

# VIEW

# from the West

## Riviera West/Harbor View Bimonthly Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Riviera West

Happy New Year

Seems quiet around the community clubhouse lately. We have finished a number of major projects including the new pool fencing, new gangways to the marina docks, a big remodel of the "bar area" in the clubhouse which included new cabinetry & counters, security camera and fencing for the emergency siren and creation of a new, and very active Clubhouse Committee. Taking a deep breath, we are looking forward to the next projects we will undertake in the new year to improve our facilities and activities for the Riviera West community. The Clubhouse Committee has developed a list of potential projects for consideration. If you like to do planning and implementing ideas, then this committee is for you.

Likewise, the Social Committee has laid out a schedule of interesting social events for the new year. Planners and doers are always welcome to submit and support social and culinary events. And let us not forget the upcoming Annual Bocce Ball Tournament in May. Recruit your team members (4 per team) and be ready to answer the call for participants.

I foresee a busy and productive year for Riviera West and I hope 2025 is a fulfilling and prosperous new year for you.

Philip Hartley, President, Riviera West Country Club Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Harbor View Mutual Water Company

Hello neighbors,

Southern California's wildfires prompted a lot of questions about our level of preparation in the event of a fire in Riviera West. Our Head Operator, Jeremiah Fossa, reassures us that our water company routinely maintains enough water and water pressure in the system for responders to use in saving lives and protecting property.

In the coming months, the Harbor View Board will begin the 2025-2026 Budget process. We'll review last year's estimates and compare them with our actual income and expenses. We'll analyze the areas where expenses have increased the most and look for alternatives. Given our non-profit mutual status, the Board works to sustain our long-term financial viability while creating a fair rate based on customer usage. A preliminary proposed budget will be published as part of the annual meeting information.

Individually, you can help by taking care of the small things. Watch out for freezing night time temperatures that can put a lot of pressure on exposed pipes or irrigation systems. Frozen pipes or faucets can result in expensive repair bills. Wrap these pipes and spigots wherever possible. If you are a part-time resident, make sure you sign up for Eye-on-Water and watch for changes in water usage while you're gone. There's even a mobile app that you can download from the Apple App Store or Google Play store. [Click here](#) to reach the Eye-On-Water website.

In the meantime, stay warm and dry. Remember, though the weather is cool and rainy now, spring is only six weeks away!

Carina DeHerrera, President, Harbor View Mutual Water Company

February 2025 Issue 133



**Riviera West Country Club  
Harbor View Mutual Water Company**  
8475 Harbor View Drive  
Kelseyville, CA 95451  
707-279-8544 • fax 707-279-0118  
[rivierawest@gmail.com](mailto:rivierawest@gmail.com)  
[harborviewwater@gmail.com](mailto:harborviewwater@gmail.com)  
website: [www.rivierawesthoa.com](http://www.rivierawesthoa.com)

**Office Hours:**  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday:  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Wednesday: Closed

**Riviera West Board:**  
President: Philip Hartley  
Treasurer: C. Richard Smith  
Secretary: Clelia Baur  
Director: Doug Moore  
Director: Bob Gunion

**Harbor View Mutual  
Water Company Board:**  
President: Carina DeHerrera  
Treasurer: Bob Lucatorto  
Secretary: Alexandra Milukhin  
Director: Tim Keenan  
Director: Laura Silva

**Regular Board Meetings:**  
Third Wednesday every other month:  
January 15, 2025  
March 19, 2025  
May 21, 2025  
July 16, 2025  
September 17, 2025  
November 19, 2025

Riviera West meeting is 4:30 PM  
Harbor View meeting is 5:30 PM

**Annual Meetings Saturday, June 21**  
Riviera West 9:00 AM  
Harbor View 11:00 AM

See your emails and the Riviera West website for meeting agendas.

**DYK...****Did You Know? Water Insights from Harbor View  
Lead Water Operator Jeremiah Fossa**

Why is our lake so full of life and classified as super eutrophic?

The answer lies in one of the oldest and most world-changing life forms that nature ever created. Cyanobacteria, also known as algae, has changed our world into the wonderfully living environment we currently enjoy.

In order to truly understand our lake, we have to take a trip back in history. Plenty of locals know that Clear Lake is one of the oldest in North America, with an ancient lake located here for at least 2.5 million years and the current one for the past 500 thousand years. That seems like a long time ago for sure.

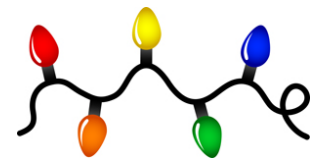
However, we must go back farther than that, thousands of times farther to the early Proterozoic period 2.5 billion years ago to truly understand the current lake. At the start of this time, the atmosphere only contained less than one hundredth of a percent of oxygen. As a new form of life developing amongst the anaerobic (no oxygen needed) bacteria, *Cyanobacteria* evolved to combine the large amounts of available carbon dioxide with sunlight for energy. The waste product that resulted was oxygen, a powerful oxidant that breaks down the cell walls of competing bacteria. This process turned out to be so successful that over the next half a billion years, the cyanobacteria changed the atmosphere to the current level of about 21 percent oxygen. This led to one of the biggest mass extinctions in Earth's history, not just for single cell organisms, but also all life as we know it.

All of the algae in our lake creates a situation that isn't visually appealing to humans but is a rich food supply at the base of the food chain. Increased availability of carbon, sunlight, and heat result in bigger and more plentiful algal blooms. We notice this by the smell and pea-soup look of the Lake during the late summer months. The Cyanobacteria have developed ways to work together to sink or float depending on sunlight, sometimes sinking to escape and other times joining together and trapping oxygen in the mats to float. As the bacteria don't require oxygen to live, they can die off, which consumes all the available oxygen in the water, resulting in massive fish die offs (which do not affect the algae). The bacteria favor warm, calm waters. This explains why we see it in Clear Lake but not in fast-moving rivers or in the ocean.

It's easy to say, let's just clean up the Lake and remove all the cyanobacteria from it. But the reality is both are impossible and would result in us having a big brown mud puddle so full of aquatic weeds, so we couldn't use it anyway. Algae has been thriving on this planet since the ice ages, and extreme heat events show us that some forms of life will continue on no matter how much human-driven climate change raises global temperatures. It will be a unique position to once again form the primal soup that all life on the planet crawled out of at one time or another.

**Important Dates**

- ▶ Sunday, February 9: Superbowl Party at the clubhouse. Doors open at 2:30.
- ▶ March 15, 5:30: Soup Contest at the clubhouse. Watch your email for details!
- ▶ Wednesday, March 19, 4:30: Riviera West Board Meeting at the clubhouse.
- ▶ Wednesday, March 19, 5:30: Harbor View Mutual Water Company Board Meeting at the clubhouse.
- ▶ March 21, 3:30 PM: Deadline to submit candidacy statement for Riviera West or Harbor View Board of Directors position.
- ▶ Saturday, April 5, 2:00: Riviera West Spring Tea at the clubhouse.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2024 Holiday Lights Contest! Congratulations to our 2024 winner, Susan Rode of 3440 Idlewood Drive. Her holiday display received the most votes from neighbors.

A big thanks to runners-up Matt and Vicky Miller of 3602 Crestwood Drive. and Julie Voll and Gerry Duncan of 8235 Broadview Drive for making our community sparkle!

**WATER COMPANY  
EMERGENCY?**

If you cannot reach the  
office, call  
**707-279-4143**



## Early Evacuation is Your Best Defense in a Firestorm

We have all seen the heartbreaking news coverage of the devastating fires in Southern California. The tragic images from the 2018 Camp Fire are hard to forget, and Lake County has had its share of fire trauma over the years. What lessons can we learn from the recent firestorms?

Different agencies and organizations offer helpful information and advice.

### CAL FIRE

**Prepare:** Create your household Wildfire Action Plan. This includes deciding on a meeting point and escape routes, arrangements for animals in your care, and a family communication plan. [Click here for practical advice](#) [Click here for a checklist to create your customized wildfire preparedness plan.](#)

**Prevent:** Nearly every wildfire in California is caused by human activities. This is why fire agencies need your help to prevent them. [Click here to learn about campfire safety, equipment and vehicle use, target shooting safety and more.](#)

**Stay Informed:** Stay Safe and Stay Informed with the firePLANNER app; it helps you track wildfires, get prepared and stay updated during a fire.

Visit [CAL FIRE's website](#) for more information.

### Konocti Fire Safe Council

- ▶ Learn about the Soda Bay Corridor evacuation plan.
- ▶ Follow your community's fire prevention guidelines.
- ▶ Above all, Evacuate early. Be ready and leave your property as soon as you learn there is a fire in the area. You do not have to wait for evacuation instructions. By leaving early you avoid traffic jams on our narrow streets, and you give responders the space they need to protect our community.

Visit the [Konocti Fire Safe Council website](#) for more information.

### The Bottom Line

**Fire and emergency response professionals agree:**

**If there is one life-saving action you can take ahead of an approaching fire, it is to evacuate early.**

**A major fire is impossible to predict. Fire storms make their own weather, generating high winds that spread the fire far and wide. Your best hope for a safe evacuation is to leave the area without delay. Your evacuation will be less stressful, and you can always return if the situation improves.**



Photo credit: calfireprevention.org July 29, 2021

### Riviera West Homeowner's Association

- ▶ Follow the Fire Safety Committee's guidelines to keep your lot clear.
- ▶ Keep zone zero clear: The ground from zero to five feet should be clear of anything that can burn.
- ▶ Use water-wise drip irrigation to keep your trees and shrubs hydrated and healthy.
- ▶ Have your go-bag and pets ready. Keep your gas tank full and cell phone charged.
- ▶ Have an evacuation plan that you practice when it's not fire season. Be aware of all your evacuation options.
- ▶ Stay out of responders' way. Do not go to a fire site because you are curious. Doing this can prevent responders from fighting fire and rescuing people.

### Harbor View Mutual Water Company

- ▶ Our water company routinely maintains enough water and water pressure in the system for responders to use in saving lives and protecting property.
- ▶ During a fire situation, hosing down your house or leaving sprinklers or drip systems running drops water pressure, endangering everyone. Firefighters need all the water pressure possible to defend your homes.
- ▶ Tampering with, "testing," opening or interfering with a fire hydrant in any way is unlawful. Use by non-authorized people can permanently damage our underground pipes and valves. There is also a risk of life-threatening injury to anyone nearby due to the extreme pressure present in the hydrant system.
- ▶ We have been actively removing flammable materials around water company infrastructure, making it easier for responders to move through the community in an emergency.



*"A Break in the Storm" by Chris Lavezzo. Facing northeast from North Heights Drive.*



## Riviera West Social Club Update

### Happy Holidays to All and Best Wishes for the New Year

As we review our calendar of events for 2024, Social Club Steering Committee considers it one of the Association's best years for social activities. 2025 promises to be just as interesting and fun. The Steering Committee recently published a survey asking members about their event preferences. We thank those who responded! This helps us plan activities that mean most to you.

### Warm Gatherings for a Cold Winter

Back by popular demand was the legendary Riviera West Crab Feed, which took place on Saturday, February 1. We had a nearly full house as members gathered to partake of one of our region's special delicacy: Fresh Crab! Hosts Karen Magnusen and Lisa Wentz did a great job of coordinating this event. They drove out to the coast and purchased the crab, and arranged for all the details that made it a special evening. Cracked crab was the star of the show of course. Sourdough, salad, condiments and dessert were also provided, along with home-made lasagna for the vegetarians among us. Thanks Lisa, Karen and friends for engineering this wonderful feast! See pictures on page 5.

#### Coming Events:

Sunday February 9: Superbowl Party hosted by Alexandra Milukhin and friends. Enjoy snacks and socializing while you root for your favorite team! It's a TGIF-style pot-luck. Bring a dish to share and BYOB.

March 15: Riviera West Community Soup Contest, with a St. Patrick's Day Flair! This event brings out the amazing culinary creativity of Riviera West home chefs. There will be first, second and third prizes for the best soup recipes, and a great raffle prize for a guest to take home. Start testing your gourmet recipes now.

April 5: Riviera West Spring Tea. Bring out the fine china, flower arrangements and fascinator hats as we sit down to a traditional English-style spring celebration. Classic fare includes tiny sandwiches, scones, sweets and of course, an array of gourmet teas. Start planning now to reserve your table and invite guests for this popular event!

**TGIFs:** As soon as the season warms up, the Social Club will once again be organizing TGIF parties on Friday (or sometimes on Saturday) evenings. Many members like TGIFs best because they are informal and spontaneous. Just bring an appetizer to share, BYOB and relax at the clubhouse, by the pool or at the marina. TGIFs are hosted by one or more members. Anyone can host – it's fun and easy, and we are happy to walk you through it.

**Join us!** As always, the Social Club welcomes new volunteers. You can choose the type of activity and level of involvement that works for you. The best part is teaming up with an active, fun-loving group dedicated to making our community a better place to live. Give us a call if you're interested! For more information, send us an email at [rwccsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:rwccsocialclub@gmail.com).



A big Thank-You to our hosts Karen Magnusen (left) and Lisa Wentz (right). Lisa's friend Tim (center) was one of the helpers that made it a special evening!

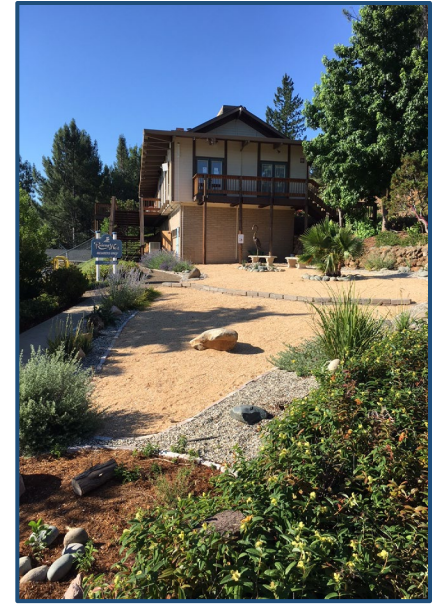


## Riviera West and Harbor View Boards Will Hold Elections for the in 2025 – 2027 Term

This summer we will be holding elections for Riviera West and Harbor View Mutual Water Company Boards of Directors. If you are a Riviera West property owner, you can run for a Board position for the 2025-2027 term for either organization. Serving on the Board is a great opportunity. You can bring your particular skills to the HOA and Water Company's projects and challenges. The community benefits from your input and you benefit by learning something new and connecting with your neighbors. Information on how to submit your nomination will be sent to all members in February, and will be available at [rivierawesthoa.com](http://rivierawesthoa.com).

Nominations must be received at the Riviera West office by 3:00 PM on Friday, March 21, 2025. Some qualifications need to be met for both organizations, including being up-to-date with payments and not a co-owner with another Board Director serving at the same time. Both Boards of Directors meet bi-monthly on odd-numbered months, and for the annual meeting in June.

A Director must attend a minimum of four meetings per year to continue serving on the Board. More information will be forthcoming as election season approaches. Please watch your US Mail and email for messages about self-nominating for a Board seat.



## *Community Doesn't Just Happen – It Takes Volunteers*

### Rules and Regulations Deep Dive If you didn't know, now you know

The HOA rules apply to all Riviera West property owners. Following our rules maintains neighborhood harmony, enhances our quality of life and protects our property investment. We will feature a few randomly chosen rules in our newsletter from time to time.

A complete copy of the Riviera West governing documents is always available at [rivierawesthoa.com](http://rivierawesthoa.com).

#### **Rule 10.5 Exterior lighting. No fixtures which illuminate and excessively glare onto any other lot shall be permitted. No unshielded spot/flood lights.**

Because of our hilly terrain, one person's porch light can shine directly into the bedroom or dining room of another member's house. Decorative lights and porch lights can illuminate much more than you intend, to the frustration of your neighbors.

Please be considerate of your neighbors when using outdoor lighting. Use motion-sensor lights or put exterior lights on timers. Turn off your lights at a reasonable hour and be sure your light does not spill over to other properties.

Dark skies are a precious gift to small-town residents. We can see billions of stars that are invisible to our neighbors in Sacramento and the Bay Area.

The next time you stand in your driveway enjoying the stars with your grandkids, be glad your neighbor's house lights are not interfering with your view!

To learn more about responsible outdoor lighting, visit the [Dark Sky website](http://Dark Sky website). [darksky.org](http://darksky.org) is a non-profit group that advocates for lighting that is considerate of the night sky.



### Volunteer Opportunities: The Choice is Yours!

Whatever your interests, there is probably a Riviera West committee or working group that could use your energy and expertise. Committees advise the Board on important issues and volunteers are the backbone of our committees. Property owners who live elsewhere are also welcome to join. A few groups are fully staffed at the moment, but you may be able to help in an advisory capacity. If you're interested, just ask!

**Pool Committee:** Monitor any issues with the swimming pool and contribute ideas for improvement.

**Fire Safety Committee:** Keep members informed on safety and best practices, and implement policies that protect our properties.

**Marina Committee:** Help keep the marina and lakeside park in good shape and advise the Board on areas for improvement.

**Elections Committee:** Meet annually to perform a secure and accurate count of the ballots for Board positions.

**Architectural Control and Planning Committee:** Review members' property improvement projects; help members comply with Riviera West Rules and Regulations.

**Social Club:** Organize and host a wide array of events and activities that foster goodwill and neighborhood harmony. Join us and be part of the fun!

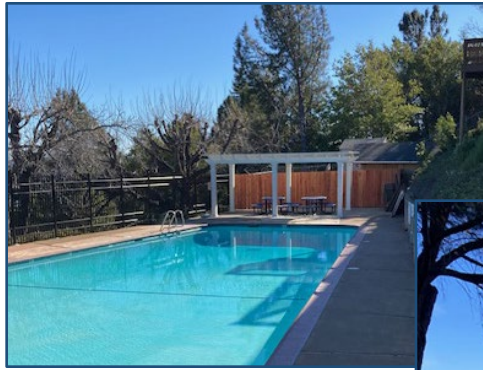
**Clubhouse Committee:** Advise the Board on opportunities to improve the design, efficiency and maintenance of our fifty-plus year old clubhouse.

## Improvement and Repair Projects are Completed – on Budget!

### New Fencing for Pool Perimeter and Utility Area

Our unattractive 50-plus year old pool perimeter fence – made of gray chain link with rows of barbed wire strung along the top – was replaced in 2024. The new fence is sturdy, powder-coated metal. It will improve security and make the pool a more pleasant place to visit.

A new redwood fence installed along the northern side of the pool deck will secure the utility and storage areas. It will be painted to coordinate with the colors of the clubhouse.



### Marina Gangway Replacement

New, state-of-the-art gangways have replaced the old ramps destroyed by recent severe storms. Completing this project involved building new land-based anchors for the new gangways. Anglers, bird-watchers and boat enthusiasts will appreciate the new surface, wider deck and safety handrails.



### Marina Park Fencing and Lawn Repair

Contractors installed fencing to completely enclose one of our favorite gathering places, the Marina park. The new fencing will keep our members' children and pets safe and will prevent stray dogs from entering the park. Re-seeding the grass, and repair of the sprinkler system will result in a healthier canopy tree and surrounding lawn.



### Clubhouse Bar

The bar/serving area replacement project was proposed and managed by the Clubhouse Committee. The finishing touches on the new bar were completed just before the Holiday Open House in December, and it was much appreciated during the Crab Feed in February. Roomy cabinets, a sleek quartz counter/backsplash and new flooring dramatically update the look of the great room. Our custom Maheraja bar now has pride of place. Clubhouse gatherings will be more efficient and more enjoyable with our new bar/serving area.



*Above: A Riviera West resident's dog happily plays at the Marina park. We remind everyone to be sure your dog does not damage the turf, and remember to use the dog-waste bags and disposal receptacle provided. Thank you for your consideration!*

## Is Your Property a Short-Term Rental?

Riviera West does not prohibit short term rentals (e.g., vacation rentals, Airbnb, etc.), subject to the following conditions:

- ▶ Members must inform Riviera West if their property is used as a short-term rental. This information is vital in emergency situations and in conducting routine monitoring.
- ▶ Tenants must be provided a copy of and must follow Riviera West Rules and Regulations. Any violations are the responsibility of the property owner. As with any Riviera West property, violation fines and penalties will apply.
- ▶ Short-term tenants are permitted to use the swimming pool, park and marina if the owner allows them use of their key card.
- ▶ Key cards: Each member household is entitled to one electronic key card. The property owner may keep it for their personal use or choose to let their tenants use the card.
- ▶ Call the office at 707-279-8544 or email [rivierawest@gmail.com](mailto:rivierawest@gmail.com) to be sure we have accurate information about your rental.

*Thank you to all property owners for your cooperation!*



## Clubhouse Committee Report

By Chris Lavezzo

Have you been to the clubhouse for an event lately? If you have, you will have seen the first finished project in our committee's Facelift Plan. The new bar/serving area opens up floor space, provides more storage and accessibility, and complements the new kitchen and our iconic stone fireplace.

The clubhouse was originally built more than fifty years ago as a showroom and sales office for the new Riviera West development. Over the years, it's been repurposed into a space that accommodates a main clubroom, front office, bookkeeper's office, conference room, and a tight storage room. Keeping our common areas well-maintained and attractive improves our quality of life and adds to the value of our own properties.

Clubhouse Committee volunteers recently presented a five-year plan to the Board to improve both function and form in the clubhouse. The plan divides clubhouse projects into four focus areas: the clubroom, the restrooms, front office area, and front entrance. Proposals in each of the focus areas range from simple and inexpensive to those requiring more planning and budgeting. Each focus area contains a number of improvements that will benefit members.

**Clubroom Focus Area:** Replace ceiling fans to more efficiently circulate air; replace lights on the ceiling beams; brighten existing paneling; increase the number of electrical outlets inside and outside the clubroom; improve Wi-Fi, sound, and smart TV capabilities; replace fading and broken window coverings; replace thermal film on glass doors; add all-electric fireplace insert to look like real flames; install new carpeting in the clubroom and new flooring in the hallway and kitchen.

**Bathrooms Focus Area:** Invest in a fresh coat of paint; more efficient lighting and ventilation; wheelchair accessibility and new flooring.

**Front Office Focus Area:** Replace existing windows with efficient dual-paned units; redesign movable partitions to create better traffic flow, work organization, security for staff and business records; provide an area for small meetings; provide an area for efficient storage of office and event supplies.

**Front Entrance Area:** The common areas surrounding the clubhouse are our opportunity to create a good first impression. Proposed projects include: improving landscaping to create fire-safe zone close to the building; a safer transition from upper driveway to lower level near stairway; low maintenance shrubs and ground cover; outdoor driveway lighting; and heron park maintenance.

### The Riviera West Clubhouse Committee

Founded in March 2024, the Clubhouse Committee is group of volunteers who research, plan and facilitate improvements to the Riviera West clubhouse. The Committee suggests ideas for the Board to consider for structural, design and efficiency improvements. We thank these volunteer members for offering their time and effort for everyone's benefit.

**Do you have some ideas you'd like to share?** Or maybe you can volunteer with garden cleanup, painting the walls, or washing windows? Call Chris Lavezzo at 707-799-2127 or email [rwccsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:rwccsocialclub@gmail.com). We'll be tackling projects in all areas as time and budget allow. Volunteers help us keep cost under control and complete more projects sooner, not to mention that we have a lot of fun meeting and working with our neighbors.

### Examples of volunteer-led projects that have added lasting value to our joint assets

- ▶ Clubhouse improvements including the kitchen renovation and bar remodel
- ▶ Grounds improvements, such as the work party that created the heron garden

## It's Not Too Soon... ...to Practice Bocce!



You can practice bocce anytime, including during the winter, when you can have the park to yourself. Why not spend some time at the Riviera West Park with friends and polish up your bocce game ahead of the season? This summer's tournament will begin in June. Start a bocce team by joining with neighbors who like to play. Watch your email for bocce announcements this coming spring.



## Wanted: Creative Cooks

Do you like to bake? Are you fascinated with the latest cookie or scone recipe on social media?



If the answer is yes, the Social Club welcomes you to help us prepare for community events such as the Spring Tea in April.

We welcome ideas for desserts, treats and other refreshments for our various events. You can suggest favorite recipes of your own, or use one of our recipes. The quantities are always manageable and the recipes are easy to follow. The Social Club covers the cost of ingredients.

We look forward to hearing from the talented bakers in our community.

Please call Chris at 799-2127 or email [rwccsocialclub@gmail.com](mailto:rwccsocialclub@gmail.com) with your information.



### Wildlife Viewing at its Best ... in Scenic Riviera West

#### Eagle Watch on North Heights Drive

One of the most appealing things about living in Riviera West is the frequent chance to enjoy the local wildlife, from sparkling hummingbirds to majestic mountain lions. Two years ago, North Heights Drive residents Debi Denham and Harry Davis were admiring their expansive view when they spotted an eagle’s nest in a tree far below in the Black Forest. Harry, who is a videographer, set up his camera and followed the eagle family.

“Debi and I have always loved bird watching,” Harry said. “So it was a real treat to find ourselves living near a pair of nesting eagles. Watching them build their nest together has been a process we have enjoyed for the past two years. Last year we got to see two adorable eaglets grow up. The male spends most of his time bringing fish to the nest and watching out for predators. Being able to videotape them has been a joy.”

Harry and Debi named the eagle couple appropriately: “Dawn” Henley and Glenn Frey.



#### Bird Bath Social Scene

Chris Lavezzo keeps fresh water on her deck for the neighborhood birds. Sometimes the bird baths are so popular that the avian guests have to take turns. Of course there is an official pecking order. Recently, Chris photographed some of the visitors – for a colorful display of local songbirds. This sociable group didn’t even seem to mind that she was photographing them through her kitchen window.



#### Riviera West Wildlife Fans:

Do you have an interesting photo or story about a Riviera West wildlife encounter? Send your information to [rivierawest@gmail.com](mailto:rivierawest@gmail.com), including your phone number and we will contact you.

### Community Yard Sale: Your Feedback Please!

It’s time once again to gather up all those items you are ready to re-home. Every year the Riviera West Social Club organizes a community-wide yard sale.

Each member family hosts their own yard sale on their property. Meanwhile the Social Club manages a sale at the clubhouse with proceeds going to the Social Club events budget. You can donate yard sale items for the Social Club sale if you don’t want to host your own sale.

Social Club volunteers do all the publicity and set up signs. Participating members are asked to pay a nominal amount to help with purchasing signage materials.

#### Help Us Select a Date!

The proposed dates for the 2025 Community Yard Sale are Friday, May 16 and Saturday May 17. We welcome your feedback on the timing of the sale. Community members often weigh in with good advice on this topic! Please call Norma at 279-9604 to comment on the date or if you would like to volunteer to help with the sale.



#### Do You Plan to Paint your House? Or Add a Deck or Build a Fence?

Whatever external improvements you have in mind, the first step is to contact the Architectural Control and Planning Committee. ACP volunteers will help you understand the guidelines that are part of our HOA Rules and Regulations.

Filling out the paperwork is easy. Contact the office for more information and to pick up a project approval form.

## Wildlife of Riviera West

### California Newt

You may not see this slippery character, but it is probably living on or around your Riviera West property. *Taricha torosa* is our own species of newt endemic to California. Its adult length can range from 5 to 8 inches.

California newts are primarily nocturnal and find cover under rocks, logs, or leaf litter throughout the day. Due to their affinity for rainy conditions, their general activity increases in the presence of precipitation. During this wet season, they travel to ponds, streams, and slow-moving water bodies to breed, often returning to the same locations annually.

Earthworms, snails, slugs, woodlice, earwigs, mosquito larvae, crickets and other invertebrates are among the California newt's prey.

#### Range and habitat

California newts reside in the coastal counties of California and in the southern Sierra Nevada and occupy a diverse array of habitats found near the small ponds and creeks where they breed, including woodlands and chaparral. Newts are amphibians. They are related to salamanders.

This little newt is currently a California Special Concern species. Some populations have been greatly reduced in southern California coastal streams due to the introduction of non-native, invasive species and human habitation. The mosquitofish and red swamp crayfish have caused the greatest reduction in newt populations.



*California newt*  
(*Taricha torosa*)

These secretive amphibians hide in the underbrush, in old stumps or leaf litter, and emerge at nightfall to forage for food.

Photo and text credit:

[www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)

wikipedia.org



Top: California newt

Bottom: Map showing the California newt's range throughout the state.