

November 2015

Caspar Community News



Center photo: Sienna M Potts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fridays, 9:30am
November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18
Caspar Community Board
All Welcome

Caspar Winter Market
Mondays 4-6pm

Wednesdays 12:15-12:45
BOOKMOBILE
November 25, December 9

Friday, November 13, 6:30 - 9 pm
Caspar Pub Night
Guest Chefs: Kim Badenhop, Michael, Rochelle, & Sienna

We're on TV! Click here for our Pub Night trailer

Saturday
November 14, 6pm
Annual Harvest Dinner
& Silent Auction

Sunday, November 22, 9 - 11 am
Caspar 4th Sunday Breakfast

Saturday, November 28 10am-1pm
HEADLANDS WORK DAY

Friday, December 11, 6:30 - 9 pm
Caspar Pub Night

Sunday, December 27, 9 - 11 am
NO BREAKFAST!

Thursday, December 31, 8pm-12:30am
New Years Eve Dance Party
Music by The Mixed Nuts: swing, latin, calypso, and craziness
Great appetizers, beer, wine and champagne bar
Tickets will be available at the door for \$20.

A complete schedule can be found at our website.

Pub Night

GREAT FOOD!

- Mushroom Lasagna \$10
- Wild Mushroom Wild Rice Soup \$8
- Green Salad \$6
- Beer & Wine

OPEN MIC
FREE ADMISSION
FAMILY FRIENDLY
TEENS WELCOME

2nd FRIDAY : NOVEMBER 13th

Saturday, November 14
Annual Harvest Dinner
& Silent Auction
at the Caspar Community Center
Fine local dining, splendid silent auction
& live music

Reservations Required
by November 12th: 964-4997 or
caspar@mcn.org

Doors open at 6pm with appetizers
no host beer and wine bar
seated dinner at 6:30

Sweet Potato Soup
Salad of Fall Greens
choice of
Braised Covelov Short Ribs
Duck Breast
Potato Gnocchi
Array of Fine Desserts

\$45 per person
see the full menu here

Benefits Caspar Community

also in this issue... **Headlands**
Community Land Trust **Birds**

From the Center

The other day I got a call from our kind and thoughtful Mendocino Bookmobile driver Dave Frick. He was very sorry to inform me that since their next scheduled Caspar visit falls on Veterans Day, he'd be away from us for a whole month. I laughed and told him I hoped he enjoyed his day off the road. As a loyal fan of the Bookmobile, I have plenty of books to get me through. They are from libraries all over 3 counties, brought to me every other week (November 25th & December 9th from 12:15-12:45 in the Caspar Community Center parking lot -- back to every other Wednesday starting January 6, 2016) by Dave & Robert, my friendly "personal librarians." What a luxury!

The Caspar Winter Market just started up again (Mondays from 4-6pm) with Winter veggies and fruits, local crafts, and Susie's prepared dishes. It may be getting dark already but it's warm and bright inside -- plus it's perfect timing to pick up a salad or even a whole dinner. Lucky us!

– *Sienna*



Festivate Your Holidays with a Guatemalan Touch! Astonish your guests with a colorful new tablecloth or table runner, smaller fabric for bread and tortillas, fresh touches for your home décor, and maybe even a bag, scarf, ornament, or other gift item, including clothes and backpacks for kids, bibs, booties, and small quilts for babies.

Sunday, November 22, at the Caspar Community Center, 9 to 2. Caspar Community's Fabulous Fourth Sunday Breakfast starts at 9; the sale will be open until 2. For more information, please call 964-0321

– *Annie*

Caspar Community Land Trust

We have met and met and met again about managing Caspar's development, and every time we realize that controlling our water is key. If we own the Caspar water system, currently owned by the Cattle Company, we can guide development along the lines we who live here envision. With the water in the hands of an outside developer, anything can happen: unwelcome development (think condos or shopping center), or ownership of our water by a thirsty neighboring community.

So far, the best mechanism for achieving water security for Caspar appears to be a Community Land Trust. This new approach to ownership builds community value by promoting its integrity. Most often, CLTs develop workforce housing without displacing people. Some of Caspar's houses, especially the ones associated with the present water system, need help, yet have long-time residents in them. Funding may be available (to the right entity, and a CLT is a likely candidate) to upgrade those houses. With the water system under our control, it would be possible to develop the good agricultural parcels and build a bit more housing for young farmers and other workers. CLTs often collaborate with organizations like Habitat for Humanity.

In line with the often-stated goal of the Caspar Board, to encourage a little more density without triggering "flipping" and land speculation, CLTs often "ground lease" the residences, or own the land under houses owned by their residents, thereby maintaining control of the way a community changes.

This all presumes that ownership of the Caspar Cattle Company's lands will somehow come to rest in the hands of some Caspar-based entity. Whether by some sort of bargain sale, or the participation of a few buyers who want to preserve or develop parts of the land, or through government grants, we believe that this is likely within the next few years. Having a CLT ready to own, manage, and develop the housing and water system is the next logical step for us to take.

To that purpose, a group of Casparados gathered in October to discuss the founding of a CLT, and agreed that Caspar Community should proceed. More about the founding of the Caspar Community Land Trust will be forthcoming in January.

– *Michael*

For the Birds...

Last week my gorgeous big West-facing window broke my heart. I had just cleaned it and I was planning to look into making it safer for all the beautiful birds who delight me all day in the yard. I follow the efforts of folks who do things like rescue and recover birds who have struck our many glass barriers on their migration routes (like [FLAP in Toronto](#)). I cheer for folks who watch the [9/11 Tribute in Light](#) and make sure that when too many migrating birds have gotten stuck, the lights go off to give the birds a chance to continue on their way. I'm always going on about dark skies & bird-safe windows.

I got a big lesson in not walking my talk when I heard a sickening thunk as something big hit that picture window one morning. "No, no, no," I muttered, running out there, not yet panicking because often I can rescue the bird with a little time & care. When I saw my bird was a kestrel my heart sank. Even before I touched her, I knew. I refused to believe, even when I picked her up to see if she was only stunned & her neck flopped terribly. I wrapped her in a blanket & held her to my heart for some time before I could accept her awful fate. I feel such shame to admit that I killed a kestrel with my window. I do not believe that my life, and certainly not my view, is worth more than a kestrel.

Still holding my beautiful dead kestrel in her shroud I drew lines on my window like I had seen at Miriam's house. I laid her to rest under a bush to go back to the earth and went straight to my computer to honor her by becoming a better neighbor. [FLAP.org](#) showed me what works (& what doesn't) on their [Protect Birds at Home](#) page. I decided a wind curtain made with paracord would suit me best so I clicked over to [BirdSavers.com](#) to find out how to make my own. I spent a lovely half hour poring over the many colors at [ParacordGalaxy.com](#) (made in the USA) & ordered enough to do all my windows several times over.

That was Friday. Monday evening I was thrilled to find my box of pretty cords already in my mailbox. The next afternoon I put together my first experimental wind curtain and I feel like a better citizen of the world. Now I just have to work on my cat...

– Sienna



Caspar Headlands State Reserve

Our headlands are not prominent on the radar of State Parks, who have the management of 280 parks and host 67 million visitors a year. Mostly, this is a good thing, because it gives us unusual opportunities to shape them the way we like them. Less exotic invasives, please ... and so once a month a hardy team abates them. In early November, we are told that a crew of chain-saw wielding Parks employees will attack some of the more obtrusive Gorse stands -- the ones threatening to interrupt trails. Within the next year, we hope to reclaim some of the trails lost to Broom (dotted lines in the map above.)

Meanwhile, on the [CasparCommons.org](#) website, we are beginning to post what we hope will become the beginning of the Master Plan for the Reserve. You can visit the Headlands Portal here: [casparcommons.org/Headlands](#)

Rain or Shine, the Headlands Work Crew will whack invasives on Thanksgiving Saturday, November 28th, and you are invited.

Please note! There is NO 4th Sunday Breakfast in December.

This edition of
Caspar Community News
was laid out by Michael Potts

The next edition will appear in 2016. Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to lists@casparcommons.org

We  Caspar