



SPRING EDITION 2024

Inside this Issue

Presidents Letter
Neighbor Spotlight
Newsletter Trivia
Christmas Lights
Financial Report
Cleanup Day
Safety on the Streets
Animal Sightings
Contact Information

Presidents Letter

At our year end general meeting on December 5th we recapped for those present the major accomplishments of the past year, presented the proposed operating budget for this coming year, and reelected to the Board Mike Fay and Barry Schoer. So for the coming year the composition and slate of officers of the Board will remain the same as it was for last year. We would like to encourage you to consider helping us out either by joining us on the Board or by volunteering to help out in specific areas. Tasks that would be very helpful include acting as assistant Treasurer, welcoming new residents to the Ranch providing them with a Ranch roster and emergency network information, coordinating and

generating material for our newsletter, and of course, joining us on the Board to make your voice heard. We meet on the second Tuesday of each odd numbered month with the location varying, so contact us if you would like to attend.

We'd like to thank the owners of the corner lots on Camino Manadero and Camino Meleno for cooperating with our entry landscape efforts. The recent rains have made the entries look pretty good but they have also promoted a lot of vegetation growth throughout the Ranch. Please try to be mindful of how the vegetation on your lot could potentially impact traffic flow for both pedestrians and vehicles in the Ranch keeping in mind that we want to keep the Ranch a safe place for everyone, residents and visitors alike.

Neighbor Spotlight - Thomas and Irene Bird

Remember when 60 was "old"? Times have changed. Neighbors Thomas Bird (101) and his wife of 78 Years, Irene (97) moved into the Ranch in 1967. They are the original owners of their barn-themed house, set back on the long, winding driveway by the creek at 1160 Camino Meleno. Their son-in-law, Loren Barringer, lives in the house farther back on the same driveway.



The Bird residence. Thomas built the addition on the right.

Thomas was born in Brea, California, in 1922 (his 102nd birthday will be on May 7). His family moved to Warrenburg, Missouri when he was in grade school – a reverse of the Dust Bowl migration. The Birds became friends with Irene's family, who were nearby dairy farmers. After high school, Thomas served in the Coast Guard from 1942 to 1944, then worked as a civilian at an Air Force base in Missouri. He and Irene married in 1945. They adopted two children, Brad and Linda (both since deceased) and moved to Lompoc, where Thomas worked for the Johns-Manville Diatomite Production Plant. Thomas worked at other jobs, and was a member of the Sheet

Metal Workers' Local Union No. 104 for 38 years. Meanwhile, Irene earned an AA at Allan Hancock College, and worked in the personnel office for the Federal Prison Complex in Lompoc. She continued with this job for 27 years, most of that time commuting to Lompoc from Rancho del Ciervo. The children attended Santa Barbara Christian School, and the family were members of Emmanuel Lutheran and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches.

When they were raising their family, the Birds were frequent campers. After retirement, Thomas and Irene traveled the world, visiting China and seeing most of Europe.

With his experience on the farm in Missouri, and in his hands-on career, Thomas has always been a builder. He built an addition to their house, and over the years has undertaken numerous projects on the property.



Loren Barringer (the Birds' son-in-law) holds a painting of the old bridge that crossed Fremont Creek behind the Lillard-Catlett House (currently Alice Birch's residence). The painting is on a steel plate that was part of the bridge.

The house features a few artifacts from the old Ranch days. The original Rancho del Ciervo sign hangs over the garage, and the weather vane from the old barn (formerly on the site of the house) is mounted on a tall pole. The driveway connects to a dead-end that, until 1985 or so, had a bridge crossing Fremont Creek. The Birds have a painting of the original bridge – painted on a steel brace that was part of the bridge! Thomas built a footbridge after the original bridge collapsed. That footbridge held until the floods of 1995.

Thomas and Irene were close friends with Carlo Girardi, the director of development for the Ranch in the 1960's. During that time, Carlo lived in the back house, and the Lillard-Catlett house (now Alice Birch's residence) served as the office for the developer. The Birds have several black-and-white historical and promotional photographs from that time. We plan to publish these in future newsletters.



Irene and Thomas Bird



Original Rancho del Ciervo sign, repainted by Thomas Bird.



Newsletter Trivia - Who puts the ribbon on the stag each December?

The answer is on the second to last page.

The speed limit in the Ranch is the residential default: 25 MPH. There is also a 20 MPH yellow advisory sign at the base of Camino Meleno as it approaches the Camino Rio Verde intersection. Slower is safer: drivers, please take into account blind curves, pedestrians, dog walkers, parked construction trailers, etc. Thank you!



Cleanup Day

Cory Van Elderen and Wendy Fereday are coordinating a **Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 6, starting at 9:00 AM** until roughly 1:00 PM. We will meet at the **corner of Meleno and Patterson** and then see how much help we have and decide what we can tackle on the fly. Cory will bring his trailer and some basic supplies – bring your own tools as well. We'll put out a reminder sign as we get close to the date.

Meanwhile, here are some tips for keeping the neighborhood looking sharp:

- Large item pickup: Marborg will come to the house twice a year for free to pick up junk or unwanted items. Call (805) 963-1852 to schedule your pick up. See <https://marborg.com/project/residential-bulky-items/> for the rules.
- If you have construction, please make sure the side of the road is cleaned up (removing dirt, rocks, etc.).

2023 Financial Report

Following the discussion at the December, 2022 General Meeting, the Board kept the annual dues at \$100/year (although at the same meeting, over two-thirds of general membership voted to raise the dues "ceiling" to \$125/year). The Board intends to keep the dues at \$100/year until the end-of-year bank account balance drops to a level of \$7,000 or so, which is about half of the annual budget. At that point we can consider cutting expenses or raising dues. As of December 31, 2023, the bank balance (our only financial asset) stood at \$14,835.24. At our current burn rate, a balance of \$7,000 is about 2 years away.

In 2023, the Board, following the consensus of the membership, funded various landscaping maintenance and tree-trimming projects that were deemed to be of general benefit – even though they occurred on private property (always with the owners' permission and involvement). Facing a bit of a backlog, this extraordinary expense came to \$5,530. We've budgeted for about half that in 2024. (This item appears as "Gardening Cleanup".)

Several non-recurring line items, for which there were no expenditures in 2023 and none budgeted for 2024, have been removed from this year's report. They are "Gates: Landscape Design/

Installation", "Legal Consultation", and "Road Sign Maintenance".

2023 Financial Review			2024 Budget		
Dues participation for the year included 149 owners out of a total of 176 parcels, for 85% participation. Thank you!			The following is the budget of projected income and expenses.		
Income			Income		
Dues	14,500.00		Dues	14,000	
Donations	995.20		Donations	500	
Other Income	0.52		Other Income		
Total Income	\$15,495.72		Total Income	\$14,500	
Expenses			Expenses		
Emergency Network	0.00		Emergency Network	300	
Fees/Licenses/Taxes	291.64		Fees/Licenses/Taxes	350	
Gardening Cleanup	5,530.00 (1)		Gardening Cleanup	2,500	
Gates: Camera Maintenance	1,222.00		Gates: Camera Maintenance	1,128	
Gates: Gardening	2,857.13		Gates: Gardening	2,900	
Insurance: Crime	339.00		Insurance: Crime	400	
Insurance: Directors	2,380.00		Insurance: Directors	2,800	
Insurance: Liability	377.39		Insurance: Liability	600	
Newsletter	878.07		Newsletter	1,000	
Postage/Copy/Misc	888.82		Postage/Copy/Misc	900	
RanchFest/Social	3,500.64		RanchFest/Social	4,500	
Website	141.05		Website	150	
Total Expenses	\$18,405.74		Total Expenses	17,528	
Cash Status			Gain/(Loss)		
Beginning Balance Jan 1	\$17,745.26			(3,028)	
Income less Expenses	-\$2,910.02				
Ending Balance Dec 31	\$14,835.24				
			(1) New item in 2023		

Enclosed is your Dues

Notice for 2024. (If you have already paid, no notice is enclosed.) Dues are \$100/year, payable to RDCHOA, P. O. Box 782, Goleta, CA 93116. Or you can place your payment – identifying your address – under Mike Fay's doormat at 1417 Camino Rio Verde. And there's a paperless option (\$3 service fee): visit <https://www.ranchodelciervo.org/payments/> . If you are feeling generous, a donation is always welcome.

Holiday Decorations Light up the Streets

December saw numerous displays of holiday lights in the neighborhood. Here are a couple of the more spectacular ones:



1210 Camino Palomera



1128 N. Patterson



1246 Camino Palomera

Newsletter Trivia Answer:
The ribbon person is: Wendy Fereday

Animal Sightings



Fox, 1219 Camino Manadero, November 12, 2023 (from Ring video)



Scorpion, 1379 Camino Meleno, November 25, 2023

Contact Information

Board of Directors (bod@ranchodelciervo.org):

Allan Hunt (President) - president@ranchodelciervo.org

Barry Schoer (Vice President)

Mike Fay (Treasurer) - treasurer@ranchodelciervo.org

Elizabeth Nordblad (Secretary)

Cory Van Elderen (Board Member)

Michael Petrich (Board Member)

Newsletter: newsletter@ranchodelciervo.org

Entrance Cameras: cameras@ranchodelciervo.org, or Barry Schoer, c: 805-680-6067

Request a printed roster: treasurer@ranchodelciervo.org

Website: www.ranchodelciervo.org (includes dues payment page)



Rancho del Ciervo Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 782, Goleta, CA 93116

This newsletter was written and produced by resident volunteers and members of the board of directors.

Please send any feedback or requests for future articles to: newsletter@ranchodelciervo.org

To contact the Board of Directors please send an email to: bod@ranchodelciervo.org