

Los Frailes & La Cañada Neighborhood News

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Contributors:

Fatima Casuso, Paola Pliego, Cathy McCormack, Michael Baietti, Paul Roach



Rodrigo Park By Fatima Casuso

Parque Rodrigo's history began in the early eighties when Constructora Totec offered lots for sale in front of the CFE property, which houses high-voltage lines. They presented plans for an undivided green area. The developer assured buyers that construction was impossible due to its protected status. With this assurance, the neighbors united and established the park. They planted trees and a variety of native species, all chosen to support the area's climate, improve the natural environment, and preserve the water mantle. Paths and planters were built with a play area for children and young people, and the entrance to the ejido was also secured for the protection of the users of this space.





Security Cameras

The Association currently operates five security cameras. In 2026, the association plans to install additional cameras in uninhabited community areas, enhancing overall security. If you and your neighbors want a camera on your street, we offer the following camera plan. These cameras are not installed on private property.

Raise \$6000 pesos and bring the money to the office; we will issue a receipt for the camera.

The camera will be ordered and typically arrives in a week.

We will contact and coordinate with the installation team. The association will pay for the installation and the SIM card for the data.

The camera arrives, and the installation crew installs and connects it to the Police C4 monitoring system.

Questions/Comments:
info@losfrailleslacanada.org

Rodrigo Park has enriched this community's environment for decades. It offers a beautiful recreational space for many children and young people who play sports daily. It is a place where older adults and many people walk and play with their pets. Its importance stems from its ecological contribution, as over a hundred mature trees and many cactus species safeguard flora and fauna biodiversity. The trees also regulate the climate and combat climate change; the park acts as a main lung for the area.

However, not everything is beautiful and tranquil. After decades, Totec, a construction company, reneged on past sales and guarantees. It now intends to devastate the park by claiming ownership of the land where most trees are located. Their plan is to divide the narrow strip next to the high-voltage lines into small lots for sale and social interest housing construction. This plan would cause unthinkable damage to our community regarding water consumption, septic waste, garbage, and the large number of vehicles it would bring, which is far from the concept of a rural residential neighborhood.

We are fighting to stop this destruction, working with our legal advisors and municipal officials, but Totec is arbitrarily, intimidatingly, and surprisingly destroying paths, planters, and parts of the playground. We need your collective support, strength, and unity to defend this important part of our community that rightfully belongs to us.

All future newsletters will be online at our website and WhatsApp channel. We will have a limited number of printed copies available at the office and at the Saturday Bazaar.

www.losfrailleslacanada.org

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JIPOrxeS2n0Hw5tRUP2KYZ>

Meet Your Neighbor-



In this, our first issue of our new bi-monthly “Los Frailes/La Canada Neighborhood News,” we wish to introduce our segment “Meet Your Neighbor.”

Here, we will attempt to learn a little bit about our diverse resident population.

It seems befitting that we would kick off this series by highlighting our association president, Rafael “Rafa” de la Torre.

Life started out under a cloud of war for Rafa. Of Flemish descent, Rafa’s family fled London during World War II and set sail for the Americas. Eventually reaching Mexico City, newly born Rafa embarked on a life of many ups and downs. His mother passed away when Rafa was only five years old, and he was enrolled in a military academy. Upon graduation at the age of 12, Rafa went on to hold a series of jobs that taught him the life skills required to excel

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in the career that has dominated his life: aviation. In a series of fortunate events, a man overheard Rafa and a friend talking about airplanes with great enthusiasm and asked these then 14 year olds if they wanted to fly at the Escuela Nacional de Aviacion. Naturally they both agreed. After that first flight, Rafa was asked to pay 30 pesos, and this became

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Goats by Cathy McCormack

We can probably all agree that the many vacant



lots in Los Frailes and La Canada are not only an eyesore but also a safety hazard. It would be ideal if the city would do its part in cleaning up these empty lots, as it is their responsibility.

Easier said than done. While continued pressure on the city will hopefully bring about results, several residents have been proactive in paying out of their own pockets for the clearing of a few lots. We thank them for their commitment to our fraccionamiento. In the meantime, in an effort to provide an economical and eco-friendly solution to this problem, we are looking into the possibility of hiring a few local ranchers and having them bring in their goats for lot cleanup.

Yes, goats. For thousands of years, goats have been used for a myriad of purposes, including sustainable land clearing. Goats are uniquely capable of converting low-quality forage, including branches and roots, into high-quality milk, protein, and fiber. 20 goats can clear 4,047 square meters of land in three to four days, while it would take two humans three to four weeks to do the same. Goat waste is negligible, and the goat herders are well used to contending with loose dogs.

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payment for his first student flight. By age 15, Rafa had mastered the art of flying and became a flight instructor for the Colegio de Pilotos for the next 23 years, all the while studying psychology and ancient religion at the university level.—

Retiring after 38 years as a pilot for Aeromexico, Rafa continued to work in the field of aviation. He flew as a pilot for Taesa, served as Chief of Aerial Security for Interjet Aviation Company, followed by a role as subdirector for AFAC, the federal civil aviation agency. Representing Mexico, he collaborated with the U.S. FAA. For six years, he piloted for the Governor of the state of Guanajuato, Juan Jose Torres Landes, and also served as a private pilot for former SMA resident Richard Lee. At the same time, Rafa continued to teach flying and advise on aerial accident investigations. With over 73 years in the skies, Rafa has flown 67 types of planes, including a B-17. His last flight as a pilot was on March 5, 2023.—

A resident of Los Frailes for 41 years, Rafa has been happily married to Patty for 51 years. Their son, Rafael Angel, has followed in his father's footsteps and is currently a pilot with Aeromexico. Their daughter, Lissette, tragically passed away at the age of 15.

Rafa de la Torre has played a vital role in strengthening the ties between our neighborhood association and the many governmental agencies we need to coexist with. We are lucky to have him.

Goats

So far, no agreement has been reached, although conversations with a few ranchers are ongoing. It is, of course, essential that the management of the goats be monitored under clear guidelines. In paying a rancher to bring a small herd over, not only are we, the residents, benefiting, but we could be providing additional income and food security to our neighboring ranchers. Clearing unwanted brush will reduce fire hazards and only improve the value of our homes and instill greater pride in our two neighborhoods.

Lot Clean Up

By Michael Baietti



While we open lines of communication with the city, so that they fulfill their lot-clearing obligation for property owners who have paid for the clearing in their property

taxes, the Association can use its gardeners to clean lots to maintain security and the appearance of Los Frailes/La Canada. With a donation of \$250 pesos per hour, two Association gardeners will clear your lot.

Email the association @ info@losfraileslacanada.org to set it up.

911 WhatsApp Group



In Villa de Los Frailes & La Cañada, your safety is our top priority, and living in a safe neighborhood and building community is part of our commitment as citizens.

We know that we can turn moments of crisis into opportunities to organize ourselves and establish internal mechanisms as citizens. This is how the  "911, Emergencies Only" Chat came about. An internal neighborhood system for everyone who lives in the neighborhood, implemented by neighbors for neighbors.

The 911 WhatsApp is a group where members of the Security Committee are attentive to your alert messages should you require help in any emergency situation. Members of your community are on this chat ready to support you. Medical emergencies, crimes, calls to the Fire Department, Police, flooding — whenever you find yourself vulnerable. We can not guarantee that we will be available 24/7, but there is a network of neighbors who are watching.

This chat is not synchronized with C4 or the Municipal Police; it is internal, with the objective of supporting each other while emergency services arrive at the home in danger. Comments that are not related to emergencies are strictly restricted because this chat triggers alarms for the entire Security Committee upon receiving a message.

If you find yourself in a risky situation, you must send a short, quick message indicating your name and address. If possible, mention what is happening so we can immediately

contact the Emergency Services, who will attend to the situation as soon as possible.

Calling 911 to the police is a different matter; however, the Municipal Authorities are fully aware of our initiative and support us as a community and neighborhood.

Today we are 207 members in the "911, Emergencies Only" Group, and we want the entire neighborhood to join. If you are interested, contact us and we will send you the link to join, or if your neighbor is already a member, they can ask us to add you. It works!

In Frailes and Cañada, your safety is our priority. *We Are All One*. To join send an email to: jenniferprimrose@me.com along with your WhatsApp phone number.

Paola Pliego
Neighbor and Journalist

*when calling 911 directly a Mexican phone is required for the call to go through. If calling from a foreign phone please dial +52 415 152 0022

Get In Touch

Email: info@losfraileslacanada.org

Website: www.losfraileslacanada.org

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

1 pm to 3pm

Email for an appointment if you are unable to come during regular office hours.