

November 2021



# The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



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**INSIDE:**  
Pets on Parade  
Meet Kristina Huff  
Cranberry Bread

*Pumpkin Carving by the Mandel Family*





Everything Under One Roof

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## Contact Us Today to Learn More!

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Senior Loan Officer

949.689.4674

Brian@EverWiseGroup.com  
NMLS 308189 DRE 01888299



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Senior Loan Officer

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## EVERWISE Home Loans

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# Community Contacts



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**Manuel Ruelas** | Operations Manager  
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**Equestrian Center EMERGENCY: (949) 533-0241**

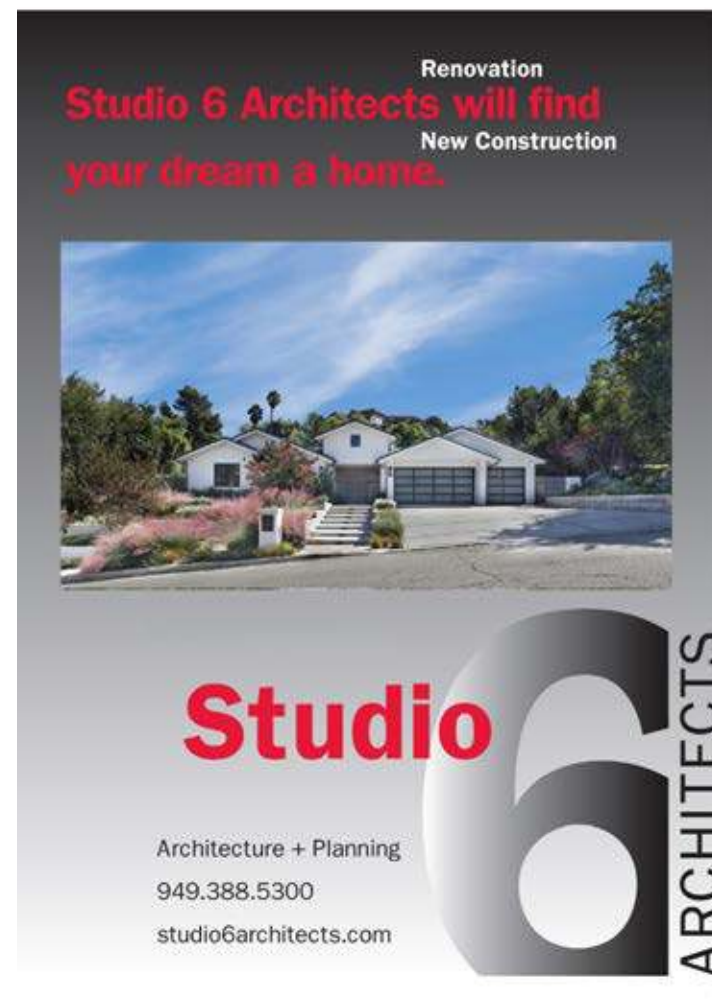
## Board of Directors

Mark Fisk	PRESIDENT
Joyce Taylor	VICE PRESIDENT
Paul Holland	SECRETARY
John Park	CO-TREASURER
Loree Blough	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) 371-1595	Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center
(949) 533-0241	Equestrian Center (Emergency)
(800) 696-0678	Sunset Landscape (Irrigation Leaks)
(714) 971-2421	Vector Control
(877) 728-0446	CRandR (Trash Pickup)
(949) 831-2500	Moulton Niguel Water District
(800) 411-7343	SDGandE
(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	SDGandE Emergencies/Outages

## Assessment Remittance Address

Please remit all assessments to:

P.O. Box, 62053, Newark, NJ 07101-8060

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 November Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is scheduled for November 16, 2021 and will be held via ZOOM

**Board Meeting November 16, 2021**

**Executive Session - 6:00 pm**

**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.

**Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82071307848?pwd=R2kwRmlLSnRGYzFoMVEvNGJ0c2JOQT09>

**Dial in #:** 669 900 6833

**Meeting ID:** 820 7130 7848

**Passcode:** 054504

## Architectural Review Committee

Architectural Review Committee meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 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

Landscape Committee

Security Committee

Trails and Safety Committee



# Manager's Message

By Brian Mitchell



What a crazy summer!

Who would have predicted our September concert would be delayed by lightning and rain? Who would have thought our November issue would have photos of a "Summer" concert? Despite these setbacks we can look back on a wonderful summer of fine weather, music and fun!!

And that's not all. Our events team is busy working on winter wonderland and the prediction is snow in our future. And lights. Lots of lights. Our annual Holiday Home Decorating challenge certainly brings out the best and the brightest of our community. And then in 2022 we will celebrate Valentine's Day with wine and chocolate, St. Patrick's day with a beer tasting and Easter with an Egg Hunt. This Spring we will also host a new event, a traditional Hawaiian Luau. Those are just some highlights, much more is also in the planning stage by our creative Events Committee!

Many of our events are scheduled around the holidays. The first four designated federal holidays were created in 1870 for New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The most recent federal holiday is Juneteenth created by Congress this year. In the years between 1870 and now, twelve holidays have been established by the federal government. Our holidays sometimes move too. In 1968 the Uniform Monday Holiday Act established observance of Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day on Monday's instead of dates. Then in 1975 Veterans Day was returned to November 11th. The names can change too, Decoration Day to Memorial Day and Armistice Day to Veterans Day. California and many states have renamed the federal holiday Washington's Birthday to President's Day. States can also create holidays, like California's César Chávez Day on March 31st.

While holiday's may not be as straightforward as you would think, whenever they come, they remain wonderful times to gather as families and friends, acknowledge thanks for the blessings in our lives and express love and kindness to others. I wish you a all the best in this upcoming holiday season!!

Brian Mitchell  
General Manager



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# Architectural Reviews



The following properties submitted plans to be reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee on September 14, 2021.

**The Submittal Deadline for the December ARC Meeting is:  
November 30, 2021.**

ADDRESS	PROJECT	RESULTS
27402 Westridge	Pool Resurfacing	Approved
25478 Nellie Gail	Windows & Doors	Approved with Conditions
27132 Shenandoah	Slope Landscape	Approved
25262 Rockridge	Painting	Denied
25601 Rapid Falls	Solar	Approved with Conditions
26081 Hitching Rail	Patio deck & Shade Cover	Denied
25451 Wagon Wheel	Resubmittal Hardscape & Pool	Denied
26071 Red Corral	Solar	Approved with Conditions
27692 Greenfield	Painting	Denied
25781 Highplains	Resubmittal Deck	Approved
25781 Highplains	Landscape & Hardscape	Approved
26041 Horseshoe	Solar	Approved with Conditions
25472 Spotted Pony	Tree Removal	Denied
27221 Westridge	Garage Doors	Approved with Conditions
26011 Nellie Gail	Addition to House	Approved with Conditions
26025 Red Corral	Painting & Windows	Approved with Conditions
26031 Waterwheel	Pavers	Approved
26432 Dapple Grey	Resubmittal BBQ & Drain lines	Approved

Any exterior change to your home or property requires approval. Please consult the Architectural Guidelines available at [www.nelliegailranch.org](http://www.nelliegailranch.org). Submissions for approval are due by 5:00 PM ten business days prior to the meeting date. Please see the calendar at the back of the Pony Express or contact the Association Office at (949) 425-1477 for specific meeting dates and deadlines or with any questions pertaining to your proposed project.

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**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](mailto:marty@martysamuel.com)



NELLIE GAIL RANCH OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
OPEN SESSION | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session meeting of the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association was called to order via Zoom at 7:30 p.m.

### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Loree Blough  
Paul Holland  
Mark Fisk  
John Park  
Joyce Taylor

### MANAGEMENT

Brian Mitchell, General Manager  
Dennis Moss, Operations Manager, Parks & Recreation Facilities

## II. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

### A. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TRAILS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Motion:** Taylor  
**Second:** Fisk

This item was deferred to the October 19, 2021 meeting

### B. CONFIRMATION OF RESIGNATION OF SECURITY COMMITTEE MEMBER

**Motion:** Taylor  
**Second:** Fisk

**Resolution:** To acknowledge Bill Hunt and his contribution to the community through his dedicated service as a member of the Security Committee. As he has recently closed escrow on his home and transferred title, he has resigned from the Committee.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## III. HOMEOWNER FORUM

One (1) homeowner attended the Open Homeowner Forum via the ZOOM link.

## IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

**The regularly scheduled Executive Session meeting was held on August 17, 2021.**

### Actions taken include:

- Approval of the July 20, 2021 and August 12, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- Reviewed the August 2021 Legal Report.
- Conducted a Meet and Confer with a homeowner to consider a proposed payment plan.
- Reviewed & discussed potential development of committee member participation standards.
- Approved an agreement with ClubAutomation for a club management / card access system at the Recreation Center.
- Approved an agreement with Dave Bang Associates to install new playground equipment at Hidden Trail Park.
- Approved an agreement with Blueray Management for pool and spa maintenance services.
- Approved an agreement with Sea Stallion Scuba for use of swim facilities for scuba lessons.
- Approved an agreement with Swim Velocity / Trilavie for use of swim facilities for swim training.
- Approved an agreement with White Raven Janitorial for handyman and janitorial services.
- Approved moving reserve and operating investment funds out of Wells Fargo Advisors and into Hart Group at Morgan Stanley.
- Approved appointment of Mark Fisk to the Events Committee.
- Approved moving to on-line board review and approval of invoices.
- Authorized a members only Labor Day Pickleball Tournament with revenue share.
- Received and filed the delinquency reports.

- Received and filed the Violation Report.

## V. CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Park  
**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve Consent Calendar resolutions for agenda items V-A through V-C.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2021 OPEN SESSION MINUTES

**Resolution:** To approve the Open Session Minutes dated August 17, 2021 as presented.

### B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE JULY 31, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Resolution:** To approve the financial statements for the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association dated July 31, 2021 reflecting the following:

The Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects \$2,116,741 in reserve funds, \$3,119,323 in operating funds, \$8,400 in Petty Cash, and \$621,215 in Stall, Trail and Architectural Deposits for a total cash balance of \$5,865,679.

Year to date Assessment Revenue totals \$2,527,998 compared to the budgeted \$2,650,788.

Year to date Total Consolidated Revenue is \$3,989,898 to the budgeted \$4,021,055.

The Consolidated Net Increase for the month prior to adjustments for depreciation is \$207,435 compared to the budgeted increase of \$344,001. Consolidated Net Income year to date prior to adjustments for depreciation is \$532,819 compared to the budgeted increase of \$368,251. Year to date reserve funding is \$480,799 compared to a budget of \$459,600. The variance is reserve interest income.

### C. DELINQUENCY STATISTICS REPORT

- There is (1) one past owner delinquency with a balance of \$471.
- Eighty (80) current owner past due delinquencies total \$63,367 in assessments and \$4,660 in assessment judgements.
- The collection attorney is currently working on six (6) past and current homeowner accounts to collect on judgments and/or past due assessment balances.

- Total accumulated outstanding assessments total 2.4% of the annual assessment budget.

### End of Consent Calendar

## VI. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

### A. CONSIDERATION OF DANCE FLOOR SET-UP FOR LAST CONCERT

**Motion:** Park  
**Second:** Holland

**Resolution:** To forgo setting up the dancefloor for the last summer concert scheduled for September 24, 2021.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO PROVIDE IRRIGATION WATER TO TEN (10) DONATED TREES ON THE CITY PROPERTY BELOW CELL TOWER

**Motion:** Park  
**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve, subject to burying irrigation pipes, allowing the City of Laguna Hills to connect irrigation to a Nellie Gail Ranch water meter for ten trees donated by a Nellie Gail Ranch homeowner that will be located on city property behind the cell tower.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### C. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO PLANT FOUR (4) TREES ON THE SLOPE ABOVE THE RECREATION CENTER POOL

**Action:** To defer until the October 19, 2021 meeting consideration to install four (4) trees and bubblers on the slope above the pool area.

### D. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR INSTALLING PAVERS UNDER FIVE (5) HIDDEN TRAIL PARK BENCHES/PICNIC TABLES

**Motion:** Park  
**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve a work order with Boulder Earthwork to install pavers under three (3) park benches and two (2) concrete picnic tables for a total cost \$7,200 that will be paid from the Landscape Replacement budget GL 15502.

Ayes: Park, Fisk, Taylor

Nays: None



Abstain: Blough, Holland

**The motion carried.**

**E. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO REMOVE A LARGE MELALEUCA FROM THE NELLIE GAIL ROAD MEDIAN**

**Motion:** Taylor

**Second:** Blough

**Resolution:** To approve Quezada Professional Landscape to remove a large Melaleuca from the Nellie Gail Road median in front of the Equestrian Center for a total cost of \$550.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**F. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022 EVENT CALENDAR AND EVENT BUDGET**

**Motion:** Taylor

**Second:** Park

**Resolution:** To approve the calendar of events for 2021-22 and associated budgets. Note 1: The calendar was directed to incorporate the return of the snow event in December 2021. Note 2: The Events Committee will be requested to consider recommendations to revise the contributing sponsorship standards for events.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EQUESTRIAN CENTER CLINIC / EVENT HOSTED BY DRESSAGE TRAINER KATY MOUZIS**

**Motion:** Holland

**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve the request by trainer Katy Mouzis to host a clinic / event at the Equestrian Center.

**H. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR PICKLEBALL GUEST PLAY**

**Motion:** Taylor

**Second:** Fisk

**Resolution:** To approve to open the pickleball courts to guest play with a fee of \$20 per guest, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to dusk weekends effective Oct 1, 2021.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**I. CONSIDERATION OF PLAQUE IN THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM TO COMMEMORATE THE SOURCE OF THE WOOD PANELING**

**Motion:** Blough

**Second:** Fisk

**Resolution:** To approve the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the source of wood used for paneling on the multi-purpose room wall at a cost not to exceed \$200.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**J. CONSIDERATION OF PLAQUE OVER FIREPLACE TO COMMEMORATE PAINTING**

**Motion:** Blough

**Second:** Holland

**Resolution:** To approve the purchase of a plaque to commemorate the painting hung over the lobby fireplace, at a cost not to exceed \$80.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**K. CONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESERVE FUNDS**

**Motion:** Park

**Second:** Fisk

**Resolution:** To approve instruction to The Hart Group at Morgan Stanley to ladder CD's with maturities not to exceed two years

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**VII. REPORTS**

The following reports were received and filed by the Board: Architectural Review, Communications, Community Events, Emergency Preparedness, Equestrian Center, Landscape - Sunset, Solar, Swim Center, Tennis/Pickleball Center, and Trails & Safety Committee.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and filed.

**IX. NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular Open Session Board of Directors meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



# Welcome to Nellie Gail Ranch

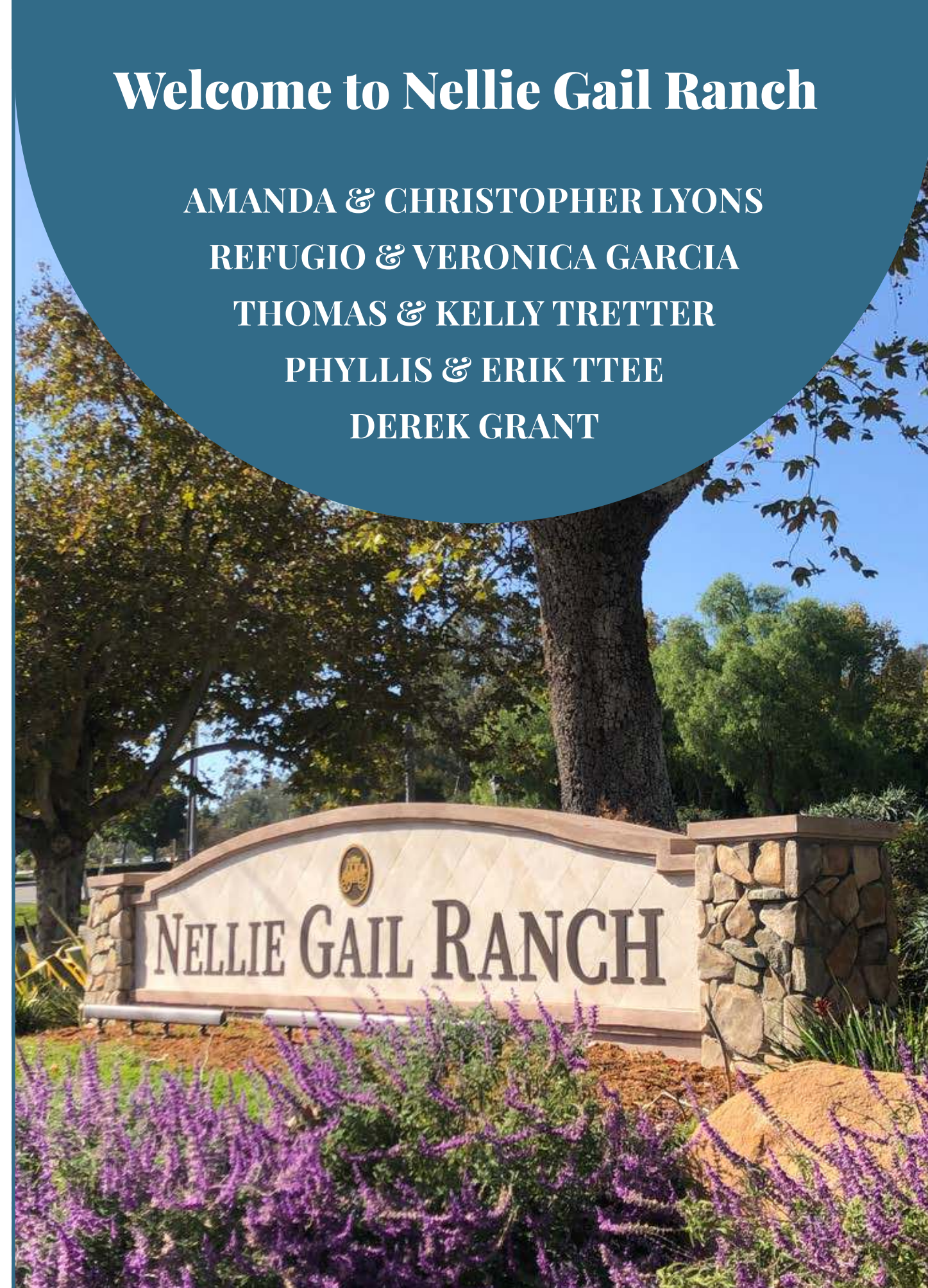
AMANDA & CHRISTOPHER LYONS

REFUGIO & VERONICA GARCIA

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PHYLLIS & ERIK TTEE

DEREK GRANT





# Nellie Gail S.M.A.R.T.

By Brian Mitchell

## Footing Available for Homeowner Arenas

The Equestrian Center is replacing sand footing in the lower arena the second week of November (weather permitting). The sand footing is two years old and not in condition for our competitive training needs at this arena. We will repurpose some of the sand by transporting it to the 100 foot arena above Lone Acres. Some of the sand will also be used to fill trail sandbags. We have about 75 tons to dispose of so we can also make it available to homeowners for private arenas. If you have the ability to haul the sand you may make arrangements with us to pick it up on the days we are removing the old sand to prepare for delivery of fresh footing. Please contact our Equestrian Manager Dave Jones at [djones@nelliegailranch.org](mailto:djones@nelliegailranch.org) and we will keep you updated on the date it will be available for pick-up.

## Sandbag Preservation = Trail Preservation

Sandbags are often placed at trail heads and crosswise on trails to slow the flow of water and keep trail debris from washing into the streets or down steep trails. Please require your hay delivery drivers and others service providers not to drive over the sandbags. Drivers should be required to remove sandbags from the delivery vehicle wheel path of travel and replace after passing. It is more work for them and drivers will prefer not too, however, the result of preserving the sandbags is to preserve the trails.

Another way to accomplish sandbag preservation is to order a larger quantity of hay or shavings to reduce the number of winter deliveries. This also makes sure you don't run low if we have to close the trails for an extended time if we have regular rainfall this year.

Please help us work together to protect the trail system!



# Anvil Real Estate, founded by Nellie Gail Ranch Realtor, Melody Smith, is turning ONE!

We would like to thank our wonderful Nellie Gail Ranch clients and supporters for helping make this last year an amazing success. Your trust in our expertise is why we are able to do what we love every single day.

## Here are a few things we accomplished in the last year!

- #1 Real Estate Brokerage in Laguna Hills
- Featured on the 2021 RealTrends + Tom Ferry America's Best Real Estate Professionals List
- Established local strategic partnership with Zillow
- Melody Smith named 2021 RISMedia Crusader
- Hosted numerous community events and sponsorships

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season.

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# Pets on Parade

## Most Talented



- 1 JUNIPER  
POLLY BOCCINO
- 2 MAX  
KATHY ROTH
- 3 RYLEE  
KATHY ROTH

Our first **PETS ON PARADE CONTEST & EXPO** held on Saturday, October 2, was super fun thanks to all who attended on an unusually hot day. A quick pet parade was followed by a fun contest with four categories, and volunteer judges were Jan Curtis, Melody Carruth, Karen Robbins, Bill Frey, and Jared Mathis (our Nellie Gail's grandson!). Burning Buns burger truck and Kona Ice were serving on site. Vendors and exhibitors displayed their company products and services as well as donated generous prizes for our opportunity drawing. Entertainment included a face painter, balloon twister, and a talented caricature artist. We received many positive comments, and a second annual event is being considered. Special thanks to our contributing sponsor MELODY SMITH & ASSOCIATES/ANVIL REAL ESTATE for their generous support and assistance during the event.



## Best Dressed



- 1 TRACKER  
LEE FAMILY
- 2 SLINKY  
TINA SHILLING
- 3 DIGGER  
PRESTON SCHREIBER

## Most Unusual



- 1 SPIKE  
KAYTIE MADSON
- 2 BOOTS  
ADAM PERMEH
- 3 LEAF  
JAMES RADOJICIC

## Cutest/Prettiest



- 1 BEAR  
FORMAN FAMILY
- 2 ROMEO  
SATISH
- 3 GUTLET  
RUNASINGLE FAMILY



Saturday, October 2, 2021

## Special Thanks

TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED

Contributing Sponsor  
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Emily Leard  
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(949) 887-2361 - [emuleard@gmail.com](mailto:emuleard@gmail.com)

Volunteers  
Contest Judges:  
Jan Curtis, Melody Carruth, Karen Robbins  
Jared Mathis, Bill Frey

Registration & Games:  
Linda Mudd and Melody Smith & Associates Staff

Events Committee  
Loree Blough and Holly Perme

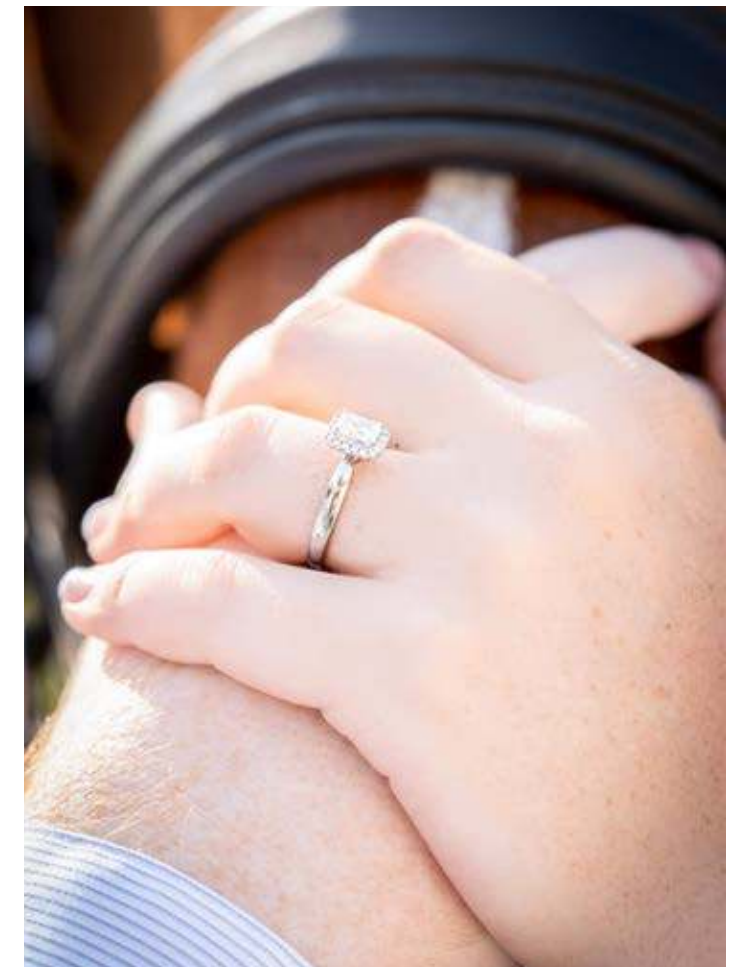


# Equestrian Center News

## Meet Kristina Huff

Kristina Huff has been riding since she was just 8-years old but her dressage journey began 6 years ago, here at the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center. Under the guidance of trainer Christine Stevenson, Kristina and her horse Max qualified for the dressage finals in 2018. In 2019, she purchased her first Hanoverian horse, Goose, who she has been riding with ever since. Next month, we will be cheering Kristina and Goose on as they compete at the 2021 US Dressage finals in the second level free style and third level for adult amateurs. We are also excited for Kristina's future wedding, after her fiancé planned a beautiful proposal in July at the Equestrian Center.

Kristina's favorite part of dressage is that you're never done learning and there is always something that you can improve upon. She is a great part of our Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center, and she welcomes all to come out and try the sport. Come say 'hi' to Kristina and begin your equestrian journey at the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center.





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The active listing inventory is at an all time low. If you or anyone you know is interested in selling, please give us a call for a market analysis.

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# Surf City All-Stars

October 24, 2021



SUNDAY FUNDAY! Our final concert of the 2021 series (originally scheduled for 9/24) was rescheduled due to surprise thunderstorms and lightning. Sunday, 10/24 turned out to be a beautiful afternoon to picnic in the park and perfect for dancing and singing to the Beach Boys hits performed by **SURF CITY ALL-STARS**, the only tribute band on the planet where each and every member toured in the Beach Boys and Jan & Dean. The vocals were amazing! Contributing Sponsor Brad Feldman Group/Douglas Elliman Real Estate kept the good spirits flowing with free beer, wine and margaritas as well as theme necklaces and fun photo props. Thanks to all the Nellie Gail Ranch families and friends who enjoyed the afternoon with us.

Until next year summer . . .





# Tennis Center News

Congratulations Haylee Conway



Huge congratulations to Haylee Conway on winning her first ITF title at the J5 in Nicaragua.

## NELLIE GAIL RANCH HOLIDAY TENNIS CAMP

Week 1 - December 20th - 23rd  
Week 2 - December 27th - 30th  
Mon-Thurs  
10.30am - 1.30pm

Little Hitters (5-8 year)  
Challengers (9 years +)

\$150 per player/per week  
\*\$25 Non refundable deposit

Lunch options available

(949) 831-6660



# Team Darkhorse

By Karen Robbins

Video of United States Marines standing guard and evacuating Kabul, when US Forces pulled out of Afghanistan, and the consequent slaughter of 12 Marines, and 1 Soldier tore at the hearts of all of us. The Camp Pendleton Marines killed were not from 3/5 (Darkhorse Marines), but from 2/1. Nellie Gail resident Joy Chen put out a call on social media for items needed at their "welcome home", and when we saw her request, Team Darkhorse offered to reach out to our own "Baking Brigade" of community supporters to help. Our community did not disappoint! The day of the drop off, cars continued to roll up to Joy's house, and unload dozens of delicious baked goodies, many wrapped with thank you notes and hearts. Joy was able to deliver enough baked goodies to welcome back 900 Marines! Thank you to all who participated.



And, as a follow up, Joy Chen is now a new member of Team Darkhorse! Watch for hers and Team Darkhorse postings on social media — her talents are with us!



August, September and October also held some fun events, to which Team Darkhorse was invited to participate. Laguna Hills City Council held their first ever CAR SHOW at the Laguna Hills Mall parking lot, Jake Alexander led the effort, and turnout was tremendous. We were asked to be the named charity of the event, and participants were asked to bring diapers for the Marines' families, or shaving gear for the young Marines. Some of the 3/5 combat veterans were on hand too. Thank you to those of you who took part.

In September Laguna Hills High School held their annual Hawks Hail our Heroes (H3) night, this year spearheaded by Nellie Gail resident Doug Tennant. TDH was present with flags, tribute banners and 3/5 veteran Major Joe Patterson spoke at the ceremony.



Finally, as I write this, OCTOBER FEST at Pumpkin City was launched this year — with a Beer Garden and live music! Will Derentz the owner of Pumpkin City asked us to be the name charity here as well. All profits from beer sales will benefit our programs for enlisted and combat veterans.

We now look forward to the Holidays, and will be collecting unwrapped toys for the Marines' children early this year. Because of their schedule, the annual holiday party is Thursday, Dec 2, which means we will need to collect all by end of November. Please look for toy collection box at Nellie Gail Tennis Club offices.



**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 Chairman Karen Robbins, 35robbins@gmail.com



# Emergency Preparedness

## Emergency Water Preservation

By Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng

Last month, we discussed the importance of water during a regional disaster. Specifically, we must be able to access drinking water as a basis for our survival. Although the human body can go as long as three weeks without food, we cannot go more than three days without water. This month's article will focus on some specific skills needed to access drinking water beyond what we have already stored.

Although you may have 10 to 55 gallons of water currently stored, your home likely contains an additional 75-100 gallons of drinking water that can be used as long as proper steps are taken to not allow it to become contaminated. These steps are outlined below. You will need some basic tools to accomplish these tasks. These tools include a screwdriver, crescent wrench or pliers, or a readily available gas and water main shut off tool.

**Shutting off your water main valve.** Learning how to shut off your water main valve is critical for two reasons: doing so will prevent contaminated water from damaged municipal lines from entering your home system, and, learning how to shut your water main may prevent damage to your home in the event you have a pipe breakage within your home or property. You must first identify the location of the valve. This valve is located at the water meter on your property near the street. It can be identified by a concrete cover that measures approximately 12 in. x 18 in. (see Figure 1.)

Removing this cover will expose the valve and water meter (see Figure 2). Note that the valve is located towards the street side of the water meter box. Using a wrench or earthquake utility tool, turning this valve 90 degrees will shut off the water supply to the home.

A video of this process can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jEp5wtQLmY>

**Shutting off the gas main.** Learning to shut off the gas is a critical skill, especially when you suspect structural damage to your home. It is best to shut off the gas at the main when you are unsure of possible damage. This is accomplished by identifying your gas meter, usually found at the side of the house, often near your electrical panel (see Figure 3.) The valve is located at the bottom of the gas line that comes up from the ground and enters the regulator and meter. Turning this valve 90 degrees will shut off the gas to the home. This can be confirmed by seeing no movement in the gas meter dial and hearing no gas pass through the regulator.



Figure 1.

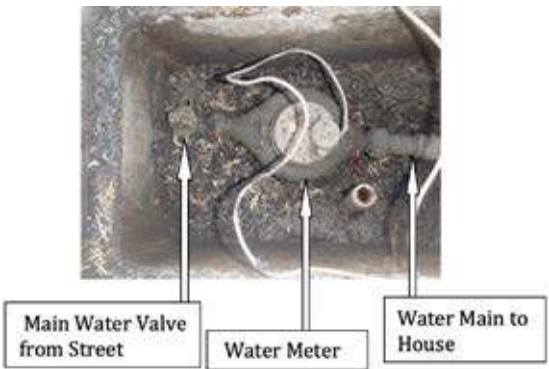


Figure 2.

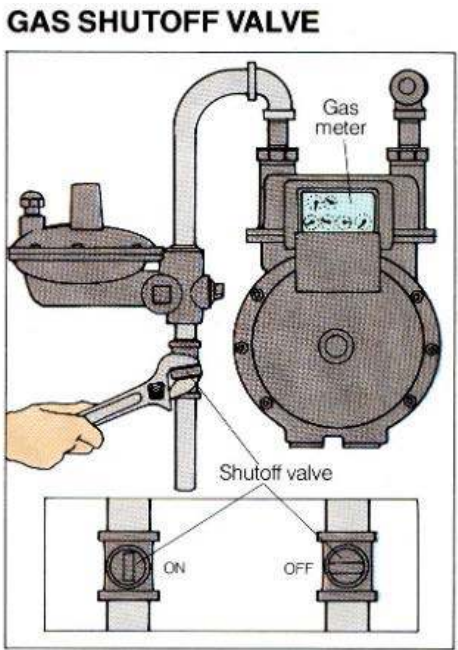


Figure 3.

A video of this process can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPUh8UKX-ZQ>

**Shutting off the gas water heater.** If you are certain that there is no structural damage to the home, you may not need to shut off all the gas (and thus eliminating a potential resource for cooking) and may only need to turn off the hot water heater. This is accomplished by turning the top, smaller dial to the "off" position (see Figure 4, green arrow.) This is very important as it will prevent the water heater from heating up as you drain the water from the water tank. It is insufficient to turn the larger thermostat dial in front to "vacation" as this does not completely turn off the water heater.

Once the water heater has cooled sufficiently, the water can be drained and used as drinking water by opening hose bib drain (see Figure 5) located near the bottom of the water heater. A screwdriver may be needed to turn this valve. You may also need to open a hot water faucet inside the house to break the vacuum and allow for the water to drain.

**Preventing sediment build up.** As mentioned last month, the hard water found in South Orange County can lead to a build up of sediment. Although not harmful to one's health, the sediment can decrease the efficiency of the water heater function. As such, it is recommended that the sediment be removed by regularly draining the hot water heater. This is done by the following steps:

1. leave the water main on,
2. turn off the hot water heater as stated above,
3. attach a garden hose to the hose bib drain, and
4. open the valve allowing the water to flow out into the street (or yard, if sufficiently cooled).

This should be done at least once a year to prevent a build up of sediment.

The skills listed above will allow you to have access to additional drinking water in the event of an emergency. In addition, these skills can also help you lessen any damage that may have occurred to your home during a disaster. If you wish to learn more disaster preparedness skills, consider becoming a Block Captain as monthly courses are offered to our Block Captains and Area Coordinators. Contact us at [emergencypreparedness@nelliegailranch.org](mailto:emergencypreparedness@nelliegailranch.org).



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

*Dr. Kenneth Cheng is a 9 year member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and a resident of Nellie Gail Ranch for over 22 years. He is also an emergency preparedness instructor at the Orange County Sheriff's Department, where he is also a reserved deputy sheriff. Dr. Cheng can be contacted at [kennethscheng@gmail.com](mailto:kennethscheng@gmail.com).*



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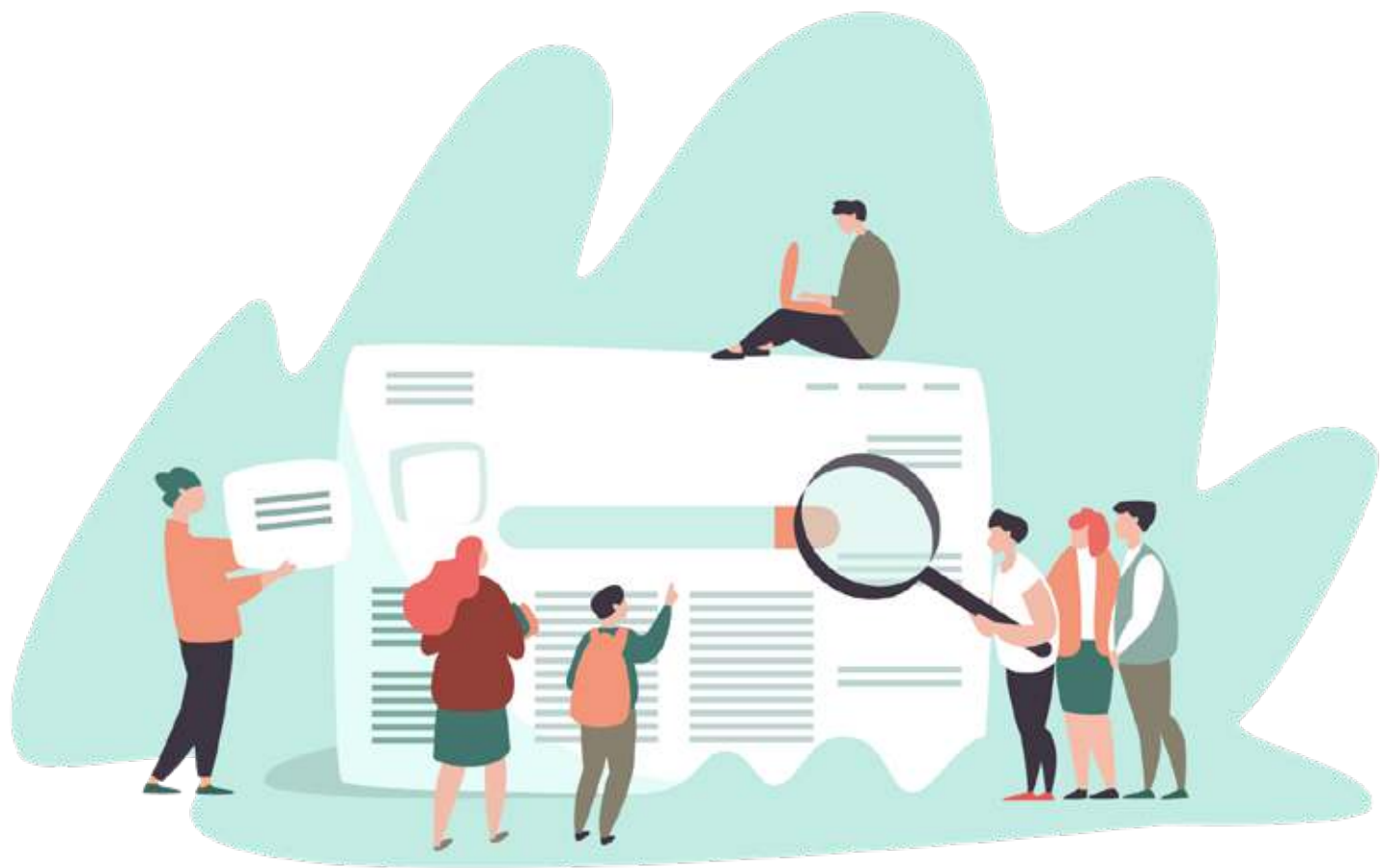
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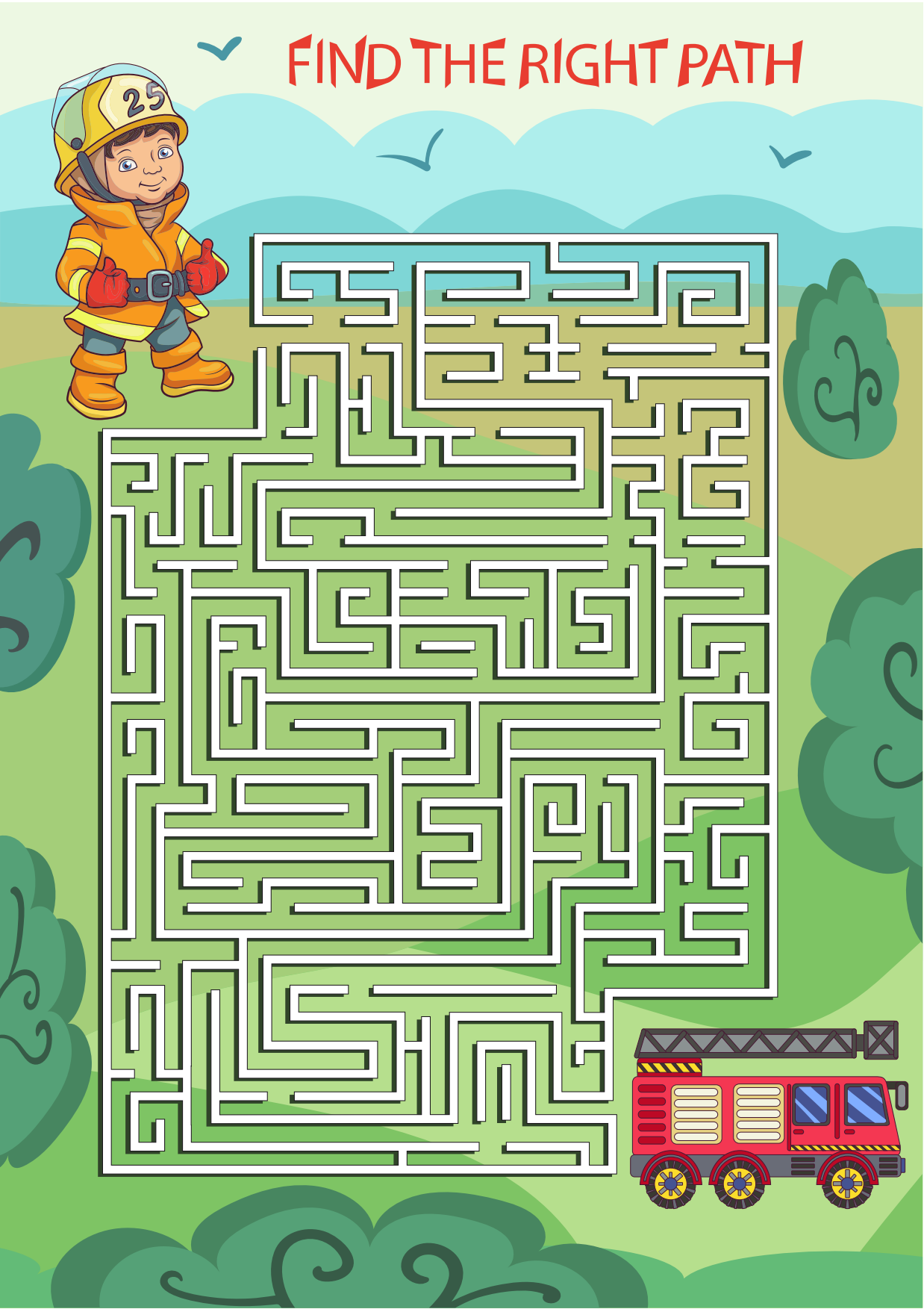
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# The Puzzle Paddock



# Ranch Recipe

## Cranberry Bread

*Easy as 1, 2, 3. Studded with cranberries, this quick bread is adaptable: Try it at breakfast or as an afternoon snack.*

### Directions

#### Step 1

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; butter and flour a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan (8-cup capacity), and set aside.

#### Step 2

In a medium bowl, combine butter, egg, and milk. Add wet mixture to dry mixture, and whisk to combine; fold in cranberries.

#### Step 3

Pour batter into prepared pan; sprinkle top with turbinado sugar, if desired. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center of loaf comes out clean, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack; let bread cool 30 minutes. Invert onto rack, then immediately turn right side up to cool completely.

Prep Time: 15 Minutes  
Total Time: 1.5 Hours  
Servings: 8

### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus more for pan
- 2 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled), plus more for pan
- 1 cup packed light-brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1 bag (12 ounces) cranberries
- 1 tablespoon turbinado sugar, for topping (optional)





# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 ARC Meeting 7:00 PM Via Zoom	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 PM Via Zoom	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 ARC Submittal Deadline for December Meeting	24	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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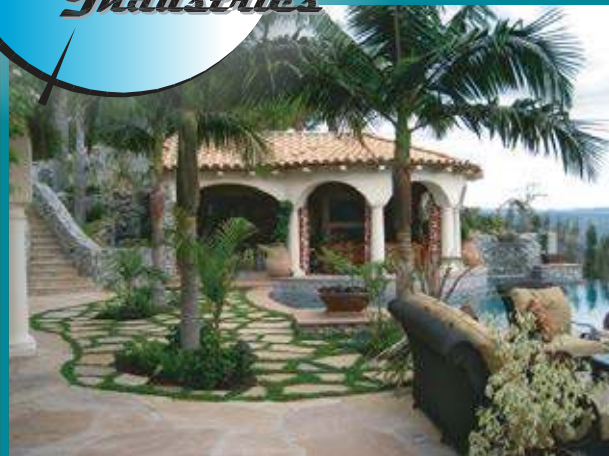
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