



January 2021

The PONY EXPRESS

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



INSIDE:
Equestrian Center News
Nellie Gail S.M.A.R.T.
Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

JANUARY ISSUE:
Puzzle Paddock
Ranch Recipe
2020 Reserve Projects



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TABLE OF CONTENTS



05 Director's Message

08 Architectural Review

09 Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

11 Equestrian Center News

13 Team Darkhorse

17 Equestrian Stall Decorating Contest Winners

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

25 Business Directory

27 Classified Ads

35 Puzzle Paddock

36 Ranch Recipe

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Board of Directors

Loree Blough	PRESIDENT
Joyce Taylor	VICE PRESIDENT
Alex Presley	CO-TREASURER
John Park	CO-TREASURER
Mark Fisk	SECRETARY

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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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ARCHITECTS

Important Numbers

(949) 425-1477	Association Office
(949) 831-6660	Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis and Swim Club
(949) 371-1595	Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center
(949) 533-0241	Equestrian Center (Emergency)
(800) 696-0678	Sunset Landscape (Irrigation Leaks)
(714) 971-2421	Vector Control
(877) 728-0446	CRandR (Trash Pickup)
(949) 831-2500	Moulton Niguel Water District
(800) 411-7343	SDGandE
(800) 427-2200	Southern California Gas Company
(949) 470-3045	Animal Control (Mission Viejo Shelter)

County of Orange

911	Emergencies
211	County Service Information
(949) 770-6011	Sheriff's Dispatch - Non Emergency
(949) 707-2600	City of Laguna Hills
(949) 707-2650	Laguna Hills City - Weed Abatement
(800) 611-7343	SDGandE Emergencies/Outages

Assessment Remittance Address

Please remit all assessments to:
P.O. Box, 62053, Newark, NJ 07101-8060
or drop off at the Association Office.

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors Meetings

The January Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is currently scheduled for January 19, 2021. Due to state restrictions on gatherings the meeting will be held via ZOOM:

Board Meeting January 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88508615755?pwd=eUY4MGRwVjdGRUhlM2JwdXJuY0Jadz09>

Dial in #: 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 885 0861 5755

Passcode: 500232

Architectural Review Committee

Architectural Review Committee meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Association Office. 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 Loree Blough



Well, I think we can all agree that 2020 was quite a year! A year that we will be glad is in our rear-view mirror.

We were reminded of how many things we were taking for granted, shaking the hand of a new neighbor, hugging an old friend, and sharing special events with people that we care about.

It is my hope that when history looks back on this trying time, it will reflect the positive as well as the negative. We connected with old friends and family that we have not been with in many years. We adopted lonely animals and gave them warm, loving homes. We learned how to visit outside and to elbow bump and to give a virtual hug. So many more families walked and rode on our beautiful trails. We also cleaned out

filing cabinets, the back of our closets, baked bread and for some unknown reason watched Tiger King on TV.

Sure, there were the occasional "conversations" that happen when people are too close for too long. One of my favorites was whether the silverware handles should go up or down in the dishwasher, but overall, we learned how to reconnect and cherish those that we care about!

On a note closer to home, the extra time allowed us as Board members to not only get the clubhouse refurbishment completed but gave us time to spend on the intricate small details that I believe have turned our clubhouse into something truly special and unique! We have etched and logoed glasses, installed a sound system that extends to the pool, pickleball and tennis courts, and highlighted rooms with reclaimed barn wood from a Kentucky farm that was built in 1880!





We have spent countless hours planning new and improved events for 2021 when we can safely enjoy time together again.

I am very proud of this community. We came together for the first time to support a food bank. over 2,000 lbs of food was collected and delivered by our office staff and Board Member Alex Presley! For Christmas this year, not only did we provide gifts for our adopted Darkhorse marine battalion, but our community participated in a Toys for Tots drive and we adopted ten families that were not planning on being visited by Santa this year! Our community went all out on decorating. Driving around and seeing all of the beautiful festive decorations made my heart smile. Even though COVID-19 has made us change the way we interact with each other, as I look around, I see that our spirit is still soaring!

Bottom line, I am proud to live in this wonderful community and I am looking forward to visiting with you in the many activities that we have planned for 2021.

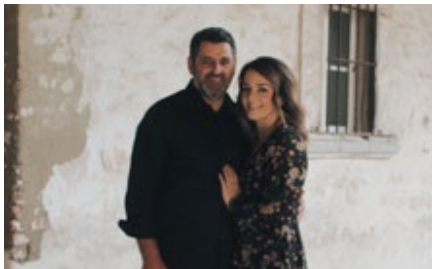
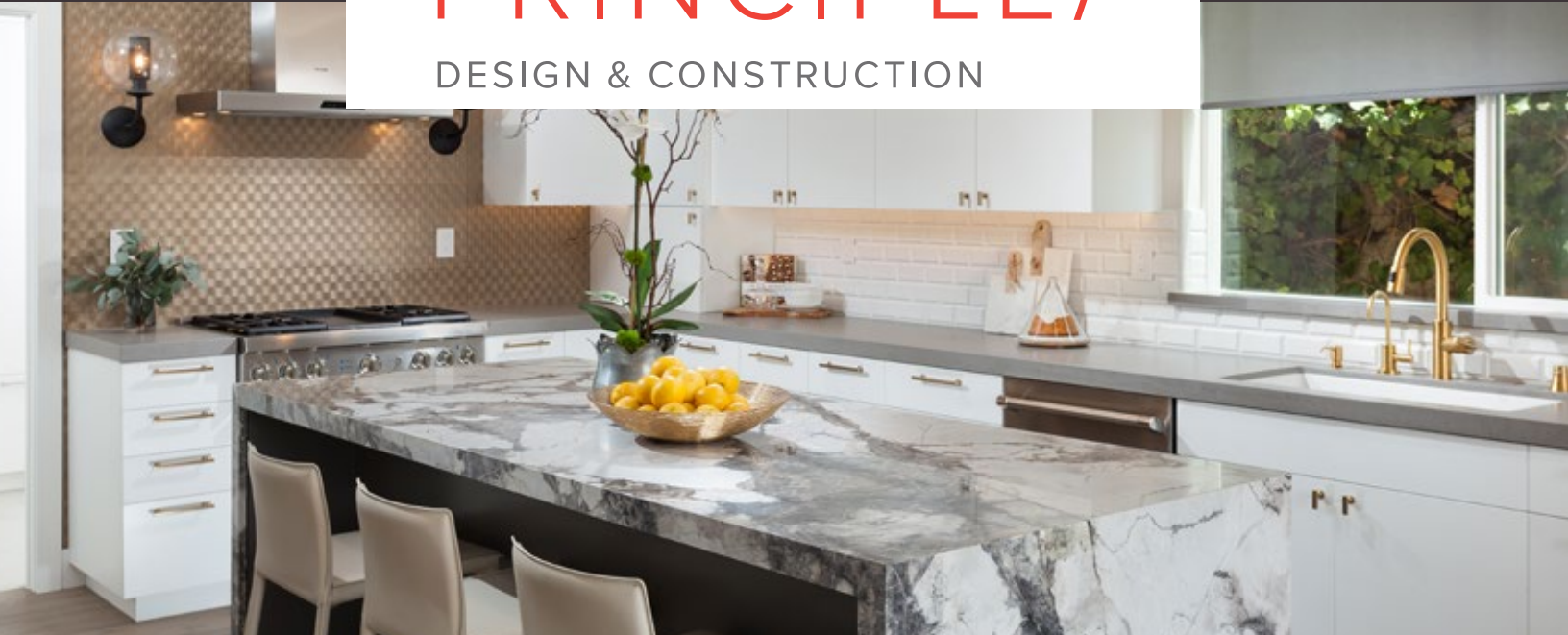
Cheers to 2021 for us all,

Loree



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Architectural Reviews

The following properties submitted plans to be reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee on December 8, 2020.

The Next Deadline for ARC Submittal is January 26, 2021.

ADDRESS	PROJECT	RESULTS
26951 Highwood	Garage door	Approved
27292 Westridge	Solar	Approved with Conditions
25661 Rangewood	View Obstruction	Pending
25082 Mustang	JADU/Addition to house/Landscape/ Tree Removal	Denied
27672 Hidden Trail	Garage Doors	Approved with Conditions
24772 Red Lodge	Solar	Approved with Conditions
25442 Gallup	Solar	Approved with Conditions
24782 Red Lodge	Window/Sliding Door	Approved with Conditions
25812 Nellie Gail	Solar	Approved with Conditions
26082 Glen Canyon	Artificial Turf	Approved
27471 Lost Trail	Resubmittal Landscape	Approved
26502 Silver Saddle	Windows/Landscape/Hardscape/ Gate/Door	Approved
26962 Rocking Horse	Painting	Approved
25965 Poker Flates	Addition to House/Landscape/ Hardscape	Approved
24961 Nellie Gail	Satellite Dish	Approved with Conditions

Any exterior change to your home or property requires approval. Please consult the Architectural Guidelines available at 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.

2020 Holiday Decor

25041 Nellie Gail Rd



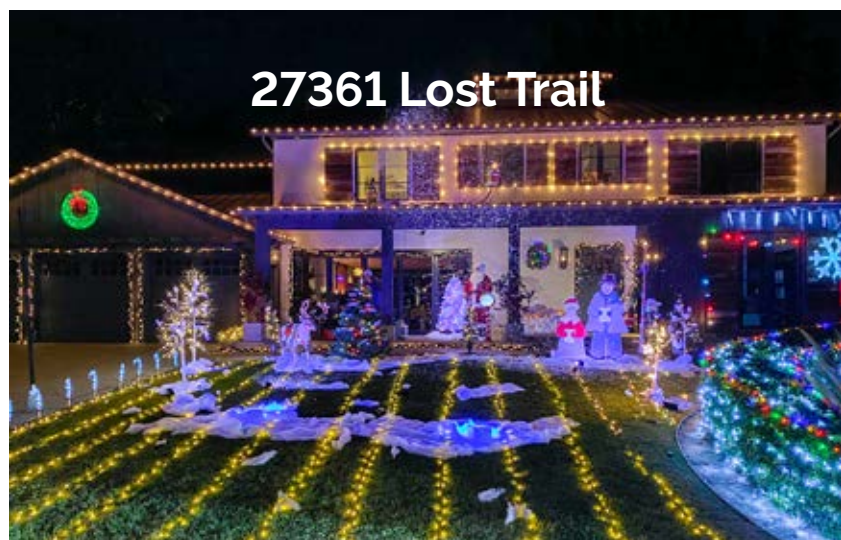
27212 Lost Colt



25511 Lone Pine



27361 Lost Trail



27571 Deputy Circle



26192 Bridlewood



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Lighting Contest Winners

27066 Hidden Trail



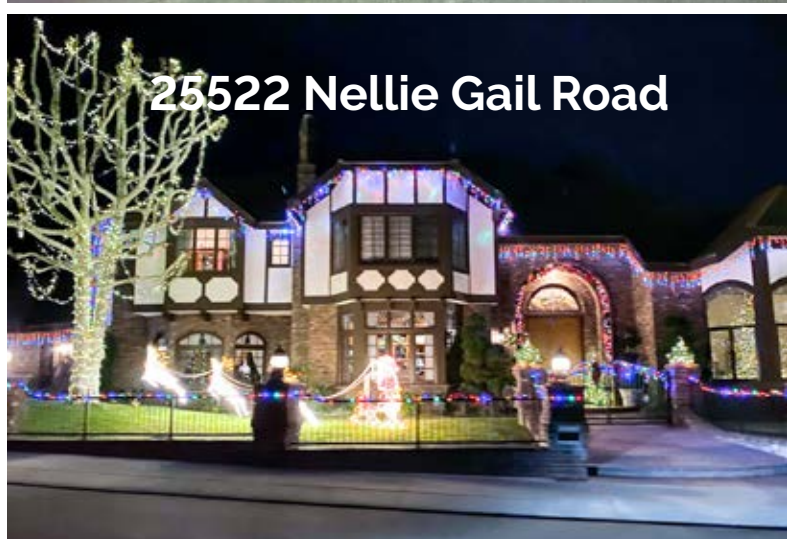
27322 Lost Colt



26172 Mount Diablo Rd



25522 Nellie Gail Road



25326 Gallup Circle



26041 Spur Branch



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Equestrian Center News

By Ed Leard

I'm a horse guy. I simply love them—more than I like people, most of the time. My 16-yr old daughter, Emily, and I have kept a couple of equines in our family's backyard, and we enjoy riding and training them together. We have now moved them over to the Nellie Gail Ranch stables so they would have more friends. Our relationship with our own beloved horses led us to contemplate helping equines less fortunate to change the circumstances for the unwanted and unloved. Sizing up our available resources, we crafted a plan to acquire, rehabilitate, and re-home desperate horses in need, one horse at a time. A little one-man/one-girl

horse rescue effort.

Not knowing much about how to go about this, we decided to attend a horse auction in Mira Loma in search of the forlorn and forgotten. Mike's Livestock Auction it was! "We'll take the trailer," I told Emily, "just in case," and off we went. Once there, we grimaced at the posted signs reminding bidders of the illegalities of horse slaughter in C.A., knowing that if there are signs there, this is clearly an issue. This added a degree of urgency to the situation. Emily spent an hour and a half judged each of the approximately 50 four-legged contestants for the right mix of desperation and hope. She then identified 'the one.' A skin-and-bone black mare with a limp and ailing health, maybe 250 pounds light. When I asked Emily, "Why this one?" She replied, "she's the smartest, and she's the sweetest." She was also about 3-4 years old. I was sold as we knew we could make a difference for this 16+ hand high mare.

She looked destined for destruction as the bidding went down to \$350. Emily and I bid against one another to ensure no one else would get her, and she was sold to us for \$850. The mare's sad state pulled at our heartstrings, and her youth deemed her a hopeful fit with our plan. Optimistically naming her Beauty, home with them she went. Of course, on the way home, the 91 freeway was closed, so we arrived at our house at about 1:30 AM and brought her to our safe haven, where she met Oakley, Emily's registered quarter horse.

Emily worked with E.M.A. and mixed special potions and nutrient-rich feed formulas. Emily then set about the important business of loving Beauty back to life. Several baths revealed a coat that wasn't actually black but a beautiful dark bay. Under Emily's daily care, Beauty's dark bay coat began to gleam, her bad feet began to strengthen, her faith in humanity began to restore, and she filled out in about 200lbs of



weight gain. "A way to go still," Emily judged, but Beauty was off to a great start with her new beginning. A DNA test revealed Beauty to be primarily of Thoroughbred lineage,

One day, Beauty was not looking well to Emily. Alarmed, she immediately called out the vet, who assured her that Beauty was just fine, having simply gone into the season. For kicks, the vet checked her for a chip. To their astonishment, there was a hit. As it turns out, Beauty is the daughter of Ultimate Eagle, Winner of the 2011 Hollywood Derby, and a 4th generation descendant of Secretariat. Beauty's surprise family tree changes the re-homing game a bit. No longer a 2nd chance search for a loving home for a rehabilitated hard-luck nag, Beauty's adoption will likely attract loving prospective owners willing to pay for her pedigree. It's important to know that you will have to sign a promise "in writing" to never let her see a race track, and we reserve the right to check up on her for the first six months. One hell is enough.

In a true circle of horse love, the very first horse rescued by this little father-daughter redemption effort will advance their ability to save the next. Beauty and her rescuers can be found at Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center in Laguna Hills.



Team Darkhorse

By: Karen Robbins



NELLIE GAIL RANCH'S CHRISTMAS SPIRIT SHINES ON DARKHORSE MARINES!

With COVID-19 restrictions limiting travel and social gatherings for everyone, community interactions here in the city or on base at Camp Pendleton were either severely restricted or curtailed last year.

For the young Marines, these restrictions meant many were unable to travel home for the holidays; Single Marines' gatherings, children's parties, and Santa visits were eliminated. In the Barracks and on base, it might have seemed a joyless Christmas.

But with the support of Nellie Gail Ranch HOA and its generous residents, Team Darkhorse delivered Christmas toys and good cheer for the always grateful Darkhorse Marines.

On December 17, Darci Streeter, the family readiness officer, secured "Task Force Grizzly" building on base, where we delivered more than 400 toys! Marines, fully masked and respectfully distanced, helped unload and then set up the display of gifts in the building, where later that day, families were able to come in groups to select gifts with their children. Others of you donated gift cards and cash so that the single Marines were gifted too. The warm smiles and joy felt by the Marines shone through their eyes above their masks, and virtual hugs were felt all around!

The Marines and we thank you for your support! Your thoughtfulness and generosity in the time of COVID-19 lit up the holidays once more!



TEAM DARKHORSE WELCOMES THE NEWBORNS!

COVID-19 didn't stop our fantastic "Baby Brigade" team Rose Busta and Laura Dickson from delivering 24 Baby Baskets for the newborns of 3/5. Each of the 24 gifts contained a diaper backpack, socks, receiving blanket, Johnson's baby gift, and handmade clothing, blankets, and sweaters donated by the ladies at St. Nicholas Catholic Church Sewing Club. Rose, Laura, and Bob Dickson, the adult Dickson 'children' and spouses, and Bob Dickson's brother and wife, together with community donations to Team Darkhorse made all this possible. The ladies assembled then delivered the baskets to Camp Pendleton and, while there, received a Certificate of Appreciation for Team Darkhorse from the Command. We miss getting to spend time with the Marines and their families, but continue to be grateful to them and are grateful to have the opportunity to show we care.





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Laguna Hills, CA 92653

949.425.1477 Phone – 949.425.1478 Fax

www.nelliegailranch.org

Consistent with Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association By-Laws Article VI, Section 1, the Board of Directors will be appointing a Nominating Committee at the February 16, 2021 Board Meeting. This letter is a solicitation for Nominating Committee candidates. If you have an interest in serving, please complete the below form and return by Wednesday, February 8, 2021. Attached is the adopted Charter that describes Nominating Committee responsibilities.

Application for Nominating Committee Appointment

I wish to be considered for appointment to the Nominating Committee:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: (W) _____ (H) _____ (C) _____

E-mail: _____

If appointed I pledge to do my best for the benefit of the Association as a whole and will abide by the Committee Charter, Election Rules and Procedures, Bylaws and applicable California laws.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You may submit your application and request for appointment to the Association Clubhouse office at admin@nelliegailranch.org.



Nominating Committee Charter

Purpose

The Nominating Committee ("Committee") shall solicit and recommend candidates to fill vacancies for election to the Board of Directors of not less than the number of vacancies that are to be filled.

Committee Function

1. The Committee shall be comprised of a chairperson, who shall also be a member of the Board of Directors, and two (2) or more Members of the Association appointed by the Board of Directors.
2. Members of the Committee shall not also be candidates for election to the Board of Directors (during their time of service on the Nominating Committee).
3. Members of the Committee shall be in "good standing" with the Association. A member who is not in "good standing" for purposes of this Committee shall mean that the Member is more than ninety (90) days late in the payment of assessments to the Association, is currently in violation of the Association's governing documents which remains unaddressed for more than thirty (30) days following notice of the violation, and/or is currently, or within the past three (3) years, has been in litigation with the Association in which the Association was the prevailing party.
4. The Committee shall solicit and recommend candidates to fill vacant positions to the Board of Directors of not less than the number of vacancies that are to be filled.
5. Nominations to fill vacant positions to the Board of Directors shall consist of qualified Members who are in "good standing" with the Association as outlined above.
6. The Committee shall determine whether any and all candidates meet the qualifications for candidates as set forth in the Election Rules and Procedures adopted November 19, 2019.
7. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee prior to a ballot printing deadline to be set annually by the Board of Directors.
8. Quorum for each Committee meeting is established by the attendance of at least a majority of the Committee members.

Budget Allocation

There is no budget associated with Nominating Committee functions.

Term of Office

The Board of Directors makes Committee Member appointments annually.

Adopted February 21, 2017

Equestrian Center Stall Decorating Contest

December 17, 2020



Thank you everyone who participated
in the fun and festive stall decorating
contest. Congratulations to the
following winners:

1st place to Amber and Valerie Clark Stall
#59 (Lyrical)

2nd place to Bree Kenney Stall #83 (Dash)

3rd place to Marcus and Nicole Bhathal
Stall #89 (Simba)

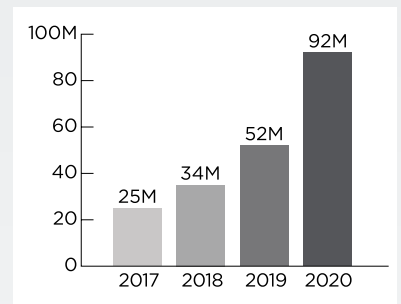
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*Data provided by CRMLS for 2019 and 2020.

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SOLD | 25712 Highplains*



SOLD | 1 Weather Ledge*



SOLD | 26911 Vista Pointe N**



SOLD | 548 Bluebird Canyon*



SOLD | 1 Rosana Way**



SOLD | 10 Sierra Vista*



SOLD | 27792 Hidden Trail*



SOLD | 25591 Rapid Falls*



SOLD | 25161 Buckboard*



SOLD | 25902 Hitching Rail*



SOLD | 21 Sarazen*



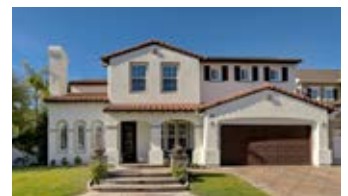
SOLD | 8 Lone Wolf*



SOLD | 9 Rosana Way**



SOLD | 9 Guadamina Drive**



SOLD | 31 Pegasus Drive*



SOLD | 26331 Sorrell Place*



SOLD | 26421 Dapple Grey*



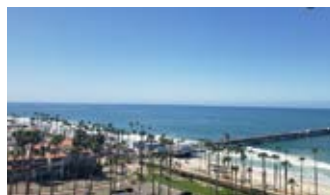
SOLD | 27201 Woodbluff**



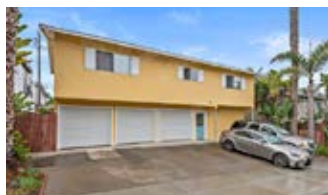
SOLD | 23862 Bothnia Bay*



SOLD | 20 Pamela Way**



**SOLD | 411 Avenida Granada,
#4D*****



**SOLD | 211 W Avenida
Palizada****



SOLD | 24482 Mandeville*

WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILIES A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ben Tate

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ben.tate@compass.com
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Sarah Tate

949.244.6038
sarah.tate@compass.com
DRE 01882269

Jerry LaMott

949.244.7145
jerry.lamott@compass.com
DRE 00469045



SOLD | 27701 Deputy Circle*



SOLD | 25261 Stageline Drive*



SOLD | 18 Northampton Place*



SOLD | 26 Cambridge Court*



SOLD | 26571 Stetson Place*



SOLD | 24181 Fairway Lane*



SOLD | 27478 Country Lane**



SOLD | 42 San Raphael*



SOLD | 90 Plaza de las Flores***



SOLD | 9 Calle Katrina*



SOLD | 29 Spoon Lane**



SOLD | 2371 Paseo Circulo*



SOLD | 23151 Via Celeste*



SOLD | 12 Cambridge Court*



IN ESCROW | 15 Sharon*





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

SAVING MONEY AND RESOURCES TODAY

Despite the unique challenges faced in 2020, we have continued to implement maintenance programs throughout the year. Our cover this month highlights some of the reserve and operating projects completed in the past 12 months.

Reserve projects in 2020 totaled approximately \$825,000 with \$465,200 expended from the Association account, \$24,000 from Equestrian, \$51,200 from Swim and \$284,600 from Tennis. Assessments offset approximately 60% of the overall reserve project expenses while cost center revenue derived from the Equestrian, Swim and Tennis Center offset 40% of the overall expense.

Our projects implemented on your behalf typically fall into three categories; function, aesthetics, and safety.

Projects addressing function this past twelve months included:

- Conversion of two tennis courts into eight pickleball courts resulting in 254 new memberships to the Tennis Center.
- Repair of corroding concrete retaining walls around Tennis Center courts to retain structural strength.
- Installation of a ramp to improve accessibility to the Equestrian Center Clubhouse that also resulted in an increase of deck square footage for enhanced future social gatherings.
- Replacement of Equestrian Center Clubhouse non-operational sliding glass doors with pocket doors that more than doubled the opening.
- Replacement of pool heaters and pump motors.
- Replacement of Association Clubhouse furniture.
- Completion of Association Clubhouse interior and exterior projects.

Projects improving aesthetics:

- Wood repair and painting of Gallup Park Gazebo.
- Metal fence repairs and painting of pool perimeter fencing.
- Replacement of dilapidated wood patio cover with solid aluminum cover at the Equestrian Center Clubhouse.
- Tree planting (49 in the past twelve months).
- Re-established lighting via solar fixtures to the monument on the hillside above Cabot Road.

- Installation of replacement trail signs with directional arrows to identify trail names.

Projects implemented for safety typically also have the added benefit of improved aesthetics and function:

- Trail grading and retaining wall project on Oso Mustang Trail to maintain trail and easement.
- Implemented drainage and trail grading modifications to resolve boggy conditions at the Oso Trail between Nellie Gail Road and Moulton Parkway.
- Removal of 36 trees to eliminate hazards and implemented extensive tree trimming to promote tree health.
- Replaced light bollards in front of the Association Clubhouse and on the path leading to the Equestrian Center.
- Installed new cameras with a view of Equestrian Center Arenas and better Association Clubhouse parking lot coverage.

These include just the more visible projects! There are far more implemented on an ongoing basis. Throughout the year, staff and the Board work together to prioritize projects that will address necessary maintenance timely. We evaluate appropriate specifications and competitively bid and try to be sure that every Nellie Gail Ranch Member receives the appropriate benefit and value for the use of their assessment investment.

As we commence our new projects in 2021, we are also always ready to receive reports from Members for requested maintenance and will strive to evaluate, prioritize and implement, so if you have any suggestions, be sure to let us know at admin@nelliegailranch.org.



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marty@martysamuel.com

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BABYSITTER

15 year old honors student and Nellie Gail resident looking to make some money over the summer by babysitting. Has had lots of experience with kids and is very patient. Charges \$12 and hour +\$5 for each additional child. Contact Celeste at (949) 204-4756 for more information.

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He has extensive hiring and interviewing experience within the hi-tech industry, including working for Cisco, the team from Microsoft that developed Skype, Polycom and Avaya. His customer list includes direct "sell to" responsibility for Disney, HPE, Microsoft, T-Mobile, Nestle, REI, VISA, Ingram Micro, Toshiba, Sony Electronics, Lockheed Martin, Oppenheimer Group and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to name a few.

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Mark Chamberlin at 27391mark@cox.net

MISCELLANEOUS

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We have 2 lovely homes in Big Bear Lake for short term rentals (available separately, but near each other if you need both for a large group). Our homes were completely renovated in 2018, and are outstanding year round vacation properties. Each house has beautiful features, decor and furnishings, making these homes comfortable, and among the most amazing Big Bear Lake rental accommodations available! One home is an adorable Cape Cod style house with 3/BR 3/B (sleeps 8), w/fireplace, BBQ Logia, large decks and yard, W/D, and an outdoor jacuzzi. The other is a 3/BR 3/B Craftsman home (sleeps 8), w/fireplace, jacuzzi, large decks and yard, Lake views and steps to Meadow Park. Both are in town close to the village and lake. The slopes are only 1 1/2 miles away. TESLA chargers are at each house. Pet free homes. Discount given to our Nellie Gail neighbors! Check out the pictures! Please contact us: Knightaverental@gmail.com for more information and to be sent links to pictures of each property

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— crossword puzzle —



ANSWER: 1.Snowflake 1.1.Snowman 2.Hat 3.Boot 4.Scarf 5.Tea 6.Cacao 7.Earmuffs 8.Mitten 9.Sweater



Ranch Recipe

CHICKEN POZOLE VERDE

INGREDIENTS

2 pounds boneless chicken thighs, skin removed
1 pound tomatillos, husked and washed
1 large onion, chopped
3 jalapeño peppers, seeded and chopped, keep the seeds if you like it spicy
6 cups chicken broth
1 tablespoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
1 large handful fresh cilantro, stems and leaves
1 28-ounce can white hominy, drained and rinsed
To serve: limes, radishes, jalapeños, cilantro, oregano

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large pot or dutch oven, add chicken thighs, tomatillos, onion, jalapeños, chicken broth, oregano and sea salt. Place over high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cover partially. Cook for 40 minutes, until chicken is fall-apart tender.
2. Transfer chicken to cutting board and shred with a fork. Set aside.
3. Using a large slotted spoon, place the cooked tomatillos, onions and jalapenos in a large blender. Add a large handful of fresh cilantro, a cup or so of the cooking liquid and puree until completely smooth.
4. Add the shredded chicken, pureed veggies and hominy into the large pot. Stir and cook over medium-high heat for 15 minutes uncovered. Taste and season with salt as necessary.
5. Serve with fresh lime juice, radishes, jalapenos, cilantro and oregano.

January

2021

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



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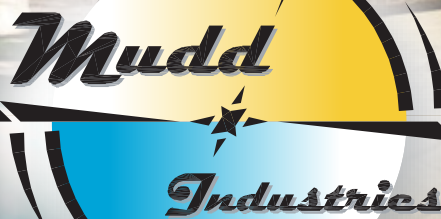
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