



LA ENTRADA COMMUNITY NEWS

Reported by the La Entrada at Rancho Viejo Community Association
Second Quarter, June 2024

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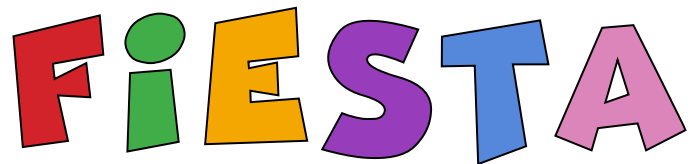
COMING UP THIS YEAR

August.....Summer Picnic

September Raptor Event

December Holiday Party

HOA-Sponsored Events



by Tess Harris

The Communications Committee had their eye on the weather the second week of May. The day of the Fiesta on May 11 dawned and it was truly awful. Cloudy, windy, rainy—a real New Mexico spring day greeted us. Did that stop La Entrada from having fun? Nope!

Around 60 people gathered to munch on sandwiches and chips. Freddie organized the fiesta-themed pet parade which was a huge success. Linda Anderson and her two pups won the prize for best costume. The cookie bake off was also a big hit, no surprise there! Valerie won the prize for her special oatmeal raisin cookies. We had a separate category for our under 18 bakers and Ava won the prize for baking delicious lemon ricotta cookies. Those wanting their fortune told had an opportunity with Luqui. Even some of our volunteer firefighters showed up to get in on the fun. As the rain moved in everyone pitched in to get La Entrada park back to normal. Our event ended early, but everyone really enjoyed themselves.

See Fiesta photos on page 6

HAPPY SUMMER LA ENTRADA RESIDENTS!

Greetings La Entrada folks. Did you blink and miss spring because here comes summer. Here are some updates from the May 23rd HOA board meeting and other recent activities in our community.

Neighborhood Watch Ending: The good folks who have been the backbone of the community-wide Neighborhood Watch program for the last decade or more are bringing their activities to an end and disbursing the funds they have in reserve from activities in the past. Some funding will go to Firewise and the rest will be divided among the three HOA communities that have been participants over the years. Thanks so much to Kathy Brown and her group for having led Neighborhood Watch all these years.

There has been some discussion informally and at the HOA board meeting about creating a safety committee to encompass the Neighborhood Watch activities around crime awareness and prevention as well as natural disaster response and catastrophic and environmental events. A few of us will be meeting with folks at Rancho Viejo North, our sister HOA, who already have a safety committee to learn how they handle these activities as we prepare to form our own La Entrada organization. More on this process at upcoming HOA meetings.

Clean Up in the Community: The Communications Committee will be reporting on the organized Firewise event held on May 4 and the Fiesta gathering on May 11. Many thanks to them for their work and a successful turnout. I also want to thank some of the residents on Via Orilla Dorado and Punto Nuevo who informally have been out gathering trash in the greenbelt, streets and open areas over the last two months. As construction in the next phase of the community continues and the winds continue, a lot of trash gets blown around and it has been very gratifying to have people volunteer to help clean up. I also need to remind people that on trash day if the volume of trash and recycling in individual containers prevents the lids from being secured the wind can

pick up trash from those containers and blow it into the streets and greenbelt. Please make sure you secure your containers and it is helpful if you break down cardboard boxes before placing them in the containers. And thanks to Cass Thompson who smashed down the junk in the dumpster so everything fit without having to spend money for a second dumpster.

Trees and Grass: In June 2023 Eugene Anderson from TreeDoctor911 came out and treated many of



the trees in the Sunset and La Entrada parks as well as curb trees on other streets including Calle Ancla, Puerta Solita Camino Cerro Escondido, and for the dreaded Slime Flux fungus, while Proscap treated several cottonwood trees for Caterpillar Web infestations. We have been monitoring the trees over the

year and recently had Mr. Anderson return to treat four more trees and do mineral injections in some that need a little extra help healing. In general, the trees are doing well despite drought and boring insect conditions and this is a huge cost savings in the long term. Just replacing one curb tree costs more than what we have paid TreeDoctor 911 and the cost of removing and replacing one of the large cottonwoods would be more than



Continued on page 5

HOA Update *continued*

\$10,000. The board also is aware of the conditions of the grass areas in Sunset Park and one of the greenbelt access points on Via Orilla Dorado and is working with Proscapre to remedy the problems.

Reminders:

- Trash containers at residential properties are required to be out of public view on the street and/or in the yard except on trash collection days.

- Parking vehicles on sidewalks or allowing a vehicle in a driveway to encroach on the sidewalk is not permitted. This prevents pedestrians from safely using the sidewalks and not only can generate a fine to the homeowners but can cause the HOA to be sued. If you are a homeowner who rents out your property, please make sure tenants are aware and comply with these requirements.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER EVERYONE!

Out-to-Brunch Outings *by Fred Quagliana*

In October 2022 I had the idea of organizing monthly brunch outings because, well, I enjoy entertaining and making that happen!

We had 10 at our first brunch that month and I quickly realized these get togethers were going to be a hit! Since then we have brunched at various locally-owned restaurants around the city on a rotating basis. It has become a chance for some of the regulars to connect with each other as well as welcoming newcomers. Our brunches are open to ALL Rancho Viejo associations as well as to friends who do not live in Rancho Viejo. Presently I have over 50 members on the email blast list so if you'd like to join, please email me at fquag63@gmail.com to be added to the list. If anyone would like a non-Rancho Viejo resident to join us, please send me their email addresses too. We meet the second Friday of each month at 11:00 am and a few new-to-us restaurants are in the works to be added to our rotation.

JOIN US IN JUNE

La Plancha Latin Grill
3470 Zafarano Ste C
Friday, June 14 at 11:00 am

RSVP by 6/13/24 before 12 Noon

You're Invited



JUNE 22ND
11 AM - 3 PM

- FOOD TRUCKS
- JUMPING BALLOONS
- GIVEAWAYS

FREE HAIR CUTS*
*walk ins only
25% OFF
ALL ADDITIONAL SERVICES

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This annual community event was held May 4 this year. Neighbors were invited to participate in this event and met in the park in The Village (North) to pick up bags and gloves to help remove brush, weeds and low-hanging tree limbs in the area in order to create a defensible space for fire safety. It was a successful event! The Firewise committee is thankful for volunteer assistance at the registration desks. The common/open space was transformed from dry weeds, grasses, and vegetation into cleared common spaces thanks to neighbors' cleanup efforts mitigating potential wildfire risks. A shout out to Cass and Warren Thompson for securing Proscap and Yellowstone for the immediate removal of debris. A special thank you also to the HOA managers and Marcia Kaplan for taking the lead on the event and serving as Resident Leader, recording and submitting documentation to Firewise USA. Also a big thanks to Valerie Alarid for her contribution to this article and for her volunteer work on the event. A pizza lunch in Village Park with over 50 attendees was a welcome break after a morning of hard work.

Sixteen owners checked in for cleanup from La Entrada and kept returning to the tables for more bags. Some owners picked up as many as 18 bags and put in 20 hours of labor themselves.

But FIREWISE is not a one-time event. The majority of work to be done is on an owner's property and many people perform work throughout the summer. You are encouraged to report hours you worked yourself or paid someone to clean up your property. It is important to report all work done in order for the HOAs to certify each year. Please continue to complete a form and submit to Serenity by September 15. If you need a form to report your work, email Serenity. SLucero@hoamco.com.



**THANK YOU
TO ALL THE
VOLUNTEERS**

Photos courtesy of Barbara Bradley



LATE WINTER AND SPRING WERE BUSY TIMES

Our ladies group met on Thursday, February 15th for a general meeting and light lunch at the Rancho Viejo Fire Station. We had about 17 attending and discussed upcoming lunches, projects and events.

Book Club for February was well attended at the fire station community room. Diane Gorgy led the discussion of *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See.

Supper Soirée for February was hosted by our friend and neighbor, Freddie Q. We had a lovely dinner at Café Grazie on Zafarano. Our group of 21 pretty much filled up the restaurant.

Our service project for SFYS-Street Outreach Program began March 1st and concluded March 15th. I delivered 57 backpacks, 42 drawstring bags, 52 blankets, 35 Santa Fe Trails Bus Passes, 62 Journals/Notebooks and three boxes full of cookies, cereal bars, beef jerky and other snacks.

On March 13th ten of us had a lovely lunch at Santa Fe Bite on St. Michael's. I made sure to have some key lime pie.

Supper Soirée for March was hosted by our friends and neighbors, Catherine and Matteo. Be sure to check out the photos. The group of 19 enjoyed the company. While I



Supper Soiree at LuLu's Chinese restaurant.



All photos courtesy of Audra Hansche

was not able to join in, I really appreciate the interest and attendance.

Our gatherings in April were back-to-back days at the Rancho Viejo Fire Station community room. A meeting and lunch on April 18 and Book Club on April 19. Linda Anderson was our discussion leader for *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Wolff.



Donations collected for Street Outreach in March



Ladies Tour at Folk Art Museum in April

Supper for April was casual at Sopaipilla Café. Big thanks to Freddie for hosting again. Attendance was about 14. I'm sure the food was good as this is a regular place for our Rancho Viejo brunches.

On Friday, April 26, the RV Ladies Group attended a tour at the Museum of International Folk Art on Museum Hill. Our friend and neighbor, Lucie Church, is a docent there and showed us a wonderful exhibit. We had 17 attending, including some guests from Germany, who were visiting one of our ladies.

Next up is a tour at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, which focuses on the role of women in Spanish Colonial New Mexico. Afterwards we will enjoy our own picnic lunch under the spacious portal on the property.

The May Supper Soirée was a casual event at Beer Creek Brewing Co. on their relaxing patio. It was difficult to decide between sharing a sandwich or a pizza with my husband. It's always a pleasure to enjoy food and drinks with friends, too.

Book Club resumes in June with a discussion of *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. I listen to Audible. It's timed at 31 hours, so I'd better get busy.

Contact Audra at Maui85@AOL.com if you would like to be on the email list and join the fun.



FIESTA



MAY 11,
2024



OUR LOCAL SFFD STATION IS FULLY STAFFED BY PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS

While our community and neighboring Rancho Viejos HOAs participate in the Firewise program, there are several other resources that help us with fire prevention.

The Santa Fe Fire Department (SFFD) is proud to be one of the only fire departments in New Mexico to have ten full-time staff that specialize in fuel management in the Wildland Urban Interface and respond to wildland fires. Their Wildland Urban Interface program conducts individual home assessments to evaluate your wildland fire risk and hazards and provides wildfire information for homeowners associations and public events.

To request a Wildland home assessment, contact Remington Gillum at gillum@santafecountynm.gov or call 505-995-6532.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/fire> and download the Santa Fe Ready, Set, Go Guide: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/SantaFeRSGGuide2017.pdf>.

Finally, are you aware that our fire department is staffed by professionals and volunteers? Our volunteer firefighters must often provide or replace their uniforms and supplies from their own pockets.

Fortunately, they are supported by the La Cienega Fire & Rescue Association. As a registered 501C3 nonprofit, the mission of the La Cienega Fire & Rescue Association is to support the efforts and needs of the La Cienega Volunteer Fire District, Santa Fe County, Santa Fe, New Mexico by raising funds to cover expenses incurred by the District that fall outside of the those covered by the District's Santa Fe County Fire Department's annual budget. In addition, they help educate residents within the District about fire prevention and help the District with the recruitment of new volunteer firefighters and staff.

How Your Donations Will Help the La Cienega Fire & Rescue Association

- **Food/Meals:** Snacks, water, Gatorade . After a long training session or a strenuous incident these are a welcome support to La Cienega District's volunteers. In addition, sharing meals can foster camaraderie and teamwork among firefighters/EMTs, enhancing their morale and sense of community. It can also serve as a form of appreciation and recognition for their hard work and long hours. Providing coffee in the mornings is a nice perk for all who volunteer.
- **Clothing/Outerwear:** Supplying uniforms, personal protective equipment, and other necessary gear at no cost to the firefighters. In previous years, fire department members have used personal funds to pay for uniform shirts, EMT pants, wildland boots, flashlights, etc. We'd like to make sure our folks are outfitted and as volunteers give their time, as opposed to their own funds to support the initiatives of La Cienega.
- **Awards:** Some of our members go above and beyond in their efforts. We'd like to be able to recognize them at least once a year or so. We're talking hundreds of volunteer hours in a year, so recognizing someone can really go a long way.
- **Education Needs:** Covering expenses for firefighters/EMTs to attend conferences, workshops, and other professional development events is a huge incentive. Funds would be used for advanced training courses, certifications, and educational opportunities to improve skills.
- **Public Safety Communications:** To support the community and spread the word about fire prevention, we'd like to use a postcard/ mailer to raise awareness. An example would be a reminder to change your smoke detector battery. To complement our communications approach, hosting an event at the station during fire safety week is a goal of the department (takes place during October).

How Your Donations Will Help *continued*

- **Events:** We'd like to have an open house, which would require some amount of food (coffee, Danish) and giveaways. The giveaways would be message-loaded with our logos and information about home safety. Neither fire funds nor EMS funds can be used for mailers or to host an event for the public in this manner.



By ensuring that firefighters are outfitted with the proper gear and well-fed, La Cienega can maintain a high level of readiness and commitment, enhancing their ability to serve and protect the community.

Scan this QR code to donate or go to lacienegafirerescueassociation.org

Let's support our local fir and rescue volunteers!

La Cienega Fire & Rescue Association is a registered 501C3 nonprofit.

Summer Event in August *by Tess Harris*

IT'S TRUE ! THE SUMMER BARBECUE IS NOW AN ANNUAL EVENT

Everyone had so much fun last year at our BBQ that we decided to do it again! It will once again be held at the sales office at 26 Calle Ancla, Saturday August 3rd, from 1 to 3. There will be grilled burgers and hot dogs, drinks and chips, and best of all, cake!

After seeing so many beautiful sunset pictures on social media we have decided to have a special contest featuring La Entrada sunsets. The top three photos will be printed and displayed at the BBQ for those present to vote on. The winner gets a \$50 gift card to Pantry Dos and will be published in the September newsletter.

Have fun with this, folks, and we'll see you at the BBQ!



PHOTO CONTEST RULES

- One entry per person.
- No professionals, please.
- Email to slucero@hoamco.com by July 10.
- La Entrada locales only.
- La Entrada residents only.
- No watermarks on the photos

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE THIS SUMMER

We seem to be in an early advanced state of summer (boo hiss) and it's time to be mindful of the dangers our beloved pets can face in the aestival season. (thank you Power Thesaurus). Most of us know not to leave pets in a hot car where.

according to the ASPCA, the temperature can reach 114 degrees in 30 minutes on an 80 degree day. The same website cautions that flat-faced species are particularly susceptible to overheating.

I was unaware that dangers other than heat lurk in cars for doggies that like to gobble anything in the vicinity (sorry, I'm a cat person, don't hold it against me, I love all critters) such as sugar-free gum with Xylitol, medications, cigarettes or chewing tobacco (eww). And, of course, leaving them in an unheated car in winter is equally awful. Restraints are also appropriate

year round, especially in Santa Fe with its many problematic drivers (you know who you are, red-light runners).

Other things I have learned which you responsible pet owners already know—asphalt and cement are hot on feet!! Wear booties!! Trim but don't shave your pooch!! Make certain they have plenty of fresh water!! Don't use fireworks!!

Now a brief word about my personal favorite species, cats. Hello, there are coyotes in Santa Fe and I rather admire them but don't leave your kitties vulnerable; please keep them inside with access to a safe, spacious patio. It's best for the wild birds also. All the cautions about weather and cars apply to cats as well, though car rides are not their favorite thing and some are prone to car-sickness.



Have a lovely summer with your furry besties!!