



February 4, 2021

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Greetings!

I want to take a moment to say hello as the new Executive Director of Our Town St. Helena. It is an honor to work for this small yet mighty nonprofit that is making such a meaningful impact in the community. Developing housing that is affordable where land is scarce and expensive is very complex work. And yet, a core group of local visionaries and tenacious leaders have made noteworthy progress toward increasing the affordable housing supply in an otherwise very expensive place to live.



OTSH simply could not carry out this important mission without the generous support of our private donors. In 2020 especially -- with the fires and pandemic compounding the already high demand for housing that is affordable to most working community members -- supporters still found a way to help us exceed our goal of \$50,000. Thank you, thank you!

We have a full agenda for 2021 and appreciate your continued interest in our activities. If you have any questions or know about vacant land, existing buildings, or infill opportunities that would make good affordable housing sites in St. Helena, please contact me at [jennifer@ourtownstheleena.org](mailto:jennifer@ourtownstheleena.org) or call my cell at (707) 812-9839.

With gratitude and optimism,

Jennifer La Liberte  
Executive Director

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## OTSH Welcomes Three New Board Members

OTSH is kicking off the year with three new Board members. We're delighted to have fresh new ideas and perspectives.

### Jordan Bentley

Jordan Bentley is a St. Helena native and a partner at Wine Country Consultants, a real estate firm focused on legacy vineyards and wineries, where she joins her mother and brother. Jordan has a BA from Colorado College and an MFA in photography from Massachusetts College of Art and

Design. Jordan and her husband are stakeholders--both are small business owners, raising their two small sons here in St. Helena. [Read more](#)



### Ryan Heywood

Ryan Heywood graduated from SFSU with a degree in industrial design and works in his father's construction business. He's an Angwin native whose roots go back five generations, so he understands the increased challenges of finding affordable housing in Napa Valley. A small-scale landlord working on nontraditional housing in the Upper Valley, he hopes to translate his own experience to OTSH.

### Justin Sterling

Justin is the General Manager of the Wine Country Inn and Cottages in St. Helena. He has spent 15 years in the hospitality industry and is passionate about helping those around him grow in their professional journeys. He has managed more than 200 associates during his career at nine different properties throughout the Napa Valley. As an employer whose workforce faces housing challenges, Justin brings a unique perspective to the OTSH Board. [Read more](#)



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## Did You Know: How to Make a Charitable Sale



### You Can Make a Positive Impact Through a Charitable Sale to OTSH

A Charitable Sale is the sale of real property to a nonprofit organization for less than fair market value.

- The transaction is part sale of the property and part charitable contribution.
- The seller benefits by converting the property to a cash asset and receiving

tax benefits of a qualifying charitable donation for up to six years.

If you are interested in learning more, please read our [Charitable Sale Fact Sheet](#) and contact Jennifer La Liberte at [jennifer@ourtownsthenelena.org](mailto:jennifer@ourtownsthenelena.org) or call 707.812.9839.

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## What's New at Brenkle Court?



### Roofing . . .

Our goal was to have the roof completed by fall so we could work on the interior throughout the winter months, uninterrupted by rain. While we desperately need rain, a dry winter has been a blessing for our Brenkle Court homeowners/ construction crew. We're finally getting that roof done!

### More benchmarks: Windows and siding

Installation of the siding and our first two windows represent more benchmarks met.



### One more thing: Plumbing has begun at Brenkle Court!

This little photomontage may not look like much, but it represents a big step forward for our families. Plumbing is underway at Brenkle Court!





## Rick Swig Retires from the OTSH Board

We want to extend our thanks to Rick Swig, who's been on our Board since the beginning--he was one of our founding partners dating back to 2009. As a St. Helena hotel owner, Rick is acutely aware of the housing challenges for local employees in the hospitality industry.



## Big Thanks to Silicon Valley Bank

We'd like to single out Silicon Valley Bank. Sara Chrisman Bjerkan is a Vice President of the Wine Division and has been a member of OTSH's Board for five years. She lives in St. Helena, where she and her husband are raising their young daughter. Silicon Valley Bank has been a generous annual donor supporting OTSH projects.

Last year, Sara and her team (pictured at left) took the afternoon off and worked at OTSH's Brenkle Court job site--

hot, sweaty work digging up posts. But Sara's boss grew up in St. Helena, and this group understands community and the critical role that affordable housing plays. OTSH salutes Sara and Silicon Valley Bank for their continued support of our housing projects.

Napa  
Valley  
Community  
FOUNDATION

## A Shoutout to Napa Valley Community Foundation

We want to express our appreciation to the Napa Valley Community Foundation for a grant made possible by Mary Stuard.

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As a longtime Napa Valley resident I've watched St. Helena evolve. If we're going to retain our sense of community, we must be able to provide affordable housing so that first responders, teachers, seniors and families can live here.

— *Mary Stuard*

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