



LA ENTRADA COMMUNITY NEWS

Reported by the La Entrada at Rancho Viejo Community Association
Fourth Quarter, December 2024

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HOLIDAY FUN!

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Our annual holiday party is always a great way to meet new neighbors but this year was a real surprise. Freddie Quagliana and the rest of the Communications Committee had organized a special fundraiser for our local animal shelter. To our surprise the CEO, Jackie Roach; and the Director of Philanthropy, Krista Lewis, are brand new residents. They were as surprised as we were, not knowing about the fundraiser. The fundraiser itself raised \$135.00 along with assorted blankets, towels, toys, and an enormous bag of dog food. Thanks to all who made the fundraiser a success.

Continued on next page

Another pleasant surprise was our musical guest, Coda. Coda is a women's choral group dedicated to finding the joy in music. They sang a lovely medley of holiday songs, some old favorites and a few new ones.

You can contact them at codachoral@gmail.com

We all had a wonderful time meeting new friends and reconnecting with familiar ones. Lots of food, drinks and laughter!
See you at the next one.



COMING UP IN 2025

May“Meet Your Neighbors” Social

JulySummer Picnic

September Raptor Event

DecemberHoliday Party

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

2025

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Did you enjoy the preview of winter with the unexpected snow event during Election Week? Get read for more winter to come. Remember to use salt-free and non-corrosive snow melt on driveways and sidewalks.

November 19, 2024 HOA Board meeting:

We had the quarterly board meeting via ZOOM and there are a couple of significant updates. The 2025 Budget is being finalized and is impacted by trash collection fees, reserve allocations and some increases in service fees. We are opting to change trash collection services from MCT to Road Runner in January 2025 to reduce this expense since it is about a third of the assessment fee homeowners pay. The budget is also impacted by the decision this year to move more money into reserves as recommended by financial analysts so that we can be better prepared for emergencies and large repair work such as street sealing. Landscaping and maintenance fees will also increase although not as much as some HOAs in the area are seeing. The result is that the La Entrada budget will include a \$5 per month or \$15 per quarter increase in assessment fees in 2025. Information about the transition in trash services will be coming.

We will also be researching our snow removal process. Currently we call for street clearing on an as-needed basis to save money but this can cause La Entrada to be at the end of a list of confirmed snow removal customers. This means that our streets are cleared later in the day and, as in the case of the recent snow event, some streets did not get cleared at all due to darkness. If we want to be certain of snow removal each snow event it may mean an increase in cost.

DRC Application Process:

Homeowners who are submitting requests to modify their property it would be helpful if you review the HOA Handbook guidelines and seek approval IN ADVANCE of making changes to avoid citations, fines and, in extreme cases, a demand to remove or undo work at owner's expense that has been done. We have had doors and walls painted, gates installed, solar panels installed, basketball hoops erected in the street and other modifications that were reported by neighbors or code enforcement that has resulted in some unhappy interventions. Also, please look at the guidelines for landscaping. Bare dirt lots, plastic or artificial plants and more than five large decorative objects in public viewing are not permitted. If you are installing play equipment in yards please make sure they are at least five feet from a shared property wall.

Code Enforcement Process:

HOAMCO employs individuals who monitor the community for safety and code compliance issues. If you receive notification that there are excessive weeds, overgrown or untended plants or house maintenance problems you are given two weeks to resolve them, to request more time to address them or to appeal the notification. If you simply ignore the notice then a citation and fine may follow. Please understand guidelines and rules about these things exist to eliminate safety hazards, such as flammable dead plants especially near doorways and windows. If a fire breaks out at one house it is a risk to the whole neighborhood not just the one property. The goal is to maintain a safe and attractive community where house values remain stable and strong.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy New Year!

Let's Show Our Support

by Sarah Henderson

As the HOA and La Entrada collected donations for the Santa Fe Animal Shelter at our annual holiday party, I thought a bit of information about the shelter might be helpful. Many of you are already aware of the great facilities and staff there; recently, however, there has been a bit of difficulty with the city contract. According to the website a temporary agreement is in place with the goal of reaching a longer term agreement. The shelter also partners with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The shelter, as a non-profit (501c3) organization, has been in Santa Fe since 1939, The move to the 100-acre campus at 100 Caja del Rio Rd. took place in 2005. Three hundred fifty animals can be provided for in the Adoption Center (with cuddle rooms – I want to live in one!), the Rehabilitation Center (with a

Behavior Team to help traumatized animals), and the Clare Eddy Thaw Hospital. The Admissions Center is equipped with a powerful ventilation system to prevent contagion. Outside there are play areas and dog walking trails where volunteers can have fun with the pooches and give them exercise and socialization.

Spaying and neutering are of course a big focus at the Shelter. Many other services are offered, including Lost and Found, re-homing assistance, help with licensing and therapy animal certification, and end-of-life services.

One of the many things to love about Santa Fe is it's animal-friendliness. The shelter definitely relies on the kindness and compassion of Santafesinos and Santafesinas, so please contribute!

SANTA FE ANIMAL SHELTER WISH LIST

A great way to support homeless animals is by giving them actual, physical gifts! You can purchase, drop off, or send any of the most needed items listed below. Gently used items are accepted, excluding rabbit supplies, which must be new and unused.

KENNEL SUPPLIES

- Blankets
- Towels
- Cat Toys
- Kitty Litter (non-clumping)
- Pet Carriers/Kennel-Aires
- Collapsible Dog Kennels
- Large Stainless Steel Food Bowls
- Small Stainless Steel Food Bowls
- Non-Plush Dog Toys Suitable for Sanitizing such as Kongs
- Kuranda Beds, order online at special wholesale pricing

FOOD

- Purina Dog Chow (green bag)
- Royal Canin Mom and Babycat food
- Purina brand dry and canned food for puppies, adult dogs, kittens, and adult cats
- Friskies and Fancy Feast canned cat foods

Please note: We feed Purina products as the main diet at the shelter but can use higher-end food for animals that need something different. Other donated pet foods may be used for families struggling to feed their pets through our CASA program.

COLLARS AND HARNESES

- Martingale Dog Collars
- Dog Harnesses
- Leashes

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Paper Towels
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Scotch Scrub Pads
- Windex

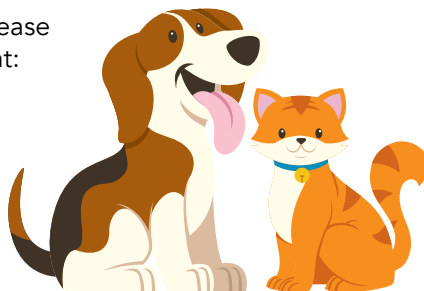
OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Ink Pens
- Plain White Copy Paper
- Colored Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps
- Scotch Tape
- Batteries (D, AAA, 9 volt)

In Person Drop Off - To drop off items in person, please bring your gifts to the Adoptions building located at:

Santa Fe Animal Shelter
100 Caja del Rio Road
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Gifts can also be sent directly to the same address.



Rancho Viejo Ladies Group & Supper Soirées

Fall and Winter Events

By Audra Hansche

The Rancho Viejo Ladies lunch in September was held at Santa Fe Bite on St. Michaels. We had about 10 attending. I always check out the desserts first, then order a smaller lunch if I plan to indulge.

Our October Book Club meeting was held at my house because the RV Fire Station was not available. Kris J. led the discussion for *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. We had 16 attending. We discussed how the writer intelligently blends storytelling with significant moments in time and talked about our own experiences during these same stressful events. It's definitely a book that makes an impact.

This year I was able to host 18 women at my Halloween Luncheon. Everyone contributed lots of tasty dishes and desserts. We also had coffee, tea, wine and mimosas. The dress code was festive as you can see from the photos.



A special meeting was planned with Julie Hliboki from Pillowcases 4 Love, but the weather wasn't cooperating. Streets, driveways and sidewalks were deep with snow from two days before. We will reschedule in January.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new coordinator for the RV Ladies Book Club. Diane Gorgy has graciously agreed to take over for 2025. She has set up a new email address for the Rancho Viejo Ladies Book Club. Please contact her directly at rvladiesbookclub@gmail.com.

December's Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, December 12. We will discuss *Cheneyville* by Paulette Jiles.



On Friday, December 6th we celebrated our annual Holiday Party and Gift Exchange. This year the festivities were held at the RV Fire Station. Our 2024 Holiday Party was a great success! We had 25 in attendance at the RV Fire Station community room. First we had a lovely lunch with awesome desserts. Coffee, tea, water, or lemonade was available. As everyone was finishing, I made announcements about next year. We agreed to schedule our gatherings for the second Wednesday of each month. Most of the time we will meet at the Fire Station. Restaurant lunches will be planned about once per quarter. Service projects will take place on demand but we look forward to helping the Youth Shelters Street Outreach program in July.

After we cleared the dining table, everyone chose a wrapped gift at random. This year we tried a new exchange game using extra large dice. I created a custom chart for us, based on some online research. Game play moved fairly quickly and I think everyone enjoyed themselves and received great gifts.



Guidelines to Submit Newsletter Articles

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter? What about concerns or suggestions for the Communication Committee? See below for the guidelines for submissions.

If you have suggestions, ideas, or concerns for the Communication Committee, please send them by email to Serenity Lucero, slucero@hoamco.com. She is the contact person for repairs, DRC approvals, traffic, pet issues, complaints, and suggestions for improvement.

If you would like to submit an article for the La Entrada newsletter, please send it directly to Serenity Lucero, our HOA Manager at SLucero@hoamco.com.

Please submit the article in the body of an email, ready for publishing, including proofreading, editing, captions, logos, and active web links. If you have a photo with your article, please submit it separately. Attach both the article and photo to an email to Serenity by the 15th of the month prior to the publication month at the very latest.

If approved by the Communication Committee, you will be notified and the article will go in the next newsletter. If it is submitted after the deadline, it may

be placed in the next issue of La Entrada Community News. Any questions about writing or submitting articles should be directed only to Serenity at SLucero@hoamco.com

Newsletter publication: La Entrada Community News is usually published around the beginning of the publishing month. It will be announced in an email from Serenity and posted on the La Entrada website at <http://www.laentradaatranchoviejo.org/home.asp>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Serenity, our HOAMCO Manager of our HOA at Slucero@hoamco.com

Deadlines for Submitting Articles for La Entrada Community News

- By Feb. 15th for the March newsletter
- By May 15th for the June newsletter
- By August 15th for the September newsletter
- By November 15th for the December newsletter

Out-to-Brunch Outings *by Freddie Quagliana*

Our monthly Rancho Viejo brunches have been a wonderful experience. We started two years ago and with the exception of having to cancel because of the snow storm this November, we meet the second Friday of the month.

I choose family-owned restaurants as I am a firm believer in supporting local businesses.

I like to feel a sense of community and foster it as much as possible. Organizing these get-togethers is a way for me of doing that and giving back to others.

It's a fun way to connect with others you may know or not know yet. If you'd like to join our little group, and would like to bring a friend along who may not live in Rancho Viejo, send an email to fquag63@gmail.com.



On October 5th the Rancho Viejo Communication Committee held their annual Raptor Event. This event is held at the Institute of American Indian Art in their hogan, which is based on traditional Navajo architecture. Lori Paras and Mario Garcia gave a very informative talk about their program and the two birds that they brought. The Great Horned Owl and Peregrine Falcon were beautiful and the people in the audience were thrilled to get a close look at them.

Audra Hansche had donated her very popular homemade cards to benefit the Raptor Center and their important work rescuing and rehabilitating our raptors. Between her presale, sales at the event, and donations we raised \$300 for their program.



Take note:

If you find an injured bird or one you might think is orphaned, please give the Raptor Center a call at 505-699-0455 or a wildlife facility in your area. In the meantime, please put the bird in a dark, warm, dry box. This is the best thing you can do for the bird and is the first treatment for shock.

Dog Walkers: We Can Be Better Neighbors

by Pamela Villars

We dog walkers love our dogs – we want them to sniff, roam, and leave their business wherever they want to. It makes them happy and that makes us feel like good guardians.

But it also makes us not-so-great neighbors. There is something we can do that will make our community like us more: boundaries. (Not therapeutic boundaries like icing out your toxic in-laws.) It's creating physical boundaries for our dogs to respect our neighbors' properties and well-being.

Boundary One: Dogs create “pee mail” stations which they check on a regular basis. Once they've checked the mail that's been left, they add theirs. Unfortunately, some stations are on stucco walls which creates damage the homeowner must repair. If your pooch has a favorite pee station on a neighbor's stucco, please move them on to the next available spot.

Boundary Two: Because our dogs love to roam and sniff, retractable leashes seem ideal. (No discussion here about the dangers inherent to them, you can look that up.) However, when a retractable leash allows a pet to wander up someone's front walk to leave a deposit, that's another boundary violation. Stepping outside to see a deposit is unpleasant enough: to find it on your property is worse.

Boundary Three: If your neighbor has a sign in their area asking you to “respect the property”, please honor it. There are many pee mail stations; you can bypass that one.

To sum up: Dogs can learn boundaries and your neighbors will thank you.



Damage from a pee mail station at one resident's home.

Please clear sidewalks and driveways during the snowy winter months. This is another way to be good neighbors and make it safer for everyone including pet owners and dog walkers.

