



# LA ENTRADA COMMUNITY NEWS

Reported by the La Entrada at Rancho Viejo Community Association  
Second Quarter, June 2025

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## COMING UP THIS YEAR

**3rd Annual Summer BBQ.....August**

**Raptor Event.....September**

**Ribbon Cutting for Mountain View Park .....TBD**

**Holiday Party.....December**

*HOA-Sponsored Events*

## END OF SUMMER BBQ AND SUNSET PHOTO CONTEST

Last year's summer BBQ was a smash, filled with hamburgers (beef and vegetarian), hot dogs, sides and sodas, and—a crowd favorite—cake. We're repeating the goodness on August 2nd, so mark your calendars. We'll be bar-b-queing at the sales office at 26 Calle Ancla.

Get your cameras and phones and start shooting for another sunset photo contest. The top three photos will be printed and displayed at the BBQ for those present to vote on. The winner will receive a \$35 Barnes & Noble gift card and will be published in the September newsletter, on our Facebook page, and the La Entrada website.

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES

- One entry per household.
- No professionals, please.
- Email to slucero@hoamco.com by July 10.
- La Entrada locales only.
- La Entrada residents only.
- No watermarks on the photos.

***We'll see you at the BBQ!***



2024 Sunset Photo Contest winning photo  
submitted by Mary Lucey

## HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION NEWS

**G**reetings all as we transition from spring to summer in our typical unsettled spring and early summer weather patterns.

I hope everyone who needed to find space in the dumpster in May was successful—it was filled to overflowing twice—and letting you know we are working on dates for late September/ early October 2025 for a fall clean up effort. There are a few properties that still have debris piles/old furniture/building materials on the sides of houses and code enforcement at HOAMCO will be addressing those homeowners directly. Meanwhile I am sharing some thoughts after reviewing Design Review Committee (DRC) requests that have been submitted in recent weeks and some projects where requests for approval have not been submitted. I am aware I have addressed this topic in prior newsletters but we seem to need to continue to discuss it.

**Changing house front door color:** If you are freshening your house or front door paint with the existing color you do not need to submit a DRC application for approval. But if you are being “creative” and looking for a change any color selections must be consistent with the permitted color schemes and will require approval. Unapproved color selections outside the permitted schemes will require a re-paint at your expense and cause code violation fines until the property is restored. It is also important to make sure any painting is done well and that walls are well-prepared so that the final product looks good. A sloppy execution will also require restoration.

**Walls, pergolas, solar panels:** Increasing the height of walls is limited to 66 inches (except for party walls) and there are restrictions on the types of materials that can be used. Please make sure you get approval for your wall height, materials and any finishing stucco before you spend the money to do it. Pergolas are generally approved but please consult the HOA Handbook as to height, placement and materials restrictions. Solar panels are generally approved but please submit an application for approval.



*Progress is being made on the new Mountain Vista Park.*

**Trash Bin Placement:** By now everyone should have made it through the first two months of trash service with our new service provider, Road Runner. Code Enforcement is going to resume contacting homeowners who have trash bins visible from the street on non-pick up day. After an initial courtesy, reminder fines will be assessed in increasing amounts until compliance is achieved.

**Safety Committee:** Lou Miller and I are beginning our investigation of establishing a safety committee in the La Entrada community that would address environmental emergencies, property issues and potential crime prevention as was discussed at the Annual Meeting. We will keep you updated.

Have a great summer!

## THE LADIES GROUP HAD A BUSY SPRING

The Rancho Viejo Ladies Group met in late April at the Pantry Dos restaurant. Twelve women enjoyed a very pleasant lunch on the patio. Our meeting in May was at the fire station, with 15 attending. After a light lunch, we had an update from Julie Hliboki about Pillowcases 4 Love, then we enjoyed some competitive games with prizes for the winners. Everyone was a winner that day! Good times and much laughter.

On Thursday, May 22nd a small group enjoyed a private tour at El Rancho De Los Golondrinas. This tour focused on the women connected to the ranch. Our guide introduced Lenora Curtain and her mother, who purchased the land, restored the adobe house on the property and preserved the area as a living history museum. Our guide also explained women's roles in this area from the 18th century through New Mexico statehood, including the blending of families and culture, land ownership, and profitable businesses.

We will meet again in early-June at the fire station. I'm planning on more games. I'm also considering a picnic at La Entrada Park in late-June.

Our RV Ladies Book Club met in April to discuss *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Next up in June: *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* by Alix E Harrow. The August reading selection is a novel: *The Wind Leaves No Shadow* (©1948) by Ruth Laughlin. I personally nominated this book as it traces the story of a local historical figure Doña Tules Barceló.

If you would like to join us at our bi-monthly discussions, please email Diane Gorgy at [rvladiesbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:rvladiesbookclub@gmail.com).

Rancho Viejo Supper Soirees have continued with Piazza Caffè in April. We had 25 attending. Beer Creek Brewing was next on Tuesday, May 27th. I counted about 29. It was awesome to have some newcomers. The patio was very pleasant that evening.

A few locations are up for consideration in June. All are invited and welcome: neighbors in all parts of Rancho Viejo, friends in Santa Fe, couples, and singles. We are always looking for substitute hosts. If you are able to coordinate one month of the year, I will manage communication and nametags.

To receive announcements about RV Ladies Group events or for RV Gents to be included for suppers, please email Audra at [Mauied85@AOL.com](mailto:Mauied85@AOL.com).





## BEAUTIFUL WEATHER, PIZZA, PETS, COOKIES, AND KIDS

**M**ay 10th was a glorious day for our annual spring Fiesta. The weather was mild and sunny, with just a light breeze. The Communication Committee got to La Entrada park early to set up all the tables and chairs and festive decorations, including a red chili shaped piñata .

George and Liliane Vaught manned the sign up table for the pet parade and cookie contest, and made sure everyone got a name tag. The name tags definitely come in handy.

Right on time the pizzas came! Dion's pizzas are always a hit. The pepperoni with green chili went very fast . Anything with green chili, right folks?

Our local volunteer firefighters came by for a visit ,led by La Cienega district fire chief, Adam Stiveley. We are always so happy to see our firefighters , and they enjoy showing off the trucks and various equipment.

The cookie contest was very suspenseful, lots of great entries. After careful consideration the judges declared that my cookies were the winner! I was so excited. Millionaire shortbread cookies are always a sure winner.

The pet parade was next, with many excited participants . The contest was so close the pups had to parade twice before a winner was picked. Coco, with her human Chris Alspach were declared the winners of the 2025 Fiesta Pet Parade!

Before winding down our fun afternoon we had one more activity planned: the breaking of the piñata. The five participants lined up for their shot at the red chili. After many valiant tries, Santiago busted it wide open and everyone scrambled for candy.

It really was a great community event. The Communication Committee would like extend special thank yous to everyone who helped make it great. The set up and break down are real chores and we appreciated the help.



*Above: Tess Harris, cookie contest winner*



*Left: Chris Alspach and Coco (second from left), pet contest winner*







## 2025 FIREWISE COMMUNITY EVENT RECAP

**T**he annual Rancho Viejo Firewise Community Event took place on May 3, 2025, with registration and supplies—including construction-sized trash bags, gloves, coffee, donuts, and water—distributed at The Village Park (North Association).

La Entrada's turnout was fantastic! We had 37 registered participants, doubling last year's attendance. Thanks to the increased volunteer effort, we were able to significantly expand our defensible space, the primary goal of the Firewise program. This progress directly contributes to reducing wildfire risks in our community.

If you haven't yet, we invite you to take a walk through the open spaces and see the difference your neighbors have made:

- Via Orilla Dorado (backside)
- Via Punto Nuevo (backside)

### Firewise is Ongoing

Firewise isn't just a one-day event—it's a season-long effort. Many of the hours submitted for certification come from work done on individual properties throughout the year. Whether you clean up your own yard or hire someone to do it, please report your hours to help our community maintain Firewise certification.

Submit your hours to Serenity ([SLucero@hoamco.com](mailto:SLucero@hoamco.com)) by September 1st. If you need a reporting form, just reach out.

### A Big Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to:

- Our amazing volunteers and HOA managers who helped with registration and supply distribution
- All those who did the hard, hands-on cleanup work
- The Firewise Committee members
- Resident Leader Marcia Kaplan
- Neighborhood Watch, for their generous sponsorship of gloves and trash bags

**Together, we're making La Entrada**

**a safer, stronger community.**

**Thank you for your continued support and  
commitment to wildfire prevention!**



*Invasive Salt Cedar in front of the wall, 3-31-2025*



*Removed Salt Cedar in front of the wall, 5-6-2025*

## Out-to-Brunch Outings *by Freddie Quagliana*

Our Rancho Viejo monthly brunch outings are still going strong.

Every second Friday of the month a group of Rancho Viejo residents, and friends outside the community, meet at various family-owned restaurants for brunch to enjoy local flavors and camaraderie.

These events are intended to foster a sense of community, a place for each of us to feel belonging and enjoy the company of others.

Although we have several standard go-to restaurants, recently I've explored other local options which are intended not only to provide variety, but



to give back to the larger Santa Fe community in helping restauranteurs and to spread the word about their establishments.

All are welcome to join in on the fun, so if anyone would like to start attending, or know of anyone who might enjoy getting together once a month, please feel free to email Freddie Quagliana at [fquag63@gmail.com](mailto:fquag63@gmail.com).

Also we are open to suggestions for your favorite local eateries we can all try. I hope to see you all soon!

## Pet Safety *by Sarah Henderson*

Spring and summer are upon us again and with them we need to be mindful of things that could adversely affect our companion animals. They are, of course, completely dependent upon our good will, kindness and competence in caring for them. Besides the deleterious effects of excessive heat—dehydration, sunburn, scorched paws—there are numerous diseases to look out for. According to the Humane Society, tick-borne diseases such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme Disease are endemic. Others I had never heard of include Babesiosis (parasitic) and Ehrlichiosis (bacterial), both with ticks as the vector.

Then of course there are the flea-borne illnesses, Plague (!), Tularemia (yikes); and a fungal disease lurking in the soil, Valley Fever. This latter, according to the website, is one to which “dogs in New Mexico are susceptible, particularly in low desert regions”.

On a related cautionary note: rattlesnakes flourish here. Another reason to keep your dog leashed while on a walk. There are also rattlesnake aversion classes, what a great idea!

Wishing you and your fur babies a safe and fun summer!



### SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, August 2**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**HOA sponsored BBQ  
at the Sales Office**

### Guidelines to Submit Newsletter Articles

**W**ould you like to write an article for the newsletter? What about concerns or suggestions for the Communication Committee? See below for the guidelines for submissions.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or concerns for the Communication Committee, please send them by email to Serenity Lucero, [SLucero@hoamco.com](mailto:SLucero@hoamco.com). She is the contact person for repairs, DRC approvals, traffic, pet issues, complaints, and suggestions for improvement.

If you would like to submit an article for the La Entrada newsletter, please send it directly to Serenity Lucero, our HOA Manager at [SLucero@hoamco.com](mailto:SLucero@hoamco.com).

Please submit the article in the body of an email, ready for publishing, including proofreading, editing, captions, logos, and active web links. If you have a photo with your article, please submit it separately. Attach both the article and photo to an email to Serenity by the 15th of the month prior to the publication month at the very latest.

If approved by the Communication Committee, you will be notified and the article will go in the next newsletter. If it is submitted after the deadline, it may

be placed in the next issue of La Entrada Community News. Any questions about writing or submitting articles should be directed only to Serenity at [SLucero@hoamco.com](mailto:SLucero@hoamco.com).

Newsletter publication: La Entrada Community News is usually published around the beginning of the publishing month. It will be announced in an email from Serenity and posted on the La Entrada website at <http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org/home.asp>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Serenity, our HOAMCO Manager of our HOA at [SLucero@hoamco.com](mailto:SLucero@hoamco.com).

#### Deadlines for Submitting Articles for La Entrada Community News

- By Feb. 15th for the March newsletter
- By May 15th for the June newsletter
- By August 15th for the September newsletter
- By November 15th for the December newsletter

### Stay Connected

Has someone new moved onto your block? Have you just arrived? Here are a few resources that will help you or your neighbors stay up to date with La Entrada alerts and activities.

**1.** Our HOA has its own website: <https://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org/home.asp>. You can find local resources, announcements, and past newsletters here. You can also sign up to receive website and community alerts by contacting Serenity Lucero, our HOA manager, at [SLucero@HOAMCO.com](mailto:SLucero@HOAMCO.com) or 505-924-5978 x2415.

**2.** Stay in the loop with safety and emergency alerts by using Alert Santa Fe at <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/registration/registrationLanding.action>. Alerts include notifications about wildfires and smoke, traffic and road closures, and severe weather. Alerts may also include water advisories, road closures, power outages, evacuations, and lock down situations, etc.

**3.** Finally, if you are on Facebook, you can request to join our private HOA group where members post about their recent outings. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/laentradarv/>