

# KENWOOD PRESS

Positive COVID tests at Oakmont Gardens delay opening of Oakmont facilities..... 6

New project manager for SDC Specific Plan ..... 7

Actual stargazing at observatory ..... 13

Serving the communities of Kenwood, Glen Ellen and Oakmont

www.kenwoodpress.com

This paper brought to you by our advertisers - 8,000 distributed biweekly

Vol. 31, No. 10

JULY 15, 2020

## Homeless shelter to stay until... ?

By Alec Peters

“Betrayed.” “Double-cross.” “Bait and switch.” “Liars.”

Those are just a few of the choice words Oakmonters and others had prior to and during the July 7 Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the future of a nearby 60-unit homeless shelter.

At the beginning of the year, Los Guilicos Village (LGV) was promoted as a temporary emergency solution to house some of the homeless who had to be moved off a huge encampment on the Joe Rodota Trail in Santa Rosa.

The goal was to then move willing LGV residents to other transitional housing locations as the county grappled with acquiring permanent housing situations. Housing is seen as an important step to help the homeless, many of whom are dealing with addiction and mental health issues, get back on their feet and reenter society.

At a January meeting in front of about 500 people in Oakmont’s Berger Center, county officials promised that LGV, made up of tiny pallet homes and located off of Pythian Road across from Oakmont, would be temporary. The goal was to have LGV removed by April 30, but perhaps extended if needed.

Just prior to the July 7 board meeting, local media reported that county staff was considering asking the Board of Supervisors to make LGV permanent, which set off a firestorm of comments from Oakmonters already wary about the possibility of an extension of any kind.

In addition, rumors were swirling that some of the current high level of services that have helped LGV operate smoothly, including 24/7 security and transportation for residents as needed, would be removed because they are too expensive.

That was the backdrop for the July 7 meeting, where the board also discussed a number of homeless issues, including looking for additional new shelters in Sonoma County, and addressing short- and medium-term strategies to address homelessness.

Literally hundreds of emails, voice mails, and other correspondence flooded into the board of supervisors, the vast majority opposing any permanent LGV or any continuance without an end date.

Commenters reiterated their ongoing concerns about the remoteness of the site from needed services, security issues, and the increased risk of fire. LGV sits in the shadow of Hood Mountain Regional Park and across the highway from Trione-Annadel State Park, both sites of blazes during the catastrophic 2017 wildfires.

During the meeting, county staff did not make any specific recommendation as to the future of LGV, such as the possibility of making it permanent, opting to let the supervisors hash it out.

First District Supervisor Susan Gorin, in who’s district LGV is located, and who lives in Oakmont herself, tried to convince her fellow board members to commit to a closing date for the shelter. Gorin was opposed to the shelter location from the beginning, and still fuming at the hurried way it was originally approved, without any community outreach.

“Let’s find a date, let’s make it October, and let’s look for a space in Sonoma or some nearby area,” said Gorin.

Gorin is currently in the process of forming a committee with City of Sonoma Mayor Logan Harvey to look for a shelter location in Sonoma Valley. “That’s where the need is, that’s where the people

Political action alive and well in Oakmont...



Photo by Alec Peters

Since June 8, some 20-35 Oakmonters have spent part of their Wednesday and Saturday mornings at the four corners of Oakmont and White Oak drives, as their way of participating in the ongoing national debate and demonstrations over racial and social inequality. Oakmont resident Robin Jurs and three other women told the Oakmont Village Association manager what they wanted to do, and, since the sidewalk is City of Santa Rosa property, it was a go.

“Wake up, stand up, and speak up. That’s our message,” said Jurs. She said that the responses from passing cars, pedestrians and cyclists, have been mostly positive, with waves, honking and folks thanking the participants for putting something together. Jurs said she hopes Oakmonters will continue this undertaking at least until the election in November. Pictured on July 4 are Oakmont residents Kerin McTaggart (front), and Wendy Schwartz.

are, that’s where the services are,” said Gorin.

The four other supervisors were reluctant to set a date for closing, in part citing how COVID-19 has turned everything upside down with regard to county efforts to ad-

dress homelessness.

“We apologize to the community for making a commitment that maybe we can’t fulfill at this point, but the reason why is the pandemic,” said Supervisor Shirley

Continued on page 18

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PERMIT NO. 30  
KENWOOD, CA  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
STANDARD  
PRESORTED

### Inside the Press ...

Crime Watch .....	3	Living Life Well .....	15
Publishers’ Corner.....	4	Village Chat.....	19
Business Beat.....	10	Classifieds .....	17-18
Out & About.....	11	AND MUCH MORE...	

## Indefinite timeframe for homeless shelter

– continued from page 1

Zane. “The pandemic has changed everything. We basically have three times the amount of people to house.” Zane was referring to moving people living on the street to housing units (such as at Sonoma State University) in an attempt to slow COVID-19 infections.

“To allay concerns of folks who think this is permanent, there’s no intention of making it permanent on my part,” said Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. “I understand and appreciate the community’s frustration. This was intended to be temporary, but circumstances have changed dramatically and we can’t afford to lose a single bed.”

Supervisor David Rabbitt echoed the three other supervisors’ hesitation.

“We named two dates [for LGV closure] we couldn’t keep, why should we name another?” Rabbitt said. “COVID did play a role in moving the dates. We’ll try as quick as we can to get other things going, but to name a date? No, I’m not going to do that.”

The board voted 4-1 to continue LGV operations, and at the current level, meaning the same level of security will continue, as will transportation for residents who need to go to jobs and appointments in Santa Rosa. Staffing levels of the operator, St. Vincent de Paul, will stay the same, as will the onsite medical care, mental health, addiction, and job training services. Fire sprinklers will be installed as well.

By most accounts, the program in place at LGV has been successful, helping homeless individuals tackle addiction, find employment, and get moved to permanent housing, all while having little impact on the Oakmont retirement commu-

nity across Highway 12. There have been some fights between residents on site.

“There have been zero incidents in Oakmont,” from LGV clients, said Jack Tibbetts, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul.

Tibbetts said the monthly \$133,000 earmarked by the board of Supervisors is sufficient to continue the level of service being provided at LGV. Tibbetts had written a letter to the board of supervisors urging them not to chip away at the costs associated with the shelter.

“It’s a challenge running this place,” said Tibbetts. “You have 60 people that have had a hard past and a tough life. You have to have sufficient funding.”

As of July 7, 90 individuals had been provided services at LGV since January, with 55 currently living there. Seventeen have found permanent housing, 19 have left the shelter voluntarily, 14 were asked to leave due to rule infractions, and three were placed in residential/psychiatric facilities.

“It’s the way that this is operating that makes it OK,” said Steve Spanier, president of the Oakmont Village Association’s (OVA) board of directors. “But the combination of kicking the can down the road and breaking promises – there’s been a breach of trust. What’s said can’t be trusted. There’s confusion and no long-term coherent plan. People can accept a lot of interim stuff if there’s an end goal in sight.”

Spanier said the OVA is “definitely” looking into litigation, but he declined to elaborate.

“There’s a whole host of possibilities,” he said.

## Village Chat



The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was very quiet this year, by Kenwood standards. No footraces, no parade... or was there?

We received word from **Bridget Paul** that indeed there was a footrace that morning. Around a dozen people, adults and kids, raced, walked and biked from Kenwood School over to Treehaven, past the KP office here at the shopping center, down Clyde to Libby, and back to the school for a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. Bridget said it was actually a competitive race, socially distanced, of course.

procession, led by the **Kenwood Fire Department**, wound its way through the village to the delight of waving subjects.

This year’s Kenwood King and Queen were recent high school graduates **Agustin Reiter** and **Angela Amantite**. Angela had other royal duties to attend to on July 4, so **Brianna Borgfeldt** stepped into her shoes, riding atop the royal carriage with Agustin and Royal Court members **Dakota Borgfeldt** and **Linda Ockuly**.

In another royal conveyance sat the Kenwood Princesses – **Kaya**



P.E.O. President Jerilyn Weeks with Elizabeth Quiroz, recipient of a \$3,000 Program for Continuing Education grant.

“**Edwin Jetlab** won by a tenth of a second! We had two bikers 10-year-old **Allie Platt** and 3-year-old **Raj Julio**, next to his dad **Rey** who ran and pushed a stroller with little **Levi**, and a walker who ran for a strong finish – **Elaine Marshall!**” Bridget said. They even made T-shirts and had supporters. Fun!

And we had a parade, too. It was a little smaller. OK, a lot smaller. But an enthusiastic royal

**Forney, Sadie Stolkin, Megan Smulan, Annabelle Demarest, Ella Palter and Calais Cuellar.** All had perfected the royal wave, described by one expert as a “vertical hand with a slight twist from the wrist, a classy affair that oozes decorum but doesn’t get too excitable.” Well done, ladies!

Agustin and Angela both graduated from Maria Carrillo High School in May. Agustin is headed to

## Classifieds – continued from page 17

### PAINTING, FAUX FINISHES

Reasonable rates, free estimates, Oakmont references. License #573530. Gary Luurs at 528-8489.

### PERSONAL FITNESS

Danielly’s Fitness is a mobile gym with professional personal trainers! We go where you work out – garage, backyard or living room. No personal equipment needed. daniellysfitness.com, 707-343-5777.

### PET SITTING

**THE PET WHISPERER** - satisfying pets and their people in Sonoma since 2001. Call Phoenix Joy. More references than you can wag a tail at. (House sitting too!) 707-933-9559.

**NOSE TO NOSE PET SITTING.** The Best Care For Your Best Friends. Cat and dog care. Daily visits. Overnight companionship. Insured and bonded. Petsit.com for profile and references. 15% off first visit. Alix Moline 707-637-6267.

### PIANO LESSONS

New openings for Summer enrollment in my Glen Ellen studio or your home. Various methods and styles. All ages, reasonable rates. First lesson FREE! Call Christa at 931-5286 or mobile 707-483-7429.

### PIANO TUNER

Expert, affordable piano tuning. Repair. Sales. Call Richard Neiss at 996-3134.

### PLUMBING

**PLUMBING** - Affordable, Free Estimates. Repairs, remodels, new construction, water heater (tank & tankless), drains, toilets, faucets, disposals, water, waste, & gas piping, total home repipes, irrigation pumps. Kenwood. 707-396-3673. Joel Bergeron.

**Lane’s Plumbing Reasonable Rates Commercial Residential License #698166.** Service, Repair, New, Remodels, Water Heaters (Tank and Tankless), Water, Gas, Piping, Repiping, Toilet / Faucet / Sink / Garbage Disposal, Installation, Replacement, Repair. Drains. Earthquake valves. Ph/fx: 833-2930.

### POOL SERVICES

Wine Country Hot Tub Services Specializing in Routine water care services, Repair services, Cleaning and detailing services. Your spa need a water change? We do that too. 707-889-4785.

### PSYCHIC JOHN

Psychic John - Palms - Cards - Healings. Tells Past, Present, & Future. Help & Advice in All Problems. Readings in Person or Phone. 45 Years Experience - VISA/MC. 50% off with ad. 446 College Ave., Santa Rosa. 579-5123.

### TAX PREPARATION

Ztaxlady Tax Prep & Bookkeeping. Need help with your taxes? Organization? Back taxes? Over 25 years experience; licensed & bonded. Free tutoring from checkbook to QuickBooks. Reasonable. Mobile! Renée L. Cohen. 707-539-6004.

### WANTED

**Shelter in Place** is a great time for organizing. **CASH** for vintage clothes and jewelry. Also Estate buyouts \$\$\$ Jean, 707-843-2550.

## KP Classifieds



A great way to sell your stuff!  
707-833-5155

info@kenwoodpress.com

### Notice to Readers:

The Kenwood Press publishes home improvement and construction classified advertisements from companies and individuals who have been licensed by the State of California, and from those who are not. All licensed contractors are required by State law to list their license number in advertisements offering their services. State law also requires that contractors performing work totaling \$500 or more (including materials and labor) must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board (CLSB) to work in California. For further information, contact the Contractors’ State License Board at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).