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MARCH 2020

The Kiwanis Club Turns Out for a Saturday Work Party at 963 Pope St.

OTSH Board Member Marisol Vargas reached out to St. Helena's Kiwanis Club about helping us clean up the yard at 963 Pope St., where OTSH plans to create a five-unit workforce village.



John Heflebower was in charge of the bocce court

Project Coordinator Bob Matheny's team arrived on a Saturday morning in late February with gloves and gardening tools.



Jan Darter fills up another garbage bag

We pruned rose bushes and trimmed shrubs, raked leaves and cleaned gutters. We will be rethinking the landscaping on this property to streamline maintenance and reduce water consumption.



Bob Beckstrom cleaning gutters

The existing house on this property has been rented to an income-qualified family, and OTSH will present plans to the City of St. Helena this spring to build four additional 2-bed/1-bath rental units on the back of the property. Look for designs in our next newsletter!

Educating Our Community: What is Affordable Housing?

OTSH hosted a community meeting in February on affordable housing--how it's developed and financed, its current status and its outlook for the future.

Lack of Affordable Housing Affects Us All

OTSH President Mary Stephenson was the evening's presenter. She debunked some common myths, presented data and talked about how we can preserve and build affordable housing in St. Helena to retain the character of our community.

Affordable Housing "Did You Know Campaign?"

We've added [Mary's PowerPoint deck](#) to our website where we can all reference this over the next few months as we begin a campaign to share **Affordable Housing fast facts**. Part of our updated mission is to help educate our community about why affordable housing is important.

St. Helena Qualifies as a Rural Designation



- **We're eligible for special programs** through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **These programs are available for towns with fewer than 50K residents--**Calistoga, Yountville and American Canyon also are eligible.
- **An example of this program at work?** USDA Rural Development provided low-interest mortgages for our homeowners at Brenkle Court.



This is a recent photo of Brenkle Court. The Rural Development program provided the low-interest home loans that made this project possible

More than 30 people attended our February meeting, including city officials Vice Mayor Paul Dohring, Planning & Building Director Maya DeRosa and Planning Commission member Dan

Hale. Thanks to all who took time to participate!

We're Still on Schedule at Brenkle Court

We know we should be praying for rain, but the mild, dry winter has helped us stay on schedule.



It's hard-hat country now! We've powered on to the second floor



The construction work has gotten more complex



We completed the post and beam framing for two front-porch soffits

We're still looking for job site volunteers for Saturdays and Sundays. Individuals or work groups at businesses, wineries or other organizations are welcome. Contact Larry at projectmanager@ourtownsthehena.com.

Meet Brenkle Court's Martinez Family



Eric and Ana Martinez and their family are Brenkle Court homeowners. Eric came to the US from Mexico when he was just 20. Somewhere along the line he met Ana and they had a family. Eric has been working at Sequoia Grove Winery for 20 years. This family has worked hard for the opportunity to be homeowners in St. Helena--this is their home--it's where they work and go to school. [Read more about the Martinez Family](#)

Choose Amazon Smile and OTSH!

Shop and order from AmazonSmile instead of Amazon along with your favorite nonprofit and you will be donating .05% of your purchase price to that organization. Choose OTSH and support affordable housing.



We welcome volunteers!

Our [website](#) lists [community involvement opportunities](#).

Support OTSH and Affordable Housing!

There's always a good time to donate to affordable housing. Help make 2020 our most productive year yet by [making a tax-deductible contribution](#) today.

[Donate Now](#)

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Our Town St. Helena Provides Housing to the People Vital to St. Helena

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Our Town St. Helena is a 501(c)3 corporation.

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