

May 2024



The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



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INSIDE:
WINE DINNER • FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE COLLAGE • CANDIDATE STATEMENTS • TACO RECIPE



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Save The Date

✓ YOUR ✓
VOTE
✓ MATTERS ✓

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5/11/2024
Music Mania Trivia
at The Watering Hole
6:30 pm

5/17/2024
Live Music Friday
Matt Squared
at The Watering Hole
6:30 pm

5/31/2024
Live Music Friday
Mark Wood
at The Watering Hole
6:30 pm

On The Cover:
Natalie Banis & Mayfield

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2024



GALLUP PARK
FRIDAYS @ 7PM



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& Dessert

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JUN 14 TRICIA FREEMAN BAND
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JUN 28 REDNECK RODEO
Top Country Hits from Six Decades

JUL 12 HOT AUGUST NIGHT
Neil Diamond Tribute Band

JUL 26 MARK WOOD & the PARROT HEAD BAND
Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band

AUG 09 HALL PASS
80s Dance Party Band

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Board of Directors

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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.

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Important Numbers

| | |
|----------------|--|
| (949) 425-1477 | Association Office |
| (949) 831-6660 | Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis and Swim Club |
| (949) 371-1595 | Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center |
| (949) 533-0241 | Equestrian Center (Emergency) |
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| (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

| | |
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| 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:
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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 **May 21, 2024** 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
- Historical Committee
- Landscape Committee
- Security Committee
- Trails and Safety Committee

MANAGERS MESSAGE

ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION EDITION

By Brian Mitchell



In this issue please find and review the Candidate Statements for this years' annual meeting and election of directors scheduled for June 5th with a reconvened date of June 12th. The Special Ballot Measure regarding mobile patrol security is also on

the ballot for consideration. The next step in the process is to retrieve your ballot from the mailbox, vote, and return it at your earliest opportunity. A self-addressed and stamped return envelope is provided.

Please have the owner of record sign the outside of the envelope in order to validate the ballot. The owner(s) of record the Inspector of Election will recognize as valid to vote the ballot is the same as the name(s) on the mailing label on this issue of The Pony Express. If you need to update your owner(s) of record please e-mail a copy of your title to admin@nelliegailranch.org and request we update.

“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.” - Helen Dyer

The Watering Hole has hosted trivia nights the past several months covering 80s Rock, Yacht Rock and Disco so I thought I would share some election trivia. In June 1978 the first homeowners were elected to the Board to begin transitioning from the developer Presley Homes. In the 46 years since, 71 different homeowners have served. At 16 years, Jan Curtis has the most years served. Over the past eight elections 2016-2023 an average of 547 ballots out

of a possible 1,405 have been submitted. The high was 644 in 2016 and the low 435 in 2017. On average, 39% of the membership submits ballots. We would like to see that % increase this year so please vote!!

A high point of member participation occurred December 1988 when 1,038 ballots were counted with 876 approving purchase of the Clubhouse and Recreation Center.

A number of our past Board Members still live in Nellie Gail Ranch and we acknowledge each of your efforts at making Nellie Gail Ranch the community it is today! Please support your 2024 candidates by submitting your ballot.



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OPERATION HOURS - SPRING 2024

Tennis - Swim - Pickleball

UPDATE

| CLUB HOURS: | MON-FRI | SAT-SUN |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Tennis Courts | 6am - 10pm | 6am - 7pm |
| Swimming Pool | 6am - 10pm | 6am - 7pm |
| Pickleball Courts | 9am - 8pm | 9am - 7pm |

NOTE: Recreation amenities close at dusk on weekends.

For more information about the facilities, go to nelliegairanch.org or call 949-831-6660.

Wine Dinner

at The Watering Hole

The Wine Dinner night at The Watering Hole was a delightful celebration of community. Residents and guests alike enjoyed an evening of wine tasting, delectable dinner, and the pleasure of each other's company. We owe a special thanks to our talented chef, Luis Mena, for crafting a menu that tantalized the taste buds and perfectly complemented the wine selections. Your presence made the event truly special, and we're grateful for the warm atmosphere and joyful conversations shared. Thank you to everyone who attended; here's to many more occasions of camaraderie and merriment together!





TENNIS CENTER NEWS

TENNIS NEWS AND UPDATES

The PACSun Ladies Tennis League season has come to an end. The season was a very successful all around for our NGR teams. Most impressively our B1 team finished in 2nd place - B1 league being the strongest division. Also notably, our D3 Ladies finished in 5th place out of 13 teams this season becoming one of the title contenders which is a huge acknowledgment of their hard work.



The Pickleball Easter Mixer was a huge success with a full draw and very positive feedback from the members. We are now focusing on a Calcutta event sometime in June which will be one of the biggest Pickleball Events of the year. For registration information, please visit www.nelligailranchtennis.com.



Junior Team Tennis spring season has come to an end. We managed to make playoffs in two divisions, U12 Gold and U14 Silver. The U12 Gold team were runner ups and qualified for the sectional championships. Congratulations and good luck in the sectionals!



Congratulations to 9 year old Junior Development tennis member, Matteo Johnson for winning his first under 10 USTA event!



Nellie Gail Ranch

SUMMER TENNIS & SWIM CAMP



DP TENNIS ACADEMY



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ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS & BOARD MEETING MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance convenience and save space, the Minutes and Architectural Review results will be accessible online for your convenience. You can easily view them by scanning the QR codes provided below:

Architectural Review QR Code



March Minutes QR Code



By utilizing these QR codes, you can conveniently access the information and view both reports online. Thank you for embracing this digital initiative, and we hope that it contributes to a more efficient and eco-friendly way of accessing important information. Should you have any questions or encounter any issues while using the QR codes, please feel free to reach out to us.

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Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrians Shine at Temecula Valley National Horse Show

In a thrilling display of equestrian prowess, competitors from Nellie Gail Ranch soared to success at the esteemed Temecula Valley National Horse Show, earning top honors as champions and reserve champions across various categories.

Lane Clarke, a force to be reckoned with, claimed the title of champion in both the 1.10m and 1.20m Jumper categories aboard his mount Kiss Me Again. Tauren Price and Piccolaz PSH delivered a flawless performance, earning the coveted title of champions in the highly competitive .90m Non Pro Jumper division.

Natalie Banis, riding Mayfield under the ownership of K & L Phillips, showcased her skill and finesse by clinching an impressive 2nd place in the \$5,000 USHJA National Hunter Derby during week 1 of the competition. Banis continued her stellar performance alongside VDL E-Cecilia, securing a notable 4th place overall in the challenging \$75,000 1.50m Grand Prix and an impressive 2nd place in the \$1,000 U25 Jumper Classic.

Estella Lindsey, partnered with Jackstar owned by Carla Hayes, demonstrated her skill and dedication, earning the distinction of reserve champion in the 1.10m Jumper category. Kenleigh Vataha and Canterbrook Prince Charming showcased their talent by securing the title of reserve champions in the Short/Long Stirrup Hunter category.

The success of Nellie Gail Ranch competitors continued to shine bright throughout the competition, with stellar performances across various disciplines. Stella Saunders and Cody 154 claimed victory in the PCHA Horsemanship 2'9, while Kimberly Williams and Everlasting Ivy emerged victorious in the \$500 1.05m Jumpers.

With each ride, Nellie Gail Ranch competitors exemplified the dedication, skill, and passion that define the equestrian community. Their remarkable achievements serve as a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence. Congratulations to all the champions and reserve champions for their outstanding performances, and may their success inspire future generations of equestrians to reach for the stars.







PROGRAMS 2024



SPRING SWIM TEAM
REGISTRATION ONGOING

SUMMER SWIM TEAM
REGISTRATION ONGOING
START DATE JUNE 3RD



SEASONAL SWIM LESSONS
REGISTRATION ONGOING
START DATE JUNE 3RD



**JUNIOR GUARD
PREP PROGRAM**
REGISTRATION ONGOING
START DATE MAY 6TH



SUMMER SPORTS CAMP
REGISTRATION ONGOING
START DATE JUNE 3RD

Orange County Fire Authority Large Animal Rescue

Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) serves the Nellie Gail Ranch community in more ways than fire protection and emergency medical services. They also serve our community by providing large animal rescue services. On March 11th one of our resident horses became trapped in a concrete drainage channel between a property line fence and wood bridge. The Large Animal Rescue unit was dispatched and they set up a pulley system to safely remove the horse and return it to its stall for after rescue care. Working with large animals that are scared and hurt can be dangerous work and we were all grateful to the OCFA team for the tender care provided to safely extricate the horse.

Rescues of this sort are not just spontaneously implemented without a plan. OCFA trains and prepares Large Animal Rescue teams that specialize in these unique rescue events. Members of the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian and Trails Committee were invited to witness a training session that occurred March 25th at Shea Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan Capistrano. Sixty plus crew from all of Orange County and Corona attended training on use of a sling for rescues and proper horse handling to load horses on trailers in event of fire.

We wish to publicly acknowledge here our appreciation for the dedicated and professional service provided by OCFA to the Nellie Gail Ranch community, both human and equine.



THE WATERING HOLE

WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

Equestrian Boarders Eligible for Watering Hole Social Memberships

The Watering Hole operates as a private club for homeowners and recreation center members. We have had requests to enroll private boarders on Nellie Gail Ranch properties as Watering Hole members. We can now offer Social Memberships for \$35 per month to your private boarders.

We would only need for you, the homeowner of record, to send us an e-mail authorizing us to sign your private boarder up as a Social Member. Please provide boarder's full name and your authorization via e-mail to Clubhouse@NellieGailRanch.org



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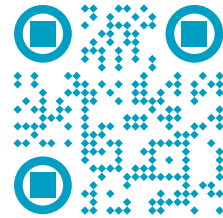
NELLIE GAIL RANCH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

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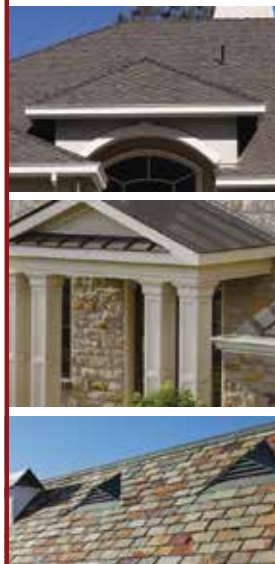
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Sunny's Arrival

by Amy bailey

What started out as a hobby for our eldest daughter and slowly turned into a weekend getaway for the family, horseback riding has always been a small part of our life... until now. After all the kids moved out for college my wife Madelyn and I moved to Nellie Gail Ranch and decided to turn that weekend adventure into our semi retired lifestyle. It started with three big horses and a mini for the grandchildren, but little did we know that a surprise was on its way.

After an afternoon of riding, we noticed that our new mare, Snooki, wasn't looking too great so we called the vet. As we were slowly losing daylight, the vet decided that Snooki was colic and needed to go to the hospital. While we were trying to get Snooki down the driveway, my youngest daughter made a joke about her possibly being pregnant, but we all laughed and said no way. Oh how wrong we were! Much to our surprise our new mare of three months was roughly five months pregnant, a detail that the previous owners forgot to mention (oops).

After months of guessing when the new foal was coming and trying to learn as much as possible in preparation, Snooki took matters into her own hoofs and delivered a healthy little man, who we named Sunny. Just like his name he is happy and as easy going as they come. On day two of life, he finally got enough leg strength to start venturing out of his stall with his Mom.

As new horse owners we're constantly learning how to raise a new baby and laughing at our predicament. Sunny already has a new fan club as our grandkids and the neighborhood kids have been with Snooki every step of the way. Needless to say when the announcement sign was put up in our front yard, we had the whole fan club knocking on our door to meet the little guy. Sunny has decided that behind the ear and belly scratches are the best! We are excited to continue to watch Sunny grow up alongside our grandkids and all the adventures he'll bring



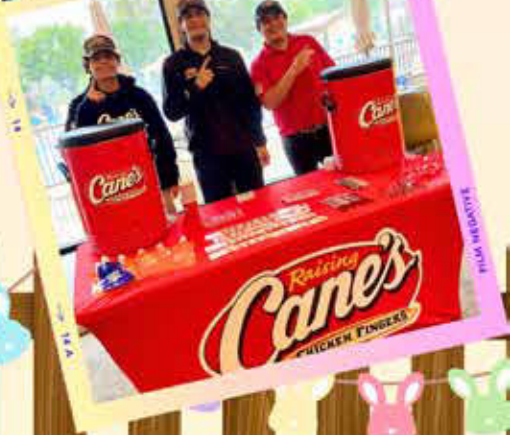


NELLIE GAIL RANCH EASTER PARTY

SAT., MARCH 30, 2024 | 10:00-11:30 AM @ NGR CLUBHOUSE

Special Thanks to our
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IT WAS A WET BUT FUN EASTER EVENT! The Annual Easter Egg Hunt became an Easter PARTY at the clubhouse due to the heavy rain. Many happy families showed up to enjoy the face painters, balloon twisters, and to take photos with the Easter Bunny. The Watering Hole offered a special menu for kids. Evolution Swim Academy and DP Tennis Academy gave away promotional items, and Raising Cane's restaurant gave out free lemonade, sweet tea, free merchandise, and kids' meal vouchers. The Nellie Gail Garden Club ladies displayed beautiful plants for sale to promote their club membership. Scooter's Sweet Shack/Italian Ice truck served in front of the clubhouse. In lieu of the traditional egg hunt, each child left with a fun Easter "box" stuffed with age-appropriate goodies. Thank you to our contributing sponsor TATE|LAMOTT GROUP and all who weathered the relocation.



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Nellie Gail sales based on MLS data since Oct 1989

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Written by Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng

As devastating earthquakes and volcanoes continue to occur in "our ring of fire," we should use this opportunity as a reminder to be fully prepared for any disaster, whether man-made or natural. The information in this article may be the most important information you read for the rest of the year. That is because your completed earthquake/disaster kit will be the key to you and your family's survival. In the past several months, in addition to the pandemic, there have been several measurable earthquakes in our southern California region and in the US, we have seen tornados and tropical storms, floods and breached dams, wildfires, and even dust storms from the Saharan Desert. Additionally, there have been several large earthquakes on the "Pacific Rim of Fire," the zone where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are common (and the zone in which we live.) Recall from our previous articles that teams of scientists and other experts feel that a 7.8 magnitude earthquake (approximately 8 times stronger than the Haiti earthquake) striking Southern California within our lifetime is inevitable. When such an event occurs, we will likely be without gas, water and electricity; and public assistance will be slow or non-existent. The disaster/earthquake kit is the cornerstone to

being prepared and self-sufficient. Put another way, your disaster kit is the key to your survival. Implement your kit now and you won't have to think about it for the rest of this year.

Your disaster/earthquake kit should be able to sustain you and your family for a minimum of 14 days, although nearly all experts and relief organizations advise preparing for 30 days. The author of this article, having worked in national disasters and having seen firsthand the response time of aid, utilities, public service, etc., strongly advises that you prepare for a minimum of 30 days. This article will provide you with the basics of assembling such a kit. It is not meant to be exhaustive but more a point of reference from which you can tailor to your specific needs. Additional references are also provided at the end of this article.

One question that is frequently asked is, "Why do I need an disaster/earthquake kit? I already have everything I need in my home." This may be true but very short-sighted. Imagine everything that is on a shelf or cabinet, and the contents of every drawer are strewn on your floor. Then add 3-6 inches of water from the broken water main that you were able to turn off but only after the water flooded your bottom floor. Lastly, add some broken glass and some drywall from your collapsed ceiling. This is not the



PILATES
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time to being collecting your supplies for survival. Another frequent question is, "If it's that bad, why don't I just leave?" This, too, is short-sighted: you are assuming that no bridge or underpass is affected between your home and your destination, you are assuming that you have enough fuel to get to your destination (remember that with no electricity, there will be no working fuel pumps and even if you can get fuel, you're not going to be using your credit card,) and you are assuming that you have enough food and water in your car for any travel and unexpected stops. Lastly, if only 10% of the residents Orange County felt similarly and decided to leave, our roads would be in gridlock for days and it is likely that you will go nowhere fast. Your best option may be to "shelter in place" and you will need a disaster/ earthquake kit to do so successfully.

On the following page is a Disaster/Earthquake Supplies list that you can use to help establish your family's Earthquake kit. Please tear this out or copy it to make as your own list. Additionally, we have provided you some important information below that further explains of some of the items on the list.

WATER. You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day, more if elderly, ill, breastfeeding, or in warm environments. Water should be stored in original containers in a cool dark place away from paints or other petroleum-based products. Be sure to observe the "use by" or expiration dates on the label. Additionally, water can be stored in food grade, water-rated drums or containers. If storing water in this manner, you should add the appropriate water preservative and seal the drum. This water should then be replaced every 1-2 years. Water from your home's hot water heater can also be used for drinking as long as the appropriate steps are taken to preserve the purity of this water during a disaster. Information on how to utilize your water heater's water, as well as water purification instructions (using water purification tablets or unscented bleach) can be found on the Nellie Gail website, www.nelligailranch.org and clicking "resources."

FOOD. Store at least a 2 week supply (and preferably a 1 month supply) of non-perishable foods. Ideally, select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and require little or no water. Also, select

foods that you normally use at home so you can rotate this in and keep the stored foods fresh.

SHELTER. If you are unable to inhabit your home, you will need a place to shelter. A RV, such as a motorhome or trailer will make an excellent place to shelter. For others, a tent or tarp will protect you from any rain or wind, and provide you with shade when needed. Extra clothing can be items that you normally would have given to charity.

MEDICATIONS AND FIRST AID. Prescription medications should be in their original container and enough for one month. You should also have a written list of the medication, including dosage, instructions and the Rx number to aid in refills. Health insurance usually won't allow you to purchase an extra month's worth of medication, but your physician can provide you with an extra prescription that you can purchase without going through insurance, or you can ask your physician if he or she has samples of your medication. Be sure to rotate your medications to avoid storing expired medications.

PETS. Pets often play an important role in our lives so be sure to plan for their emergencies as well. You should also be prepared to evacuate with your pet,



Continued on page 29



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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

however, keep in mind that most public shelters will not allow you to bring your pet. As such make appropriate contingency plans, possibly setting up a "buddy system" of pet care with neighbors who also have pets.

MISCELLANEOUS. Cash is important because credit card terminals and ATM machines will be non-functional when the electricity is out. Copies of your important documents will make it easier for you to file insurance claims, access bank accounts, etc. New flashlights that utilize LED light bulbs are far superior as they use less electricity prolonging battery life, are less prone to burning out light bulbs, and are generally brighter. If you are going to purchase a flashlight, consider purchasing the LED flashlights.

STORAGE AND LOCATION OF YOUR EARTHQUAKE KIT. The idea of an earthquake/disaster kit is to have all necessities in one location that is stored away from sources of heat and light. Good areas include the back corner of one's garage or in an infrequently used closet. The location should be on the bottom floor of multistory buildings and next to an exterior wall for easy access should there be a building collapse. Lastly, the items should be stored in a sturdy container. The metal "contractor's box" found at construction job sites is an excellent type of container for your earthquake kit.

Again, this article and the accompanying supply list will help you get started on your earthquake kit. It is recommended that you copy this list and use it as the foundation of your family's earthquake kit. Future articles will include work and car preparation, and water purification. You can also find additional information on disaster preparation at: www.fema.gov | www.redcross.org | www.readyoc.org | www.nelliegailranch.org | www.foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html

About the Author:

Dr. Kenneth Cheng was a 25-year resident of Nellie Gail Ranch, and a 10-year member of the Nellie Gail's Emergency Preparedness Committee. He is a disaster preparedness instructor with the Orange County Sheriff's Department where he serves as a reserve deputy and SWAT tactical physician.

REMINDER NO BIKES ON TRAILS

This is a friendly reminder that **bikes are not allowed on the trails due to concerns from residents and horse riders.** Biking on the trails can cause disturbance to the local residents and wildlife, and it can also scare horses that are being ridden. We kindly ask for your cooperation in adhering to this policy and encourage you to use the designated bike trails in the area. Thank you for helping us preserve the peace and tranquility of the surrounding area and maintain a safe environment for all trail users.

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If you are dedicated to investing in the community, supporting our Owners Association, and believe the audience at NGROA aligns with your best business interests and core values, please contact us at (949)425-1477 and we can send you the forms to get you involved, or email:

Mary Gonzales - maryg@nelliegailranch.org
Dennis Moss - dross@nelliegailranch.org

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- Exposure in all promotional materials (i.e., flyers, banners, digital signage, etc.)
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- Logo/brand advertised on a full-page event flyer printed in the Pony Express
- Logo/brand acknowledged in the end-of-week email blasts to the community
- Recognition and relevant announcements during the event
- Promotional booth space at the event so the audience can see your generosity in action (sponsor provides canopy/shade cover, tables, chairs, promotional items, etc.)
- Prominent banner display at event

*Sponsorship investment depends on the size of the event (see below).

Sponsorship Levels and Pricing

| (as of January 2023) | Large \$2500 | Medium \$1500 | Small \$750 |
|---|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| # of expected guests | 200+ | 60-199 | 1-59 |
| Acknowledgement at event and in all printed and online promotions | X | X | X |
| Sponsor announcements during event | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Promotional space (sponsor provides canopy/shade cover, tables, chairs, etc.) | 1 booth 10'x20' | 1 booth 10'x10' | 1 Table only |
| Banner display at event | 3 large | 1 large | 1 small |



THE INSTINCT TO HONOR

Written by David Robbins

The instinct to honor those who have sacrificed for our freedoms is especially evident in England and Scotland, from where my wife Karen and I have recently returned. British memorials from Bath to Inverness mark the British and allies' military sacrifices in world wars and more localized conflicts like Afghanistan and the war on terror. It is the same instinct that caused the City of Laguna Hills to select the 3/5, 1st Marines Division, for special recognition 15 years ago after that unit lost 25 Marines fighting in Sangin, Afghanistan in 2010 and that motivates the City to pay tribute to the 3/5 Marines killed in action every Memorial Day.

One cannot travel far in the British Isles and not see memorials like below honoring those who died in the line of duty fighting the enemy. These memorials are permanent reminders of how, as one plaque below a memorial in Inverness, Scotland reads, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'For your tomorrows, these gave their todays.'" The British memorials include tributes to the flyers who defended Britain from German bombers in the last months of 1940 during the Battle of Britain; their average age ... 22. Perhaps Churchill's most famous speech memorializing the RAF pilots who fought off the destruction of Britain and saved it from Nazi invasion includes the immortal line, repeated on a memorial to these flyers, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The City's Memorial Day celebration includes several parts, including a static display with 3/5 Marines escorting the public around its different components,

as well as banners commemorating the 25 3/5 Marines who lost their lives in the Sangin fight in late 2010. Marines also run in the Memorial Day races sponsored by the City in silent tribute to their fallen comrades. By placing the 3/5 Marines at the head of its Memorial Day commemoration each year, Laguna Hills pays homage to those Marines who gave up their todays for our tomorrows.



TEAM DARKHORSE -

3D Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Division Support Committee is the (all volunteer) IRS 501 (c) 3 non profit org formed in 2010, following the Laguna Hills City Council formal vote to adopt this Camp Pendleton Infantry Unit. For more information, to volunteer, or make a donation please contact President, Vanessa Kon at vanessakon@cox.net.

City of Laguna Hills Memorial Day Race



Race info:



The City of Laguna Hills is proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Memorial Day Half Marathon, 5k and 10k Honoring the USMC Dark Horse Battalion. The event will take place on Monday, May 27, 2024. There is also a Kids Run and Diaper Dash. Additionally, there will be a community festival afterwards with a beer garden and food available for purchase. The Spirit of Valor medal will be awarded to participants who have competed in the race for the past 5 years (since 2019). All finishers will receive a medal honoring Purple Heart Recipients. There are also volunteer opportunities for those interested. Options for volunteering include: packet pickup, course monitors, fluid stations, Kids Zone volunteers, medal assistance, and more! Find information about the event, registration, road closures, and volunteer opportunities at lagunahillshalfmarathon.com. Come celebrate Memorial Day in Laguna Hills!

TRIVIA

trivia time

Nellie Gail Ranch Residents, We want to extend our sincere appreciation to all who joined us for Music Mania Trivia night at the Watering Hole. It was fantastic to see everyone come together and have a great time engaging in music-themed trivia. Your participation and enthusiasm truly made the event a success. We hope you enjoyed the challenge and the camaraderie as much as we did. Thank you for being a part of it, and we look forward to hosting more fun-filled evenings like this in the future. See what all the fun was about with all these great photos!

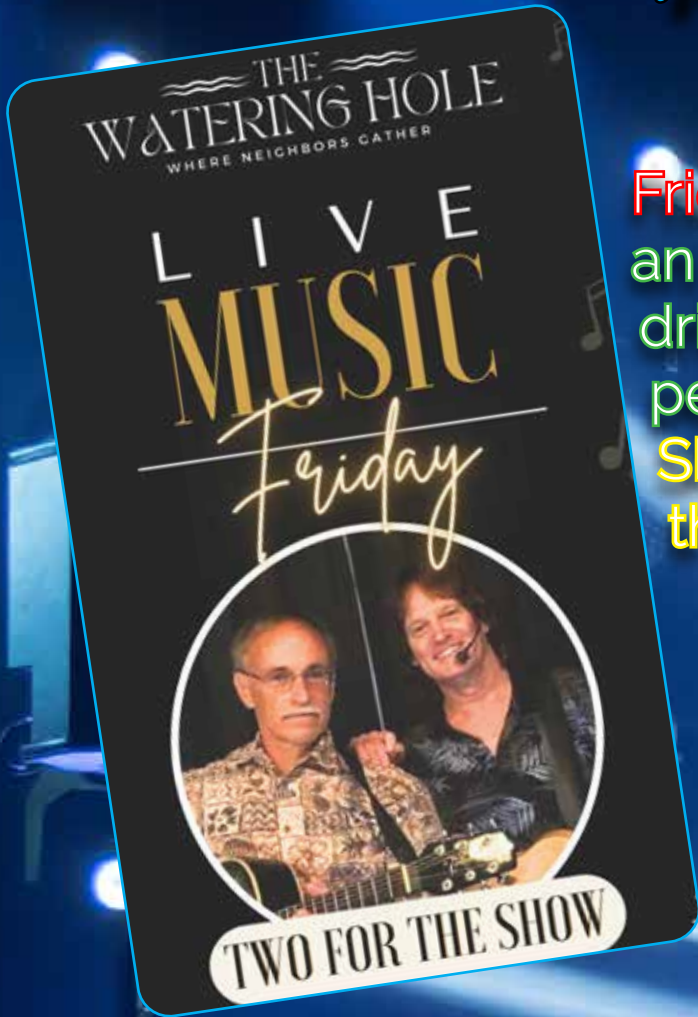


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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



John P. Park

Homeowner since: 1984

Current Occupation:
President/General Manager
Aerospace Space Defense
Company

Civic Activities: Committee member of the JEDEC Solid State Technology Association. Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities: Currently serving as a Director on the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association Board of Directors. Committee member of the Nellie Gail Ranch Homeowners Association Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Biographical information: I am a corporate level executive having been associated with Fortune 500 companies in addition to serving on various corporate boards and several advisory committees for start-up and emerging companies.

Statement: I am looking forward to continuing my service to our great community and keeping Nellie Gail Ranch a safe place where our neighbors can enjoy great amenities - equestrian, aquatic, tennis, pickleball and the recent opening of the Watering Hole. I support by use of sound fiscal responsibility and oversight, maintaining Nellie Gail Ranch as a unique and attractive environment in which to live whether raising a family or enjoying a retired life while enhancing the appeal of Nellie Gail Ranch and homeowner property values. I support the "Neighbor helping Neighbor" concept in preparation for emergencies that might affect our entire community.



Joyce Taylor

Homeowner since: 1995

Current Occupation:
Electrical Engineer, Mixed Signal
and RF ASIC Designer

Civic Activities: Served as a volunteer for many of my kids' activities including elementary school room mom, church youth groups, LHHS Grad Nite, and in many roles in support of their swim teams, both club and high school.

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities: Currently serving as a NGROA board director.

Biographical information: I am a wife and mother of four great kids, two that graduated from UCSB, one UCSD graduate, and one working toward his computer science degree. I moved here from the Midwest at 21 and attended both CSUF for my BSEE and UCI for my masters in semiconductor physics. I've worked in aerospace for 30+ years and currently work remotely for Cadence Design Systems. My husband retired from a career in the semiconductor industry. We both look forward to spending our retirement right here in beautiful Nellie Gail Ranch.

Statement: Ever since moving here 28+ years ago, we've loved this neighborhood. I've been pleased and honored to have taken part in bringing improvements that you see today into being. I hope you've been able to enjoy the Watering Hole, the pickleball facilities, the upgraded playground equipment and remodeled equestrian clubhouse. The tennis, pickleball, equestrian and swim amenities offered here are world class, and as a member of the board my focus is attuned to maintaining and improving the facilities for the benefit of our residents and members alike. But there's more that I would like to see done to improve life in the ranch. In the last couple of years, we installed license plate cameras at all entrances and encouraged participation in the Neighborhood Watch program. I'd like to see an expansion of camera coverage to be able to assist law enforcement when something does occur. I hope you will let me serve you again for another term to see what we can do to help everyone feel safe and secure at home.



Laura Zamora

Homeowner since: 1994

Current Occupation:

Manager of Facilities Garden Grove Unified School District

Civic Activities:

Volunteered at Valencia Elementary School for Art Master's Program

teaching art lessons to the students. I was appointed by the Board of Education and served on the Citizens Oversight Committee. I was Treasurer of the bond committee responsible for all campaign funds and filing financial forms.

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities: I was an active member on the tennis team at Nellie Gail Tennis Club. I enjoyed playing in the morning and night women's leagues. I volunteered for various committees in Nellie Gail. I attend the summer concerts with neighbors and family and enjoy walking the beautiful horse trails.

Biographical information: In 1975, I relocated from LA and moved to Orange County. I graduated from San Diego State with a BA in Economics. I moved to Nellie Gail in 1994 prior to the birth of my son and daughter. I work in K-12 school districts and enjoy serving the students, staff and community. I enjoy walking the horse trails, playing tennis and pickle ball. It is a great place to live and a great place to raise children!

Statement: I am running for a seat on the Nellie Gail HOA because we, as co-owners, can receive more for our dues to elevate values and increase our enjoyment. Safety will be a priority. Given the volume of crime, it needs to change; I will focus on casing prevention of our properties and ensure weak points are secure. I will also prioritize the aesthetics. Our neighborhood deserves a fresh perspective and one that represents the majority of homeowners. As a fiduciary to our resources, I promise to keep co-owners involved in all future decisions. I will also dedicate my time to ensuring my vote counts for you. I have 18 years of experience managing facilities in various School Districts. Providing proper direction to the management group is critical in ensuring our money goes towards keeping our neighborhood safe and attractive for our enjoyment.



Mark Fisk

Homeowner since: 2012

Current Occupation:

Business Management in Assisted Living and Senior Support Services. Education and experience in Business Information Systems and Computer Programming

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities: I appreciate the opportunity to have served our community as a member of the board for the last eight years. We have an incredible team of homeowners on the board that truly care about our community and are willing to make personal sacrifices and commitments in the interest of Nellie Gail Ranch.

Biographical information: I initially moved to Nellie Gail Ranch with my family in 1980 at age five and grew up watching Nellie Gail Ranch evolve into the prestigious community that it now is. In 2012, my wife and I were blessed to have the opportunity to return to this beautiful community, building the home to raise our two boys.

Statement: I believe it is essential that the board represent the interests of all the homeowners, not just the loudest. It is important to preserve the rich equestrian history in which Nellie Gail Ranch was founded and gives us distinguishing character and prestige. Our community should operate with the efficiency and accountability of business not government.

Notable accomplishments thus far:

- Supported committees of vested homeowners to implement security, aesthetics and amenities that benefit us all.
- Utilization of allocated reserve funds to refresh aspects of the clubhouse to a respectable standard so that it can be used with pride by the homeowners.
- Established amenities for neighbors to gather for food and drink to promote strength in community.
- Supported efforts to sustain the long term integrity of our landscape.
- Maintained exceptionally reasonable dues despite inflationary forces.

Objectives moving forward:

- Continue to evaluate and act to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources to maintain a safe community.
- Maintain a friendly HOA that is easy to approach and fosters an environment that promotes property improvement.
- Keep our Equestrian Center, Pool and Tennis Facilities both world class and financially self sufficient.
- Use our resources wisely to maintain our community to the highest standard, while keeping our HOA dues the best value in South Orange County.



Sondra S. Garcia

Homeowner since: 1997

Current Occupation:
Retired Hospice Bereavement Director

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities:
Former member, Garden Club
Emergency Preparedness Committee, Block Captain

Biographical information: I was born and raised in California. During my adulthood I had the opportunity to move around the country and become familiar with different lifestyles in many states. I joined my husband and his parents here in Nellie Gail after David and I were married. Nellie Gail Ranch has been my home for a total of nineteen years during two different spans of time.

My formal education provided me with the California Early Childhood Education and Development Certificate, B.A. Degree in Theology, and B.A. Degree in Social Work.

My chosen fields of employment were teaching, private and public Early Childhood, and Health Education. Subsequently I settled in the Health Care field. The areas where I was employed included Nursing Facilities, Acute Care Hospitals, Home Health, and Hospice. I held the position of Director of different departments. My experience encompassed Utilization Review of Physicians, Quality Assurance of the Acute Care Hospital, Social Work, Discharge Planning, Catastrophic Diagnosis, Bio Ethics Committee, and Bereavement.

Statement: My entire life has been spent serving my fellow humanity. If I am fortunate to earn your vote as a member of the Nellie Gail Ranch Board of Directors my goal will be to serve you, my fellow neighbors. I will do my best to make sure your views are expressed while being a team member with the other members of the Board.

I am a strong effective communicator having been a member of the college debate team. While being the Women's Fencing Team Captain in college I learned what it meant to take a group to victory but also to provide encouragement after the losses.

If elected to your residential Board my focus will be on helping Nellie Gail Ranch move forward while maintaining the history and charm which lured my husband and his family to this fine community almost forty years ago. I am thankful to call Nellie Gail my home and your neighbor.

Special Ballot Measure

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Special Ballot Measure

Should Nellie Gail Ranch continue to contract for Mobile Patrol services?

Option 1: YES Please **continue** 24-hour mobile patrol services at a cost of \$17.26 per home per month (\$207.16 annually).

Option 2: NO Please **discontinue** mobile patrol services.

The total "Yes" votes will be compared to the total "No" votes. The higher count will **prevail**.

Special Ballot Measure Statement Should Nellie Gail Ranch continue to contract for Mobile Patrol services?

After evaluating homeowner requests to implement patrol services in the Nellie Gail Ranch community, the Board of Directors approved a contract for mobile patrol services in March 2017. After competitively re-bidding, Superior Protection Services was selected as the service provider effective August 1, 2023. The current scope of work includes providing dedicated 24-hour, 7 days per week, mobile patrol services for the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association streets and recreational facilities including Clubhouse, Swim, Tennis, Parks and Equestrian facilities to provide an observational presence and to act as a deterrent to criminal activity. The current cost for this service is \$16.70 per home per month (\$200.43 annually). The Special Ballot Measure for retaining the service represents a projected increase of 3.4%.

Since implementing this service homeowners have provided input both in favor of and opposed to the ongoing budgeting for this service. Crime statistics vary based on a number of factors including the Sheriff's apprehension of active criminals in our area. This makes it difficult to know specifically if the mobile patrol is playing a role as a deterrent for criminals since there is no way to calculate statistics for crimes not committed.

This matter is submitted on the ballot to provide the Nellie Gail Ranch Membership the opportunity to again decide whether or not to continue to budget and contract for this service.

If the "Yes" votes exceed the total of "No" votes then services will be renewed under contract. A "Yes" vote does not obligate the Association to remain with the current service provider as that decision can be altered at any time subject to evaluation of the vendors post orders and performance.

Historical Votes:

The past five years the ballot included a measure for a membership vote to continue or discontinue 24-hour mobile patrol services.

2019 - 330 in favor of keeping the service 192 Against 17 Abstained

2020 - 340 in favor of keeping the service 258 Against 8 Abstained

2021 - 322 in favor of keeping the service 201 Against 1 Abstained

2022 - 325 in favor of keeping the service 176 Against 7 Abstained

2023 - 279 in favor of keeping the service 229 Against 0 Abstained

Special Ballot Measure

24-hour mobile patrol services (\$17.26 per home per month - \$207.16 annually)

The focus of 24-hour mobile patrol is to deter criminal behavior by being a visible presence throughout the community and reporting substantive incidents. Each shift the officer is responsible for maintaining awareness of suspicious activities, circumnavigating all community streets twice and conducting a foot patrol of all parks and the recreation center. There are three shifts in each 24-hour period.

The following is a summary of incidents the current patrol company Superior Protection Services submitted reports on for the period August 1, 2023, through March 30, 2024.

- Homeowner Reports of Suspicious Activity (loitering, persons, sales teams, vehicles) - 37
- Patrol Officer Reports of Suspicious Vehicle / Activity - 36
- Patrol Officer Reports of Suspicious Person / Activity - 33
- Facility Check (i.e. broken sprinkler, recreation center gate unlocked, open equestrian center stall, alarm) - 20
- Vandalism - 7
- Safety Hazards (fallen trees primarily) - 6
- Noise Complaints - 2
- Patrol Officer Assaulted with Deadly Weapon - 1
- Other (i.e. nuisance animal, reports of accidents, or police activity) - 15

The above resulted in 23 calls by the mobile patrol officer to the Sheriff with one call regarding a suspicious man with bolt cutters and an E-bike that was stolen on Moulton, leading to an arrest and bike owners retrieving their property.

Please discontinue mobile patrol services option

If the total "No" votes exceed the "Yes" votes, then mobile patrol services will be discontinued. The current contract expires July 31, 2024, which means the service may be discontinued at that time if the vote is opposed to continuing the service. Discontinuing the service will not result in a direct reduction in assessments for this fiscal year that ends September 30, 2024. The 2024-25 budget will be evaluated in July and August evaluating all anticipated expenses and services under contract and the budget will either include or not include the mobile patrol services based on the membership vote.

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WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

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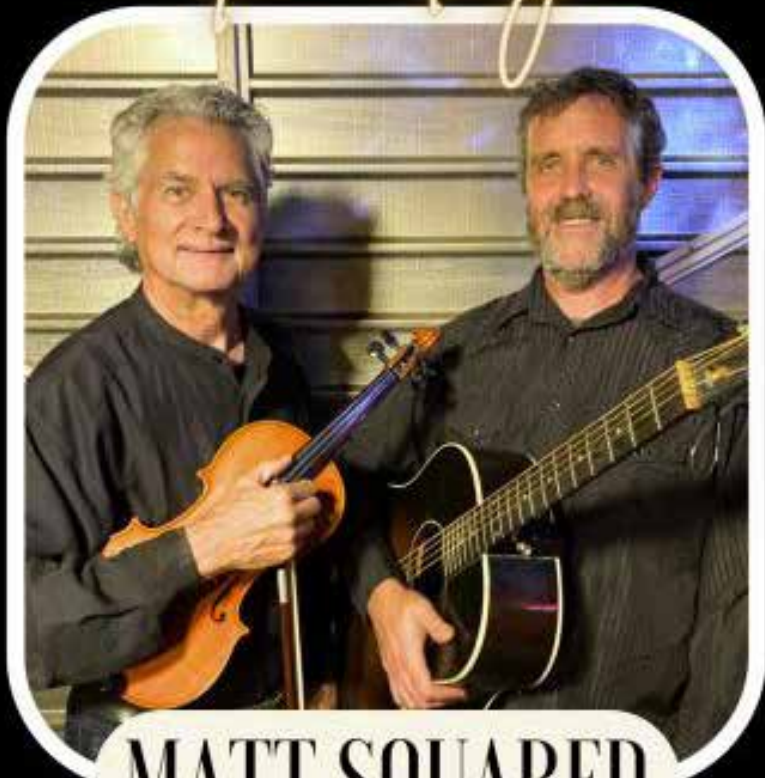


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Reliable and compassionate personal assistant offering help with organizing, shopping, pet sitting, and more. Contact Donna at 949-533-9420 or Donna@SageandTimeWise.com for a complimentary consultation.

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KURE IT WOMEN'S GUILD

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I provide top-tier dog walking and sitting services made for your furry friend's needs. I have a great passion for animals and have been dog walking and sitting for two years, I will guarantee a safe, enjoyable experience for your beloved pet. Contact me today for dependable and loving care. Best regards, Alaeaya Hendricks (949)-416-6300. 26116 Red Corral Rd.

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Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Tina Corso

The Nellie Gail garden group were so busy the last two months planting succulents and growing seedlings to sell at the Easter Egg Hunt. By the time you read this it has come and gone. So I hope everyone had a wonderful time.

At the same time of trying to grow succulents for our sale; I was praying and hoping for a normal year of temperatures and rain. I actually could not remember a normal winter.

When our dormant trees didn't try to blossom too early from a few days of intense heat. And then the cold kills them. Instead we got wonderful cold temperatures and lots of rain.

It has been difficult deciding when to fertilize for Spring. I waited till the first week of March using organic products that are slower in absorption compared to synthetic products. I wanted a slow start to spring so the blossoms would not bloom all at once. Just as a precaution if a cold wave of temperatures or wind happens we can still produce some fruit. So far things are going well.

California weather has been all over the map the last few decades. The rest of the world is also suffering greatly. I am not here to tell you what to believe but to offer solutions. I am always reading articles to find these solutions for our up and down climate. And I became interested in doing many of these practices to see how I can help my garden.

https://bcfarmsandfood.com/grow-climate-change-resilient-garden/?fbclid=IwAR2BwAa49Fo_joJfRREw7sgFV1MTyQicvbP-yDVZZFuacB2duFCTPPiTEb8

I like this term "Grow a climate change resilient garden".

So when I first moved here one of my best friends is a geologist and he looked at my property and said you have a terrible vertex of run off water here prime for mudslides. And sure enough we had three mudslides. I said to him ok we will do whatever it takes to fix this problem. So the first thing we did was elongate the pool to protect the house



from mudslides. The next was to add in more drains and to make sure all the old ones were working properly. We also added trenching to the yard so the water run off went into the main drain. All this worked well; the mud went into the pool.

This is not as bad as one would think. First thing you do is drain the pool with sump pumps and clean up the mud with a pressure washer. And after it's really clean fill it back up again and shock it with chlorine to make sure all the bacteria is killed.

But three years of mud is a lot to deal with. I went asking neighbors to please grow on your hillsides. And they added in acacia bushes. The difficult part I did not know is that we are responsible for our hillsides. This property is ours not HOA. So runoff mud and water is our problem and our neighbors as well. So what to do next?

I found a succulent, an ice plant type that loves to grow on slopes, extreme drought tolerant, has flowers for bumble bees (first time seeing them in twenty years) and is fire retardant. And then I see them all over the highways as they do a real good job holding up slopes. On cliffs not such a great job because they can become too heavy with water and fall taking the cliff with them. But on slopes they are great!

<https://thehorticult.com/eyes-on-the-road-californians-the-creepy-appeal-of-the-highway-ice-plant/>

So we planted this all over along with some rosemary for the bees as well. And now adding in lavender. The bees are so happy I have so many types of native bees in my backyard now. And I have not had mud in my pool in over six years. Even after these terrible rain storms no water has come down either. The trenches are dry, the waterfalls didn't happen. The massive mud stayed on the slopes.

The iceplants hold the mudflow and they absorb the water. So instead of a dirt hillside I not only stopped the mudslides I have enriched my garden. And now when I walk up the hillside I am relieved to see how everything is working together. And my cost is next to nothing because these iceplants do not need a lot of water. This is climate fixing.

While I was looking at all the bees I also noticed all the lizards and what they were eating; insects. They were jumping in the air catching termites. In the Spring we will see termites flying out of their wooden homes and out in the yard. Dead wood, old stumps, fences and even railroad ties termites will live in. So if you use a lot of pesticides you would be killing off these lizards that are so beneficial. Everything has a purpose in the garden.

We had an unexpected beneficial friend come into my patio as well. A six foot gopher snake. Since we know what these look like and they are harmless. I was very happy to see this guy!!!! Gopher snakes are longer than rattlesnakes, have a small head and no rattle--but their colors on their skin can be similar. They are not aggressive. Please do not hurt them, we need them to kill our gophers and rats. It's best to walk away when you encounter a snake.

Pictures of some of our pollinators--Rosemary the best because it blooms the most. Aeonium succulent blooms when it's a few years old. A Spice Zee Necta plum is fruit I highly recommend owning. Wisteria super pollinator too!! And yes our snake was back in the yard!

Happy Gardening - Tina Corso and Tina Frey
tlc8386@gmail.com



THE PUZZLE Paddock

Mother's Day



| | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| CARING | BREAKFAST | KISSES | SUNDAY |
| TEACHER | LOVE | CAKE | THOUGHTFUL |
| PRESENTS | MOM | UNIQUE | MAY |
| GRANDMA | HOME | CHERISH | FLOWERS |

RANCH RECIPE



MAY STEAK TACOS

INGREDIENTS:

1. COMBINE SOY SAUCE, LIME JUICE, AND HALF OF THE CANOLA OIL IN A BOWL.
2. MIX IN MINCED GARLIC, CHILI POWDER, CUMIN, AND OREGANO TO MAKE A MARINADE.
3. TOSS SKIRT STEAK IN THE MARINADE AND LET IT SIT.
4. COOK MARINATED STEAK IN A PAN WITH REMAINING OIL UNTIL DONE.
5. SERVE STEAK IN WARMED TORTILLAS WITH DICED ONION, CILANTRO, AND LIME WEDGES AS GARNISH.

PREPARATION:

1. MIX SOY SAUCE, LIME JUICE, 1 TBSP CANOLA OIL, GARLIC, CHILI POWDER, CUMIN, AND OREGANO IN A BOWL.
2. MARINATE STEAK IN THIS MIXTURE FOR 1 TO 4 HOURS IN A ZIPLOC BAG OR BOWL.
3. HEAT 1 TBSP CANOLA OIL IN A SKILLET, THEN COOK STEAK AND MARINADE UNTIL BROWNED AND SAUCE THICKENS, AROUND 5-6 MINUTES.
4. SERVE STEAK IN TORTILLAS, TOPPED WITH ONION, CILANTRO, AND LIME.

May 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 Pick a Pasta @ The Watering Hole | 3 | 4 |
| 5  | 6 | 7 Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole | 8 | 9 Pick a Pasta @ The Watering Hole | 10 | 11 Trivia Night Music Mania @ The Watering Hole |
| 12  | 13 | 14 ARC Meeting at 6:00pm @ The Association Office . Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole | 15 | 16 Pick a Pasta @ The Watering Hole | 17 Friday Night Live @ The Watering Hole Featuring Matt Squared | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 Board Meeting 7:30pm @ Clubhouse . Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole | 22 | 23 Pick a Pasta @ The Watering Hole | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27  | 28 ARC Submittal Deadline for June 11th Meeting . Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole | 29 | 30 Pick a Pasta @ The Watering Hole | 31 Friday Night Live @ The Watering Hole Featuring Mark Wood | |

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