking around the with a fly swatter. She asked, "What are you doing?"



"Hunting flies," he replied "Oh, did you kill any?" she said; "Yep 3 males and two females," Intrigued the wife asked, "how can you tell whether they're male or female?" The

husband replied, "three were on a beer can and two were on the phone."

## **THINGS THAT MATTER**

### **Rita French**

For three solid weeks, I was convinced she was a shoplifter.

It sounds crazy, right? An 80-year-old grandma, couldn't have weighed more than 90 pounds soaking wet, shoplifting? But I'm telling you, the routine was the same every time, and it was setting off all my alarms.

My name's David. I'm 45. I'm the night manager at one of those giant Shop-Mart stores in central Ohio. It's not a glamorous job. My world is mostly fluorescent lights, spilled sodas in the chip aisle, and the low, constant hum of the freezers. You work a job like this long enough, you see a lot. But you also get good at spotting things that are... off.

Her name was Agnes. She had to be 79, maybe 80. Hair like spun cotton and a thin coat that had seen better decades.

She'd come in every Tuesday, right after the 5:00 p.m. dinner rush. She'd walk straight to the back, grab a single loaf of white bread and a half-gallon of 2% milk. Then she'd walk right up to the new self-checkout kiosks we installed last fall. And she'd freeze.

She'd just stand there, staring at the glowing green screen, one hand clutching the bread, the other gripping her old purse. She'd look at the scanner, then at the card reader, then back at the screen. People would start to stack up behind her, huffing, shifting their weight. And then, every single time, she'd put the bread and milk down on a nearby candy display and walk right out the front door. Empty-handed.

The first time, I figured she forgot her wallet. The second, I thought maybe her card got declined and she was embarrassed. But the third time? I thought, "This is some new kind of scam. Or maybe she has dementia." I'm not proud of it, but I was this close to telling our security guy, a kid named Mike, to keep an eye on her.

Then, on the fourth Tuesday, I decided to just walk over. I was tired of guessing.

“Ma’am?” I said, trying to keep my voice gentle. “You having some trouble with the machine?” She jumped, startled, and her eyes went wide with panic. She looked at me, then at the machine, and her lips started to tremble. She didn't say anything. Instead, she lifted a shaky hand and tapped her ear.

“I... I can't hear,” she whispered. Her voice was thin, like old paper. “I'm sorry. These machines... they talk. They tell me what to do. I can't hear them. I don't know what to do.”

And then, the word that just about broke my heart: “I'm so ashamed.”

Ashamed.

That one word hit me harder than a freight train. She wasn't a thief. She wasn't confused. She was deaf, and the world we built to be “faster” and “more convenient” had just locked her out. She was too proud, too embarrassed to find a human and ask for help. So, she was choosing to go without.

I went home that night to my empty apartment. I've been divorced two years. The silence in my place is something I pay for, something I'm used to. But her silence? That was a prison. A silence built by 'progress.' A silence that was stopping an old woman from buying a loaf of bread.

I couldn't sleep. I grabbed my laptop, opened up YouTube, and typed: “Basic American Sign Language for beginners.”

For hours, I sat in my boxers at my kitchen table, watching videos. My fingers felt like clumsy sausages trying to tie knots. “Hello.” “Help.” “Bread.” “Milk.” “Pay.” I practiced in the mirror until 3:00 a.m. I must have looked like a fool. I didn't care.

The next Tuesday, I wasn't in my office. I was pretending to stock the Mountain Dew display near the self-checkouts.

Right on time, Agnes came in. She got her bread, got her milk. She walked up to that

same machine and stopped, her shoulders slumping. She was about to put them down and leave. I stepped out. “Ma’am?” She flinched, her eyes full of that same panic.

I caught her eye, held up my hand, and slowly signed the word I'd practiced a hundred times.

“H-E-L-P?”

She froze. Her whole body went still. She stared at my hand, then at my face. And then... the slowest, brightest smile I've ever seen spread across her face. It was like the sun coming up. She nodded, tears welling up in her eyes.

We did it together. I pointed to the scanner. She scanned the bread. I signed “Okay.” She scanned the milk. I pointed to the card machine. She put her card in. When the receipt printed, she clutched that plastic bag to her chest like it was a winning lottery ticket.

Before she left, she looked at me, raised her own shaky hands, and signed back, slow and careful: “Thank you.”

I nearly lost it right there. And the crazy part? It didn't stop with her.

The college kids I work with, they noticed. Sarah, 19, who runs register three, cornered me by the time clock. “Hey, David, what was that magic trick you pulled with that old lady? Was that, like... sign language?” “Yeah,” I said. “Just the basics.”

She grinned. “That's dope. Teach me.”

So, I did. In the breakroom, I showed her “hello” and “help.” Then Carlos from produce, who's usually got his headphones in, asked me to show him. Then Jenny from the pharmacy.

Now, on Tuesdays, there's a little gang of us. We look like we're just working, but we're watching. We're ready to quietly sign “help” to anyone who looks like the world has left them behind.

Two months ago, Agnes didn't show. I felt that pit in my stomach all week. The next Tuesday, a young guy in his 30s came in and asked for me. He handed me a folded note. It was from Agnes, her handwriting shaky but strong.

“Thank you for seeing me.”

I have that note taped inside my locker, right next to my schedule. It reminds me that not everyone who's silent is choosing to be.

We live in a country that moves at a million miles an hour. We replaced cashiers with touch-screens, bank tellers with apps, and called it "convenience." But convenience for who? We're so busy "optimizing" everything, we forget the cost. And the cost is dignity. The cost is leaving people like Agnes behind.

Last week, a man in a worn-out business suit was at the kiosk. He was sweating, jabbing at the screen, his hands trembling. He saw me watching him, and he looked desperate. He tapped his chest, then his ear.

I stepped in. I signed, “Help?”

He exhaled, a breath he looked like he'd been holding for years. When we finished, he signed back, slow and careful: “God bless you.”

I learned something standing by those awful machines. You don't have to be fluent. You don't need a big, fancy plan.

Sometimes, all you have to do is see the quiet ones. The ones everyone else is too busy to notice.

And then, just... answer in their language. Even if it's clumsy.

Because in the end, it's not about bread or milk. It's about reminding another human being that they matter. That they're not invisible.

And sometimes, that's enough to feed a soul.

## TEDDY BEAR POTLUCK LUNCHEON

### Renée Schoch



Come one, Come all, Come to the Teddy Bear Ball!!! Oh ok, so it's not really a Ball !!! But it is a delicious, wonderful, heart-warming potluck lunch to honor our first responders.



All the residents of Lakeview Village are invited to bring a bear and a potluck dish to share and come schmooze with our city's Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council Members, Chief of Police and many of his associates, and

hopefully if they are not on a call, our Fire Department elite. We love them all; they always enjoy this event and they enjoy meeting and getting to know all of us here at Lakeview Village.

Please come and join the fun. You will have a deliciously good time.

Remember, **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at our clubhouse. And don't forget your potluck dish and your plush bear or animal. I hope to see you there, and thanks for joining in the fun.

Renée Schoch (916) 718-1162

[reschoch@gmail.com](mailto:reschoch@gmail.com)

## LAKEVIEW HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING

### Judy Wilson & Diane Perry

It's almost time for the 2025 Lakeview Holiday Home Decoration contest and judging which will begin on Wednesday, **December 10<sup>th</sup> and continue until Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** There will be ballots, maps, and the ballot box available in the clubhouse on **Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday,**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Drive around the park after dark in your golf cart or car and vote for your favorite homes. You can vote for more than one residence in each category. Please print the address clearly on the ballot and return the ballot to the ballot box in the clubhouse. Bring a flashlight, clipboard and pen or pencil.

The results will be announced on **Saturday, December 13 at our Holiday Party to be held from 6 – 8 p.m. in the clubhouse.** Please join us for holiday music with Karen Heller and a surprise musical group. Have some hot chocolate, coffee with spirits or plain, and bring some of your favorite holiday cookies to share. We're hoping for a visit from the jolliest of elves, Santa Claus and maybe a not so jolly visitor. Your families are welcome to come. See you for some holiday fun!

**LAKEVIEW SURVEY RESULTS**

**Diane Perry & Kathy Cooley**

Here are some resident suggestions from our recent survey. What do you think about having more potlucks including a breakfast/brunch potluck, a pajama party Happy2Hour, day trips to museums, art galleries, Apple Hill, or wineries, and golf outings? We like all these ideas! If you're interested in planning any of these activities, please let us know. We'd love to add them to our calendar, but we need more volunteers to make them happen. Please call or text Diane at 1-(408) 242-3502 or Kathy at 1-(503) 522-2447 to volunteer.

**GOLDEN TICKET**

**Cathy Wheeler**



This is the last month to get your raffle tickets. I hope you are enjoying winning the prizes of enticement to buy tickets. Remember all tickets go into the main pot to be drawn at the New Years Eve Dance. Below is

the list of dates and times I will be selling.

- Dec 6 karaoke happy hour 3:30-5:00
- Dec 17 holiday home judging and party 6:30-8:00
- Dec 16,17,18 sales for New Years party 10-12
- Dec 31 new year dance ..... I will sell until dinnertime.

Drawing will be held when the band takes a break. A reminder you "do not" need to be present to win. Good luck to all the entries.

**SIDE NOTE:** calling for a chairperson for this fundraiser as, there will be no golden ticket next year unless someone steps up. Please give me a call if you might be interested and I can tell you what this entails. Cathy Wheeler (707) 292-2440

**Holiday Craft Faire**

**Cathy Wheeler**

We had a new table layout this time and hope everyone liked it. It was a beautiful fall day starting chilly in the morning and fully warm in the afternoon. Customers flowed thru at a steady pace. We want to say a huge "thank you" to Diane Perry, Lori Withers, Cindy Johnson, Cathy Jones, Diane Weber, Gina Boyle, Glenda Markert, Renee Schoch for the café and bake sales. And to all the vendors who make this event. We've added \$2,075.85 to our association fund. Hope to see you all again next year.

Cathy Wheeler and Sam Kuykendahl



*Loving memories never die,  
As years roll on and days pass by.  
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Neil Anton



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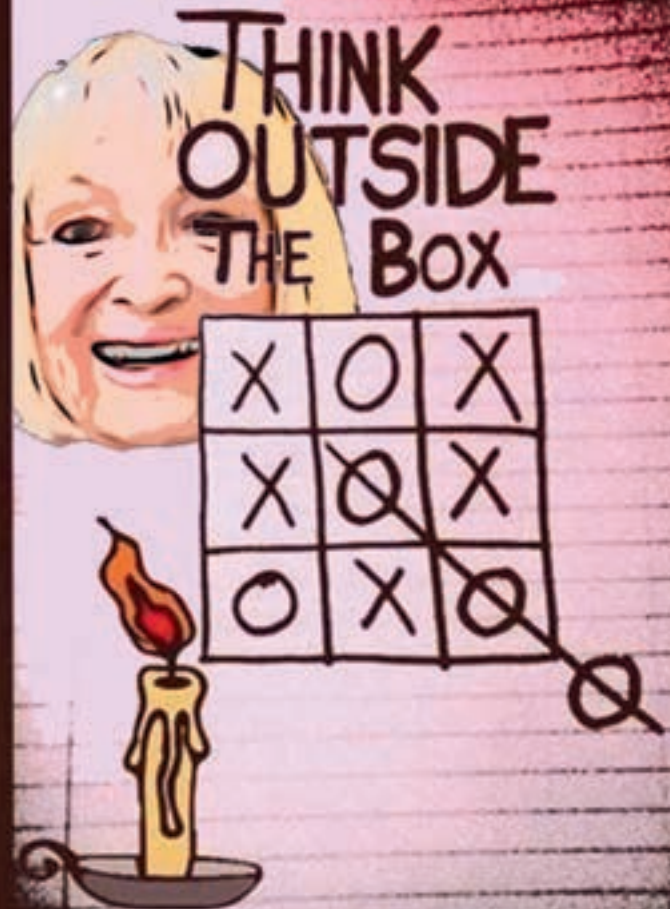
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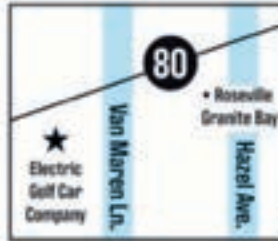
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