

Resource Guide

Board of Directors:

President, Joe Pedrani
Vice President, Scott Finley
Secretary, Kim Hanson
707-794-1516
Treasurer, Julie Hanson
707-481-9332
Director, Stan Pronzini
Director, Arnie Franklin
Director, Nick Bursio
Director, Bob Moretti
Director, Melissa Sykes

Executive Committee:

Bill Fishman & Roland Mellor

Finance and Budget Committee:

Julie Hanson, Treasurer
Jill Martin, CPA

Clubhouse Committee: TBD

Penngrove Clubhouse & Park

Rental: Bev Palm 707-782-1183
(call for rates)

Park Committee:

Kim Hanson Scott Finley
Don Barella - Maintenance Supvsr

Membership Chairperson:

OPEN

Media Contact: Lyndi Brown

Fundraising Committees:

Italian Night - Joe Pedrani

Crab Feed - Roland Mellor

Corned Beef and Cabbage
Stan Pronzini

Truckers Ball - Roland Mellor &
Julie Hanson

Rotary Bike Ride - TBD

July Celebration - Board of
Directors

Hawaiian Luau - Kim Hanson

Social Affairs Committee:

John McGinnis & Bob Moretti, Bar
Patsy Pedrani, Monthly Raffle

By-Laws and Legal Committee

Bill Fishman



Penngrove Social Firemen GAZETTE

OCTOBER 2021

P.O. Box 264, Penngrove, CA 94951

A Note From President Joe Pedrani

In past years, October and November were when members would make nominations for open Board of Directors seats. Most times, only 4 positions would be open, as the terms were two years long and the positions seemed to rotate every other year. However, due to us not being able to hold meetings last year because of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, the four open positions rolled over to another year with a "white ballot". This created a situation where ALL positions are set to expire this year.

Because our monthly meetings have been held at the park they have been sparsely attended, understandably so. We don't expect October's meeting to be much different with the weather being cooler and the evenings getting darker sooner. So, should anyone not be able to come to the meeting and you wish to cast a nomination please feel to email or call any director.

Your continued support to the organization is greatly appreciated and we can't wait to gather together again.

*Be safe and stay healthy,
Joe, Mr. Prez*

Lyndi's Corner - Penngrove Trash Pickers By Lyndi Brown

Penngrove Neighbors will pick up trash along Old Redwood Highway on Saturday, October 9 from 8:30 am until we are done (maybe an hour or an hour and a half).

We will meet in the parking lot next to JavAmoré Cafe at 8:30am. Each person is given a bright yellow vest, a garbage picker-upper (trash reacher) and several large orange garbage bags. If you need a pair of gloves, we have those for you, too.

After you fill up a bag, you tie the ends and leave it on the side of the road. Our excellent crew will pick it up later for disposal.

If you have school-age children, bring them out! The shoulders on Old Redwood Highway are very wide and safe. We are working early on a Saturday morning, when there isn't much traffic. And, if your children need volunteer hours, we are happy to sign any paperwork you may have for them.

If you can join the merry band of locals on their second Adopt-A-Road clean-up. Please RSVP to Molly Mazella at bikegem@gmail.com, who will be sure we have supplies for you.



Penngrove Social Firemen Membership Meeting

Held in the Penngrove Park on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 6:36pm

Absent: Stanley

The pledge was led by Burr Wilson.

Good of the Order: A moment of silence for Eddie Cardoza who passed last Monday, and for the 13 soldiers who passed in Afghanistan.

Birthdays: Robin Booth, Charles Piro, Alexa Wall, Mike Tomasek

Julie read the Treasurers Report.

Old Business: The car show we provided food and bar for net us \$5,100.00!! Thank you to all who helped. We will do it again next year. Thank you again Byron for your donation to purchase the A/C unit.

New Business: Unfortunately, the Luau will not take place this year. We are open for suggestions for new events. If anyone has anything they wish to donate for our raffle prizes, please contact Patsy Pedrani.

Guests: Gary Shilling, Ash Aguire, and Eric Seden. Both Ash and Eric became new members tonight. Welcome!

Big thank you to the cooks, Larry Wagner, Scott, Patsy, and Bob Palm. It was delicious.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Penngrove Social Firemen Board Meeting

Held at the Park on Wednesday, September 9, 2021, at 6:10pm

Absent: Julie, Melissa, Stanley

Dean was present.

Discussion:

- Supplies needed for the park.
- Gazebo is in need of repairs. One of the posts broke off. Nick repaired it but we will inspect the construction of all posts, floor, and foundation to evaluate the need for future repairs.
- PSF catering - we will continue to look at our involvement in catering future private events. Bottom line is we will need help doing it.
- Kim read a notice received from the county regarding the use of unlined, fiber only compostable products or recyclable service ware for all food/beverage at special events like our parades, etc.

No motions made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

The next membership meeting will be held on
Wednesday, October 6 at the park, at 6:00pm.
Please join us!

Feather Knoll Farm: Then and Now

By Nicole R. Zimmerman

In 1941, my wife's paternal grandparents, Christian and Alma Sorensen, purchased a poultry ranch in Penngrove—now a 94-acre property where we reside. Around that time, according to *Images of America: Petaluma*, some 30 million dozen eggs were being shipped down the river to San Pablo Bay via flat-bottom scows and steamers from the so-called Egg Capital of the World.

A highly praised industry leader, Chris served as head of the Petaluma Cooperative Hatchery's board of directors for several years and briefly directed the Poultry Producers of Central California. He remodeled and automated old chicken sheds with refrigeration and labor-saving mechanical feeders. The wire-bottom rollaway nests he installed to keep eggs clean and reduce disease increased laying capacity through the 1960's collapse of the Petaluma egg industry.

My late father-in-law, Nels, helped out each day after school, collecting eggs and later hauling them to town in a Chevy truck with a special farmwork driver's license. In addition, they sold milk and cream and raised hay, vetch, and oats for sale. Farmers typically worked 10-hour days. When someone needed a chicken house roof, friends worked together until they got it done. There wasn't much playtime or disposable income, he told me, recalling the excitement of one Christmas when he received a toy train ordered from Montgomery Ward.

Pearl, my late mother-in-law, also attended Penngrove School. Her mother joined the war effort, working as a metal worker in Petaluma and then in the Sausalito shipyards before becoming an egg handler. Her grandfather, a Frisian immigrant who started out selling clams he dug along the Petaluma River to restaurants, saw no reason for his daughter to attend school past the eighth grade. Pearl, however, graduated from San Jose State and taught elementary school for a decade. She knew that becoming an egg producer's wife would be a big change. Her own family had a milking cow and some pigs along with a few chickens, but it wasn't a working farm. In addition to 80,000 chickens, producing 60–70,000 eggs per day to sell to Redwood Egg Farms, there was S&T Ranch near Tomales where Nels and Pearl's eldest brother, John, raised pullets and cattle. Keeping track of their expenses, Pearl found the fluctuations in income and lack of a steady paycheck to be a huge adjustment.

Like his Danish father, Nels experimented with technological innovation to succeed. When he bought egg-collecting units that kept breaking eggs, he simply rebuilt them. But after several decades, nearing retirement, he figured they'd need about half a million laying chickens to survive—an expansion neither wanted. Their two children (former 4-H members who showed sheep at the fair) pursued careers in education rather than continue farming.

Now, after 80 years, Feather Knoll Farm is for sale.

While it may be tempting to romanticize our region's farming history with a nostalgic look back, consider what Nels said: "Running your own agricultural business takes initiative. It's 24/7. The work always comes first."



The Sorensen's in 1941



Present-day Feather Knoll Farm



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Penngrove Clubhouse & Park Rental Fees

For inquiries or to reserve, contact:
Bev Palm 707-782-1183

JavAmoré Cafe announced it will close on Mondays to take a breather. Owner Kim Hanson will take a well-deserved break. As everyone in the service industry knows, restaurant work never stops. "My two right hand girls will still be in on Mondays to prep, and I will get caught up on the mounting paperwork," said Kim. "But, after 1:00pm the day is all ours." You deserve it, Kim!

JavAmoré Cafe
(707) 794-1516
10101 Main St, Suite A, Penngrove, CA 94951

HOURS:
Tuesday- Saturday 7:00AM - 2:00PM
Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00PM
CLOSED MONDAYS

Both the lunch menu and weekend breakfast menu are available for to-go orders. Dine-in, outside dining and take out available.

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