

Fall 2024

Newsletter

RANCHO DEL CIERVO HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Tanya Paye, Editor

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Notes from the President

This past year has been relatively uneventful for the Ranch. The landscape at the entrances to the Ranch is maturing, our neighborhood cleanup in April on the lower parts of Camino Meleno is keeping the sightlines for motorists and pedestrians clear, and the Ranchfest in September gave us the opportunity to welcome new homeowners to our community and rekindle old relationships. Along these lines, we'd like to welcome new neighbors Juan and Isabel Diaz (middle of Camino Meleno). The Ranch is a special place to live and we hope you feel that the Board is doing its best to keep it that way.

The biggest issue the Ranch seems to be facing at present is homeowners insurance with some insurers canceling coverage and others declining to write new policies. For those of you who find yourself in this predicament please pay special attention to our general meeting announcement. The Board has arranged for a local insurance broker to come to the meeting to discuss the current market and answer your questions.

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. Please help us out. The commitment is very small but your voice can make a big difference.

Security Incidents

- Several neighbors reported mail being stolen from their mailboxes in the 1300 & 1400 sections of Camino Rio Verde in July/August. The neighbors contacted their banks as soon as possible. If you are a victim of mail theft, contact the U.S. Postal Inspector online or by calling 877-876-2455. You can also file a police report with details of any stolen check(s). As a preventive measure, gel pens with non-washable ink can reduce check fraud, but this still leaves the problem of the mail not getting delivered. This has been a growing occurrence throughout Santa Barbara County so please consider paying bills online. To ensure delivery, mail from inside the post office itself (not the blue box) or from a business.
- On October 2 around 8 PM, a resident of one of the ranches above us saw four individuals dressed in black (one wearing a mask) at the top of Camino Manadero. It's not clear what their intentions were, but when the resident honked his horn, they left the scene in a dark-colored Jeep or Bronco with a soft top. The Sheriff was called and a report submitted. A few days later, our camera operator, Barry Schoer, delivered a thumb drive of video from both entrance cameras to the reporting resident. The videos showed a car that might have been a match. We have no further information about their activity.



RanchFest Highlights

Our main social event, RanchFest, was held on September 22nd. 82 neighbors enjoyed the good food, company, and weather at Kiwanis Meadows, at the far back end of Tucker's Grove.

- The RdCHOA engaged DJ's Catering to provide the delicious chicken and tri-tip BBQ, along with beans, macaroni salad, and bread. The HOA provided snacks, soft drinks, wine, and beer. Neighbors provided sides, salads, & desserts.
- New neighbors were introduced, and earliest-arriving neighbors were honored. This year's honorees included Lois Abbott-Jacobs (early 1973) and Adolph Schulbach (mid-1973).
- Don Davis spoke about the Emergency Net and offered the services of the EN to conduct small-group emergency preparedness meetings.
- Thank you to the Board members who made RanchFest possible by doing the planning, shopping, and setup.
- Special thanks go to Judy and Dan Van Elderen for providing the "shuttle service", and Melissa Renda for procuring the keg beer, a Pilsner "Czech, Please" from Draughtsmen Aleworks.
- Leftover food was donated to Sarah House Hospice
- Thanks to all who brought food and smiles to share!



Our chefs from DJ's Catering



Avery Van Elderen on the shuttle



Bill Pollock, Peter Nordblad, Dolores Pollock, Juan and Isabel Diaz



Rattlesnakes... Again

Veronica Stimson (Camino Rio Verde) and Clay Rushing (Camino Manadero) reported rattlesnake sightings around August 22. Veronica posted on NextDoor (<https://bit.ly/rdchoa-snake>): "Many thanks to Central Coast Snake Services to come out and remove the rattlesnake in our garage on Wednesday night!! Great to have that kind of service available in Santa Barbara." In April, Laurie Dahlin (Camino Rio Verde) texted the picture above to Central Coast Snake Services (<https://www.centralcoastsnareservices.com/>) at 805-401-0811 and they came and removed it.



New Street Sign on Camino Cerralvo

On September 3, Jeremiah LeBeau (pictured left) installed the replacement street sign for the intersection of Camino Cerralvo at Camino Manadero. (The old sign was damaged in an automobile crash in February.) Board member Cory Van Elderen (pictured right) supervised the project, obtained the materials, and arranged for the machining of the lettering. We re-used the lettering designs created by Jim Balsitis in 2014, when he headed the project that replaced all the signs. By doing the work in-house, Cory was able to undercut the initial estimate from the sign company. The cost was completely covered, with room to spare, by the motorist's insurance company. (Barry Schoer was able to obtain the CHP report, by proving that we owned the signs, and he followed up with the driver of the vehicle.)

Obituary: Mae Henderson O'Neill

Our oldest neighbor, Camino Manadero resident Mae Henderson O'Neill, passed away on May 19, just ten days after celebrating her 102nd birthday. Mae was born on May 9, 1922, and raised in Turlock, California. Her plans to go to Berkeley were interrupted by the war. Her first husband, a naval aviator, was killed in a plane crash. She met her second husband, Martin G. "Butch" O'Neill, at a New Year's Eve party and they were married in Long Beach on April 11, 1947. Butch had a distinguished naval career, including command of the aircraft carriers USS Ticonderoga and USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 11 (VAW-11). He received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross (x5), the Air Medal (x14), and the Purple Heart. After his naval career, Butch worked for Raytheon and transferred to Goleta; he passed away in 2004. Meanwhile, Mae was involved in Naval officer wives support groups, organizing and entertaining, being a model of strength during the long deployments. She was a prolific oil painter, did decoupage, founded a gourmet group, and loved flower arranging. She and Butch enjoyed traveling, entertaining, golf and especially playing bridge with their many friends. May is survived by her daughter, Jane Burns, who lives in the Camino Manadero house, and sons Mike and Dave. May she rest in peace.





Sign Quiz

Where is this sign?

It isn't where you think it is. Don't know? For the surprising answer, see the last page.

Bonus question: what kind of bird is hanging out on the sign?

County Helps with Tree Removal

Steve McLaren, at the corner of Camino Meleno and Camino Palomera, had a large eucalyptus tree removed, with the County picking up half the tab. The process started by calling Bill Ortega of public works at 805-681-5692. Steve requested a 50/50 pay program to remove the tree. Mr. Ortega came out, took pictures and bid out to Mark Crane tree service. A contract was sent out for Steve's approval and they scheduled the tree removal. This is the third time Steve has used this program.

Another tree removal occurred at the Ballonoff residence at the top of Camino Rio Verde. County Inspectors agreed that that large sycamore threatened the house, and the County picked up half of the cost.

Generally, if there is a line of trees at the setback, (next to the road, not planted by you) they would be the county's responsibility.

Please note, that If an owner trims a county tree, they are responsible for acquiring a permit. However, if the County does the trimming/removal, they will provide the permit at no cost.

For more information, you can contact Udi Loza, Public Works Maintenance Manager, at 805-568-3336, uloza@countyofsb.org.

Also, note that SoCal Edison will trim any tree near power lines. If you have any such trees, just call SCE to have them come take a look: <https://www.sce.com/safety/power-lines>.



Eucalyptus removal on Camino Cerralvo July 26, 2024

Potential Changes to Goleta's Sphere of Influence

At the September 17 Goleta City Council meeting, Peter Imhof (Planning and Environmental Review Director) and Anne Wells (Advance Planning Manager) gave a presentation to "Provide feedback and direction on potential changes to the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI)." You can find the full report, with maps and public comment, here: <https://bit.ly/rdchoa-sphere>. Also, an article in the SB Independent is available here: <https://bit.ly/SBIndep-sphere>. The proposed expansion of Goleta's SOI includes Rancho del Ciervo, as shown on the last page of the report (referred to therein as Figure 2-4). Currently, the northeast corner of the City of Goleta reaches to the intersection of Cambridge Drive and North Patterson Avenue, directly across from the southwest corner of Rancho del Ciervo.

The SOI defines an area within which future annexations to the City may be considered. To create an SOI, the City and County must come to an agreement, and the agreement must be approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Any development approved by the County within the SOI would then be required to be consistent with the terms established in the SOI agreement (even if the area were not annexed).

The following are excerpts from the presentation:

LAFCO [the Local Agency Formation Commission] is required to adopt a Sphere of Influence (SOI) for incorporated cities...

In 2009, the LAFCO chose to deny the City's application to include the Future City Service Area, as mapped in General Plan Figure 2-4, and instead established a SOI coterminous with the existing City boundary. Future annexation potential was therefore eliminated because property must be located in a SOI to be considered for annexation.

The City Council is under no obligation to reconsider the City's SOI at this time as the City has an established SOI which is coterminous with the City boundary.

Service Delivery. *The City has determined that it has the ability to effectively and efficiently provide municipal-type services to the land areas depicted on the map in Figure 2-4. Further, the City is willing to extend its services to the subject areas, provided that there is interest by area residents in having the City as a primary service provider.*

Future Boundary Changes. *The City of Goleta places the highest importance on self-determination by the voters and property owners within the areas identified in Figure 2-4 as to the appropriate governmental organization for the areas. Since some of the areas are "inhabited," as defined in LAFCO law, any future boundary change would require approval by a majority of the voters within a subject territory. The City encourages property owners and residents within these areas that may be interested in consideration of a boundary change to advise the City at the appropriate time. The City will provide appropriate assistance to help evaluate the merits of possible changes in governmental organization.*

General Meeting: January 7, 2025, 7 PM

In an experimental move, the Board has scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Rancho del Ciervo Homeowners Association for January instead of December, to avoid presumably busy schedules. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 PM, in the media room of Community Covenant Church, 5070 Cathedral Oaks Rd** (same location as last year). No special votes are on the agenda, other than the election of Board members.

The meeting will also be offered on Google meet at this link: https://bit.ly/rdchoa_meet . You can view the meeting in popular browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Edge, and Safari. On a phone, you should install the Google Meet app.

Board Members up for re-election to 2-year terms, and current office:

- Allan Hunt (President)
- Elizabeth Nordblad (Secretary)
- Cory Van Elderen
- Michael Petrich

New Nominees up for election to 2-year terms (as of this writing)

- Dennis Gilles, Camino Cerralvo
- Tanya Paye, Camino Rio Verde

Continuing Board Members whose term expires at the end of 2025, and current office:

- Barry Schoer (Vice-President)
- Mike Fay (Treasurer)

Board Members not standing for re-election (thank you for serving!):

If you are interested in serving on the board, contact Allan Hunt at ahunt@akelainc.com or 805-448-5272.

Allan Hunt will describe the year's accomplishments, and Mike Fay will show the year's income and expenditures, along with next year's proposed budget.

Our **guest speakers**, Michael Esparza and colleagues from Brown and Brown, will discuss the **homeowners insurance market**.

Refreshments will be served.

Quiz Answers: The sign is in the backyard of Laura Jesperson's house, at the corner of Camino Palomera and Camino Cerralvo. The bird is a Cooper's hawk.

Thank you for reading!



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