

March 2022



# The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter

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Summer Camp Information

Water Preservation Workshop

Equestrian Competition  
in the desert



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Senior Loan Officer

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NMLS 308189 DRE 01888299



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Senior Loan Officer

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## 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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**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)
(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, 30354, Tampa, FL 33630-3354  
or drop off at the Association Office.



## Mission Statement

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

## Board of Directors Meetings

The next Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is scheduled for March 15, 2022 and will be held live in the Association Clubhouse.

### Board Meeting March 15, 2022

**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.

## 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

# Director's Message

By Joyce Taylor



I have to admit that I am no expert in all things equestrian, but I am a product of a midwestern farming family and spent much of my youth around horses. My uncle bred horses largely for trail riding, so I was lucky enough

to join my cousins on the occasional trail ride through the backwoods of Iowa. I spent enough time at it to gain a healthy respect for a horse's graceful beauty, sheer power and sometimes mischievous personality. My husband likens horses to big dogs, and while they often share an uncanny intuition and profound affection for their owners/caretakers, they also can be flighty, skittish and unpredictable. It doesn't take much to spook a horse when riding through an Iowa cornfield, and I can only imagine that the surroundings of a Southern California metropolis must hold an abundance of threatening shadows and sounds frightful to the equine ear. It must take a composed horse and rider to navigate our car-centric world.

So, when a neighbor pointed out to me that the crossing to Nellie Gail's Equestrian Center poses a danger to riders and their animals and demonstrated just how often drivers ignore or overlook the existing signals, I sat up and took note. I had not realized that the curvature of Nellie Gail Road is for all intents and purposes a blind corner. And with mature trees and thick shrubbery in the median, we may have a situation where visibility of cross-traffic is obscured. Add to that the distracted nature of motorists lately, and we have a recipe for disaster.

To those of us responsible for the management of the HOA, safety is of utmost importance. Dating back to 2012, the city established a traffic committee to review Nellie Gail Ranch equestrian trail crossing signage, working with our Trails and

Safety Committee to provide safer environs. Over the last decade, efforts to address the safety of the equestrian community (and any pedestrian, really) have resulted in improvements in over 30 equestrian crossings. These improvements include convex mirrors, painted chevrons in the street marking trail intersections, yellow signs warning oncoming traffic of nearby crossings, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFBs) at the equestrian center's entrance.

Last year we solicited input from the community about experiences at the entrance. A review of the reported near misses and scary encounters merited revisiting the topic. In August of 2020, we requested that the Laguna Hills Traffic Commission reexamine the effectiveness of the current measures, and the Traffic Commission presented their findings to the city council this past January. Two additional RRFBs were installed in the median and city staff developed a design concept for speed tables on either side of the entrance as a traffic control measure. Now, I had never heard the term "speed table," but think



of it as a 3 inch raised platform wide enough to span the length of a car. By city policy, adding such a "physical device" is only "considered as a last use effort to resolve an identified traffic safety issue that has been documented as not being resolved by other means..." Additional criteria must also be met:

- 1) prevailing speed of traffic greater than the posted speed,
- 2) a minimum number of vehicles per day,
- 3) a maximum grade of the street,

- 4) a minimum length of the offending roadway,
- 5) a location that meets fire and police department approval,
- 6) approval of 67% of the "affected" residents.

As an aside, the traffic commission reported that 2500 cars travel past the Equestrian Center's entrance every day. Assuming that the number of cars per minute is uniform over the 24-hour period, that means a car passes through the intersection every 1.7 minutes. Now, certainly that assumption is not true since day-time traffic is sure to be heavier than overnight traffic. Similarly, horses aren't on the trails after dark, either. So, shorten that to 12 hours a day and the average cross-traffic then turns out to be about every 30 seconds. Considering that a horse moves a heck of a lot slower than the cross-traffic, you can see why folks are concerned, especially when the average speed of traffic is moving well above the posted 25mph. The traffic commission also highlighted that this intersection is not typical, designed back in the day when Nellie Gail Ranch was NOT in the middle of suburbia. It is a heavily used crossing mid-block where traffic management stop signs or traffic lights are absent.

As far as the physical device goes, we meet all but one of the criteria listed above because the definition of the "affected" residents has yet to be defined. As of the Feb 22 city council meeting, Laguna Hills has approved the administration of the required survey, so expect to see news when that becomes available.

Several of our honorable city council members live in Nellie Gail Ranch and have expressed a desire to expand the recommended "affected resident" map, which I wholeheartedly applaud.

Considering that residents from all over the community frequent the club to use our beautiful facilities, those that live within a stone's throw of the NGROA facilities are not the only ones affected. NGROA management sent out a preliminary survey last year to get a feeling for the sentiment on this issue. Even though the survey did not include any background or explanation, it revealed community support. As we prepare for the pending city-sponsored survey, I trust everyone will think this issue through and keep in mind the safety of our neighbors who use the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center crossing, either by foot or on horseback.

Personally, I believe that the inconvenience of the split speed tables is a small price to pay for the safety of our neighbors. If you haven't ever tried to use this crossing, I encourage you to swing by and take a peek for yourself. Don't hesitate to contact the HOA to ask questions and submit opinions. I, for one, am thankful that so many of our neighbors are interested in protecting our community property, limiting our liability should



an accident occur, and most importantly, keeping our trails safe for everyone.

It is said that "you can't fight city hall." Luckily, we don't have to here in Laguna Hills because the city is working with us to resolve the threat to our residents. I offer my thanks to the whole council who voted unanimously to push the issue forward.

# Architectural Reviews



The following properties submitted plans for review by the Architectural Review Committee on February 8th, 2022.

**The Submittal Deadline for the April ARC Meeting is:  
March 29, 2022.**

ADDRESS	PROJECT	RESULTS
24941 Mustang	Driveway Replacement	Approved with Conditions
25072 Buckskin	Addition to House <300 sq ft, Roof, Doors, Windows	Denied
27151 Lost Colt	Addition to house >300 sq ft	Approved with Conditions
27101 Hidden Trail	Resubmittal - House & Landscape	Approved
26051 Red Corral	Jr ADU	Denied
25662 Pinto	Shed	Denied
26101 Mt. Diablo	Front Landscape	Approved with Conditions
25002 Buckboard	Artificial Turf	Approved
27642 Pinestrap	Rear Hardscape & Pool	Approved with Conditions
25136 Stageline	Front & Rear Hardscape	Approved with Conditions



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.



ON TRAILS

# Nellie Gail SAFE

ON TRAILS



## E-Bikes and Nellie Gail Ranch

Bicycle technology has come a long, long way since the first homes in Nellie Gail Ranch were sold in 1976. E-bikes have opened up whole new avenues of fun for people of all ages. The bikes have more power to assist riders on steep Nellie Gail Ranch streets and with the power they also have higher speed capability than manual peddle power. **Please review with your families appropriate e-bike safety.**

First and foremost, **no bikes of any type are permitted on the trails.** It's not just a rule for the sake of having a rule. Our community is an equestrian community and horses and bikes do not mix safely. Horses are flight animals and bikes appear to horses to be predators. The easements our homeowners have over their properties are easements for equestrian purposes, not easements for every conceivable sport. Bicycles and E-Bikes of any type are not permitted on trails. Please know it's not just kids...we have had just as many reports of adults riding on the trails, so this message is for EVERYONE.

Nellie Gail Ranch is not just an Equestrian Community, we are also a community of families and youths and we support recreation. We do not currently have rules restricting bicycles in the parks and we prefer not to. We trust and rely on our homeowners and guests to use common sense and ride safely. Ride slow when there are pedestrians and be extra cautious around the elderly, the very young, and pets on leashes.

I myself have an e-bike. And sometimes it's nice to turn off the power and just cruise slowly and re-live the past when all I had were my legs. But then I come to a steep hill and ...

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The Nellie Gail Ranch Security Committee has scheduled a Crime Prevention Workshop at the Association Clubhouse March 16th from 6-8 p.m. in conjunction with the Orange County Sheriff / City of Laguna Hills Crime Prevention Specialist. We will review with attendees information regarding Nellie Gail Ranch incidents of crime. We will also share steps that can be taken by you to have an active role in the community to make safe choices and create an environment that discourages crime.

THE NELLIE GAIL RANCH SECURITY COMMITTEE

*invites you to join our community on*

**Wednesday, MARCH 16 @ 6PM**

at Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis & Swim Center Association Clubhouse  
25281 Empty Saddle Drive



# CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOP

*Focusing on*

**SAFE CRIME PREVENTION PRACTICES**

*followed by a Q&A Session*

*Conducted by the*

**Orange County Sheriff / City of Laguna Hills Police Services**

**CRIME PREVENTION SPECIALIST**



**NELLIE GAIL RANCH OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**OPEN SESSION | TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

**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  
Joyce Taylor

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

John Park

**MANAGEMENT**

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

**II. HOMEOWNER FORUM**

Three (3) homeowners attended the Open Homeowner Forum via the ZOOM link.

**III. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Motion:** Blough

**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve appointment of Nellie Gail Ranch Members to serve as Members of the following Committees through January 31, 2023, subject to each member complying with the Committee Member Criteria standards adopted October 19, 2021 and signing the Community Leader Code of Conduct.

**A. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Vanessa Kon Ken Robertson  
Brian Von Helmolt  
Dave Robbins – (Alternate Member)

**B. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Deirdre Spalding Dennis Blough  
Don Caskey John Park  
Julia Scholtes Ken Cheng  
Loree Blough Robert Bettey

**C. EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Dolores Caringella Gigi Bourke  
Jan Curtis Jennifer Portnoff  
Liz Abdo

**D. EVENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Loree Blough Holly Perme

**E. LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cathy Chamberlin Sanjay Mathur  
Toby Nassif

**F. SECURITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ed Fuller Pat Barry  
Rick Eram Steven Beeuwsaert  
Stephen Blythe Tom Burns

**G. TRAILS & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Carol Hurley Dolores Caringella  
Ed Leard Linda Mudd  
Liz Abdo Viviana Mamolo

The Committee Appointment motion carried unanimously.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT**

The regularly scheduled Executive Session meeting was held on November 16, 2021.

**Actions taken include:**

- Approval of the October 19, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
- Reviewed the November 2021 legal report
- Reviewed Crown Castle proposed new tenant DISH. Declined to approve pending revenue share negotiation
- Reviewed Cell Site Consultant for valuation of lease areas and declined to retain at this time
- Considered enforcement hearing action for a maintenance violation with a homeowner
- Reviewed engineer plans and proposals to resolve an off-easement trail encroachment
- Approved a contract with Anchor Alarm to install an alarm system in the Association Clubhouse
- Approved the purchase of wine, beer and soda for stocking of the bar
- Approved pursuing foreclosure on Parcel 636-122-05 for non-payment of assessments
- Approved holiday recognition gift cards or bonus to staff
- Reviewed and filed the delinquency reports
- Reviewed and filed the Violation Report

An Executive Session meeting was held on December 14, 2021.

**Actions taken include:**

- Approved a contract with Boulder Earthwork to resolve an off-easement trail encroachment behind two homes
- Considered new parameters for event sponsorship levels
- Approved Shear Construction agreement for upper back bar cabinets
- Approved purchase from Webstaurant of Regency Stainless Steel wall cabinet sliding door shelving for the kitchen
- Approved Blueray Management to replace pool filter and sand

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion:** Blough

**Second:** Taylor

**Resolution:** To approve Consent Calendar resolutions for agenda items V-A through V-E.  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**Resolution:** To approve the Open Session Minutes dated November 16, 2021 as presented

**B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 31, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

The Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects \$3,476,795 in reserve funds, \$1,976,360 in operating funds, \$8,400 in Petty Cash, and \$638,613 in Stall, Trail and Architectural Deposits for a total cash balance of \$6,100,167.

Year to date Assessment Revenue totals \$642,191 compared to the budgeted \$682,944.

Year to date Total Consolidated Revenue is \$781,088 to the budgeted \$824,653.

The Consolidated Net Increase for the month prior to adjustments for depreciation is \$399,707 compared to the budgeted increase of \$377,670. Consolidated Net Income year to date prior to adjustments for depreciation is \$399,707 compared

to the budgeted increase of \$377,670. Year to date reserve funding is \$127,316 compared to a budget of \$117,752. The variance is reserve interest income.

**C. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 30, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Resolution:** To approve the year-end financial statements for the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association dated November 30, 2021 reflecting the following:

The Consolidated Balance Sheet reflects \$3,476,874 in reserve funds, \$1,843,330 in operating funds, \$8,400 in Petty Cash, and \$622,790 in Stall, Trail and Architectural Deposits for a total cash balance of \$5,951,394.

Year to date Assessment Revenue totals \$710,304 compared to the budgeted \$682,944.

Year to date Total Consolidated Revenue is \$999,561 compared to the budgeted \$966,362.

The Consolidated Net decrease for the month prior to adjustments for depreciation is (\$53,102) compared to the budgeted decrease of (\$171,741). Consolidated Net Income year to date prior to adjustments for depreciation is \$346,605 compared to the budgeted of \$205,929. Year to date reserve funding is \$127,395 compared to a budget of \$117,752. The variance is reserve interest income.

**D. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO RECORD LIENS**

**Resolution:** To authorize and instruct Management to record a lien on the following delinquent accounts should their assessments not be paid within the time period established in the Intent to Lien Letter. In accordance with the Corporation's Assessment Collection Policy, a letter was sent to the homeowners notifying them that they have 30 days to pay the balance owed or a lien will be placed on their property. Therefore, the Board directs Management to lien the account listed below should the delinquent assessments not be paid within the time period established in the Intent to Lien Letter:

DATE	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT DUE
01/07/22	0176-01	\$956.40
01/07/22	0562-02	\$956.40
01/07/22	0820-01	\$756.40
01/07/22	0985-03	\$956.40
01/07/22	1037-01	\$956.40

Delinquency Statistics for the Open Session  
Minutes:

- There are (2) two past owner delinquencies with an assessment balance of \$485.40.
- One hundred fifty-four (54) current owner past due delinquencies total \$48,651 in assessments and \$4,660 in assessment judgements.
- The collection attorney is currently working on nine (9) past and current homeowner accounts to collect on judgments and/or past due assessment balances.
- Total accumulated outstanding assessments total 1.9% of the annual assessment budget.

**E. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF 2020-21 YEAR END AUDIT AND MAILING**

**Resolution:** To approve the September 30, 2021 year-end annual audited financial statements for distribution to the Membership,

and,

To approve mailing through Innovative Printing Solutions at an amount not to exceed \$2,500, inclusive of postage to print and mail the Annual Audit and associated documents on CD ROM to the membership by January 31, 2022.

**End of Consent Calendar**

**VI. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO SUBMIT PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ELECTION RULES TO THE MEMBERSHIP FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO ADOPTION AT THE MARCH 15, 2022 MEETING**

**Motion:** Holland

**Second:** Fisk

**Resolution:** To approve submitting proposed Election Rules revisions to the Nellie Gail Ranch Membership for review and comment in order to comply with new Civil Code effective January 1, 2022. The proposed revisions will be considered for adoption at the March 15, 2022 meeting subject to consideration of membership comments.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF SCHEDULING THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP / BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

**Motion:** Taylor

**Second:** Holland

**Resolution:** To approve Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. as the date and time of the Annual Meeting of the Membership / Board of Directors Election and, as may be needed, Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. as the Reconvened Meeting date and time.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR OF ELECTION AND APPROVAL OF INSTRUCTIONS TO INSPECTOR**

**Resolution:** To approve appointment of The Ballot Box as Inspector of Election for the June 1, 2022 Annual Meeting and Election of Directors and



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subsequent June 8, 2022 reconvened meeting as may be scheduled, and to approve the Instructions to Inspector or Election.

and,

To approve the deadline date of no later than April 30, 2022 for the ballot mailing.

and,

To confirm ballot return postage will be paid by the Association at a cost of \$0.69 per returned ballot.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **D. REVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS FOR PROPOSED SPEED TABLE ON NELLIE GAIL ROAD**

Reviewed survey results.

#### **E. CONSIDERATION OF BAR AND KITCHEN BUDGET PARAMETERS**

**Direction to Management:** To incorporate draft budget amounts for further review.

### **VII. REPORTS**

The following reports were received and filed by the Board: Architectural Review, Community

Events, Emergency Preparedness, Equestrian Center, Flock Safety, Landscape - Sunset, Solar, Swim Center, Tennis/Pickleball Center, and Trails / Common Area.

### **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received and filed.

### **IX. NEXT MEETING**

The next Regular Open Session Board of Directors meeting is on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



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**BOARD AND CARE**

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

**Hidden Trail Park Playground Renovation Completed.** Come on out to Hidden Trail Park to try out the new playground that opened February 4th. Thanks to our Playground Committee (and their children) there are a number of new play elements for playground fun. For a tandem swing experience, a new swing is available for parent and toddler to share together. We also have our first Nellie Gail Ranch tube slide and rope bridge. Two canopies provide shade coverage over the slide deck and bridges to increase play comfort and fun at the brightest times of day. Come on down and have some family fun at Hidden Trail Park. In addition to the new playground we have a walking path, basketball court and benches for resting.



***Proud to be a Nellie Gail Homeowner for 37 years!  
More Nellie Gail homes sold than any broker residing here!***



FABULOUS INTEREST RATES ARE RESULTING IN - SOLD !!!



YOUR HOME COULD BE HERE!

**Homeowner Tip !!!** We are experiencing the strongest "seller's market" in at least 40 years. Homes are flying off the market at record sales prices. The inventory of homes for sale is at a record low. Now is an outstanding opportunity to take advantage of the recent passage of Proposition 19. For owners age 55 or over, sell your current home and transfer your low Prop 13 property tax base to any home purchase, anywhere in California. The new home can be higher or lower in price than the one you sell, and you can do it even if you have used this tax break in the past. Contact me for a more detailed description of this fabulous opportunity!!!



***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)**



# WATER PRESERVATION

EPC TRAINING *by Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng*

## Are you prepared for an emergency?

During a water-related emergency or outbreak, clean drinking water may not be available. Prepare yourself for an emergency by creating and storing a supply of water that will meet your family's needs. Learn how to properly store, filter and treat water at this FREE

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SEMINAR

Tuesday, MARCH 22, 2022

@ 7:00pm

*Nellie Gail Ranch Clubhouse*

For more info, go to [nelliegailranch.org/events](http://nelliegailranch.org/events)



# Swim Center News

As spring approaches and we start to see the pandemic fade, spring sports and other activities will soon take over our busy calendars, but we mustn't forget that **summer camp registrations generally open in March** and if we are not on high alert, they will fill up before we can register. So today, we are providing you with a list of favorite camps, including Evolution Swim Academy summer camp offerings, so that you don't skip a beat and so your kids can enjoy the best that the OC offers this summer. We can't wait to see you at CAMP and we are looking forward to a safe and fun summer!

## **Evolution Sports Academy (Summer Sports Camp)** [www.evolutionswim.com](http://www.evolutionswim.com)

Held here in Nellie Gail Ranch. Let's fill this camp up with Nellie Gail residents.

Registration opens: 2/1/2022 Price: \$289.00/week

Sessions: 10, 1-week sessions starting week of June 6, 2022

Days/Time: Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 4:00 pm

## **Ladera Surf Lessons w/ Dan Fennell** <https://laderasurfllessons.com/>

Dan Fennell is a great guy, runs a great summer surf camp, and has great people working for him.

## **Artime Studios** <https://www.artimestudio.com/camps>

Gabriela Moreno and her family-owned studio provide a great summer art camp experience for your kids

## **Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis Camp** <https://nelliegailranch.org/summer-tennis-camp-is-enrolling-now/>

Bob and crew have been running this camp for 27 years now. If you're going to stay local and your kids want to be a part of a fun tennis camp, this is the camp for you.

## **Orange County Junior Guards\*** <http://www.oclg.org/jg/>

8–15-year-old junior lifeguards can participate in a week-long summer camp at Strands Beach. This one is important as it teaches your child all about the ocean and how to learn to be a safer beachgoer.

*\*The OC Junior Guard program, like most Junior Guard programs, require a minimum time for a four-lap swim. If your child needs to prepare to swim four laps in under 2:30, Evolution Swim Academy offers a prep program for Junior Guards.*

## **Junior Guard Prep Program**

Registration opened: 1/3/2022 Price: \$225.00/session

March 7 – March 31, 2022 Days/Time: Monday – Thursday, 3:30–4:15 pm

## **Other activities that Evolution Swim Academy will be offering this spring & summer include:**

### **Spring Swim Team @Nellie Gail Ranch**

Registration opens: 2/1/2022 Price: \$320.00 (2 days per week)

Session: April 11 – June 2, 2022

Days/Time: Monday – Thursday, 3:30–4:15 pm

### **Seasonal Swim Lessons @ Nellie Gail Ranch**

Registration opens: 3/1/2022 Price: \$275.00 (8 small group lessons)

Sessions: 4, 2-week sessions

(8 small group lessons per session) from June 6 – July 28, 2022

Days/Time: Monday – Thursday, 3:00 – 6:00 pm (30-min lessons)

Families may sign up for multiple sessions

### **Intro to EVO @ Nellie Gail Ranch**

Registration: Ongoing Price: \$23.00/practice

Swimmers may participate in up to 2x per week.

Sessions: Perpetual Days/Time: Monday – Thursday, 3:30 – 4:15 pm





## FELIPE DELGADO

Founder & Managing Partner

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- ✉ felipe@evolutionsswim.com  
www.evolutionsswim.com
- 📍 23854 Via Fabricante Unit G4  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691



### PROGRAMS:

- ✓ JUNIOR GUARD PREP PROGRAM  
Registration opens: 1/3/2022
- ✓ EVOLUTION SPORTS ACADEMY  
(SUMMER SPORTS CAMP)  
Registration opens: 2/1/2022

- ✓ SPRING SWIM TEAM  
Registration opens: 2/1/2022
- ✓ SEASONAL SWIM LESSONS  
Registration opens: 3/1/2022
- ✓ INTRO TO EVO  
Registration: Ongoing

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# Equestrian Center News

**Hayden Clarke Sport Horses  
(HCSH)  
hit the ground running for the  
2022 season starting off at  
Desert Horse Park  
in Temecula, California!!**

**What an exciting & successful two weeks  
for all the HCSH Team riders.**



Here are some photo highlights of the HCSH team  
Prepping and competing for the first show of the  
2022 show year.

From Nellie Gail Ranch to the Desert Horse Park.






**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF  
OUR RIDERS  
& A BIG THANK YOU TO  
MICKEY HAYDEN & LANE CLAKE!**



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# Tennis & Pickleball Center

## Valentine's Pickleball Tournament

The February "Valentine's" Pickleball Tournament was held Sunday, February 13, 2022. 35 players enjoyed "sweet success" throughout the morning of Super Bowl Sunday!

### Tournament Winners

#### 3.0 / 3.5 bracket

1st place - Mike Lancaster & Sabine  
2nd place: Dawn Hayes & Craig Patterson

#### 4.0 bracket

1st place - Vinnie & Ann Brascia  
2nd place - Bruce Lupin & Sharon Singleton





**PICKLEBALL PLAY HOURS**  
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9:00 AM TO 8:00 PM  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
9:00 AM TO DUSK

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
PLEASE CALL  
(949) 831-6660

# PICKLEBALL

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS ONLY

NELLIE GAIL RANCH OWNERS:		NON-NELLIE GAIL RANCH OWNERS:	
FAMILY PICKLEBALL	\$60	FAMILY PICKLEBALL	\$85
COUPLES	\$45	COUPLES	\$65
SINGLE PICKLEBALL	\$30	SINGLE PICKLEBALL	\$50
MEMBER GUEST FEE	\$10 PER DAY	MEMBER GUEST FEE	\$10 PER DAY

PICKLEBALL COURTS ARE AVAILABLE TO NELLIE  
GAIL RANCH HOMEOWNERS FROM 11:30 AM-3:00PM  
WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP

- UNLIMITED USE OF THE 8 PICKLEBALL COURTS (WITH LIGHTS)
- DAILY ACCESS TO THE ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE
- ENJOYMENT OF SPECIAL MEMBER-ONLY EVENTS AND TOURNAMENTS
- ACCESS TO FREE CLUBHOUSE WI-FI SERVICE

**NOTE: TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES USE OF PICKLEBALL COURTS.**

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COMPASS



**25461 RAPID FALLS**

Just Listed  
\$2,988,000



**25241 COACH SPRINGS**

In Escrow - Representing Seller & Buyer  
\$2,750,000



**46 PANORAMA**

Just Sold - Represented Seller  
\$2,950,000



**32162 CALLE LOS ELEGANTES**

Just Sold - Represented Seller  
\$2,300,000



**27201 LOST COLT**

Just Sold - Represented Seller  
\$2,050,000



**5 GOLDEN BEAR**

Just Sold - Represented Seller  
\$1,949,000

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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## TATE | LAMOTT | GROUP CURRENT OFFERINGS

# COMPASS



### 25342 DERBYHILL

Currently Offered  
\$6,450,000



### 31146 VIA COLINAS

Currently Offered  
\$5,099,999



### 11 WINSTON

Currently Offered  
\$4,400,000



### 27501 BOOTHILL

Currently Offered  
\$4,200,000



[nelliegailranch.net](http://nelliegailranch.net)

#### Ben Tate

949.244.3748  
[ben.tate@compass.com](mailto:ben.tate@compass.com)  
DRE 01871507

#### Sarah Tate

949.244.6038  
[sarah.tate@compass.com](mailto:sarah.tate@compass.com)  
DRE 01882269

#### Jerry LaMott

949.244.7145  
[jerry.lamott@compass.com](mailto:jerry.lamott@compass.com)  
DRE 00469045

# Emergency Preparedness

## Earthquake Kit, Part II ~ Being Prepared at Work and in the Car

By Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng

In the January 2022 issue of the *Pony Express*, we wrote on the importance of preparing your home for an earthquake or other disaster. For some of us however, nearly one half of our 24-hour day could be spent at work or in the car so it makes sense to prepare for these possibilities as well. With the current pandemic, many of us maybe working from home. Nonetheless, at some point, we will should be prepared at work (home or place of business) as well as in the car. This month, we will address the need for your personal work and car earthquake/disaster kit. In addition, we will help you prepare your vehicle to “grab and go,” when you must leave your home for safer ground.

**Preparing at work.** Although our work situations are all very different, what is common is the need to be safe during the disaster and the need to safely evacuate after the disaster. Recall from a previous article that most earthquake-related injuries occur when one tries to evacuate a building during an earthquake. These injuries most commonly occurs from falling glass or building facades while exiting a building, cuts from broken glass while running down hallways and corridors, and from falling file cabinets or other heavy objects. Most important during an earthquake is to *Drop* down to the ground, *Cover* by getting under or next to sturdy desk or table, and *Hold On* or brace yourself to the table or desk during the shaking. After the shaking has stopped, you can then grab your work earthquake kit (see below) and evacuate the building.

The work earthquake kit is a personal “survival” kit designed to provide you with support items to help you self-evacuate your workplace and to get you to safety, be it home or another shelter. It will also provide you with support items if waiting for rescuers. In developing this kit, take into account your personal work environment. For example, if you work in a high-rise building, the comfortable shoes and flashlight are must for going down dark stairwells. If you work in a glass building, you may need the automotive glass breaker to break the safety glass. Food and water in any situation could help you survive beyond 3 days.

Your work earthquake kit should be easily portable; an old backpack would be ideal to store the items in your kit. USE THIS CHECKLIST FOR THE ITEMS TO include:

\_\_\_extra car keys

- \_\_\_2-3 bottles of water
- \_\_\_snack items (granola bars, energy bars, etc.)
- \_\_\_leather gloves
- \_\_\_whistle
- \_\_\_dust mask
- \_\_\_tissue
- \_\_\_small first aid kit
- \_\_\_flashlight or light stick
- \_\_\_extra batteries
- \_\_\_Swiss Army style knife
- \_\_\_cash in small bills and quarters for phone calls
- \_\_\_automotive glass breaker
- \_\_\_solar phone charger

Store this kit under your desk or other location where you spend the majority of your time. This makes it easy to grab and carry should you need to walk any significant distance.

**Preparing your car.** Because much of our time could be spent in a car, we should also have a car earthquake kit as well. Your car kit should contain the following:

- \_\_\_duct tape
- \_\_\_signaling mirror
- \_\_\_Safety flares
- \_\_\_jumper cables
- \_\_\_can of aerosol “flat tire fix”
- \_\_\_map of the local area
- \_\_\_portable battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- \_\_\_extra car and house keys
- \_\_\_extra car phone charger
- \_\_\_comfortable walking shoes in the event walking is your only mode of transportation
- \_\_\_change of clothes
- \_\_\_4-5 bottles of water
- \_\_\_snack items for two to three people
- \_\_\_leather gloves
- \_\_\_flashlight & \_extra batteries
- \_\_\_light sticks
- \_\_\_whistle
- \_\_\_toilet tissue
- \_\_\_small first aid kit
- \_\_\_space blanket
- \_\_\_multi-purpose, Leatherman tool
- \_\_\_matches

\_\_\_cash in small bills  
 \_\_\_small (folding) shovel to help get tires unstuck  
 \_\_\_permanent marker, pencil and paper to write notes

Although some of the items are similar between the work kit and car kit, you should have these as two separate and distinct kits since we may not be at work when the earthquake strikes. In addition, it is recommended that you make it a habit to never let your gas tank fall below 1/3 to 1/2 a tank as a regional disaster will likely make access to fuel severely limited. The 1/3 to 1/2 tank should be able to provide you with enough gas to leave the immediate area or to get you home. Lastly, you should have a pre-disaster plan with the expected route you will take to get home, who will get the kids at school, what route to take to schools, and alternate routes (walking or driving) when overpasses or bridges are impassable (part of your preparation should be to look for routes where travel under an overpass or on the overpass is minimized.) If you leave your car, you should also place a note on the dashboard with the date, time and your anticipated route of travel.

**Preparing to “Grab and Go.”** After a significant disaster, you may decide that it is best to leave your home and seek shelter or assistance outside of the local area. There are many variables that come into play in making this decision, too many to list in this article but a possible topic to a future article. For the purposes of this article, the assumption is that this decision to leave has been made, but that there is also the understanding that the roads and highways will likely be gridlocked and that fuel will be scarce or non-existent. We only need to look at our nations natural disasters, such as the recent tornados of Oklahoma, Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Katrina, to see the massive gridlock on the highways leaving these areas.

Why would we expect gridlock? When a significant earthquake strikes Southern California, the epicenter (and area of most damage) will likely be the San Andreas Fault in the Inland Empire, making travel in an eastward direction extremely unlikely and probably impassable. In addition, with the more densely populated Los Angeles Metropolitan area to our north and northwest, travel in these directions is unwise. This leaves our best direction of travel being to the south towards San Diego. Unfortunately, with only one artery to San Diego, we will likely be in extremely slow-moving traffic.

Despite the fears of traffic gridlock, if you have



decided to leave the local area, you will need to properly prepare you, your family and your vehicle. In addition to your Car Earthquake Kit, you will also want to have a “grab and go” bag (or backpack). This includes:

\_\_\_additional cash in small bills  
 \_\_\_regional maps  
 \_\_\_sufficient FOOD & WATER for each family member for 2-4 days  
 \_\_\_emergency contact information  
 \_\_\_documents from your home earthquake kit  
 \_\_\_extra fuel, if available

These items for your “grab and go” bag can be left in your home earthquake kit for easy accessibility. The above kits can be assembled relatively easily and with minimal effort. The importance of these kits, however, cannot be understated. Similar kits can also be purchased ready-made at [www.emergencycase.com](http://www.emergencycase.com) and [www.2BeReady.com](http://www.2BeReady.com). Both of these local companies are preferred vendors for the Nellie Gail Emergency Preparedness Committee.

This information on your work and car earthquake kit is provided to you so that you have a basic understanding of your potential needs during a disaster. Although the above kits provide the basic supplies needed, your kits will vary based on where you live, work and normal commute times. Most important is to be prepared because “by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail” (Benjamin Franklin).

#### 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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25475 Rodeo Circle  
\$2,700,000 / Seller



26031 Nellie Gail Road  
\$2,240,000 / Seller



25355 Stageline Drive  
\$1,960,000 / Seller



25311 Mustang Drive  
\$3,300,000 / Seller



26361 Sorrell Place  
\$2,130,000 / Seller



27122 Lost Colt Drive  
\$2,675,000 / Seller



25262 Rockridge Road  
\$2,628,000 / Buyer



26022 Nellie Gail Road  
\$3,200,000 / Seller



25502 Lone Pine Circle  
\$2,440,000 / Seller



26022 Nellie Gail Road  
\$3,200,000 / Buyer



26031 Nellie Gail Road  
\$2,240,000 / Buyer



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**SOLICITATION FOR BOARD CANDIDATES AND  
NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION  
(NOTICE DATE FEBRUARY 10, 2022)**

**Annual Meeting Date:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022

**Location:** 25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

**Registration & Call to Order:** 6:30 PM

**Solicitation For Board Candidates:**

The Association is soliciting candidates for the upcoming 2022 Board of Directors election to be held on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**. Candidate applications must be received by the Association by March 24, 2022 to be nominated and listed on the pre-ballot notice that will be posted prior to April 1, 2022. The pre-ballot notice will include all names that will be included on the ballot to be mailed by April 30, 2022.

**Candidates whose nominations are received after March 24, 2022 may still run for election but will not be included on the ballot.**

1. Subject to Civil Code §5105, all Candidates for the Board must meet the following qualifications:
  - a. The Candidate must be an Owner. If title to a separate interest is held by a legal entity, such entity may appoint a natural person to serve or vote on such entity's behalf by delivering evidence of an appropriate written appointment to the Association;
  - b. The Candidate must be current in the payment of all regular and special assessments. For the purposes of these election rules, "current" means no regular or special assessment is past due by more than thirty (30) days, or such period of time as is specifically defined in the Association's collection policy;
  - c. The Candidate may not hold a joint ownership interest in the same separate interest as any other candidate or incumbent director; and
  - d. The Candidate is not eligible to run if the Association is aware or becomes aware of a past criminal conviction that would, if the Candidate were elected, either prevent the Association from purchasing the fidelity bond coverage required by Civil Code §5806 or terminate the Association's existing fidelity bond coverage.

Additional information regarding the Associations Election Rules and Procedures is provided in the Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association Election Rules adopted November 19, 2019 and are available on-line at [nelliegailranch.org](http://nelliegailranch.org) or by request to [admin@nelliegailranch.org](mailto:admin@nelliegailranch.org).

**Notice of Board of Directors Election**

The Annual Meeting of the Members and Election of Board of Directors is set for **Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Nellie Gail Ranch Clubhouse at 25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills, CA. In order to achieve quorum, at least fifty percent (50%) of the Homeowners (i.e. 704 out of 1407 members) must vote. In the event that less than 50% of the membership participate in the Annual Meeting, either by returning their ballot or appearing in person, then those in attendance may adjourn the meeting to a date not less than 5 nor more than 30 days thereafter, and the quorum at such adjourned meeting shall be lowered to twenty-five percent (25%) (i.e. 352 out of 1407 members). The Reconvened Election meeting date, if necessary, will be **Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm** at the same location.

This year three (3) seats are up for election. The pre-ballot notice listing candidate names to be included on the ballot will be posted prior to April 1, 2022. Check the May 2022 issue of The Pony Express for candidate bios and information. For any questions regarding the Annual Meeting and Election of Board Directors, please call the Association office at (949) 425-1477.



## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE RESUMÉ/ NOMINATION APPLICATION

The Association is soliciting candidates for the upcoming 2022 Board of Directors election to be held on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022**. Candidate applications must be received by the Association by **Thursday, March 24, 2022** to be nominated and listed on the pre-ballot notice that will be posted prior to April 1, 2022. The pre-ballot notice will include all names that will be included on the ballot to be mailed by April 30, 2022. Please provide a full face, digital photograph to be published in the May 2022 issue of The Pony Express. Please return this application by mail to 25211 Empty Saddle Dr., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 or e-mail to the Association's office at [admin@nelliegailranch.org](mailto:admin@nelliegailranch.org). Attention: Nominating Committee.

Property Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeowner Since: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation or Occupation at time of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Civic Activities – Organizations, Positions, Etc. (40 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

Nellie Gail Ranch Activities – Organizations, Positions, Etc. (40 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

Biographical Information (100 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

Statement – Why do you want to serve on the Board (150 words or less): \_\_\_\_\_

If elected I pledge to do my best for the benefit of the Association as a whole and will abide by and enforce the Association's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and CC&R's, Architectural Guidelines, published policies and all applicable California and Federal Laws.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Join us for Nellie Gail Ranch's Annual

# EASTER EGG HUNT

10AM to 12PM @ Gallup Park

**SAT. APRIL 16**

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Train rides,  
bounce house,  
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Take your own  
photo with the  
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Free event for Nellie Gail Ranch families. Egg hunts by age groups.

For more information or to volunteer, call 949.425.1477 or email [maryg@nelliegailranch.org](mailto:maryg@nelliegailranch.org)

# Team Darkhorse



## CHANGE OF COMMAND

by Vanessa Kon

As I sit at the Change of Command for 3/5 Marines, I reflect on my near 8 year journey with Team Darkhorse.

LtCol Middendorf leads his Marines for one last time as their commander with the rousing Darkhorse motto "3/5, GET SOME! 3/5 GET SOME! 3/5 GET SOME!" One thousand Marines standing at attention thunder in response to each call. LtCol Jerome Greco is respectful and steps aside as Middendorf says goodbye to his Darkhorse Marines. The moment is bittersweet. Once the "Colors are passed" to the new Commander - Lt Col Greco — this becomes a celebration. The Battalion feels Greco's energy and excitement — for unknown hurdles and the task ahead of him — that their new leader will bring.

Karen Robbins has been the heart and soul of Team Darkhorse and with her stepping down from leading our support group, I step into a role not knowing how I can ever replace her.

I first joined Team Darkhorse, as a volunteer to help with the 2014 City of Laguna Hills Memorial Day Half Marathon. Fundraising for Tribute Banners, to be debuted on the race route, allowed the citizens of Laguna Hills to honor the 25 fallen Darkhorse Marines lost in Afghanistan 2010. I set up a display of 25 smaller replica banners in a booth at the finish line EXPO.

On the day of the race, I realized the importance of Team Darkhorse's presence. Friends, Gold Star Families, and veterans who also served in this deployment for whom the loss was still very raw came to pay their respects. It was vividly clear the comfort they drew from the display and tributes, and knowing these Marines will "never be forgotten." This event and the many that followed fostered relationships based on mutual respect and trust with the community, the volunteers, Gold Star families, veterans and the command at Camp Pendleton.

After the Memorial Day race, I became a committee member, with the intent to raise awareness in the community about Team Darkhorse. "Showcase for

Valor" was my first big endeavor and together with Karen and originator Bernie Wolfe we worked with the support of Nellie Gail HOA, veterans, volunteers, donors, and musicians to hold our first concert. It was not only a success as a fundraiser, it brought an understanding of our mission, provided a safe place for veterans to reconnect, and led the way for so many other events. Enduring relationships with veterans have fostered a steadfast trust that has allowed us to provide meal services, gift cards, sponsorships, relief checks to Marines and Veterans who often will not ask for help and in turn many veterans have been instrumental in helping their brothers, and smooth the way for Team Darkhorse. 3/5 Marines fully appreciate our support, and are amazed by the community's unwavering show of honor and gratitude for their service.

Understandably for the past 2 years Team Darkhorse had to adapt to restrictions, and events were scaled back. Now serving as secretary I recorded our board discussions whether Team Darkhorse was still relevant. We had limited contact with the Marines and our committee members have dwindled. Our community and the 3/5 commanding officers answered back with unsolicited show of support in ways that make it possible to continue our work. We were honored to be selected to be the charity for Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce Car Show, Pumpkin City Oktoberfest, Laguna Hills Memorial Day Race, The Holiday Boutique and Nellie Gail Concerts in the Parks, along with private donations and Baking Brigade have allowed us to hold Deployment send offs, Homecomings, Pizza Parties, honor Marines of the Quarter, sponsor veteran ParaOlympic Athletes, welcome 3/5 babies, holiday gift giving to children, and help families experiencing difficulties due to hospitalizations.

When Karen stepped back at the end of 2021, I stepped forward. I don't have any formidable plans but instead I have learned to be adaptable and ready for 3/5 Marines' ever-changing needs, and I am determined to continue the Team Darkhorse legacy.

### 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.

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS TEAM DARKHORSE AND THE MARINES WE SUPPORT

By Karen Robbins

Beaming faces greet me and my husband as we approach the Hills Hotel for the first annual Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala. Our guests at the Gala are 5 young officers and their wives. They are excited to be there. Beaming and polished—the men are in their “Dress Blues” and wives in gauzy dresses. This is a relief from many months of separations, long deployments, and two years of cancelled MC Balls.

We of Team Darkhorse are tremendously grateful to the Chamber of Commerce members who supported us throughout the pandemic — finding ways to do so in spite of and while still respecting the realities of a pandemic. Once inside the building, I am eager to introduce these fine Marines to our community of Laguna Hills’ supporters. Because we are Team Darkhorse, we get the “thank you” from the Marines, but now it was our chance to introduce OUR supporters to the Marines. Nellie Gail HOA Board member Loree Blough, Realtors Brad Feldman, Trent Mason, and Jacqui Pearson who helped fundraise at the summer concerts; C of Commerce President Jake Anderson, Outgoing CoC President Carl Heft were among some I was able to introduce that night,

After the cocktail hour of meet and greet, we moved into the banquet hall, found our seats, and while dinner was served listened and clapped for the many citizens and entities being honored that night. The Marines and their wives clapped as enthusiastically for every single honoree, as if this was their own flesh and blood being honored. Smiles never left their faces. At the end of the presentations, they and we were surprised and moved by a “Gratitude Award” from the Chamber. Major Kyle May’s wife Katie turned to me during the applause and said, ‘This is an amazing city! You are so lucky to live here!’ We agree!

The following week we were on base for a meeting with the new Command Team, where in we could ask questions and learn how best to support the Marines and their families, and to let them know about the Memorial Day Half Marathon, and July 4th celebration to which we hoped they could come. Before the meeting began, the XO (executive officer) Major Matt Alva took me aside and wanted to show me the wall in HQ where they planned to display the plaques received at the Gala. Again he

was beaming and enthused as he showed me the space. The hallway walls where we stood are walls of honor — displaying rows of past 3/5 Commanders, along with photos of Medals of Valor and Honor recipients. “We wanted to put the plaques here,” he gestured, “but we are conflicted because we also want all the junior Marines to see them.” He looked at me, and explained “Marines are not often called to HQ and if they are, it’s not likely good news”. He smiles again. “So we might post them in a more visible place to get the most exposure.” He looks back at the wall again. The moment endears me because this is the embodiment of Marine Corps ethos — great leaders credit their troops, they know



their troops are ultimately the ones who fight the battles and bleed the wounds. During their grueling training and deployments, it is the junior marines who pour the most sweat. And so, Major Alva knows, the Marines deserve and will be motivated by the Plaques of Honor. Either place, it is clear how much these awards mean to the Command Team and the Marines.

This has been a month of reflection. After 8 years of leading Team Darkhorse I have stepped back, and our Board Secretary Vanessa Kon stepped forward. She accepted her nomination and election to be our new Chairman. For her I feel tremendous gratitude, and for the Darkhorse Marines I feel happy — she will be a tremendous leader and I am excited for her, and the bonds she will build and the lives she will touch will. **“Get Some” Vanessa!**



# Business Directory

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# HONEYBEE HIVES in Nellie Gail Ranch

by Pamela Fraser, California Master Beekeeper

We're beginning to see signs of spring around the neighborhood, especially in the beehives. There's a lot more activity. The hive is growing faster in the spring. So fast that it could be running out of space for the queen to lay eggs. If that happens, as it often does, half the hive could abscond. This is called swarming, where half the hive leaves the existing nest to seek a new home. This is a natural process in the wild but shouldn't happen in our backyards. There are things that can be done to avoid swarming.

If you're contemplating having a hive in your backyard, it'd be valuable to get some basic training. An introductory class is being offered to Nellie Gail Ranch residents on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30pm in the clubhouse. If you're not available for this class, listed below are other bee classes offered in the area.

Even if you're a gardener, take a class on bee-keeping. You can learn more about the type of vegetation that can be harmful, even poisonous to bees, like California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), not to be confused with California buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.). California buckwheat is a wonderful year-round plant for bees and other beneficial insects.

So, take the plunge and begin your beekeeping adventure by taking a class. Most of the classes are offered locally or on Zoom. They provide the basics of beekeeping and how to maintain a healthy hive. Listed below are just some of the classes.

Class Date & Time	Class Title	Fee	Location/Registration
Saturday 3/5/2022 10am - 12pm	Installing a Bee Package	\$25	ZOOM California Master Beekeeper Program cambp.ucdavis.edu/events
Saturday 3/12/2022 8am - 9:30am	Beekeeping 101	check website	LIVE 2813 South St., Long Beach 90805 longbeachbeekeepers.org/classes
Sunday 3/13/2022 9am - 12pm	Introduction to Beekeeping	check website	LIVE @ LA County Beekeepers Association The Valley Hive - 10538 CA-27, Chatsworth 91311 losangelescountybeekeepers.com/beekeeping-class-101
Saturday 3/19/2022 9am - 12pm	The Honeybee Colony	\$40	ZOOM California Master Beekeeper Program cambp.ucdavis.edu/events
Wednesday 3/23/2022 6:30pm	Introduction to Beekeeping	<b>FREE for NGR residents</b>	LIVE @ Nellie Gail Ranch Clubhouse 25281 Empty Saddle Dr., Laguna Hills 92653 nelliegailranch.org/events
Sunday 4/10/2022 9am - 12pm	Introduction to Beekeeping	check website	LIVE @ LA County Beekeepers Association Location TBD (Chatsworth/Northridge area) losangelescountybeekeepers.com/beekeeping-class-101
Saturday 4/16/2022 9am - 12pm	Honeybee Products	\$40	ZOOM California Master Beekeeper Program cambp.ucdavis.edu/events

Join us for a  
**FREE CLASS**  
**March 23**  
**6:30pm**



For questions or more  
information, contact:  
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949.212.8063  
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### TWO FOR THE SHOW – MUSIC DUO

TWO FOR THE SHOW was formed by seasoned musicians Mark Galluzzo and Dale Erkel (both long-time NGR residents) in 2018 with the goal of providing a unique musical experience that features a wide variety of timeless pop and rock classics appealing to audiences of all ages. Their recent performance at the NGR Club House/Emergency Preparedness Center Grand Opening was enjoyed by all who attended. If you're planning a private party or event TWO FOR THE SHOW will entertain with a customized playlist – from soft rock to popular dance songs. Check out our YouTube channel at "Two For The Show Orange County" to see promo samples along with a variety of full recordings of songs we cover. For more info, contact us at 949.643.0949 (no texts) or [twofortheshowsocal@gmail.com](mailto:twofortheshowsocal@gmail.com).

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Spanish tutoring and lessons. I tutor all ages and levels. Elementary, High school, College, conversation & translations. Great results and referrals. 15+ years experience. Please call or text for more information. Maria's cell 949 8360846 or email: [mparser@yahoo.com](mailto:mparser@yahoo.com).

### SKATEBOARDING LESSONS

Patient teenage Nellie Gail resident offering beginners skateboarding lessons at his skate ramp, your house or a park. Helmet required and pads recommended. Please text or call Dante at (949) 374-0145.

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Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from UCI. I have tutored all high school and community college. Math subjects, ACT and SAT Math. One on one tutoring to explain in detail for better understanding. (A lot of my students complain their teachers do not explain enough). I am a substitute Math teacher at private schools. For details please call 949-231-0977 or email to [ecaiusa@yahoo.com](mailto:ecaiusa@yahoo.com).

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Learn the music you love. Popular, Classical, Jazz and Blues, Musicals such as Le Miserable, the Phantom Of The Opera, and Movie Themes. Children and Adults welcome. I teach many retirees who didn't have the time to learn when they were busy with careers and family. I have two college degrees. One is in music and the other is in child psychology. I also took five years of piano pedagogy from a private instructor after graduating from college. I've been teaching 25 years. My website is [www.thekeyboardlady.com](http://www.thekeyboardlady.com) My email is [marshyvonne13@gmail.com](mailto:marshyvonne13@gmail.com) Phone # is 949 637 8208.

### CARING FUR ANGELS

Professional pet/house sitting, dog walking, pet taxi and related services in South Orange County. While you're away, purrfect care for your companions and home! Contact Vickie Reyes, caregiver, (949) 525-1670 or email [vic@caringfurangels.com](mailto:vic@caringfurangels.com) to set up your complementary meet and greet. Licensed, bonded, insured, along with pet CPR and first aid certified. Visit [www.caringfurangels.com](http://www.caringfurangels.com) for info.

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### NOTICES

### ♥ IN LOVING MEMORY ♥

**Carmella DeCarr**, a long-time resident of Nellie Gail Ranch, passed away peacefully on January 24, 2022, at 95 years young, with loved ones at her side. Carmella loved the Nellie Gail Ranch Community. She adored her neighbors and was adored by them. She made friends easily and appreciated all her encounters with people. Carmella was a pleasant and loving soul with a great sense of humor and style. She loved to cook for friends and family. She was a hairdresser for forty plus years during the 40s, 50s and 60s. Her hair designs won awards and accolades from the cosmetology field. Carmella is survived by her two daughters Lana and Carol. She will be missed by all and loved forever.

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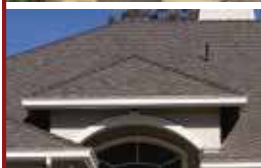
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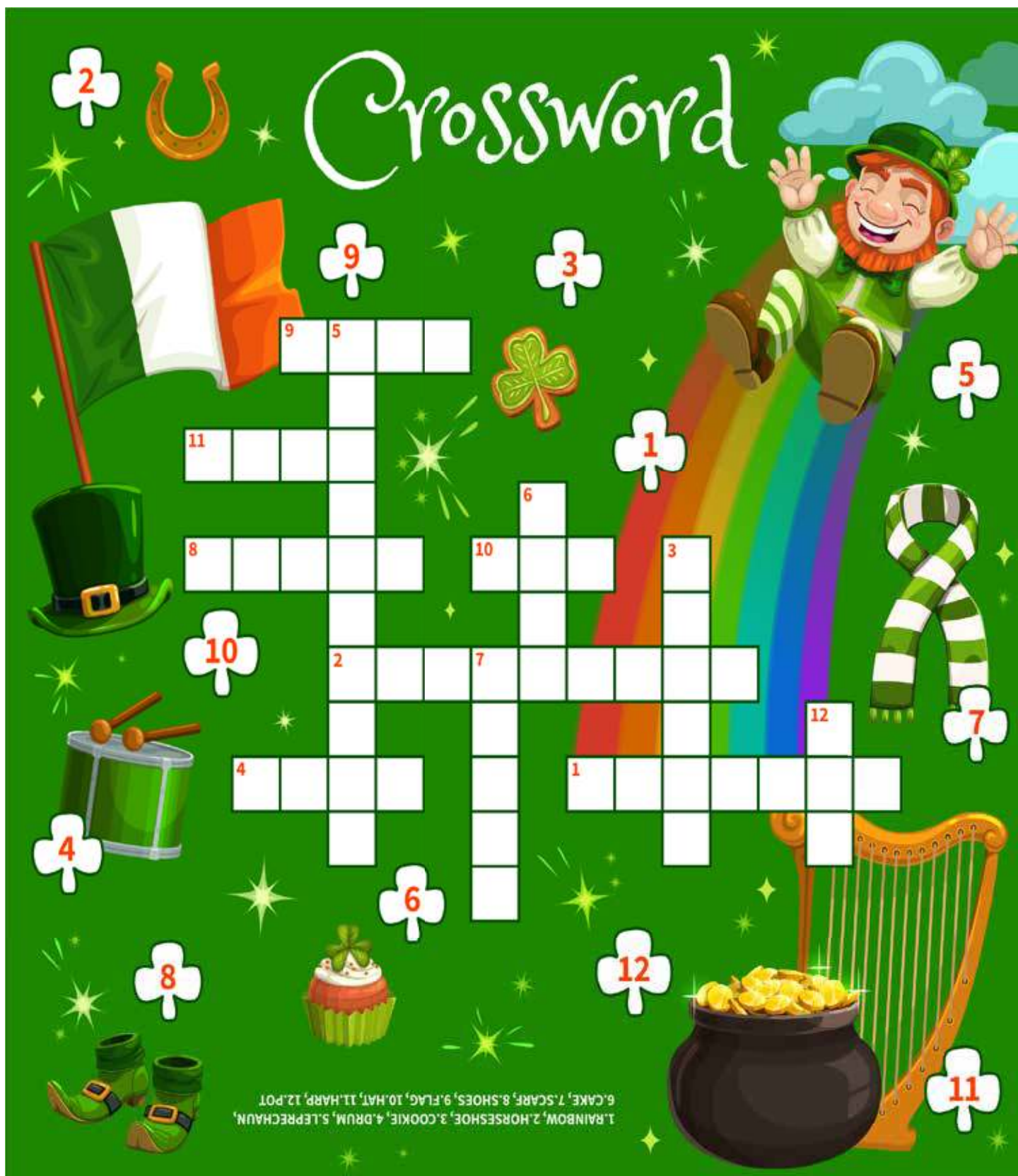
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# The Puzzle Paddock: Sudoku

MATCH THE NUMBER WITH THE PICTURE IN THIS ST PATTY'S PUZZLE.



# Ranch Recipe



## Traditional IRISH SODA BREAD

*This Traditional Irish soda bread is made with just a few simple ingredients but bakes up into a beautiful, bakery quality loaf.*

### 4 Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tsp Baking soda
- 4 cups Flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 3/4 cups Buttermilk







---

### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-inch round cake pan.
- In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually stir in the buttermilk until the dough comes together in a slightly sticky ball.
- Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead gently a few times. Form the dough into a ball and then press into the prepared pan so that the dough resembles a large disk. The dough should reach the edges of the pan, but may spring back slightly.
- Cut an X into the dough with a sharp knife, about 1/4 of an inch deep. Cover the pan of dough with another round cake pan turned upside down.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes, covered, then remove the top pan and bake uncovered for about 10 minutes more or until the crust is dark golden brown.

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 ARC Meeting 7:00 @ Club House	9	10	11	12
12	14	15 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 @ Club House	16 Crime Prevention Meeting 6:00 @ Club House	17 	18	19
20 First Day of SPRING 	21	22 EPC Training Water Preservation 7:00 @ Club House	23 BEE Clinic 6:30 @ Club House	24 BOD Application due. (See Pg 27)	25	26
27	28	29 ARC Submittal Deadline for April Meeting	30	31		

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