

La Entrada News

REPORTED BY THE THE RANCHO VIEJO LA ENTRADA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

April 2016 - May 2016

Serving the Residents of the La Entrada Community



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La Entrada News

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Inaugural Trailblazer 5K a Success

By Staci Stevens

The Amy Biehl Community School's inaugural Trailblazer 5K run held on March 19th was a huge success despite a brutally cold and windy spring morning.

Even though temperatures were low, spirits were high as the Amy Biehl Choir kicked off the event with the National Anthem.



photograph by Greg Anaya

As the wind chill hovered around 10 degrees, runners bundled in layers of clothing, jackets, hats and gloves were dancing around to keep warm prior to the beginning of the race.

Once the race started, word from the racecourse was that the temperatures weren't so bad, but as the first runners crossed the finish line the stinging cold was visible on grimaced faces and bright red legs.

In total, 111 runners participated in the 5k and about 30 children ran the kids 1K, exceeding the Amy Biehl PTC's fundraising goals. Registration fees from the race will go towards supporting classroom projects, field trips and extracurricular activities at the school.

Dave Tolen, known as Coach Dave in the hallways of Amy Biehl, was the lead organizer of the event. "We are really thankful for all of the support we received this year and look forward to building on our success in the years to come," said Tolen.

Plans are already underway for next year's race to be held in spring of 2017. Tolen said he hopes to increase participation and may even consider adding a 10K to the lineup.

La Entrada's Communications Committee helped get the word out about the 5K and looks forward to continued collaboration with Amy Biehl Community School. Staci Stevens will serve as a liaison between the school and community association so we can better support each other's events and work towards enhanced cooperation while building a true sense of community in our neighborhood.

La Entrada Getting Ready for a Busy Spring

by Pat Barnes

The March 17th La Entrada Board Meeting was held at the Rancho Viejo Fire Station.

The meeting was called to order by Cass Thompson, President. Michael Smith, HOA manager, reviewed the finances for our community. He reported that the budget is in good shape.

Judy Keller, Chair of the Design and Review Committee reported that the committee is working diligently to review all of the numerous requests for the new homes being built.

She did express concern about residents not submitting approvals and ignoring the regulations that presently exist. Another concern is that the community needs to "put some teeth" into the violations of the guidelines. Cass Thompson reported that the board members will be meeting with the compliance officer on March 24th to review what steps are necessary to improve the situation. This issue is common for newly developing communities as new homes are added. A report at the next meeting will discuss decisions needed to assure the quality of our community standards.

Pat Barnes reported that the Rancho Viejo/Firewise/USA Day has been scheduled for May 7th.

She also announced that the committee has been working with Amy Biehl Community School to implement a new firewise curriculum designed by Dr. Judy Reinhartz. This project received a \$500 national grant. The project will also be presented at the Firewise/USA conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada in May. La Entrada is leading the way with positive activities to involve the youth of our community.

Cass Thompson announced that the mirror requested for a blind alley is in place at the alley behind Calle Agua Clara



Alina Catanach reported that almost all of the homes have been sold in Phase 1. The construction crews will be building about one house a week for the next few months.

La Entrada Calendar

Board Meeting
Thursday, May 12
6:00 p.m.
RV Fire Department
Community Room
37 Rancho Viejo Blvd.

Neighborhood Watch Local Contacts

Carol Thompson
Area Coordinator RV
Neighborhood Watch
Home: 471-9044
Cell: 603-0833
Email: carolath@msn.com

See anything Suspicious?

Call County Sheriff's Office:
428-3720.

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

La Entrada Association Needs your Emails

Owners: Stay informed about news and events happening in the community. Please be sure that Michael Smith, HOA manager, has your contact information.

Landlords: Please keep tenant(s) informed of RV Community's news also. Give Michael Smith, HOA manager, their name(s) and contact information.

Spring Is Here!

by Marylin Morgan

That means it time to cleanup and thanks to Proscap we have some tips to help you spruce up your landscaping and get it ready for the beautiful weather ahead.

- * Clean out turf, planter beds and garden areas, removing dead and fallen branches, leaves and any debris.
- * Trim back your perennials to the base (some exceptions may apply, such as Russian Sage). Lightly prune shrubs and trees.
- * Apply fertilizer and compost, followed by fresh mulch approximately 2-3" in depth. Mulch is excellent for preventing weeds and retaining soil moisture.
- * Spring is the ideal time for new plantings and/or dividing and transplanting existing plants. Be sure to consider sun and shade requirements.
- * Turn on your irrigation system once nighttime freezing temperatures have subsided. Make sure to test your system for any leaks or other issues. If needed, replace broken or missing emitters and sprinkler heads and make sure your irrigation controls are set.

HAPPY GARDENING!

When it comes time to turn on your irrigation system, remember the instructions for irrigation shutdown and startup can be found on our association website at:

http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org/document_view.asp?id=12

And for those of you who would just rather not try that yourself, Proscap Landscape Management will do the job for your for \$70 + tax instead of the standard price of \$110 for all irrigation startups at La Entrada. Any additional repairs will be billed separately. If interested, please email enriqueproscap@gmail.com or call at 505-455-9348.



Large Item Pickup

The date for large item pick up in La Entrada is the third Friday of each month. The next dates of service is Friday, April 15 and May 20, 2016.

Please contact Michael Smith at 954-4479 to be put on the schedule. Provide your address, telephone number and description of item(s). Remember to sign up no later than the Monday prior to the Friday pick up dates.

Items allowed:

1. Furniture: Bulky items cannot exceed eight feet in length, four feet in width or weigh more than 150 pounds.
2. Yard Waste: Not to exceed (1) one regular truck load, loose items must be bundled 2' x 2', or bagged.
3. Moving Boxes: Must be broken down and bundled.
4. Miscellaneous: Not to exceed (1) one regular truck load, loose items must be bundled 2' x 2', or bagged.

Items not allowed:

1. Tires
2. Batteries
3. Animal carcasses
4. Paints and solvents
5. Concrete, rocks, dirt, and sod

This service is provided by MCT Waste and is conducted by one employee. Residents must adhere to these restrictions to allow MCT Waste to comply with environmental guidelines and to ensure employee safety.

How Do I Recycle In La Entrada?

Santa Fe County Solid Waste and Recycling Division operates a Recycling Convenience Center in Rancho Viejo at the corner of Avenida del Sur and A Van Nu Po (look for dirt road). The station is open on Friday and Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30 and accepts:

1. corrugated cardboard
2. glass
3. mixed recyclables
 - a. mixed paper materials including paper, paperboard and books
 - b. mixed containers including ALL plastic (regardless of #, but no styrofoam) and metal bottles, tubs, clamshells, packaging, cans and foil items and milk cartons/ juice pouches.

Tumbleweed Pickup

Proscap, the Association's Landscape Maintenance Company for the Common Areas at La Entrada, has agreed to remove any tumbleweeds left along the street each Wednesday (our landscape service day). Set the tumbleweeds out on the side of your street following this schedule and Proscap will remove them for you free of charge.

- South of Rancho Viejo Blvd (and Rancho Viejo Blvd itself): before 9am Wednesdays
- North of Rancho Viejo Blvd: before 12pm noon Wednesdays

There is no announced end date for this service, so for now we'll boldly assume it will continue for four weeks. Let Michael Smith know if you have questions or concerns.

Report on Reclaimed Water Advisory Committee Meeting

by Sally Dillon

As a result of the Homework Group held in the fall of 2015 to address issues with the Effluent Irrigation, it was determined that a separate committee would be formed. The committee is made up of two residents from each Rancho Viejo community. Tom O'Brien and Doyle Preheim are the representatives from the North community, Bill Trujillo and Chris Schtzman are from the South Community, and your representatives from La Entrada are Drew Scott and Sally Dillon. The Reclaimed Water Advisory Committee met on Mon Feb. 22 to discuss each groups' position on plans to move forward and what we wanted to see completed before the irrigation season begins.

All of the representatives agreed that the VFDs (Variable Speed Pumps) be installed first to see how that improves watering issues. All agreed that this is the first step, however Smart Meters might be needed later on. The VFDs are ordered and, hopefully, installation should happen before the irrigation season starts. The VFDs will be paid with HOA funds in La Entrada.

A couple of options were presented for proposed irrigation schedules. La Entrada went on line for the irrigation of common areas in August 2015 and with continued construction and future park development, La Entrada will need 2 days of effluent watering of new plants.

Contractual agreements and the formalized schedule are forthcoming. The Reclaimed Water Advisory Committee will meet again when the documents are ready to present to the group.

If you have any of *these* at your house...



Please read *this*...



photograph by Sally Dillon

Neighborhood Watch Open House

by Kathy Brown

photographs by Sally Dillon

At the Open House on Feb. 18th, new residents in Rancho Viejo learned more about the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office. Deputies Carolina Aguayo and Robert Girmendonk from SFSO Community Support Services discussed the benefits of continued partnering with the Sheriff's Office to keep our community safe.



They emphasized that residents should call about anything suspicious and mention a description, especially anything that is unique. Information about the license plate, and direction of travel from your location are very helpful. One of the most important things to remember is to **never** approach the person or vehicle – **observe and report**. When you call to report, please be sure to give the complete street name of the location.

- Emergency – 911
- Non-Emergency – 505-428-3720 (suspicious activities)
 - * Both these above numbers are also for Fire & EMT and are answered at the Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC)
- Animal Control – 505-428-3720
- Sheriff's Office (for general information) – 505-986-2400

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Neighborhood Watch Open House

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Some other informational resources:

Sheriff's Office – <http://www.santafecounty.gov/sheriff>

Nixle – to sign up to receive county alerts <http://www.nixle.com>

Neighborhood Watch Alerts:

- Contact Carol Thompson, Rancho Viejo Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, at carolath@msn.com to be placed on the email list for alerts.
- To report suspicious activity, after contacting law enforcement, contact Carol by email or at 505-471-9044.

The deputies commented about the residents' proactive approach to safety in our neighborhood. Two residents shared stories regarding the quick response time after contacting the Sheriff. It was also shared that the Sheriff's Mountain Bike Team is growing and we should be seeing them around Rancho Viejo. While they are out on patrol, they welcome interactions with our community.

The Open House was an informative and successful meeting for both the residents and deputies. See the Sidebar for more detail information on how you can participate in La Entrada's Neighborhood Watch.



We want to thank Alina and Cass for the use of the Sales Office for the Neighborhood Watch Open House.

Remember, **OBSERVE AND REPORT!**

Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Needed



Watch Volunteers Needed:

- Block Captain
- Coordinators
- Others – (Just 2 hours a year from you will make a big difference!)
- Help with Fliers
- Annual Yard Sale
- Etc.

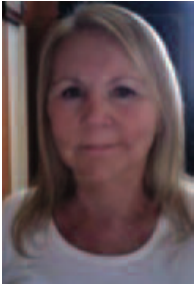
For Neighborhood Watch informational magnets and "No Solicitation" window decals, and for further details, call La Entrada Watch Coordinator Kathy Brown @ 505-412-3136.



LA ENTRADA COMMITTEE REPORTS

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

by Judy Keller, Chair



Judy Keller, Chair

Spring is here. I know many of you are eager to start outdoor projects. Before you begin, you MUST submit detailed information to the Design Review Committee (DRC). This is a very simple process that requires submitting a form which provides detailed information regarding any changes or improvements to the exterior of your home. This form is available at the sales office or may be downloaded at

www.laentradaranchoviejo.org.

It has come to our attention that some homeowners are not in compliance at this time. PLEASE, if you have completed work and have not submitted proper documentation, now is the time to do so. Do not hesitate to contact your HOA Manager, Michael Smith, with any questions you may have.

The La Entrada Board, in conjunction with the DRC, is actively following up on all the properties within La Entrada to ensure each has requested and obtained the appropriate approvals for changes to their property. Each homeowner should maintain any and all approval letters as part of their supporting homeowner documents.

The Committee would like to thank all residents who submitted requests last year for changes to their property. The Committee received 19 requests: 16 were approved, 2 were disapproved and one is pending. Thank you!

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

by Paul Dillon, Chair



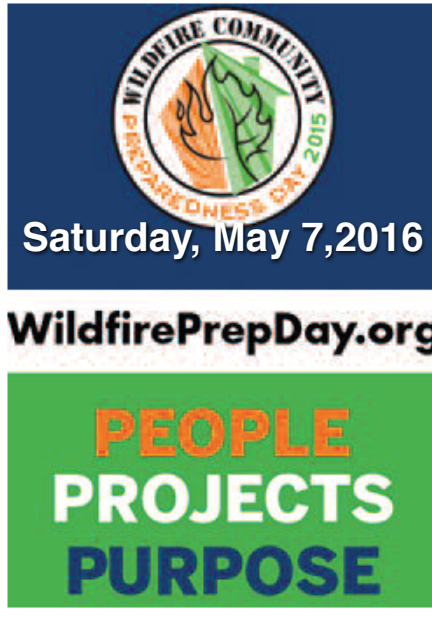
Paul Dillon, Chair

Members of the committee met in February to assemble more Welcome Packets to distribute to our new neighbors.

The La Entrada Communication Committee met informally on March 8th to discuss the upcoming April La Entrada News (newsletter). Members of the committee worked collaboratively to select articles they would author. Sally and Dan will work on the photos and Dan is doing the layout of the digital newsletter. In addition to the La Entrada News being sent out via an email blast, it is also posted on the La Entrada website at www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org.

The second half of the meeting was focused on the planning and assigning of duties for the upcoming Firewise/RV Community Day event. The event will occur on Sat. May 7th. More information will be forthcoming.

As always, the La Entrada Communication Committee welcomes anyone who would like to serve on the committee. Please contact Paul Dillon at pauldillon87508@gmail.com if you would like to join us. We will be meeting bimonthly in 2016.



Join the

Our

Fun at

Rancho Viejo is approved as a Firewise/USA Community three years running because we really keep it clean.

ALL RANCHO VIEJO RESIDENTS INVITED

Saturday, May 7th - 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m.

RV Market Parking Lot • 55 Cañada del Rancho

- 10:00am - Sign Up to Enjoy Coffee & Sweets.
- Then Pick Up Your T-Shirt, Gloves & Trash Bags.
- 10:15 – Noon – Neighborhood Clean Up

Rancho Viejo Plaza Park

- Noon – 1:00pm – **FREE** Pizza Lunch
- Announcements
 - USA Plaque
 - Raffle Ticket Winners

RAFFLE PRIZES:

Dinner for Two at Midtown Bistro
Dinner for Two at Chocolate Maven
Dinner for Two at Piccolinos
& Even More!

Firewise Success Stories

by Pat Barnes

Last year at the Firewise/USA Day, it was noted that very few young people were involved in this activity. As a result, Dr. Judy Reinhartz, Rancho Viejo North resident, offered to design a curriculum program that featured fire ecology, forest ecological systems and How To Be Firewise for the students at Amy Biehl Community School.

This project was implemented in Aviva Markowitz's fifth grade class and involved several lessons that addressed Firewise information and materials. Each of the HOA's in Rancho Viejo contributed \$300 to purchase books, materials and "tree cookies" for the students to use.

Dr. Reinhartz also submitted and received a \$500 grant to continue the project at the school. Rancho Viejo was one of seven grant recipients in New Mexico. This included funding to design a poster contest and display set ups that will be presented at our Rancho Viejo/Firewise/USA/Community Day scheduled for May 7, 2016. The fifth graders also participated in the "science book buddies" program engaging younger students to learn more about forest ecology through reading.

As a result of this project, Rancho Viejo was selected to present a workshop at the National Firewise Conference scheduled in Las Vegas, Nevada, in June. Dr. Judy Reinhartz, curriculum designer, and Krys Nystrom, forestry expert, will present a summary of the curriculum at the conference and represent our community as active Firewise participants.



Dr. Judy Reinhartz will present at the National Firewise Convention in Las Vegas, NV in June.

What Makes A Village?

It occurs to us that, as a community, we sit back and wait to be told of events and activities. That may be OK while the developer has a vested interest in making the community look inviting to potential buyers; but eventually we'll have to plan and execute these events ON OUR OWN. Now seems like a perfectly fine time for us to work on becoming the "village" that Joe Porter and the original Rancho Viejo partners envisioned!

Such events or activities could take the form of a block party, an art show, music in the parks, end-of-summer barbeque, progressive dinner, a gallery tour, neighborhood dog wash, a community garden, a farmers' market, fun dog show or agility trial, a craft show, art or craft demonstrations, holiday cookie exchange, quilting bee, book club or nearly anything (that isn't illegal or dangerous) that you can imagine. Mostly you need the idea and willingness to help organize it. Not everything will work, not everything will be popular, but sooner or later something amazing will happen; you'll get to know your neighbors and this will become the "village" that you (and Joe Porter) imagined it could be.

If you have a great idea and need some help getting the word out, please contact your Association Board members or someone here at the *La Entrada News*. I can almost taste that barbeque now...



I-25 / NM 14 (Cerrillos Road) City of Santa Fe, NM **DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE**



Santa Fe Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) PROJECT UPDATE



AS YOU KNOW, the Santa Fe DDI project located at the interchange of I-25 and NM 14 (Cerrillos Road) is currently in construction. You might have noticed some changes in traffic patterns and several overnight closures.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation, Federal

Highway Administration, City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County and Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization have launched a major upgrade to the interchange, which is more than 40 years old. Over the past 20 years, this busy travel corridor has experienced traffic backups, bottlenecks, deteriorating bridges and unsafe merging distances on the current ramps. After extensive study and analysis, a Diverging Diamond Interchange - the first such interchange in New Mexico - was chosen to upgrade the interchange by making it safer and helping traffic flow more smoothly and safely for years to come.

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Santa Fe Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) Project Update

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The construction started in June 2015 and here is an update on our **progress**:

- The project is **50% complete**.
- The outside portion of the new northbound I-25 bridge has been **completed**.
- The outside portion of the new southbound I-25 bridge has been **completed**.
- The pedestrian tunnels are **partially constructed** and can be noticed.
- A tremendous amount of dirt work has occurred and the **final configuration can be identified**.
- Changes to both the northbound and southbound I-25 on and off ramps are **currently being constructed**.
- Major sign structures are **being replaced**.
- A **temporary traffic signal** has been installed to ease the congestion of commuters traveling on NM 14 through construction.



Upcoming improvements you will see over the next few months include:

- Placement of the bottom layer of asphalt for all portions of the final configuration.
- Main line detours on both northbound and southbound I-25.
- Installation of storm drainage improvements.

Starting Monday, March 21, 2016, the I-25 northbound traffic has been shifted to a new detour alignment at the I-25/NM 14 Interchange. All truck traffic will be directed to travel on the right lane. There will be 11-foot lane width restriction and the speed limit will be reduced to 45 mph on I-25. Traffic can expect delays through the construction zone. Traffic will remain in this configuration until June of 2016.

We appreciate your patience during construction. For more project information, including construction photos, please visit www.santafeddi.com.

Santa Fe Diverging Diamond
2201 San Pedro NE, Bldg 2, Ste. 100
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Are You Receiving Your Property Tax Exemptions?

by Michael Smith

A representative of the Santa Fe County Assessor's office will be at the model home at La Entrada on Monday, April 4th from 4:30pm – 6:00pm to meet with you and make sure you are taking all the exemptions you are entitled to under State Law. If you have questions about this event please contact:

Daniel E. Fresquez, Special Projects Administrator
505-986-6330
defresquez@santafecountynm.gov

La Entrada Sales Report

by Dan Johnsen

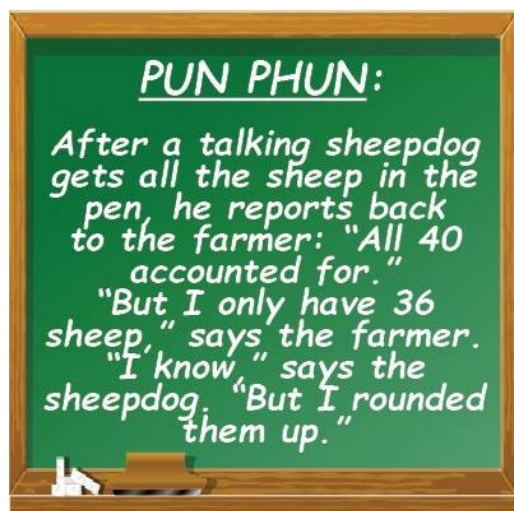
Alina Catanach, Associate Broker for Rancho Viejo Properties, reports that she has sold 15 homes since January 2016 with 27 more scheduled to close this year. Alina notes, "We only sold 23 last year so we are already beating our numbers and the second quarter has just begun. We are currently down to 10 remaining lots and hope that the developer will prep additional lots before the fall."

Further, she tells us, August, September and October have always been strong sales months. She is looking forward to completing the current developed lots, getting started with newly fresh lots and potentially new floor plans for the larger lots that are expected to be part of the next release.

Alina say, "We are being visited by people from all over the world and it is super exciting to see the diverse group of people we are attracting to the community and even more exciting to know they are considering Rancho Viejo to be where they call home."

In Memoriam

We miss the late, great *Rancho Viejo Round Up* and hope that someday the three (at the moment) Associations can resume publishing a common newsletter!



Please Pick Up After Your Pet

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you are liable to step in one such reminder. Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you or get one from the "doggie stations" to pick up waste and then dispose of it properly.



By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Thank you for your cooperation!

