
Our Village VOICE

A monthly publication of Clayton Valley Village January 2020 Edition

Welcome to our January 2020 Newsletter



It's a new Year and lots of new beginnings for CVV. See our new President's message, photos of our past events, news of our upcoming events, information about our interest circles and committee reports.
Enjoy!

How to Support CVV When You Shop at Amazon!



Do you purchase items through Amazon.com? If so, we wanted to make you aware of a program that Amazon offers called **AmazonSmile** that donates a small percentage of every eligible Amazon purchase you make to a non-profit of your choice. Clayton Valley Village is registered as a non-profit with Amazon, so this is an easy (and painless) way you can help raise funds for our organization. All you need to do to set this up, is to log in to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. On your first visit to **AmazonSmile** you will be prompted to select a charitable organization from their list of eligible organizations. That organization will then show up on your menu (see screenshot below). Then, an easy way for you to remember to log in to your **AmazonSmile** account (rather than the regular Amazon account) is to bookmark and always use the following link to login: <https://smile.amazon.com>

Did You Know?



TOP PHONE SCAMS OF 2019

Most people are familiar with phone scams through the occasional local news item that highlights a warning from law enforcement or perhaps the victim's own sad story about losing their life savings.

The [BeenVerified Phone Spam Complaint Monitor](#) sought to analyze these calls at a national level to identify the most common types of phone scams and their associated tactics. The report analyzed more than 200,000 phone complaints sourced directly from customers over a period of 2016 through the first half of this year.

Based on this data, the report has identified the top five phone scams everyone should be aware of in 2019:

- 1. Social Security scams** – This scam has skyrocketed in 2019, with consumers complaining about social security related calls at a 23x higher rate compared to the same time period in 2018. In fact, they make up nearly 10% of all phone complaints in the report. There are many variations of this scam, but nearly all rely on threatening calls (or voicemails) from impersonators of federal or state government officials indicating that the victim's social security number is "suspended" "compromised" or affected in some way, following a demand for quick payment to rectify the situation. A significant number of these calls were also accompanied by threats of a lawsuit.
- 2. IRS/tax scams** – Last year's previous top phone scam, reports of the IRS tax scam have declined markedly as social security scams have skyrocketed. It's unclear if this a permanent trend or simply a temporary shift in tactics. It's possible we will see a revival of this type of scam, which again relies on threatening calls from government impersonators demanding immediate payment of (bogus) back taxes, as we get closer to tax season in the new year.
- 3. Credit card offers** – Complaints about robocalls offering unsolicited credit card offers grew this year. While some of these calls may be from legitimate companies, they also present scam artists with cover for attempting to obtain sensitive personal

financial details.

4. **Debt-related calls** – Debt consolidation calls remain a persistent problem. Many of these offers promise a “quick fix” to repairing credit, but actually consist of practices that could harm your credit score in the long run.

5. **Free offers or giveaways** – While most phone scam calls rely on fear tactics, appealing to greed can also be an effective way to victimize targets. Remember if an offer seems too good to be true, it likely is!

Tips for avoiding this year’s top phone scams:

- Understand that the Social Security Administration does not “suspend” your social security number for any reason. Any type of call or voicemail you receive with language to this effect is a scam.
- Be wary of threatening voicemails: Scam callers increasingly rely on voicemails to accompany their impersonation schemes.
- Dismiss threats and pressure tactics: All phone scams rely on an element of time pressure (demanding payment right now). Government agencies do not operate this way and will communicate by mail if there is an issue.



President’s Message

Sue Manning

I want to draw eyeglasses on 2020, a year that sounds like excellent vision! I’m looking forward to this new year as president of Clayton Valley Village with the vision of helping bring the village way of life to more people in Concord and Clayton. We made good headway this past year with Jim Whitfield at the helm as president, and I want to express our thanks to Jim for his leadership.

This past year CVV’s service area expanded to include Districts 1 and 5 in Concord and the unincorporated area in between. With that growth in coverage area, our most critical need is to increase the number of volunteers we have to assist our members. We will work to be more visible within Concord, talking to seniors about how a village can enhance their lives, both as members and as volunteers. Helping others is a lift to one’s own spirit. Our first opportunity to speak about CVV is in January at the Concord Senior Center to the Commission on Aging.

In February, CVV will hold its annual meeting at Hoyer Hall in the Clayton Library, where the public is invited to hear what Clayton Valley Village has done and where we intend to go (grow) next. The date for that meeting is Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 7 to 9 pm. Please put it on your calendar and join us!

I look forward to this new year. My wish for you is that it brings you good health, much happiness and a rosy outlook!

~ Sue Manning



Meet our new
Executive Director
Carol Hansen Grey

Starting January 1, Carol Hansen Grey assumes the role of Executive Director of Clayton Valley Village. She has agreed to volunteer in this new position for a trial period of 6 months. During that time she will work closely with the new President, Sue Manning, as well as the Board, to follow through on action items approved at board meetings, to keep an up-to-date calendar of CVV meetings and activities, to present ideas and action plans for expanding membership, to develop new educational programs, to recruit and head up a fundraising committee,

to be a voice for CVV at city council meetings, to interface with local city council leadership in order to spearhead joint CVV and community projects, and to connect with other villages including the Village to Village Network and Village Movement California.

Carol brings with her a background in nonprofit leadership. She served for 5 years as Executive Director of an international women's 501c3 organization where she planned and executed many successful fundraising events in addition to recruiting new board members and growing the organization's membership and treasury. She has served on the CVV Board for two years and was a representative from CVV to the National Village to Village conference in Chicago in September 2019. We are all enthusiastic about this new step in CVV's development and heartily welcome and support Carol in her new role.

Upcoming Events for January 2020

Wednesday, Jan 1st- Happy New Year
Sat, Jan 4th - Holiday Party, Members and Volunteers
Tues, Jan 7th - CVV Board Meeting
Tues, Jan 14th, Writing Circle - Members and Volunteers
Tues, Jan 14th , CVV Mixer - Inca's Grill

For additional info about these events and more, click the link below:

https://claytonvalley.helpfulvillage.com/events/index_list



PAST EVENTS

CVV Explorers “Hike” the Streets of Walnut Creek

Dec. 9

Taking BART from Concord to Walnut Creek & back.





**Passing up the
Free Trolley Ride
and
Enjoying Lunch
at Boudin's.**



Monday December 9 the Village Explorers arrived at Concord BART and nabbed a parking spot not far from the entrance. At 10:00 am any open reserved spots are open to all but you must still pay the \$3. parking fee. You can take the bus and avoid parking all together. There is a bus stop by the Clayton Library, Clayton Rd. We used our senior Clipper card to take the train to downtown Walnut Creek at a cost of .75 each way. You may also use the clipper card for the bus. We walked down Main St. and Broadway Plaza, walking through some of the larger stores to view the Christmas displays. We had lunch at Boudin sourdough restaurant, then had our picture taken in front of the giant Christmas tree by of the fountain. We decided to walk back to BART but there is a free shuttle that runs every 12 minutes you can take back to BART with a stop right by the tree. You could skip the walk from BART by catching the shuttle going into downtown. We walked back up Locust with a total of around 3 level miles. You can find out where to apply for a clipper card by going to the web site or call BART. It is convenient and a saving of almost half on fares for seniors.

OUR HOLIDAY MIXER

This year we held our annual Holiday Mixer at the Old Spaghetti Factory in downtown Concord. The food was delicious, the wait staff amazing, and the atmosphere festive. A fun time was had by all!

OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY- CONCORD MIXER (Dec. 10)



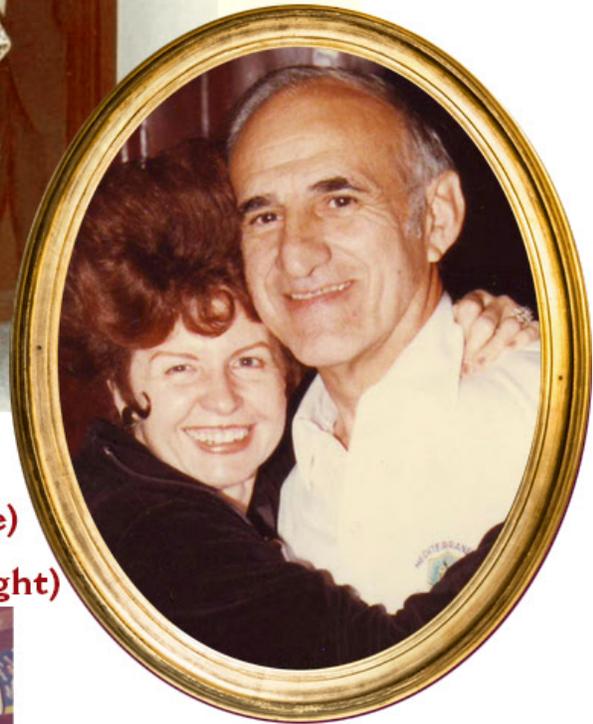


The Old Spaghetti Factory has an interesting history. It first opened its doors on January 10, 1969 in Portland, OR with an actual Trolley Car that the owners, Guss and Sally Dussin, refurbished and began using as a unique dining area within the restaurant. The trolley car has since become a fixture in this family owned business in their

over 40 locations throughout the country. Read more at: <https://www.osf.com/about/>



Gus & Sally Dussin in front of first Old Spaghetti Factory in 1969 in Portland, OR (above)



Gus & Sally Dussin today. (right)



First trolley car dining area in the Portland location.



HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING WORKSHOP

For the second year, CVV Member Arlene Lewandowski hosted a fun and informative holiday cookie decorating event at her lovely home. Not only did we all have a GREAT time, but we got to bring home a box full of gorgeous cookies!

THANK YOU, ARLENE!!

HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATING

Hosted by Arlene Lewandowski (Dec. 13, 2019)



Sweatshirt Decorating Class

CVV member Betty Armes' daughter held a sweatshirt decorating class in her home. See below for some of the members' talented artistic techniques.

Christmas Tree Sweatshirt Decorating Class





Upcoming CVV Events for February

Save the Date!

Wednesday, Feb 19th: CVV Annual Meeting

(open to the public -- RSVP Required)



**Meet our new Board and Executive Director.
Hear our exciting plans for 2020!**

On Thinking Big

"Anything's possible if you've got enough nerve". ~ J.K. Rowling

Who knows... you may even write a book series that becomes more popular than Harry Potter.



CVV members and volunteers have many interests, hobbies and skills, so we invite you to start an "Interest Circle." It's a great way to meet, share and learn from others in our village who share common interests. Suggestions include: walking/hiking, arts & crafts, book club, creative writing, woodworking, doll making, card making, painting, quilting, sewing, photography, dining in private homes, conversations on various topics, attending musical events and/or local theater, travel. What it comes down to, however, is the willingness of our Members and Volunteers to lead and coordinate these Interest Circles. If you'd like to share ideas and discuss further, please contact by email Sue at <suemanning121@gmail.com>



Open to Members
& Volunteers



Coordinated by
Sue Manning

Our next Armchair Traveler experience is truly exotic! We'll be transported to Africa by Dorothy Bradt! Please join us on Friday evening, February 7, 2020, at 7:00 pm to be enthralled with beautiful photographs and inspiring thoughts from Dorothy's recent safari. Refreshments will be served. Register for this under EVENTS on CVV's website.



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

2020 CVV Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

Sue Manning (President), Jim Whitfield (Past-President)
Carol Hansen Grey (Executive Director) Mary Esther Loranger (Secretary), Joanne Wasak (Treasurer)

Members-at-Large

Diane Berger, Marilyn Wollenweber, Kathy Geddes, Joann Vanis

Volunteer Representative Member

- The CVV **Events Committee** meets on the last Friday of the month between 1-3 pm and we welcome anyone to our hardworking team! We enjoy our meetings and the satisfaction of pitching in to make sure our events run smoothly.
- The CVV **Tech Committee** meets on the third Tuesday of the month, participates in the HV Users Group and handles Database Management.
- The CVV **Communications/Publicity Committee** interfaces with the Tech Committee and handles Website Development, Newsletters, Printed Promotional Material, Calendar Management, Social Network Outreach and Email Notifications. (No regularly scheduled meetings.)
- The CVV **Outreach Committee** gives presentations to various organizations, organizes periodic community gatherings; joins other Bay Area Villages at resource fairs & programs; attends public meetings of various local, state and national government agencies; represents CVV at National and State Conferences; continuously promotes CVV wherever the opportunity occurs to increase membership. (Meets as needed.)
- The CVV **Member Services Committee** meets on the second Thursday of the month. The committee processes new member applications, schedules new member in-home visits, creates, edits, and distributes the Member and Volunteer Handbooks. The committee also provides and monitors the call managers who are assigned days to answer calls and respond to emails sent to the Village. It receives members suggestions for service providers and adds them to the service provider list on CVV's website after review.

Our Village Voice is a free, electronic publication of
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Email: Village.clayton@gmail.com.

The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right
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Donations are tax-deductible and welcomed.

<https://www.claytonvalleyvillage.org>

**Submissions, Questions or Comments about
Clayton Valley Village or Our Voice Newsletter**

Email: Village.Clayton@gmail.com or Phone: 925-626-0411



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