

Riviera-West News



January 2011

Issue 46

OPEN BOARD MEETINGS

PROPERTY OWNERS

Thursday, January 20,
2011 @ 9 AM

WATER COMPANY

Thursday, January 20,
2011 @ 6 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

Property Owners:

President.: Phil Wilson

V-Pres.: Doug Bridges

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Karl Hoenke

Director: Doug Morris

Water Company:

President.: Tom Smythe

Treasurer: Linda McPherson

Secretary: Barbara Eichten

Director: Norma Simmons

Administration Office

8475 Harbor View Dr.
707.279.8544

Monday - Thursday

9:15 AM - 1:15 PM

Katy English

www.rivierawest@gmail.com

Riviera West Property Owners Association

Happy New Year to all of you .

I hope all of us in Riviera West will find 2011 to be a good year. We have started with snow and continued with cold weather but we can look forward to spring.

This year we need to make a great effort in the fire abatement area. This cannot be just a suggestion. It is mandatory for the safety of everyone. All owners of homes and lots have a responsibility to this community. PLEASE do not put the Board in the position of having to threaten and fine people.

Karen Magnusen, Greg Blinn and committee have the Emergency Response Program in the final stages. Thanks go out to all of you who have worked so hard on this complex task.

We had a delay in getting the new docks installed. The company that drives the pilings lost their crane in the lake. We have just found a new company to drive the pilings and hopefully this will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Suburban Propane has offered the same program to us as they do to Clearlake Riviera. Annual rental \$50 & 30% off regular price of gas for 3 years. If you are interested Please contact them at (707) 263-5428, or you can always contact our office

We are trying to expand the newsletter. If you have anything you would like to offer, please send it to Katy in the office. The next newsletter will be in March.

This is my wish for all of you in this coming New Year:

May your troubles be less,

May your blessing be more,

May nothing but happiness come through your door.

Phil Wilson, President

Riviera West Property Owners Association

2010
In Memory

Harold Harby
Dr. Dennis Greenlee
James West
Gerald DeChaine



Riviera West Mutual Water Company

The last few months have been busy. In December, the Lake County Planning Commission approved the County Use Permit and environmental documents. This has allowed us to proceed with the water plant upgrade and obtaining our waste discharge permit from the Regional Board. We have started this process, and are actively pursuing the many steps necessary to get our system upgraded and brought into compliance. While working the upgrade, we are planning ahead to allow us to improve system reliability.

The water plant is working well, and our operators are working hard to fix some of the deferred maintenance issues. We are working on upgrading the finish water pumps at the plant as well as the booster pumps at Riviera West and Shoreline View. With their replacement, we will improve system reliability, and hopefully reduce our power bills.

We'll have a busy few months leading into summer, but it is my goal to have the full system into compliance by this summer.

Tom Smythe, President

Riviera West Mutual Water Company

It is very important that we have candidates for the upcoming election.

We need at least 3 candidates for the POA Board & the MWC Board. If you would like more information, please contact the office.

Riviera West Activities 2011 Sponsored by the Ladies' Club

Crab Feed - Saturday, February 5, 2011

5:30 Cocktails, 6:30 Dinner

Reservations must be made by: Saturday, January 29th

Volunteer: Barbara Sarao and Thomasine Griesgraber

Dinner St. Patrick's Day - Saturday, March 19th, 2011

Time: 5:30 pm cocktails: 6:30 pm

Volunteers: Wilma and Harold Taylor

April tini Cocktail Party - Friday, April 22, 2011

Cinco de Mayo - Saturday, May 14, 2011

Time: 5:30 cocktails, 6:30 dinner

Volunteers: Norma Simmons and Bonnie Richards

Please contact Karen Magnuson to sign up to help with events.

Karen Magnuson, Ladies' Club President

If questions, 279-1256 or email: spidermouz@gmail.com

Lake County Events

Blue Wing Monday Blues

Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Blue Wing Saloon, Upper Lake

Taylor Observatory - Public Event

Saturday, February 12, 2011

8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Taylor Observatory, Kelseyville

Wine & Chocolate and More

Saturday, February 19, 2011

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Mt. Konocti Growers, Lakeport

www.lakecochamber.com

In Memoriam

I had the honor and good fortune to know and appreciate both Jerry Dechaine and Bob Brackett. You would have to look far and wide to find two finer individuals. Both served us well in various capacities over the years. They served on boards and committees and were dedicated to the betterment of Riviera West. They had many accomplishments but the ones that come to mind for me are that Bob was instrumental in getting the bank cut back at the exit of Riviera West Drive onto Soda Bay Road to increase our safety by enhanced visibility of oncoming traffic and Jerry developed a detailed concept and design for the much needed upgrades at our Marina. He spent an enormous amount of time on his own making telephone calls, pricing items, etc. beside the time he spent with Dan Krause and me in this endeavor. In our last conversation I assured Jerry that progress is being made toward the Marina improvement.

They were giving, caring, contributing and selfless men who were gentlemen in the truest sense of the word. I am grateful to have been able to speak with each of them and share some last thoughts and feelings. I am certain that I speak for the community, as well as myself, in saying that both will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,

Sharon Beeson



Emergency Response Committee Report

ER committee meeting held, Wednesday, Jan 5th:

Emergency Alert Notification Plan Meeting

We now have a copy of the Water Board's New State Plan for Emergency Notifications that we will use for any kind of emergency. Fire Chief Mike Stone and some members of the board have agreed to meet with any of the Neighborhood Notification Team to discuss the plan and procedures on Wednesday, January 12 at 1 pm.

Emergency Response Training

1. Greg Blinn has completed half of the booklet and hopes to have it completed for the training sessions.

SIGN UP NOW

2. Mike Stone, Fire Chief, has confirmed that an Emergency Preparedness Training will begin in late March with an experienced trainer from Marin. We would like anyone interested to sign up for this invaluable service at no charge. Contact us directly if you would like to attend the first meeting. Please let us know your preference between Saturday, March 19 and Saturday, March 26, 9am. --

R.S.V.P. 707-279-1256 or email spidermouz@gmail.com

We discussed the signage and will work on the evacuation locations at the training sessions and make some plans to clear escape pathways and buy any equipment for the club house and/or association. We are still awaiting letters giving us permission to create these escape routes.

We will make a presentation to the board at the next meeting to secure at least \$1,000 for the printing the booklets and making the signs. Respectfully submitted, Karen Magnuson Emergency Response Team Committee Chairperson.

Please visit our website so that you may receive the most current news and updates for Riviera West at:
www.rivierawest.org

Riviera West documents, such as the Rules and Regulations, can be found under the Documents tab. Or, if you prefer, you may pick these up at the office.

“Don’t worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older it will avoid you.” Winston Churchill

The Voice of Kelseyville (Continued)

By: Betty Helf

SUSTAINS INJURY

An injury sustained in a horse runaway which permanently affected his hip caused Piner to settle down in San Francisco. He sang for years in grand opera, gave concerts and taught singing. One of his outstanding students was John McCormack.

Mrs. Piner gave up her concert tours, sang in the San Francisco Bay Area and taught music. For several years the Piner studio was on Nob Hill, near the Mark Hopkins hotel. They acquired their present residence in Kelseyville several years ago as a summer home and studio. Then when both were in their seventies they left San Francisco and retired to Lake county. Up to a recent illness George Washington Piner continued to give singing instruction there. He is now in his seventy-seventh year and still possesses a rich tenor voice. Arthritis has forced Mrs. Piner, not much younger, to give up her beloved piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Piner purchased the W. G. Young mansion in Kelseyville several years ago. It is a 13-room residence with three baths and 15-foot ceilings and the property occupies an entire block just off Kelseyville's Main Street. Beautiful gardens surround the southern type old manse. What in years gone by was a stable with fancy carriages and fine horses is now a private garage. The Piners, unable to do the extensive entertaining are now content to occupy [sic] the street floor and lease the second story. Although the house shows its age, it is well kept. In the front hallway, reached through a massive mahogany door, is the most beautiful, hand carved French clock we have ever seen. It is more than a century old, came from Paris and strangely enough still keeps excellent time. To the left is Mr. Piner's studio - a grand room, luxuriously furnished with rare tables and chairs, rich paintings and exotic rugs. A grand piano, swung at an angle, gives it a concert stage appearance. Mrs. Piner has her studio in a side wing of the house. Here are two pianos which she used in duo piano instruction. The floor is partially covered by a huge polar bear rug with full and natural head. Two walls are covered with rare photographs, most of them autographed, of many of the world's great concert artists of a generation ago. There is a large picture of Paderewski, another of John McCormack and one of Paul Stein-dorff, the grand old maestro with the Kaiser Wilhelm profile, including sharp goatee. Modestly hung in the background of another room is an oil painting of Mrs. Piner - the Corea Bellini of a generation ago. There are large photographs of Mr. Piner - the "Great Piner" of the turn of the century. In those days he wore a well-waxed mustache and a trace of Van Dyke chin foliage design. Scores of scrapbooks and stacks of "8-sheet" and even "24-sheet" advertising billing have been tenderly filed away. Mr. and Mrs. Piner have outlived many of the thousands of music lovers all over the world who heard the gifted couple sing on concert tours in the leading cities of the New and the Old World.

George Washington Piner has been obliged to use a wheel chair for many years. On his physician's orders he spends half of the day in bed. And he sleeps on Creole divan with high foreposts and a canopy. In the large bedroom - a bit of old New Orleans brought to Lake county - he received us the day we called. His eyes sparkled as he related his concert days, his love of music and of audiences and his pupils. Foremost in his mind seemed to be his performance in "Men of Flanders Field" staged in the Greek Theatre on the University of California many years ago under the direction of Paul Steindorff. Came back to him vividly memories of his singing in the French Theatre, San Francisco. Then there was the flashback of his boyhood days in Kelseyville ... his days in the Presbyterian church choir ... the discovery that instead of a basso baritone he was a robust tenor, in fact a singer with an extraordinary voice range ... marriage and 46 years of happy wedded life. And that's something for a couple of outstanding concert artists.

Mrs. Piner came into the bedroom. Rather frail, she still retains much of the beauty that was hers in concert days. Evidently she had overheard her husband's conversation with us. "Yes," she echoed in a low voice due to a cold, "Yes we have been very happy all these years." "We often sing together here alone, but of course without piano accompaniment." "That's right," said her husband and he added, "Would you like to hear us?" And they gave us a kind of command performance. Voices that had charmed London, Paris, Berlin and Warsaw as well as American large cities we then heard - not the volume of concert days but certainly much of the same sweetness and all the technique of masters singing "Silver Threads Among the Gold" - he carrying the air in tenor, she harmonizing in alto, although in her prime she could reach any note that Lily Pons can hit today. "Annie Laurie," a favorite of both and as they sang it we just couldn't resist contributing a bit of basso. Never did they have a smaller or a more appreciative audience. And we exclaimed, "bravo," the way Dr. J. Richardson used to voice his praise of Berkeley Musical association artists in the days of the old Harmon Gymnasium concert hall days. Age is time and time cannot be avoided but age as it comes to "the Great Piner" - the Voice of Kelseyville - and to Madame "Corea Bellini," coloratura supreme and concert pianist, is timeless. It simply multiplies fond memories.