



*To preserve & enhance the quality
of all life in Caspar*

Holidaze 2020

Greetings Casparados!

I've always corrected folks who call us Caspar Community Center, saying: we're Caspar Community; the Center is just the building where we gather. Names are important, but this year has taught me why many people don't distinguish between the two! Having our Center for gathering is vital, worth every penny. **Unfortunately, when we can't gather, it still takes a lot of pennies...** which is why we started begging in July. If you've already given what you can, please consider this a Thank You letter.

My own last public event before lockdown in March was the Farm to Table Benefit Dinner for Noyo Food Forest, at our Center on March 8th. The food service had to be reinvented at the last minute, & we elbow bumped instead of hugging, but Marty Johnson's 20+ dish array of delicious food delighted us all. Even in the old world, it was a memorable evening. Now, I think back and treasure that feeling of being in community.

That week we canceled Pub Night, had one last in-person meeting, & then turned off the lights for seven months (so far). With the closure, one bright spot: We could replace the damaged kitchen floor and paint the building's exterior without any scheduling disruptions. Another Thank You to the generous donors who made those improvements possible.

The election on November 3rd was our next community event. **Seeing the lights on that night, with the full moon rising behind the Center, I thought: we're still here.** As I write, just after a wildly successful – & fun! – online auction, I can tell you without hesitation that we are still a strong & lively Community, joining together to preserve our Center.

In 2019 the Center was the busiest it ever had been. We had Breakfast, Pub Night, and a Pop-up Dance Party every month, along with a wide variety of rentals. The base monthly expenses for the thriving Center averaged \$9,000. When I made the 2020 budget, I expected us to follow our 2019 pattern, being \$34,000 in the red before our Fall Fundraiser & End-of-Year donations brought us back into balance. **Thanks to our loyal donors, we haven't ended a year in the red since before 2002.** Alas, even closed, our Center costs a rather shocking \$6,000 a month (with about \$500 coming in – **Thank You monthly pledgers!**).

We received a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation to sustain the Center through recognizably hard times, and a \$300 grant to make our virtual meetings easier. Some of you have doubled your pledges, and quite a few generous donations have come in over the last few months. Our Online Auction looks like it will net at least \$5,000. This will be our first year since 2000 without a New Year's Eve Dance Party, but we'll be back.

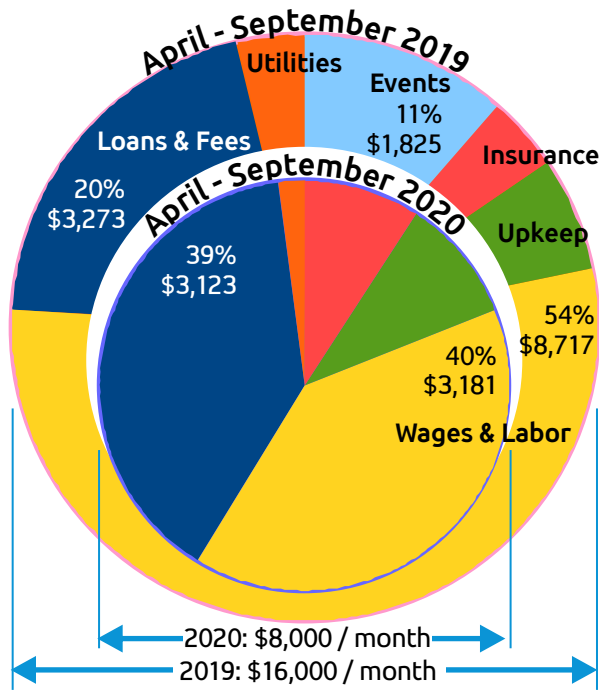
At the beginning of November 2020 we were \$52,000 down, which is a little better than the Covid budget I made in June. If we end 2020 only \$20,000 in the red, I think we will have done very well. With our carefully built reserves and your help, **we're doing okay.**

Please consider a donation to Caspar Community in your year-end financial planning. Caspar Community is a 501(c)3 organization (EIN: 94-3321996) so your contribution is tax deductible. Visit our website at casparcommons.org or call the office at 964-4997 for more information on making a donation, setting up a monthly pledge, or including us in your estate planning.

Sienna M. Potts
for Caspar Community

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Monthly Average Expenses April-September



	2019	2020
Utilities	583 4%	172 2%
Upkeep	\$1,004 6%	\$780 10%
Insurance	664 4%	729 9%
Events	1,825 11%	0 0%

Donations are down 26%, and we understand: for our community as for the world, these are trying economic times. Many of you have responded to our SOSes by doubling your pledges – [pledges keep the Center alive!](#) – and contributing generously. **THANK YOU!** Because of you, we have been able to use the down-time well.

Here we are in our annual “close the gap” letter, asking YOU, our supporters, to consider gifting Caspar Community if you can. We all know we have a very special community here, and its Center is one big reason Caspar is different than other small coastal settlements. **Consider your donation as Lifestyle Insurance**, and an investment in Community, to be enjoyed sometime soon (we earnestly hope) when something like normal life resumes, and we gather again at the Center.

The most frequently asked question this year: “Why does it cost \$6,000 a month to sustain the Community Center?” Answer: our loan and our people.

Even when the Center is running smoothly, with a calendar full of weddings, classes, and other events and our monthly gatherings, by this time of year we are well into the red, and relying on your generosity to close the gap. This year, the Center’s mortgage payment (to the USDA at a very attractive percentage!), utilities, insurance, and upkeep cost about the same, but take a bigger bite from our seriously reduced income. Like workers everywhere, our precious staff took a serious hit, but keep the Community operations going.

The big difference, financially as well as socially, has been **“Where did the events go?”** We all know the answer to that, and yearn for a resumption of village life.

We like it so much better when we don’t have to beg ...and for 30 years Caspar Community has been, with your continuing help, comfortably self-sustaining. Prudent management by the Board has put together a solid contingency fund, but it dwindles!

Monthly Average Income April-September

