

November 2025



The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
WILDFIRE PREVENTION • EQUESTRIAN HIGHLIGHTS
WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER DAN SPARKS



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FOR SALE

25281 DERBYHILL DRIVE

LISTED FOR \$4,250,000

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20,000 SF LOT



FOR SALE

24992 BUCKSKIN DRIVE

LISTED FOR \$4,195,000

5-BR | 3.5-BA | APPROX. 4,444 SF
30,928 SF LOT



FOR SALE

25611 RANGEWOOD ROAD

LISTED FOR \$3,600,000

5-BR | 4-BA | APPROX. 4,049 SF
28,400 SF LOT



FOR LEASE

26421 BROKEN BIT LANE

\$8,500/PER MONTH

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12,760 SF LOT

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BRAD FELDMAN

Partner | 949.678.5198
Brad.Feldman@elliman.com
DRE#: 01437125

JACCI PEARCE

Partner | 949.529.6924
Jacci.Pearce@elliman.com
DRE#: 01910578

TRENT MASON

Partner | 949.322.6977
Trent.Mason@elliman.com
DRE#: 02018104

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 **Douglas Elliman**

Broker #01947727



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Save The Date



11/22/2025
The Cobblestone Ramblers
at The Watering Hole
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

12/7/2025
Christmas Party with Santa
and Mrs. Claus at The
Watering Hole
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

12/10/2025
Holiday Home Decorating
Contest - Enter to win!

On The Cover:
HALL PASS AT THE
FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL 2025

Community Contacts



25211 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Phone: (949) 425-1477

Brian Mitchell | General Manager
bmitchell@nelliegailranch.org

Rob R. This | Operations Manager
rthis@nelliegailranch.org

Jeff Hinkle | Facilities & Compliance Manager
hinkle@nelliegailranch.org

Diane Goodchild | Community Associate
goodchild@nelliegailranch.org

Brenda Weber | Financial Transactions Coordinator
weber@nelliegailranch.org

David De La Mora | Communications Coordinator
ponyexpress@nelliegailranch.org

www.nelliegailranch.org

Board of Directors

Mark Fisk	PRESIDENT
Loree Blough	VICE PRESIDENT
Dan Sparks	SECRETARY
John Park	CO-TREASURER
Holly Permeah	CO-TREASURER

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The *Pony Express* publishes articles that are relevant to the community or are directly related to property maintenance and community activities in NGROA and are in support of the Association's purpose to preserve property values within the community. The Editor reserves the right to refuse, edit or modify any submitted material and the editor's decision is final. Submissions selected for publication by the Editor may be edited according to the space limitations of each specific issue. Publisher cannot be held responsible for copyright breaches arising from any materials supplied by a third party. NGROA Board of Directors and employees are not responsible for any errors, inaccuracies or claims in articles or advertisements printed herein. Any opinions stated herein are solely those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of NGROA or its representatives.

NOTE: When community events take place, photographers may be present to take photos that may be used in this publication.



25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Phone: (949) 831-6660

Clubhouse Reception
clubhouse@nelliegailranch.org



25202 Nellie Gail Road, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Office: (949) 425-1477

Cell: (949) 371-1595

Nikki Garcia | Equestrian Center Manager
ngarcia@nelliegailranch.org

Equestrian Center EMERGENCY: (949) 533-7282

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Important Numbers

(949) 425-1477	Association Office
(949) 831-6660	Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis and Swim Club
(949) 533-7282	Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center
(949) 533-7282	Equestrian Center (Emergency)
(949) 439-2251	Quezada Professional Landscape
(877) 728-0446	CR&R (Trash Pickup)
(949) 831-2500	Moulton Niguel Water District
(800) 411-7343	SDG&E
(800) 427-2200	Southern California Gas Company
(949) 470-3045	Animal Control (Mission Viejo Shelter)

County of Orange

911	Emergencies
211	County Service Information
(949) 770-6011	Sheriff's Dispatch - Non Emergency
(949) 707-2600	City of Laguna Hills
(949) 707-2650	Laguna Hills City - Weed Abatement
(800) 611-7343	SDG&E Emergencies/Outages
(714) 573-6000	Fire Authority
(714) 971-2421	Vector Control

Assessment Remittance Address

Please remit all assessments to:
P.O. Box, 30354, Tampa, FL 33630-3354
or drop off at the Association Office.



Mission Statement

To take all reasonable and necessary steps to preserve and improve the unique value of living in Nellie Gail Ranch and to enhance the overall sense of community.

Board of Directors Meetings

The next Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is scheduled for **November 18, 2025** and will be held at the Association Clubhouse.

Executive Session starts at - 6:00 pm and Open Session - 7:30 pm

The agenda will be posted in the Association Office and on the NGR website on the Friday prior to the meeting, or you may contact the Association Office to obtain agenda information. All homeowners are welcomed and encouraged to attend the meetings.

Architectural Review Committee

Architectural Review Committee meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Completed applications must be submitted to the Association Office at least 10 business days prior to the ARC meeting. Please check the calendar in each issue of the Pony Express for exact submittal deadlines and ARC meeting dates.

Association Committees

The Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association has several committees comprised of Homeowners that provide support to the Board of Directors on selected Community topics. For more information or to join any of our Committees, please contact the Association Office at (949) 425-1477.

Architectural Review Committee
Emergency Preparedness Committee
Equestrian Committee
Events Committee
Fire Prevention Committee
Historical Committee
Landscape Committee
Security Committee
Trails Committee

MANAGER'S MESSAGE



BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

By Brian Mitchell

At the October 21, 2025 meeting, the Board accepted the resignation of Director **Joyce Taylor** after 7-1/2 years of volunteer effort in support of the Nellie Gail Ranch community. Joyce was instrumental in bringing Pickleball to Nellie Gail Ranch and renovating the clubhouse and restrooms. At the same meeting the Board approved appointment of **Dan Sparks** to fill the remainder of the term through June 2026. Transitions of Directors provide a dual opportunity, appreciation is expressed to the outgoing member and a warm welcome extended to the new volunteer.



Dan Sparks

Dan has been a Nellie Gail Ranch homeowner since 2015 but his roots here go deep as he was raised here. He shared the following on his appointment application:

Biographical Information: I was born and raised in the OC, moved to Nellie Gail at 13. I went the SMCHS then went to play soccer at UCLA. Married with 3 awesome children. I started in the recruiting industry 26 years ago, then started my own recruitment company in 2010 and Real Estate company 2021. Very involved with my

children's schools and sports team. We are big into pets, I feel like we have a zoo. I love going to Big Bear, watching Movies and Sports with family and friends.

I have lived in Nellie Gail for 38 years and feel it is the perfect place to raise a family and one of the best communities in the county. I feel beyond lucky to have grown up here and still live here. My mom still lives in the neighborhood as well. I still love walking the neighborhood, taking the horse trails, going to concerts and activities, saying hi to friends and enjoying our clean and beautiful neighborhood. I want our community to be where neighbors get along, help each other and feel safe. I want our children to also feel lucky and feel like Nellie Gail is a place where they want to raise their families as well. I feel like anyone who can, should give back and volunteer when possible. I want to serve on the Board to help ensure Nellie Gail stays the same incredible neighborhood it has been the past 38 years for the next 38 years for my children.

As Nellie Gail Ranch enters its **50th year**, **Dan** becomes the **72nd Nellie Gail Ranch homeowner** to serve as a Board Member. So we welcome **Dan**, extend a thank you to **Joyce** and recognize the efforts of all who have served. That appreciation extends also to the countless Committee Members who have served in various capacities over the years, all of whom make Nellie Gail Ranch what it is today.

THE
WATERING HOLE
WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

LIVE
MUSIC

Saturday

NOVEMBER

22

6:30-9:30

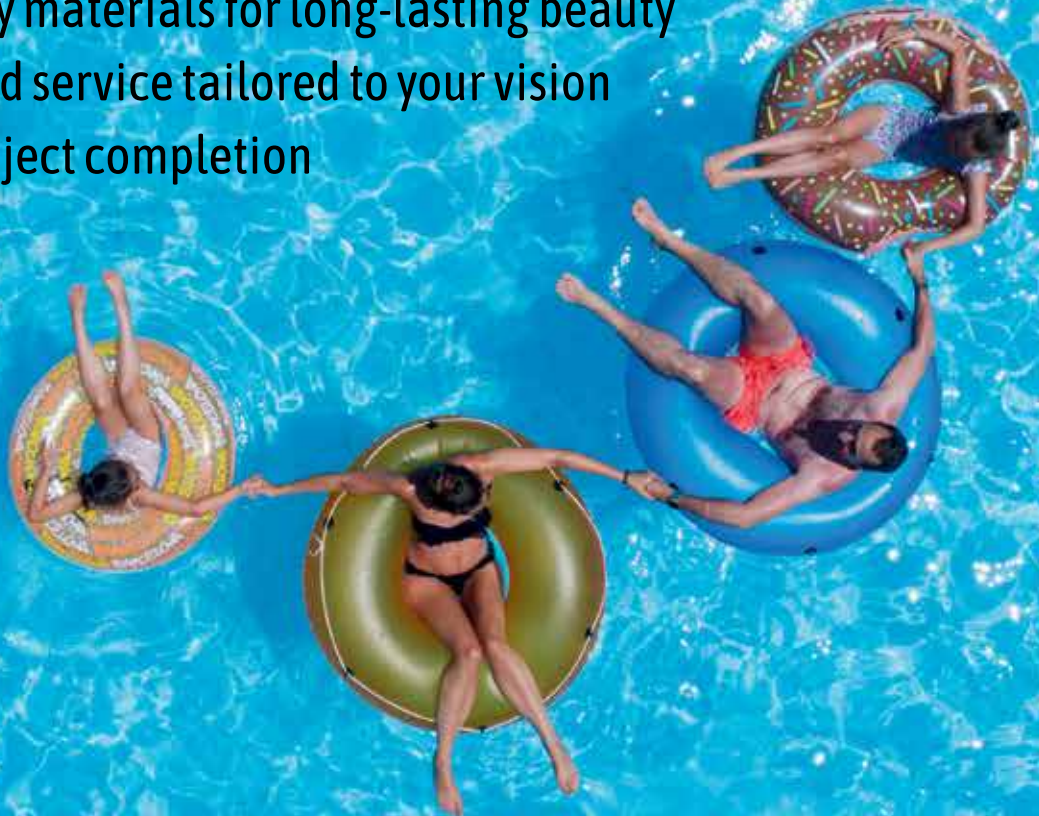
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Coatings

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Product types, application requirements and performance limitations

Buildings threatened by wildfire can be mitigated through the development of a strategy that addresses the built environment, vegetation, and other combustible materials on the property. Use of noncombustible materials and ember-resistant design features are examples of strategies that reduce the vulnerability of homes to wildfire. The use of coatings has been suggested as a strategy to provide enhanced protection against extended radiant heat and flame contact exposures for homes located in wildfire-prone areas, particularly when a combustible siding product is installed and other homes are nearby. In these cases, it can be argued that applying a coating is a less expensive option than replacing a combustible product with one that is noncombustible.

COMMON USE OF COATINGS

The term “coatings” is a generic term referring to products that are applied to various building components. These building components can be combustible or noncombustible materials and are used to provide added protection from various environmental factors. The most common use for coatings applied on wood, and wood-based products, is to provide protection from water or water vapor where the coating reduces the rate that moisture enters and leaves. Depending on additives and the chemical makeup, coatings can also improve the fire retardancy or fire resistance of the wood or other combustible material.

GELS

Another example of a coating is what's commonly referred to as a “gel.” Gels are water absorbent polymers that can be applied to a building component to provide temporary protection from radiant heat or flames. You may have heard of these products being applied to homes when a wildfire is threatening. Once applied, the absorbed water starts to evaporate, whether or not the wildfire actually arrives, and therefore the time that a gel coating is effective is limited. The effective time is on the order of hours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the current performance limitations of coatings, we recommend other proven mitigation strategies to reduce the vulnerabilities of homes to wildfire, such as using ember-resistant design features and creating and maintaining the home ignition zones. For more information visit: disastersafety.org/wildfire



©Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Photo Captions:

- A** Gel product applied to wood siding.
- B** Using a wet-film gauge to ensure the film thickness is adequate.

INTUMESCENT PAINTS

A common example of a coating providing enhanced performance when exposed to fire is intumescent paints (i.e., they form a film when dry). When an intumescent coating is heated by elevated levels of radiant heat, or flames, it can swell up to 20 times the original dry-film thickness; creating an insulation layer that protects the combustible building component.

Intumescent coatings are commonly used in interior applications. However, caution is advised - when these products are used in an exterior application. Researchers at the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory reported that fire-retardant coatings have an uncertain “shelf life” when used in an exterior location and would therefore need to be reapplied regularly.

If an intumescent coating is being considered, ensure the manufacturer has provided test results demonstrating enhanced performance, either after a defined accelerated weathering period or an extended natural weathering period. Acknowledging their uncertain performance when used in exterior applications, the use of coatings is not allowed for compliance with provisions of the California Building Code, Chapter 7A, which provides requirements for building in wildfire-prone areas in California.



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READY INFORMATION ABOUT WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND HOME HARDENING

BY LULU HALLENBECK, NELLIE GAIL RANCH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Since the disastrous Palisades fire in January 2025, CAL FIRE has been very proactive and has reclassified Fire Hazard Safety Zones (FHSZ). While Nellie Gail Ranch has not been designated by CAL FIRE as located in one of the three levels of FHSZ, Nellie Gail Ranch residents should be aware of good practices of home hardening their properties for fire prevention and in the case of a wildfire. Only a few weeks ago, there was a brush fire in the Beacon Hills section of Laguna Niguel. It was quickly extinguished but it is a reminder that it can happen here in Nellie Gail Ranch also.

City of Laguna Hills is required to have the FHSZ map of the area available to residents, as well as the local Fire Hazard Map. Both maps can be accessed through the City of Laguna Hills website: <https://www.lagunahillsca.gov/591/Fire-Hazard-Severity-Zone>

or by scanning the QR code below



The Fire Prevention Committee and the Nellie Gail HOA have been publishing articles about wildfire prevention for the last few months. This information is available on the Nellie Gail Ranch HOA site on the Fire Prevention Committee page: <https://nelliegailranch.org/fire-prevention-committee/>

or by scanning the QR code below.



Below is a short list of items that can be done at little or no cost to help home harden properties more. Visit Orange County Fire Authority for more tips at their Ready, Set, Go! site by scanning the QR Code below.



- **Remove debris and dried brush from yards.**

Owners should check their property. Dried brush and debris that collects at fences and down slopes should be removed.

- **Palm trees require maintenance.**

Palm fronds are very incendiary and periodically the old hanging fronds should be removed.



- **Wood chips should not be used in areas directly adjacent to the house structure.**

Use an alternative mulch instead. Wood chips are very flammable.

- **Clean your gutters.**

Even if there are no sizeable trees on or near your property, leaves, pine needles and other dried debris can accumulate. Clean out gutters if needed. One step further would be to add mesh or slotted gutter guards to your gutters if there are many trees around the house.



- **Be proactive about roofing.**

Home insurance companies are looking for reasons to cancel home insurance policies. Drones are being used to check for mildew, dry rot and general condition of the roof. Check the condition of your roof and be ahead of the game.



Please do not hesitate to contact the **Fire Prevention Committee through the Nellie Gail HOA office** for any questions, tips and resources. The committee is here to help Nellie Gail Ranch residents be firesafe.



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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS & MINUTES

THE MINUTES & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The Minutes and Architectural Review results are accessible online for your convenience. You can easily view them by scanning the QR codes provided below:

Architectural Review

September 2025

QR Code



Minutes

September 2025

QR Code



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- ✓ SWIMMERS ATTEND UP TO 2 SWIM PRACTICES PER WEEK
- ✓ SWIM MEET PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED



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- ✓ SWIM MEET PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

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EQUESTRIAN CENTER NEWS

TEAM HAYDEN CLARKE SHINES AT TVN

It was a fantastic week at TVN for Team Hayden Clarke, filled with top results and great team spirit. Congratulations to all of our riders on an outstanding show!

Destiny Stewart and Show Bill won The Zones Team Championship.

Nikki Garcia and Oet Pina placed 4th in the the 1.10m Amateur Class.

Lane Clarke and Venom won the \$25,000 1.40m Speed Classic, while Poseidon placed 3rd in the Schooling Hunter 3'.

Natalie Banis and VDL E-Cecilia took 1st in the \$1,000 U25 Jumper Classic, with additional strong rides aboard Cody 154 and Mayfield.

Estella Lindsey earned 4th in both the \$1,000 U25 Jumper Classic on Cash De Beaufour Z and the 1.20m Jumper with Shannonbay Chance Given.

Sydney Prager topped the \$500 1.05m Junior Jumper Classic on Poly D'or Van De Eedthoek and won the Dover Saddlery Hunter Seat Medal with Boy Wonder.

Other highlights included **Melina Nasab** placing 2nd in the 1.40m Jumper with **Dublin's Rubin Z**, **Lauren Katzenellenbogen** finishing 4th in the \$5,000 SJHF 1.35m Jumper Classic with **BP Wonder**. There were also strong rounds **Destiny Stewart**, **Ashley Terrell**, **Nicole Garcia**, and **Lily Zimmer**. To wrap up the week, **Natalie Banis** and **Estella Lindsey** of Team Hayden Clarke won the Jump Nee Karaoke for Charity, raising over \$2,500 for a great cause.

Congratulations to all riders and horses on another successful week at TVN!





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Junior Performance Players Celebrate a Summer of Success

Outstanding summer for our **Junior Performance Players**, who showcased their talent and dedication at USTA events across the region. From match play to championship wins, each athlete demonstrated impressive growth and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our USTA Event Winners:

Kailyn Martin, Aryan Choudhary, Sophia Shah, Milly Wu, Paisley Crutchfield, Stephanie Zhang, Emery Hill, and Ryon Mehdipour.

Their hard work and commitment paid off with strong results and well-earned victories. Great job to all of our Junior Performance Players—your success sets the tone for an exciting year ahead!



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venmo

Hosted by Chef Luigi

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Nellie Gail Ranch Turns 50

Be part of the Celebration!



Nellie Gail Ranch is turning 50 in November 2026, and we need you to help us celebrate this incredible milestone!

For five decades, our community has been more than just a place to live -it's been a way of life. From scenic trails and equestrian roots to neighborhood traditions and unforgettable moments, every resident has a story to tell.

As we honor our rich history, the Historical Committee is collecting stories, memories, and photos from those who have helped shape Nellie Gail Ranch into the special place it is today. Have a favorite memory? A photo that captures the spirit of our community? A story about what makes living here so unique? We want to hear it all!

This is your chance to be part of something meaningful, preserving the past and celebrating the future of Nellie Gail Ranch. Don't let these incredible memories fade. Share your stories and photos with us by contacting historicalcommittee@nelliegailranch.org Let's make this 50th anniversary unforgettable together!. Thank you! Your Nellie Gail Ranch Historical Committee



THE WATERING HOLE

WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

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THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE AIR !!! IS IT TIME TO SELL ???

If you have been considering selling your home, now may be the best time in many years. And it may be the best time for several years to come. The inventory of homes for sale is exceptionally low, and buyer demand remains high. Despite the doubling of interest rates, prices are holding strong for now. Please give me a call to discuss the details of moving up to a new home, or downsizing if the time is right for that lifestyle change.



Marty Samuel
(949) 643-1321



DRE #00452321

**Want to stay updated on all Nellie Gail listing & sales activity?
Email me for a free personalized MLS Portal: marty@martysamuel.com**

Nellie Gail sales based on MLS data since Oct 1989

Christmas Lights

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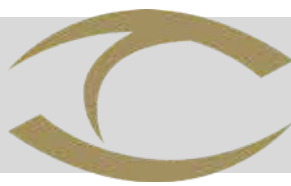
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The start of a new year is the perfect time to refresh and rejuvenate, and there is no better way to do so than with expert eyelid surgery from our oculoplastic surgeon, Ramin Tayani, M.D. Eyelid surgery, also known as blepharoplasty, can dramatically improve the appearance of tired or drooping eyelids, giving you a more youthful, rested, and vibrant look. In addition to cosmetic benefits, eyelid surgery can offer functional improvements. For some patients, excess upper eyelid skin can hang over the lashes and block part of their visual field. By lifting the lids, this surgery can enhance both appearance and sight. Whether you are considering upper, lower, or both eyelid procedures, Dr. Tayani brings precision, experience, and artistry to every surgery, ensuring results that are natural, balanced, and long-lasting.

Enhance Your Results with a Brow Lift

For those looking to further elevate their appearance, a brow lift can be combined with eyelid surgery to enhance the upper facial contour. This procedure lifts the brow area, creating a more open and refreshed look that complements your eyelids and overall facial harmony. By combining procedures, patients can achieve a comprehensive rejuvenation that addresses multiple concerns in a single recovery period.

Revitalize with CO2 Skin Resurfacing

To complete your transformation, consider CO2 skin resurfacing with ActiveFX™. This advanced ablative laser procedure targets fine lines, sun damage, and uneven skin texture, promoting smoother, healthier, and more youthful-looking skin. The device creates microscopic channels that stimulate collagen and elastic fiber production while leaving surrounding skin intact to speed healing. When paired with eyelid surgery, ActiveFX allows you to address both skin and structural concerns, providing a full facial refresh in time for the new year.



Plan During the Holidays

The holiday season offers an ideal opportunity to schedule your surgery and use your time off for recovery. The cooler temperatures and lower sun exposure can help protect healing skin, reduce swelling, and support a more comfortable recovery period. Eyelid surgery, combined with other aesthetic procedures like brow lift and ActiveFX, can be timed so that you return to your routine looking and feeling refreshed, revitalized, and ready to embrace the new year.

Gift Yourself or a Loved One

There is no better way to start the year than by investing in yourself or giving the gift of rejuvenation to someone you love. Eyelid surgery, brow lift, and skin resurfacing are meaningful gifts that provide lasting confidence and satisfaction. At Tayani Institute, our team is dedicated to guiding you through every step of your journey with expertise, compassion, and personalized care.

Begin the new year by embracing a refreshed, more youthful you. Learn how eyelid surgery with complementary procedures can help smooth away signs of aging, restore brightness to your eyes, and rejuvenate your overall appearance. Schedule a consultation with Tayani Institute today to discover how these personalized procedures can help you look younger and welcome the new year with renewed confidence.



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Jumping Riders



Natalie Banis and Boy Wonder

"Romeo" is a 11 yr old Hanoverian that competes in the National Derbies with his junior rider, International Derbies with Natalie, and the 3'3-3'6 Hunters. He is a well rounded, scopey, giving horse. Looking to please the rider and impress the judges with his bright personality.



Estella Lindsey and Cash de Beaufour Z

Cash, also known as "Louie", is an 8 yr old Zangersheide, bred and raised in France. He was recently imported to California in early August where he competed in the \$75k Grand Prix at The Oaks, placing 3rd in the U25. He is incredibly brave and scopey, everything you want in an upper level jumper.



Lane Clarke and Montreal GBL

"Monte," proudly owned by KnL Phillips, is an 8 yr old Dutch Warmblood we imported from Europe last year. Monte and Lane made their Grand Prix debut this year, highlighting with a 2nd and 4th place finish in two \$75k Grand Prixs, along with wins in 1.35m-1.40m divisions. This young and talented horse has a very promising future.

Dressage Riders



Elizabeth Naqvi's Dressage Journey

Elizabeth Naqvi's name is becoming familiar in the dressage community—not for a string of blue ribbons, but for her remarkable journey as a beginning dressage rider. With years of experience as a jumper, Elizabeth brings with her a wealth of horsemanship, courage, and an appetite for challenge. At the Saddles & Sips demonstration she showed the beauty of dressage: one defined not by soaring over fences, but by mastering the art of subtlety, harmony, and balance between horse and rider.



Cassie Cherry Nolte

is a Grand Prix Dressage rider, USDF Gold Medalist, and has represented the United States in multiple international competitions. She has called the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center home since 2015 and currently operates as an instructor, giving dressage lessons to riders of all levels. is a top competition mare and presently competing at the highest levels of dressage. Halli earned a '10' on her piaffe at her first international competition and has consistently placed in the top 5 at national year end competitions, including a top 10 at the prestigious Festival of Champions. When she isn't dancing in the dressage court, Halli loves cruising around Nellie Gail Ranch on the trails and enjoys eating bananas and oranges.



Hayden Clarke Sporthorses

At Hayden Clarke, we are dedicated to pairing riders with the right horses, whether through leasing, sales, or investment opportunities. Our program combines decades of experience, a strong international network, and a passion for developing both horses and riders to their fullest potential.

Horses Available

- Half Lease – Perfect for riders who want regular access to a quality horse without the full-time responsibility.
- Full Lease – For riders seeking the feel of ownership and priority access to one of our top horses.
- Sales Horses – A curated selection of competition-ready horses, from promising young talent to seasoned show ring partners.

Lane Clarke travels twice a year to Europe to source exceptional horses and also works closely with trusted partners across the United States to find the right fit for each client.

Olympic Syndicate Opportunity

We are excited to introduce the Hayden Clarke Syndicate, an exclusive investment opportunity for individuals passionate about show jumping and supporting Olympic-level sport.

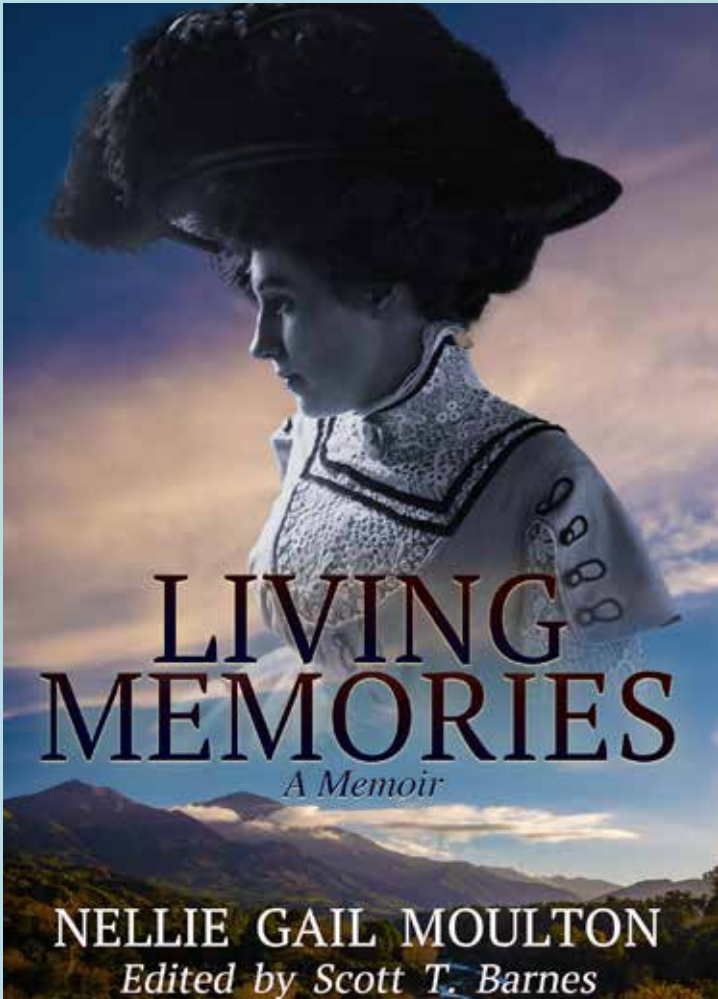
- Purpose: To acquire and support a world-class horse for Lane Clarke's Olympic campaign.
- Structure: A group of investors come together as syndicate members, sharing both the pride of ownership and the excitement of elite competition.
- Benefits:
 - Unique access to behind-the-scenes experiences at top international competitions.
 - Association with an Olympic-caliber athlete and horse.
 - Pride in contributing to the success of U.S. equestrian sport on the world stage.

The syndicate is designed to bring like-minded supporters together in a transparent, community-focused way, while offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of something truly historic.

✨ Whether you're looking for your next competition partner or interested in joining our syndicate, Hayden Clarke is committed to excellence at every level.



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April, a loving, reliable Nellie Gail resident, offers dog walking services. Call 949-310-4996 for a meet and greet.

BABY SITTING

I am a high school student and live in Nellie Gail and would love to babysit. Please contact Beeta at 209-981-5667

BABY SITTING

My daughter who's a junior in high school and lives in Nellie Gail would love to babysit and/or pet sit. She is responsible, good with kids, and loves animals. \$20/hr. Rosemary (949)-633-4194.

FLOWER POWER

Vine + Dandy, a Nellie Gail floral design studio, creates unique arrangements for same-day delivery, weddings, and events. Check IG: @vinedandy or www.vinedandy.com. Contact Michelle at 714-756-0412.

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High School math/science teacher, 30 years of experience. AP, Honors and Standard classes for math and physics including: Algebra I/II, Geometry, PreCalculus, AP Calculus AB/BC, and Physics A/B. AP/SAT. BSEE, UCLA. Call 714-296-2544 or email dkrutcik@gmail.com, ask for Dave.

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My daughter who's a high school student and lives in Nellie Gail would like to start babysitting and/or pet sitting. She is responsible, good with kids, and loves animals. \$15/hr. Rosemary (949)-633-4194.

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HUMANISTIC JUDAISM EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Pacific Community of Cultural Jews hosts bi-monthly social and educational events, including discussions, dining, book clubs, and holiday celebrations. Annual membership covers most events; non-members welcome. Catered Passover Seder on April 13. Contact Karen at PacifComm@aol.com or 714-739-1366.

ANY LADIES INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASKETBALL?

We meet at a park in Nellie Gail Saturdays at 8:30am. We would love to expand our group. No experience needed. We just love the outdoor, socializing and getting some exercise. Text me with any questions or to be added to the group. Rose (949) 633-4194.

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is a nonprofit, nondenominational Women's Club. Groups include book clubs, gadabouts (excursions), cards, walking, golfing, and potlucks. Monthly luncheons at different venues feature speakers or entertainment. Attendance is optional. We'd love you to join us, regardless of residency or duration in the area. Learn more at ncsvonline.org.

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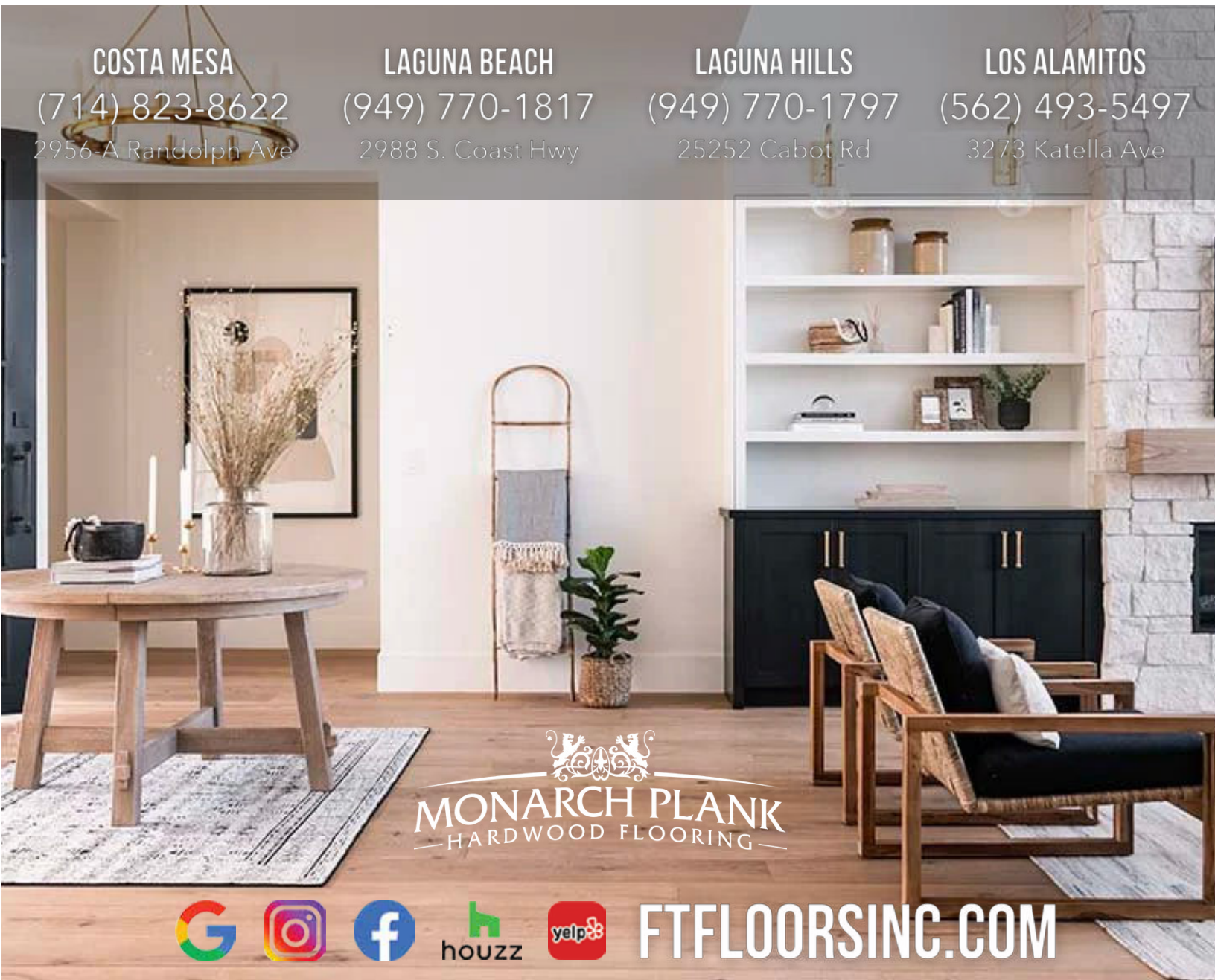
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Family Fall **FESTIVAL**

The Nellie Gail Ranch Family Fall Festival brought residents and families together for an afternoon of fun, food, and community spirit. Guests enjoyed food from The Watering Hole, crafts, games, and face painting for all ages. The night ended with a lively performance by Hall Pass, leaving everyone smiling. Thank you to our generous sponsors Amy Moossavian at Megan Bixler Group for making the event possible.





HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST

*Enter!
to Win!*

Judging takes place Wed & Thu
December 10-11, 2025

**Enter your home or nominate a home
to be included in the contest!**

Please have all lights and decorations on during judging.

All winning homes will receive a special prize with a yard sign to proudly display and will be featured in January's Pony Express. GOOD LUCK!



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Scan QR code to fill out the entry form online or go to
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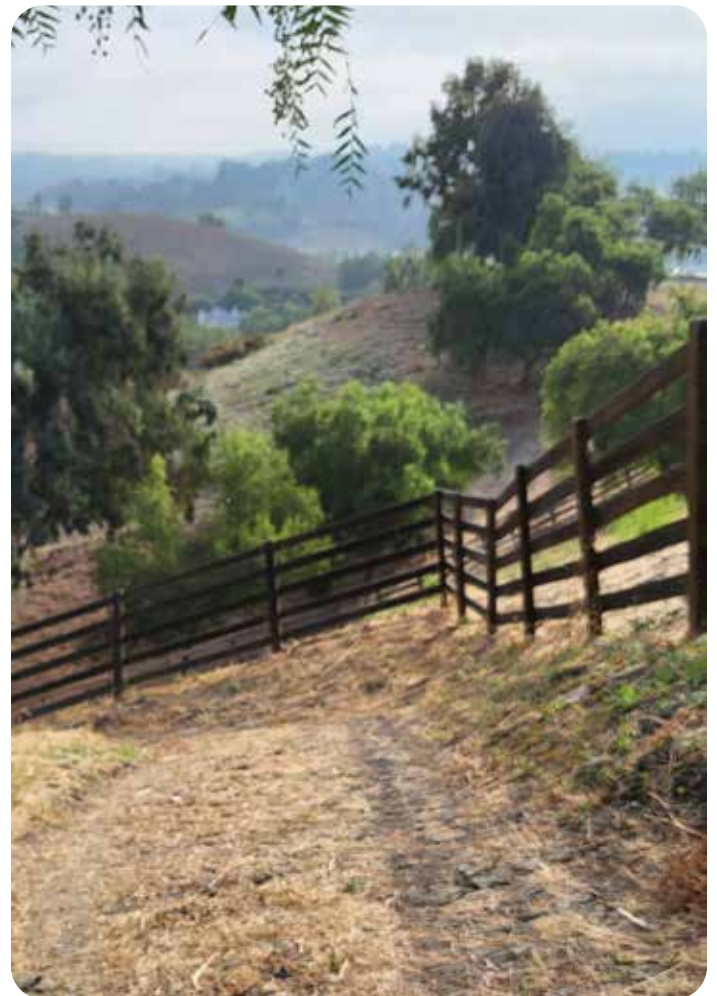
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CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF NELLIE GAIL RANCH

SUBMIT YOUR TRAIL PHOTOS!

Nellie Gail Ranch's trails provide a serene and picturesque escape, offering everything from tranquil, tree-lined pathways to wide, open spaces with breathtaking views. These trails are one of the community's most cherished features, providing residents with the perfect setting for walks, rides, or simply enjoying nature. Recently, we received two stunning photos from the Sweetwater Trail that perfectly capture the peaceful beauty that make our trails so special. These images remind us of the natural wonders we have right here in our community, and we want to continue sharing these moments with all of our residents.

Now, we encourage you to showcase your own experiences by submitting photos that highlight the scenic beauty of our trails. Whether it's a quiet morning walk, a sunset ride, or a vibrant view of the surrounding hills, your trail photos help us celebrate the unique outdoor spaces that make Nellie Gail Ranch such a wonderful place to live. Simply email your high-resolution images to ponyexpress@nelliegailranch.org and your photo could be featured in future issues of our magazine. Let's come together as a community to appreciate and share the beauty of the trails we are so fortunate to enjoy!



Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Tina Corso & Pamela Fraser

Summer went by so fast this year. It really only showed up at the end of August, and now it's already starting to turn into fall. I'm beginning to prepare my orchard for the dormant months ahead.

I've been using organic, store-bought fertilizer on my fruit trees—not a large amount, just a cup or two per tree. I don't want the trees to push new growth right now, but I do want the soil to absorb the nutrients for spring. Since organic fertilizers release more slowly than synthetic ones, this timing works well.

My worm compost is full from all the summer fruit scraps, and I'm hoping the worms break it all down in time for spring use. Watermelon rinds, in particular, provide a lot of organic matter, and really, all melon rinds can fill up a bin fast. They give the worms plenty of food and warmth to carry them through the colder months. By spring, I'll be ready to add both the finished compost—and some worms along with it—to all of my fruit trees.

Keeping fallen leaves in place provides added nutrients and protection from the cold, especially for young roots. This is essential for avocados, whose root systems are 60% to 70% surface roots. Allowing

this mat of organic matter to form also helps hold in moisture. At this time of year, I'm raking up the fallen leaves and piling them around the base of each tree's canopy.

It's been a tough year for figs here in Orange County because of a new pest—the Black Fig Fly. Here are a few suggestions on how to fight back:

- Monitor fig trees regularly for signs of infestation, such as damaged fruit.
- Use yellow sticky traps to catch adult flies and reduce their population.
- Apply organic insecticides, like neem oil, to deter larvae and adults.
- Encourage natural predators, such as parasitic wasps, to help control the fly population.
- Remove and dispose of any infested fruit to prevent further spread.
- Maintain tree health through proper watering and fertilization to boost resilience.

My Peter's Honey Fig produced wonderfully this season, but my Strawberry Verde suffered from the Black Fig Fly. I'm carefully relocating some figs to different areas of the yard by regrowing them from





cuttings. Each year, fig trees are cut back, and those branches can easily be rooted to grow new trees. My Panache Fig produced very little fruit, but at least it was pest-free. Figs have become something of an experiment—climate change is making them less adaptable here.

The same goes for guavas and cherimoyas, which also struggled, while the sapote had a great year. The avocados have set a nice crop, though they still need more time on the tree. They bloomed late this year, but it looks promising.

The Nellie Gail Garden Group met at Tina Frey's house for our third annual pumpkin decorating event. They really came out beautifully! The group is getting the hang of it now after three years of experience. It's such a fun event—you could even host one yourself with some friends and neighbors.

These pumpkins last well into Thanksgiving. We grow the succulents in a container that we glue onto the pumpkin. This way, we won't lose the succulents, as they will keep growing as long as you water them a bit. Afterwards, we can compost our pumpkins and replant the succulents.

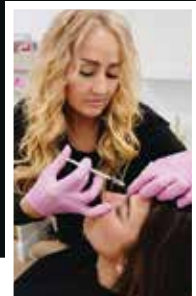
Now is also the time of year to visit local nurseries for end-of-year tree sales. You can plant in the fall as

well as in the spring. Always look up and ask how to properly plant your tree.

Tina Corso, Tina Frey, and Pam Digivoni
tlc8386@gmail.com for information on our group.



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RANCH RECIPE



THANKSGIVING POT PIE

INGREDIENTS:

1. 2 CUPS LEFTOVER TURKEY, SHREDDED
2. 1 CUP MIXED VEGETABLES (PEAS, CARROTS, CORN)
3. 1 ½ CUPS TURKEY GRAVY
4. 1 PIE CRUST (STORE-BOUGHT OR HOMEMADE)
5. 2 TBSP BUTTER, MELTED

PREPARATION:

1. PREHEAT OVEN TO 400°F.
2. MIX TURKEY, VEGETABLES, AND GRAVY IN A LARGE BOWL.
3. LINE A PIE DISH WITH CRUST AND FILL WITH THE MIXTURE.
4. BRUSH TOP WITH MELTED BUTTER AND SEAL EDGES.
5. BAKE 25–30 MINUTES UNTIL GOLDEN; REST 10 MINUTES BEFORE SERVING.

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Savings Ends	3	4	5 Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Watering Hole 5pm to Close	6 Cuisine Master Class @ The Watering Hole 6:00pm-8:00pm	7	8 Meet Chef Luigi @ The Watering Hole Complimentary Appetizers
9	10	11 ***** VETERANS DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED • Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole • ARC Meeting at 6:00pm @ The Association Office	12 Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Watering Hole 5pm to Close	13	14	15
16	17	18 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole • Board Meeting 7:30pm @ Clubhouse	19 Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Watering Hole 5pm to Close	20	21 ARC Submittal Deadline for December 9th meeting	22 The Cobblestone Ramblers @ The Watering Hole 6:30pm-9:30pm
23	24	25 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole	26 Wine Down Wednesdays @ The Watering Hole 5pm to Close	27 	28	29
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