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November 2026

The Pony Express

Nellie Gail Ranch Community Newsletter



INSIDE: 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION • EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION NEWS

FELDMAN | MASON

THE REAL ESTATE GROUP

Featured Listings by The Feldman Mason Group



24852 Buckboard Lane

7 Beds | 5 Baths | 5,075 Sq. Ft
0.8 Acre Lot

Listed for $4,995,000



27401 Lost Colt Drive

5 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,886 Sq. Ft.
33,000 Sq. Ft. Lot

Listed for $3,350,000



24891 Buckskin Drive

5 Beds | 4 Baths | 4,533 Sq. Ft.
28,000 Sq. Ft. Lot

Sold for $$3,700,000



27070 Hidden Trail Road

5 Beds | 6.5 Baths | 5,733 Sq. Ft.
0.83 Acre Lot

Sold for $4,310,000



25402 Gallup Circle

4 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 5,000 Sq. Ft.
17,000 Sq. Ft. Lot

Sold for $3,850,000



27773 Hidden Trail Road

5 Beds | 4.5 Baths | 3,886 Sq. Ft.
21,600 Sq. Ft. Lot

Sold for $3,072,500



25582 Rangewood Road

4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,865 Sq. Ft.
19,800 Sq. Ft. Lot

Sold for $2,840,000

Curious What Your Nellie Gail Home Is Worth?

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A FREE COMPARATIVE MARKET ANALYSIS ON YOUR PROPERTY!



Brad Feldman

Founding Partner
brad@feldmanmasongroup.com | **949.678.5198**
DRE#: 01437125

Trent Mason

Founding Partner
trent@feldmanmasongroup.com | **949.322.6977**
DRE#: 02018104

Tarah Mason

Sales Partner
tarah@feldmanmasongroup.com | **949.525.3077**
DRE#: 02130002

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Save The Date

11/01/2026
Halloween Challenge Play
(Pickleball Event)
at The Clubhouse
9:30am - 1:30pm

11/15/2026
Not So Serious
(Tennis & Pickleball Event)
at The Clubhouse
1:00pm - 5:00pm

On The Cover:
Then and Now
50th Anniversary Celebration

Community Contacts

NELLIE GAIL RANCH
OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

Brent Tickel | Facilities & Compliance Manager
btickel@nelliegailranch.org

Diane Goodchild | Community Associate
goodchild@nelliegailranch.org

Brenda Weber | Financial Transactions Coordinator
weber@nelliegailranch.org

Norma LeBaron| Events Coordinator
Nlebaron@nelliegailranch.org

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

www.nelliegailranch.org

NELLIE GAIL RANCH
TENNIS AND SWIM CLUB

25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Phone: (949) 831-6660

Clubhouse Reception
clubhouse@nelliegailranch.org

NELLIE GAIL RANCH
EQUESTRIAN CENTER

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

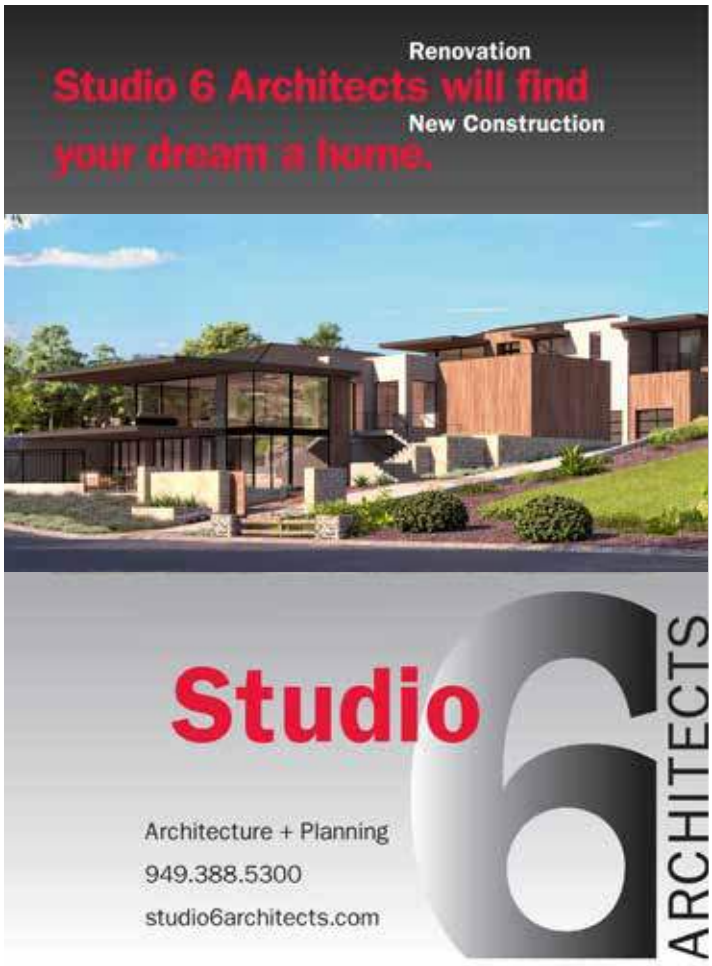
Board of Directors

Mark Fisk	**PRESIDENT**
Loree Blough	**VICE PRESIDENT**
Dan Sparks	**SECRETARY**
Holly Permeh	**TREASURER**
Josh Nessa	**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.



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
(657) 825-8930	The Watering Hole
(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 17, 2026,** 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

Nellie Gail Ranch Historical Society

Landscape Committee

Security Committee

Trails Committee

Directors Message



NELLIE GAIL RANCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

By Loree Blough

I am just returning home from the 50 year celebration of our wonderful community! The theme was **"Nellie Gail Ranch Then & Now".** As I visited the many booths I was struck by how much this community has grown and more importantly how it has been shaped by volunteerism. We have had many caring homeowners over our 50 years who have spent countless volunteer hours turning Nellie Gail Ranch into something truly special. We are a small-town community that cares about our neighbors, looks out for our children & animals, enjoys 26 miles of horse trails and has many special amenities, yet we live ½ a mile from the 5 freeway!

This didn't happen by accident. It happened by neighbors, Committee Members, Board Members and staff working together to make decisions that guided Nellie Gail Ranch in this direction!

So **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed over the years to shape this special place we live. Thank you to all of the volunteers who planned & worked booths at our celebration. You remind us of how Nellie Gail Ranch has grown & in what a special direction it has taken.

Please enjoy the collage of pictures within this edition that truly capture the love in this community.









If you are not currently involved, I urge you to join a committee, work on a project, check in on an old neighbor, or reach out to a new neighbor. Let's continue to protect and build on the unique things that make Nellie Gail Ranch such a special place!

See you around the Ranch, Loree

WELCOME GUESTS AND BOARDERS OF NELLIE GAIL RANCH

SIGN *Up* BELOW

WAIVER FOR GUEST USE OF THE TRAILS, ASSOCIATION ARENAS, AND PARKS

OPEN YOUR CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE

HOVER YOUR SCREEN OVER THE QR CODE

CLICK THE POP-UP NOTIFICATION

As a reminder, guest use waivers are required for use of association trails, parks and arenas by anyone who does not own property in Nellie Gail Ranch.

Architectural Reviews

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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

Minutes
September 2026
QR Code

Architectural Review
October 2026
QR Code

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nellie Gail Realty

Tony Swift broker

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View Active & Sold Listings on My Webiste:

Nellie Gail Ranch.net

Tony@TonySwift.com

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2026

Holiday PICKLEBALL

ROUND ROBIN



DECEMBER 5TH & 6TH

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- Men's 3.0 (50+)
- Women's 3.0 (50+)
- Men's 3.5 (50+)
- Women's 3.5 (50+)
- Men's 4.0 (50+)
- Women's 4.0 (50+)
- Mixed Doubles 3.5 (50+)
- Mixed Doubles 4.0 (50+)
- Men's 3.5 (Under 50)
- Women's 3.5 (Under 50)

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THE PRIORITY CENTER

NOT SO SERIOUS

Smash & Social

-TENNIS & PICKLEBALL-

TOURNAMENT





DATE

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 15
2026

TIME

1:00 – 5:00 PM

CHECK-IN OPENS
AT 12:30 PM

FEES

PLAYER
TENNIS OR PICKLEBALL
$75

SPECTATOR
$30

FUN COMPETITION | GREAT COMPANY | FOOD & DRINKS | RAFFLES & PRIZES

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Laguna Hills, CA 92653

DP TENNIS ACADEMY



HOLIDAY CAMP

AGES
5-15yrs

DATES
Week 1: Dec 21st, 22nd, 23rd
Week 2: Dec 28th, 29th, 30th

TIME
10.30am - 2pm

COST
$250

LUNCH INFO
Please pack a lunch.

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RIDERS CELEBRATE IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES AT TEMECULA VALLEY NATIONAL

Two outstanding equestrian performances recently took center stage at the Temecula Valley National, showcasing exceptional skill, dedication, and the special bond between horse and rider.

Lane Clarke and Venom Capture $75,000 Grand Prix Victory

Lane Clarke and his horse, Venom, delivered a spectacular performance to claim victory in the $75,000 Diamond Legacy Branding Grand Prix.

The challenging course tested some of the competition's top riders, with only seven combinations advancing to the jump-off from a field of 39 starters.

Clarke and Venom rose to the occasion, completing an impressive clear round in just 40.753 seconds, securing the championship by a two-second margin.

Their outstanding performance highlighted the precision, athleticism, and teamwork required to succeed at the highest levels of show jumping.











NIKKI GARCIA AND PINA EARN THIRD PLACE HONORS

Adding to the excitement, Nikki Garcia and her horse, Pina, earned an impressive third-place finish in the Meter Five Classic at the Temecula Valley National.

Their accomplishment reflects the hard work, commitment, and partnership that define competitive equestrian sports.

The pair proudly celebrated their achievement with a well-deserved ribbon, marking another memorable moment in the competition.

Celebrating Equestrian Achievement

Congratulations to Lane Clarke and Venom on their remarkable Grand Prix victory, and to Nikki Garcia and Pina on their outstanding third-place finish! These accomplishments are a wonderful reminder of the dedication, perseverance, and passion that make the equestrian community so special.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
















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NGR 2026
Crime Stats


















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With more than 20 years of experience in private wealth management, Mai Park works with engineers, executives and families from companies like Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX and Tesla. She founded Mai Park Capital, in partnership with Pence Wealth Management, and specializes in developing wealth strategies tailored to the unique compensation structures and financial challenges of the aerospace and technology industries.

As a managing director at Pence Wealth Management, Mai is backed by an advisory team that manages over $2.7 billion in client assets and offers comprehensive services in retirement planning, tax strategy, estate coordination and investment management. She was recognized by Forbes as one of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Highlights

- Wealth Management
- Retirement Planning
- Tax-Efficient Strategies
- Portfolio Construction

Is a Roth Conversion Right for You?

Over the past year, one of the most common conversations I have had with clients has been about Roth conversions. In fact, I have helped more clients evaluate and implement Roth conversion strategies recently than at almost any other point in my career. The reason is simple: many successful professionals, executives, engineers, and retirees are becoming increasingly concerned about future taxes.

For decades, Americans were encouraged to save aggressively into traditional IRAs and 401(k)s. Those contributions often provided valuable tax deductions along the way. However, many investors are now discovering that while they received tax benefits during their working years, they may have unintentionally created a significant future tax liability.

As retirement approaches, many people begin asking the same question:

"How much of my retirement account do I actually get to keep after taxes?"

That question often leads to a discussion about Roth conversions.

What Is a Roth Conversion?

A Roth conversion is the process of moving money from a traditional IRA, rollover IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or certain employer-sponsored retirement plans into a Roth IRA. The key difference between these accounts is taxation. Traditional retirement accounts generally allow money to grow tax-deferred. However, every dollar withdrawn in retirement is generally subject to ordinary income taxes.

A Roth IRA works differently.

Once money is inside a Roth IRA, it can potentially grow tax-free, and qualified withdrawals are generally tax-free as well. A Roth conversion essentially means paying taxes today in exchange for potentially avoiding taxes on future growth and future withdrawals.

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COMPASS

NELLIE GAIL RANCH
OWNERS ASSOCIATION
25211 Empty Saddle Drive
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949.425.1477 Phone – 949.425.1478 Fax
www.nelliegailranch.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CAMERA DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY OCTOBER 21, 2026

At the Annual Meeting of June 9, 2021, Nellie Gail Ranch homeowners approved installation of license plate recognition cameras at ten Nellie Gail Ranch entries and the Association clubhouse. The membership approval included a Camera Data Management Policy that was ratified by the Board at its June 15, 2021 Board Meeting. Flock cameras were installed and operational around November of 2021.

It is proposed the Camera Data Management Policy be updated to incorporate additional provisions that define how ALPR data is collected, stored, shared, and used.

In accordance with California Civil Code Section 4360, homeowners are provided with a minimum of twenty eight (28) days notice of policies proposed for adoption. The Board invites your comments on the proposed Camera Data Management Policy which will be considered by the Board at its open session meeting set for **Tuesday, November 17, 2026.** The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Association Clubhouse.

Comments may be submitted via email to admin@nelliegailranch.org, may be delivered to the meeting, or may be mailed to 25211 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

VEHICLE AND LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION

CAMERA DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted _____, 202__

Pursuant to the authority granted the Association by the virtue of the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association Declaration of Restrictions ("CC&Rs"), the Board of Directors is adopting the following Vehicle and License Plate Recognition Camera Data Management Policy for the handling of video footage, still photos, data captured by the cameras and associated reporting:

1. Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association has partnered with Flock Safety, a national neighborhood security provider, to deploy a camera system at community entry and exit locations. The system has the capability to identify vehicle make and model and read license plates. The system may also capture images through motion activation of pedestrians, wildlife, etc.
2. Footage from Flock Safety cameras will not be actively monitored in real time.
3. Flock Safety, law enforcement personnel, Management and designated agents may review footage from the Flock Safety camera(s) if there is complaint of potential illegal activity in the neighborhood.
4. Footage from Flock Safety cameras will be stored in the cloud (Amazon Web Services) for a rolling period of 30 days. In the event of felony activity, footage may be downloaded for extended storage.
5. While the camera system will identify license plate information, Management and designated agents will not be able to obtain owner information from license plates. Law enforcement will be the responsible party for utilizing the license plate recognition information to identify registered vehicle owners.
6. Consistent with Civil Code §5215, homeowners will not be provided with copies of footage, photos or reports as such data will be treated as private and confidential Association records not subject to Member inspection. However, in event of subpoena or matters of litigation, such information may need to be turned over to comply with legal requirements.
7. The existence of Flock Safety cameras should NOT be relied upon by any individual for safety or security. Individuals are encouraged to take their own precautions to ensure the safety of their property.
8. Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association and Flock Safety are NOT law enforcement agencies and are NOT in a position to undertake law enforcement investigation activities. Any illegal activity should be reported to law enforcement immediately for investigation.
9. The cameras are NOT designed for or capable of being used for speed or red light infractions.
10. Captured footage and/or information will ONLY be used for the authorized purpose of promoting safety and security and shall in no instance be sold, shared or transferred for any other purpose.
11. All non-law enforcement operators including Management or designated agents must maintain a record of their system access which shall include: ○ The username / person and organization ○ Date and time ○ The purpose for accessing the system ○ The vehicle make, model, license plate or other data elements used to query the system
12. Authorized Users and Training. Access to the ALPR system and ALPR information shall be limited to the Association General Manager & the Operations Manager. The ALPR Custodian shall maintain an up-to-date list of authorized users. Each user shall complete training on authorized uses, confidentiality, applicable ALPR privacy requirements, security safeguards, access logs, disclosure restrictions, accuracy verification, and incident reporting. Users shall have individual credentials, shall not share credentials, and shall have access promptly revoked when authorization or service ends.

- continues on page 29

13. ALPR Custodian. Flock Safety shall serve as the official ALPR Custodian responsible for implementing and administering this Policy. The Custodian shall oversee authorized access, vendor coordination, access reviews, disclosures, accuracy complaints, retention and destruction, and reports of suspected noncompliance.

14. Security Monitoring and Audits. The Association maintains reasonable security procedures and practices to protect ALPR information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. Flock, as the provider of the ALPR system, maintains the operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards that secure ALPR information, including access controls, individual credentials, protection against unauthorized access, and enforcement of the retention period. The Association's role is limited to acting as a user. The ALPR Data Custodian monitors compliance with the legal requirements of the system and with applicable privacy laws by reviewing the records of access and promptly investigating any access or sharing that appears inconsistent with law.

15. Accuracy and Correction of Errors. The Association relies on Flock to ensure the accuracy of ALPR information. Nevertheless, any person who believes that ALPR information about their vehicle is inaccurate may contact the ALPR Data Custodian to request review and correction.

16. Requests, Sharing, and Transfers. ALPR information shall not be sold or used for commercial, personal, or unrelated purposes. Access or disclosure to law enforcement, vendors, or other third parties shall be limited to authorized safety and security purposes, to ensure compliance with Association governing documents or as otherwise required or permitted by applicable law, subject to appropriate access controls and confidentiality restrictions. The ALPR Custodian shall maintain a record of requests and disclosures, including requester, recipient, date, purpose, legal basis or authorization, to the extent practicable and legally permitted.

17. Retention, Preservation, and Destruction Procedures. ALPR information will be retained for 30 days. Retention protocols and parameters are enforced through the Flock system configuration, and data is automatically deleted upon expiration of the retention period unless preserved pursuant to policy, a legal preservation obligation, or as evidence in an active criminal investigation of legal claim. Flock is responsible for implementing the retention and deletion policy.

18. Public availability and contact. This policy is posted conspicuously on the Association's website.

DP TENNIS ACADEMY

JUNIOR PROGRAMS



MINI TENNIS

AGES 5-8

- ESTABLISHING FUNDAMENTALS
- DEVELOPING SKILLS
- FUN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT

MINI PERFORMANCE

AGES 8-11

- ADVANCED FUNDAMENTALS
- TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT
- TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

AGES 9+

- HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION
- TECHNICAL & TACTICAL DEVELOPMENT
- LEAGUE MATCHES

PERFORMANCE

AGES 10+

- UTR 2 - 12+
- COLLEGE PREPARATION
- TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

FREE TRIAL

NELLIE GAIL RANCH OWNERS ASSOCIATION

LITIGATION DISCLOSURE

(OCTOBER 2026)

Julie Huizenga and Jennifer Endres v. Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2026-01580018-CU-NP-CXC

On June 24, 2026, Julie Huizenga and Jennifer Endres (collectively "Plaintiffs") filed a Class Action Complaint in the Orange County Superior Court against Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association (the "Association") asserting the following causes of action: (1) Violation of California's ALPR Privacy Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.90.5, et seq. – Unauthorized Access and Use of ALPR Information; (2) Violation of California's ALPR Privacy Act – Failure to Implement Code-Compliant Privacy Policy and Maintain Record of Access, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.90.51(B), 1798.90.52, 1798.90.53(B); (3) Invasion of Privacy Under California Constitution, Art. I, § 1; (4) Intrusion Upon Seclusion; (5) Violations of California's Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.; (6) Common Law Invasion of Privacy; (7) Unjust Enrichment / Restitution; and (8) Negligence and Negligence Per Se.

The Association tendered the defense of Plaintiffs' Complaint to its insurance carrier for defense and indemnity. The defense has since been assigned to:

Christopher J. Campbell, Esq.
Angelique Herhandez, Esq.
LYDECKER LLP
523 West Sixth Street, Suite 716
Los Angeles, CA 90014
Tel: (213) 226-7068
ccampbell@lydecker.com
ahernandez@lydecker.com

The Association was personally served with Plaintiffs' Complaint and an Answer was filed on October 20, 2026. A Case Management Conference is currently scheduled for November 24, 2026.

The outcome of litigation is uncertain, as is the financial impact on the Association, if any.

All pleadings filed in this matter are public records, and unless sealed by order of the court, copies may be obtained from the office of the Clerk, Orange County Superior Court, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 by referring to the above-referenced case number. The files may also be viewed at the Court's website at www.occourts.org.

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Dr. Cunningham is a board-certified ophthalmologist who has served the Orange County community since 2005, specializing in medical and surgical eye care with an emphasis on cataract surgery. She earned her D.O. from Western University of Health Sciences, received the Patrick Murray Award for excellence, and served as Chief Resident at Michigan State. She served as a Clinical Preceptor at Western University of Health Sciences and as an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, where she trained 3rd and 4th year medical students in ophthalmology. A Santa Ana native and bilingual in English and Spanish, Dr. Cunningham is proud to continue serving the Orange County community.

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LOOKING FOR BRIDGE PLAYERS
Senior gal just moved to Nellie Gail from NorCal looking for a few bridge players on a monthly or maybe every-other-week basis. We could play at the Watering Hole late mornings or early afternoons? If interested, please email me at: marilynbaskerville62@gmail.com. Let's get a game up of 4 or more.

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Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Tina Corso

From Our Gardens to Yours

It's a few days after our Nellie Gail 50th Anniversary Celebration, and I wake up early, start the coffee and go outside to check the weather. Fifty-seven degrees, and I am in heaven! Nice and cool, even though it's supposed to hit 90 today.

I walk around my yard and see a nice fat Peter's fig waiting to be eaten, and on the way I pick up a Mexican Cream guava from the ground. They fall from the tree when they're ripe.

And I think to myself how much I want to share all of this with all of you. I want every person who lives in Nellie Gail to be able to grow something that makes them happy.

I know it's not always easy to grow a fruit tree or even decide what you want to plant. Understanding what a plant needs is so important. Plants are really a lot like humans. They need water, nutrients and the right environment to remain healthy and strong.

My avocado trees are holding a large crop through the heat at the end of summer, and that takes tremendous energy. They need water, nutrients and extra attention. I'm also watching for Persea mites and avocado lace bugs, an invasive pest that has already been documented in Orange County.

And then there's Black Fig Fly! This year I began using neem oil on my fig trees when the tiny fruit first appeared, before I noticed any infestation. That seemed to help in my garden, although I know there's always something new to learn.

These challenges are one reason I became interested in growing avocado seedlings. I now have four mature seedlings producing fruit, and each one is different. Because avocado seedlings are genetically different from their parent trees, every one becomes its own little experiment.

Gardening is a continual process of learning, experimenting and sharing what works. And that brings me back to our anniversary celebration.

For two months, the Nellie Gail Garden Group prepared plants for our giveaway. We wanted to share plants that grow well in our Mediterranean climate, need relatively little water once established, are easy to propagate and, whenever possible, provide flowers for bees and other pollinators.

We selected five plants that members of our group have grown in their own gardens.

Hottentot Fig (Carpobrotus edulis) is a succulent ground cover I discovered while dealing with erosion on my hillside. Its fleshy leaves store water, and its bright flowers attracted bumblebees to my garden. It spreads vigorously, so it needs to be confined to maintained landscapes, away from natural areas. It is not suitable for every slope, particularly steep areas where its weight can become a problem.

Lobster Bush (Coleus neochilus) has become one of my favorite discoveries. It has an unusual, rather skunky smell, but produces beautiful purple-blue flower spikes that bees love. It needs little water once established, spreads readily and is remarkably easy to grow from cuttings.

Foxtail or Swan's Neck Agave (Agave attenuata) is another favorite. I probably have more than a hundred in my garden! Its broad leaves don't have the sharp terminal spines of many other agaves, and it produces pups that can be separated and shared. When a mature plant flowers, its enormous curved stalk is quite a sight, and the bees come visiting.

Jade (Crassula ovata) is familiar to many of us, but that doesn't make it any less useful. Its thick leaves and stems store water, older plants produce lovely clusters of pale flowers, and a single established plant can provide dozens of cuttings.



Blue Chalk Sticks (Curio repens) adds beautiful blue-gray color to the garden. It works as a low-growing border or filler between larger plants, needs little water once established and propagates easily from cuttings.



We didn't choose these plants from a catalog. **We grow them.**

We've watched them through our hot summers. We've seen which ones tolerate our conditions, which ones flower, which ones bring in the bees and which ones are easy enough to propagate and share with our neighbors. And what a wonderful anniversary celebration it was!

So many of you stopped by our Garden Group booth, and we were delighted to meet you. **By the end of the day, we had given away more than 200 plants—and every one of them found a new home!**

It was truly a team effort. I want to thank all our Garden Group members who donated soil, pots and plants, helped with propagation and potting, and spent weeks preparing for the event.

For the past three years, we've enjoyed sharing plants with one another at our seasonal giveaways. This anniversary celebration gave us an opportunity to share that tradition with the wider Nellie Gail community. And perhaps that's one of the nicest things about gardening.

A plant doesn't have to stay in one garden. It can be divided, propagated and passed from neighbor to neighbor. Every time we do that, we're sharing a little of what we've learned along with it.

I hope those 200-plus plants grow beautifully in their new homes. And I hope they encourage a few more neighbors to discover the pleasure of growing something themselves.

Happy Gardening!

Tina Corso
Nellie Gail Garden Group

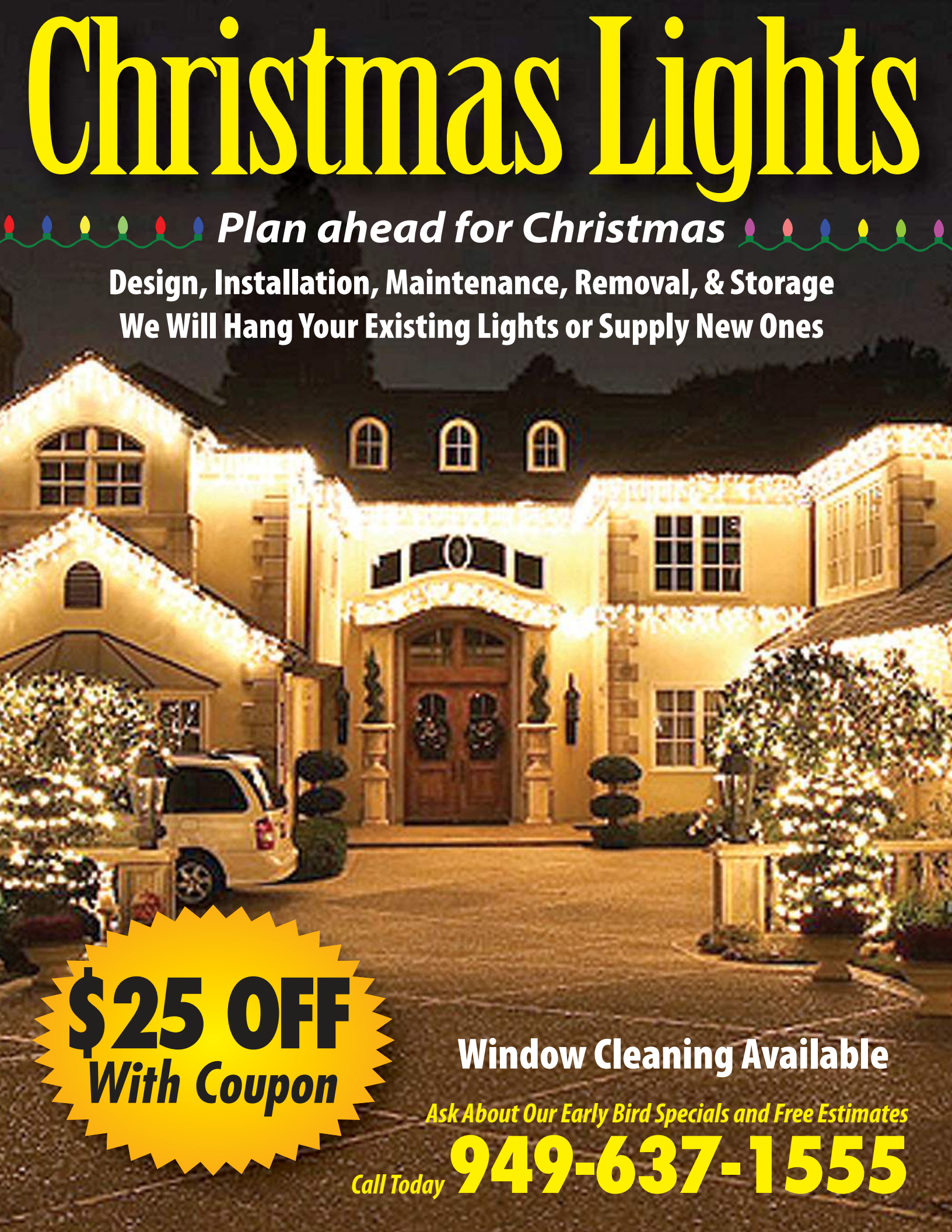
Happy Gardening,
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Ranch Recipe



Classic Homemade Apple Pie

Ingredients:

1. 6 medium apples (Granny Smith or Honeycrisp), peeled, cored, and thinly sliced.
2. ¾ cup granulated sugar.
3. 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour.
4. 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon and ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg.
5. 1 package refrigerated pie crusts (2 crusts), plus 1 tablespoon butter.

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F and place one pie crust into a 9-inch pie dish.
2. Prepare filling by tossing sliced apples with sugar, flour, cinnamon, and nutmeg until evenly coated.
3. Assemble pie by filling the crust with apples, dotting with butter, and covering with the second crust. Seal edges and cut small slits on top.
4. Bake for 15 minutes at 425°F, then reduce heat to 350°F and bake another 35–45 minutes until golden brown and bubbling.
5. Cool and serve for at least 2 hours to allow the filling to set. Enjoy with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!



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November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Halloween Challenge Play** (Pickleball Event) **9:30am-1:30pm @ The Clubhouse**	2	3 **Election Day**	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 **ARC Meeting at 6:00pm @ The Association Office**	11 	12	13 **Friday Night Live Two For The Show at The Watering hole @ 7:00pm**	14
15 **Not So Serious** (Tennis & Pickleball Event) **1pm-5pm**	16	17 **Board Meeting 7:30pm @ The Clubhouse**	18	19	20	21
22	23 **ARC Submittal Deadline for December 8th meeting**	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30					

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