



Note from the President

These past few months have brought many exciting things to our neighborhood. We started our monthly Fruit Exchange & Grab, received our recognition as a FireWise Community, and had another successful community Clean Up Day!

I am excited to announce that our HOA is used by the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as an example to other communities for our organization efforts in regards to emergencies and wildfire preparedness. While we can't remove 100% of the fire risk from our community, it is our responsibility to do what we can to reduce risk whenever possible. The fruits of our labor have already begun to show and we hope that in the midst of uncertainty, you will be able to breathe a sigh of relief when you realize how committed we are to keeping our community and neighbors safe.

I've witnessed neighbors having new interactions as a result of the board's mission to expand socialization throughout the neighborhood. I have also enjoyed the privilege of meeting and connecting with residents at our recent events. Yes, our neighborhood is beautiful but what really makes it special is our residents. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

The board and I continue to strive to live up to our unofficial motto of "we're not that kind of HOA".

With enthusiasm,

Tanya Paye

Inside this issue:

FireWise - 2

SCE Vegetation
Management - 3

Rattlesnake
Removal - 3

Street Sign
Improvement - 3

Clean Up Day - 4

Tidbits - 4

RanchFest - 4

New Neighbors - 5

Obituaries - 5

Fruit Exchange - 6



Kate Furlong (SB Fire Safe Council), Tanya Paye (President), & Grant Aaron (FireWise Lead)

FireWise

We are delighted to announce that Rancho del Ciervo is a recognized “FireWise” community. On July 3, 2025, we received our FireWise recognition. This means that our 3-year plan has been accepted. The plan describes actions to make our neighborhood safer from wildfires. You can view our certificate and plan at <https://ranchodelciervo.org/firewise/>.

The HOA Board sent out an email on July 29th that included a link to an online survey to help understand our level of preparedness and also get important feedback from residents. We ask that each household complete the quick survey prior to August 22nd.

What is Firewise?

Firewise is a program created by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that helps communities reduce the risk of wildfire damage by promoting safety practices and creating defensible spaces around homes. It encourages collaboration among residents to assess wildfire risks and implement strategies to protect their properties. In Santa Barbara, the FireWise program is administered by the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council (SB Fire Safe Council), a local non profit organization. FireWise recognition is for the entire community, and individual resident participation is not enforced, though is highly recommended. We have been informed that the FireWise recognition ‘may’ help with home insurance carriers (discounts and avoiding cancellation).

On May 25, 2025 board members Tanya Paye and Grant Aaron joined the team from the SB FireSafe Council and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department to conduct a preliminary risk assessment of Rancho del Ciervo. Following this, SB FireSafe Council developed a 3-year plan describing actions to make our neighborhood safer from wildfires. The plan was reviewed and approved by the board on June 17, 2025, and the application was formally submitted. The formal approval occurred on July 3, 2025.

On June 17, 2025, we hosted a very informative presentation by Kate Furlong, the Community Resilience Lead for the Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council. Information from the meeting is available on our website.

For more information about FireWise you can visit the SB FireSafe Council website:

<https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/>

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for a free, private, home hardening consultation:

<https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/evaluation/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to our FireWise contacts:

Grant Aaron (grant@grantaaron.com)
or
Tanya Paye (rdelciervo@gmail.com).

Southern California Edison Vegetation Management Services

SCE provides a handful of vegetation management services in order to ensure our compliance with state regulations. These include:

- Pruning of vegetation near high voltage power lines
- Removal/trimming of vegetation around select poles (homeowner approval required)
- Weed removal/mowing on SCE owned properties

SCE can also provide additional services on a case by case basis depending on select criteria. Homeowners can reach out to Janice Marinucci (Janice.J.Marinucci@sce.com) in order to request additional services such as:

- Tree removals under or adjacent to powerlines
- Tree removals for hazardous trees that may fall/impact lines
- Partial tree removals to assist homeowner private removals on trees near powerlines

For more information, visit <https://www.sce.com/outages-safety/stay-safe/power-lines-trees>.



Rattlesnake Removal

Several neighbors have reported rattlesnakes on their properties in recent months. We are lucky to have a non-profit service provider in our area to handle removal of rattlesnakes on residential properties safely and efficiently.

Central Coast Snake Services was founded in 2019 by Emily Taylor, Ph. D., a biologist and professor at Cal Poly. The organization is 100% funded by donations. Each technician is paid \$100 for their services per call.

If you see a rattlesnake, please call or text Central Coast Snake Services at (805) 401-0811 to request a safe and humane removal.

Please consider making a donation if you receive removal services to help them continue their much needed services in our community.



Street Sign Improvements

After a motor vehicle accident caused the sign at Camino Meleno & Camino Cerralvo to be replaced, the board voted to recondition the remaining streets signs throughout the neighborhood.

Jorge Pelcastre (pictured above) is seen rejuvenating a street sign.



Sadie Van Elderen, Avery Van Elderen, Amber Castillo,
& Sofia Castillo

Spring Clean Up Day

Motorists and walkers at the base of Camino Meleno were met with a merry band of garden-tool-wielding neighbors on the morning of May 17, for the spring cleanup day. The event, scheduled from 9 AM to noon, featured early-bird “raker” Rebekkah Bardakos at 7:30 AM, and stalwart workers continuing through 3 PM. Volunteers were fortified in the morning with doughnuts & coffee donated by Judi Van Elderen. Later on lunch was provided to volunteers by the HOA.

Three trailer loads of green waste, totaling 5320 lbs, were taken to the County Transfer lot in Cory’s trailer. The result: the entrance area around Camino Meleno and the green space along Camino Rio Verde, were much tidier and less prone to fire.

Event organizers were Wendy Fereday, Cory Van Elderen, and Tanya Paye. Participants included Eirik Paye, Dennis and Julie Gilles, Rebekkah Bardakos, Allan and Kathy Hunt, Mike Fay, Judi, Nora, and Avery Van Elderen (and their friends Amber and Sofia Castillo), Patti and Steve Beal, Gary Backer, Andy Ribbens.

The HOA will be hosting Clean Up Days throughout the year as well as supporting volunteers who perform clean-up duties the rest of the year.

If you are interested in joining the Beautification Committee or volunteering some of your time or resources to keeping our neighborhood beautiful and safe, please send a message to rdelciervo@gmail.com.

tidbits

- Please keep your dogs on a leash while you are out enjoying the neighborhood. Not only does this help to keep residents, visitors and dogs safe, but it’s the law.
- Please dispose of dog waste in your own residential trash receptacle. We’ve received numerous reports of dog waste bags being thrown in residents’ trash cans/dumpsters, as well as being left on the side of the road. Dog waste left on the ground, even in biodegradable bags, can pollute our creeks with bacteria that is harmful to people, pets and marine life. Commit with us to Close the Poop Loop!
- Several residents have reported items missing while out of town or away from home. The security cameras at the entrances can help to capture footage of vehicles and people entering the neighborhoods. However, for individual properties, we recommend obtaining your own security camera system. We encourage you to ask your neighbors for system recommendations based on your needs and preferences.

RanchFest is coming!

Our annual RanchFest is just around the corner.

- Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025
- Time: 3 pm - 6 pm
- Location: Tucker’s Grove Park - Area 5
- Residents/Owners Admission is free. Suggested donation of \$10/pp for guests.
- Donations of Side Dishes & Desserts are greatly appreciated.
- Please email us at rdelciervo@gmail.com if you have suggestions for encouraging socialization at the event such as group games, trivia, etc.

RSVP by Sept 21 to rdelciervo@gmail.com or 805-364-3005

New Neighbors

Parents, Grant and Orly Aaron, and big sister, Eden, welcome Lilien Maia Aaron, born June 20, 2025



Obituaries



Arnold Schweigert
1931-2025

Our Camino Meleno neighbor Arnold Schweigert passed away on March 2, 2025. You can read his beautiful [obituary in the Independent](#). The home has been in the family for over 50 years, and will stay that way, as daughter Sara Rickman contemplates moving in with her husband after they retire. Arnold loved Santa Barbara, especially his home where he and his wife Joan raised their family, and was blessed to be able to remain there in his final days.



Sheri Aleksander
1954-2025

Sheri passed peacefully at home (on Camino Rio Verde) on July 12, surrounded by her loving family.

Donations in Sheri's honor/memory may be made to the APBD Research Foundation: <https://www.apbdrf.org/quick-donate>



Fruit Exchange & Grab

As Rancho Del Ciervo residents we are fortunate to live in an area where agriculture is abundant! It's no surprise that we are surrounded by a beautiful avocado and lemon ranch. Many home owners grow fruits and vegetables at home, and from experience we know that there's often way more leftover than we consume.

Why not put this to good use?

That's exactly what we did with a monthly fruit exchange and grab hosted on the first Saturday of the month. Everyone is invited - even if you don't have anything to bring. It's a great opportunity get outside, socialize, and meet new neighbors. At the end of the day if there are any leftovers we donate leftovers to Food Bank of Santa Barbara County, an organization that helps feed less fortunate residents in the county.

When: First Saturday of each month. A reminder email is sent out a few days before. If you are not getting the emails, please contact us at rdelciervo@gmail.com to ensure that you are added to the email list.

Where: Short street located across from Camino Meleno

Thank you for reading!



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