



Welcome to Hummingbird Lane.....

The 911 folks have assigned addresses to all of us at the Ranch with a few exceptions. Apparently, a road we've been using for years—the one leading south from the bath house and providing access for lots J through V—was not properly dedicated as a road on the original plats of the subdivision.

The VA raised an objection when two of the lots were sold. Pat Lawrence (the seller) subsequently consulted Uvalde attorney David White, and the board authorized Cheryl Parkinson to work with White to create an easement for the road in order to ensure future access to the lots and satisfy VA requirements at no cost the the FCRA.

The new/old road has been officially dubbed Hummingbird Lane and the 911 group will be advised of the official name.

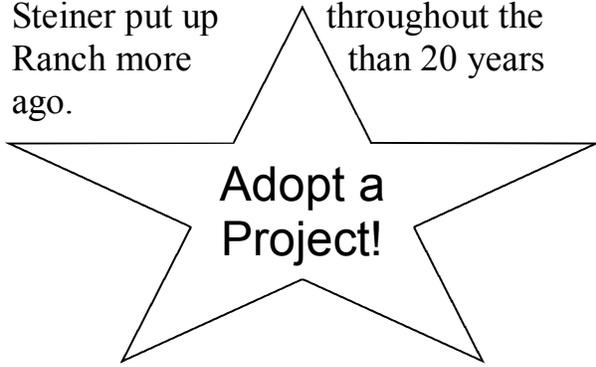
Hummingbirds on the Lane?

One of the orphan projects at the Ranch is to establish feeding and watering stations for the birds in the park. This project is currently an "orphan" because it has no volunteers and no funding. Any takers?



This Little Guy Was One of Our Feathered Residents in the Park...

Joe Allred caught this nestling hawk in the midst of enjoying his lunch. The nest was in the park area below the Ranch House. Many of us enjoy watching and photographing our plentiful and varied area birds which is why the feeder project was first discussed. We need willing hands to erect feeders and create bird baths or "drippers," as well as funds for the equipment and the feed. If you are interested in helping please contact Shirley Farley: bird-woman2@gmail.com. Other orphan projects include a wildflower walking trail through the South front pasture and replacing the bluebird houses Bill Steiner put up throughout the Ranch more than 20 years ago.



The Front Entrance Project..

One of our Frio Cielo projects is no longer an orphan. Yvonne Farrar adopted the project to create a new entrance to replace the defunct solar-powered gate. Her committee includes Pat Barbour, Max Morgan, Blanca Bustamante, and Jean Koonce. They've been working on designs and getting bids. Plans will be unveiled at the July annual meeting. This project, like the others, will receive no funds from the Frio Cielo annual budget, but will depend on donations from generous members.

Have You Checked Your Pipes Since the Freeze?

Water Operator Jim Moss reported that only one pipe in the Ranch water system broke when the temperature dropped to single digits. The distribution line at the main well froze but was quickly thawed out with a space heater. Jim said the volunteers intend to keep a heater in the well house in the future.

Lots of problems were reported on individual properties. Temperatures seldom drop as low as they did during the recent hard freeze but it does happen every now and then—even in balmy south Texas. It is wise to insulate all exposed pipes and to arrange for someone to turn on the heat or take other precautions when low, low temperatures are forecast. Back in the early 80s the temperature dropped to zero and stayed there throughout the Christmas holiday season.

Water Levels Up But Not Back To Pre-Drought Level...

Moss also reported that we used 3,901,100 gallons of water in 2009. The TCEQ reports this as “11.65 acre feet” of water. Moss further said we are “out of the woods” thanks to recent rains but water levels in the well have not returned to pre-drought highs.

Water lines in several problem areas where cedar roots had invaded the system have been replaced by the volunteers and slip joints removed.

TCEQ Weighs in On Recent Sanitary System Question..

Problems arose when feces and toilet paper were found in a reserve area adjacent to a house with no toilet.

The owner of the house in question adamantly denied that she, or her guests, were responsible for the deposits in the reserve area. She is, according to Pat Lawrence, making arrangements to have a septic system installed in the near future.

FCRA director Shirley Farley contacted the Uvalde Health Department and the TCEQ.

The TCEQ provided a copy of the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 366, which outlines requirements for disposal of all effluents generated by a dwelling, permanently or occasionally occupied.

Sewage is defined as “blackwater” and must be disposed of in an approved septic system. Water draining from a kitchen sink is also defined as black-

Sanitary Systems...continued

Water and must be disposed of with equal care because of potential contamination from organic matter commonly found in food preparation areas. Bath or laundry water is “grey water” and may be reclaimed to use for landscape or garden areas.

Rick Coggins, of the Uvalde County Health Department, came to the Ranch to survey the property and will be contacting the owner directly. He told Shirley that the rules are especially strict for us because the Ranch is in the Edwards aquifer recharge zone. He instructed that all future infractions should be reported to him and that he would then call in other authorities.

The board passed a resolution that no building permits would be approved unless plans provided for TCEQ approved sanitary facilities.

Rainbarrels on the Ranch...

One of the highlights of the Fall Festival was a presentation organized by the Uvalde County Agent on how to collect and use rainwater runoff from your roof. JW Young did this all last summer and reports that he caught enough water to sustain his garden even in the midst of our severe drought. Everyone at the meeting went home with a free rain barrel to get them started.

Cornbread and Chili Cookoffs Were Fun!

Pat Barbour’s firehouse chili recipe took top honors and Larry Woodruff got the blue for his melt-in-your-mouth cornbread. All the entries were great and all disappeared within minutes. Pots scraped clean. Next year we’ll double the recipes. Blanca Bustamante requested that we hold the festival the weekend before Halloween to avoid conflicts.

Web Site:
frio-cielo.org

Board of Directors:

Cheryl Parkinson, President
9427 Big Geronimo
San Antonio TX 78254
210-680-1476

Shirley Farley
500 Turkey Trot Road
Uvalde, Texas 78801
830-232-4430

Diane Smith, Secretary
117 Clear Spring Drive
Boerne, TX 78006
830-230-5202

Joe Allred
9115 Lanshire Dr.
Dallas TX 75238-4215
817-705-8584 (Dallas)
830-232-5737 (at Ranch)

Juanita Rinche, Treasurer
HCR 32 Box 136
Uvalde TX 78801
830-232-6305

Pat Barbour,
Assistant Treasurer
220 Squirrel Bend Rd
Uvalde TX 78801
830-232-4320

Yvonne Farrar
12518 Maxim Dr.
Houston TX 78382
281-469-1519

Jean Koonce
HC 32, Box 136-B
Uvalde TX 78801-9707
830-232-6088

Blanca Bustamante
HCR 32, Box 136
Uvalde, TX 78801
830-232-5144

Inside:

- **Your Assessment Notice**
- **Orphan Projects Needing Adoption**
- **Water System News**
- **Hummingbird Lane**
- **TCEQ Sanitation Requirements**
- **Freeze Report**



FCRA
10 Turkey Trot Rd.
Uvalde, Texas 78801

