

La Entrada News

REPORTED BY THE LA ENTRADA AT RANCHO VIEJO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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La Entrada News

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LA ENTRADA'S 4TH OF JULY EVENT

By Tess Harris

The Fourth of July means a lot of things to a lot of people. Here in La Entrada it means fire trucks and fun! This year, after last year's pause, we roared back to life with a real kicker of a Fourth of July celebration in La Entrada park. The skies were clear and blue when the entire La Cienega Fire Department showed up.

There were snacks and beverages, and smiling neighbors, and excited kids. Our local firefighters and EMTs showed their usual community spirit by teaching the kids about fire safety and letting them tour the trucks. They even brought coloring books and hats.

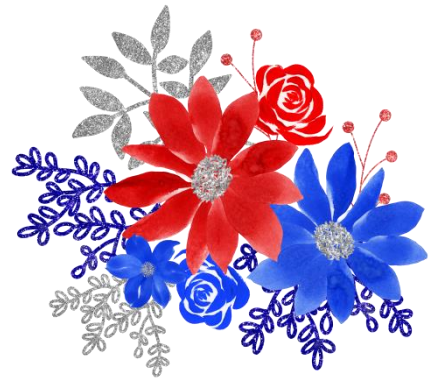
We had our traditional "Most Patriotic Apparel" contest. The judges had a very hard time deciding, but in the end it was easy:

- ❖ Carol Siedell, for most patriotic adult
- ❖ Hailey and Aiden Newman, for most patriotic kids
- ❖ Brooke Dillon, the basset, for most patriotic pet

They all received a gift card, so start thinking about next year's contest.

Next up was our traditional bike and pet parade. All the kiddos, followed by their various pets, hopped on bikes, skateboards, and skates for a few laps around La Entrada park. Our park, never looked better, providing shade and picnic tables for all.

Soon, however, it was time to pack up for home. Our fire fighters were sad to leave our cool, shady park, but of course the Fourth is a busy time for them. We thank them for all that they do for our community, and we look forward to seeing them next year!



MAIL ISSUES

By Sally Dillon

Around mid-July, La Entrada did not receive any mail for about 4 or 5 days. This was due to our local postal worker being off from work for a medical reason. The bigger problem is lack of communication with the Pacheco branch of the Post Office. In addition to simply not answering their phones, they have nothing in place to communicate to residents regarding lack of mail deliveries, as they do not have staff to cover for someone who is out. There were multiple posts on the social media platform, Nextdoor and the problems were certainly not limited to La Entrada or even just Rancho Viejo, but throughout Santa Fe. Apparently one could drive to the Pacheco Post Office and pick up the mail that was being held, but that was never communicated to residents.



Many people who posted on Nextdoor raising this concern contacted US legislators. I contacted our Santa Fe County Commissioner Hank Hughes, who was experiencing the same issues at his home in Eldorado as well as at his office in Santa Fe. He has been in touch with me multiple times and has stated, “since the post office is federal and our office in Santa Fe is now managed out of Phoenix, our best bet to fix things is to get our federal representatives to do something before the post office falls apart completely.” He recommends that everyone (all residents) contact US Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez at <https://fernandez.house.gov/contact> about the issues with mail delivery and communication. Clearly, there have been changes in systems at the Post office since there was a new Postmaster General appointed last year. These changes do not seem to be improvements.

In my email to the Commissioner, I listed a variety of concerns that residents might have. Here are some with possible solutions to consider until the mail issues can be resolved. Please consider these for your own protection.

1. **Consider signing up for “Informed Delivery,”** at https://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationPortalAction_input Each day you will receive an email listing mail you should be receiving. Follow prompts for setting up a login
2. **Consider moving paychecks and Social Security/Pension checks to Direct Deposit** with your bank.
3. **Consider changing mailed prescriptions to a local pharmacy,** so that time and temperature sensitive prescriptions aren’t just sitting somewhere other than your mailbox.
4. **Consider paying your utility bills directly via their website** (paying online, by phone, or in person) to prevent late fees, if you don’t get your bills in time, due to mail delivery service. Other places have online payments available, such as Christus St. Vincent. Simply set up a login. In a world where almost everyone does online shopping, this is the same principle. It also will allow you to go paperless. **Always do this on a secure (password protected) home network/Wi-Fi, not using a cellular connection as that is not secure.**
5. **Consider online banking,** which gives you pretty much real time account activity. **Always do this on a secure (password protected) home network/Wi-Fi, not using a cellular connection as that is not secure.**
6. **Consider alternative shipping companies if you have a home-based business,** such as Etsy, where you need to ship products to customers. It might not be the cheapest, but at least it should get there in a timely manner, plus you can also track packages online that are shipped via UPS and Fed-Ex, and likely with other carriers.
7. **Consider taking your outgoing mail directly to the Post Office.** If the mail is not being delivered, it is likely not being picked up either.

There may be other strategies, but these were ones we discussed. Anything that eases your dependency on the mail service until things improve are the best bet. Also, please contact US Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez about our mail issues here and throughout Santa Fe.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021

By Sally Dillon



Well, we thought, with the opening up of New Mexico, the pandemic might start to be in the rearview mirror, but along came the Delta Variant... **This report is focusing on one KINDNESS and not any sort of debate on the wearing of a mask or not.** We now need to again dig out those masks, for going inside many public buildings and businesses. As I dug out many of my masks again, I found one of the cloth masks that I had purchased that with a graphic stating **"In a world where you can be anything, Be Kind."** I sure think that that is an important concept right now! I recently read about a teacher being physically assaulted in a parking lot of a California school, as he was trying to protect the principal from an angry parent. The parent was mad about the mask mandate in the school district. I also read on Nextdoor about someone, in another community, who was told she had to wear a mask in that store, said "Really?" and got some verbal push back from the store employee. She didn't get a lot of sympathy from posters on Nextdoor. Look, we are all frustrated and discouraged to have to wear masks again inside, but maybe it is time to be kind. This is not the forum, in the newsletter, to be pro or anti mask wearing. The focus is on kindness. I am sure employees of different businesses or school districts, state buildings, museums, etc. are not enjoying telling people they must wear masks inside any more than we are enjoying wearing them, but let's just **be kind**. Maybe just saying "hello" and "how are you?" is just the thing that is needed now. Maybe continuing to help out small businesses is a good idea. Ordering take-out, a larger tip, etc. Forget about arguing and **BE KIND**.

Maybe it is time to safely get out and volunteer somewhere and feel good about doing something good to help out. My husband and I volunteer at the Food Depot for about 5 years. While we did take a break from March 2020 until after masks were required, (due to our health risks) and we have been volunteering since then. We just put on our required masks like the rest of the volunteers and get to work. This past summer we worked with a variety of low income communities. Paul delivered Grab and Go lunches and I did a couple of different art activities at 7 different sites. Community members were so grateful for our help and support! Talk about feeling good about doing something good! It is surprising what can be done to help out. There are lots of places that could use the support of volunteers. Just check it out!

Speaking of feeling good about doing something good, we *will* have an outdoor Raptor Event this fall - in the Hogan parking lot at IAIA. *See the flyer in this newsletter and posted around La Entrada. Our community has partnered with the Santa Fe Raptor Center since at least 2013. For the last four years, a couple of us have been making handmade greeting cards and sold them as a fundraiser for the Santa Fe Raptor Center. We even sold cards in the middle of the pandemic! We hope you can join us for this special event. If the SFRC has a raptor to release back into the wild, we will let you know. It's an awesome sight!

Stay tuned.....

Communication Committee Report continued...

Also, another way to Be Kind, this fall, is to join the La Entrada Community, who is participating in the 10th Annual Neighbor to Neighbor Drive for the Food Depot. This year, it will be a **FUND DRIVE**, again. You can go to <https://thefooddepot.org/n2n/> donate online, listing La Entrada at Rancho Viejo as your community OR put La Entrada at Rancho Viejo in the memo of your check. All donations up to \$1500 will be matched by an anonymous La Entrada resident. \$1 is equal to 4 meals and \$1 equals 5 pounds of food. We can help feed many Northern New Mexicans with food insecurity. \$50 will provide 200 meals!

Lastly, please note the information about Firewise in this newsletter. It is time to turn in any remaining Volunteer Hourly Worksheets, so we can apply for recertification with this community component of work done by residents.

Stay safe, and Be Kind!



**From the La Entrada at Rancho Viejo
Homeowners Handbook (regulations),**

Located on Page 25, F – Animals, #2

**All Pets must be held or kept leashed
at all times
when in Common Areas, open spaces,
trails or on the walkways or roads.**





Rancho Viejo Ladies Group

June – July – August 2021

Audra Hansche – Mauied85@AOL.com

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! Our ladies contributed to two projects during May. A greeting card sale to benefit **The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture** summer student programs. We offered packages of 10 cards for \$20 and later open stock cards for \$2 each. Amounts donated were: Cash \$680; Checks \$170 and additionally, \$500 from Sally & Paul.

Books were donated to **Santa Fe County Corrections**. Tess Harris, our La Entrada Little Free Library Steward, collected all kinds of reading materials, including Spanish books.

Our service project in June was a diaper drive for **Many Mothers of Santa Fe**. Lorri Sweat organized this event. Some orders were directly delivered to the organization via Amazon and Lorri delivered \$40 cash, 3 packages of baby wipes and 8 boxes of diapers.

RV Ladies did not have a lunch gathering in June. At the end of May my Dad passed away and I went to Houston for a few days. I went back in June for another few days.

The first in-person **Book Club** meeting was hosted by Mary Kaye on Thursday, June 24th. They had about ten at her home. Mary Kaye said, "It was great fun! I had folks briefly introduce themselves and then we had a wonderful discussion about the book while munching on a selection of little treats. It was really good to get together in person."

La Entrada hosted a **Fourth of July** picnic in the park and the ladies were invited. It was great fun to see neighbors and the whole Fire Department showed up with all their vehicles. I'm sure next year will be bigger and better. We can probably have a cook-out with burgers and hot dogs.

On Wednesday, July 21st the Ladies had our first in house **Pot Luck Luncheon**. There were about 22 in attendance. We had about 6 new members. After some announcements, we went around the room introducing ourselves in order to get better acquainted. As usual, all the food was very good. It felt nice being back to something friendly and normal.

We will most likely be planning similar events for the next two months. Restaurants in town are very understaffed and cannot manage a large group. And recently the Covid-19 delta variant is on the rise. This is really a challenge to our socializing. Who knows what will happen next.

A popular interest is growing in our ladies society. Many enjoy planting gardens, decorating their yards and feeding wildlife. So a **Garden Group** has been organized. Molly and Deean hosted the first meeting. About twelve were in attendance. There seems to be a good interest! Another meeting is planned for Tuesday, August 24th.

The August **Book Club** meeting will be held Thursday, August 19th to discuss Virgil Wander by Leif Enger.

RV Ladies will have themed **Luncheon** in the Conference Room on Friday, August 20th – celebrating the Three Sisters – Beans, Corn & Squash.

Another service project is planned for September. **Portfolio Resident Services** has asked for help with Halloween/Fall goodie bags. I'm sure the ladies will be generous as usual. Sounds like a lot of fun to me.

Send me an email to get on my list, so you don't miss our future events!!

RANCHO VIEJO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By RVNW Volunteers in La Entrada



Emergency Preparedness Past, Present & Future

Read All About It! "Rancho Viejo Emergency Planning..." was addressed by Martin Vigil, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Manager for the County of Santa Fe. Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch sponsored that planning meeting early in its first 10 years. Mr. Vigil's advice about threats and preparedness was valuable then and still is today. See the cover story in *Rancho Viejo Round Up*, June 2013, at laentradaatranchoviejo.org at Communication/Association/Newsletter.

September is National Preparedness Month

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit

- ☐ Water and non-perishable food for several days
- ☐ Extra cell phone battery or charger
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio that can receive NOAA Weather Radio tone alerts and extra batteries
- ☐ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Whistle to signal for help
- ☐ Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ☐ Non-sparking wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ☐ Can opener (if kit contains canned food)
- ☐ Local maps

For more information and tips go to www.ready.gov

October is Crime Prevention Month

Tips for Keeping Yourself, Your Family and Our Community Safe

- Know the signs of scammers and fraudsters
- Be skeptical
- Remember not to engage, especially when you are busy or distracted
- Reduce your risk of identity theft — change your passwords often

Got a pet? For tips on how to arrange for animal care in an emergency, go to Pet Alert Information at laentradaatranchoviejo.org/Communication/Association.



Watch Alerts Note that two Watch ALERTS were emailed from June 1 through July 31:

- Suspicious vehicles in La Entrada
- Peeping Tom in another part of Rancho Viejo.

Sign up with Carol Thompson to receive ALERTS, which are based on reports from Rancho Viejo residents.

Only YOU can make the preparations necessary for your household — people and any pets— to cope through an emergency.

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.

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



Firewise Reminder

By Sally and Paul Dillon, Firewise Co-Chairs

We hope that, during the summer, since our Firewise Event on May 1st, you have had the opportunity to clear away wildfire fuels from your yard to create a defensible space protection from wildfires. You may have done clean-up in another area in the community, as well. Back in April you receive the Volunteer Hourly Worksheet via an email Blast from Serenity our HOA Manager. Also, at the Firewise Event, we gave you a hard copy of the Volunteer Hourly Worksheet for you to record work that you have done the day of the event or throughout the summer. (if you turned in a Worksheet at the event and have done more work, you can turn in another one!) There is a Worksheet provided in this newsletter that you can simply print out to fill out and turn in. **Those worksheets need to be turned in by Sept. 15th to arttrek@prodigy.net or you can leave them in the cabinet on the porch of 85 Via Orilla Dorado.**

Thank you to all who have participated in clean-up work and wildfire mitigation in our community!





FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Volunteer Hourly Work Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Community Name: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Hours Worked

_____ Dwelling Unit/Home

Examples include: Removing pine needles and leaf litter from roof and gutters, replaced vinyl gutters with metal gutters, ignition-resistant exterior improvements, installing screening on vents, flammable items removed from under decks and porches, inspect roof and replace missing shingles, etc.

_____ Landscaping (0–100 ft from base of dwelling unit)

Examples include: Installation of hardscaping, replacing combustible mulches with stone/gravel options, tree and shrub removal, raking and removal of pine needles, leaves, ground litter/debris, tree trimming/limbing, moving firewood, lawn and native grass maintenance, etc.

_____ Common Area

(HOA or other Homeowner jointly owned property within the site boundary) Activities include: Tree thinning, mastication and brush removal, grass maintenance, fire break construction, etc.

_____ Miscellaneous

Meetings, presentations, program administration, home site visits, etc.

Money Spent

\$	Chipper Costs: Purchase/rental, fuel & oil, disposal fees, etc.
\$	Other Equipment Costs: Chain saw purchase/rental, power equip. purchase/rental, hand tools, protective equipment, etc.
\$	Contractor Costs: Arborists, landscapers, professional forestry services, debris removal, etc.
\$	Home Improvement Costs: Roofs, decks, windows, vent screening, retrofits, etc.
\$	Landscaping/DIY
\$	Miscellaneous
	Vehicle mileage

Additional Notes: _____



NEIGHBOR to NEIGHBOR Fund Drive

**The 10th Annual Neighbor to Neighbor Fund Drive
September 18, 2021
“Celebrating 10 Years Together!”
2012 - 2021**

Donate Now! <https://thefooddepot.org/n2n/>

(please indicate “La Entrada at Rancho Viejo” for online donations in the “Tell Us Your Neighborhood” section of the form OR in the memo of your check made out to N2N.)

1. 2021 Goal:

- 150+ total participating neighborhoods & businesses
- \$185,000 Donated

2. (\$1 = 5lbs. of Food and \$1 = 4 Meals)

3. An anonymous La Entrada resident will match total donations up to \$1500.

La Entrada HOA is hosting a presentation by

**The Santa Fe Raptor Center
Sunday, September 26, 2021
3:00 PM - 5:30 PM**



**Please Join Us
@ The IAIA Hogan
83 A Van Nu Po - in Rancho Viejo
This is an outdoor event.**

- * You may bring your own chairs**
- * Refreshments will be provided**
- * Masks are encouraged outside**
- * Masks are REQUIRED inside the
Hogan restrooms**
- * Come at 3:00 PM for socializing
and fundraiser items,
all money goes to the Raptor Center**
- * Educational program begins at 4:00 PM**



FAQs* for La Entrada

**Frequently Asked Questions*

Question: Tell me about the outside light that is near the front door of my house. I can't find the light switch for it. What do I do about it?

Answer: That light illuminates your house number for first responders and others to find your house. There is a solar sensor on the side of your house that operates it. Some houses have additional lights near their garage door(s) or in their back or side yards.

You should check the light every week or so to ensure that it is not burnt out. If the light needs to be replaced, please do so with a similar type bulb that is outdoor rated and that ideally discharges a white light (taking the old bulb with you to the store is a good way to match its replacement). Please note that, according to the La Entrada Homeowner Handbook (a copy of which can be found on the La Entrada website), "house mounted lighting . . . shall not contain bulbs with wattage greater than sixty (60) watts total per fixture." (See Page 14, Article I, Paragraph 3 of the Handbook). The outside light qualifies as "house mounted lighting."

Question: Autumn is approaching and I'm not used to the high desert climate. What do I need to do now with my plants to help them survive the winter and be ready for next Spring?

Answer: Good for you for trying to plan ahead! Santa Fe's first frost date is usually around the last week of September or the first week of October, so you should plan on bringing in all of your non-cold hardy plants before that date.

In the meantime, however, continue watering your plants—especially through August, and particularly so if the monsoon rains have not been adequate. Be sure that they get a deep watering at least once per week. As August comes to an end, it is probably getting too late to do any hard pruning of your woody plants, but anything dead, damaged, or diseased on your trees or plants should still be removed as soon as it is noticed. Pruning and dead-heading perennials is fine, but do not do so to roses, as that will encourage additional growth that will not have time to "harden off" before cold temperatures arrive. With a few exceptions, stop fertilizing your plants.

In September, considering adjusting the irrigation system for the cooler weather. Your irrigation system control box can be found in the garage. Watering once or twice a week would likely be sufficient. Well-established plants should not need much water, but plants less than a year old should generally be watered one to two gallons a week. Additionally, you should clean up any fallen fruit from the yard and begin removing leaves that have fallen to reduce insect populations and disease damage in the Spring.

Shortly before or immediately after the first freeze, you should drain the irrigation system so that the underground lines will not freeze and break. Instructions on how to do so can be found on the La Entrada website - <http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org>

A good resource for Santa Fe gardeners is Garden Blog, published by the Santa Fe Botanical Garden (santafebotanicalgarden.org), which provides great tips and advice. And if you aren't sure what plants are in your yard, consider downloading the free Seek app by iNaturalist, which uses your phone's camera and image recognition to help identify plants (and other living things).

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.



September	8	22
October	6	20
November	3	17

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.

For scheduling a large item pick up, please contact Serenity Lucero, our HOA Manager at 505-924-5978 x2415 or SLucero@hoamco.com for the next available pick up time.

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!



Even if you have the most well behaved pet, following local leash laws is part of being a responsible pet owner. Also make sure that your pet's collar & leash are the proper fit and size for them as well!



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**

