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Our Village VOICE

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

Welcome to the May 2018 edition of Our Village Voice. In this issue you will find photos from our past events as well as news of our upcoming events. We've also added a new section called Volunteer Spotlight where we will post articles on a regular basis about our amazing volunteers and the varied services they offer.

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CVV Board Members

Sonja Wilkin, President
Jim Whitfield, Past President
Sue Manning, Secretary
Joanne Wasak, Treasurer
Diane Berger
Fiona Hughes
Kathy Geddes
Pete Bardea
Carol Hansen Grey

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President's Message

[presmessage](#)



by Sonja Wilkin

I have just shifted gears in writing this month's message and am concentrating on the very important topic of Membership in Clayton Valley Village. Our first renewal packages went out to all our Founding and Regular Members for our 2nd year which begins May 1, 2018. We are hoping that each and every one of our Members renews his/ her membership. If not, we will find out the reason.

Over the year, we have expanded our volunteer services covering many different areas, had our monthly social events and day trips, and offered varied and different programs either here in Clayton or in conjunction with Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Villages. Our network of resources keeps expanding as does our list of preferred providers recommended by our members. We continue to participate in Clayton community activities such as Creekside Arts Fair, CBCA Art & Wine Festival, Clayton Cleans Up, Oktoberfest, July 4th parade, CBCA Rib Cookoff. Our interest groups (Open and Closed Circles) are expanding.... we already have a Bocce Villagio team and a movie circle. Forming is a quarterly Lunch Out circle

and a Mah Jong circle is around the corner.

One of our members fell and broke her hip a month ago requiring surgery and nursing care. As soon as she is home, CVV is poised to offer the help she needs. Her daughter lives across the country so we will give her the reassurance that her Mom will have caring friends around her as she recovers.

Our Membership Drive begins May 15-June 15.... our flyers have just been created and will be distributed. I urge you to promote this important vision of our Village - it enriches us individually and as the Clayton Valley community. It provides a safety net and can add to our existing friends. For less than \$2.00 per day this can be yours! Come join us!

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carguy

Car-Guy to the Rescue: How Mary Ester Found Her (Kia) Soul Mate

by Fiona Hughes



From ex-President to gardening help as a volunteer, Jim Whitfield has done a wide variety of different jobs for Clayton Valley Village over his five years with the organization. Whether cleaning out gutters or installing smoke detectors, Jim is always happy to help. However, a recent member-need gave him a challenge to really sink his teeth into, and use his expertise as a self-proclaimed "car guy." Jim responded to a service request from CVV member, Mary Esther Loranger, who asked for automotive advice when she recently needed a new car. Poor Mary Esther was still healing broken bones received during a car accident where she'd been hit and her car totaled. As many might agree, choosing a replacement car can be akin to root canal surgery at the best of times, let alone having to make that decision single-handedly and while recovering from a nasty accident!

Which is why Mary Esther sensibly requested CVV's help in seeking advice on a replacement vehicle. She says, "I didn't know which make or model to even begin looking for. The idea of car-shopping, test-driving and negotiating price just wasn't something I felt comfortable doing alone."

So, Jim Whitfield and Mary Esther pored over the car buyers' issue of Consumer Reports Magazine, and established her criteria. Being 4.11" in height, Mary Esther needed a vehicle she could get in and out of easily – and with a driver's seat that enabled her to easily see through both the front and rear windows. Having weighed the various options, against car ratings, models, size, driver visibility, safety and maintenance ease, they established a pretty good idea of which viable models to go and check out.

"I took Mary Esther down to various car dealerships locally, looking for the right match and model for her needs," says Jim. The first three or four cars had to be ruled out when she found she actually couldn't see out of the back window! However, at the Kia dealership, she discovered something that could work." With its elevated seating height, roomy interior and exemplary safety features, Mary Esther found the award-winning Kia Soul met her check-list. "And best of all, I could finally see the hood as well as the rear window view!" she says.

Jim and Mary Esther took it for a test drive together and she put the Kia through its paces. It performed beautifully, and the Kia Soul got her seal of approval! Next though, would come the daunting part that Mary Esther was dreading... price negotiations. As they talked, however, Jim walked Mary Esther through the options of leasing the vehicle rather than buying it outright. She reasons, "As a senior woman, I just didn't want to deal with tires wearing out and needing replacing, plus all the maintenance issues of owning a vehicle... which quickly becomes obsolete as new features come out".

Jim pointed out the advantages in leasing also include good leasing rates currently, a fixed monthly payment, which is made only for the period you actually use the car, and not for the life of the vehicle. Additionally, with a three or four year lease, you can turn it in and get another car – with new bells and whistles – as your needs or situations change. This sound advice is just what Mary Esther had been looking for when deciding the pros and cons of buying a new car. She opted to sign a three-year lease on a beautiful white Kia Soul, and is extremely happy with her new vehicle (see photo).

Meanwhile, since Jim has been giving car-advice to friends and family for years on which makes and models to consider, he is kindly going to offer a class to CVV members on "Car Replacement 101". If this sounds like something you're in the market for, or considering, please let CVV know so we can nail down a time to have Jim teach us, "What to Look for When Facing a New Car Decision". Thanks, Jim!



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Our CVV Members all have interesting life stories to tell, and the purpose of our monthly **Member Spotlight** is to provide a way for us to better get to know one another. This month we are Spotlighting Founding Member and CVV Board Member, Kathy Geddes. The interview is in a question and answer format:

Where were you born? US Naval Hospital, Bremerton WA

Where did you spend your childhood years? As a military family, we moved quite a bit when I was young (up and down the West Coast) but San Leandro, CA became my home during this time.

Where did you graduate from High School? Arroyo High School, San Lorenzo

Did you go to college and if so where and what was your major? I attended Chabot Junior College majoring in Medical Assisting, Diablo Valley College studying business management, and Cal State East Bay for a Paralegal certificate. I also took classes at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

What field(s) of work have you pursued? Medical Assisting, working at a private physician's office, US Naval Hospital Oakland and Kaiser Permanente. My longest stint, however, was working as Business Manager at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette for 34 years.

Tell us about your family: I have been married twice, both husbands dying at young ages. I have two daughters, Christy and Andrea, and three grandchildren Spencer, Sophia and Alex.

What organizations do you belong to? Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors (my dad was a Pearl Harbor Survivor), Gold Star Wives, Ruth Bancroft Garden, Concord Arboretum, a number of museums, and ministries at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette.

What are your hobbies? Gardening, reading, life-long learning, arts and crafts

What do you do for relaxation? Watching sports (baseball, basketball, soccer), theater (especially musicals), gardening, camping and reading.

Tell us about any traveling you've done. I have been on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, worked with Mayan Indians in small villages of the Yucatan Peninsula, and will be making a trip to Portugal, Spain and France the first part of May. I've seen a good deal of the United States and would like to see a lot more!

How long you've lived in Clayton and why did you settle here? I have lived in the Concord/Clayton area since 1971. We moved here when my husband was hired as a civil engineer for Contra Costa County. I have stayed in the area because of climate, friends, Mt. Diablo, and family—and it's great to garden here!

What interested you in becoming a founding member of Clayton Valley Village? It seemed to me that the Village concept was the answer to my concerns about how I could continue to live independently and as long as possible in my own home. I took my interest to the group who had been working quite a while to address this very situation for themselves and others in the community. My interest continued as I joined this task force to make Clayton Valley Village a reality. I am currently on the Board of Directors and a member of the Member Services committee.

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To start off our new volunteer spotlight series we are featuring two of our volunteers who often work

together: Pete Bardea and Bev Adams. In addition to volunteering, Pete also serves on the CVV Board. I recently put in a volunteer request for someone to help me declutter and organize my garage. Pete and Bev cheerfully volunteered for what I considered a daunting task. We started the project at 9:30 and by 12:30 we had a pile that was ready for recycling, a pile to be hauled away to the dump and a garbage can filled to the brim.

Pete was relentless in challenging me to make the hard decisions about what to keep, what to recycle and what to toss, while Bev kept cutting up boxes, sweeping away the cobwebs and keeping everything neat and tidy as we worked. Pete took the recycle pile and found homes for most of the items. Those he didn't find homes for he posted on Free Cycle. I hired Ernie Chalco (EC Hauling), who came highly recommended, to haul away the junk. He did a GREAT job at a very reasonable price. You can find contact info on Ernie in the member referral section of our website.



THE GARAGE PROJECT!

Before



In Process



All Clean!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

TO CLAYTON VALLEY VILLAGE

Did You Know?

Clayton Enhances 9-1-1 Services With Smart911

Clayton, CA April 4, 2018, – Public safety officials announced today that Smart911 is now available to all residents and travelers of Clayton, CA. Smart911 is a free service that allows individuals and families to sign up online to provide key information to 9-1-1 call takers during an emergency. Over 70% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phones which gives call takers very little information to help you -- only your phone number and a very general sense of your location. With Smart911, you can add key information about members of your household that would help anyone you care for in the event of an emergency, whether the call is from the home or any mobile phone. [Click here for more information about Smart911.](#)

New Medicare Cards Are On Their Way!

Starting in April 2018, Medicare will begin mailing new cards to everyone who gets Medicare benefits. Why? To help protect your identity, Medicare is removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. Instead, the new cards will have a unique Medicare Number. This will happen automatically. You don't need to do anything or pay anyone to get your new card. Do not respond to telephone scam calls! Medicare will mail your card, at no cost, to the address you have on file with the Social Security Administration. For more information, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/new-medicare-card/nmc-home.html>

MAY 2018							TODAY	<	>
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
29 Clayton Art & Wine Festival - 10:00 AM	30 Marin Clean Energy (MCE) Presentation - 7:00 PM	1 CVV Board Meeting - 3:00 PM	2 SAVVY SENIOR LIVING -- SELLING YOUR HOME IN TODAY'S MARKET - 10:00 AM	3	4	5 Clayton Historical Society 26th Annual Garden Tour - 10:00 AM Mt Diablo Interpretive Assoc. Butterfly Walk - 10:00 AM			
6 Clayton Historical Society 26th Annual Garden Tour - 10:00 AM Concord Knitting and Crochet Group - 1:15 PM	7	8	9 CVV Tech Team Meeting - 9:30 AM	10	11 CVV Member Services Meeting - 1:15 PM	12 CV Garden Club 2018 Plant Sale - 8:00 AM 2018 Concerts in The Grove--Plan "B" - 6:00 PM			
13	14	15 CVV Membership Drive - 8:00 AM CCV Mixer - Mores's Chophouse - 4:00 PM	16	17	18	19 Diablo Women's Chorale - Sprint Concert - 2:00 PM			
20	21	22	23 Lunch & Learn with Nutritionist-Pamala McDonald - 11:30 AM	24 CVV Events Committee Meeting - 1:00 PM	25 2018 Concerts in The Grove--The Big Bang Beat - 6:00 PM	26			
27	28	29	30	31	1	2			

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PAST EVENTS

April Mixer @ ButtercuP

Our April Mixer ButtercuP Grill was well attended, informative and lots of fun. Our featured speaker was Clayton's new police chief, Elise Warren, who is Clayton's first female police chief as well as Contra Costa County's only active female police chief. She spoke about the Smart911 program recently implemented in Concord and Clayton. (See the article above.)





CVV MIXER
APRIL 17, 2018
ButtercuP Grill
FEATURED SPEAKER:
← **Clayton Police Chief**
Elise Warren





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What are Circles? Why do we want them? How do we get them?

By Sonja Wilkin

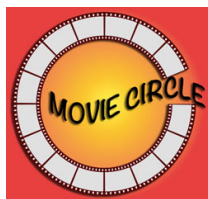
"Circles" are our interest/affinity groups that will add to the fun of being part of Clayton Valley Village! With these you will be able to learn, explore, expand your activities and get to know each other better in small groups.

We already have our established Circles - some are Open to all such as our movie one; and our Spring and Summer bocce teams (Bocce Villagio)... we view these as a wonderful way to promote ourselves and to connect with the community.

Others will be reserved for members only as are some activities such as a quarterly birthday luncheon... we want to make sure the members get special treatment!

The newest Circle for members is being formed this minute.... it is a "Lunch Out" quarterly event... we will explore different restaurants in the Bay Area.... our first one will be at Locanda Positano, 1005 Brown Ave. Lafayette (the original Kaffee Barbara known to many). It will be held in May, date to be determined. Sonja is looking for someone to "coordinate" these quarterly luncheons but will kick start this one. Please contact her directly by email: sonjawilkin@gmail.com. If you are interested, let her know, and there will be a followup on date, time, and carpooling.

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Movie Circle Activities

by Jeanne Boyd

We had a small group to go see "A Wrinkle in Time" based on the childrens' fantasy book by Madeleine L'Engle. The makeup on the 3 "witches" was amazing. I am currently reading the book, and am finding that the movie changes both the characters and the story line. If you have read the book you would be disappointed in the movie. The four who saw it did not give it rave reviews!



Our next movie outing will take place on Friday, May 4. I have been taking a class that meets on Tuesday afternoon through April, and May does not work for me either. More later when the theaters complete their schedules for that week. Suggestions are always welcome.



Standing & Ad Hoc Committees

The 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 first Wednesday of the month and also participates in the monthly 3-Village Tech meeting.

The Member Services Committee meets on the third Friday of the month.

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

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The editors welcome all submissions and reserve the right to include or edit all material. Unless otherwise specified, other publications may reprint any material herein with proper attribution.

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**Submissions, Questions or Comments about
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