

Community aims to reduce budget stress



Following a community forum and meeting, members approved Agreements for Respectful Engagement in Budget Discussion, based on our Values.

Overall, we agree to these principles:

We will respect the fact that every household faces different financial realities and different preferences.

We will accept responsibility for educating ourselves using the materials provided by the Finance Team, asking for one-on-one help if needed..

We will respect the fact that the people working on the budget are volunteers

We recognize that sometimes people's feelings may get hurt by accident. We are committed to repairing relationships.

We intend to treat people as our valued neighbors and not as members of a faction or "the other".

We recognize the damage that can be done to the community by talking negatively about each other.

We will bring a learning orientation. We may not have this all figured out, and we don't expect perfection of each other or ourselves, but we agree to try.

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COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Oct. 24-FAC, 5:30-7. Halloween at the firepit in South Pod

Nov. 27-Thanksgiving Potluck. 1-3

Dec. 5-FAC, 5:30-7. Holiday decorating

Dec. 21-FAC, 5:00, Solstice Potluck and Celebration

Jan. 1-New Year's Brunch Potluck, 12:30

Jan. 23-FAC, 5:30. White Elephant Exchange and take down the tree

HOME FOR RENT IN CVCA



Unfurnished Condo/C unit

- 1650 sq. ft.
- 3 bedrooms
- 3½ bathrooms \$2,500 / month

https://casaverde.us/for_rent.html

Welcome new residents

Casa Verde welcomes two new residents to our community, women different in many ways but sharing several things in common. Both Stephanie Weigel (West Pod) and Elizabeth Weiland (South Pod) are accomplished and resourceful, bringing professional successes and a wealth of personal experiences (like having lived and traveled all over the world) to the community.

Both women have “hit the deck running,” fully committed to living in community, already serving on committees and attending community meetings as well as participating in the meals program and work days. Both are clearly in the “generative” phase of their lives, committed to cohousing and being of service to others.

Stephanie Weigel



In a nutshell, Stephanie is made for cohousing. She lived in cohousing in Ft. Collins (River Rock, built by the same developer as Casa Verde) when the community was forming and newly built, and she lived there a second time when she returned to Ft. Collins. She has visited many cohousing communities and attended cohousing conferences. As a professional, she worked with communities in both rural and urban settings. She brings an understanding of cohousing from her professional and personal experience that will benefit Casa Verde.

As an undergraduate, she studied science at Iowa State University. Later she pursued a PhD in geography at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge focused on mapping sciences, especially computer mapping and remote sensing. She later completed a master's degree in community and regional planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, looking to work in a more applied way with community change.

She moved from her Midwest home to North Carolina where she worked in research labs at universities in the Triangle area and lived in Oregon, Georgia, and Louisiana, and then Ft. Collins where she worked in mapping and epidemiology. A return to grad school in Madison, Wisconsin afforded her the opportunity to help in the planning of an infill development cohousing project championed by neighbors including Hmong refugees that transformed state surplus property into a community farm and gardens, dog paths, and a cohousing community supported by a local community land trust.

Following her planning work in Wisconsin, Stephanie worked in planning in California focusing mainly on collaborative conservation of open spaces.



Django



Kiki Bader

Stephanie returned to the Midwest and then to Texas, moves she made to assist her father at the end of his life. She says her life has been informed by moving and traveling to different places since childhood. Travel destinations have included Greece, Tanzania, and Puerto Rico.

Family is clearly important to Stephanie. Her “fur family” includes Kiki Bader, a 16-year-old torbie cat named after RBG, and Django, a 12 year-old black lab mix.

She’s a “maker” enjoying making useful items for the house, including quilts. Over the years she has dabbled in other creative activities, including book arts and paper making.

Stephanie would like to be part of Casa Verde’s planning for effective energy use and environmental concerns. Clearly, she brings a wealth of experience and profound personal investments in community living that will be valuable to Casa Verde.



Elizabeth Weiland

Elizabeth comes to Casa Verde liking the idea of community and loving the way ours is designed. She brings skills and interests developed during a rich lifetime of work and travel around the world. Special interests include gardening, cooking, Baroque music, and birding. She has already joined both the landscape and meals teams. Friendship is a focus for her: she's interested in people, and Casa Verde is already feeling her warmth and liveliness.



Born in Duluth, Minnesota, the daughter of a widowed mother, whose father died when she was young, Elizabeth attended Beloit College, a private liberal arts college in Wisconsin known for its flexible curriculum and field experiences that allow students to spend terms interning and working. Majoring in math and minoring in physics and English, she

spent two 4-month “terms” programming in the Apollo spacecraft program in Houston and later at a Rand-like think tank in Cambridge, Massachusetts.. The Beloit experience was a good fit for Elizabeth. She said students were encouraged to go to a place where they had no lifelines, to help them learn how to take care of themselves.

This college experience was foundational and set the pattern for Elizabeth’s work life after graduation. A year after finishing college, she and her new husband went to Liberia to teach at an Episcopal college. Elizabeth taught math and ran a boutique. While in Liberia, she and her husband traveled extensively in Europe.

After a divorce, back in the U.S., Elizabeth went into consulting first with John Deere Tractorworks in Iowa and later in Chicago for a then Big 8 accounting firm. On assignment in Iowa, she designed healthcare billing systems.

A move to Southern California followed, still consulting, doing problem solving for the firms she worked for. She moved to San Francisco and married an Urban Planner. After a few years, he was transferred to Venezuela, and Elizabeth accompanied him and joined his project developing software to capture the work done by his firm’s environmental engineering staff. Travel around the Caribbean was a highlight.

In the late 90s, Elizabeth spent ten years in Pasadena before a move to Hawaii where she telecommuted to a client in Burbank.



Tag

She suffered a stroke while visiting family in Chipita Park in 2011 and relocated there to be closer to her sister. She joined a WomenHeart support group which Barb Kohlhaas hosts monthly.

Elizabeth totally renovated a 589 square foot house in Chipita Park and created multiple gardens and viewing areas to attract hummingbirds in addition to feeding many other species.



Elizabeth's Chipita Park garden

The constants in Elizabeth's mobile life were gardening, birding, classical music, and deep and long lasting relationships with friends she has met in many places.

Elizabeth realized she had a hearing loss in her 30s. A congenital condition eventually deafened her left ear. Surgery to replace part of the inner ear was unsuccessful and she depends on hearing aids, amateur lip reading, and a hearing dog, Tag. Elizabeth is an old hand at advocating for those with hearing loss and can help the community understand what works best for her and others with hearing loss in meetings and other settings.

Elizabeth, with her long history of finding lifelines in a variety of settings, already seems like a trusted and welcome friend. She has much to teach and much to learn from us and can model what it means to make connections with one another.



Birdfeeders on Chipita Park deck

- Ceil Malek

Budget Schedule

Sunday, Sept. 28: Community circle to discuss concerns about budget and reserve funding.

Now until Friday, Oct. 10: Teams project their expected expenses for 2026.

Oct. 10-12: The treasurer will develop the tentative budget (draft #1) without a final insurance number or final Reserve Allocation number.

Sunday, Oct. 12: The Finance Team will review and revise the first draft budget for Oct. HOA Board meeting. All community members are invited to Finance Team meetings.

Thursday, Oct. 23: The Board will review draft budget #2. Finance Team approval and final Board approval will not occur until after actual 2026 insurance premiums are known (around the first week of November).

Sunday, Oct. 26: Another community gathering to discuss concerns about the budget.

Monday, Nov. 10: Finance Team will meet to incorporate the 2026 actual insurance numbers in the budget. Revisions will be made for Draft #3 to send to the Board.

Thursday, Nov. 20: The Board reviews and revises draft budget #3 and prepares a final recommended budget.

Monday, Nov. 24: The Board-recommended budget is sent to all homeowners for their review two weeks prior to the vote at the Annual Homeowners Meeting.

These dates are tentative, based on the assumption that the Annual Homeowners Meeting will occur on Monday, December 8.

Community Agreements for Budget Discussions

In-person Communication

We will be careful to wait for others to finish speaking before speaking or raising our hands to speak.

We will be mindful of “airtime” and strive to be as brief as possible.

We will use the mic so all can hear.

We will aim to listen deeply, with our focus on understanding each other over making our own points.

We will pause as necessary to check our understanding of each other.

Online Communication

We will use email carefully, sparingly and respectfully for discussion of budget issues.

We will not use the “regular” CVFYI email for any communications related to the budget, instead using the new CVBudget.

Finance Team and Treasurer will use the CVCAOWNERS email to announce meetings and provide required notices.

Finance Team and Treasurer may post any documents and communications related to the budget on CVBudget email.

Owners who want to communicate with the Finance Team, Treasurer or other owners about budget issues will communicate in person or by contacting only persons to whom the discussion is relevant; will use email sparingly.

The Burdicks Have Arrived

The Creole word, *langniappe*, meaning an extra or unexpected benefit, applies to Sarah and Mike Burdick, who'll be renting Julie Foster's apartment.



The Burdicks arrived September 24, eager to ally themselves with the community. They are looking forward to living in a more urban neighborhood “after living out in a corn field in a big house with room for all Mike’s cars,” according to Sarah.

Both are CC graduates who like Casa Verde’s location where they can ride bikes more than drive cars. Sarah said they focused their search for a place to live in the area between CC and Penrose Hospital, which led them to Casa Verde.

The couple, who met at Colorado College and have been married for 36 years, are moving to Colorado Springs to care for Mike’s aging parents who live in the Black Forest.

Mike, 62, with a PhD in Molecular Biology, has just retired as a virologist for a large pharmaceutical company.

He is a gifted wood worker and auto mechanic/car restorer. He is going to work a few hours a month restoring and maintaining a car collection for someone in the Springs who hires retirees to work when they want to.

Sarah, 59, will work remotely for a large nonprofit in downtown Chicago until December 31 and then will look for a job.

Sarah is an avid reader, “a mediocre but enthusiastic tennis player” and has always been a volunteer at church. She said, “I plan on attending Grace and St. Stephen’s.”

They have three children, born in 14 months: Aidan, 29, a PhD candidate in geology at Northwestern; Claire, 28, working full time at Vanderbilt and earning an MSW part time; and Lily, 28, a law student at UNC Chapel Hill.

Casa Verde snippets

SPECIAL DELIVERY SURPRISE!!



Genevieve Poucel cooked a huge batch of ratatouille using community garden veggies from neighbors Lesley Ginsburg and the Fedewas with organic sauce from Fran Larkin. Genevieve and Bonnie Poucel went door to door and served it to people such as Christina Rader. Fedewas with organic sauce from Fran Larkin. Genevieve and Bonnie Poucel went door to door and served it to people such as Christina Rader.

GARAGE SALE A SUCCESS!!

On June 14, 2025 our Casa Verde Community held a community wide garage sale as part of the greater Patty Jewett Neighborhood Association annual garage sale. This was the first year CVCA participated. The results were very good: we made \$2658! We came together as a community and earned a good amount that will go towards offsetting our expenses.



LOOKING CAREFULLY AT MEALS

September 28. Sunday Brunch, Team 2x4

September 30. Tuesday Dinner, Team 2x4

October 5. Sunday Brunch, Bonnie and Fran

October 21. Tuesday Dinner, Angela

October 29. Wednesday Dinner, Steph,
Michelle F, Davi

November 6. Thursday Dinner, Leslie and Julie

November 27. Thursday Thanksgiving Potluck

November 30. Sunday Brunch, Marie and Jose

December 7. Sunday Brunch, Marie and Jose

December 10. Wednesday Dinner, Steph,
Michelle F, Davi

December 14. Sunday Brunch, Andrea

The meals team is looking carefully at Casa Verde's meal planning process to figure out how to increase participation in this essential part of our community.

If you look closely at the schedule, you'll see a gap between Oct. 5 and 21, and one between Nov. 6 and the Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 27. The team members (Aaron/Lacie Fedewa, Elizabeth Weiland, Mel Lane, Ceil Malek, and Joyce Cheney) are looking at innovative ways to fill gaps, brainstorming how we might meet the needs of cooks and diners to reduce stress for cooks and to entice diners.

Community members will be able to take part in one experiment on Sept. 28 and 30 when a team of four cooks will present two meals with each cook responsible for a single part of the meal, rather than the whole thing. The team hopes the approach will decrease stress and

increase collaboration. And they will solicit feedback about how this 2 x 4 approach works for the cooks and the community.



Because meals are such an important part of Casa Verde's community life, the meals team will open the conversation about ways to enhance the program to the community in a Community Forum on Nov. 4. Not just the typical forum, for this one, the meals team will serve desserts and drinks.

Some ideas the team is considering are a return to supper clubs as introduced by Chbristina Rader, special interest dining groups like families with children or people with sensitivities or vegans or offering more themed meals. These are just possibilities so far. The team and community will look at ways to keep what we value in the meals program while filling in some of the gaps.

Resident profile: Nona Jordan



- **Nano** – means “very small”; no, definitely not that
- **Anno** – a female name in Japanese and Scandinavian culture that indicates strength, independence, and connection to nature and is associated with beauty, and grace; spot on as you will see, but not the name we are looking for
- **Nona** – ah, that’s it! Our resident profile in this issue is of Nona Jordan, married to Erick Jordan and mother of Clara (who is also in this newsletter).

Many residents know Nona as head of the Finance team here in Casa Verde. She is also on the Board and will become Board Treasurer next year as Andrea Kaplan finishes her outstanding term. Finance taps into her early expertise. Many people don’t know that Nona is an original owner here at CVCA and has lived here off and on for 22 years! She and Erick were walking in the neighborhood, came down Royer Street, saw the Common House, sauntered into the community, and met Pat and Arun. They welcomed Nona and Erick, talked for 3 hours and the rest is history. Nona was 7 months pregnant when they moved in and Clara was literally born in CVCA at 1345 Lindenrose.

Nona grew up in the Pacific Northwest, passed her CPA, and was originally an accountant during the dot com phase, working in financial management. Hence her CVCA contributions in finance.



She was drawn to art at age 29 and loved watercolor. But she also loved hiking, playing the cello, and volunteering and eventually dropped her artistic endeavors (to be continued). Her husband Erick was in the Air Force, so Nona spent many years lived overseas in Italy and Zambia as well as Hawaii, California, Idaho, Virginia, and Colorado.

In 2003, Nona began teaching yoga which she was able to continue doing overseas. Nona loves to write, and in 2007 started a blog called “Everyday Yogini” which was about female forms of yoga, parenting and living overseas. This past year she has taken over 1000 hours of yoga training both in person and online.

Nona is currently coaching women in business, focussing on the emotional aspects of starting a business. To this end, she studied at Harvard where she earned a Masters in Psychology, focussing on past trauma and how yoga and



meditation can help keep us grounded. Her website for online coaching is at nonajordan.com.

As Clara was leaving for college, Nona had a renewed interest in art. She took an online course with a woman in Australia who does wildlife art. Nona saw our connection to animals by drawing them. She feels that animals have wisdom and that we need to tap into our animal selves.

This combination of art and wisdom is demonstrated in Nona's "substack" at <https://nonajordan.substack.com> Her substack allows her to creatively share her love of writing and art and to be able to expand her reach. Nona has kindly given us permission to share part of one of her substack writings below.

One of Nona's top values is continuing to learn and she is grateful that her life gave her a diverse background. Finance, art, yoga, writing, coaching, writing, art, finance... indeed, Nona Jordan's circle of life that benefits Casa Verde. - Joan Huntley

THE GENTLE REVOLUTIONARY



The air was heavy with heat and dust as the golden hour arrived in South Luangwa. We sat motionless by the side of the river, breath held, watching a family of elephants approach the swollen Luangwa River. The water churned, carrying debris, not to mention the ever-present crocodiles.

The matriarch – ancient with tusks nearly touching the ground – paused at the water's edge. I could feel the weight of her deliberation as she extended her trunk, testing the air, sensing the current. Would she and her herd

(with babies in tow, mind you) really cross the river?

Without fanfare, she stepped into the rushing water, her massive form somehow finding purchase as her body sank into the water nearly to her shoulders. One by one, her family followed, each elephant grasping the tail of the one in front with their trunk, creating a living chain of determination and support. No trumpeting, no drama – just the quiet certainty that this river would be crossed.

When we think of elephants, we often think of their gentle nature or impressive size. But as I learned in the dust and drama of the Zambian bush, elephant is more than just those things – she is a quiet revolutionary. She is the boundary breaker of the African bush, the unassuming dismantler of limitations. The elephant moves through the world with a bone-deep certainty that the false limits in her path simply do not apply to her.

continued at <https://nonajordan.substack.com/p/the-gentle-revolutionary>

Stargazing at Casa Verde - September to January

EVENING STARGAZING

Evening stargazing is disappointingly featureless **in September**. You can get a good view of the stars an hour after sunset, at 8:00pm. About the only noticeable stars are the three called (amusingly) “The Summer Triangle”: Vega is precisely overhead (in the constellation The Lyre). Close to it, high over Bonnie and Fran's house, is Deneb, in the constellation The Swan; and a little less close, over Kevin and Maylin's house, is Altair, in the constellation The Eagle. And the sky will look pretty much like that for the rest of the month; the only difference by the end of the month is, you can go outside ten minutes earlier to look, at 7:50, as the days get shorter.

The new Moon will make a very weak attempt to alleviate the boredom during the last few days of September, listlessly appearing above the mountains in the southwest on the 26th and 27th, then on the following nights progressing to the south, then the southeast. (The Moon is easy to see at dusk 30 minutes earlier than the stars.) Its failure to rise very high in the sky will be remarkable. The dim red star close to the Moon on the 27th, by the way, is not Mars. It is Antares, the eye of the Scorpion.

The boredom will continue right **through the month of October**. The Moon will wax until it's full, rising later each night (50 minutes later each night, in fact). At mid-month, you won't see it unless you stay up uncomfortably late (not worth it).

By the end of October you'll be so desperate for excitement you'll be ready to hand candy to strange children. The days are so short, the stars will appear at 7:00pm. The Moon is full again; the “Summer Triangle” is still mocking you, directly overhead. On November 1st, after you've supped on Left-Over Candy Pie, go out and look at the full Moon, low in the south (over Elizabeth's house). Close to the Moon, just below and to the left of it, is an unremarkable star. This is actually Saturn. Saturn really can't get anyone's attention unless something else is next to it. If you can borrow some binoculars, Saturn will look like an oval (or football-shaped) (if you look through an actual telescope, you're in for a real good time). Then you'll go to bed and forget to set your clock back an hour.

By November, you will have given up stargazing. At mid-month, you'll be pondering over whether you can get away with serving that oyster stuffing this year. On a whim, you'll wander outside at 5:45pm. The stars are out already. “It gets dark so damned early now”, you'll say (Daylight Savings Time ended two weeks ago). The sky has actually changed a little since this column began: the “Summer Triangle” has slipped down a little towards the mountains (“Is it going to be there in the winter?” you'll wonder—spoiler, yes it will.) You go back inside to dig up the recipe. By the end of the month, 5:45 is still a good time to see the stars, the Triangle is marginally closer to the mountains (and nobody got sick from your stuffing (this year)).

December keeps you busy with holiday planning, so you don't look at the stars 'til the middle of the month (5:45pm is **still** a good time for it). The Triangle has slipped a little lower towards the mountains, but not by much. And now a new development: there's a golden star low in the north-east (just above Bonnie and Fran's house). This is Capella, the star of the Baby Goat. It'll get steadily higher in the north-east every week.

On New Year's Eve, as you're heading out to party, you see a beautiful full Moon to the right of Capella, and turning towards the Triangle, you see it's finally just above the mountains.

By mid-January, you find that the best stargazing is at 6:00pm. The Triangle is resting on the mountains (maybe Altair and Vega have set behind the mountains already). Capella is well up in the east. (Standing on the west edge of the Common Houselawn is a good place to view. Better yet, figure out which neighbor has an east-facing second-story window, and bribe them to hold a viewing party. Twenty-five cents should do it). Just rising in the east is a bright golden "star", which is Jupiter. Next to Jupiter are two dimmer stars, which are Gemini the Twins, or Castor and Pollux individually. Jupiter and the Twins will stick together for many months to come.

Rising to the right of Jupiter is the constellation Orion, which, if you are Ancient Greek, looks like a hunter lying on his back, shoulders to the left, knees to the right, and a belt made of three stars in the middle.

By the end of January, the days are definitely getting longer—it isn't worth getting outside until 6:20pm. Of the Triangle, only the highest star, Deneb, is visible above the mountains. But you have a nice show in the east now: Capella high in the east and Jupiter, Castor and Pollux low in the east, and the full Moon just below them. To the right of them, Orion is higher in the sky than he was. Below and between Jupiter and Orion, is Procyon, the eye of the Small Dog, not a very bright star. If you can get a view unobstructed by houses, directly below Orion, you'll see bright Sirius just rising, the eye of the Large Dog.

MORNING STARGAZING

You can look at the dawn stars an hour before sunrise, which **in mid-September** is 5:40am. You'll see Venus low in the east, and high in the east Jupiter and two stars, the Gemini Twins Castor and Pollux, and the crescent Moon a little higher. The view will be particularly worth your attention on the 16th, when the Moon is between Jupiter and the Twins. Higher yet in the east, nearly overhead, is Capella, the star of the Baby Goat.

In the south-east, you'll see the rectangular constellation Orion, which the Ancient Greeks saw as the shoulders, knees and belt of a hunter. Below and to his left is bright Sirius, the eye of Orion's larger hunting dog.

By 6:10am the stars will fade out, and all you can see are Venus and Jupiter.

Because Venus's orbit around the Sun is tighter than ours, its appearances in the morning or evening sky only last for some months. This occasion, its showing as the Morning Star during the summer just past, is an example. Each day it will be lower in the east before sunrise. By the middle of October, it will disappear altogether.

Another progression week-by-week will be the position of Orion. Orion will be low in the west at dawn around Thanksgiving, and will cease to be visible about **the end of November**.

In extreme contrast to Venus, Jupiter's orbit is far larger than ours. We take twelve months to orbit the Sun; Jupiter takes twelve **years**. For this reason, Jupiter's position against the stars changes very slowly; for the time being, Jupiter will remain near Castor and Pollux for many months.

As time goes by, when you look at Jupiter, Castor, and Pollux together before dawn, they will be higher in the east each week; by mid-November, they will be high in the south; and by mid-January, they will be low in the west, and will disappear before the end of the month. This will not be due to the orbital motion of Jupiter, but of the Earth: the positions Earth and Sun have in relation to each other determine where Jupiter appears to be in the sky when the Sun rises. If this is confusing, get someone to show you a book. Or draw a few drawings. Or push a few pieces of fruit around on a table ("Now, this grapefruit is the Sun . . .")

By mid-October, the time for morning stargazing is about 6:10am; by November 1st, it's 6:21. On November 2nd, it's 5:21. Gotcha! Daylight Savings Time is like playing "Simon Says".

In mid-October you'll have the greatest chance of seeing a favorite star of the Ancient Egyptians, Canopus. Zero chance. None. Canopus's position in the sky makes it visible only to those who live south of latitude 37° North. The south edge of the exclusion zone includes San Francisco (and Athens and Seoul). For good viewing, the sources recommend Florida, the Caribbean, the Gulf Coast, Houston and points south, and all of Latin America (and analogous locations in the Eastern Hemisphere). Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, and Canopus is the second brightest, so we're really missing out.

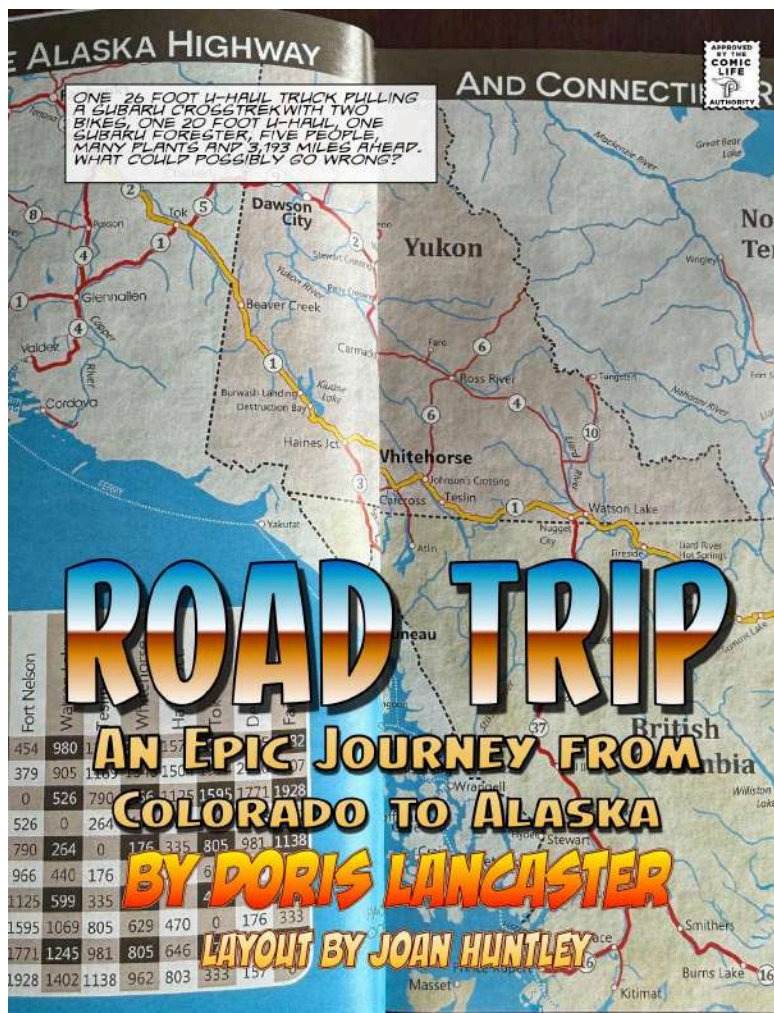
Start watching for the planet Mercury low in the east about the 4th of December (6:00am), until the 15th (6:10am).

Look for a good eastern horizon (see the note above about twenty-five cent bribes for 2nd-story east-facing windows under "Evening Stargazing"). Mercury's appearance is so brief because it moves in its orbit so quickly, much more quickly than Venus. Observing Mercury is tricky. Firstly, you'll **really** want to borrow or steal some binoculars. At the time I listed above, you'll probably start by watching someone's roof-line, waiting for Mercury to rise above it. Watch for as much as thirty minutes: up to that point, you can hope to see it in the binoculars; after that, the increasing light of dawn will hide it.

By the end of the year, the good time for observing will be 6:15am; this will still be true halfway through January. By the end of January, this will have tightened up to 6:00. And your attention can be drawn by something new (if you haven't been talking to the evening stargazers): rising on the north-east horizon is a triangle of three stars called the "Summer Triangle". The apex is Vega, the lower left and right are respectively Deneb and Altair. Altair is so low that you may not be able to see it rise until February. Also, high overhead, you can see a golden, not-very-bright star. This is Arcturus, which is either "King Arthur's Star", or "Bear-Guardian", if you prefer a better-attributed but less-exciting mythology.

- Rich Ware

Trip report: The Great Alaskan Road Trip



Doris Lancaster wrote a great article on her road trip from Colorado to Alaska. We turned it into a comic book for your enjoyment.

To read it as a pdf file, go to <https://tinyurl.com/roadtrip-Alaska>

CVCA Grads

Weston Sullivan



Weston is rotating between Durango where he and a colleague have a marketing business and Santa Fe, where he has a girlfriend. Weston Sullivan graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado in May 2025. He graduated with degrees in Education and Marketing.

He would like to teach but unfortunately the teacher pay in New Mexico is very, very low and he feels that he can't live in Santa Fe on the pay they offered. Luckily his life in co housing has enabled him to converse with lots of different people and will hopefully help him land the right next career.

Clara Jordan

Clara graduated from CSU Fort Collins, summa cum laude, with a degree in Ecosystem Sciences. She will continue to graduate school in the Fall to pursue a Master's Degree in Carbon Management and Global Climate Policy. She enjoyed a summer at home as an intern researching Monarch butterfly migration on Colorado's Army bases.

Clara is a long time member of the Casa Verde community...in fact, Clara was actually born at home in the south pod!



Samuel Brown

“Attached are two pics from Casa Verde, one of our first Thanksgiving there in 2008, and the second from the same seat in 2023 when we sold it.



“Casa Verde was such a wonderful place for him to grow up. Samuel graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN with a degree in Economics. He recently

started his new job in Minneapolis as an analyst for Wells Fargo!

Samuel and his girlfriend Mimi have an apartment in downtown Minneapolis on the 15th floor of a building along the Mississippi River, and the views are phenomenal; they’re loving city living.

Some of y’all probably remember Samuel’s love of the animals in the community, and so it should surprise no one that within a couple weeks of graduating, he and Mimi fell in love with and adopted a senior cat from the Minneapolis Humane Society named Bisharo. They are very happy pet owners and looking forward to their new home and jobs! Mom (me) misses him!”

- Heather Brown

Rose Leggitt

Rose, who recently turned 18, is currently living and working in Durango. At the end of August, she’ll be heading out on a weeklong backpacking trip with Fort Lewis College, and then beginning her freshman year there. (Weston Sullivan recently graduated from Fort Lewis.)

“Michelle and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the community for being such a wonderful place for Rose to grow up. We truly believe that who Rose is today has been shaped, in part, by her years at Casa Verde, the friendships, the sense of safety, and the close-knit community where people know and care about each another.”

Warmly,
Davi & Michelle Fein

(photos of Rose are on the next page)



Rose Leggitt through the years at Casa Verde

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Contact us at info@casaverde.us
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