



LA ENTRADA COMMUNITY NEWS

Reported by the La Entrada at Rancho Viejo Community Association
Third Quarter, September 2024

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COMING UP THIS YEAR

October Raptor Event

December Holiday Party

HOA-Sponsored Events



**The winning photo of the La Entrada Sunset Photo Contest
submitted by Mary Lucey**

FALL WILL SOON BE IN THE AIR

Hello Everyone. It looks like maybe Fall is coming with overnight temperatures in the 50s and daytime highs in the upper 70s. Or is this just a moment before more late summer temperatures?

Register to Vote (at home)

I'm happy to share that one of our newest La Entrada residents, Ellen Hill at 41 Via Orilla Dorado (VOD), is a registrar of voters for Santa Fe County and can help anyone in our community who needs to register to vote by taking care of this activity at her home or your home. Registration can happen now until the November 5, 2024 general election. Contact Ellen at Eh2610d@gmail.com.

Gotta leave town?

Those who travel know that getting to either the local Santa Fe Airport (SAF) or the Sunport (ABQ) in Albuquerque can be a bit of a challenge and expense due to Santa Fe's lack of public taxi service and the fact that the Santa Fe Trails bus line does not go to the local airport. There is a shuttle service (Groome) from Santa Fe to Sunport but here are some other options.

Santa Fe does have New Mexico Black Car Limo service at (505) 316-1100 but some do not know they also have a less pricey taxi service at (505) 208-7280. There are some private parties offering taxi services and individual folks on the Santa Fe group Facebook page who will negotiate a fare to either airport. The ride share companies have not been willing to schedule rides to the airports due to shortage of drivers in Santa Fe but La Entrada is fortunate to have a ride share driver living in the community. Robyn Weiss on VOD can be reached by texting (925) 216-0609 and you can negotiate your transportation plan and needs directly through her.

Another option that may work for some is using the Rail Runner train to the Albuquerque train depot. As an example, I had family visit in June and put them on the southbound train at the Farmer's Market at 1:00 pm on a Saturday and they were able to pick up the free shuttle to ABQ Sunport with no problem. Train fare is about \$10 and free on Wednesdays for

senior citizens. You can also get ride share from the train depot to the Sunport but you would pay for this service. Note: The train depot is also a connection for Amtrak Southwest Chief that runs between Los Angeles and Chicago although there is a closer stop in Lamy. However, you would need transportation to get to the Amtrak station in Lamy.

And last, maybe ask a neighbor, especially if you are just going to SAF. Lots of us are retired and don't mind helping neighbors. Nice to have transportation to the airport so you don't have to leave your car in a lot.

Bird Feeding:

It is nice to see that some residents like to provide food for the bird population in La Entrada but please be aware that feeders, especially multiple feeding stations in one yard, can be attracting pigeons, lots of pigeons, as well as small birds. Some residents are not happy with the poop, feathers and other debris that the pigeons bring to their yards as a result of neighbors' bird feeders. Please be mindful of what you are visiting on your neighbors if you are feeding the flocks.

Street Cleaning

As many are aware, the monsoon rains have created some mud flow onto roadways and sidewalks in a few areas. Our community manager, Serenity Lucero, has had a difficult time finding a street cleaning service to come address this issue but has been able to secure Proscapio to do street cleaning on September 4, 2024.

All Things Parking:

A reminder that you cannot park a vehicle in your driveway and have any part of the vehicle obstruct the pedestrian sidewalk. HOAMCO has had to warn a number of residents about this particular parking violation this summer and the next step will be to start fining residents. You should know that the resident can be fined and the HOA can be sued for this

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HOA Update *continued*

parking violation due to the risk of someone being unable to use the sidewalk and being forced to walk into the street. You should also be aware that there are new HOA regulations that prohibit “selective enforcement” of rules so this means everyone who is in violation will be noticed and potentially fined.

In the near future the HOA should have updated Handbook policy and language with respect to RV parking in the neighborhood or in resident driveways.

Happy Fall Everyone!



Out-to-Brunch Outings *by Freddie Quagliana*

This little idea I had in September 2022 to gather friends and neighbors together has blossomed into a wonderful and still growing monthly brunch. Presently there are 54 contacts on my brunch email list.

Recently I've added a few new restaurants and I am looking to add a few other new ones as well for our future outings.

I feel these get-togethers are a three-fold way of building community, not only among Rancho Viejo residents, but also friends of ours, as well as building connections with and supporting our local restaurateurs. I know each restaurant owner I have

spoken to over the past almost two years is greatly appreciative that we are supporting their family businesses.

So come on out and join us for our next outing at what will be a new favorite destination for brunch for you.

If anyone would like to be added to the brunch list, or would like non-Rancho Viejo friends to be added, contact me at fquag63@gmail.com.

Thank You and Bon Appetit!



HUMMINGBIRDS IN AND AROUND LA ENTRADA

Hummingbirds as a separate genus broke away from their relatives the Swifts some 42 million years ago in Eurasia according to the Audubon Society. Fossils have been found in Germany, France and Poland; today, however, they are only found in the New World. Scientists have speculated they were out-competed in the Old World by birds of similar habits and habitats, but there are large gaps in the fossil record.

Species of hummingbirds visiting New Mexico include the Black-Chinned, the males of this species arrive in early April. The Broad-Tailed is also found throughout our state, and like the Black-Chinned makes a nest glued together with spider webs. We have had nests in our trees, they are lovely. The Rufous Hummingbird is mostly seen in this area during migration, according to Stan Tekiela in *Birds of New Mexico*.

The season for hummingbirds in New Mexico can last into early winter when late migrants may still show up. It is a myth that leaving feeders up tempts them to linger, they are genetically programmed to

migrate. They will travel as far south as Central and South America. During their sojourn in our state, they are attracted to red or orange tubular flowers, Bee Balms, Lemmon's sage, etc.; a list of which, area-specific, is on the Audubon Society website.

Those of us who supply nectar feeders use a 1:4 mixture of refined sugar and boiled water, cooled to room temperature. In hot weather it's best to clean feeders twice a week, in cooler weather once a week should suffice; detergent should not be used as it leaves a residue.

As hummingbirds are also insectivorous, the Audubon Society suggests hanging a basket of banana peels or over-ripe fruit near the feeders to attract tiny fruit flies for the birds. They love and need water as well, we often see them flitting in the mist from our fountain.

From my own observations, hummingbirds do not play well with others, so I have several feeders.

And here is a fun fact — they are the only birds able to fly backwards.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The HOA-sponsored annual benefit for the Santa Fe Raptor Center will be October 5th. As in years past this event will be at the Institute of American Indian Arts lower hogan. Look for more information including the time of the event to be sent to Rancho Viejo residents at a later date.

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER

SPRING UPDATE

Before I report on our summer activities, there is an update about our May Supper Soirée event.

Our supper outing at Beer Creek Brewing Co. had a record-breaking attendance of 37, which included neighbors from Rancho Viejo and friends from surrounding communities. It seems this is a well-liked place to gather for a good time and excellent refreshments.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

On June 12th the ladies hosted special guests from Youth Shelters and Family Services at our potluck lunch. Paige Kitson, Director of the Street Outreach Program and Melissa White, Director of Philanthropy joined us at the fire station community room. We learned a lot about challenges the youth in our city face each day. Paige also gave us a rundown of current needs for her program. This was a welcome kickoff for our next service project.

Following a prior success with a "Christmas in July" donation drive, we continued with a collection for Street Outreach July 8-15th. Rancho Viejo Ladies were once again very generous. I delivered our gifts on Monday, July 22nd. We gave 167 Santa Fe Trails Bus Passes; 17 sleeping bags, 64 water bottles and



"Christmas in July" donations to Street Outreach

tumblers; and 35 sports bras and bralettes. I met with Paige and Scarlet at their office on Pacheco. They were very excited about and greatly appreciated everything that was donated.

RV Ladies lunch for July was an outing to La Plancha Latin Grill. Our group of nine met there for great food and reflective conversation. Afterwards a few of us decided to check out the treats from Craft Donuts. It's located in the same shopping center. There were interesting flavors made while you wait. You can eat them warm and toasty or take home a box to share.

Our meeting in August was a potluck at the fire station. We had 11 attending. I'm really happy that some of the food focused on veggies. Big thanks for all the help setting up and cleaning up. I am grateful for all the support to keep our group together and going strong.

The most recent Supper Soirée was August 22nd at Beer Creek Brewing Co. with approximately 25 friends and neighbors enjoying a meal and socializing. What an awesome evening!

Book Club has mostly been meeting at the Rancho Viejo Fire Station. This has been most convenient whether we have a large or small gathering. In June we discussed *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Most of us agreed this was a very long book and could be made into a television series. I'm pretty certain this was the longest book I've ever read. The August reading selection was *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi. A very thought-provoking story that was at times a bit gruesome. Since the setting was the American Southwest, it was a bit too realistic. Our next book is *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. The meeting is scheduled for October and I will host at my house.

September's meeting and lunch will be organized at a familiar restaurant. Wednesdays and Thursdays seem to work out best. Our October luncheon will be on Halloween, Thursday, October 31st as a potluck at my house. I hope everyone attending will join the fun of dressing festive and bring a dish matching the theme. You can leave your broomsticks at the front door, there's plenty of parking!

**Contact Audra at
Mauied85@AOL.com
if you would like to be on the
email list and join the fun.**



On August 3rd the Communications Committee hosted their second annual summer barbecue. I'm not sure if the theme was sunsets, our volunteer firefighters, or just our great neighborhood!

We did have a sunset photo contest, with more than 25 stunning photos to consider. After a lot of thought the committee narrowed it down to three.

Mary Lucey won for her beautiful image (see photo on page one). She received a Pantry Dos gift card which she is sure to enjoy. Zay Gonzales and Walter Huzyk were the runners up.

While votes for the photo contest were being counted, we were entertained by Pamela Villars and accordionist Michael Blackwell. Pamela led the crowd in a rousing rendition of our state song, "O Fair New Mexico". "O Fair New Mexico" was written by Elizabeth Garrett, the blind daughter of famed sheriff,

Pat Garrett. In 1917, Governor Washington E. Lindsey signed the legislation making "O Fair New Mexico" the official New Mexico State Song.

The La Cienega Volunteer Fire Department came by to meet and greet the neighborhood that they serve. It's always a pleasure to see them. They give so much for so little in return. We did pass the boot to show our support.

A big focus of the barbecue was, of course, barbecue! Peter Kempf manned the grill in some pretty brutal heat, turning out hot dogs and hamburgers for 75 people. Chips, Cole slaw, and potato salad rounded out our plates and who could forget that giant chocolate cake?

We all had a wonderful time and are looking forward to our next neighborhood event.

Congratulations to

MARY LUCEY

Winner of the Sunset

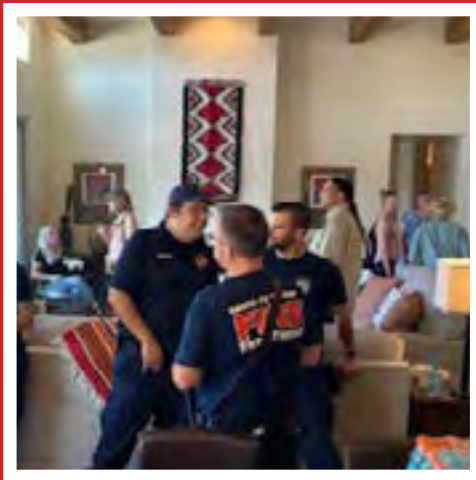
Photo Contest



Runners Up

Zay Gonzales & Walter Huzyk





LA ENTRADA



SUMMER PICNIC

