



March 2021



Carquinez Village has teamed up with Car Donations Services, Inc. to provide you with the easiest way possible to donate your vehicle whether it is running or not!

Car Donations Services has been helping local charities since 1990 and will take care of every aspect of your car donation, allowing you peace of mind that the transaction will be completed efficiently and properly.

CDS uses multiple methods to sell the vehicles, so your vehicle will sell for more which means more money for us and a larger tax deduction for you!

CDS is a licensed Commercial Fundraiser as recognized by the California State Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. Visit them online at www.cardonationservices.com or call 1-888-6TO-GIVE (1-888-686-4483).

President's Message

By Susan Neuhaus

Have you noticed that the trees are in bloom? On one of my COVID-19 -permitted trips to the post office, I was blown away by all the white blossoms on the trees. When did this happen? It must be Spring. I sure am ready for all that spring symbolizes for me, a time of new beginnings.

Since early in the pandemic, Carquinez Village has had been focused on being a strong partner in the community.

On March 2nd Benicia will be hosting the 2nd dose vaccination clinic. Those who received their first vaccination in February will be returning at the same appointment time for their 2nd injection. Carquinez Village is honored to have been asked again to assist with organizing the call center and providing transportation.

Early in February the Village was asked by the League of Women Voters of Solano County to hold a "Listening Session" on Zoom highlighting issues of concern to older members in our Benicia/Vallejo community.

The prioritized issues that were identified are: 1) Reversing Citizens United. (Corporate spending on political campaigns should not be viewed as free speech); 2) Women in Poverty; 3) Food Insecurity; 4) Affordable Housing; 5) Climate Change (effects on our local communities). Other issues that were identified but not ranked included educating young adults about voting; moving to universal mail- in voting; local and regional transportation; the increase in litter/dumping; racial inclusiveness; and air quality in Benicia.

Benicia Mayor Steve Young was our featured speaker in February; it was a well-received talk. We had a great turnout of 38 households via Zoom. In addition to sharing with us the city's pandemic relief efforts, he focused on some of the same issues that were identified in our listening session, including affordable senior housing, water, and climate change. He also spoke about the selection of former Benicia police department chief Erik Upson as Benicia's city manager and his "responsiveness to the city's issues". Mayor Young took questions from the audience and invited people to contact him with their concerns. If you missed the session, the recording of his talk is on our website.

Our events committee has come up with some great offerings for March. Check out the March 5th TED talk by Tim Urban "Inside the mind of a major procrastinator". Or if you don't get around to that one, join comedy writer and Olli instructor Martin Marshall for a special presentation "Gift of Laughter - Gilda Radner". Or you might want to join us for Happy Hour at the end of the day on a Friday.



Love, Visa

By Marty Stockard

Image by Sara Graves from Pixabay

When one purchases a traditional Hawaiian 14 carat gold bracelet, there are decisions to be made. First is how wide. The cost is determined by the weight, therefore the wider, the more expensive. Second is to determine your name in Hawaiian. Finally, what is to be inscribed on the inside.

Years ago, I purchased my Hawaiian bracelet from a manufacturer recommended by several "locals". My bracelet is ¼ inch wide with my name, Maleka, engraved and inlaid with onyx on the surface amid traditional engravings.

While making the purchase, the saleswoman asked me what I wanted engraved on the inside. Stumped, I asked, "like what?"

"Most people have the name of someone, like 'Love, Charlie.'"

"Okay, how about 'Love, Cinder.'"

The saleswoman looked at me and asked who Cinder was. When I replied that that was my dog, she reared back in her chair and asked, "Is your dog going to pay for this?"

Now, I knew the rules. Inside my bracelet is engraved, "Love, Visa". Yes, the engravers telephoned me before they engraved it just to make sure!



SPEAK UP! How to be heard by elected officials

March 24, 7 pm *Better World* Event

By Pat Plant

Visit with three of our elected officials and hear their viewpoints about the best ways of gaining access to them. Present will be Benicia Mayor, Steve Young, Solano County Board of Supervisor's member Monica Brown, and State Senator, Bill Dodd. Hear about ways you can be heard by these important people, and how the interests of citizens are acted on. Email betterworldbenicia@gmail.com for the link to this Zoom event by return email.

Better World events, sponsored by Heritage Presbyterian Church, endeavor to inform, excite, and empower participants to improve the common good. Actions that lead to change include:

- Learning (observation, researching, analyzing, thinking in new ways)
- Writing (letters, opinion pieces, news articles, poetry, plays, books)
- Speaking (discussing, debating, convincing, giving testimony)
- Acting (meeting, organizing, protesting, leading others)



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead, American Anthropologist

COVID-19 Vaccination

By Molly Barr



By now, many of us are vaccinated against COVID-19 or at least partially so. It seemed like it would take forever for them to get to the youngsters like myself—at age seventy-one. But when all was said and done, it wasn't that long. It's only February. As a group, I have to say this for us here in Carquinez Village: we watch each other's back! I was attending a Village Zoom meeting when someone commented that they'd gotten vaccinated at Clinic X. Suddenly, cell phones appeared in every hand and a few members blinked out. Several finally surfaced, bragging of a vaccination appointment in hand! The very airwaves in and around Vallejo and Benicia have been vibrating with one vaccination lead or another.

My opportunity came a little earlier than expected when appointments at the second mass vaccination clinic at the Fairgrounds had openings during the second day. I got one as did several other Village members. It was a tremendous experience.

We are such tiny cogs in a huge wheel. Imagine the task of vaccinating virtually every human being IN THE WORLD or, to make it a bit more personal, just every person in our county or our state. It's a massive undertaking. I couldn't begin to count the people who made it possible for just one day at this mass vaccination clinic. People guided our cars to parking, waving orange wands. Others directed us where to go from there. Clipboards with paperwork were handed to those who needed it and the line shuffled on. Eventually we each rolled up our sleeves and received The Jab. From there we had a time sticker placed on our chest and were sent to the Observation area for fifteen minutes. Then we were done. I'm estimating it was a little over an hour from my front door until I returned.

Amazing!





Image courtesy of Uplash.

We welcome a new feature this month: A Book Review by Carolyn Fallon. We expect this will be a monthly feature, giving us insights into the prolific reading and reactions by Carolyn!

The Carquinez Review 2020

By Carolyn Fallon

Growing up on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula was an almost magical childhood. Biking to school by Robert Louis Stevenson's house, occasionally encountering John Steinbeck, poet Robison Jeffers, Salvador Dali and such a public LIBRARY were life changing experiences!!!!

Now being on the Carquinez Straits in this charming little village full of fabulous painters, poets, writers and the LIBRARY, the great Bookshop Benicia is quite an ending. And this year to represent these writers, the frosting on the cake is another publication by Benicia Literary Arts of The Carquinez Review 2020, edited by Jim W. White, Mary Eichbauer, Lois Requist, and Marty Malin. Of course, the heart of the matter of any publication is the essential content. The 24 literary artists present their essays, memoirs, and short stories under four different categories-Reflections, Visions, Encounters, and Crossroads for very varied and interesting reading. DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, rush to Bookshop Benicia or call the library for a copy of the Carquinez Review 2020 to meet these writers.

With the presentation of such variation of styles and subject matters, how does one decide which to sample first? Perhaps because of my age I found the memoirs and spins on family acquaintances most appealing. Many readers will prefer the short stories. You as the reader have a unique opportunity for your own personal preference. In any event-voila-your dear neighbor maybe the next Pulitzer Prize winner!!!!

Guidelines Regarding Transportation Requests

By Helen Hughes

Advance Notice Required

Two-day notice if you are making a request for a ride Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Place your request by the previous Monday Morning. Three-day Notice if you need a ride or service on a Monday or a Tuesday. (We need extra time because the office is closed at the weekend. This allows for volunteer to be informed of requests and to respond.

Expenses

Members are responsible to pay for Tolls, batteries, parking fees etc. There is no ‘tipping of drivers. Volunteers only cover the cost of their gas. It is part of their generosity and service.

Agreement regarding service

Volunteers agree to deliver their service for the time that the member requested. Extra time should not be added on spontaneously.

Attending Medical Appointments

We encourage you to request this support so include it on your service request so the volunteers are aware of it; however not everyone may feel comfortable doing this especially during this COVID-19 time)

Wheelchairs

Volunteers provide hands off, non-medical, non-acute services. Only consider wheelchairs if they fit into the back of the volunteer’s car. In most instances it may be wise to consider using a wheelchair that belongs to your destination (a hospital or other medical locations)

How to Request a ride

Go to the Carquinez Village website www.carquinezvillage.org and find the ‘New Service Request ‘drop down menu. Or call the Supportive Services 707-741-1656 and leave a message and someone will return your call and seek to locate a volunteer for you. That volunteer will call you and introduce themselves and confirm the arrangements for your service. Here’s hoping we can get back to more of a normal Life as we have the volunteers ready to serve you.

Thank you,
Helen Hughes (Vice President)

Carquinez Village YouTube Channel

By Molly Barr

Some of you may have noticed a YouTube image on the front page of the Carquinez Village website. CV has its own YouTube channel. It's recently begun to flesh out with some of our more recent videos, mainly the monthly speaker series. These ZOOM sessions, and a few others, are being recorded so those who missed a session can still see it. Those of you who have a Google account can subscribe to our channel.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the channel. Once on the webpage look for a red box upper right that says "SUBSCRIBE." Click on it. Once subscribed, you will get email notifications of new videos. You can also access our YouTube channel from a new link on the front page of the CV website.

Notes from the Editor

By Lois Requist

Thanks to this month's contributors—Pat Plant, Marty Stockard, and our always active president, Susan Neuhaus. We're delighted to have Carolyn Fallon aboard with book reviews. She's one of the most prolific readers I know, so I'm hoping for some good insights in the future.

Barbara Fredericks does the newsletter layout and maintains our website, so important to the communications arm of the village. We also appreciate Rachel Ann LaRosa Brown, who maintains our Facebook page and posts the newsletter there.

