



# Round Up

F A R A W A Y F E E L I N G . . . C I T Y C L O S E

Serving the Rancho Viejo Communities of Windmill Ridge II, III, IV and La Entrada



## 6th Annual Neighborhood Watch Yard Sale Scores Again.



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Story by Susan Young, Neighborhood Watch Reporter  
Yard Sale photos by RV South residents Lee Lefton and Mary Paiz

**ON A BEAUTIFUL SATURDAY MORNING**, July 25th, the Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch held its 6th Annual Yard Sale. It was a busy day, and we netted a respectable \$1,335.96, which will be used for projects to benefit the community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful and generous neighbors who donated so many of their treasured items for this good cause. We had people from the South Association, North Association and La Entrada Association who contributed. We could not have held

**YARD SALE cont'd. on Page 3**

## The Round Up

A bi-monthly publication of Rancho Viejo South and Rancho Viejo La Entrada Community Associations

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To place an ad, please contact South Manager Vince Montoya:  
505-473-3896 or [VMontoya@hoamco.com](mailto:VMontoya@hoamco.com)

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Patrick Thomas: 505-780-0129  
Email: [pthomasnm@aol.com](mailto:pthomasnm@aol.com)

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### Market Update

The last 90 days saw 17 sales in Rancho Viejo with an average asking price per square foot of \$171. The lowest selling price was \$222,500 with a high of \$637,500. The present inventory levels in Rancho Viejo have risen slightly with 33 homes for sale, however there seems to be high buyer activity right now. Call for your confidential market analysis today.

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**Call us! 505-699-8759 Roger**

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YARD SALE cont'd. from page 1

this yard sale without all these items, of course, and we're very grateful.

Another great big "Thank You" to all the very hard workers who also made our yard sale possible. All of them generously gave of their time and efforts to gather all of the items, price each one individually, and cart it out to the park to be sold. This was a tremendous effort! After the yard sale was over, these same dedicated people again gathered up all the leftovers to donate to the Salvation Army. In alphabetical order, here they are: Cody Babcock, Jim Bailey, Pat Barnes, Kathy Brown, Barbara Butera, Laura Corbin & Dennis Green, Paul & Sally Dillon, Rich & Debbie Dolbow, Karen Donovan, Dennis & Dona Hoilman, Walter Huzyk, Will Jones, Jim & Elizabeth Kerr, Anne Lefton, Anke Mihalas, Karen Montgomery, Bernie & Mary Paiz, Ganesh Singh, Carol Thompson, Christopher Weatherford, Mike & Sherry Weymouth, Richard & Susan Young.

A special thanks goes to Jay Winter, owner of the Commercial Center, Village Market, and Tathagata Coffee Shop space. Jay generously gave us access to his offices so we could store all our items near the park, which saved us a great deal of time and energy.

In a future issue, we will inform you how we used our profits to help our community. Thank you all again!

## Road Construction Underway at I-25 and Cerrillos near Rancho Viejo.

*Submitted by Pat Barnes with information provided by  
Rosanne Rodriguez, New Mexico Department of Transportation District Five Public Information Officer*

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has begun construction on the I-25/NM 14 (Cerrillos Road) Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI). Rosanne Rodriguez, the New Mexico Department of Transportation District Five Public Information Officer, has outlined the activities for the next year. Effective as of June 26th, the southbound I-25 exit ramp (Exit 278A to southbound NM 14 has been CLOSED. The northbound I-25 exit ramp (Exit 278) to southbound NM 14 is CLOSED. Traffic is being detoured to I-25 Exit 276 (NM 599) to access NM 14 southbound.

The I-25 northbound and southbound on-ramps will remain OPEN. The southbound I-25 (Exit 278 B) off-ramp to northbound Cerrillos Road will remain OPEN. Northbound I-25 (Exit 276) off-ramp to northbound Cerrillos Road will remain OPEN. The exit ramps will remain closed until completion of the project scheduled for the winter of 2016.

This is the first Diverging Diamond Interchange in the State of New Mexico. The DDI is a new traffic and roadway configuration designed to make the I-25/NM 14 (Cerrillos Road) interchange safer, easier and quicker for New Mexican drivers. To further learn how this new interchange works visit <http://santafeddi.com/>.

Traffic advisories and updates on this project will be posted on the New Mexico Department of Transportation's road conditions website at <http://nmroads.com/>. You can also call the NMDOT road hotline at 1-800-432-4369. For more information, contact Rosanne Rodriguez, NMDOT District Five Public Information Officer at 505-995-7704 or at [Rosanne.rodiguez@state.nm.us](mailto:Rosanne.rodiguez@state.nm.us).



### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LOCAL CONTACTS

**Carol Thompson**  
Area Coordinator  
Rancho Viejo  
Neighborhood Watch  
Home: 471-9044  
Cell: 603-0833  
Email: [carolath@msn.com](mailto:carolath@msn.com)

**Nbhd. Watch website:**  
[rvneighborhoodwatch.com](http://rvneighborhoodwatch.com)

**SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS?**  
Call County Sheriff's  
Office: 505-428-3720.

**If you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers**  
505-955-5050.



Vince Montoya  
RV South Manager  
505-473-3896

VMontoya@hoamco.com

**SOUTH BOARD**

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**If You Are a Night Owl**, you might have seen a vehicle driving up and down the streets of our community in the wee hours of some June mornings. Was it a prowler? Some lost soul? Or some other denizen of the night? **NO!** It was our own South Manager, Vince Montoya, checking the irrigation system to make sure our public areas are being properly watered. These late-night patrols seem above and beyond duty's call! Thank you, Vince, for all you do to serve the South community.

# South News: SUMMER IS OFF TO A VERY BUSY START.

Reported by Lee Lefton, RVS Communications Committee

## Warmer Weather Means Some Community-Wide Projects Heat Up.

If you have driven around the community lately, you may have seen crews working on the townhomes, sidewalks, the Plaza Park stage, landscaping, irrigation and many other projects. Approved landscape enhancements at the Plaza Park and the El Cuero Park are also scheduled to be completed this summer. As we look into the future, the HOA is moving forward on taking preventive measures to ensure the integrity and upkeep of our roads. All of this is geared to keeping Rancho Viejo South one of the most desirable and pleasant communities in which to live.

## Money Matters.

In addition to the many improvement projects taking place throughout the community, the HOA is also beginning to prepare for the annual financial review and 2016 budget, as well as continued negotiations with Ranchland Utilities, in hopes of reaching a long term and stable resolution for our irrigation needs.

## Working Together for the Common Good.

We do, however, have our share of issues to deal with. Our residents should be well assured that the Board and all of our outstanding committees are continuing to work together to address these issues for the benefit of the entire community now and well into the future.

In a community such as Rancho Viejo South, it is important to keep in mind that nothing is perfect all the time and it takes a continued effort to maintain the property to all residents' satisfaction. It would not be possible without the tireless efforts of all of the volunteers on our Board and Committees. If you would like to join us in the efforts to enhance and protect our community, please contact me at [Vmontoya@hoamco.com](mailto:Vmontoya@hoamco.com).

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# When's the Time to Raise HOA Dues?

Reported by Jim Bailey, RVS Budget & Finance Committee

There is only one answer to that question, although there are probably as many opinions as we have households in our beautiful Rancho Viejo South community.

We are very fortunate not to have had an HOA fee increase over the past several years. Our board and management company have skillfully used budgetary and management tools to make sure income is where it should be and expenses are carefully controlled. Effective management is much preferred to those associations that simply raise fees every year and throw money at every problem that arises. It is also unfair, and wrong, to raise HOA dues based on a "gut feeling" or an unfounded anxiety that an association will run out of money sometime in the future.

Our community is getting older, and all of us together are responsible for the continued upkeep of our streets, sidewalks, parks, and trails. You may think that the county pays for this but, no, we do. Before the end of this year, we will face the largest single expenditure RVS has ever paid out of reserves, for maintenance of our streets. We must also be sure that our insurance and taxes are paid, and that our reserve fund continues to be optimally funded.

When is it time to raise HOA dues? (Never, says 85 percent of our households, only when needed says 14 percent, and .0007 percent says every year.) The correct answer is when income does not meet projected expenses, a situation we will likely be looking at for 2016.

## RV SOUTH COMMITTEE REPORTS

### DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

REMINDERS ... Homeowners can get busy and caught up with planning improvements to their yards this time of year. So I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the more obscure rules in the Homeowner Handbook, but that you may have overlooked.



*Susan Young, Chair*

- Artificial flowers, plants, grass, shrubs or trees used in landscaping and that are visible to the public are not allowed.
- Homeowners are not permitted to use any common areas adjacent to their lot as an extension to their lot.
- Prohibited plants in RV (ones that displace native plants and can destroy native habitats) are Siberian Elms, Russian Olive, Salt Cedar/Tamarisk, Silver Lace Vine, Silver Maple, China Berry.
- Installation of portals, patio covers and patio additions (or similar shade structures) require DRC approval before installation.
- No more than five ornaments (two of which may be large), shall be permitted per lot. These items include decorative trellises, small statues, small wagons or wheels, decorative rocks, metal sculptures, etc.
- Railroad ties are not allowed for use in landscaping, retaining walls or fencing of any kind.

These rules represent some issues that have come before the DRC recently. Please refer to your Homeowner Handbook for any further questions. Thank you to the wonderful members of the DRC for their great ideas!

*Reported by Susan Young, Chair*

### SAFETY COMMITTEE

We are happy to report that the Community has been quiet, thanks to more frequent sheriff patrol and the good work of Neighborhood Watch. Our sidewalk repairs are going well and hopefully the residents are enjoying the improvements. The repairs on the stage have been completed. We have been thinking about some solar speed signs for problem areas, however, at the price of \$3,000 to \$5,000 it is not possible. Let Vince know if you have any suggestions for a less expensive alternative. We appreciate your input regarding our speeding issues. The fire department discourages speed bumps, humps or tables due to slowing down their response.



*Jim Kerr  
Board Liaison*

With all the work Vince has been doing on the sidewalk repairs and midnight water inspections he has noticed that residents are not keeping their properties free of weeds, wood piles and debris which can be a fire hazard. Please inspect around your property and clear up any problem areas for you and your neighbors' safety.

*Reported by Jim Kerr, Board Liaison*

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The South and La Entrada Communications Committees met jointly on Monday, June 15th to discuss projects ideas for the remainder of the year. The fall Coffee & Conversation, hosted by La Entrada, is planned for Saturday afternoon, September 26th. Expect eblast announcements and posted flyers as the date gets closer.



*Lee Lefton, Chair*

It was reported that the annual Food Drive is proposed for September 19th. Residents are requested to make donations of non-perishable food. It was suggested that communities consider placing their drop-off items at mailbox locations since this worked so well last year in La Entrada. Michael Smith, La Entrada's new Manager, has volunteered to procure bags for food collections.

South Manager Vince Montoya suggested forming a "virtual neighborhood" to help bring residents together. Everyone agreed that we should discuss this possibility at the next meeting.

Another combined Communications Committees meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14th at 4 p.m. in the South Manager's Office. We take this opportunity to thank the La Entrada Communications Committee for continued collaboration on community projects and look forward to an ongoing partnership.

*Reported by Lee Lefton, Committee Chair*

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

We welcome Dee Padilla to the Landscape Committee. The committee dealt with several issues this spring and early summer. New, water-efficient rotors were installed in Plaza Park and Cuero Park. These new rotors are running at least 40% more efficiently than the old rotors. Plans are to install them throughout the neighborhood, replacing the old rotors in the larger parks first.



*Jonnalyn Grover  
Board Liaison*

Plans are also under way to enhance the landscaping in our parks. Plaza Park is the first target with new plantings being installed in the arches surrounding the open turf. Colorful, drought-tolerant plants will be used. You may have noticed that some of the ash trees look distressed since our crazy spring settled down. Heads Up crew determined that this is due to an ash bore. Those infected trees will be trimmed and preventive treatment applied in the fall/winter months.

Trail maintenance is also under way. Those areas where erosion is starting to take hold will be identified then remedied. The committee is considering using plantings to control the erosion and employing some sort of hardscape material if necessary.

*Reported by Jonnalyn Grover, Board Liaison*

# La Entrada News: MEET NEW MANAGER MICHAEL SMITH.

Prepared by Pat Barnes, La Entrada Editor



**Michael Smith**  
La Entrada Manager  
Office: 505-954-4479  
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msmith@hoamco.com  
1421 Luisa Street, Ste. R  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Beginning in May, Michael Smith took the position of HOA Manager** for the La Entrada community. Michael has worked in the Santa Fe office for the Homeowner Association Management Company (HOAMCO) for the past five years. Prior to this experience he held positions at Coldwell Banker, operated the Citron restaurant in San Francisco, completed three years of training to become a Zen monk and worked at several Santa Fe restaurants, including the O’Keeffe Restaurant and the Coyote Café.

He is married to Iba Fukuda. She is the youngest daughter of the family who owns Shohko Café here in Santa Fe. Michael has three children: Lia is 15, Emi is 13 and Taiyo is 11. He is actively involved in the lives of his children and serves on the School Board for Monte del Sol, coaches baseball and is active with the volleyball team. Michael was born in Colorado but has lived all over the U.S.

As our HOA manager, Michael will provide La Entrada with a multitude of valuable services including but not limited to: collection procedures, budget development, vendor relations, compliance enforcement and project management. He is committed to providing our community with tools and his support to the Board of Directors. Michael plans to help bring our community vision to reality.

Michael is available to address any resident concerns Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be reached at 505-954-4479 or at [msmith@hoamco.com](mailto:msmith@hoamco.com).

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 17th, 6:00 p.m. Rancho Viejo Fire Station**

## LA ENTRADA BOARD

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[cass@ranchoviejo.com](mailto:cass@ranchoviejo.com)

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## LA ENTRADA COMMITTEE REPORTS

### DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Welcome to our newest La Entrada residents! Homebuilding and sales are moving right along. The committee offers the following suggestions to all of our current and new homeowners. Please read and familiarize yourself with your Homeowner Handbook. This handbook covers design guidelines, architectural standards, association rules and standards of conduct.



Judy Keller, Chair

Of major importance to our newest residents are landscaping and approved plants information. Changes and additions to landscaping (including side, front and back of your property) MUST be submitted to the DRC for approval prior to installation. Please do not confuse La Entrada procedures with those adopted by other Rancho Viejo communities.

Do not hesitate to contact your HOA Manager, Michael Smith, at 954-4479 with any questions that you may have. The form for submitting landscape drawings, plans and modifications to the exterior of your home is available at the sales office, or may be downloaded at [www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org](http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org).

Reported by Judy Keller, Chair

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

On June 15th, there was a joint meeting with both La Entrada and the South committees. The major agenda item was determining the topic for the Coffee & Conversation event this coming fall. It was decided to continue collaboration with the Santa Fe Raptor Center by holding another raptor release party. The release is being planned for September 26th and we look forward to this exciting event!



Paul Dillon, Chair

We again will support the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Drive, which is scheduled for September 19th in the a.m. Other plans include an August 21st picnic. See more details in the events box shown on the next page.

Thanks to all of the committee members for all their work on the La Entrada Communication Committee.

As always, the La Entrada Communication Committee welcomes anyone who would like to serve on the committee. We will be meeting again in September. If you would like to join us, please contact Paul Dillon at: [pauldillon87508@gmail.com](mailto:pauldillon87508@gmail.com). (Note that this is a new email address for Paul.)

Reported by Paul Dillon, Chair

# What's happening in La Entrada?

Prepared by Pat Barnes, La Entrada Editor

**All streets in La Entrada** will be given a seal coating this summer. This does not include Rancho Viejo Boulevard, which is a county road. Watch for the dates to be posted on the mailboxes and on the website at [www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org](http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org).

**Parade of Homes:** Estancia Homes has been selected by the Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association to be featured in the "Haciendas – A Parade of Homes" weekend of August 14th through August 16th and the following weekend of August 21st through the 23rd. We would also like to invite you out to our model home being featured in the Parade of Homes for the Twilight Tour on August 21st. The home will be available to tour from 6 to 9 p.m. and is located at 119 Rancho Viejo Boulevard.

**Fire Hydrants:** Effective now, any cars parked in front of fire hydrants will be ticketed. A second violation will result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense. Federal law requires that "no person shall park a vehicle within twenty feet of a fire hydrant." Please comply. As a Firewise/USA community, we are committed to working closely with the fire department to ensure that our community is fire safe.

**Sales:** They have been happening rapidly in La Entrada with additional lots being prepped in order to be released by the end of the fall. La Entrada currently has 10 new homes that are under construction for a total of 14 homes sold to date this year with more to come in the remainder of 2015. Having a model home featured in the Haciendas Parade of Homes will potentially increase our home sales and wide recognition that Rancho Viejo is a great community to call home.



La Entrada's Abby Karolewicz, five, & Hailey Flahive, seven, sell refreshing lemonade this June in Plaza Park.

Photo courtesy of Carol Thompson, RV South

## SOUTH COMMITTEES cont'd. from pg. 5

### TOWNHOME COMMITTEE

An update to the scheduled townhome repairs was promised in the last issue of The RoundUp. I am pleased to report that with the strong leadership of Manager Vince Montoya, the scheduled repairs have been completed or are progressing well, as weather permits.



Carolyn Brown,  
Chair

**Wood Features** - The work of refurbishment or replacement of the wood has been completed.

**Utility Room Closets** - The utility room doors have been replaced and the work is complete.

**Roof Repair** - The work on Emory Pass has been completed.

**Stucco** - The board approved a major stucco repair project at the April meeting. This is an extensive project in process and is moving along as weather permits. Vince Montoya will perform a final inspection when work is completed.

**Pigeons** - The committee has been discussing the pesky pigeon problem under the air conditioning units on the second floor roof of the townhomes. We are in the process of exploring alternative solutions. A note of information: Bird feeders attract birds and pigeons as well as mice and snakes.

**Financials** - The HOA collection for dues owed by townhouse owners have increased in the last year. In addition, the October 2014 reserve study addressed their concern for the rotted wood features. As a deferred maintenance project, solutions have been explored for several years. As noted above, this work has been completed. Also, the deferred maintenance projects completed last year included roof repairs and replacement. Completion of the ongoing maintenance plan has been the mission of the Townhome Committee and the Board of Directors.

Reported by Carolyn Brown, Chair

### Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events.

**Food Drive on September 19th in the a.m.**

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Food Drive. Grocery bags & instructions to come.

**Fiesta Day on August 21st at 5:30 p.m.**

Fiesta Day where we welcome all new La Entrada residents and also those of us who have been here awhile. There will be a barbeque at the La Entrada Park. This is a great time to meet your new neighbors.

**Coffee & Conversation on September 26th, at 3 p.m.**

Coffee and Conversation will include our 2nd annual release of raptor birds at the IAIA Hogan. Prior to the release, Director Lori Paras of the Santa Fe Raptor Center will provide information about her organization's rescue, rehab and release program for rehabilitated birds.

Courtesy Dan Johnsen, La Entrada

## Fall Coffee & Conversation Will Feature Raptors Again.

Please join the fun at 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 26th as the Santa Fe Raptor Center's Lori Paras once again talks about injured birds of prey as well as the baby birds that the center rescues, rehabs and releases back into the wild. Live raptors, known as the Center's educational ambassadors, will thrill you. Afterwards, attend a release of raptors over Rancho Viejo. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. Watch for eblasts and posted flyers with more details.



The Great Horned Owl

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## Summer is for the Birds.

*Reported by Lee Lefton, RV South Communications Committee Chair*

Let's start by addressing the pesky pigeon problem. They will eat just about anything, so putting food out on the ground is a definite no-no. Getting rid of them has a lot to do with the kind of feeders used. Buy the kind with smaller perches that pigeons cannot fit on. Another idea is to put wire enclosures around your feeders with holes only large enough for small birds to pass through. This takes a bit of ingenuity but really works for keeping pigeons at bay.

Many lovely birds are in great abundance now. Watch for a very small songbird called the Lesser Goldfinch. Thistle is their seed of choice, but it's expensive and needs to be in the right kind of feeder in order not to waste it on other birds. Pine Siskin, with yellow patches on their wings and tails, eat thistle, too. Suet called no-melt dough is a really good choice since adults feed it to their young. Also eighty-five percent of birds found in New Mexico take to black oil sunflower seeds. And millet is a seed that many ground feeders enjoy.

Everywhere you turn these days you will see all types of hummingbirds. New Mexico has several including the Broad-Tailed, the Black-Tailed and the Rufous. Be sure to fill your feeders with four parts water to one part sugar. These little flyers are always hungry. Hint: Look closely, and you might just spy their tiny nest nearby.

# County Residential Solid Waste & Recycling Proposal

## Questions and Answers prepared by County Public Works

**Overview:** Santa Fe County is interested in more comprehensively managing solid waste and recycling activities throughout the county. If their proposal is approved, what does this mean for our RV residents?

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### 1. Why is the county issuing a proposal (RFP) for solid waste and recycling collection?

Currently, garbage and recycling collection in unincorporated areas of the county is performed by several different haulers. The haulers do not offer a full range of service (e.g.: garbage, recycling, and bulky waste collection) to all residents in the county.

#### 2. What will be the frequency of my collection?

It is anticipated that garbage collection will be once a week; recycling collection might be weekly or every other week.

#### 3. Will my regularly scheduled collection day change?

It may or may not change. The county will work with the selected vendor to minimize the disruption in collection days.

#### 4. Will refuse and recyclables be picked up the same day?

That is the goal.

#### 5. Will I receive a new container?

If you currently have a container and service is provided by a different vendor, it will most likely be exchanged for a container provided by the selected vendor for your district.

#### 6. What size container(s) will be offered?

Garbage size will be offered with either a 96 or 64 gallon cart option.

#### 7. Who will handle billing?

The vendor will handle all billing and residents will pay the hauler directly.

#### 8. Will this program be mandatory?

This program is completely voluntary. However, if the customer selects to use the service, they must use the vendor selected to provide service in the district where the customer resides.

*Editor's Note: Cost has not been determined as yet. However, the cost will be incurred by individual residents and will not be a part of the HOA payment as it is now.*

#### 9. What is the timing on this project?

*Editor's Note: At a Santa Fe County Commission Public Hearing on the Proposed Ordinance held June 30, over seventy residents from the three communities involved addressed the Board with a variety of different opinions about the project. The Board chose to delay any decisions until November, 2015.*

**For more information, contact:**  
**Craig O'Hare, Public Works Department**  
**(505) 992-3044**  
**[cohare@santafecountynm.gov](mailto:cohare@santafecountynm.gov)**

## We Need Your E-Mail Address.

**Owners:** Stay informed about news and events happening in the community. Please be sure the manager of your association has your contact information.

**Landlords:** Please keep tenant(s) informed of RV community's news too. Give the manager of your association their name(s) and contact information.

Vince Montoya  
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473-3896

Michael Smith  
La Entrada Manager  
msmith@hoamco.com  
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# Firewise Curriculum Developed for Amy Biehl School

Prepared by Pat Barnes, La Entrada Editor

**A Team of Rancho Viejo Firewise/USA Residents** have met with the Amy Biehl Community School staff to develop a new curriculum for fifth graders to better understand Firewise education. Dr. Judy Reinhartz, a North resident and a university professor emeritus who specializes in curriculum writing, has volunteered her time and expertise to develop teacher lesson plans, demonstration kits and activities for Rancho Viejo students. At a meeting in June, Dr. Reinhartz presented a broad based curriculum design to Pat Barnes and Annie McGovern, Co-Chairs for the Rancho Viejo/Firewise/USA program and Krys Nystrom, Wildlands, Urban Interface Specialist. The content of the Firewise Education Curriculum Guide is derived from numerous sources,

including the personal experiences of Dr. Reinhartz as a teacher and professor, writer of books, and a hands-on approach to accommodate students with diverse academic and linguistic backgrounds.



Dr. Judy Reinhartz creates Firewise Curriculum for Amy Biehl School.

Capitalizing on students' desire to learn about the world around them, the Firewise Education Curriculum offers an understanding of the scientific principles of fire and provides teachers with a curriculum that they can readily integrate into their existing science programs. Thanks to this program Amy Biehl students will get first-hand knowledge about the Rancho Viejo/Firewise/USA program.

**The date for large item pick up in the South and La Entrada is the 3rd Friday of each month. The next date of service is Friday, August 21st. Please contact your association office to be put on the schedule. Please provide your address, telephone number and description of the item(s). Remember to sign up the Monday prior to the Friday pick up date.**

**Types of items allowed for this service include furniture, appliances, packing boxes, and yard waste. Most electronics, oil or household chemicals do not qualify for pick up.**

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## Some Timely Fall Landscaping Tips

Prepared by Lee Lefton, RV South Communications Committee Chair

Before we know it, summer will be transitioning into fall. With that in mind, now is a good time to start familiarizing yourself with some of the things to do to keep your plants, trees and shrubs healthy during the coming season.

### August

- Many plants aren't suited for New Mexico's harsh environment. Look for ones that say, "loves heat," "full sun," or "drought tolerant."
- Reduce watering if monsoons occur. Otherwise keep watering on schedule.
- Trees may be pruned during the summer. Lightly shape and keep off sidewalks or driveways. Use hand pruners to cut back shrubs. Do not shear.



### September

- An excellent time for planting trees or shrubs.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs near the end of September through October 15th.
- Plants need deep watering. Water needs to reach down 6-8" for flowers, 12" or deeper for shrubs and trees.
- Drip watering and soaker hoses are the most efficient methods.
- A hose turned very low and left for an hour is another way to deep water.
- Spraying with a hose for a few minutes will not work. The top inch may be wet, but the water has not reached the roots.
- After watering, take a trowel and see how deep the water penetrated the soil.
- Reduce all watering if monsoons continue.

### October

- The earliest frost date in Santa Fe is usually September 30. Be sure to bring in all your non-cold, hardy plants before this date.
- Adjust irrigation system for cooler weather. Typically, established plants will not need any water at this time of year. Plants less than a year old should be watered 1 to 2 gallons per week. Established cool season grasses need watering 1 to 2 times per week or about 10 gallons per week. Established warm season grasses won't need watering at this time.
- Fertilize cool season lawns from the first to the middle of the month.
- Clean up fallen fruit from the yard and begin fall leaf removal to reduce insect and/or disease damage in the spring. Use leaves to mulch around shrubs.

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A pair of coyotes spotted here in Rancho Viejo. The second one is in the background on the left.

## Wildlife Alert: Many Predators Live Near Us.

Reported by Anne Lefton, RV South Editor

**Wild Animal Alert ...** Recently, a sighting of a large cat was reported near the IAIA campus. We are not talking about a house cat, but more than likely a Cougar or Bobcat. This has prompted us to remind residents that Rancho Viejo property is adjacent to large areas of open land where these and other wild things live and roam. Besides big cats, coyotes frequent our neighborhoods. Also, raptor birds (hawks and owls) nest and reside here. With this in mind, residents must be alert and take care that their pets, especially smaller ones, are kept safely indoors. This is a good idea at all times but even more so in the morning hours or at dusk when wild things are likely to hunt. Even larger pets can sometimes be in danger from animal attack. Wildlife must have food but we don't want your pet to end up on the menu!

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## School Starts August 17th. Volunteers Needed.

Have you considered volunteering in one of our Rancho Viejo community schools? If so, you might want to call LeeAnn Archuleta, the Volunteer Coordinator for Santa Fe public schools. Volunteers are needed to help with English Second Language (ESL), assist with art classes, serve as general classroom aides or help in other ways. If this sounds interesting, please contact LeeAnn and see how you can be of service. School begins Monday, August 17th.

**LeeAnn Archuleta, Volunteer Coordinator, SFPS**  
**Call: 505-467-2059 or email: learchuleta@sfps.info**

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Please join us for coffee and conversation on Saturday, July 18th between 9AM—11AM at Tathagata Coffee.

*Rancho Viejo Experts*

Mindy DeMott—mindy.demott@comcast.net

Carol Day—cdaysantafe@aol.com

Lynne Einleger—leinleger@earthlink.net

Ted Rivera—tedriverarealtor@netzero.com

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