

# Elysian Fields

April 2023

The Official Paradise Valley Estates Residents' Magazine

Volume 26, Issue 4

## Residents Assist with First Responder Training

At Paradise Valley Estates, we enjoy a close relationship with the Fairfield Police Department. Our relationship began with discussion of disaster preparedness and the logistics involved in evacuation of our site. They came out and observed one of our evacuation drills and gave valuable feedback that helped us to improve the process.

Our discussion evolved into one of crime prevention, and Fairfield P.D. was there for us again, participating in community meetings for residents,

answering questions, and conducting a site assessment to evaluate any security risks.

When the pandemic shut down in-person meetings, the Police Department adapted with us by being our guest for our Wellness Wednesday podcasts to discuss crime and cybercrime and using new technology helped get this important information to residents.

But it's not all work . . . they brought out some motorcycle officers to join our St. Patrick's Day parade. And joined us for a wonderful summertime barbeque for National Night Out where they chatted with residents and everyone had a great time.

Once the pandemic restrictions were lifted, they were back, giving our team members a presentation on their Active Killer response.

And because we wanted to be a good community partner and give back for all the help they have given us, we opened our site to them to use for Active Killer training. This is training for the police and fire



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departments that is conducted every two years to enhance their skills in dealing with this high-risk situation. Team members and residents participated as role players to make the training more realistic for the officers and firefighters who respond to these situations. Using our site was a unique opportunity for both of us since they don't get to train in this type of environment very often.

Six sessions were scheduled. The training took place in the area surrounding Patriot Plaza in the 6000 area. The final session is scheduled for April 4.



We are very proud of our relationships with the Fairfield Police Department and Fire Department and look forward to keeping this partnership going strong in the future.

—Nicole Baumann

### Sierra Snow

Sierra snow has measured 52 feet,  
And skiers just think that really is neat.  
But they better have chains,  
For those snow-covered lanes,  
'Cause you're stuck unless you can cheat.

—Bill Rawlinson

## PVE Residents Support Local AFJROTC Unit

Since 2013, PVE has been developing a solid relationship with the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC)

program at Fairfield High School. This intergenerational program has supported ceremonies and other events at each other's locations. Dinners, galas, and educational interactions have

been enhanced through participation of the cadets and residents; clearly, it has been a mutually beneficial relationship.

We are creating a database of residents who are willing to work with the cadets individually and/or speaking to small groups or the entire cadet corps. The AFJROTC unit's primary mission is to help cadets develop as potential leaders and good citizens. Being a member of such a cadre allows development of essential team member and leadership skills. It is not an "accession program" in which graduating cadets are expected to pursue careers in the Armed Services. To be sure, advancing to the level of becoming a member of the Armed Services is an option for the cadets upon graduation.

The committee's latest initiative involves developing a database of residents interested in giving the cadets insight regarding the variety of options available as military and civilian careers. We want to include what they expect (e.g., Army infantry, Navy ships, Air Force flying) but also the vast number of other available fields. Collaborating with the cadets is fulfilling for them and for residents.

Recent talks presented to the Fairfield High School cadets by residents Major General Gary Voellger and Commander Bill Tschudy were extremely well received and appreciated by cadets and very satisfying for the speakers. PVE-AFJROTC Committee members will be available to give you more information about this program at the PVE Groups and Clubs Expo on Thursday, April 13. With the support of more PVE volunteers and the high school's cadet faculty, we can convert this initiative into a viable mentoring program designed to help cadets choose future paths.



—The PVE-AFJROTC Committee

## Kevin Says More Changes Ahead

Since we are in the midst of refreshing various locations on campus, *Elysian Fields* wanted to know what was next. We arranged an interview with CEO Kevin Burke to see what the future holds for our campus. The interview has been edited for space.

**Elysian Fields (EF):** Kevin, the refresh of the various facilities seems to be coming along quite well. What comes next?

**Kevin Burke (KB):** As money becomes available, we have plans for various locations on campus. As you know, we continue to work on filling existing vacancies, which will help our finances.

**EF:** Would you share some of the ideas you have for campus updates and improvements?

**KB:** I've spoken to the Resident Council to get their ideas, and we now have a list of possible improvements. They fall into several categories. One example is improving the bocce courts to allow night play during the summer. We are also looking at installing a zipline so our residents can enjoy the thrill of ziplining right here. We have already run some tests with residents to be sure it's safe.

**EF:** Wow! That sounds exciting. Any other changes?

**KB:** Well, we are also looking into ways to assist residents who walk the campus for exercise. As you know, we are considering making a walking trail in the open space behind the 4000 area. We also want to make it easier for residents to take long walks around the rest of the campus by placing outdoor toilet facilities strategically around the campus. We will make sure they don't just look like porta-potties, that they will easily blend into the campus.

**EF:** Anything else?

**KB:** We plan to spruce up the Pavilion with a new look and are investigating using a drone we just purchased for package delivery. We have already begun the process of testing drone delivery to identify important considerations.

*Editor's Note: Elysian Fields sent our team of reporters to get more information on these changes and others, and their articles about the specifics appear elsewhere in this issue.*

## Remembering...

### Marvin "Bud" Conyers

Loving husband and father

Arrived: July 2010

Departed: February 28, 2023

### Linda Tatka

Loving wife and mother

Arrived: February 2023

Departed: March 10, 2023

### Constance Hwang

Loving wife and mother

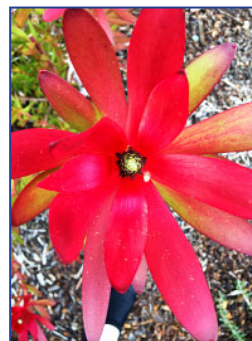
Arrived: September 2019

Departed: March 16, 2023



## Did You Know?

What is that flower?  
It's a 'Wilson's Wonder.' We have these on our campus. Have you seen them blooming all around the 6000 area? 'Wilson's Wonder' is the name commonly used in the United States; elsewhere, this cultivar's name is 'Bell's Sunrise.' It was introduced by Ian Bell from New Zealand in the 1960s. The



plant is a combination of *Leucadendron salignum* and *Leucadendron lauroolum* and is registered in the International Protea register. 'Wilson's Wonder' can grow up to six feet high with a spread of eight feet.

—Phyllis Mosher

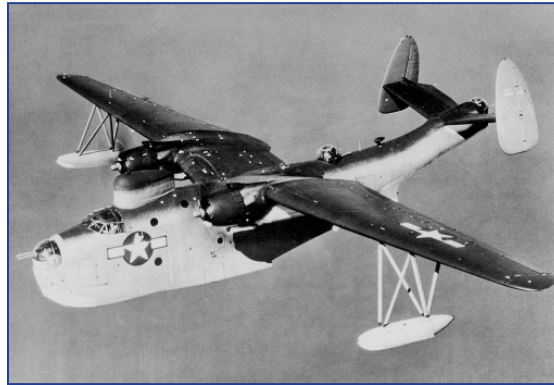
# Twenty Minutes over Shanghai

The time was “early 1953.” The airplane was a PBM 5A Seaplane with a speed of 160 knots in very steep dive. The intended location was somewhere off the coast of China in the East China Sea. The actual location was directly over downtown Shanghai at 1,500 feet. Let me tell you the story of how a U.S. Navy airplane and its crew of 13 arrived in such a dangerous location and situation.

Our squadron’s mission was to provide surveillance and gather intelligence about Chinese efforts to provide seaborne aid to North Korea. The area in which we operated was immense and included the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, and the East China Sea.

For the last half of our flight inbound, we were flying in solid cloud cover extending from the ocean’s surface to above our altitude. Suddenly, the pilot screamed “Dick, the clouds are breaking up and we are over a large city.” When we realized our location, we immediately reversed course and put the plane into one of those steep dives.

All the while, sweat was pouring profusely from every place sweat could possibly pour from. Possibly even from an area or two undiscovered



## I’ll Have Two Tacos, Please

Caviar, Cordon Bleu, Escargot and Crab  
You can have the lot of them and put it on your tab.  
I crave a crispy taco, chicken, beef, or pork  
Just drive me up to Taco Bell, no need to use a fork  
So any way you eat a Taco, “yummy” is the word  
Heavy on the cheese and sour cream, I have no GERD  
If you fall apart, remember Tacos do it all the time  
To further enhance this delicious treat, squeeze a little lime.

—Joanie Cloughesy

until that time. The weather left no opportunity for visible navigation, and there was no source of radio aids or radar as we were observing electronic silence. So we quickly headed for the surface, hoping we would stay below enemy radar.

What followed was a long hour of labored breathing, little talking, and a lot of personal prayer. As far as we knew, we were never followed.

Most Navy pilots are also trained navigators, and our crew had three such pilots. Our normal routine was to take turns as navigator every third mission. And

yes, as fate would have it, that day was my turn.

We had expected the flight to be routine. We never knew much about the weather in advance as there were no such things as satellites at that time. Our only source of weather information was from U.S. Navy ships in the area and obviously there were none.

On the brighter side, a higher authority reviewed all flight records and absolved the crew and navigator of any wrongdoing. There were no “Hero Medals” awarded for this mission.

—Dick Shelley

## This April

We start the month of April with some fun on April Fool’s Day  
No joke is tax due date with maybe money left to pay  
Religious holidays as Easter, Passover, Ramadan will occur  
The rabbit hops with baskets full of colored eggs, children to allure  
April spots bulbs busily pushing shoots through the soil  
A celebration of Springtime flowers such as daffodil, crocus, all royal  
A greeting to everyone, the small and the mighty  
What is in store for me, I don’t know. This April I turn ninety.

—Joanie Cloughesy

# Come Explore at Groups and Clubs Expo

Join us at PVE's annual Groups and Clubs Expo on April 13 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Community Center Main Dining Room. There really is no better way to see all the



activities our community offers all at one time and in one place.

Each group, activity, club, and committee will have a table so you can personally learn more about what they do and the fun they have. And there will be raffles to win prizes!

It's also a great way to get acquainted, get involved, and become an active member of the community. I'll see you there!

—Ali Corbett



## Plane Talk Reveals Air of Superiority

At the age of ten, I flew in a commercial plane with my mother. She was always very afraid as I learned from her white knuckles on the armrest. For 25 years, I was afraid. I couldn't understand how the weight of a plane was supported in the "thin air."

I avoided flying until I was 35, when a friend who had a private pilot's license suggested we fly to Truckee in a small plane. Never wanting to miss out on anything, I had to get over my fear.

In ground school classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, I learned that a plane could stay in the air because its engines created thrust and that created lift. We studied aerodynamics, FAA regulations, and how to get our radio licenses from the FCC. I passed with "flying" colors. Then I rented a Piper Cub at Sonoma County Airport and flew with an instructor for almost 20 hours. She wanted me to solo at around 12 hours, but I was still too afraid. When she finally said I had to solo, I figured I had done riskier things and began my ground roll.

My cross-country flight with several stops and dead reckoning checkpoints was marked and ready to go. Unfortunately, I made two of the checkpoints exactly 10 minutes apart instead of, say, 9 and 11 minutes. So, I thought I was on the second set of 10 minutes and started to decrease my altitude in preparation to enter a landing pattern. I did not



see the rotating beacon marking the airport and was barely skimming the roofs of houses. I dialed in the transponder code the tower had given me to verify my location. When they had a fix on my plane, the response was "Lady, you are nowhere near the airport." I slammed the accelerator in and climbed as fast as I could.

When I took friends and family for rides, I called it "Hail Mary Airlines" and stocked mini alcohol bottles for their comfort. I don't know why they were afraid. Maybe because I kissed the ground when I landed?

At a dinner party some years ago, guests with a common interest were seated together. The eight of us at my table were all pilots. I asked the man on my left, "How many hours have you logged?" "Let's see," said astronaut Rusty Schweickart, "about eight days in space plus . . ." I froze. Would he ask me how many I had logged? Please no! I had only around 100 hours. I have never asked another pilot how many hours they have spent in the left seat.

As to my mother: I told her I would fly over her house one day. She came running outside, yelling at me to stop making her nervous. I landed at a nearby airstrip and coaxed her into the plane. I flew her and dad to the Nut Tree for lunch. What a thrill!

—Suzy Campbell

## Dining Services

If you are curious about the Dining Services Committee, you have a chance to talk with members during the Groups and Clubs Expo on April 13 in the Community Center Dining Room. We hope to see you there!

Many thanks to all who are taking time to submit specific comments via Pulse. These comments are the backbone of the monthly totals for satisfaction with the food and service. The February results, based on 122 responses from neighbors, were 91% overall for food and 98% for service. You can read the entire report and minutes of the meeting on Pulse.

Some examples of the specific comments:

“I asked for the salmon to be cooked through and not dry. It was perfect, not fishy one bit! Kudos to Kevin, the chef that night. My fish was crisp, seared perfectly on the outside, and deliciously moist inside.”

“Special attention to the grilled pork chop. Juicy, slightly pink in the center, it cut like butter even without the new steak knives, which are a great improvement over the old ones. The slight sweetness of the apple compote and cornbread muffin really enhanced the flavor of the meat. The green beans were perfectly al dente. The tasty Caesar salad was an ideal way to end the meal.”

Holidays are always celebrated at PVE. March was St. Patrick’s Day. April brings Easter. These days have special menus. Making reservations is very important so please be alert to the deadlines for making them. In fact, making and *keeping* reservations are critical to food budget planning.

Amanda Hayden and Patrick Chico were selected as our Servers of the Month for February. Be sure to give them a High Five of congratulations. They help set high standards for our servers.

A shout-out to the loyal members of the Red Apron Team. Week after week, this team of 50 neighbors helps serve water and refill coffee and tea in the Oak Room and Main Dining Room. Others assist in the Community Center Cafe. Wrappers of the cutlery are also faithful each week. We are lucky to live in a community where neighbors volunteer to help each other.

## Americana Trivia

Does inflation affect you? Remember what prices were about 70 years ago? I probably remember 70 years ago better than I remember last week but that’s another issue.

1. Fast food?
2. Gas?
3. Postage stamp?
4. Loaf of bread?
5. Average price of a new home?
6. Average national income?

—Your Patriotic Committee

Answers on page 11

There is an opening for an additional member on the Dining Committee. If you are interested, please send a short message explaining why you are interested and what you believe you could contribute to the committee’s efforts. Send your email or letter to Kimmie McCann at [kimmie.mccann@gmail.com](mailto:kimmie.mccann@gmail.com) or to in-house mailbox 5705 by April 6.

Cheers! And *bon appétit*.

—Sally Gripman

## Quail Creek Happenings

A February highlight was a pre-Super Bowl gathering at which we enjoyed food and socializing. On Valentine’s Day, we made chocolate heart candy that was very satisfying. Who doesn’t like chocolate here and there and everywhere? We will make more soon.

As we prepare for April, let’s hop into spring. We will decorate wooden Easter eggs (since eggs are so expensive these days). Another event will be Happy Hour with live music by Kendall. Our next outing is a scenic backroad drive to the Glory Hole at Lake Berryessa to see how much water has been collected so far. Following is an outing to Cache Creek for lunch at Chang Shou and maybe a little gambling and people-watching. Wii bowling is back. Also, two ladies are celebrating birthdays—Frances Maben and Jean Goldsmith. Happy spring to all.

—Monique Rogers

# What Is Passover and Why Do We Celebrate It?

Passover is an important holiday on the Jewish calendar and celebrates the story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt.

The pharaoh had enslaved the Israelites, forcing them into hard labor building his palaces. The Book of Exodus says that God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites to make a mark above their doors so that the Angel of Death would "pass over" them and spare them from a series of plagues, the last one being the death of firstborn sons. They obeyed the command and marked their homes.

After the Egyptians' firstborn sons died, the pharaoh ordered the Israelites to leave. With Moses leading, they gathered what they could and fled, and when they reached the Red Sea, God parted the waters for them. The pharaoh changed

his mind, however, and sent his army to recapture and return them. But the waters came together again, and the army was trapped in the water and drowned. The Israelites spent the next 40 years in the Sinai Desert until they reached Canaan, their ancestral homeland.

This story, told at the Seder dinner, is read from the Haggadah (Hebrew for "telling"), and everyone shares in the reading.

Exodus commands us to tell our children the story and to remind them that we celebrate "that which the Lord did for me when I came forth out of Egypt."

There are thousands of versions of



the text, some in great detail and some much shorter versions, some lavishly illustrated, some not illustrated much at all.



An important section of the Haggadah is the four questions, which are asked by the youngest participant. The questions deal with the reason for the holiday and the special rituals for it. After each question is asked, the explanation is given.

Special ritual prayers and foods are part of the Seder, including unleavened bread known as matzo because there wasn't time to let bread rise during the flight from Egypt, bitter herbs representing the bitterness of slavery, and charoset (a mix of apples, cinnamon, nuts, and wine) to represent mortar used in construction. A special Seder plate holds a small portion of each of the foods and, as each is first mentioned, the leader either picks up the item or points to it.

Families and congregations all celebrate in their own ways, frequently reflecting the traditions of their parents and grandparents as well as their cultural heritages. No matter how it is celebrated, though, the central theme of Passover is always freedom. As we read from the Haggadah, we reflect on the story's relevance to us, to present times, and to the universal desire for freedom by every generation across the ages.

—Alice Brill

## Spring Has Sprung

Spring has sprung  
The grass has riz  
I wonder where  
The flowers is

Narcissus bloomed  
Then wilted to gunk  
Daffodils smiled  
Then went kerplunk

Pear tree's blossoms  
Figured they'd skedaddle  
Mustard turned yellor  
And fled the battle

The tulips confabulated  
With the irises next door  
Cashed in their bulbs and  
Headed to the shore

Lupin is running late  
She's feeling bumfuzzled  
Hot date at the bar last night  
And they over-guzzled

These durn words  
Are sillier than I think  
I surely hope  
They got ya out of yer funk!

—Sharon Goldman

# Wellness Center Brings New Zones of Fitness

With the anticipated May opening of our refreshed Wellness Center, it seems timely to give you an overview of the new layout and our HUR power/strength, cardio, and relaxation equipment. The Wellness Center will be arranged in *zones* for ease of use. Signs in all areas will direct users, guests, and residents to each *Zone*.

At the entrance, our *Java and Juice Zone* will be located next to the current *Pilates Personal Training Studio Zone*, which will remain in that location. The *Java and Juice Zone* will provide a gathering area for socialization and conversation with the opportunity to enjoy hot and cold beverages.

The next zone you will come to is the *Cardio Zone*, located in the old gym space. This zone will include ten pieces of cardio equipment: three NuSteps, three new state-of-the-art Wi-Fi-enabled Touch XL Console treadmills, two new Performance Ascent elliptical trainers, and our two Cyber Cycles.

*The Power Zone* will host the new HUR SMARTTOUCH equipment: a leg press, a single function machine for exercising all leg muscles, a push-up pull-down dual-function machine for exercising shoulder and back muscles, a dual-function machine for exercising abdominal and back muscles, and our adduction and abduction dual-function machine for exercising leg muscles. In addition, there will be a new wall-mounted pulley and a multi-function machine providing a library of more than 15 exercises. All units will have Wi-Fi-enabled ten-inch flat-panel color touch screens.

Residents will enjoy independence with automated exercise settings without having to sign in. With one swipe of your wristband, the machine will load your personalized training program and adjust the seat and resistance setting. The program counts repetitions, records progress, and provides auditory prompts when an exercise is complete. Controlled resistance as the levels increase can be programmed into users' training plans, prompting the machine to automatically increase resistance by a specified amount when a training milestone is reached.

With the new HUR SMARTTOUCH system, users also can safely engage in strength training programs and enjoy improved experiences. Easier tracking, management, and outcome reporting, including enhanced productivity for team members, are

key enhancements. The Wellness Team will host *Personal Training Zone Pods* with augmented power plate technology, pilates reformers, and balance platforms in their personal pods.

*The Relaxation Zone* for stress relief and meditation will be located in the hallway on the way to the *Group Exercise Zone*, which was formerly the maintenance shop.

We look forward to providing tours and one-on-one trainings and orientations to fully support you in this exciting opportunity to enhance your wellness and wellbeing. Our goal is to ensure your personal success as we embark on this wellness journey together. Stay tuned for updates and details on tours and orientations.

—Jan Olson

## Sky's the Limit for Drone Possibilities

An ad hoc committee of the Resident Council has been investigating the feasibility and advantages of using a fleet of drones at PVE. The idea first arose as a solution to concerns about delivery fees for meals related to staff shortages. Drones would require fewer staff members and vehicles.

The early discussions indicate that drones could also be used to distribute prescriptions from the Health Center to residences and allow residents to send small lightweight items such as magazines, papers, and small packages from one house to another. Perhaps drones could speed delivery of daily mail from the Community Center to apartments. There is still much to discuss and test.

Once the committee has more information, use of drones will be discussed at town hall meetings before findings are presented to the Resident Council on February 30, 2024. The photo shows the results of a recent test delivery.





# Construction Update

This update covers several projects being done or proposed as part of the “refresh” at PVE.

- The **Rawlinson Hall** update is complete. New flooring and painting are finished and the window coverings are installed. Rawlinson Hall is open for business.

- **Rec Center gym/Wellness Center** The update is ongoing. Target for completion is May 1.

Walls have been moved or removed and new paint, flooring, and mirrors are being installed. New exercise equipment has been ordered. See the Wellness Center article nearby for more-detailed information.

- **Swimming Pool refresh.** Two 10 foot by 10 foot automatic skylights will be installed and new paint and flooring will be done. The pool locker rooms will also get an update.

- **Power House conversion to clinic.** New internal walls will be constructed, followed by new paint and flooring. Target completion date is mid-May. When complete, the clinic will move to the Power House, and the clinic area will house physical therapy.

- **Bocce Update.** A fence has been installed on the far side of Palmos Court. Please don't go beyond the fence to watch games. The concrete seating area on the other side of the court will be expanded and shading umbrellas will be installed.

- **Future Plans.** Several more projects are in the works. These include a way to expand the Club and improvements to the area around the Pavilion and Veranda outside the Main Dining Room to create an outside entertainment venue,

installing solar panels on some homes and apartments to reduce PVE's electricity costs, and repairing, resealing, and re-stripping PVE's streets and parking areas.

—Bruce Bartels

## Willow Creek

This month, we are focusing on innovation! MyndVR, IN2L, Alexa, Smart TV with multiple applications, iPads, Zoom calls, Skype calls, and FaceTime are available with minimal assistance from Wellness staff. It's essential that our residents and staff members have access to these technologies to improve the lives of residents. Today's technologies make it easier than ever to connect with loved ones, enjoy entertainment and travel, and meet our fitness, spiritual, and social needs.

*MyndVR* is a health and wellness company that provides virtual reality solutions to senior communities. MyndVR helps residents reduce feelings of anxiety and depression. It stimulates memory and cognition using reminiscence therapy, increases socialization, and limits distractions.

*Zoom calls, Skype calls, and FaceTime:* These days, one of the easiest ways to check in with friends and family is to hop on a video call. Free services like Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime let you call your loved ones whenever you like and see their smiling faces even if you live far apart.

*Smart TV* provides entertainment and access to Netflix and YouTube programming that includes spiritual and fitness programs.

The *IN2L Program* is used for brain fitness exercises, trivia quizzes, virtual games, and physical exercise.

*Alexa* (we all know her) helps residents be independent so they can enjoy music therapy, pop culture, and current events.

Along with these technologies, our daily in-person group fitness, gardening class, arts and crafts activities, Java Music, spiritual and support groups, and entertainment programs continue at Willow Creek. Happy Easter!

—Adrian Quinones



# PVE's Outdoor Venues Are Next for Makeovers

Now that Rawlinson Hall and the Rec Center have new interior paint, new carpeting, and new purposes, PVE's exterior is about to undergo a refresh according to CEO Kevin Burke.

Several concepts are being considered for the bocce courts since that sports venue has the most participants. The least expensive proposal is for night lighting to extend playing hours and give teams more time to practice. Initial designs look promising. Another idea is to cut a bocce court in half and pair it with a spa so less-energetic bocce players can have shorter games before relaxing. This would be the California version of the Scandinavian combination of snow skiing and sauna. Architect's image is shown.

Plans are also under way to give the Pavilion a lighthearted transformation similar to Disneyland facades. "The whimsical, nostalgic vibe will help residents feel younger and will be more attractive to visiting grandchildren," said Jan Olson, director of Wellness. "The pastel paint scheme will add a punch of color to the basic Mediterranean beige of the rest of the campus."

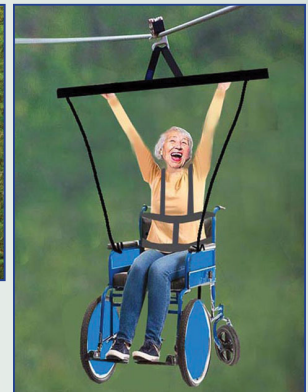


Fitness specialists Adam Cleary and Kelly Bordeau report that their exercise class participants have asked for a more exhilarating apparatus than treadmills and rowing machines. So a zipline connecting the third-story roof of the Community Center to a soft landing on the far side of Bergerot Circle is under consideration. Some residents who are expert zipliners have agreed to test the system. This proposal is still awaiting approval from the SS&CF committee, the infamous acronym nobody can remember that stands for Safety, Security and Campus Facilities.

Known for her dedication to keeping residents in motion, Wellness Coordinator Lulu Gamble is particularly excited about a change that will



help folks who take their daily constitucionals by circling the property: porta-potties situated along the walking trails. A sample has been placed in the 6000 area to give residents an idea of how they will look.



—Carol Moore

# Golf News

Several fearless Moaners and Groaners (M&Gs) showed up for the March Madness tournament, proving that cold and wind are not in a golfer's vocabulary. Conditions on the course required the M&Gs to keep their carts on the golf paths. Given the sometimes wide fairways, this was challenging for some golfers but not for Norbert Luke, who walked all 18 holes. The other M&Gs had to walk from the cart path to their next shots in the scramble format. Kimmie McCann reported that Bud Ross saved her a lot of walking over wet fairways with his good shots and ball pick-ups. Tom DiGiorgio complained that he walked 17,000 steps to pick up balls that were not in play.

Shot of the day was Susan Ritchie's; it hit a tree, ricocheted into a sand trap, and bounced onto the green for an easy par.

At dinner in a filled 500 Room, M&G boss Kimmie McCann presented some awards. When Jim Solar admitted he was cold, he was awarded a thermowrap, and Norbert Luke received a bottle of spirits to keep him warm during his next game.

March Madness Tournament Winners:

- **1st Place (73):** Gene Noble, Susan Ritchie, Doug Fisher
- **2nd Place (78):** Kimmie McCann, Tom DiGiorgio, Bud Ross
- **3rd Place (84):** Tom DeMartino, Dick Crocker, Ed Vacin, Norbert Luke
- **4th Place (85):** Myrna DeMartino, Tim Tomko, Chris Moore, Jim Solar
- **Low Putts (27):** 1st and 2nd place teams tied

## Americana Trivia Answers

1. Burger King opened in 1954 and charged 18 cents for a hamburger and 20 cents for a cheeseburger.
2. Gas was 22 cents a gallon.
3. A first-class stamp was 3 cents.
4. A loaf of bread was 16 cents.
5. The average new home cost \$8,200.
6. Average national annual income was \$4,011.

—Your Patriotic Committee

(from page 6)

## Save These April Dates

- 01 | April Fool's Day  
| Easter Eggstravaganza, Pavilion, 10 a.m.
- 03 | Coffee with Wellness, Large Arts/Crafts,  
1 p.m.
- 05 | Passover Begins
- 09 | Easter
- 10 | Coffee with Wellness, Large Arts/Crafts,  
1 p.m.
- 13 | Passover Ends  
| Groups and Clubs Expo, Main Dining Room,  
2 to 5 p.m.
- 14 | Social Hour, Club, 4 to 5 p.m.
- 17 | Coffee with Wellness, Large Arts/Crafts,  
1 p.m.
- 22 | Earth Day
- 24 | Voting for new PVE Pet Mayor, Joolz San  
Miguel is retiring.
- 25 | Art Appreciation Class, Topic: Kandinsky,  
Art Studio, 2 p.m.
- 28 | Jazz Music Appreciation, Dr. David  
Hardiman, Rawlinson Hall, 3 p.m.

The purple bag was passed to the low putters. Doug Fisher and Tom DiGiorgio both got lucky and drew colored balls, each winning a bottle of wine.

In the first 2023 putting tournament, 16 players braved the freezing wind chill. Despite heavy clothing, six survived the first round to move forward. Alice Burggrabe was flying high in the semi-final round with three one-putts in a row, defeating reigning champ Kimmie McCann. Alice's streak did not last, however. In the championship round, Herb Heberling capped the win with a one-putt. Congratulations Herb!

Each month, perpetual trophies are passed on to a male and a female golfer who have shown good sportsmanship on and off the course. Don Campbell presented the Walt McDaniel trophy to Norbert Luke, and Chris Moore presented the ladies trophy to Myrna DiMartino.

**Thought for the month:** On March 1, Warren MacQuarrie celebrated his 100th birthday. Warren, a charter member of the PVE Golf Club, will forever be a member of the M&Gs.

—Estelle Holway

## Bocce Is On, Let the Good Times Roll

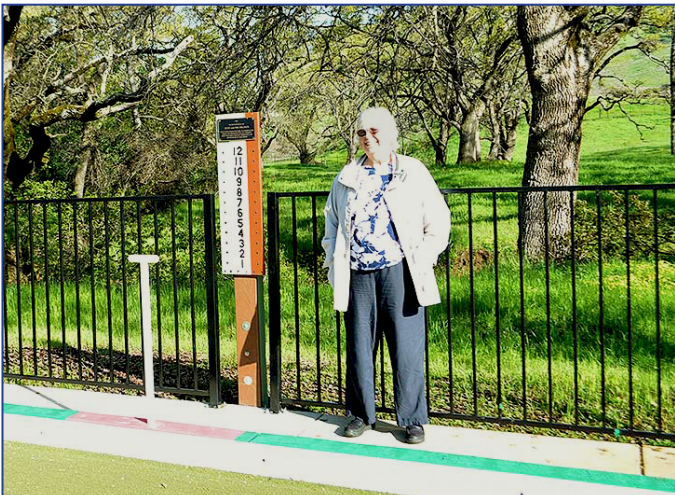
The 2023 bocce season may be under way by the time you read this. Play will begin Friday, April 14. That is also the day of the first continental breakfast at the Pavilion. Fifteen teams are playing this season with more than 160 residents signed up. If you want to play but have not yet signed up, it is not too late. The forms are available in the in-house mailroom to the right as you enter the door.

The 2023 season will be split into two sessions—the first going until mid-June and the second beginning after the July 4th holiday and continuing into September.

Since the next issue of *Elysian Fields* goes to press just after the beginning of the season, the first results with standings will not appear until the June issue. But you can always get the latest standings, team scores, etc. on Pulse. Just look for the Bocce tab at the bottom of the home page. Click on Team Scores and then on the league (only one league is shown), and the scores will appear. Or you can go to the in-house mailroom; the standings are posted daily on the bocce bulletin board to the right of the entrance door.

If you just want to watch, the games are scheduled most weekdays at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on the courts with continental breakfast each Friday during the summer. Since we play bocce for fun and socialization, we hope spectators will “mind their manners” while they watch. Encourage both teams when they make a good roll. As we said during the recent Mardi Gras, “Let the Good Times Roll.”

—The Bocce Committee



## Pickleball Anyone? Come Join the Laughter

You can find pickleball in the news a lot lately. It's considered to be one of the fastest growing sports in America. With an enlarged ping pong paddle, a wiffle ball, and a small tennis court, you're ready to play!

At PVE, we have two pickleball courts thanks to support from the Tennis Club and the Termites.

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. in the winter and earlier in the summer, you can hear the “thwopping” of a paddle against a wiffle ball and loads of uproarious laughter. Currently, there are 13 players in all.

When the wind is strong, the pickleball players consider it to be an ardent opponent. Peals of laughter can be heard when the ball does an about-face after it's been skillfully launched into play. It's definitely a humbling sport thanks to the wily wiffle.

New players are always welcome! There are plenty of paddles and wiffle balls so no need to have your own equipment. No experience is needed, but you need to have good balance.

A good sense of humor is recommended too—that darn wiffle ball! Come and play or just come to watch and laugh with the group!

—Ali Corbett

## No, We Don't Say Shush

Librarians get a bad rap. Our image somehow seems stuck in the 1940s or earlier, maybe even from the depiction in the Music Man.

In 30 years of public library service, I don't remember ever shushing anyone. When a child acted up or teenagers giggled too loudly, I just went over and said "quiet down," and that worked. Not only do we not shush people, we're generally friendly and nonjudgmental. I was once asked about the statute of limitations for a fairly serious crime and whether the United States had an extradition treaty with the country he named. Yes, I was curious, but I didn't ask.

People have said to me that they love to read and would've loved to have been a librarian. Nice, but we don't sit around and read. Those of us in public libraries help patrons find the right books or information. Sometimes it's youngsters who don't like to read but need something for a book report, and we find just the right thing to encourage them. Sometimes it's someone who has a job interview coming up and needs to know enough to have a good question ready for the interviewer. I've been asked countless times for the spelling of hors d'oeuvres (hard to find if you have no clue where even to start with Google).

Public libraries also get a bad rap. The image is one of a very quiet place with lots of books that few people read. It hasn't been that way for a very long time. Libraries buy multiple copies of current bestsellers and have books on every subject. As far back as the early 1900s, libraries were happening places. In big cities, there were programs to help immigrants learn English, learn to navigate around the city, improve their parenting, find books in their native languages, and bring in people who could help with social services.

Today, large and small libraries are modeling that same dedication. They help patrons with resumes for jobs and college entrance and lend briefcases and dress shoes to people who can't afford to buy them for interviews that could change their lives. There are still ESL (English as a second language) classes and social service people who come in to provide information. There are books and CDs and DVDs and eBooks, and some libraries loan Chromebooks and hotspots. Even late fees are disappearing.



### Popcorn in Bloom

The road home is lined  
by trees bursting with blossoms  
That look like popcorn.  
The bright white clusters contrast  
with the newly green hillsides.

This transformation  
signals the end of winter's  
dreary palette as  
other dark spindly branches  
don their floral finery.

Such beauty is brief,  
for only a week or two  
before the petals  
drift downward to the sidewalk  
as if in a snow flurry.

Some say there are no  
seasons in California  
but colors do change  
and happily we need not  
shovel our white residue.

—Carol Moore

Of course, there are still story hours. I remember one involving music with kids banging on toy drums and shaking tambourines as they marched through the whole building. Sure, it was noisy for a couple of minutes, but no one minded at all.

Even with the internet and its wonders, neither libraries nor dedicated librarians will become obsolete, so go get a library card and check it out.

Fairfield has a great library at 1250 Kentucky Street and an easy to navigate website at <https://solanolibrary.com>. There are also libraries in Vacaville.

—Alice Brill

# Helping with Laundry Can Be Hazardous

I was watching my mother do the laundry in the basement one day when I was about four years old. She put the dirty clothes in a deep sink filled with hot water and soap. After they soaked for some time, she moved them to the old washing machine with a wringer on top. As mom moved the clothes, she would wring each piece out by hand.

Next, she pushed a lever to start the washing action. The slosh-slosh sounds as the agitator moved clothes around was absolutely mesmerizing and hypnotic.

The first load was underwear and shirts. She drained the wash water by pushing the lever and then pulled the clothes out to run them through the wringer, removing excess water. She filled the machine with fresh hot water and put the clothes back in, pushed the lever again, and the slosh-slosh started once more. Then, she drained the machine and ran the clothes

through the wringer once more before putting them in a large basket to carry to where they were hung on a clothesline.

She soon started another load that consisted of sheets and pillowcases and went to the back porch. Left behind in the basement was an ever-so-curious unsupervised little boy.

I found something to climb up on and look into the machine. I was fascinated by the movement. I could see clothes churning in the hot soapy water. I could smell the detergent and feel the warm air rising from the tub. Curiosity got the best of me, and I wanted to help mommy do the laundry.

I reached down into the water and grabbed the corner of a sheet. I put the corner into the wringer just as she had done earlier. Almost as soon as I had done it, I was pulled up and into the wringer with the sheet wrapped around my hand and arm.

Pretty soon, my arm was pulled all the way up to my shoulder into the wringer. I was screaming and kicking my feet. After all, screaming and kicking was a normal thing for a little boy to do when he was being eaten alive by a washing machine. I was doomed if I didn't do something so I just kept kicking.

As luck would have it, one of my kicks hit the magic lever and made everything go in reverse. Slowly, the wringer lowered me to the ground but not before it had broken my thumb and caused blood to burst from my hand.

Mommy was furious. I wasn't sure if she was mad because I got blood on the laundry or because I did something dumb and hurt myself.

Off we went to the doctor. My thumb was stitched, and my hand was put in a cast. My father asked his usual question when any of us got hurt: "Did you learn anything?"

—Don Campbell

## Photo of the Month



This is of one of the Kata Tjuṯa (many heads), a group of domed rock formations 16 miles from *Uluru / Ayers Rock* in the Northern Territory of Australia. We were riding in a bus, and many rainbows appeared during part of the drive.

Photo by Dick Lubman.

## The Scribbler and the Wirehead

I have to 'fess up. Most of those tales of fabulous adventures and magic wonderment you read in *Elysian Fields* under my name needed some technical tinkering before they got off my desk. Note the "technical" part. The facts are still solid. In the technical shadows but on full alert lurks Wolf Schaechter. He's the wirehead who jerks my &%# computer back to active duty after it has wandered off into intergalactic space somewhere.

Take the last draft I prepared for *Elysian Fields*. After three tries to get the final email submission perfect, my &\*% computer dumped the lot out into stellar oblivion. So, I thought. Gonzo. Maybe they became part of the rings around Saturn. Well, why not? Everything has to be somewhere. Anyway, I called Wolf, which is my default remedy. Over he came ASAP. Results came quickly. He sat down to my computer, checked the layout, glanced down at the power source, and turned the electric switch to ON. Naturally, the aggrieved computer snapped into action.

Wolf could have taken a bow. But he didn't. He's not that kind of person.

**Lesson learned:** Always check your power source.

—R. A. Jones

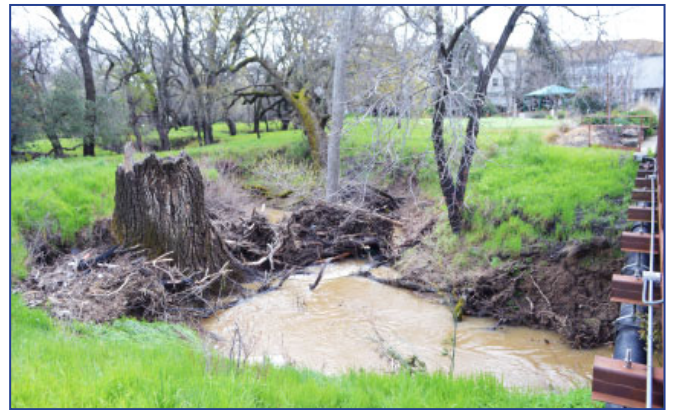
## Greetings from Laurel Creek

April showers bring May flowers! This month at Laurel Creek, we will have an April in Paris tea party. We will also have indoor gardening, musical entertainment by Kendall and banjo man Jack Convery, outdoor visits on warm days on the beautiful patios, an ice cream social, and classical music by Nick.

We'll continue with our arts and crafts projects. Movies this month are *Easter Parade*, *Lilies of the Field*, and *The King and I*. We will also enjoy Java Music Group and exercise classes and will have more FaceTime and Zoom calls for residents with their families.

Have a great month and enjoy the spring weather with family and friends.

—Sharon Johnson



## Precipitation at PVE

All of you doing the Rain Dance can stop now. You were very successful. In the last month, we received 9.5 inches of rain, the atmospheric rivers bringing our total to 31.85 inches so far this season. In 2019/20, record rainfall at PVE was 37.9 inches so we need 6.05 inches more to tie. Though more rain is in the forecast, it seems to be small storms so we probably will not break the record this year.

Snowpack in the Sierras is 125% to more than 200% of normal for this time of year. Our reservoirs will be full when the snow melts in April and May and farmers will get more water for crops. That means our concern about the drought that has been affecting California for several years will be less.

As for the reservoirs, Lake Shasta is currently 70.1% full (52.4% last year), Lake Oroville is 82.5% full (45.6% last year), and Lake Berryessa is 77.9% full (64.0% last year). Clearly, this rain has helped a lot. Now it's time to enjoy spring's arrival with sunshine, flowers, and ample amounts of water.

**Interesting Weather Fact:** *Thunder is caused by lightning.* Once lightning strikes, it takes several seconds before we hear the thunder. However, thunder does not come after lightning. Instead it is generated by lightning. The speed of sound in air is slower than the speed of light, meaning we see the lightning first before hearing the thunder.

—The Rain Guys

### Atmospheric Rivers

I failed that huge geography test,  
Not only me . . . but all the rest.  
Rivers are now in the sky!  
And that is the reason why,  
We're being drenched here in the West.

—Bill Rawlinson

# *Elysian Fields* Ain't Perfect

One of the most complicated efforts undertaken by residents of PVE is monthly publication of *Elysian Fields*, which first appeared in August 1999.

There has been just one month when *Elysian Fields* was not published, and that was September 2003. If you open the link to the September 2003 issue on Pulse, you are presented with a glaring note that says the issue was never published. This was apparently the result of the entire staff of *Elysian Fields* deciding, in August 2003, to resign as a group to permit an entirely new group of residents to take on the task of publishing the September and future issues.

Unbelievably, no PVE resident contacted was able to recall these circumstances until the immediate past editor, Ian Lanouette, found the answer. It was contained in the last stanza of a poem written by Elly Vasak, "Friendship," that

## Mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes. Say you haven't, I think you lie  
We're all human and mistakes do make us cry  
We can view it as a learning curve not meant to be repeated  
A large mistake may be life-altering, leave one feel defeated

Try sincerely asking forgiveness, don't wait another minute  
No gain for you to hesitate, continue to wallow in it  
Starting anew refreshes the soul, raising us from the fall  
When making further mistakes, let's hope they will be small

—Joanie Cloughesy

appeared on page 7 in the October 2003 issue. The last stanza goes as follows: "Our friend *Elysian Fields*, That we feared had said "Adieu," Has risen like the Phoenix, And is back with us anew."

The original reason for writing this article was to highlight the tendency of Ancil Baker, an early PVE resident, to include a bit of humor at the beginning (and/or the end) of articles he submitted to *Elysian Fields*.

In March 2002, *Elysian Fields* published an article entitled "Ladd Field" written by Ancil, which included the following ditty at the end: "Up in the Arctic two Eskimos sitting in their kayak were chilly. When they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and eat it too."

If you think about it a little, you will probably come to the conclusion that what Ancil actually wrote was "When they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it too!"

Colonel Ancil Baker (USAF) died August 24, 2009. If Ancil is looking down at PVE today, it's very likely that he is still enjoying a good laugh at the proofing error. It doesn't get any better than that.

—Ken Morrow

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**Editors' Note:** As a reminder, this edition of *Elysian Fields* comes out on April 1st. We hope you enjoyed reading our April Fool's articles. Did you find them all?