

spring Knolls News

2025

Murrieta, CA

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2025



KNITTING NICELY: Spring Knolls resident Linda Neumann poses with three firefighters at Fire Station 3 on Whitewood Road who are wearing scarves she knitted for them. Linda knitted 20 scarves, and many were distributed to other stations.

Scams, fire safety, election focus of '25 annual meeting DA investigator to field scam questions

A veteran fraud investigator will discuss scams against seniors at the Spring Knolls Association's Jan. 11 Annual meeting.

Michael Stalnecker is a retired Los Angeles Police detective who worked with the U.S. Secret Service on fighting internet scams. Since July 2022, he has been a fraud investigator for the Riverside County District Attorney's office.



Michael Stalnecker

Stalnecker will field scam-related questions during the Annual meeting, open to all Spring Knolls residents.

The meeting also will include the Board's 2024 election result, as well as a report from Alan Hanson, chair of the

SK Assn.

Annual Meeting

- **When:** Starts noon Jan. 11 with pizza lunch; meeting at 1.
- **Where:** Eaker Hall
- **Who:** Speakers - DA investigator Michael Stalnecker on scams; Alan Hanson on Firewise.

See **Annual meeting**, page 3

We're not kidding; this is for you

Being informed and prepared is a great way to start off a new year!

That being said, the Board of Directors invites all Spring Knolls residents — including renters — to attend our annual meeting beginning at noon on Saturday, Jan. 11.

This is an opportunity for us all to be informed about scams and fraud.

The start time has been moved up to noon to accommodate a free pizza lunch for you, after which we'll kick off the meeting at 1 p.m. with Michael Stalnecker, Senior Investi-

gator for the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. He will enlighten us all about scams and fraud.

The Board has had numerous reports of scammers calling, emailing, and even showing up at our residents' front doors soliciting. The best way to help yourself is to be prepared and learn how to report these events and how to stay tuned



Sandy Vollmer
SK president

See **SK president**, page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- Reminders about dues, resident forms, Real IDs, all in **HodgePodge** / 9



spring knolls 2024 directors



• *President.*
Sandy Vollmer
(951) 319-6749



• *Vice President / Architectural*
Jan Towers
(951) 616-4443



• *Secretary / Senior Advocate / Program administrator*
Holli Hanson
(661) 972-0799



• *Treasurer*
Sharon Kilpatrick
(951) 285-7800



• *Director, Rules, Regs, Policies and Procedures.*
Shawnee Miller
(951) 677-6862



• *Residency Data & FOB Administrator.* **Candy Lee**
(951) 239-0669



• *Director: Facilities*
Ron Sieber
(951) 541-6276



• *Director: Common Grounds, Streets:* **Debby Adelhelm**
(760) 717-9876



• *Director: Compliance*
Charlene Kirkwood
(951) 348-0042

support Leaders

- *Spring Knolls Emergency Response Team:* (SKERT) **Alan Hanson (714) 493-1709**
- *Caretaker:* **Lisa McKinney (951) 212-8781**
- *SK common grounds:* **Miguel Enriquez**
- *Spring Knolls Boosters:* **Debby Adelhelm, President, (760) 717-9876**
- *Library Coordinator:* **Karen Jacobs (951) 265-6292**
- *Spring Knolls News:* **Ted Vollmer (951) 319-6749; tscjnews@gmail.com**
- *Spring Knolls News, flyer, delivery team:* **Debby Adelhelm, Dorothy Vaughn**
- *New or replacement trash cans:* **Waste Management, 866 909-4458**

SKA president

From page 1

into the latest fraud tactics in play. With door-to-door solicitors the Murrieta Police Department wants you to call them immediately when the solicitors are at your door. That way the police can get to our community in time to catch them, question them and even arrest them if warranted.

The Murrieta Police Department is already aware that our community is being harassed by solicitors and fraudulent scammers as well. As a Board we report what we hear to the police: the company's name that's soliciting and what they're selling. But it's up to you to report to the police when the solicitors are at your door. The police require first hand reporting!

In individual reports, your board members will also tell you in next month's edition what they did in 2024 and let you know what's ahead for 2025.

A few 2024 Board project highlights include:

1. New trash collection system by Waste Management that included separation of trash into recycled, organic and regular waste.
2. Refresh/rehab projects of Eaker Hall and the Board office.
3. Rainbow Bridge Garden Project
4. At least one monthly Board a quarter was held at 6 p.m. All others began at 9:30 a.m.
5. Maintenance on 3 streets and the clubhouse parking lot completed.
6. Firewise Community Program approved; followed by acceptance into the program in December.
7. Infrastructure repairs by SoCal

Edison and Eastern Municipal Water District as problems were cited by alert residents.

8. HOA dues payments are now accepted through Zelle as an option. Checks and money orders will continue to be accepted. If you'd like help setting up a Zelle account, come to the office on a Friday morning and Kim, our bookkeeper will set you up.

9. Board Executive Sessions to resolve issues. Violation issues: underage, neighbor to neighbor disputes, harassment claims, etc. And, in some cases, the issues required the Board to work with outside: Murrieta Code Enforcement, Riverside County Adult Protective Services and the Murrieta Police Department.

On behalf of your 2024 Board, I want to wish you all a healthy, happy and successful New Year!

And, finally... A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Director of Compliance, Charlene Kirkwood, as she completes her term. Compliance is a difficult position and requires someone who can tactfully work with a variety of personali-



ties. Charlene has been a tremendous asset and contributor to our Board since joining it in August 2022. She's agreed to

serve as a Support Leader for the time being.

Charlene's shoes will be difficult to fill. She has been a longtime contributor to our community as a Booster volunteer and will be continuing her work with them, and also has offered to help in the library. So we'll be seeing you around Charlene; and hats off to you!

Spring Knolls Board report for Dec. 18, 2024

The regular December board meeting was canceled. The next regular meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, in the Spring Knolls Library.

Spring Knolls Association (A 55+ age-restricted community)
38441 Via La Paloma, Murrieta, CA, 92563 / 951 677-6862; 951 600-1553 (fax)



Photos by Ted Vollmer

UTILITY CHECK: EMWD crew members on Dec. 19, look for gas and electric lines before replacing a leaking Orangeburg water pipe with copper piping. The leak was spotted when water seeped through part of Via Playa Via Rey on Dec. 17 after ground above the pipe became saturated.

Aging SK pipe break wasn't the first; won't be the last

A second water pipe leak in about a year closed a section of Via Playa del Rey for several hours on Dec. 19, as repairs were made.

One worker said that more leaks will likely occur in Spring Knolls due to now obsolete and brittle piping installed when Spring Knolls was developed in the early 1970s.

An Eastern Metropolitan Water District (EMWD) crew worker told the



BROKEN PIPE: (Left) An EMWD worker holds a section of Orangeburg piping that broke under Via Playa del Rey.

Spring Knolls News that what is known as Orangeburg piping is breaking in many older areas and in each case, repairs call for the damaged piping to be replaced by copper or PVC piping.

Orangeburg piping was popular between 1860 and the early 1970s because it was a cheap alternative to galvanized metal piping that was often in short supply such as during World War II. It was light weight and crews liked it because it could be easily cut with a handsaw.

Made of wood pulp with liquefied coal tar pitch and

See Water leak, page 4

Annual meeting

From page 1

Spring Knolls Emergency Response Team (SKERT), on the recent designation of Spring Knolls as a Firewise community.

The designation may help homeowners reduce their insurance costs if they show they have worked to protect their homes. (See Page 5)

Stalnecker was invited to address the meeting because a number of reported scams and illegal solicitations have been reported in Spring Knolls.

HOA rules have long prohibited solicitations within the Spring Knolls community.

“With the recent uptick in door-to-door solicitors, internet and phone scams, the Board felt that this presentation would benefit all of our residents,” board president Sandy



HAVE YOU VOTED? (Above) The official ballot box for the 2025 Spring Knolls board election in Eaker Hall is filling up, but state law requires enough votes be cast or the election will need to be repeated. Members who haven't voted are asked to do so before the noon, Jan. 11 deadline.

Vollmer said. “The latest fraud practices are definitely a topic we all need to stay up to date about.”

The Annual meeting in Eaker Hall will begin at noon with a free pizza lunch. At about 1 p.m. the meeting

will be called to order.

At that time, Inspector of Elections Yvonne Ruiz will ask if there are any final votes to be turned in for the directors election. Three incumbents, Holli Hanson, Candy Lee and Sandy Vollmer, are on the ballot. There were four openings.

Yvonne will later announce the winners. All three ran unopposed for four seats, so the outcome may seem to have been determined. It is important, however, to remember that unless enough members return their ballots, state law requires the election process be repeated to ensure a “quorum” of voters cast ballots.

Members who have yet to vote are asked to either send in their ballots in a pre-stamped election envelope sent to their homes, or place them in the official locked Spring Knolls ballot box that is just inside Eaker Hall. Yvonne Ruiz has the only key.

Water leak

From page 3

asbestos, the Orangeburg pipe (named after the New York community where it was made) was expected to last a maximum of about 50 years, but on average lasted half that long. Its use was halted in 1972, two years after Spring Knolls was established. Many new building codes no longer allow Orangeburg, and when found it must be upgraded with a substitute.

The recent leak, across the street from the one in late 2023, occurred near where the Orangeburg water pipe connected to a home was attached to a main brass water pipe. Every home's water pipe along Via Playa del Rey is hooked to the brass pipe, the worker added.

After workers determined that new copper pipe wouldn't interfere with other utilities, it was installed to replace the Orangeburg variety. The crew member said that such leaks of-

ten result from various factors including earth movements.

EMWD repairs are made after a leak is detected, which often happens when leaking water has saturated ground under the street before seeping through the asphalt above it.

The previous leak was detected by resident Lori Miller on Nov. 20, 2023. EMWD workers repaired it nine days later, shortly before one said a dangerous sink hole might have happened had the leak not been reported.

Spring Knolls *Free* Classifieds

HIGH END BOOTS: Size 8-1/2 W. Asking \$50 or best offer for these \$110 boots, used only twice but I can't use them because they're too wide. Call Gloria @ 951 677-3820



REALTOR: Paula Rodig, A Knolls resident Realtor. Call or text 949 324-5141. Stanfle Realty, DRE# 01731868.

FREE HEADBOARD: Vintage mahogany California King headboard. 80" X 47" Call Barbara @ 760 535-5403



FREE: Desk/table 79" x 39-1/4" deep, 30" h. Brown & black steel legs. Desk snaps together for easy transportation. Good for work bench, laminate top, modern design. It could be used as a dining room table *Also available:* chair and glass for use on carpet. Lynn @ 951 355-3522.



HAIRCUTS / BEAUTY SERVICES: Offering hair cut and other beauty services in your home for your convenience (female & male). I'm a licensed cosmetologist with more than 18 years' experience. Call Nancy @ 951 414-9554

LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING: No deep cleaning. Contact Sindy @ 562-879-6988.

TOYOTA TUNDRA: 2003 Tundra, excellent shape, 119,000 miles. Asking \$11,500 or best offer. Call Sindy @ 562 879-6988.



CURTAINS, AREA RUGS:

Curtain sets, \$15 each pair. In beautiful shape. Panels are 84" X 48." Four sets but you can buy one or more. Machine washable. **Rugs:** 1. Gray/white diamond pattern, 5' x 7'(\$15); 2. 5' x 2' runner (\$7); and 3. 3' x 2' rug (\$5).Call Marla @ 951 694-2874.



CAMPER VAN: "Fun and freedom" 2021 Dodge road-trek Zion SRT camper van. Only 5,000 miles! Pristine condition. Come see it for yourself. Asking, \$99,000. Call Carole at 518 495-0825.



Spring Knolls News Classifieds

If you have items to sell, wish to buy, or are offering or seeking service, email ad(s) to the *Spring Knolls News* at tscjnews@gmail.com by the 15th of the month, or send to the office at 38441 Via La Paloma, Murrieta, CA, 92563. Ads are for Spring Knolls residents. They should include brief descriptions of items and a phone number. Photo(s) may be included but their use is not guaranteed. The Spring Knolls News is not responsible for the content or accuracy of any ad, and reserves the right to decline any for any reason. Questions? Call 951 319-6749.

SKERT News

Now we'll take our next Firewise steps

Great news all - the Firewise application has been approved! One important aspect of this is to send a copy of the certificate, and the city announcement that its now a Fire Risk Reduction Community to your insurance company for a possible premium reduction. Copies of both are on the next two bonus pages.



Alan Hanson
SKERT chair

I'll explore getting a grant for more tools for the community. We're also tracking those who have worked to "harden" their homes, making them more fire resistant. Architectural Director **Jan Towers** is giving Firewise literature to those working on their homes.

Fire officials send kudos; say SK serves as 'model' for city efforts

Alan,

I want to congratulate you on leading the charge to have the Spring Knolls HOA complete the criteria to become a nationally recognized Firewise USA Community. With the work of your team, we now have a model in the city of Murrieta of what can be accomplished when residents work together to strive to make their neighborhood more resilient to the impacts of wildfire.

I hope you do not mind us sharing this information widely. I want to highlight the hard work your team put into this process and the benefits it will bring to your neighborhood.

Bernard Molloy II, Murrieta Fire Chief

Congratulations! We are incredibly proud of Spring Knolls. Under your leadership Alan, your community consistently demonstrates a commitment to preparedness. This Firewise designation is a well-deserved recognition of your hard work and dedication!

Rachel Hollinger
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator
City of Murrieta

Editor's note: Below is an excerpted letter to Alan Hanson, SKERT chairman, about Spring Knolls' acceptance into the Firewise program. At right, a copy of the acceptance Certificate.



Dear Alan,

Congratulations on successfully completing the criteria to become a nationally recognized Firewise USA® program participant!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome **Spring Knolls HOA** to the growing number of Firewise sites, where residents throughout the nation are working to reduce their wildfire risks.



If you've requested Firewise USA® street signs, we will be fulfilling those requests as soon as possible.

You're encouraged to sign up for NFPA's free monthly electronic newsletter, NFPA Network... and choose Wildfire as your area of interest to ensure you are getting the latest wildfire safety information. Utilizing the Firewise portal to enter outreach, education and risk reduction activities as they're completed, will make meeting the annual renewal requirements an easy process.

Outreach and educational resources are available at no charge with shipping included and can be ordered through our online catalog or the portal. You'll also find information, online trainings, research fact sheets and access to webinars at Firewise.org.

Please consider sharing the myriad of available wildfire resources with your neighbors, in your community newsletter, or other neighborhood communication channels.

We're here to provide information and assist with all your programmatic needs. We look forward to working with you and learning about your community's risk reduction successes.

Sincerely, The Firewise USA® Team

Firewise at a glance:

- **What:** Firewise USA is a 22-year-old community program led by the National Fire Protection Assn.
- **Who:** Homeowners work to safeguard homes and mitigate wildfire risks.
- **Where:** Firewise began in 2002 with 12 neighborhoods. There are now more than 1,000 Firewise communities in 40 states.
- More information. www.nfpa.org

2024

NATIONAL FIREWISE USA® PROGRAM
CERTIFICATE
OF RECOGNITION

The National Fire Protection Association acknowledges that

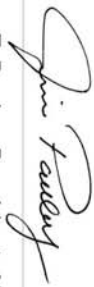
Spring Knolls HOA

located in

Murrieta

CA

has successfully completed the Firewise USA® program's annual requirements for 2024 and is a participating site in good standing throughout the 2025 calendar year.



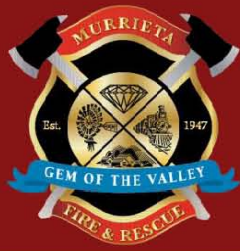
James T. Pauley, President, NFPA



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

September 23, 2024

Date Issued



PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF MURRIETA
FIRE & RESCUE
murrietafire.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: June 20, 2024

Murrieta Receives Fire Risk Reduction Community Designation

Murrieta, CA - Murrieta Fire & Rescue (MFR) is proud to announce that the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has designated the City of Murrieta as a Fire Risk Reduction Community. This critical designation recognizes MFR's ongoing commitment to wildfire preparedness and mitigation efforts within the City of Murrieta. When the list goes into effect on July 1, 2024, Murrieta will be one of only 11 cities statewide and the sole fire agency in Riverside County to receive this designation, and it is valid for two years.

“In Murrieta, we are committed to doing everything to provide our residents with the safest city possible”, said Fire Chief Bernie Molloy. “We have already been recognized as an accredited fire agency, proving that we have a fire department held to the highest national standards. With this designation, we have proven that we will also take every step to ensure our residents have the lowest insurance rates available.”

Fire Marshal Doug Strosnider shared, “Our residents, like most of the state, face uncertainty with keeping or obtaining fire insurance in areas the State has designated as being in a ‘Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.’ Obtaining the designation of a ‘Fire Risk Reduction Community’ is currently the most impactful way to assist our residents with insurance challenges. Conducting annual vegetation inspections throughout these designated areas and noticing property owners when we discover violations is another way we engage our citizens to reduce fire hazards. We share a responsibility to prevent wildfires and recognize that we can work on solutions involving property owners to create a safer community. Let Murrieta be the example and demonstrate what can be accomplished when we work hand in hand with our community to address our challenges with positive outcomes.”

Earning the Fire Risk Reduction Community designation brings significant benefits. Residents and businesses should see reductions in future insurance premiums as the California Department of Insurance has mandated insurance providers recognize this designation as community-level mitigation that must be reflected in the rate offered. (Title 10, § 2644.9(d)). Additionally, the city will gain access to increased grant opportunities for fire mitigation projects, such as fuel reduction and public education initiatives. Furthermore, the designation allows MFR to develop and implement targeted fire safety programs, fostering a more prepared community. Overall, this recognition brings heightened awareness to the importance of individual responsibility in wildfire prevention efforts and has a tangible impact on the residents of Murrieta.

MFR remains dedicated to safeguarding Murrieta residents' and businesses' lives and property. This designation strengthens our ability to achieve that mission and build a more fire-safe community.

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dawn Morrison, Murrieta Fire & Rescue PIO
41825 Juniper St, Murrieta, CA 92562
(951) 461-6154 | dmorrison@murrietaca.gov



Holiday Party has lots to smile about



Photos by Ted Vollmer
(Top) The Spring Knolls Boosters sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" at the Dec. 7 Holiday Party. (Left) Six-year-old Gloriann explains to Santa and Mrs. Claus her Christmas wish list, while her brother Dominic, 4, with a Christmas light string, grins happily at the camera.

SK Boosters Treasurer needed:

The Spring Knolls Boosters are seeking someone to be their new treasurer. If interested, please contact Boosters president Debbie Adelhelm at 760 717-9876.

Veterans lunch earns thumbs up from attendees

Dear Boosters,

Thank you so much for the delicious dinner we were served on Nov. 12. We really enjoyed it.

Jim always said it was his honor to serve our country for 20 years. He is a very proud veteran.

Jim & Dorothy Wirt
Golf Knolls

Dear Boosters,

We enjoyed the Veterans Day celebration – great food and the Strummers entertainment and sing along. We appreciated all you did for us.

Frank & Rafaela Wulf
Warm Spring Knolls

Spring Knolls Boosters,

I think what I say would be said for every veteran who attended your lunch.

Thank you for thinking of us and preparing an amazing home style meal, exactly what a vet returning home from a foreign assignment, just what mom or grandma would have fixed.

The Ukulele Band was an unexpected surprise. They were good and entertaining.

Yea, Boosters! You did an amazing job again this year.

Charlie Parker
Golf Knolls

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Guadalupe Arangure
Gloria Castaneda
Ed Carey
Sylvia Cervantes
Mike Deshane
Robert Guerra, Jr.
Sonia Guerra
Charlene Kirkwood

George Larson
Gisela Moll
Betty Niggemann
Larry Price
Marvin Prohofsky
Rick Roguemore
Al Salazar
Kay Schmidt

Jerry Scruggs
Pam Spence
Ann Spitz
Evelyn Totten
Katie Turner
Tony Uro
Ninik Walford
Susan Williams
Eileen Zelda



Roberto & Aurora Chavez
David & Nancy Maurice
Donald & Marie Whitfield

Are we missing anyone here?

If you know of anyone we've missed for this page, contact us at 951 319-6749 or email tscjnews@gmail.com

Dec. 7, 2024 Holiday Party: Chili, desserts, Jolly old elf



Holiday cheer before the end of the year!

(Clockwise from the top) The Boosters prepare to sing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" shortly before serving up homemade chili, mac 'n' cheese and dessert. ...One of several decorated trees added to the festive atmosphere... Mary Lou Morgan and Lori Miller prepare the bake sale table in Eaker Hall.... Lyrics to various holiday songs are displayed on a TV screen ... Alan Hanson readies his camera for photos with the Clauses. Clauses. Valentina, 8, poses with Santa and Mrs. Claus after presenting them with the drawings of them that Valentina colored during the party..

Photos by Ted Vollmer

SK's '24: Trash sorting, senior resources, fire safety

Other highlights: Booster events, on line innovations, more ducklings

January: At the Jan. 13, 2024 Annual Meeting, Murrieta analyst Isaac Bravo fields numerous questions about new trash sorting procedures. Trash payments will shift to Waste Management.

Five incumbent board members: **Ron Sieber, Debby Adelhelm, Shawnee Miller, Sharon Kilpatrick** and **Jan Towers** are reelected to new two-year terms.

February: The Association board OKs a "refresh" of Eaker Hall to include new paint, ceiling and lighting, as well as décor.

Ducks reappear at the Spring Knolls clubhouse, emerging on April 1 with their latest brood (13). Overhead wiring was installed to discourage their return.

Preparations are made for an April 6 Senior Resource Fair led by **Holli Hanson** who, with **Lori Miller**, line up more than a dozen service providers.

The Boosters hold a Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 10 in Eaker Hall.

March: The new trash system begins on March 7 with organic waste (food and yard waste). Recycling pickups are expected weeks later. Residents sign up for Waste Management's senior discount payment plan.



On March 9, volunteers fan out from the clubhouse to install free long-term smoke detectors at nearly 170 homes. Organized by the Spring Knolls Emergency Response Team (SKERT), the event includes volunteers from area companies, the Murrieta Fire Department and American

Red Cross.

April: On April 6, a Senior Resource Fair, featuring 16 providers, attracts many residents from across the Knolls to learn about housing, health, hospice and other services. Its success will lead to a second fair in 2025, says organizer Holli Hanson.



May: The 2024 Friday night BBQs begin on May 24 and will run through Aug. 30. Heeding inflation concerns, Boosters hold prices at 2023 levels.

June: Spring Knolls becomes a recycling community with blue-lidded trash containers for cans, plastics, paper and cardboard are on the streets for the first time on June 6. The association reimburses residents part of their dues that went to trash collection because of the payment shift to Waste Management.

The annual Knolls-wide Community Garage Sale is held on June 29.

July: About 40 golf carts and vintage cars and trucks join the July 4th Parade through Spring Knolls and Warm Spring Knolls. Army veteran **Raphael Cervantes** is parade grand marshal.



SKERT moves to make Spring Knolls a Firewise community that will lead to "hardening" their homes and yards against wildfires, and perhaps lower their insurance rates.

August: The HOA board OKs an ad hoc committee to help Spring Knolls qualify as a Firewise community. The board also announces it will seek nonprofit status to help qualify the HOA for tax breaks and grants.

September: The Boosters 2nd Hand Treasures Sale on Sept. 27-28 draws hundreds of bargain hunters for everything from clothing to holiday decorations. The two day sale's proceeds go to annual events and projects.

Spring Knolls resident **Laurie Hoskins** is featured in a **Mary Lou Morgan** profile that focuses on her love of ukuleles.

Spring Knolls alerts residents that they can sign up to receive most HOA documents through their email instead of from so called snail mail. More than 200 residents have made the shift, resulting in potential annual savings of thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs.

October: A Wild fire fair organized by SKERT is held Oct. 5, featuring fire-fighting experts. The Eaker Hall event attracts residents from all three units. For nearly two hours, the experts advise residents about how to protect their homes and themselves from wildfires.



At the Oct. 19 General Meeting, it's announced that three board incumbents will run for reelection: **Holli Hanson, Candy Lee** and **Sandy Vollmer**.

The Boosters hold a Pizza Party in Eaker Hall on Oct. 11 and a Halloween Party on Oct. 26.

And resident **Peggy Callahan**, who came to the United States in 1946, is featured in a **Mary Lou Morgan** profile of her nearly 80 years in the U.S. as she approaches her 100th birthday.

November: The Boosters' annual tribute to Knolls veterans draws more than 70 guests to Eaker Hall. As a prelude to the event, **Mary Lou Morgan** profiles Air Force veteran and former HOA president **Dennis Dillon** in the *Spring Knolls News*.



December: The Association announces that residents now may pay their dues online with the service known as Zelle. The service is a payment option. Checks and money orders will still be accepted; cash won't be.

On Dec. 7, the Boosters hold a Holiday Party, the organization's final 2024 event.

Late December, Spring Knolls qualifies for the national Firewise program that city fire officials say will serve as a model for other Murrieta communities. (see page 5)

Time for a quiet *Shhhout* Out about *your* library

As places designed to stay quiet, it can be frustrating when you can't shout out about good libraries. So, we'll try a quiet way to tell you about the Spring Knolls Library.

As libraries go, ours in the Spring Knolls Clubhouse is like the little engine that could. Though small, those working in it are always working hard to improve it. And we think we have.

One thing, however, hasn't changed. You may still borrow library materials on our honor system. There's nothing to fill out and no return deadlines. For a simple guide to our library, including our color coding system, pick up a free Spring Knolls bookmark from the Library's duck (shown above).

So, without *shhhouting*, here's a list of features we've added since your library was remodeled five years ago:

- **More than 500 books**, mostly best sellers, are now in our Large Print collection.
- **A DVD tower** of nearly 800 films that offers free popular movies that often aren't available on paid streaming services like Netflix, Hulu or On demand. There also is a children's DVD section.
- **Audio books**. Small now, but our collection will grow with your donations.
- **Two biography sections**. One features entertainers, scientists, military heroes and decision makers. A second one is about presidents and first ladies.
- **A classic novel section** featuring writings by authors such as Verne, Twain, Hemingway, Steinbeck and many more.
- **Free health, cooking, landscaping and craft books** in two clubhouse gym areas.
- **Several "little libraries"** around Spring Knolls with books you can keep.
- **Several bookcases** outside with religious, coffee table and paperback books you can take, and don't need to return.



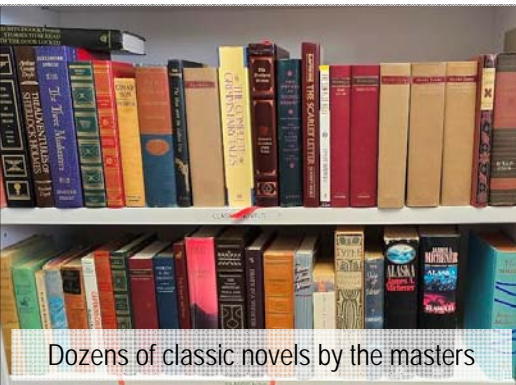
A Presidents, First Ladies collection



Get a free bookmark about your library



Your library has thousands of novels, nonfiction and Large Print books; hundreds of films, dozens of audio books. And in the gym scores of free health and cooking books.



Dozens of classic novels by the masters



A biographies collection



A small but growing audio book collection



Dozens of children's videos for the grandkids



Several free libraries are open to all.

New California laws address issues ranging from wandering to wages

The state Legislature passed, and Gov. Gavin Newsom signed, hundreds of new laws that will go into effect Jan. 1 or later in 2025. Here are a few.

Assisted Living: Effective Jan. 1, residential Care Facilities must provide at least 90 days notice before hiking rates for care or for optional services under separate fee-for-service arrangements. The previous law required 60 days notice.

Alzheimer's and Dementia: State law requires law enforcement agencies to have training on preventing and responding to wandering by any people with Alzheimer's, autism and dementia. A related new law requires doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who provide care for anyone 65 and older to take continuing education in geriatrics and dementia care.

Prescription labels. Pharmacy dispensers, if asked, must provide patients who identify as blind or low vision with accessible prescription medication labels. This could include large fonts, Braille or text-to-speech technology.

Renters: Property tenants will now have up to 10 days to respond to an eviction notice, instead of the previous 5 days. AB 2347 is aimed at preventing default eviction judgments based on improper service of summons by landlords.

Food deliveries: Starting March 1, food delivery services like Uber Eats and DoorDash must give customers the first name and photo of their driver. More details about who's delivering your food is intended to bolster safety of deliveries.

Paid Family Leave: Employers may no longer require employees to use up to two weeks of vacation time before they can start receiving paid family leave benefits.

Case coordination: District Attorneys from different counties may now coordinate their prosecutions of retail theft crimes to raise the \$950 maximum threshold for thefts from a misdemeanor to a felony status.



Crime: A previous requirement that victims prove their cars were locked to press burglary charges has been eliminated.

Arson penalties: Punishments will be increased for anyone who starts fires while stealing, or steals or destroys more than \$50,000 worth of property.

Stolen goods: Police may now crack down on people who possess large quantities of allegedly stolen goods that aren't for personal use.

Assaults: Retail stores may now seek restraining orders against people who steal, vandalize or assault an employee.

Stolen property identifications. Sellers will be required to register their identities with online marketplaces in an effort to identify those selling stolen property. (Set to take effect July 1, 2025)

Bank penalties: State chartered banks may no longer be able to fine customers who try to withdraw more money than they have in their accounts.

Minimum Wage: Due to Consumer Price Index hikes, California's minimum wage will rise by 50 cents to \$16.50 starting Jan. 1.

Drivers' Licenses: Effective Jan. 1, California employers may no longer require a valid driver's license for prospective employees unless they can prove the job specifically requires driving as part of the job.

Subscriptions: Companies must now offer click-to-cancel option for subscriptions beginning July 1, 2025. This will make it easier to cancel subscriptions using the same medium used to originally subscribe to a service or publication.

—Compiled from news and on-line reports

Ho👉gePodge

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARKING: For the second consecutive year, the Spring Knolls board has agreed to allow overnight parking on New Year's Eve without a parking pass. If guests have been drinking, board members prefer they not drive rather than try to seek an overnight parking permit at the last minute.

DUES ARE DUE: Dues payments are due Jan. 1 and are late after Jan. 15. A reminder, Zelle is now an option for you to make your payments. Payments submitted after Jan. 15 are **subject to a 10% late fee**. Owners may opt for an annual, two payments or monthly plan.

OWNER/RESIDENT FORM: Also due, by Jan. 31, will be your (green) 2025 owner/resident form. The state mandates updated information each year to ensure that age-restricted HOAs meet legal requirements. There also is a late charge on forms received after the deadline. **These forms must be submitted regardless of whether information on past forms has not changed.**

REAL ID: DMV backlogs and a pandemic has led to many extensions to get a federally mandated Real ID. But it looks like May 7, 2025 will be the real thing. If you plan to fly on a domestic airliner or visit federal facilities such as military installations or courts, you will need a Real ID no later than May 7. That will require a visit to the DMV with proof of residency, something showing your birthdate of birth and other proof such as your Social Security number. In California, your Real ID will have a golden bear in the upper right hand corner. Go to dmv.ca.gov for more information.



THANK YOU

A belated Thank you to **Sherri** and **Craig Paschelke** for their generous donation of beautiful wooden file cabinets and office chairs for the board office.

Jan. 2025: What's up in Spring Knolls & Beyond?

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January flowers: Carnations and Snowdrops • January birthstones: Garnets • Zodiac signs: Capricorn (through Jan. 20); Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 15) | | | 1 New Year's Day. Clubhouse closed National Hang-over ; Chocolate covered Cherry Day | 2 Last Day of Hanukkah; World Introvert; Science Fiction; Buffet Day; | 3 SK Office hours, 9:30-noon; International Mind-Body Wellness Day | 4 National Spaghetti, Trivia, Ribbon Skirt; World Hypnotism, Braille Day |
| 5 Bible Study, 10-11 a.m. GK; National Keto, Bird, Whipped Cream Day | 6 National Cuddle Up; Bean; Epiphany; Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti Day | 7 Bible Study, 10 a.m.- noon; Orthodox Christmas Day; Bobblehead Day. | 8 Boosters meet, 10 a.m.; SKERT 6 p.m. Online class, 2 p.m.; Typing; Bubble Bath Day | 9 Bingo, 1-4 p.m.; Law Enforcement Appreciation Day | 10 SK Office hours, 9:30-noon; Houseplant; Asarah B'Tevet | 11 SK Annual meeting, Noon lunch followed by 1 p.m. meeting, guest speaker |
| 12 Bible Study, 10-11 a.m. GK; Marzipan; Curried Chicken Day | 13 Korean American; Gluten-Free Day | 14 Bible Study, 10 a.m.- noon; Dress Up Pet; World Logic Day | 15 SK Board meeting, 9:30 a.m. Library / Martin Luther King Birthday | 16 Hot and Spicy Food; Nothing Day | 17 SK Office hours, 9:30-noon, Benjamin Franklin Day | 18 Thesaurus; World Religion Day |
| 19 Bible Study, 10-11 a.m. GK; World Snow; Pop-corn Day | 20 Martin Luther King; Civil Rights; Inauguration; Penguin; Cheese Lovers Day | 21 Bible Study, 10 a.m.- noon; Hugging; Squirrel Appreciation Day | 22 Roe V. Wade; Celebration of Life Day | 23 Bingo, Unit 3, 5:30 p.m., Handwriting; Pie; Integrative Health Day | 24 SK Office hours, 9:30-noon; Peanut Butter, Fun at Work Day | 25 Irish Coffee; Opposite Day |
| 26 Bible Study, 10-11 a.m. GK; Spouses; Peanut Brittle Day | 27 Holocaust Remembrance; Chocolate Cake Day | 28 Bible Study, 10 a.m.- noon; Daisy; Lego Day | 29 Puzzle Day; Lunar New Year | 30 Croissant Day | 31 SK Office hours, 9:30-noon Backward; Hot Chocolate Day | |

Open'nClosed

Open:

Board office hours: Fridays - Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 9:30 a.m.-noon

- Clubhouse Winter hours: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Gym, library, both swimming pools open, but small pool is not heated. All ages may use large pool. Jacuzzi or billiards room. Call Facilities Director **Ron Sieber @ 951 541-6276** for more information.
- Eaker Hall: Clubhouse ground events need advance Board of Directors approval. Call **Debbie Adelhelm @ 760 717-9876** at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Dog Park, Clubhouse grassy areas: Owners must keep dogs under control and poop picked up in all areas.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times, even in the clubhouse grassy areas.

Closed: Clubhouse grounds closed New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.



Here: (Spring Knolls)

- Jan 9: BINGO, 1-4 p.m. Eaker Hall.
- Jan. 11: ANNUAL MEETING. Noon lunch; meeting begins 1 p.m., Guest speaker, Senior Riverside County District Attorney investigator **Michael Stalneck** discusses how to avoid being scammed. Eaker Hall, open to all Spring Knolls residents.

There: (Units 2 & 3)

- Jan. 23: Game Night. (Unit 2) \$3 at the door. Begins at 5 p.m. Among the games that will be played: BUNCO, Poker, Left-Right-Center, Scrabble, Pictionary, and Mexican Train. Please bring snack or dessert to share. Call ahead for reservations for head count. Open to all units. Contact: **Sherry Tater, 951 536-4604.**
- Jan. 23: BINGO, (Unit 3); doors open 5:30 p.m., main clubhouse.

Elsewhere . . .

Through Jan. 26, 2025. MERRY CHRISTMAS CHARLIE BROWN. Free Temecula Valley Museum exhibit shows the creation of the holiday film. On Jan. 11, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. free art class with supplies on drawing Peanuts characters. Museum, 28314 Mercedes, Temecula. 951 694-6450 or 951 694-6453.

Murrieta Sr. Cr. Exercise Classes:

- Tai Chi, \$28 / month; Mondays 9:30 a.m. & Wednesday @ 9 a.m.; Chair Tai Chi, \$30/month, Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m.
 - Line Dancing, \$24 / month; Thursdays 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.; Thursday 6:30-8 p.m.
 - Yoga, \$30 / month or combo \$50 for both; Tuesdays, 9 a.m.; Thursday. 8:30 a.m.; Chair Yoga, \$30 / month, Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m.
 - Zumba, \$32 / month, Wednesday, 9 a.m.
 - Dance, Stretch & Restore: \$28 / month, Thursdays @ 9 a.m.
- All classes are monthly, registration starts on 15th of each month for following month.

Spring Knolls Medley



To the person who is gathering and presenting this food!

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness & generosity. I have taken a few items here & there, and it is always a joy. Sometimes it is a help to make it to the end of the month. God bless U!

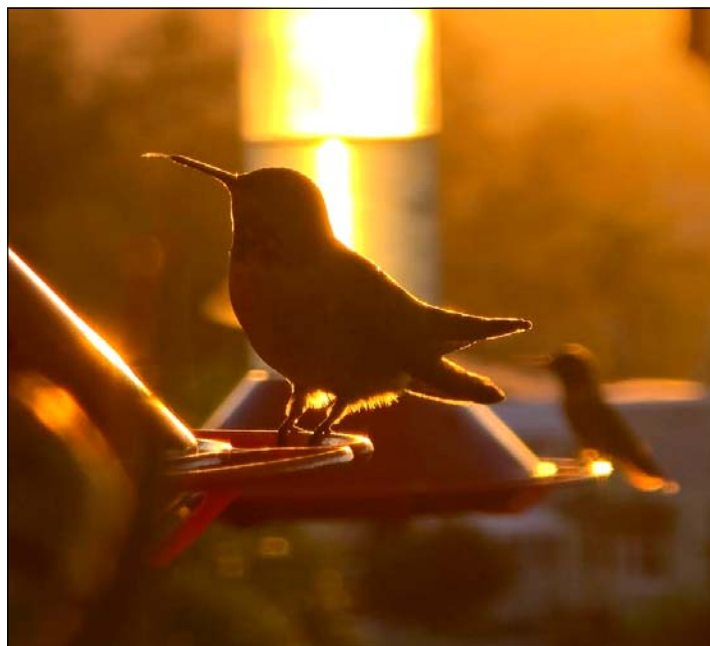
Spring Knolls Medley

JOIN THE MEDLEY! Please share your Spring Knolls experiences for the Spring Knolls Medley Page. If you have favorite recent or past photos about our community or area, send them with a description to:

Spring Knolls Medley

38441 Via La Paloma,
Murrieta, CA 92563,

or email photo & information to
tscjnews@gmail.com



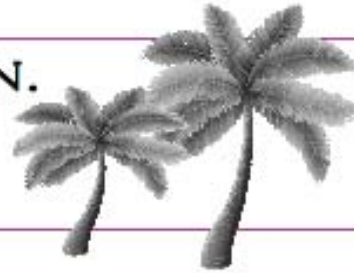
FOOD THANKS.
(above) An anonymous resident left a heartfelt thanks to those who've donated to the Eaker Hall "General Store" (upper left) where people have been dropping off items for nearly two years. (Left) Shortly before migrating South for the winter, two hummers spend some sunset time feasting on two SK feeders. The camera caught the hummer's tongue after its latest nectar dip.

Photos by Ted Vollmer



SPRING KNOLLS ASSN.

38441 Via La Paloma, Murrieta, CA 92563
phone: (951) 677-6862 / fax: (951) 600-1553
springknolls1@verizon.net



TO: Spring Knolls Owners of Vacant Property

RE: Vacant Property Protection

Spring Knolls Association representatives, along with those from Warm Springs and Golf Knolls, recently met with Murrieta Police Department representatives about problems in our communities associated with vacant properties.

Knolls residents have reported to police about squatters, vandalism, drug usage and/or sales and other disturbances from outsiders using vacant properties to carry out harmful and illegal acts. We all know that some think that seniors are an easy target.

As a result of our meetings, the Murrieta Police Department has agreed to extend its vacant property program to the Knolls at no cost to our property owners. (Recordings of vacant property with the police department usually cost \$75 per property.)

A Murrieta Police Department **Letter of Authority**, see enclosed, allows police to enter your vacant property due to suspicious activity when you are away on vacation or your home is empty. The letter states that **before** they may enter the property, **NO TRESPASSING** signs also must be posted that are clearly visible to them. The police recommend a minimum of two signs, one in a front window and another on an entry gate.

This is an all-out effort to help keep squatters and other illegal activities out of our communities; and help protect your property. **Important note: NO TRESPASSING** signs alone are not sufficient to allow police to enter your vacant property if suspicious activity is reported. Unless your completed **Letter of Authority** form is on file, they will have to wait until you arrive to enter. Waiting may result in avoidable damage and/or the perpetrators already leaving the scene.

Your Board of Directors views this program as a win-win for everyone. It, however, does not exempt you or your designee from regularly checking your vacant property and making sure it's secure and maintained. That includes your responsibility to post the police-required **NO TRESPASSING** signs on your property.

Please complete the enclosed **Letter of Authority** and return it to the Spring Knolls Office so that we can get your vacant property in the program. For your convenience, No Trespassing signs are available at the Spring Knolls office for a \$1 each.

Sincerely,

Sandy Vollmer, President

Enclosure

Note: A copy of the form referred to in Sandy Vollmer's message is on the next page. No Trespassing signs are still available at the Spring Knolls office at cost, \$1 each.

Note: If you have previously submitted a Letter of Authority allowing Murrieta police to enforce No Trespassing laws, it may be time to renew that permission. Below is a blank form that may be submitted to police. Additional copies are available in the Spring Knolls clubhouse office on Friday mornings. It also is advised that you have No Trespassing signs visibly posted on your property.



CITY OF MURRIETA
Letter of Authority 602 (o) PC

Date: _____

To: Chief of Police

I am the owner or owner's agent in lawful possession of the referenced property located in the City of Murrieta.

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

I / We have seen an influx of undesirable trespassers on this property. I / We are concerned about possible theft, vandalism, drug dealing and/or drug usage caused by trespassers on the property. Because of this trespassing, we have experienced monetary loss due to vandalism, theft and a decrease in paying customers.

There are "**No Trespassing**" signs posted throughout, in plain view and in the common area associated with the property. I / We therefore request you and your staff enforce the trespass provisions of the California Penal Code and / or Murrieta Municipal Code in respect to the listed property.

I expressly authorize your officers to arrest and/or issue citations to trespassers during the following **one year period** starting on: _____

I understand it is my responsibility to renew this authorization in one year from above date. I will notify you if sometime in the future, I am no longer the owner, agent or representative of this property.

The following information provides your department with the ability to contact me or person(s) with authority to respond in my absence.

Property Owner

Owner Address

(_____) _____

Contact phone number

Manager / Agent Requester (print full name)

Manager / Agent Contact Number

Signature