

April 2025



The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



INSIDE:

WILDFIRE SAFETY • EQUESTRIAN RESULTS • MEET SGT. JERRETT KRAFT



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Save The Date

04/19/2025

Easter Egg Hunt
at Gallup Park
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

04/25/2025

Live Music Friday
The Welcome Mats
at The Watering Hole
6:30pm - 9:30pm

05/23/2025

Trivia Night!
Music Mania - Yacht Rock
at The Watering Hole
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

06/04/2025

Annual Election

06/11/2025

Reconvened Election



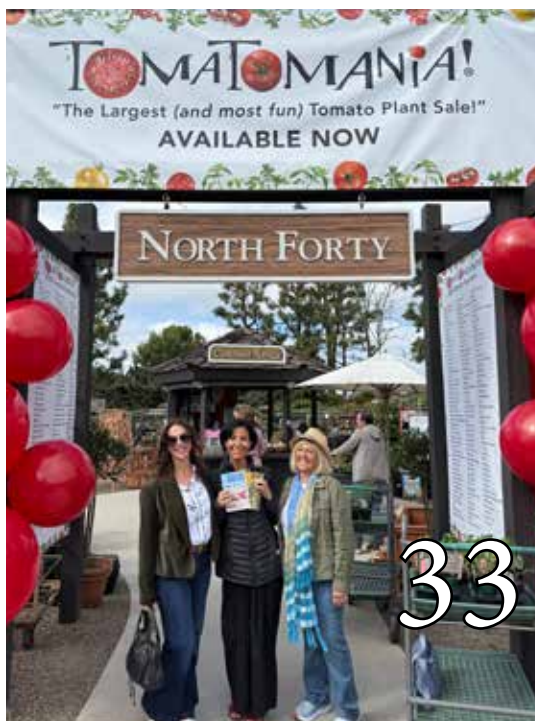
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COUPON

Community Contacts



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Clubhouse

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clubhouse@nelliegairanch.org



25202 Nellie Gail Road, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Office: (949) 425-1477

Cell: (949) 371-1595

Nikki Garcia | Equestrian Center Manager
equestrian@nelliegairanch.org

Equestrian Center EMERGENCY: (949) 371-1595

Board of Directors

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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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(949) 533-0241	Equestrian Center (Emergency)
(800) 696-0678	Sunset Landscape (Irrigation Leaks)
(877) 728-0446	CR&R (Trash Pickup)
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(800) 411-7343	SDG&E
(800) 427-2200	Southern California Gas Company
(949) 470-3045	Animal Control (Mission Viejo Shelter)

County of Orange

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211	County Service Information
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(800) 611-7343	SDG&E Emergencies/Outages
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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 **April 15, 2025** 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 Committe
- Landscape Committee
- Security Committee
- Trails Committee

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



LEAVE YOUR MARK: A LASTING TRIBUTE TO NELLIE GAIL'S BELOVED HORSES

By Loree Blough

Exciting News, Nellie Gail Ranch!

We're enhancing our community with a special new addition—a concrete walkway connecting the Clubhouse to the Equestrian Center. This path will run behind the volleyball courts, making it easier to walk through without sinking into the sand. But we want to make it more than just a walkway—we want to make it a piece of Nellie Gail Ranch history!

To honor the horses that make our community so special, we're embedding horseshoes into the concrete as a lasting tribute. If you'd like to include a shoe from one of your cherished horses, you can submit either a flat, used horseshoe or a special tribute shoe for a horse that holds a special place in your heart. Each shoe will be stamped with your horse's name and permanently secured into the walkway.

How to Participate

- There is a \$50 fee per shoe to cover the preparation process.
- We have space for 100 horseshoes, so spots are limited!
- You may submit multiple shoes, and if space allows, we will include as many as possible. If we exceed the limit, we will return any extra shoes along with your payment.
- Please provide your contact information, horse's name(s), and a priority ranking (if submitting more than one shoe)
- You can even submit a shoe with your family's name, and if there is room, we will incorporate it!

Submit your horseshoes to the **Main Clubhouse** or **Nikki at the Equestrian Center Clubhouse**.



Help Us Name the Path!

We're also holding a contest to name the new walkway! You do not need to submit a horseshoe to participate—just bring your creative ideas to either clubhouse and enter your suggestions in a sealed envelope.

This is a wonderful way to celebrate our equestrian heritage and create something meaningful for generations to come. We can't wait to see your contributions!

See you around the Ranch!



HORSE LEGACY TRAIL



Commemorate a cherished horse by providing a clean horseshoe to be embedded in the new concrete walkway along the sand volleyball courts. Submissions will be accepted at the Association office on a first-come, first-served basis, with guaranteed placement for the first 100 received. Please include the horse's name and a \$50 expense contribution along with your horseshoe. Following construction, you will receive a legacy map indicating its location. Any questions, email admin@nelliegairanch.org or call 949.425.1477.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

PROTECT YOUR HOME: WILDFIRE SAFETY & DEFENSIBLE SPACE

By Deirdre Spalding

By making simple adjustments to your landscaping and home maintenance routine, you can dramatically improve your home's resistance to wildfire. Creating defensible space is not just a safety measure—it's the law in California.

Create Defensible Space for Wildfire Safety

Wildfires are a growing threat in Southern California, but creating defensible space around your home can significantly reduce the risk of fire damage. Defensible space acts as a protective buffer, slowing the spread of flames and giving firefighters a better chance to defend your property.

Understanding Defensible Space Zones

The key to wildfire safety is reducing fuel sources around your home. The closer to your house, the more critical it is to minimize flammable materials. Defensible space is divided into three key zones:

Zone 0 (0-5 Feet) – Immediate Protection

This is the most critical area for fire prevention. Known as the "ember-resistant zone," it helps protect your home from flying embers, which are the leading cause of home ignitions during wildfires.

- Remove all dead plants, dry leaves, and flammable materials from this zone
- Keep gutters, decks, and roofs clear of leaves and pine needles.
- Use non-combustible materials like gravel or stone instead of mulch near your home's foundation.
- Avoid storing firewood, propane tanks, or outdoor furniture against the house.
- Replace wood fencing that connects to your home with metal or other fire-resistant materials.

Zone 1 (5-30 Feet) – Lean, Clean, and Green

The goal in this area is to reduce fire intensity by spacing vegetation and maintaining plants properly.

- Trim tree branches at least 10 feet from your home and other trees to prevent fire from spreading.
- Remove dead plants, dry grass, and flammable brush regularly.
- Choose fire-resistant plants like lavender, agave, and California lilac, which retain moisture and burn more slowly
- Keep lawns mowed and well-watered, especially during peak fire season.
- Prune shrubs and bushes to eliminate excess growth and ensure they are spaced out.

Zone 2 (30-100 Feet) – Reduced Fuel Zone

This area acts as a transition between your defensible space and the natural landscape. Proper management here can slow the spread of wildfire and protect both your home and surrounding properties

- Space trees at least 10 feet apart to prevent flames from jumping between them.
- Create breaks in vegetation using pathways, rock gardens, or driveways to act as natural fire barriers.
- Remove lower tree branches up to six feet from the ground to prevent fire from climbing





- Keep grass and weeds trimmed to no more than four inches, especially near fences and property lines.
- Maintain proper irrigation and remove any dead or dying vegetation regularly.

- Sign up for AlertOC to receive emergency notifications for Orange County.

By working together as a community, we can keep Nellie Gail Ranch fire-safe!

Take Action Today

By maintaining these zones, you help protect your home, your neighbors, and your entire community. Taking a few proactive steps now can make all the difference when wildfire season hits.

Do you have Highly Flammable Plants in your yard?

Check out the list on the Orange County Fire Authority webpage - What and where to plant in your Nellie Gail property.

OCFA - Orange County Fire Authority

Additional Resources & Alerts:

- For more detailed guidelines, visit [Ready for Wildfire.org](http://ReadyforWildfire.org).



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS & MINUTES

THE MINUTES & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE

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

Architectural Review

March 2025

QR Code



Minutes

February 2025

QR Code



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Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025

10am-12pm @ Gallup Park

Hunt begins @ 10:30am for all age groups

- Bring your own basket or bag to collect eggs.
- Train rides, bounce house, slide, games & activities!
- Face painters and balloon twisters!
- Photo ops with the Easter Bunny & surprise guests!

Special thanks to our Contributing Sponsor

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Costumed Characters contributed in-kind by
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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

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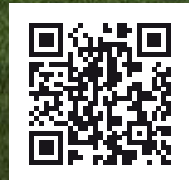
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Trainer Highlights

Natalie Banis & Just Rouge

Reserve Champion, USHJA 2'9 Hunter (owned by Lane Clarke & Mickey Hayden, for sale with Papillon Stables).

Lane Clarke

1st, \$10,000 Interactive Mortgage 10 & Under 1.35m with Montreal GBL (@kandlhorses), 3rd, \$1,500 1.30m Open Jumper with Celena (Gusto Drives LLC), 7th, \$75,000 Grand Prix with Diva De La Tour Vidal (KAS High Jumpers).

Estella Lindsey

3rd, \$1,500 1.30m Open Jumper with Moonshine (Trudy Haussman), 5th, 1.0m Open Jumper with Warbucks (Ashley Terrell).

Junior & Amateur Highlights

Sydney Prager & Poly D'or Van De Eedthoek

Champion, 1.0m Non-Pro Jumper, 1st in the 1.0m Jumper, 5th in \$1,000 1.05m Jumper Classic, moved up to 1.15m.

Kenleigh Vataha & Canterbrook Prince

Charming Champion, USHJA Hunter 2', Reserve Champion, Children's Hunter Pony. Multiple top finishes in Children's Hunter Pony & USHJA Hunter 2'.

Sophia Verbian & Winston Boy Mendocinas

Reserve Champion, 1.10m Amateur Jumper, 2nd in both 1.10m Amateur Jumper classes.

Stella Saunders & Mayfield

Multiple top finishes in Small Junior Hunter 3'3 & \$2,500 Junior Hunter Classic.

Tauren Price & P Diddy

4th, \$450 Junior Jumper 1.30m, moved up to 1.35m.

Kimberly Williams & Everlasting Ivy

Top finishes in 1.10m & \$450 1.20m Junior Jumper, moved up to 1.20m.

Melina Nasab & Dublin's Rubin Z

2nd, \$450 Amateur Jumper 1.30m, moved up to 1.35m.

Sheva Rajae & Piccolaz PSH

Multiple top finishes in 1.0m-1.10m Amateur Jumpers, moved up to 1.10m.

Annie Zhou & Warbucks

4th, \$500 .85m Jumper Classic, moved up to 0.95m.

Wyatt Millsbaugh & Epic Air

4th, 1.10m Junior Jumper.

Destiny Stewart & Show Bill

4th, 1.10m Junior Jumper, moved up to 1.20m.

Katy Vataha & Rockstar

5th, 0.80m Open Jumper.

Special Recognition

During Week 8, trainers Natalie Banis and Estella Lindsey competed in the \$100,000 DIHP 3'3" Pro Equitation Challenge—thank you to the Prager Family and Ashley Terrell for the rides!

Natalie Banis & VDL E-Cecilia

Double clean, 3rd in the \$75,000 Grand Prix (@kandlhorses).

Thank you @julieahnmedia and @djs._photography for the photos and to our incredible barn family for their support!





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2025 REGISTRATION OPEN

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Little Hitters | 5-8 years

10.30am - 2.30pm

\$265

Week 1 - June 9th

Week 2 - June 16th

Week 3 - June 23rd

Week 4 - June 30th

Week 5 - July 7th

Week 6 - July 14th

Week 7 - July - 21st

Week 8 - July 28th

Week 9 - August 4th

Week 10 - August 11th

Challengers | 9 years+

10.30am - 3pm

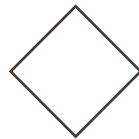
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6:30-9:30



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Douglas Elliman Real Estate
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* **MARTY SAMUEL**

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Marty Samuel
(949) 643-1321



DRE #00452321

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Nellie Gail sales based on MLS data since Oct 1989

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What Does a Block Captain Do?

- ✓ **Connect** – Introduce yourself to participants on your block.
 - ✓ **Reach Out**– Drop off a flyer or chat with neighbors to see who’s interested in the program.
 - ✓ **Welcome New Neighbors** – Share program info and help them feel at home.
 - ✓ **Be a Resource** – Serve as the go-to contact for neighborhood questions.
 - ✓ **Keep Everyone Informed** – Forward a **monthly community update** (we provide it—you just hit send!).
-



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MEET SGT. JARRETT KRAFT

by Karen Robbins

When asked what inspired him to join the Marines, Jarrett Kraft is quick to say, "One of my goals as a kid was to be a US Marine and serve in the infantry. This was due to many members of my family being service members across all branches, including my parents. I used to watch Heartbreak Ridge, Platoon, and Full Metal Jacket on repeat growing up. My other goal was to have a career in law enforcement, which I'm currently fulfilling.

SGT. Kraft enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2000. His primary MOS was 0341 (infantry mortar man), with a secondary MOS of Marine Corps Security Forces. The September 11 attack on the World Trade Center occurred during his recruit training at MCRD San Diego. In April 2004, he checked into the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Weapons Company. In August 2004, 3/5 was deployed to combat operations as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed to Iraq, SGT. Kraft was awarded a second Navy Achievement Medal with a combat Valor device attached for actions performed while under enemy fire. These operations were part of Operation Phantom Fury. In December 2004, he and his Marines were engaged in a two-hour-long firefight inside a residence during Operation Task Force Bruno. Three of his Marines were killed in action, and several others were severely wounded, including himself. Several books have been published, and documentaries have been aired on the Military Channel, depicting and illustrating the actions performed by Darkhorse Marines while serving during the Iraq war. SGT. Kraft began working with the Fresno Police Department after being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps. In October 2005, Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski contacted him and told him he was being awarded the Navy Cross for actions performed in December 2004.

He was awarded the Navy Cross at the PELCO Corporation in Clovis, CA. He began work as a sworn Fresno Police Officer in 2006 until the present day. He

has held many assignments, including patrol officer, tactical officer assigned to various teams, motorcycle officer, detective assigned to the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium, otherwise known as M.A.G.E.C., rangemaster, and instructor assigned to the Fresno Police Dept. Regional Training Center. He is a member of the Fresno Police Honor Guard and Color Guard. He also holds certifications as an FBI-certified Hazardous Devices Technician, explosive breacher, and Tactical Bomb Technician assigned as a team leader with the Bomb Squad/EOD unit. He was promoted to Police SGT. in December 2022 and is currently assigned as a supervisor of a tactical response team. SGT. Kraft is engaged to his gorgeous fiancé, Maggie Navarro, and their wedding date is set for February 2026. He has three beautiful daughters: Isabella, 14; Lilyana, 10; and Alexandria, 6. SGT. Kraft spends most of his time off with family and loves family trips to various locations, primarily coastal cities. SGT. Kraft has attended several Marine Corps Birthday Balls, Veteran Day parades, and functions hosted by the Fresno Police Department and the Legion of Valor. As a guest speaker, he shares with many Americans the heroism U.S. Marines and service members from all military branches perform while deployed on foreign soil.

We Asked SGT. Kraft what thoughts he would like to share with us on Memorial Day.

"Something I would like to share about this special day is how inspirational it is, as well as the bravery, selflessness, and strength of the brotherhood and sisterhood of our armed forces service members. What I experienced while serving in 3/5 with my Marines during that combat deployment is something I have never experienced again, nor will I ever. It's incredible how Marines adapt to circumstances no matter how bad the situation is and still joke, laugh, and emphasize positivity. I learned many life lessons from those guys, lessons I use during my day-to-day, lessons I share with law enforcement officers. I've realized that no matter

how overwhelmed, stressed, or bad something may seem, "It could always be worse." I want to thank every service member, every Darkhorse Marine, for your selfless service to our country and for being my brother and sister. I want to thank our fallen veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, for each one of us. Darkhorse Marines such as Corporal Raleigh Smith, Lance Corporal James Phillips, and Lance Corporal Eric Hillenburg of 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Till Valhalla, my brothers, rest in peace, warriors."



THE FULL CITATION OF SGT. JARRETT KRAFT'S NAVY CROSS PRESENTATION BELOW

"The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to SGT. Jarrett A. Kraft, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving as Squad Leader,

81-millimeter Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Third Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, FIRST Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central, in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM on 23 December 2004. As numerically superior insurgent forces attacked SGT. Kraft and the Marines in Al Fallujah, Iraq, he quickly organized and fearlessly led three assault forces on three separate attacks to repel the insurgents and ensure the successful advance of the battalion. With complete disregard for his own life,

he placed himself between intense enemy fire and the men during each attack providing suppressive fire and leadership to sustain the fight and eliminate the enemy. Although grenades thrown by the insurgents rendered him momentarily unconscious during one assault, this did not dampen his spirit or determination. Undeterred, SGT. Kraft continued to lead from the front, despite being wounded himself. On two more occasions, he was knocked down stairwells by enemy grenade blasts and finally while emplacing a sniper in a critical location, SGT. Kraft was knocked down by the blast from a friendly M1A1 tank main gun. He demonstrated courageous leadership with a complete disregard for his own safety, during this desperate two-hour battle as he personally braved multiple enemy small arms kill zones to render assistance and guidance to his Marines. By his outstanding display of decisive leadership, unlimited courage in the face of heavy enemy fire, and utmost devotion to duty, SGT. Kraft reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."



SGT. Kraft will be at the start line, to run the race and on hand afterward at our Team Darkhorse booth following the race. We encourage you to participate in the run, or come by the EXPO at the LH Community Center following the race.

TEAM DARKHORSE

WHAT IS NAVY CROSS?

By Karen L. Robbins

SGT. Jarrett Kraft, this year's Grand Marshal of the Laguna Hills Memorial Day Half Marathon, 5 and 10K Race is a recipient of the Navy Cross. The Navy Cross recognizes exceptional bravery and heroism in combat, second only to the Medal of Honor.

This is an award of high distinction, but because earned during the fiercest of combat, is also often accompanied by grievous memories in the mind of the recipient. By definition, this would not be an easy day to remember.

Because Memorial Day is a reverential holiday for all who have lost friends and loved ones in combat, we are moved and humbled by SGT. Kraft's acceptance of our invitation to spend this Holiday of remembrance in our town.


Please come by the LH Community Center EXPO on that Monday (May 26) morning — even if you don't rise early to run the race. You can meet this man, this hero, and thank him for all he has done and continues to do in service of others. Semper Fi.



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PIANO INSTRUCTION IN YOUR HOME

Learn the music you love from Popular, Classical, Jazz, and Blues. Children and adults welcome. I have B.A. Degrees in Music and Child Psychology and have been teaching 25 years. My website is www.thekeyboardlady.com. Email me at marshyvonne13@gmail.com or call 949-637-8208.

CARING FUR ANGELS

Professional pet/house sitting, dog walking, and pet taxi services in South Orange County. Vickie Reyes, caregiver, ensures purrfect care for your companions. Licensed, bonded, insured, with pet CPR and first aid certification. Visit www.caringfurangels.com or call 949-525-1670.

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DOG WALKING

April, a loving, reliable Nellie Gail resident, offers dog walking services. Call 949-310-4996 for a meet and greet.

BABY SITTING

I am a high school student and live in Nellie Gaile and would love to babysit Please contact Beeta at 209-981-5667

FLOWER POWER

Vine + Dandy, a Nellie Gail floral design studio, creates unique arrangements for same-day delivery, weddings, and events. Check IG: [@vinedandy](https://www.instagram.com/vinedandy) or www.vinedandy.com. Contact Michelle at 714-756-0412.

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND PROGRAMMING TUTOR

AP Computer Science and programming tutor with UC Berkeley background. In-person and remote tutoring. Text Elaine at 949-300-8985 or email occstutoring@gmail.com.

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Is your spring-cleaning project too big to tackle? Let me help take the stress out of your decluttering and organizing project. I provide a patient, judgement free process that will help you see all that is possible at an affordable price. Call Lisa at 714-337-9624.

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Bulk sale of 200 men, women, and children's clothing pieces for \$200. Contact Sudy at 949-294-9892.

BABYSITTER

Ability to thoughtfully connect with and care for children of all ages. Early retired HR professional and live nearby. Excellent references. Please contact Kimber at (949) 836-6742

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Experienced graduate student offering pet sitting: in-home, overnight, and walking. Rates tailored to based service and frequency. Contact for reliable care: (949) 573-2992 or jeritretter@gmail.com

VIOLIN LESSONS

Patient, outgoing and kind violin instructor for ALL ages. Studying violin @UCLA and available until late September. No experience needed. Please text Leo at 949-899-2245

SKATEBOARDING LESSONS

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My daughter who's a high school student and lives in Nellie Gail would like to start babysitting and/or pet sitting. She is responsible, good with kids, and loves animals. \$15/hr. Rosemary (949)-633-4194.

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HUMANISTIC JUDAISM EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Pacific Community of Cultural Jews hosts bi-monthly social and educational events, including discussions, dining, book clubs, and holiday celebrations. Annual membership covers most events; non-members welcome. Catered Passover Seder on April 13. Contact Karen at PacifComm@aol.com or 714-739-1366.

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Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Tina Corso

Spring has arrived early this year, starting in February. So far, we've had no frost days here in Nellie Gail, and while our weather conditions have been normal, we still need more rain. Hopefully, the first week of March will bring some!

The garden group recently visited Roger's Gardens in search of tomatoes for early planting. Some members also learned about grafting and air-layering—valuable techniques for replicating existing trees. I have an old Anna apple tree that is dying, so I am attempting to propagate it using the air-layering method and by grafting a branch onto another apple tree.

Did you know that apple trees do not grow true to seed? This means you can't grow an exact DNA copy from a seed—only by grafting or air-layering can you replicate a tree.

Understanding Citrus Tree Suckers

Another topic that came up this month was citrus



trees. Many of you have experienced an unusual sprout growing from your tree and wondered what it was. Citrus trees are very prone to suckers—fast-growing shoots that emerge below the graft union of store-bought trees.

Some members thought these new sprouts might be a different variety of citrus, but this is a mistake. Most citrus trees are grafted onto Trifoliolate rootstock, a vigorous but poor-quality variety that produces bitter oranges. You can recognize a Trifoliolate sucker by its distinctive three leaves and large thorns.

How to manage citrus suckers:

Always cut suckers down as soon as you see them. Ensure the graft union is above the soil line when planting your tree. Avoid deep planting—citrus trees thrive with shallow roots. If your tree is still alive but overtaken by suckers, you may be able to save it by grafting.

Neglecting suckers will allow the Trifoliolate rootstock to take over, eventually killing your fruiting tree. Navels are particularly prone to this issue, as are apple trees. Always remove suckers at the trunk level.

Bees and Blossoms

One exciting part of this early spring is the increase in bee activity! My backyard is buzzing with bees, especially around the rosemary plants, which bloom almost year-round and provide a great source of pollen. Bees are also busy pollinating my avocado blossoms—a promising sign for a great harvest.

My Mexicola avocado tree is loaded with blossoms, the Fuertes are budding, and the Zutano is full as well. Many of our fruit trees are either budding or already in full bloom—what a wonderful sight! Stone fruits are also waking up. I've spotted a few



blossoms on my peach, apricot, nectarine-plum, and apple trees. This year, I planted two new plum trees since they require cross-pollination. With so many bees around, this should be another fantastic growing season!

Best Fruit Trees for Our Seasons

A member recently asked about the best fruit trees to plant for different seasons. Here's a general guide:

Apples – Anna apples ripen in early June, Fuji in fall, and Pink Lady in late fall.

Apricots – Blenheim apricots are ready in late May to June.

Plums – August is peak plum season.

Citrus – Harvested in late winter.

Pears – Most varieties ripen in early fall, but Asian pears are ready in early winter.

Avocados – Timing depends on the cultivar:

Bacon: Early to mid-spring

Fuerte: Mid-winter

Mexicola & Hass: Late summer to early fall

Reed: Early spring •

Zutano: February harvest this past season

Loquats – Ripen in mid-spring.

Mulberries – June to July.

Guavas – Some ripen at the end of summer, while Mexican Cream and Pink Tropical guavas were ready in winter this year.

Cherimoyas – Late winter.

Peaches & Mangos – Summer, depending on heat.

Bananas – Early to mid-spring.

When to Pick Fruit

It can be tricky to know when fruit is ripe! Some varieties ripen on the tree, while others need time to soften on the counter. For example:

Vernon Sapote and guavas ripen on the tree.

Most avocados ripen after being picked, except Mexicola, which ripens on the tree and falls when fully black.

Each tree has different ripening requirements, but over time, you'll learn what works best for your garden.

Happy Planting!

I hope everyone is out enjoying this beautiful early spring. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

Tina Corso & Tina Frey
tlc8386@gmail.com



**PRE-BALLOT NOTICE §5115(b)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION & SPECIAL BALLOT MEASURE**

Annual Meeting: June 4, 2025

Time (both): 6:30 PM

Virtual Link (both): <https://us02web.zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID (both): 8301 806 4803

Passcode (both): 573997

Phone-In (both): (669) 900-6833

Physical Location (both): Clubhouse, 25281 Empty Saddle Dr., Laguna Hills, CA

Adjourned Annual Meeting: June 11, 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Members and Election of Board of Directors is set for **June 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** In order to achieve quorum, at least 50% of the Homeowners (i.e. 703 out of 1405 members) must vote. Historically, less than 50% of the membership participates in the Annual Meeting, and the meeting must be adjourned to another date. As such, the inspector of the election will not be present at this meeting. The quorum at such adjourned meeting shall be lowered to 25% (i.e. 351 out of 1405 members). The inspector of election will be in attendance virtually at the Reconvened Election meeting scheduled for **June 11, 2025, at 6:30 pm.** Ballots will not be accepted at the physical location.

This year two (2) seats are up for election. The two (2) nominated candidates that will appear on the ballot are: Loree Blough and Holly Perme. **Also included on this years' ballot will be one (1) special ballot measure for a membership vote. "Should Nellie Gail Ranch continue to contract for 24-hour mobile patrol services or discontinue mobile patrol services."** (A Ballot Measure Statement and options will be provided with the ballot that describes the scope of services and costs.)

Please review and verify the accuracy of the information we have on file for mailing you your ballot and the person(s) who will appear on the voter list who are qualified to cast the ballot. The Pony Express magazine mailing label and the April 2025 quarterly assessment statement have the information we reflect as current Members of Record (on title) for your property and your preferred mailing address. Only members of record may vote. Please review the names and mailing address on your assessment statement and if there is an additional person on title, trustee or person with power of attorney for your home, please provide us with a copy of the title or power of attorney and a request to revise the information prior to April 21, 2025. Likewise, if you have an alternative preferred address for the ballot to be mailed, please provide prior to April 21, 2025. You may e-mail to admin@nelliegailranch.org or send by mail to 25211 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. Any request to update/change information on the voting list must be submitted in writing.

The Board of Directors has contracted with an independent vendor, The Ballot Box, to serve as the Inspector of Election for the purpose of preparation, receipt, and tabulation of the ballots for this meeting. Each home is permitted one (1) ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting and election date. The ballot mailing and the May 2025 issue of The Pony Express will include candidate bios and special ballot measure information. Returned ballots must be received in the envelopes provided by the inspector. If you would like a receipt for your returned ballot, you are encouraged to mail the ballot with tracking through the United States Post office, or other certified delivery service (UPS, Fed-Ex, DHL, etc.) to this address: The Ballot Box, 3315 E. Russell Rd, Ste A4 #156, Las Vegas, NV 89120. The deadline for the receipt of all ballots is **June 9, 2025**, by 12:00 PM (noon). Ballots will also be accepted by hand delivery in the Association Office at 25211 Empty Saddle Dr., Laguna Hills during normal business hours through **June 8, 2025**. You may also request a confirmation of receipt of your ballot via email to info@ballotboxservices.com. Ballots will not be accepted the night of the meetings at the physical location .

The Board of Directors may call a subsequent meeting at least 20 days after the scheduled election if the required quorum is not reached, at which time the quorum of the membership to elect directors will be 20 percent (20%) of the Association's members voting in person, by proxy, or by secret ballot.

For any questions regarding the Annual Meeting and Election of Board Directors, please e-mail admin@nelliegailranch.org or call the Association office at (949) 425-1477. Individual notice of this notice is available pursuant to Section 4040 if requested by any member to admin@nelliegailranch.org.



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April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole · ARC Meeting at 6:00pm @ The Association Office	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Board Meeting 7:30pm @ Clubhouse · Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole	16	17	18	19 Annual Easter Egg Hunt @ Gallup Park 10:00am - 12:00pm
20 	21	22 Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole	23	24	25 Live Music The Welcome Matts @ The Watering Hole from 6:30pm to 9:30pm	26
27	28 ARC Submittal Deadline for May 13th Meeting	29 Taco Tuesday @ The Watering Hole	30	31		



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| Patio Covers | Equestrian Facilities | Sport Courts | Grading | Demolition | Decks | Barns |
| Pools / Spas | Outdoor Kitchens | Fencing | Drainage | Fountains | Pavers | Driveways |
| Outdoor Living Rooms | Fireplace / Firepits | Retaining Walls | Irrigation | Planting | Lighting | Cabanas |

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