

November 2021

Caspar Community News

Makers & Bakers

Holiday Fair



Paul Reiber fine wood working

Maria Sari locally sourced hand woven flora with a touch of Hawaii

Georgia Lane organic herbal lotions and potions

Dalen Anderson hand crafted bags and totes



Sarah Sharaf jewelry



Take home holiday treats such as fruit cake, panforte, mince pies and much more by bakers Kris Reiber, Sallie Brown, Dalen Anderson and the Caspar kitchen team.

**Saturday, Dec. 4 noon-5
Caspar Community Center**

The idea for this pop up event started at the community potluck that took place in October. I was talking with a few friends about how I have been obsessed with my new hobby of handbag making. It started with me wanting to make myself a new purse and I headed down the rabbit hole of testing out different styles, patterns and materials... which has lead to far too many bags for any one person to use. The idea of a "Makers" Fair came to mind. Kris Reiber was standing nearby and suggested adding "Bakers" to the line up and voila!

Makers & Bakers concludes on page 6

also in this issue...

Annual Funding Appeal

Will we ever have Breakfast and Pub Night again?

Village Square

where the money goes

*1911 photo
SS Earl of Forfar taking on a load of lumber at the Caspar anchorage on sale at the auction*

announcing: Caspar Community ONLINE AUCTION

The second Annual Caspar Online Auction kicked off on November 13th, with a sparkling array of local artists' works and donations from local businesses, a total value of more than \$11,000 up for bidding.

The masthead for this edition of the News is a tiny version of a stunning 47" by 8" reproduction of a lost original found hiding at the Kelley House and



*Paul Reiber's
First Responder Gertie
on sale at the auction*

CLICK HERE FOR THE ONLINE AUCTION

offered by new Caspar residents Mischa and Matt Buchholz and Braggadon Signs & Graphics in Fort Bragg. You can bid on this piece of Caspar history at the auction, online right now!

There's a lot more about the auction on page 4 of this Caspar News.



*Heidi Tarver's
Ceramic Mug
on sale at the auction*

**click here
for more
auction images
and info**



To preserve & enhance the quality of all life in Caspar

Holidaze 2021

Greetings, Casparados!

What does “community” mean when we can’t gather ...for Fourth Sunday Breakfasts and Second Friday Pub Nights? **Every venture out into the larger world gives me more appreciation for the strength and kindness of our community** even – especially! – now, when connection has been fraught these last two years. I am so used to looking at our Community Center, in past years so vibrantly alive, lights blazing against the winter nights. I sense that our sweet old building misses our gatherings ...don’t you? Tuesday and Wednesday ballet classes have resumed, and it makes me glad to see young dancers and their parents once again climbing the steps.

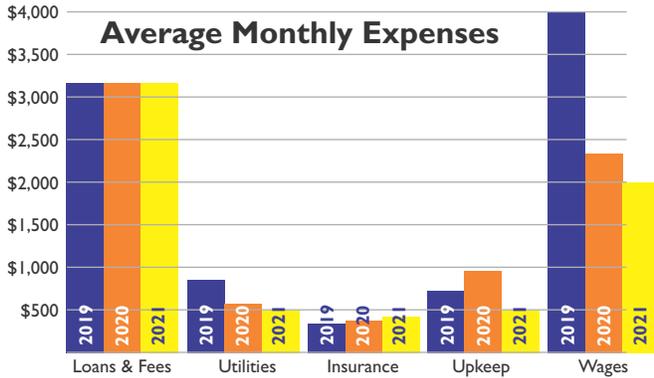
This quiet time has shown me that our connections continue even when we cannot freely gather. Sadly, significantly, most of our gatherings this last year, like our farewell to beloved Board member Ed Murrell, have been memorials where we cautiously assured each other that life goes on. One perfect Caspar summer day, an event celebrating the life of a local musician (still living!) took place on the back deck and around the pizza oven, **reminding all who attended how much we enjoy being in company, even if outdoors, masked, distanced.**

As winter looms and rain begins to fall (at last!) I sense our need to resume our joyous community events, and I firmly believe that we will be able to come together again very soon. **Our community, and the Center, have weathered a tough passage.** Caspar’s Board and I have found ways to reduce expenses that never let up despite the vacant darkness at the Center – unsurprisingly, insurance cost more than ever this year. If County regulations allow, a small New Years Eve celebration is contemplated, and we hope to resume Breakfasts and Pub Nights before winter’s out; stand by for news.

On the back of this letter, you can find a brief summary of our income, expenses, and operations for the last year. It will come as no surprise to you that our expenses outran our income by a significant amount ...but **we remain proudly solvent, and we know that, with your help, we can outlast the pandemic and keep the Center ready to open as soon as it is safe.** Lea, our event manager, and I have struggled with the inertia coming from our inability to turn the lights back on, invite you to events, and restart the vivid life of this community. What keeps us going: your caring for the community and its Center, and our shared resilience in the face of trying times.

If all goes well and the mail is delivered promptly, as you read this our second annual Caspar Online Auction is underway, and I urge you to visit – casparcommons.org/auc – and view the many manifestations of our community’s talents and generosity. And, **as we have done for two decades, we ask you to consider our shortfall and donate to keep the Center alive if you can.**

Sienna M. Potts
for Caspar Community



In 2019, Caspar Community certainly relied on your generous donations to maintain its level of service, but after February, 2020, Events and Rentals dove.

Rentals have begun to rebuild (although we have hosted many fewer weddings than in 2019). Events continue to be problematic because we are committed to keeping our community safe.

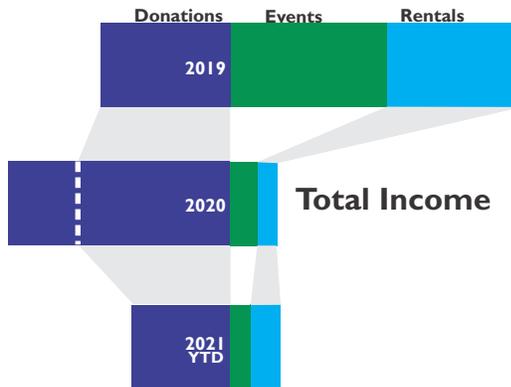
At this time in 2020, we were in a situation similar to the time of this writing (dotted line), but your enthusiastic response to last year's version of this letter allowed us to keep from dipping into the "rainy day reserve" that our USDA loan requires at year's end.

We need your help again this year. We're not desperate, but to be able to keep the Center alive and ready to resume full scale operations as soon as our county's mandates relax, we need another heroic response. We all hope this will be the last time we need so much.

Of course, it's not all about money, but the expenses continue to weigh heavily on your Caspar Board. We have meticulously questioned every recurring expense, and have cut them back dramatically *again*.

Two notable exceptions: in 2020 we, like many, used the time without gatherings to make improvements, and so Upkeep was high. Without the "wear and tear" of people at the Center, this year we were able to scale that segment back. And then there's insurance: no matter whether there are people here or not, betting against ourselves gets more expensive every year. Even so, Lea and I have more than made up that deficit by cutting our wages in half compared with 2019 (but we would much rather have gatherings!)

Total expenses for the first ten months of 2021 are \$70,458.27, down a third from 2019.



Every year we come to you at this time of year (like so many nonprofits) asking for your financial support.

Although we do rely on a few "Caspar Angels" to sustain us, the bulk of our donations are small, and every little bit helps; after all, we *are* a community organization. (What helps most, and is easiest for many, is a small monthly donation, as little as \$5 a month – call or write us for information on pledging.)

We are grateful for our supportive community. You have made these last 20 months easier to survive. We hope you share this feeling with us, and if you can find your way to make that gratitude into a monetary donation, it will help us preserve and enhance the quality of our Community.



5 Wonderful Desserts
made by Marty Johnson

Caspar's Online Auction Ends Saturday, November 27th, at 8pm

It is important to remember that this is a fund-raising event to support the maintenance of our Community Center during the time of Covid-19. Generous donors, including many gifted community members, donated \$11,616+ worth of wonderful stuff, gift certificates, and services, and at the time of this writing their donations have only raised 41% of that value, \$4,780. **Please vote with your dollars to keep our Center solvent** until we can once again get together and support it with events and fund-raisers. Bid early; bid often!

What You Need To Know:

The auction opened for bidding at **NOON** on Saturday, November 13th and closes at 8pm on Saturday, November 27th. Get your bidding paddle and view all the items now:

CasparCommons.org/auc

You will need to register for a bidding paddle in order to bid; you will also need an email address so you can be notified of your winnings.

Once or twice during the bidding, paddle holders who've been outbid on items may receive emails to invite them to raise the ante.

Saturday evening after 8pm, winning bidders will receive emails notifying them of the items they have won. Item pick-up details will be included with the winner notifications. Most items will be available for pick-up on Sunday and Monday, November 28th & 29th at the Community Center; social distancing precautions will again be observed. Payment may be made by check or cash (works better for us) or by credit card.



Ocean Harvest
Seaweed Basket
on sale at the auction



Dalen Anderson:
Custom Handbag
on sale at the auction



James Katzel:
Japanese Sumi Ink Enso



Rhoda Teplow:
Carnelian Necklace



Elizabeth Berrien:
Wire Cat Mask



Cheryl Rydmark:
Diamond & Gold Studs

Next Big Thing? Caspar Village Square

Many moons ago, even before the Community Center belonged to us, the idea of a **Village Square** was hatched. Working with Randy Hester and his town planning graduate students from UC Berkeley, Casparados were invited to imagine changes to our village, even if the land didn't belong to us. This resulted in the purchase and protection of **Caspar Headlands State Reserve**, originally slated for up to ten multi-story condos .

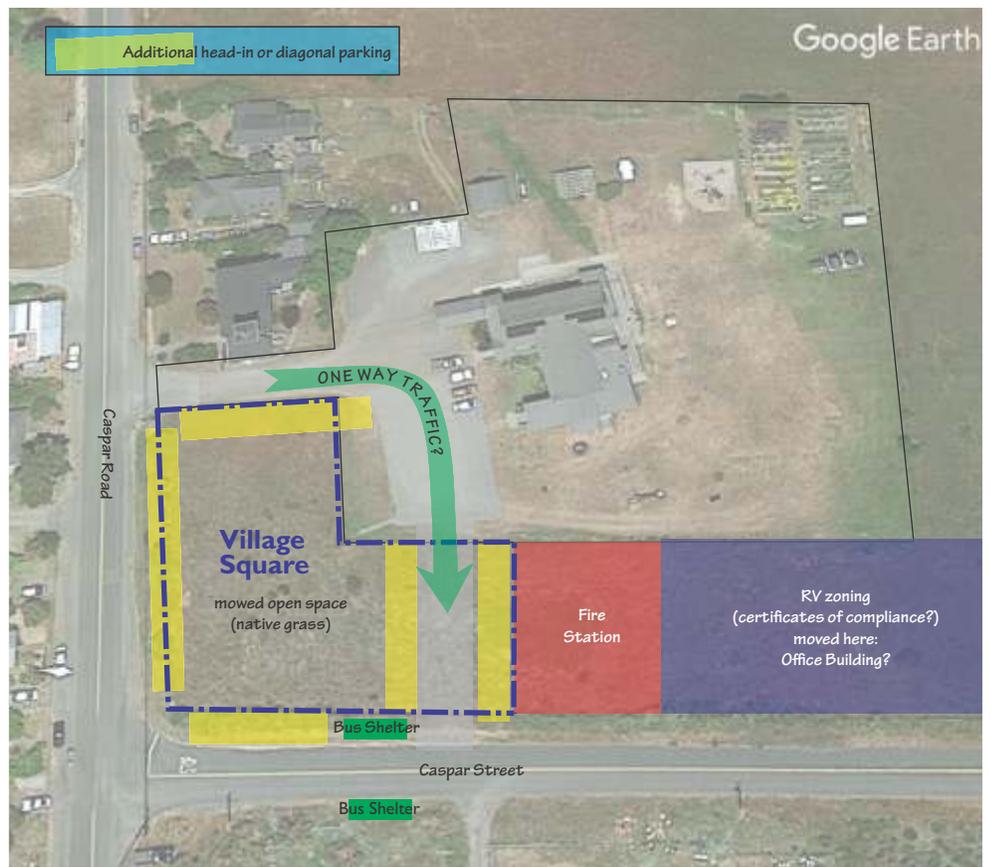
After the Headlands, the next idea was creation of a **Village Square** in the open field in front of the Shul and Community Center, at the corner of Caspar Road and Caspar Street. With the landowner's permission, we even held a couple of lovely CasparFest concerts and makers' fairs there, and they were a lot of fun.

One thing we know for certain now: when we have events in Caspar, the parking is tight, to put it mildly! If something's also going on at the Caspar Inn or the Shul, even tighter.

We thought we negotiated a deal with then landowner and Caspar-born Oscar Smith: in return for work with County Planning to help him sell his property, he promised to give us the open space . We did our part, but Oscar "forgot" about his part of the deal. **(More about this can be found on the Caspar Commons website.)**

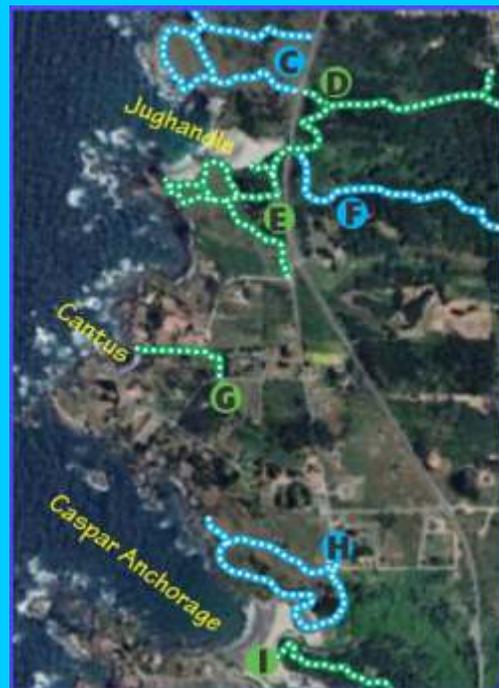
Thankfully, Oscar has sold off his Caspar holdings, and there may be a chance to reawaken the Village Square idea.

The Village Square and the Duck Pond are now in the hands of a new owner, who has invited us to think about preservation of these "sacred spaces." **Share your thoughts with the Caspar Community Board by email.** As soon as it's safe, a Community Meeting will be held to discuss ways and means to secure these two local treasures while "preserving and enhancing the quality of all life in Caspar."



Caspar Maps!

Did you know that the Caspar Commons website has a map section – trail maps, parcel maps, Where's Caspar maps, historical maps ...



Will we ever have Breakfast and Pub Night again?

The Caspar Community Board continues to puzzle over How to Gather Safely. Both Board and staff are troubled by the uncertainty of vaccinations, masks, distancing, and are following the Mendocino County Public Health Orders as closely as possible ...but what are we? There is no order for "Community Centers" but if we're serving food, shouldn't conform to the Order for restaurants? (We think so.)

County statistics suggest that a mere 30% of us Casparados have submitted ourselves to the anti-Covid poke, but we suspect we're likely among the best vaccinated community in the County ...but still the uncertainties of testing (every Tuesday at Veteran's Hall in Fort Bragg), boosters, breakthrough, and asymptomatic transmission make us want to be super-cautious, and model best practices.

We briefly contemplated a November Fourth Sunday Breakfast, remembering many Thanksgiving weekend gatherings over the years ... and a New Year's Eve Party ...and a party outdoors with Joe & Hattie Craven back before the weather hit... and then decided that such gatherings would be needlessly dangerous. We don't want one community member to get sick, **but we do miss you!**

If you have thoughts about this, please share them by email, or attend twice-monthly Board meetings, First and Third Fridays, at 9:00 by Zoom. The next meeting is December 3rd. Share your views by email to caspar@mcn.org or request a Zoom invitation.

Makers and Bakers Holiday Fair *concluded* *(continued from page 1)*

In that Paul Reiber was standing close, I of course asked if he would like to be involved with his fabulous wood carvings and toys and he agreed! I reached out to Maria Sari from Elk who makes beautiful wreaths made with locally sourced flora with a touch of Hawaii, Georgia Lane, who makes lotions, potions and herbal body care products from her Ocean Dance Botanicals. Sarah Sharaf makes lovely jewelry and Annie Lee will be representing a number of Guatemalan craftspeople.

With so many talented Bakers in our neighborhood, there will be a fine array of holiday edibles by Kris Reiber, Sallie Brown, Marty Johnson and the entire Caspar Kitchen Crew. It will be fun to see what manifests, but I have heard the words, panforte, mince pies, fruit cakes, cherry butternut sourdough bread and lots more. There will be a work party in the Caspar kitchen on Friday, Dec. 3 starting at 10:00. Let me know if you would like to help.

If you are a Maker and would like to be part of this little, local fair, please contact me. I apologize if I have not reached out to you, but I've been busy... making bags.

Dalen Anderson
dapazomo@mcn.org



This edition of
Caspar Community News

was laid out by Michael Potts

Submissions of activities, events, or information of interest to Casparados is invited. Send them to

lists@casparcommons.org

We  **Caspar**

**My other ride
is a handbasket**