

La Entrada News

REPORTED BY THE LA ENTRADA AT RANCHO VIEJO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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La Entrada News

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HOA Update by Barbara Bradley

Greetings everyone. I am providing some updates from the May 23rd HOA Board meeting as well as other things happening in the La Entrada neighborhood. I will be focusing on landscape, sidewalks, streets and a few other concerns.



Landscape: The developer will be reviewing the landscape design recommendations from Surroundings Studios with the Board soon and then with the community at large. This will include plans for the undeveloped walkway between Cerro Escondido and Via Orilla Dorado that leads to the green belt to the north and connects to the rest of the development to the south and other common areas. We have had one report of gophers near the park on the north side of Rancho Viejo Blvd and are investigating. The Commu-

nica-tions Committee is sponsoring a "Park Naming" activity to provide one of the two existing parks and planned third park with official names. They are soliciting suggested names and finalists will be voted on at an upcoming August 5th community picnic.

New Construction: On May 23rd, foundation work was started on the first house in the new phase west of Caminito de las Rositas and Via Orilla Dorado. Work was delayed by the prolonged winter and rainy spring but is now underway. The developers expect 9 to 10 houses to be completed by the end of the year.



Street Sealing: The contractor doing the street sealing project that was started last fall expects to begin the last part of the project on or about June 12th. The project had to be halted in October due to early cold weather. Serenity Lucero, our community manager, will send a letter to each residence with the anticipated timeline and the option to join her email list for daily updates or changes. The email list is optional but it is the only efficient way to advise people of last minute changes or issues. We did have a problem with several residents driving on uncured surfaces last year and the damage from those incidents as well as streets that only received one coat of sealant will be first to be treated. The completion of the project will take 7-10 days.

RV Parking: The issue about smaller RVs and vans being parked at residences in driveways and/or streets continues to be studied as we reach out to other similar communities to see how they are handling these vehicles. The parking amnesty for these vehicles will continue while we research and come to an appropriate recommendation.

Dog “Offerings:” The problem of some dog owners allowing their furry friends to leave their biological offerings (aka Poop) on streets and in common areas continues to be a concern and the Board, as with the community, is struggling with how to handle it. Some have suggested all dog owners be required to submit DNA evidence of their animal’s poop to be matched against poop found left in common areas and fines levied against the owner. Others have suggested that the HOA hire or expand clean up services. Others have suggested Board officers be authorized to advise dog owners of fines when it is observed that an owner is failing to clean up after their dog. These options and likely any others could result in increased costs to the HOA which might require an increase in HOA fees. We know that many dog owners are cleaning up after their dogs but for those who are not, please be responsible and use those poop bags. And place the bags in the trash; do not leave them on side walks or in landscaping for someone else to remove.



Thanks everyone. Have a great summer.

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE PARK

By Tess Harris

When someone says “I’ll meet you at the park “ do you ever ask “ Which park?” Of course you do because our two newest parks aren’t yet named. To clear up this confusion, we are having a park naming contest along with a get-together BBQ. Yes, food, fun, games, prizes!

Save the date: August 5 , from 2 to 5, at the sales office, 26 Calle Ancla.



To enter the contest please email your suggestions to Serenity at slucero@hoamco.com. Please specify if your suggestion is for the big park, which is under construction, or the little park, which is between Calle Ancla and Camino Cerro Escondido. To vote for your favorite park name you must attend the BBQ.

There will be 2 winners; each will get a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant.

Please attend this fun event. We are hoping to make it annual, to replace the Fourth of July picnic, which is not being held this year.

My Last Communication Committee Report

By Sally Dillon

It has been a long run. We moved part time to La Entrada in Nov. 2009 and in the summer of 2010, I joined the La Entrada Communication Committee. We were just beginning to have events, the Holiday Party being one of the first ones. We had a Community Clean-Up Day, but the Firewise program had not formally started yet. Back then, we had Coffee and Conversation events with the Rancho Viejo South community. Since I was still teaching Art classes in two schools in the Chicago Suburbs, I created flyers for all the events and HOA meetings and emailed them to others, here. I worked with another woman to create the La Entrada website. This work could be done long distance long before we had Zoom! I continued to serve on the committee from 1300 miles away until I moved here and could actually attend meetings in person! My husband, Paul moved here in 2012 and I stayed in Illinois to complete teaching under a retirement enhancement package. Three days after my last day of teaching in June of 2015, I moved out of the hotel I was living in since our Illinois house had sold and we drove to Santa Fe.

In the fall of 2017, I was elected chair of the La Entrada Communication Committee and have continued to be chair until June 1, 2023. I leave the Committee in excellent hands! The Committee mem-

bers are working very hard to make it their own as it is the end of an era, while, at the same time, continuing with some traditional events and creating new ones.

Going forward, I continue work with the Education Department at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, as we are back to pre-pandemic programming. We plan hands-on activities, gallery activities, prepare materials for events and have many school group tours.

At home, I have almost finished reorganizing my card-making area because I sell my cards in a couple of shops and may consider other opportunities in addition to special orders. I have a few technology things to finish up for the Communication Committee, which have gotten delayed due to my husband's 5-day stay at the hospital a couple weeks back.

It has been a pleasure to serve our community over the years as we grew with more homes and neighbors. Please enjoy the exciting things the committee has in store for our community!

Thanks to Staci Stevens!
By Sally Dillon

It was January 3, 2016, when I texted Staci for the first time, welcoming her to the Communications Committee. Paul was the Chair at the time, but he asked me to contact her. That was the beginning of a fantastic collaboration between Amy Biehl Community School and the La Entrada Communications Committee. Over the years, we had a variety of projects that benefitted the school. One of first projects was a Copier Paper Drive. This coincided with one of the early Neighbor to Neighbor FOOD Drives. People were driving up with their food donations and their stacks of copier paper. We, at La Entrada, supported the school through the previous version of Box Tops for Education. Other support to the school included sponsoring the 5K races with our community name on the T shirts for our donation. We helped with the purchase of recorders for Music class, and recently, along with the builder/ developer of La Entrada, provided funding for students in need during the Walkathon. It was Staci who got us started having the 4th of July Picnic and Pet Parade, in an effort to attract younger families to La Entrada events.

As a working mother, with both of her kids active in sports and no longer students at Amy Biehl, Staci's schedule has gotten to the point that she needed to step away from the La Entrada Communication Committee. We appreciate all her work to build the partnership between the school in our neighborhood and the La Entrada Community. As a former working mother myself, we have talked about how we wished we had a functioning microwave in our cars, because meals were most definitely "on the run!"

We thank you, Staci, for all your work to support our community bridging the connection of the La Entrada Community to the nearby Amy Biehl Community School. We wish you the very best!



Rancho Viejo Ladies Group By Tess Harris

Our ladies group had some pleasant events this spring. Lunch out is always enjoyable and well attended. The three most recent lunches were held at Santa Fe Bite in March, a potluck at Church of the Servant in April, and at Rustica in May. These times together were great opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones.

We had a successful service project to provide students with tickets to the Santa Fe Literary Festival. Lucie Church did a great job organizing and carrying out this special project. I'm sure it was much appreciated.



To experience something a little different this month we had an outing at El Rancho de las Golondrinas. We booked a special tour focusing on the role of women during the Spanish Colonial times. It was led by Patricia Tucker, a very informed and engaging guide. I think we all learned some new things and thought about our history a little differently.



Don't forget we also have monthly supper soirées. They are open to anyone who would like to spend some time getting to know their neighbors. Stay tuned to Audra's emails for more updates.

Rancho Viejo Monthly Brunch Outings By Freddie Quagliana



I first came up with the idea of organizing a monthly brunch outing inspired by the community dinner outings organized by our Audra Hansche. I approached her with my idea and she thought it would make a wonderful addition to our gatherings. Audra has been very helpful in planning this venture, having actually created the email list and sending out the email invites that I would compose for the first few months as I'm not exactly tech savvy. First and foremost, breakfast and brunch is my favorite meal to dine out and explore different restaurants. I wanted to continue and build on Audra's vision of providing a social outlet for all of us to get together once a month to enjoy some conviviality. After three years of the pandemic I thought we could all use a bit of normalcy again.

Our first outing was at Cafecito in October where we had 10 brunch goers. I felt encouraged by the response from residents so I kept it going. We have brunches at various establishments around town once a month and our numbers are growing.

For me, doing this provides personal satisfaction. I am an outward social guy and I enjoy bringing people together. It has been a pleasure organizing these events and I am grateful for all the support and positive responses I've received. It's just a nice way to meet more of our neighbors and to hopefully establish new friendships, as many of us, like myself, are still relatively new to not only Rancho Viejo, but to Santa Fe and New Mexico.

Please email me at fquag63@gmail.com if you would like to be notified of upcoming brunches.

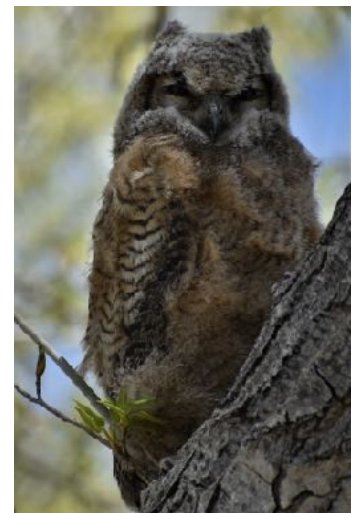


A Vision and a Village By Pamela Villars

In 2020, Van Liming, a Rancho Viejo townhouse owner, watched as three great horned owlets died. Their poorly constructed nest, built by a Cooper's hawk, collapsed. The fourth owlet survived and Liming started on a journey to support subsequent hatchlings. Male owls seek strong nests, usually made by other birds, and if the female approves, they settle in. New Mexico's strong winds and dry heat destroy nests easily. Liming, a former educator, photographer, and frame builder, decided to take action. He identified a man-made nest and had it shipped from Delaware. His owl photos had been widely shared in the neighborhood and when Liming informed his neighbors of his intentions to support new owl families, they decided to help. The neighborhood raised \$1300 and an unneeded \$700 was donated to the Santa Fe Raptor Center. Liming hired a tree crane operator, was hoisted up in the bucket, and secured the new nest. The nest's placement was a success and this year in February, a male and female hatched three babies. For those on Liming's list, the family became neighborhood celebrities. Most days, usually early morning and at dusk, neighbors gathered to catch a glimpse and take photos of the family.

Today, the owl family has flown, although there have been recent sightings. One owlet, nicknamed Junior and then Rebel, caused some angst due to his decision to continually leave the nest before being able to fly. However, he was spotted with his family and is doing well. Van Liming is hopeful that owls will continue to use the plaza and cottonwood for future broods. He also hopes that when this man-made nest needs replacing that someone in Rancho Viejo will offer to ride 30 feet high in a bucket and secure the new one. He will supervise, of course.

Photo: Junior or Rebel on 4-17-2023, his first day out of the nest (prior to being missing for 3 days).





YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Stronger Together, Safety In Numbers

By Rancho Viejo Watch Volunteers in La Entrada



In Memory of
CAROL THOMPSON 1947 - 2023
Founding member of the
Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch



Carol Thompson passed away in late February. You may well remember her helpful emails: "Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch ALERT"

Carol was central to the creation of Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch (RVNW) and its expansion and also key to numerous endeavors and organizations in

Rancho Viejo and around Santa Fe.

Many of us in Rancho Viejo appreciated her leadership, generosity, visions for the community, her wonderful laugh and her immeasurable positive impact throughout our neighborhoods. She will be missed.

Incident Reports

- Two reports about nighttime problems and the Sheriff's timely responses. The SFSD covers a huge area so response times vary based on workload, staffing levels and priorities.
- In early April a resident reported: "My family was recently the victim of a theft. Be aware of porch pirates. They came in the middle of the night, actually 4:00 a.m. We made a report with the sheriff's department. The deputy was very nice. A neighbor also provided a video clip from his security system. Two people in a single-cab truck stole our porch bench."
- A second incident in April was a doorbell ringing about midnight that was reported to RVNW. The Santa Fe Sheriff's Department responded to a call to Dispatch and took the man with them.
- The Little Free Library was vandalized in April and one of the doors was broken.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! — NOW more than ever, your help through RVNW can protect your household and neighborhood when there's suspicious behavior and also encourage community connections and preparedness. The goal of the Neighborhood Watch is to spread the word: If you see behavior that you are concerned about, observe and report to the Sheriff via Dispatch at (505) 428-3720.

All areas of Rancho Viejo have had a Neighborhood Watch system created by the late Carol Thompson. She also served as the central coordinator of RVNW. Since her passing, RVNW has needed a volunteer to be the new central coordinator. This person would receive and track incident reports from residents, possibly with a new way to communicate among RVNW members, hold occasional meetings with Block Captains, and lead a sustainable watch.

Ideally, residents should call the Sheriff first to report any local suspicious activity and then email or phone the new coordinator. Volunteer block captains would contact new residents with information about Neighborhood Watch and coordinate meetings in their respective areas or blocks.

In addition to a central coordinator position, people with other skills and interests are needed: Block captains; people with communication, organizational, and writing skills; and those ready to observe and report ASAP. Your talents can help to strengthen the Watch and safety in Rancho Viejo.

To volunteer for or discuss the central coordinator position or other opportunities, please send your initial thoughts to this new email address RVNW.OurWatch@gmail.com and current block captains will follow up within 48 hours.

Be Aware. Be Prepared

Observe and report suspicious behavior to the Sheriff. Any time, any place.

- Have the Sheriff's Department Dispatch phone number handy — (505) 428-3720.
- Know that barking dogs and any unusual sounds can be useful as signs of possible trouble.
- Try to note key details about any suspicious person and/or vehicle. Photos may also be useful.

LOCAL CONTACTS

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

Report suspicious activity ASAP including full street address to pinpoint the incident.

If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers..... www.SantaFeCrimeStoppers.com or 505-955-5050

Use this contact to submit anonymous tips about a crime that's under investigation.

NOTE: RVNW e-mail alerts are currently SUSPENDED.

Summer Pet Safety
by Sarah Henderson

With the onset of warmer weather, a reminder of what can happen if one leaves one's pets in hot cars seems timely. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (avma.org) "the temperature inside your vehicle can rise almost 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and almost 30 degrees in 20 minutes". Cracking the windows has a negligible effect. On a mild 70 degree day within 30 minutes the interior of the vehicle can reach 104. Illness or death can result.

In any season please be cautious about letting your pet hang its head out the window, no matter how much it asks to do so! My nephew has protective glasses for his dogs to minimize the risk of gravel, sand, and other airborne objects injuring their eyes. There is still the scary possibility of them tumbling out of the car in an accident or when a sharp turn is made. Driving behind a vehicle with a fur baby hanging halfway out a window is very anxiety producing!!

So as the saying goes, if you love them, leave them (home)!!

