

## ED NOTES

THURSDAY'S DISASTROUS Boonville fire has left a large physical hole in the middle of town, huge losses to our friends and neighbors and generations of vivid memories associated with the old bar, the Boonville Lodge, site of everything from the hilarious to the tragic. If those ashes could talk!

THE Anderson Valley Fire Department got lots of help battling the fire, which began at 12:30 Thursday afternoon and saw firefighters still working at 11pm. In addition to Cal Fire, Anderson Valley was supplemented by the Elk volunteers and firefighters from Ukiah, Comptche, the South Coast Volunteers, Hopland and CalFire.

HELPING THE DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE FIRE, on-line comments:

[1] We came here from a village in the SoCal mtns where everyone wishes to live but there's few homes. Even tho we're close to Disneyland and beaches, Airbnb isn't as popular as monthly renting to young folks who want to enjoy raising families in the wild. They've revived our community in so many great ways; enriching our school, non profits, emergency services, and old houses are nicely repaired!

[2] Would it be helpful to state how many people are in each of the households?

[3] I wish we had people who could help, like a nonprofit or better. I have three spaces (small houses) that need repair but I'm barely holding on to my land much less invest in making them more livable. I've been to the shanty places in the valley and I was shocked at first but it's so hard to find a place here. We need farm people and workers but seeing the big picture of lowpaid jobs and cost of living is untenable. Any ideas other than the usual bandaids and temporary situations?

MOSTLY AGREE, especially about B&B's, all 62 of them in the Anderson Valley, including my old place on Anderson Valley Way, once home to as many as a dozen persons, all of whom paid what they could, which wasn't much, to maintain the property at a reasonably safe and sanitary level. I've argued for years for a local ordinance that required winery and vineyard owners to erect housing proportionate to their minimum labor requirements. The booze juggernaut has totally restructured the Anderson Valley, and I'll leave it to you to decide whether or not the restructuring has been good for our community.

TO BE FAIR to the local branch of the wine industry, several of its local stalwarts have provided worker housing, usually for its year-round employees. And the County doesn't make industry housing simple to achieve, as several wine business owners have explained to us. The March election might, just might, bring us a fully functioning board of supervisors, the first one in years, if ever. If that were to occur, sensible housing policy might at last be adopted.

MARK SCARAMELLA NOTES: I am aware of a couple of local vineyard owners who indeed have tried to do the right thing by applying for permit to build worker housing, but the County's (and the state's) onerous construction and permit rules, restrictions and requirements for ag land apparently make it very hard to navigate the process.