



SUMMER EDITION 2024

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Notes from the President

Now that Summer is here and it seems that it's going to be a pretty hot one, keep in mind that the danger of fire is going to be high. You all can help keep us safe by making sure you have cleared out the brush in and around your homes. Our emergency network remains active, keeps on top of events, and does a great job of notifying everyone in the ranch of impending danger through its phone notification application. Please make sure you notify the Treasurer if there has been any change to your contact information so we can make sure everyone gets notified.

The rains have made the plants take hold at the entrances, extending a more attractive welcome to both residents and visitors to the Ranch. We owe many thanks to Cheryl Forssell and Kathy Hunt for their work and vision landscaping the entries. The cleanup day we had this past April has contributed to that welcoming feeling. We will continue to perform periodic maintenance activities around the entries/Ranch and appreciate your comments, so speak up if you see something that needs to be done.

I know many of you have ideas about what the Board could be doing to encourage a closer sense of community in the Ranch and keep it a special place to live. We can always use more volunteers for the Board and help with special events like our upcoming annual RanchFest. Please raise your hand!

RanchFest

Tucker's Grove on September 22

Our main social event of the year, the RanchFest, will take place on **Sunday, September 22, 2024, from 3-6 PM, at Tucker's Grover Area FIVE** (follow the road to the back; parking will be easier this time). Note that this is a different site from our previous picnics, which were held in Area 1.

Attendance is FREE to all Rancho del Ciervo residents and owners! (Guests are welcome; a \$10 donation is requested).

Last year's 70 attendees (of all ages) enjoyed the outstanding food, fun, and social time. This is a great opportunity to welcome new neighbors... don't miss it!

We provide: • Tri-Tip & Chicken BBQ + vegetarian lasagne • Garlic Bread and Salsa
 • Beer and Wine • Soft Drinks

You may bring: • A Side Dish or Dessert • Lawn Games / Games for Kids • Volleyball

RSVP (mention if veggie) to Mike Fay by September 16: fay@acm.org • cell: 805-403-6486



Caden Wahler

New Neighbors

Welcome to Andrew & Hilary Quinn, and children Kieran & Millicent, near the top of Camino Rio Verde (June, 2024).

And welcome to our youngest neighbor, Caden Wahler, born to Olivia Martinez and Ben Wahler (Camino Rio Verde) on Feb 18, 2024.

Cleanup Day Report

Twenty three volunteers showed up Saturday, April 6, for our neighborhood cleanup, and we had tons of fun, literally, with Cory Van Elderen carting away two trailer-loads of green waste totalling over 4,000 pounds.

It was a perfect day, with mild, sunny weather, and damp soil from previous rains — making weed-pulling all the easier.

Ages ranged from 3 to 80, and duties included weed-whacking, weeding, trimming, chain-sawing, hauling, stomping greenery in the trailer, sweeping, leaf-blowing, and... providing refreshments!

Kudos to Wendy Fereday and Cory Van Elderen for spearheading this project and providing many tools and the trailer. And special thanks to Dan and Judi Van Elderen for providing the refreshments cart!

After effect: Patti Beal was so inspired by the event that she (and Wendy Fereday) continued weeding and planting in the green space at the base of Camino Rio Verde over the next several weeks. Jan McGuire donated some succulents, and Jeff Macklin donated and delivered the large aloes. Check out the plants that weren't there before! It looks great!

In addition to those pictured, the crew included: Lindsey, Nora, Avery, and Sadie Van Elderen; Mike Wapner, Dennis Giles, Steve and Patti Beal, Annily and Bauer Ribbens, Rebekah Bardakos, and Joanne Crawshaw.



Crew at the finish: Cory Van Elderen, Craig Crawshaw, Wendy Fereday, Fred Fereday, Mike Fay, (Dan Van Elderen in back), Mark Stimson, and Judi Van Elderen.



Grant and Eden Aaron (age 3).

Animal Sightings

Here are a few samples of photos of animal sightings in the neighborhood. We have more, but we don't have space to print them all, so we'll save them for future newsletters. Not shown in this newsletter: rattlesnake, gopher snake, oriole, and deer. Despite the backlog, feel free to submit photos to newsletter@ranchodelciervo.org.

A bear was seen behind Lisi's house on Camino Rio Verde (Camino Meleno side), and elsewhere in the neighborhood, on the morning of July 12. The bear is probably the one known as "Orange 1597", identified with a collar and an orange ear tag so that wildlife managers could visually identify him in the field and examine his behavior patterns as he moves across the landscape. The bear was also recorded by Sal and Mary Penza's doorbell camera in the wee hours that morning.



Black Bear



Mountain Lion



Coyotes



Bobcat

Our Water Polo Culture

By Stephen Neushel

Editor: Our Camino Manadero neighbors, Suzanne and Stephen Neushel, and their children Lucas (15) and Charlotte (13), are an integral part of the world-class water polo scene in Santa Barbara. Stephen's brother Peter, and his wife Cathy, are the parents of Kiley, Jamie, and Ryann Neushel. Kiley was on the Olympic gold medal team in 2016, and is in the USA Water Polo Hall of Fame. Jamie was a 2020 Olympic gold medalist, and now Ryann has been selected for the 2024 Olympic team. Peter and Cathy live in Isla Vista.

Suzanne and I are the very proud Aunt and Uncle to our Olympian nieces, and have enjoyed watching them play all around the world.

Our children, Lucas and Charlotte, also play water polo for the local 805 Water Polo club, and Lucas plays for Dos Pueblos. Peter and I also played for Dos Pueblos and UCSB in the early days of water polo, and our father played for UCLA way back in the day.

The culture of water polo in Santa Barbara is incredible to say the least. Cathy Neushul (my sister-in-law) has created that culture of excellence, and designed and perfected an incredible method of teaching kids the fundamentals of water polo (for 25 years!). These players very often go on to play in Division I Universities, and even join the Olympic squad. (Santa Barbara had three players in the last Olympics).

Rancho Del Ciervo has had many water polo families over the years.

Editor: You can read about the Neushel's in this June 8 Noozhawk article (<https://bit.ly/noozhawk-neushel>). Go Team USA!

Quiz

Where is this, and what does it say?

(Answer on back page)



Camino Cerralvo Sign is Being Replaced

At 7 PM on February 29, a car crashed into the street sign on Camino Cerralvo at Camino Meleno, shearing it off completely, and leaving it up in a yucca plant on the homeowners' property. Alert neighbors called 911, and a CHP officer came and took a report, getting the license of the car along with the driver's information. (As you can imagine, the car was also severely damaged.)

Two days later, Board members were unable to locate the sign, and an email to neighbors on Camino Cerralvo, Camino Meleno, and Camino Palomera yielded no new information. However, the Board contacted the driver (via the CHP report, after proving that the HOA owns the signs), and filed a claim with the driver's insurer. We presented a quote from the sign company and the insurer paid in full. We expect to have the sign built and installed shortly.

In the future, if damage occurs to street signs, entrance gates, or cameras, **please notify the Board immediately** (see the "Contact Us" section of this newsletter).

Mail Theft and Bank Fraud

There have been several incidents of mail theft in Rancho del Ciervo, resulting in bank fraud. One neighbor reported checks stolen from her mailbox on Camino Meleno last fall, leading to altered checks cashed to an unknown account. Another neighbor (in the middle of Camino Rio Verde) reports "outgoing mail was taken from our mailbox early in July on at least two different days. Numerous checks were taken and there was fraud on at least three different checking accounts, based on the mail that was stolen." A third neighbor, near the top of Camino Rio Verde, reported stolen mail on NextDoor on July 16. (This neighbor has been advised to stop those checks.)

To avoid mail theft, there's the inconvenient method of dropping off mail at the Post Office. Also, there are pens that deter check washing, such as the uni-ball® 207 (but that doesn't prevent your mail from being stolen). Finally, this could be a public policy issue regarding recent changes in postal policing. Here's one article on the subject: <https://bit.ly/rdchoa-postal-police>.

Dues Collection

Through July 7, 132 neighbors (75%) have paid their dues for 2023. Thank you! And a special thank-you to neighbors who donated an additional \$982! Your contributions keep our neighborhood safe and beautiful. For those who have not yet paid, you will see a dues notice inserted with this newsletter. Please mail in your dues using the enclosed envelope, or pay online at www.ranchodelciervo.org/payments. If you have any questions, email treasurer@ranchodelciervo.org, or call Mike Fay at 805-403-6486.

Help Wanted: Newsletter Layout

Jim Balsitis is retiring after many years of laying out our colorful newsletter and coordinating with the print shop. The next newsletter will be his last. If you have page layout skills (or want to learn) and are available to help get three newsletters printed each year, that would be a BIG help. Contact Jim at coyotetrack@me.com to find out more.

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, go paperless, or update your contact information: treasurer@ranchodelciervo.org

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

Quiz answer: The inscription is at the Zettas residence at the top of Camino Manadero. The Greek words "Elpis, pistis, kai agape" mean "hope, faith, and love".



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