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May 2020

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## OTSH Welcomes Jeff Feeney to BOD



Jeff and his extended family--Jeff is the third from the left in the cap and turquoise shirt!

OTSH is delighted to welcome Jeff Feeney to our Board of Directors. Jeff has been living and working in the Napa Valley since graduating from Chico State in 1990. He has built a successful career as a commercial real estate broker, where he's learned about customer service and the power of relationships. Jeff is well known in the community and is not afraid to speak out about the ongoing challenges we face--balancing quality of life while providing opportunities for growth.

### **A longtime supporter of multifamily housing**

Consistent with OTSH's goals, Jeff believes that we need to support our existing businesses and community by building

multifamily housing and welcome new businesses into town by streamlining the process. Jeff belongs to the St. Helena Catholic Church and is a longtime supporter of the local food bank. Family is also important to Jeff. He and his wife have five kids, so there's always something going on at the Feeney's house!

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## Following Social Distancing Guidelines at Brenkle Court

Since affordable housing construction is an essential activity, we continued to work during the sheltering in place order. We followed strict guidelines and maintained social distancing. We cleaned our equipment at the end of each day, and the entire crew now is wearing masks along with their hard hats.



**Framing has officially begun on the second floor!**



**We completed the framing and plywood subfloor on unit 5 in just two days--more quickly than for the other units**



**Homeowner Juan Salomon is part of the crew that completed the subflooring in record time**



**We now have two sets of stairs--a big step up from ladders!**

Brenkle Court is a USDA Mutual Self-Help Homeownership project in which eight St. Helena families are working together to build their own homes.

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## Update on 963 Pope Street



### **Design development is nearly complete**

We anticipate design submittal to City Planning staff this month. The Planning Commission hearing will be scheduled after the staff review. Construction grant applications have been submitted to HOME and to Apple Affordable Housing Fund.

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## **Meet the Brenkle Court Families: Martha Rodriguez**



Martha Rodriguez is from Michoacan, Mexico. Her daughter Christy was just two when they joined Martha's husband in St. Helena in 1995. Martha left her extended family, friends and community behind and came to Napa Valley for the same reason every immigrant comes to this country--the chance for a better life for her children.

Christy is now a junior at UC Berkeley studying molecular cell biology. She comes home most weekends, however, to work on their house at Brenkle Court. Read more about [Martha and her family](#).

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## The Growing Need for Affordable Housing

St. Helena has fewer rental units today than we had ten years ago

- Total rental units 2010: 538
- New units through 2019: +36



- Lost units in 2014: 48 (Units eliminated from Grandview conversion to Las Alcobas)
- Total units in 2020: 516
- **Net Loss: 12**

Source: U.S. Census and City of St. Helena

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## 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**

We welcome volunteers!  
Our [website](#) lists [community involvement opportunities](#).

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