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March 2024

The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



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3/8/24

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Easter Egg Hunt
at Gallup Park

•

On The Cover:
Lane Clark riding Venom



Join us for Nellie Gail Ranch's Annual

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

10 AM - 12 PM @ GALLUP PARK

Special Thanks to our Contributing Sponsor

TATE | LAMOTT | GROUP

Bring your
own basket
or bag to
collect
eggs.

Train rides,
bounce
houses,
activities and
lots of fun!

Take your
own photo
with the
Easter
Bunny!



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

Community Contacts



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Board of Directors

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Loree Blough	VICE PRESIDENT
John Park	SECRETARY
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Holly Permeah	CO-TREASURER

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

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

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Studio 6 Architects will find
your dream a home.
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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)
(877) 728-0446	CR&R (Trash Pickup)
(949) 831-2500	Moulton Niguel Water District
(800) 411-7343	SDG&E
(800) 427-2200	Southern California Gas Company
(949) 470-3045	Animal Control (Mission Viejo Shelter)

County of Orange

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

Assessment Remittance Address

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



Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors Meetings

The next Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is scheduled for **March 19, 2024** and will be held at the Association Clubhouse.

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

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

Architectural Review Committee

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

Association Committees

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

Architectural Review Committee

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Equestrian Committee

Events Committee

Historical Committee

Landscape Committee

Security Committee

Trails and Safety Committee

MANAGERS MESSAGE

CONGRATULATIONS LANE CLARK - CANDIDATE NOMINATIONS DUE

By Brian Mitchell



Hayden Show Jumping & Riding School began training at the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center October 1992. Owner and lead trainer Mickey Hayden brought Lane Clark aboard as a business partner in 2000. Together they have built

a prestigious program of trainers, riders and horses serving Nellie Gail Ranch homeowners and Equestrian Center boarders who love the sport of Show Jumping.

Show Jumping is a team sport with horse and rider as equal partners. Both must share a competitive streak, excellent communication and more than a little courage. Lane Clarke has had a number of elite partners in his career but his most recent partner Venom may be his best yet. **Congratulations are due to Lane and Venom as they won the February 10, 2024 \$100,000 Premier Equestrian National Grand Prix.** Grand Prix level events include the Olympics and World Equestrian Games so this is a high level competition of elite horses and riders. Lane and Venom won a Jump-Off 37.45 seconds to second places 37.48 seconds clearing all jumps fast and clean!

Candidate applications for the Board of Directors must be received by the Association by 5:00 p.m. March 22, 2024 to be nominated and listed on the pre-ballot notice that will be posted prior to April 1, 2024. The pre-ballot notice will include all names that will be included on the ballot to be mailed by April 30, 2024.

Candidates whose nominations are received after 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 22, 2024 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.

To be nominated and listed on the pre-ballot notice please visit the following link below...

http://nelliegailranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-Candidate-Application.docx?mc_cid=1ab6b61ee9&mc_eid=UNIQID



DR. KENNETH S. CHENG RECEIVES CHAMBER GRATITUDE AWARD



Photo is courtesy of Bob Ortiz

The Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Awards and Installation Gala February 2, 2024 at the Hills Hotel. The Chamber bestows its Gratitude Award on organizations or individuals that have played a critical role in protecting our community. It is usually awarded to first responders, law enforcement, members of the military, firefighters, medical personnel, as well as governmental, charitable, and non profit entities.

This year 24 year Nellie Gail Ranch resident Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng was honored and recognized for the 2023 Gratitude Award.

Biography

- Local Family Physician practicing over 30 years in Orange County
- Nellie Gail Ranch resident for 28 years
- 13 year member of the Nellie Gail Ranch's Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC)
- Author of all Home/Emergency Preparedness monthly articles for residents of Nellie Gail Ranch and two neighboring communities.
- Hurricane Katrina FEMA Rescue Volunteer 2005
- 17 year member of the Orange County Sheriff's Department Reserve (Volunteer) Sworn Officer
- Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT)/ Chief Tactical Medic
- Mountain Rescue Team (MRT-OCSD)
- Certified Search and Rescue Technician all of California
- Assisted developing NGR's Emergency Command Center
- Community Instructor: AHA/CPR/First Aid
- Disaster/Crime Prevention for NGR and surrounding areas
- Helped develop Neighborhood Watch Program in the NGR

TENNIS CENTER NEWS

SUMMER TENNIS & SWIM CAMP 2024 SECURE YOUR SPOT!

Our five-star reviewed camp has **SOLD OUT** for the past 5 years running!

Spaces are reserved on a first-come first-serve basis. For the past 30 years Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis Club has been successfully running one of the largest and mostly positively reviewed Summer Tennis & Swim Camps in Southern California. It is a fantastic introduction to the sport in a safe & fun learning environment.

DATES:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

- Week 1 - June 10th
- Week 2 - June 17th
- Week 3 - June 24th
- Week 4 - July 1st (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th)
- Week 5 - July 8th
- Week 6 - July 15th
- Week 7 - July - 22nd
- Week 8 - July 29th
- Week 9 - August 5th
- Week 10 - August 12th

Little Hitters:

(5-8 years)

10.30am - 2.30pm

\$255

Challengers:

(9 years+)

10.30am - 3pm

\$295

LUNCH INFO

Lunch options will be available to preorder a few weeks prior to the start of Camp. Pack lunches are of course welcomed. We provide a snack and drink during a break and there is the opportunity for campers to purchase ice cream after lunch



MINI TENNIS

FOR PLAYERS OF ALL ABILITIES AGED 5+

This program encompasses the proven Net Generation philosophy which specialises in the development of mini tennis players.

Net Generation is a celebration of a game where no one sits on the sidelines. Tennis is easy to learn and tailored for all ages and abilities, giving kids a game that will help them build friendships and learn skills they'll use for life.

Kids who play tennis will be healthier, happier and have a game they can play for life. By capturing the thrill and fun of the game and developing skills on and off the court, we can build the next generation of greats.

LEVEL	SCHEDULE	TIME
-------	----------	------

Beginner	Monday - Thursday	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Intermediate	Monday - Thursday	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Performance (Invite only)	Monday, Wednesday & Fridays	3.30pm - 5pm

No. PER WEEK	MONTHLY COST
--------------	--------------

1 / week	\$135
2 / week	\$220
Unlimited	\$250



JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

FOR PLAYERS OF ALL ABILITIES AGED 9+

We believe in children being active for life and we look to instil this healthy lifestyle through our teaching in this program.

The Junior Development Program environment is fun yet challenging with good discipline and organisation. We have a strong emphasis on reception, movement, technical & tactical skills as well as stroke development.

Our experienced coaches are expert skill developers. They have specialised child development knowledge and passionately believe in Long Term Athlete Development.

LEVEL	SCHEDULE	TIME
-------	----------	------

Beginner, Intermediate & Advanced	Monday - Thursday	4.30pm - 6pm
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No. PER WEEK	MONTHLY COST
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1 / week	\$195
2 / week	\$295
Unlimited	\$395



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

JANUARY 9, 2024 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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

Architectural Review QR Code



January Minutes QR Code



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

To receive your annual budget, audit and other important information by e-mail instead of printed mailed copy please complete this authorization via the QR Code below...



THE WATERING HOLE

WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

WATERING HOLE RESTAURATEUR RECEIVES RECOGNITION AWARD

Eccellenze Italiane is an Italian Holding Company that acknowledges authentic Italian experiences worldwide. Our Watering Hole restaurateur, Luis Mena, was honored with the "Italian Excellence" award for Il Sole La Nuova Cucina, his restaurant in Rancho Santa Margarita. Luis, in the white chef's coat, is pictured with his wife Claudia, and his business partner Edgar Estrada on the right, and Edgar's wife Lupe on the left. Luis embodies the entrepreneur who infuses passion, professionalism, and commitment into presenting exceptional food experiences. We are grateful to have Luis Mena as part of the Watering Hole team, alongside Edgar Estrada and Alejandro Cuellar.



Competition News and Updates

Week One Recap at Desert Horse Park

In the first week, the following riders and their horses showcased remarkable achievements:

Lane Clarke & Venom's Double Win:

- Champion in the 1.40m Open Jumper
- 1st place in the \$1,500 1.40m Open Jumper

Natalie Banis & Piccolaz PSH Standout Performances:

- Reserve Champion in the 1.20m Open Jumper
- 1st in the \$1,000 1.20m Open Jumper
- 2nd in the \$1,500 1.20m Open Classic

Melina Nasab & King's Fairytale's Success:

- Champion in the 1.0-1.05m Amateur Jumper
- 2nd in the \$1,000 1.05m Amateur Jumper Classic
- 1st in the 1.0-1.05m Amateur Jumper

Other Noteworthy Performances:

- Kimberly Williams & Everlasting Ivy: 1st in the \$1,500 1.15m NAL Junior Jumper Classic
- Ashley Terrell & Warbucks: Reserve Champion in the 1.10m Amateur Jumper, 1st in the \$2,000 1.15m NAL Amateur Jumper Classic, and 1st in the 1.10m Amateur Jumper



Week Two Recap at Desert Horse Park

The second week at Desert Horse Park showcased remarkable performances from talented riders and their equine partners. Here's a glimpse of the outstanding results.



Lane Clarke and Venom Triumph:

- Secured 1st place in the \$100,000 Premier Equestrian Grand Prix

Lauren Katzenellenbogen Shines:

- Claimed 1st in the \$3,000 1.35m Jr/Am Jumper Classic
- Earned 2nd place in the competitive 1.40m Amateur Jumper category

Natalie Banis' Multi-Win Success:

- Secured 1st place in the \$1,500 1.20m Open Classic
- Achieved 2nd place in the \$1,000 1.20m Open Jumper
- Impressive 2nd place in the USEF Talent Search
- Grabbed 2nd place in the \$10,000 1.35m Open Classic.
- Earned 4th place in the \$1,500 1.40m Open Jumper

Melina Nasab's Victory:

- Clinched the Championship in the 1.10m Amateur Jumper
- Secured 1st place in the 1.10m Amateur Jumper

Destiny Stewart's Dominance:

- Became Champion in the 1.10m Junior Jumper
- Achieved 1st and 2nd place in the 1.10m Junior Jumper
- Secured 3rd place in the 1.10m Junior Jumper

Other Notable Performances:

- Lauren Wilson & Bewitched GES: 2nd place in the \$1,000 1.05m Amateur Jumper Classic
- Stella Saunders & Cody 154: 3rd in the Onondarka Medal and 4th in the Child Eq 2'9
- Stella Saunders & Mayfield: 1st in the Child Hunter 2'9 and 4th in the Children's Hunter
- Stella Saunders & Landstrasse: 4th in the .85m Non Pro Jumper Classic

These outstanding achievements underscore the talent and dedication of both riders and horses in the competitive world of equestrian sports





PROGRAMS:

✓ **JUNIOR GUARD PREP PROGRAM**

Starts March 04, 2024
Registration Ongoing

✓ **SUMMER SPORTS CAMP**

Starts June 3, 2024
Registration Ongoing

✓ **OUTDOOR SEASONAL SWIM LESSONS:**

Starts April 8, 2024
Registration Ongoing

✓ **SPRING SWIM TEAM:**

Starts April 8, 2024
Registration Ongoing



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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

SURVIVING THE EARTHQUAKE: STEPS TO TAKE DURING AND AFTER AN EARTHQUAK

Written by Dr. Kenneth S. Cheng

At press time, the devastation from the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria is now coming to light; over 13,000 people have been killed, and by the time you read this, the number could double or triple. The magnitude of this earthquake was measured at 7.8, very similar to what is predicted to strike the southern California from the relatively quiet San Andreas Fault. The importance of preparing for a major earthquake has never been more critical: Several years ago, the US Geological Survey (USGS) published their latest study, The Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, Version 3 where one of the findings is that the likelihood of at 8.0 or greater earthquake occurring in southern California in the next 30 years increased from 4.7% to 7.0%. This increase is attributed to a better understanding of the relationship between adjoining faults, specifically, that these faults could rupture simultaneously. This also raised the likelihood of a 6.9 earthquake (equivalent to the Northridge Earthquake of 1994) occurring in the next 30 years to a 40%-50% range. It is clear that major earthquakes continue to be a significant concern in the scientific community. "We are fortunate that seismic activity in California has been relatively low over the past century. But we know that tectonic forces are continually "tightening the springs" of the San Andreas Fault System, making big quakes inevitable," said Tom Jordan, Director of the Southern California Earthquake Center and co-author of the study.

In the last several issues of the Pony Express, we talked about major earthquakes globally, and how Southern California will experience its own BIG ONE. In last month's article, we described what you should do BEFORE the earthquake strikes. Implementing these steps will help make the earthquake less inconvenient and possibly more survivable. This

month's focus is on what you should do DURING and immediately AFTER the earthquake. How you respond to the event and what you do the minutes after an earthquake will drastically help in your survival.



DURING THE EARTHQUAKE

At the moment a large earthquake hits, it is best to seek a safe environment wherever you are. If indoors, DROP to the ground, take COVER under or next to a sturdy desk or table (keyword being sturdy), and HOLD ON during the shaking. One's best chance of surviving a ceiling collapse is to be in an air pocket formed by being under or next to heavy, supportive furniture. It is best to lay in the fetal position, hands and arms covering your neck and face and holding on or bracing yourself during the shaking. If these options are not available, lying next to an interior wall or interior corner may also provide you adequate protection. Right now, stop and look around the room you are in and find those safe areas - almost every room in your home has them. As indicated last month, the kitchen is one of the worst places to be during an

earthquake because of the high likelihood of broken glass, sharp utensils, liquids, etc. Equally bad are bathrooms due to the mirrors, glass showers, etc. Should the earthquake occur while you are sleeping, simply roll out of bed and lay next to it covering your face and neck with your pillow or blankets.

You should avoid exterior walls and windows, door jambs (not as reliable a safe area and swinging doors can also cause injury), and brick walls and chimneys (because of falling objects, especially from the exterior chimney falling through the roof). As tempting as it may be, do not run outside during an earthquake; many of the injuries and deaths from the 1995 Mexico City earthquake (magnitude 8.0, 10 times stronger than Haiti) occurred when people were struck by falling objects while trying to escape buildings.

If you are outdoors or in your car, safely pull off to the side of the road, avoiding powerlines or stopping next to trees and buildings. In most situations, you should stay in your car. The only exception to this is if you are in an underground parking garage, in a tunnel or in an underpass, in which case you should consider getting out (if safe) and lying next to your car, forming the air pocket discussed above.

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

Once the earthquake has stopped, you need to assess the well-being of your family. If it is dark, do not use matches or candles as a source of light until you have completely evaluated your home for damage. If you are trapped, remain calm and check yourself for injuries and evaluate your surroundings. Find a hard object and use it tap on another hard object in a rhythmic pattern as Search and Rescue Teams have vibration detection equipment that can sense these vibrations hundreds of feet away. If you are not trapped but others are, notify emergency services (if available) and notify your Block Captain. Light rescue (a topic of a future article) may be needed to bring them to safety. Anything other than light rescue should not be attempted without proper training and equipment. Once you have determined that lives are

secure, you will now need to secure your property.

You should immediately shut off the water from the meter or entry point to your home. This will help preserve the purity of the water in your plumbing (including your hot water heater.) Some disaster preparedness resources advocate filling your tub and other receptacles with water immediately after an earthquake. If you have water pressure, this can be done but you must keep in mind that this water could already be contaminated (as water and sewer lines often run in close proximity to each other). If you decide to do this, use only the cold water tap to fill the tubs so as to preserve the purity of the water in your hot water heater.

Check for gas leaks not only within the home but also to your outdoor barbeque, pool heater and anywhere else natural gas is used on your property. You should shut off the gas main ONLY if you hear or smell a gas leak. Do not automatically shut off the gas because some shut off valves can only be turned back on by the gas company (a low priority service call during a major disaster). Turning your gas off prematurely could prevent you from being able to use this resource for weeks or months. Important: you should, however, turn off the gas to your hot water heater. Details on how to shut off the water and gas can be found on the Nellie Gail website under the Resources tab.

If you notice that doors do not open or close properly, the building is no longer plumb and likely indicates an unsound structure. You should strongly consider leaving the building immediately and stay in open areas away from the building as aftershocks could cause a collapse.

Imagine for a moment that a large earthquake hits Southern California and knocks out all utilities, including phone service. Because you have taken the steps from this series of articles, you are prepared. But how will you communicate to your spouse at work that you are safe? Who will pick up the kids at school and how will you get there? How do you tell your friends and family outside of this area that you

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

are OK? Or, if you have a true medical emergency and need paramedics, how will you summon help? The Nellie Gail Emergency Preparedness Committee has established a "Neighbor Helping Neighbor Assistance Program" (including emergency radio communications in the event land lines and cell phone communications are not available.) The Assistance Program, emergency communications, and the concept of designated Block Captains will be the subject of future articles. Today's article is one of several articles written by your Emergency Preparedness Committee to help you prepare, be self-reliant and be of assistance to your neighbors in the event of a regional emergency. The information is not meant to be exhaustive or complete, but is a good starting point in your planning process. These articles, and additional information, can be accessed and downloaded through the Nellie Gail website (www.nelliegailranch.org) by clicking on the Emergency Preparedness tab.

Would you rather be prepared or would you rather be reliant on others? The choice is yours.

About the Author:

Dr. Kenneth Cheng is a 25-year resident of Nellie Gail Ranch, and a 10-year member of the Nellie Gail's Emergency

Preparedness Committee. He is a disaster preparedness instructor with the Orange County Sheriff's Department where he serves as a reserve deputy and SWAT tactical physician.



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Laguna Hills \$1,314,000



Nellie Gail Ranch \$3,238,000

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

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



Marty Samuel
(949) 643-1321



DRE #00452321

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

Nellie Gail sales based on MLS data since Oct 1989

GRAND OPENING

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TRIVIA NIGHT

FOR NELLIE GAIL RANCH RESIDENTS, MEMBERS, AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY (AGE 21+)

FREE TO PLAY!

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 | 6:30–9:30PM

Put on your thinking cap and join us at The Watering Hole for an unforgettable night of team trivia with thought-provoking questions, great music, fun prizes, and entertaining hosts!

Reservations highly encouraged. Limited teams can participate. Call 949.613.4885


THE
WATERING HOLE
WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills
949.613.4885





American
Red Cross

SHARE YOUR LUCKY CHARM.



Give blood for those in need.

Nellie Gail Community Blood Drive

**Red Cross Bloodmobile
25281 Empty Saddle Drive
Laguna Hills, CA 92653**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Schedule your lifesaving appointment at RedCrossBlood.org
using sponsor code: NellieGail

Or contact Melody Smith at (949) 433-9337 Or email Melody@MelodyAndAssociates.com

Want to know if you are eligible to donate?
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TEAM DARKHORSE

CHANGE OF COMMAND 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE

Written by Karen L. Robbins

Together with the families and guests of the Commanders, we were privileged to witness this time-honored and impressive display of military precision and troop readiness, as one Commander formally hands over the "Colors" to the next. The entire Battalion of nearly 1,000 Marines is assembled



by Company and Platoon on the parade deck in preparation for the handover. As the ceremony commences and on command, they march in formation, standing at attention with eyes and salutes directed as one, for the "passing of the colors." Their march is accompanied by the Marine Corps Band's rendition of John Phillip Sousa's "Semper Fidelis."

Once the official handing over of the colors from Lt Col Greco to Lt Col Bradley is complete, all Marines, past and present, rise and sing the Marine Corps Hymn. Who among us does not feel our own throat swell and heart quicken at the sound of their voices and the meaning of the words they sing? For me, it brings renewed faith and gratitude — faith in these Marines here today, ready, willing, and devoted to fighting for our country; and gratitude for all those who came before them and did the same.

Bidding the Command adieu is always bittersweet



— even as we say goodbye to those we've come to know, we are reaching out our hands to the new Command. Fourteen years after our inception, we have come to understand and accept, just as the Marines do, that this is the cycle of Marine Corps life.

And so, we wish LtCol Jerome Greco and his wife Elena fair winds and following seas, while welcoming LtCol Evan Bradley and his family.

If you would like to become involved in bringing community support and getting to meet and know the wonderful men and women who serve as Marines, please contact me at 35robbins@gmail.com or (949) 421-7923!





CHANGE OF COMMAND 3RD BATTALION, 5TH MARINE

Written by Karen L. Robbins

At the annual Volunteer Appreciation Day on the base at Camp Pendleton, LtCol Jerome Greco and Sgt Major Cornell Cornish expressed their gratitude to Team Darkhorse for the support shown to them and the Darkhorse Marines over the past year.



Vanessa Kon, Chairman of TDH, and Board Members Evan Gost and Owen Litfin received plaques from LtCol Jerome Greco and Sgt Major Cornell Cornish in appreciation for their contributions.

Team Darkhorse is able to accomplish its goals with the support received from our community here in Nellie Gail — whether it be monetary donations, holiday gifts, baby presents for newborns, or hands-on assistance with baking and serving. We are incredibly grateful for all those who contribute. This past year, we assisted the Marines with Baby Welcome gifts for newborns, provided sports equipment for the Barracks, served Polly's Pies at multiple events on base, and offered assistance to the family of a fallen Marine. We addressed various needs that arose during the year, which we identified as morale-building.



TEAM DARKHORSE -

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

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Welcome to Nellie Gail Ranch

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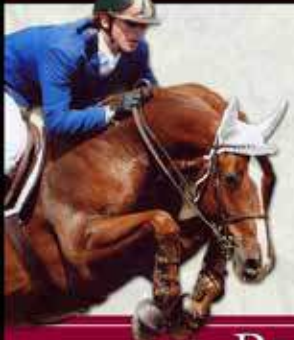
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Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Tina Corso

This month, our group embarked on a bare root tree hunting expedition to Laguna Hills Nursery in Tustin/ Santa Ana, where we had the pleasure of visiting our old friend Gary Matsuoka, the owner of LHN. Gary, a frequent guest at our meetings, has shared his expertise on soil and plants. For more information, you can visit his website: <http://www.lagunahillsnursery.com>, located in Santa Ana, CA. It's a longstanding nursery offering a diverse selection of plants, flowers, trees, soils, and hosting gardening classes.



If you're searching for a rare variety, this is the place to explore, or simply ask Gary for upcoming additions to his store. Subscribers to his weekly newsletter stay informed about climate changes and the latest plant arrivals. Gary, a true gardener, leads a knowledgeable and helpful staff. Among the extensive selection, Laguna Hills Nursery boasts the most diverse range of avocados. On this visit, I acquired a "Pink Lady" Apple.



Our nursery adventure extended to Green Thumb, where I added a "Violette de Bordeaux" fig and an "Everbearing" raspberry bare root to my collection. Both varieties bear breba, offering two sets of fruit. The "Anna" apple also produces two sets of fruit – one in June and another in late fall. Despite the "Pink Lady" apple requiring more chill hours, knowing a neighbor's success provides optimism for mine. Our colder winters make it feasible to buy fruit trees that require chill hours, particularly suited for planting on my hillside.

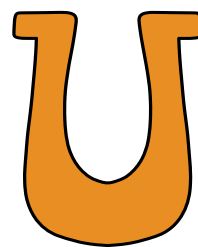
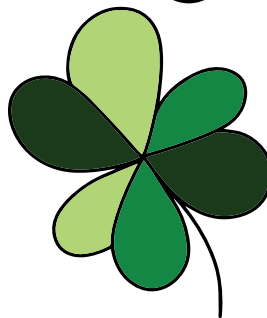
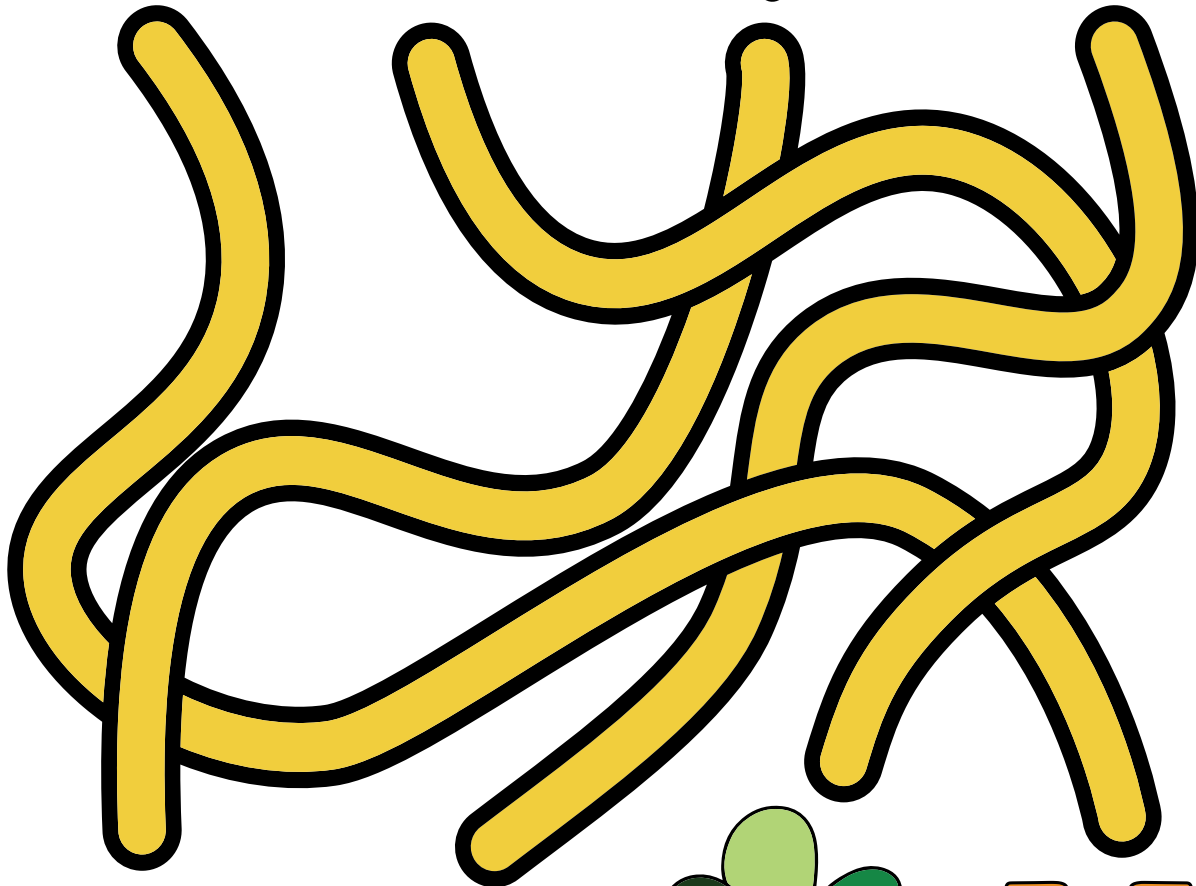
We plan to explore additional nurseries in the area to support local businesses. Each nursery has its specialty, making it worthwhile to explore and discover their offerings.

Once you experience the joy of growing fruit and vegetables, you'll likely become addicted. This month, I sowed California Poppies, pruned my White Birds of Paradise, and planted my apple tree as it was bare root. With birds singing and the promise of spring in the air, gardening becomes a truly rewarding experience.

Looking ahead, the Nellie Gail Garden group will be participating in the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th, Saturday at 10:00, offering a variety of plants and succulents for sale. We are working on price ranges to accommodate every budget, including some rare plants. Stop by and see us there – Tina Corso, Tina Frey, and the rest of the Nellie Gail Garden group wish you Happy Gardening! For more information, you can reach us at tlc8386@gmail.com.



Who gets what?



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MARCH SPRING SALAD



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2. GREENS: CHOOSE SPRING MIX LETTUCE FOR A TASTY COMBINATION.
3. VEGETABLES: ADD CHILLED ASPARAGUS, GREEN BEANS, AND PARBOILED PEAS TO THE MIX.
4. NUTS: ENHANCE THE FLAVORS WITH CANDIED PECANS FOR A DELIGHTFUL CRUNCH.
5. DRESSING: PREPARE A SIMPLE LEMON VINAIGRETTE TO DRESS THE SALAD.
6. EGGS: BOOST PROTEIN BY ADDING HARD-BOILED EGGS.
7. GARNISHES: TOP IT OFF WITH CHERRY TOMATOES, RADISHES, AVOCADOS, AND MICRO GREENS FOR EXTRA FRESHNESS.

PREPARATION:

1. MAKE CANDIED PECANS AND SET ASIDE.
2. COOK, RINSE, AND CHILL FARRO.
3. PARBOIL VEGETABLES:
BOIL GREEN BEANS AND ASPARAGUS FOR 90 SECONDS. ADD PEAS AND COOK FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90 SECONDS. RINSE AND CHILL VEGETABLES.
4. ASSEMBLE SALAD IN A LARGE BOWL:
COMBINE GREENS, COOKED FARRO, PARBOILED VEGETABLES, HARD-BOILED EGGS, CHERRY TOMATOES, RADISHES, CANDIED PECANS, AVOCADOS, AND MICROGREENS.
5. SERVE WITH VINAIGRETTE.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Trivia Night at 6:30pm @ The Watering Hole
10 Daylight savings begins	11	12 ARC Meeting at 6:00 pm @ The Association Office · Community Blood Drive	13	14	15	16 Trivia Night at 6:30pm @ The Watering Hole
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 Board Meeting 7:30pm @ Clubhouse · Spring begins	20	21	22 Candidate submittal deadline @ 5:00 pm	23 Trivia Night at 6:30pm @ The Watering Hole
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Easter Egg Hunt @ Gallup Park 10:00am
 HAPPY EASTER 31		ARC Submittal Deadline for April 9th Meeting				

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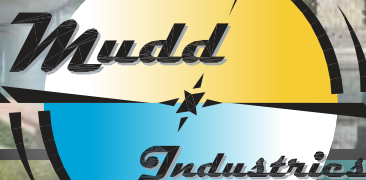


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