

La Entrada News

REPORTED BY THE LA ENTRADA AT RANCHO VIEJO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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La Entrada News

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Firewise La Entrada Community Clean Up Day

By Firewise Co-Chairs Sally and Paul Dillon

It has been since May of 2019 when all of Rancho Viejo had a Firewise event, due, of course, to the pandemic. This year with the extremely high fire risk and Santa Fe County moving to "Turquoise", we felt it was safe for La Entrada to have the Firewise La Entrada Community Clean Up Day on Sat. May 1st. The event was a Covid Safe Grab and Go event. Participants received a bag with wildfire mitigation literature, their Volunteer Hourly Worksheet, contractor bags, work gloves, water bottles and pre-packaged snacks. Residents were asked to work on their own yards, but many happily volunteered to clean up vacant lots, common areas, and even debris along Avenida del Sur to the southeast and Rancho Viejo Blvd west of our local streets. Everyone who participated understood the importance of reducing our wildfire risk and did a fantastic job engaging in this La Entrada community event. Thank you to all who participated in our Covid Safe Firewise Day.

It is not too late to turn in any data on work you have done in your own yard or out and about La Entrada to help keep our community safe from wildfires. Simply email arttrek@prodigy.net for a Volunteer Hourly Worksheet to record the time spent and number of people working on wildfire mitigation projects. All these hours count towards Firewise recertification. You can submit forms all summer long to the above email address. See the photos of residents at work cleaning up the community.



From The HOA President:

I would like to thank Paul Dillon for his service on the La Entrada HOA Board since 2016. He has been a valued member of the board and would like to thank him for all of the time he has spent making La Entrada a better place to live. While Paul was on the board we have completed a landscaping project, Firewise events, numerous community events all of which he has been invaluable with them.

I am also pleased to announce Chris Alspach is taking Paul seat on the board and are excited to have new energy on the board.

Warm Regards

Cass

**Little Free Library Update**

By Tess Harris

If you haven't been by to visit the Little Free Library lately then you are really missing out. Books are flying in and out at a brisk rate. Good weather and increased visitors to La Entrada Park have certainly helped, plus some word of mouth. I often wonder who my visitors are, what they like to read, why they choose to leave certain books, and take others. This led to me to think about literacy.

Literacy is popularly understood as an ability to read and write. Literacy rates correlate with access to books, no surprises there. The states with the highest literacy rates have a concentration of libraries greater than the national average of 5.2 per 100,00 people. While New Mexico has a higher than normal concentration of libraries per capital, our literacy rate lags behind the national average.

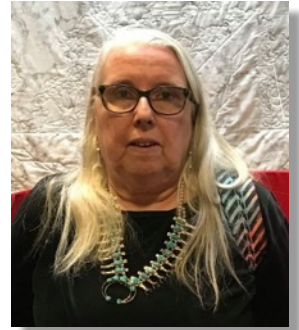
This doesn't have to be our future here in New Mexico. It just means we have a little bit of work ahead. Why not stop by our own Little Free Library in our own neighborhood. Bring the kiddos. Take a book. Leave a book. How easy was that?



Communication Committee Report

June 2021

By Sally Dillon



We are beginning to see signs that we are finally getting to the end of the pandemic! As the CDC has announced new mask guidelines, we wrestle with our individual comfort level with this change. The good news is that we think we are ready to get reacquainted with our friends and neighbors with modification. This coming Fourth of July will be our community's first opportunity for this newly founded freedom at our La Entrada Community Event in the Park. Check this newsletter for our flyer about the event. It will be a little different than our previous Fourth of July event, but a great opportunity to get together with distance. As we watch how our county and state adapt to less Covid restrictions, we will make decisions about our typical and future events, going forward. We will keep you informed of upcoming events.

If you haven't been vaccinated, now is the time. Do it for you and do it for your friends and family. Lots of locations are administering the shots. Go to <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/my-registration.html> to register.

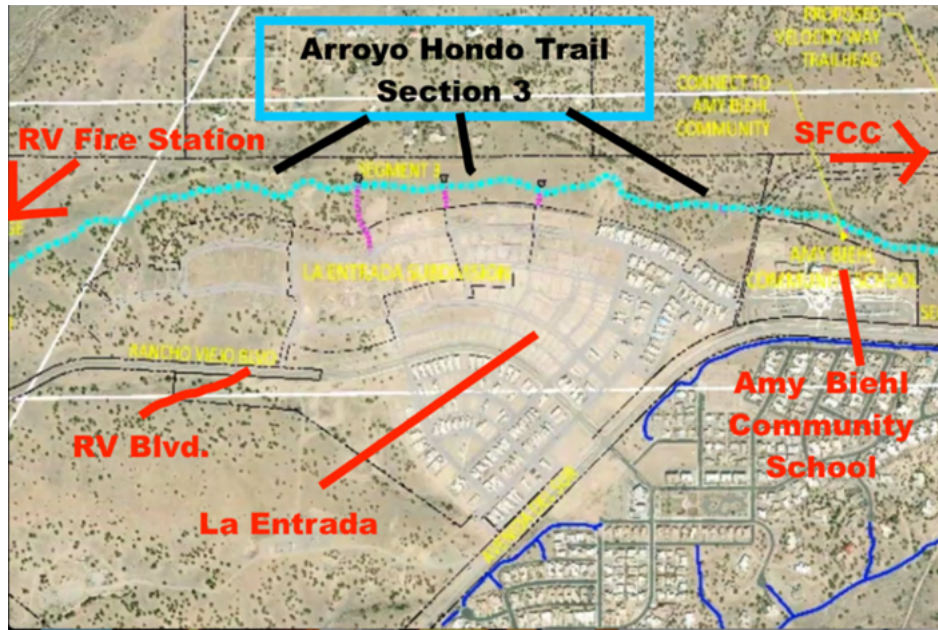
On Sat. May 1st we had our Firewise La Entrada Community Clean Up Day. A report on the day and some photos are included in this newsletter as the lead story. Keep working to keep our community wildfire safe and turn in your Volunteer Hourly Worksheet (available from arttrek@prodigy.net) With this exceptional drought, we cannot let down our guard on wildfire safety.

Changes are coming to The Food Depot. They are now accepting non-perishable food again that is not out of date. There will be some changes to Santa Fe food distributions. They will only occur on Siler Rd between the Feed Santa Fe and The Food Depot buildings every other week and no longer at Santa Fe Place Mall after the May distributions. Flyers for the June distribution dates will be forthcoming and displayed in the Message Centers next to the mailboxes. Check with the Food Depot website for further information at <https://www.thefooddepot.org/blog/2020/03/17/tfd-food-distributions/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheFoodDepot> for more information.

There was a recent Santa Fe County Public Involvement Meeting regarding the Arroyo Hondo Trail that will run from 599 Rail Runner station to the Community College. See the included article and map. We should expect construction of Segment 3, which is located behind Via Orilla Dorado. during 2022. Contact melohmann@santafecountynm.gov for more information.

Don't forget to keep checking on "our owls" over in the Plaza Park. Van Liming takes excellent photos of "Mom, Dad, and baby owlets!" You may even see him there with his long lens camera, especially late in the day when the owls are active.

Hoping to see you at our Fourth of July event in La Entrada Community Park at Via Sagrada and Via Punto Nuevo.



The Planned Arroyo Hondo Trail

By Sally Dillon

The construction of the Arroyo Hondo Trail is a work in progress. When completed, it will connect the 599 Rail Runner Station with the Santa Fe Community College for alternative forms of transportation including biking and hiking. It is being funded and built in segments with some federal funding. The trail will also meet ADA requirements with surface and grade and will be about 10ft wide. The current status of the project, is that 60% of the design plans are completed for segments 2 and 3, with plans scheduled to be fully completed during the fall and winter of 2021. Construction of Segments 2 and 3 will begin in the spring of 2022.

There was a virtual Public Involvement Meeting held on May 11th from the Santa Fe County. Participants, particularly on Via Orilla Dorado, who will have Segment 3 of the trail beyond their backyards, brought up some important questions regarding safety, maintenance, enforcement and actual location of the trail in relationship to their backyard wall. Answers were not very specific, but participants were provided with contact information for one of the staff members working on this project.

The map shows the location of Segment 3, in reference to La Entrada.



From the New Mexico State University:

Original author: James E. Knight, former Extension wildlife specialist.

Snakes!

It is that time of year when snakes are prevalent. In fact, snakes have been reported in Rancho Viejo. It has been advised that you keep your garage door closed as much as possible. The NM State University has excellent suggestions for cleaning up your yard and protecting your yard from snakes. Since we recently worked on cleaning up our yards from plant material to make our property more wildfire safe, during our Firewise event, it is a perfect time to finish off yard maintenance by removing places snakes might opt to reside on your property. This is basically any piles of debris, trash (including trash bags), gardening materials that has accumulated in your yard and by doing this, it will protect your yard and your nearby neighbor's yards from snakes. Everyone should do their part to keep our community safe.

Snake Habitat

Snakes often live in dark, cool places where food is abundant. Likely places to find snakes around homes include:

- Firewood or hay stacks directly on the ground.
- Old lumber or junk piles.
- Gardens and flower beds with heavy mulch.
- Untrimmed shrubs and shrubs growing next to a foundation.
- Un-mowed and unkempt lawns, abandoned lots and fields with tall vegetation.
- Pond and stream banks where there is abundant debris or trash.
- Cluttered basements and attics with rodent, bird or bat problems.
- Feed storage areas in barns where rodents may be abundant.

Modifying the Environment Around Your Home

You can modify the environment around your home by removing potential snake shelters (usually cool, damp hiding places) and food sources (such as rodents).

Lawns and fields that are kept clean and closely mowed are less attractive to snakes than areas with tall grass, weeds, brush and junk. Remove other hiding places, such as old boards lying on the ground, rock and junk piles and trash piles. Trim shrubs and bushes so limbs hang no lower than 1 foot from the ground. Stack firewood or stove wood away from your home on a rack (not on the ground) that sits at least 1 foot from the ground.

Keeping the yard clean also removes habitats for rodents, a favorite snake food. Other suggestions for reducing rodent problems include placing garbage in sealed trash cans (not bags) away from the house. If you feed pets outside, keep all dog and cat food cleaned up after each feeding and store feed in a steel trash can so it is unavailable to rodents.





La Entrada Community Event at the Park



Sunday, July 4, 2021

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Via Sagrada @ Via Punto Nuevo



Wear Your RED, WHITE, BLUE, and Patriotic Gear



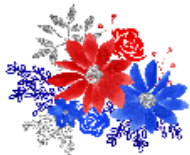
Prizes for the Best Dressed:

Kid - Adult - Pet

Bring Your Own Picnic Lunch

Set up your own space with blanket or chairs.

We will have bottled water, hand sanitizer and washing station, water bowls and treats for dogs, and prepackaged sweet treats for kids of all ages.



Please Join Us!





Rancho Viejo Ladies Group

March, April, May 2021

By Audra Hansche – Mauied85@AOL.com

Welcome Spring! Our Ladies Group did an awesome job with donations to **Portfolio Resident Services – Easter Bag Project**. Cameron was able to make and deliver 125 tote bags full of goodies. Here is his message:

"Hello Rancho Viejo Ladies Group, I wanted to thank you all again for the wonderful donations that you and your members collected this past month for my Easter tote bag drive, the families will love them! My mom and I are going to get them ready for delivery this Wednesday and I will take some pictures so you can see what they all look like when they are organized. Good luck with all of your future endeavors and we will be in touch. I wish you all well and Happy Spring and Easter!"

On Tuesday, March 23rd and Tuesday, April 27th a few of us enjoyed an online meeting continuing our **Tea with Mary Kaye**. We met new ladies at each. Sometimes we discussed current events and vaccine availability. These chats really help keep us connected, and we don't have to wear masks!

We tried something new in April and I think those that participated really liked it. On Friday, 4/23 about a dozen of our group met at the RV Village Plaza Park for a **Give & Take Swap Meet**. No money was involved but lots of visiting. And some people left with goodies they didn't know they wanted or needed. The weather was not my friend that day. The one hour we were out there was cloudy and cold. Then it got windy and started to rain. As soon as I made it home, the sun came out. Santa Fe spring weather is very fickle.

I hope all my Ladies have been well over the past year. I have not heard any stories about hospitalizations. I was able to receive my first **Coronavirus Vaccine** - Pfizer dose on April 9th and my booster shot on April 29th. Other than feeling a bit tired, I didn't have any side effects.

It was a pleasure to coordinate a **Cinco de Mayo** gathering. We had a small group show up to visit at the spine park near Camino Puerta Solita in La Entrada. Most wore masks. All were happy to chat with some neighbors, familiar ones and new ones!

Exciting News! I received permission to host an indoor gathering at our local conference room. This was mostly a social event but some brought their lunch to eat. We had about 14 in attendance. It was also a good opportunity for Sally and me to show our cards for the current service project. For a \$20 monetary donation to the **Museum of Indian Arts and Culture Summer Programs**, the ladies could receive a pack of 10 handmade cards. On this day, they could pick any number of single cards for a donation of \$2 each. We will wrap up this project at the end of the month and Sally will get the donation to the MIAC at the beginning of June. We are planning to have another open stock showing of the cards before the month's end.

I believe a lot of our group has been fully vaccinated by now. I hope to plan monthly events once again. We may have an outdoor picnic at the park and continue to enjoy the nice weather.



RANCHO VIEJO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By Block Captains in La Entrada



Detective Jared Modgling and Deputy Robert Girmendonk of the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office share safety tips. *Photo by Barbara Conkey*

April 2019 — The Most Recent Event — Pre-pandemic

Lock Up and Call!

These actions are the bottom line of a Neighborhood Watch presentation given by Deputy Robert Girmendonk and Detective Jared Modgling of the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office on April 10, 2019.

The officers advised residents to lock their doors and windows even when someone is home, and to remove valuables from their cars and keep vehicles locked when parked on the street. Be alert and if you see anything suspicious, call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number: 505-428-3720. Do not hesitate. Installing video cameras in and outside the home will also help to provide descriptions and information to the officers should an event occur. Motion detecting lights afford added security and are allowed in Rancho Viejo.

All of RVNW's events and outreach are powered by volunteers. Consider helping your community by offering some of your time and talents (Block Captains/Co-Captains and occasionally writers, photographs, etc.) for RVNW. To volunteer, contact Carol Thompson, RVNW Area Coordinator.

February 2016 — Open House,

New residents in Rancho Viejo learned more about the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office. Deputies Carolina Aguayo and Robert Girmendonk from SFSO Community Support Services discussed the benefits of continued partnering with the Sheriff's Office to keep our community safe.

They emphasized that residents should contact the Sheriff about anything suspicious. Residents should give a description and include anything unique. For example, the make, model and color of the car, include the state and license plate number and give a direction of travel from your location. These are very helpful to the police. One of the most important things to remember is to never approach the person or vehicle — observe and report. When you call to report, please be sure to give the complete street name of the location.

February 2012 — Public Safety Panel

Two officers from the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office and three representatives of Neighborhood Watch served as panelists.

"Your powers of observations are needed and in somewhat different ways during daylight in contrast to nighttime." Think sounds of shoes, cars, etc.

2011 — Neighbor Watch Starts Up to Keep La Entrada Safe

"Make the Small Call", was a major take-home message of that meeting. Call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at 428-3720 even if you are only slightly suspicious. The dispatcher can see the important big picture and react appropriately.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Report Activity and Sign Up for RVNW E-mail ALERTS E-mail: carolath@msn.com

Carol Thompson, Area Coordinator Home: 505-471-9044 Cell: 505-603-0833

Santa Fe County Sheriff (Dispatch) Non-emergency: 505-428-3720

If you wish to remain anonymous call Crime Stoppers..... 505-955-5050

Recycling Reminders

Paper, clean plastics and cardboard can be mixed together in your recycling bin. However, No **GLASS** should ever be put into the recycle bin.

*If you wish to recycle glass, you can do so at the **SF County Recycling locations**=*

Lucia Lane Recycling Center: 4003 Lucia Ln @ Airport Rd. – City of Santa Fe Environmental Services: 1142 Siler Rd. – Santa Fe Solid Waste Management: 2600 Buckman Rd.



June	2	16	30
July	14	28	
August	11	25	

If a specific homeowner does put glass into his recycling cart on a regular basis they will be warned, and, should that practice continue, MCT will no longer provide recycle pick-up at the home.

Also please note that the garbage cart and recycle cart need to be placed at least 3 feet apart.

If you have any further questions, you can call MCT at 505-345-8651 or check out their website at www.mctwaste.com.



Large Item Pickup

Types of items allowed: Furniture, yard waste, appliances.

Not Allowed: Electronics, Oil or Household chemicals.

July 16

If you have a large item, please call Serenity Lucero at **505-924-5978 x2415** to make arrangements for an item pick up. Please provide your address, telephone number and description of item(s).

Please Pick Up After Your Pet!

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you are liable to step in one such reminder. Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you or get one from the "doggie stations" to pick up waste and then dispose of it properly.

By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Thank you for your cooperation!





By Staci Stevens

Hooray! The last day of school for the 2020-21 school year has arrived. Across the district **school will recess for the summer on May 26th.**

*Please note that the first day of school for the 2021-22 school year is much earlier than normal. **Students are scheduled to return to classrooms on August 6, 2021.**

According to a district press release,

“SFPS is committed to working with parents and families - we understand this may conflict with some parents' plans for their children regarding summer camp, travel, etc. Parents are asked to work with their child's principal regarding these conflicts and they will work to accommodate you as appropriate.”

Stay posted to Stay posted www.SFPS.info for more updates on schedules and COVID-safe re-opening guidelines. Until then, enjoy your summer; everyone deserves some relaxation after this difficult year!



Retired Old Men Eating Out

Older gentlemen in the Rancho Viejo community will be getting together once a month to eat out at different restaurants in Santa Fe. The group is called "Retired Old Men Eating Out." You don't have to be retired, just interested in socializing with other older men. No political or religious agenda. No membership, no dues. If interested, Contact George Vaught at georgemvaught@gmail.com.

Communication Committee Procedures:

1. **What to send to Serenity** - If you have suggestions, ideas, or concerns for the Communication Committee to address or take on, **please send them in writing directly to Serenity Lucero Slucero@hoamco.com, not to individual Communication Committee members.** We do not deal with repairs, DRC approvals, traffic, pets. etc. Things of this nature still go to Serenity, and are not related to the Communication Committee work.
2. **Newsletter articles** - If you have an article you would like to be included in the newsletter, please send it **directly to Sally Dillon arttrek@prodigy.net**
 - **By Feb. 15th for the March newsletter,**
 - **By May 15th for the June newsletter,**
 - **By Aug. 15th for the Sept newsletter**
 - **By Nov 15th for the Dec newsletter.**
 - It needs to be in preferably Word or Pages and completely ready for publishing. "Completely ready for publishing" includes formatting, editing, captions, logos, and active web links, etc. The photos and article, need to be attached separately in an email to Sally by the 15th at the very latest.
 - If approved by the Communication Committee, the article will go in the next newsletter. If it is submitted after the deadline, it may be placed in the next following issue of La Entrada News.
 - Any questions about writing or submitting articles should be directed only to Sally at arttrek@prodigy.net .
3. **Newsletter publication** - When the La Entrada News is published, generally around the beginning of the publishing month, and it is also posted on the La Entrada website at <http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org/home.asp>, an email blast from HOAMCO is then sent out to residents with the website URL and directions to locate the newly published newsletter linked on the public page of the website. **If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Serenity, our HOAMCO Manager of our HOA at Slucero@hoamco.com**