

THE SPRINGS  
TIMES  
The Publication of The Springs Homeowners' Association

Volume 40, Number 9

September 2023



***YEP, A MOUNTAIN  
LION IN THE  
SPRINGS ~ AGAIN!***



Sorry about the slightly fuzzy photos; it's difficult to capture a clear still photo from a Ring video, especially of something that's moving fairly fast. What an absolutely beautiful creature! This was in a backyard on Gitana on August 24 at 1:11 am.



*photos by  
Lorraine Villarreal*

*<http://www.camsprings.com>*





## ***GOAT/ SHEEP TIME in Camarillo Springs***

First day on the job photos  
by Lorraine Villarreal



These goats/sheep were “hired” by the Camarillo Springs Common Area Association (CSCAA) to do weed abatement on the hillsides for which they are responsible.



Dog guarding  
goats/sheep prior  
to being loaded  
into the truck -  
photo by Donna  
Burger



Departure day -  
photo by  
Barbara Gzyl



Hummingbird Moth - photo extracted from a  
video - Barbara Gzyl

Barbara reports that these are the moths from  
the large green caterpillars that eat tomatoes.



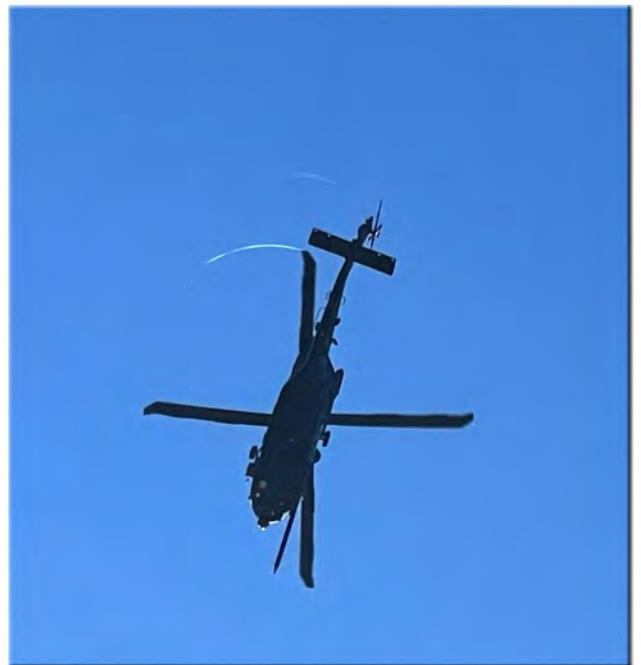


*More  
Amazing  
Sunsets*



*photos on this page by  
Lorraine Villarreal*

Aerial parade



# Baked Potato Bar at The Springs Clubhouse

Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 6:00pm



**Menu:**

Fluffy Baked Potato with a Variety of Toppings

Tossed Green Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing

**Dessert:**

Pumpkin Cake

Soda and Water

Bring your own Beer and Wine.

*\$12.00 Per Person  
by check payable to  
The Springs Social Committee*

*Reservations begin:  
Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30am*

*Reservations close:  
Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:00pm.*

**We will play BINGO After Dinner**

~Bring \$5.00 to Play Five Games~



## **The House With the Red Roof ~ Lessons It Can Teach Us**

*Robbie Dornick, Springs CERT Co-Leader, from excerpts from multiple news sources*

*MAUI, Hawaii — When an inferno tore through Lahaina on the island of Maui, it reduced a historic and charming town to ash and rubble. But the fire left a red-roofed house seemingly untouched by the devastation around it.*

*“Everybody’s calling it ‘the miracle house,’” Trip Millikin, who owns the home at 271 Front St., told NPR. But that label makes him uncomfortable, he added, citing the flood of emotions that came with learning that while his house was spared, his community was gutted.*

*“Our hearts are broken from what’s happened,” he said. “We love our neighborhood and love our friends, and just cannot believe that that world that we knew so well and loved — it’s gone forever.”*

Photos of the wooden house, standing intact while its neighbors were reduced to ashes, quickly became an online fascination. Millikin’s friends call it a beacon of hope. To him, the historic house’s survival means it has a new role to play.

“As soon as we can, we want to open it to our neighborhood and open it to everybody who worked on it, as a base to help rebuild our part of Lahaina,” he said.

The image has gone viral: The house, with its crisp white facade and cheerful red roof, appears untouched. Surrounding it are piles of scorched rubble left behind by the fast-moving fire that decimated Lahaina last week.

The historic Front Street home was not the only property to survive the fire. Entire subdivisions were spared as flames leapfrogged across the island. But the indelible image of the improbably unscathed house amid a backdrop of devastation is so extreme that some have questioned whether the image was digitally altered.

The situation is all too real, said Dora Atwater Millikin, who owns the house with her husband.

The couple, who was visiting family in Massachusetts when the fire started, had recently renovated the home, but not with the express goal of hardening it against flames. The 100-year-old property was once a bookkeeper’s house for employees of the Pioneer Mill Co., a sugar plantation that operated in Lahaina beginning in the mid-1800s, and the homeowners were seeking to restore some of the structure’s original features, she said.

“It’s a 100% wood house so it’s not like we fireproofed it or anything,” Atwater Millikin said.

Working closely with the county and the local historic commission, they replaced the asphalt roof with heavy-gauge metal — the home would have originally had a roof of either wooden shake or thinner-grade corrugated tin, she said. They lined the ground with stones up to the drip line of the roof, which overhangs by 36 to 40 inches.

And they removed foliage that was up against the house — not because they were trying to reduce the risk of ignition, but because they were concerned about termites spreading to the wooden frame, she said. Their only nod toward disaster preparedness was to install hurricane ties, she added.

“We love old buildings, so we just wanted to honor the building,” she said. “And we didn’t change the building in any way — we just restored it.”

It appears these modifications had the effect, however unintended, of making the home more resilient to flames.

“When this was all happening, there were pieces of wood — 6, 12 inches long — that were on fire and just almost floating through the air with the wind and everything,” Atwater Millikin said. “They would hit people’s roofs, and if it was an asphalt roof, it would catch on fire. And otherwise, they would fall off the roof and then ignite the foliage around the house.”

Roofs are the No. 1 factor that contribute to the flammability of a home because they can serve as large landing pads for embers, said Susie Kocher, forestry advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension, who co-authored a guide on how to harden homes against wildfire. In this case, a regular asphalt composition roof would likely have done just as good a job as metal, as most have a Class A fire resistance rating, she added.

That’s followed by the “near home environment” — the area immediately surrounding the structure, she said. Experts suggest that homeowners clear flammable vegetation in a 5-foot radius and replace it with a hardscape feature such as paving stones or gravel — similar to what the Millikins did, she said.

*continued on page 6*



***The House With the Red Roof***, continued from page 5

“If shrubs and bushes, especially flammable ones, are right up next to the house and embers catch them on fire, the heat can burst the window and it goes right into the home from there,” she said.

The home may also have benefited from the fact that it was not that close to neighboring properties, she said, pointing out that it was bordered on three sides by the ocean, a road and a park-like empty lot, respectively.

“One of the biggest sources of fuel is the homes,” she said. “So when one home goes up, if another is very close, the radiant heat can catch the other house.”

That risk is highest when the other building that burns is 30 feet away or less, said Stephen Quarles, UC Cooperative Extension advisor emeritus. Vulnerable components would be the siding, windows or under-eave area, as well as any foundation or attic vents, he added.

It appears that combustibles were largely removed from the under-deck area, and the ember exposure of the deck was lessened because it faces the ocean, he said.

“A ‘noncombustible zone’ near the home and under the deck is an excellent strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the home to a wind-blown ember exposure,” Quarles wrote in an email.

But when wildfires ignite a neighborhood, it’s fairly common for some homes to remain standing while others burn, as wind drives embers into structures’ vulnerable points or surrounding vegetation, and some houses are more resistant to embers than others, she said.

“People generally think that it’s a big wall of flames that is catching houses on fire, but often the mechanism is embers,” she said. “So embers are coming from the flaming front, which could be some distance away.”



The above story about the house with the red roof in Lahaina should provide a valuable lesson to all of us about the importance of creating a ‘noncombustible zone’ around our own homes, particularly important because of the close proximity to our neighbors. According to the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, the number one indicator of a structure’s survivability during a wildfire is how ember resistant their Zone 0 is, or the 5 feet perimeter around a home. A fire-hardened home is a home that’s taken smart steps ahead of time to prepare for wildfires and ember storms. A Home Wildfire Assessment (also known as a Home Hardening Assessment) from the VRFSC team can help you create an action plan unique to your home.

To arrange for a FREE Home Wildfire Assessment, contact the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council at 805-746-7365 or email at [info@venturafiresafe.org](mailto:info@venturafiresafe.org). You will definitely be wiser about your fire risk.



### **MEXICAN TRAIN**

Join other Springers to play Mexican Train (a dominoes game) each Wednesday afternoon at 3:00pm in the Clubhouse card room. No experience necessary. Contact Sarah Legan at 818-268-2287 for information.



### **SCRABBLE**

The Scrabble players are seeking additional players to join them the last Wednesday of each month a 1:00pm. Contact Camella Moore at 818-515-4190 or cambm15@gmail.com.



### **RUMMIKUB**

Join other Springers to play Rummikub each Thursday evening at 6:00pm in the Clubhouse card room. Bring along your own game, if you have one, just in case we need extras. No experience necessary. Contact Marianne Chavanne at 805-358-1544 if you'd like to be added to her reminder text group.

### **SHANGHAI**

Join us on Fridays at 12:30pm to play Shanghai, a card game based on Gin Rummy.

Call Rose 805-383-5572 or Lois 805-384-9027 or just come to watch.



### **MAH JONGG**

Learn Mah Jongg on Tuesdays at 12:30pm: Keep your brain sharp with Mah Jongg, a game of skill, strategy, and some luck.

Call Rose 805-383-5572 or Lois 805-384-9027 or just come to watch.

**Real Estate Trends for The Springs**

<b>Address:</b>	<b><u>ACTIVE LISTINGS:</u></b>	
<b>No Active Listings</b>	<b>Square Footage:</b>	<b>List Price:</b>
	<b><u>UNDER CONTRACT:</u></b>	
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Square Footage:</b>	<b>List Price:</b>
1208 San Como Ln	1,511	\$785,000.00
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Square Footage:</b>	<b>List Price:</b>
6262 Gitana Ave.	1,561	\$710,000.00
6024 San Dimas	1,553	\$650,000.00
1220 San Como Ln	1,650	\$730,000.00
6119 Gitana Ave	1,553	\$690,000.00
1137 Itamo St.	1,511	\$786,000.00
1188 Paquita St.	1,657	\$714,800.00
6116 Irena Ave.	1,553	\$635,000.00
6349 Irena Ave.	1,553	\$751,010.00

**\*Data taken from CRMLS 8-11-23**  
**Becky Duarte @ Premier Options Real Estate**  
**DRE#01232355**

**DA Warns of Real Estate Fraud**

The Ventura County District Attorney recently advised real estate professional of a rise in fraud by perpetrators (usually outside the U.S.) who access a property owner’s personal identifying information such as name, birthday, address and social security number and then use that information to list the property for sale and steal the proceeds.

Criminals first use public records to identify real property. Using the personal information of the property owner, the criminal contacts a local real estate agent (solely by email or text) to list the property for sale, usually below fair market value and all cash offers. Everything is done remotely and signatures are forged. The escrow company closes the transaction and wires the proceeds to an account controlled by the criminal. The funds are then dispersed to accounts outside the U.S. The D.A. offers steps for realtors and title companies. An article about this appeared in the Acorn, July 15, 2023. For more information, contact the DA real estate fraud unit at 905-662-1750.

<b>The Springs Homeowners Association Financial Report for July, 2023</b>	
Beginning Operating Balance	\$85,509.65
Cash Receipts	\$67,418.10
Reserve Trans from Operating	\$<16,666.67>
Cash Disbursements	\$<23,157.54>
Transfers/Misc.	\$<4,359.84>
Interest Earned	\$16.51
Ending Operating Balance	\$108,760.21
Beginning Reserve Balance	\$1,133,766.05
Reserve Trans from Operating	\$16,666.67
Cash Disbursements	\$<1,510.00>
Transfer/Misc	\$0
Interest Earned	\$6,747.83
Ending Reserve Balance	\$1,155,680.55
Reserve Liability	\$<1,155,680.55>
Reserve Overage or Shortage	\$0





## Birthdays

Edwin Wai	3	Hong Kong
Marta Garza-Laird	5	Chihuahua, MX
Judy Hyman	7	Los Angeles, CA
Betty DeBay	8	Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Fred Driver	8	Queens, NY
Nancy Chalker	9	Los Angeles, CA
Judy Cash	10	Glendale, CA
Donna Leigh	10	Los Angeles, CA
Beverly Raham	12	Canoga Park, CA
Sam Bernstein	15	Los Angeles, CA
Calvin Miller	15	Oxnard, CA
Vicki Cromer	17	Burbank, CA
Daniel Simon	18	Los Angeles, CA
Ilene Zins	19	Torrance, CA
Harriett Colbo	22	Yakima, WA
Lee Brown	23	Boston, MA
Ann Eisler	24	Los Angeles, CA
Samuel Unjian	26	Niagra Falls, NY
Mark Heyes	27	Hollywood, CA
Laura Kerrigan	27	Brooklyn, NY
Ben DeAscentis	28	Newport, RI
John DuMoulin	28	San Francisco, CA
Rita Elliott	29	Romania
Edward Niedzwiecki	30	Nanticoke, PA
Deborah Wenger	30	Milwaukee, WI



## Anniversaries

Kevin/Nancy Quinn	3	Swampscott, MA
	35 years	
Jerry/Ilene Zins	8	Los Angeles, CA
	67 years	
John/Jackie DuMoulin	10	Thousand Oaks, CA
	34 years	
Tim/Suzanne Smith	16	Mission Viejo, CA
	45 years	
James/Lauren McKaye	17	Camarillo, CA
	46 years	
Jack/Pat Sheehan	21	W. Los Angeles, CA
	60 years	

Note: If your birthday/anniversary information is incorrect or incomplete, please contact Malisa in the clubhouse office to have it corrected.

### VC ALERT

Everyone in The Springs should register with VC Alert in order to receive emergency notifications.

Register online at [vcalert.org](http://vcalert.org) or by calling (805) 648-9283.

Please submit Newsletter photos or articles to  
Robbie Dornick at [jonrobdor@gmail.com](mailto:jonrobdor@gmail.com)

### THE SPRINGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President:</i>	John Gardner
<i>Vice President:</i>	Bob Latunski
<i>Chief Financial Officer:</i>	Barry Gilbert
<i>Secretary:</i>	Ted Elliott
<i>Director:</i>	Jeanne McNair

### SPRINGS TIMES

<i>Editor:</i>	Robbie Dornick
<i>Official Photographers</i>	Lorraine Villarreal/Barbara Gzyl
<i>Photo Editor:</i>	Robbie Dornick
<i>Production:</i>	Robbie Dornick
<i>Distribution:</i>	Malisa Kundin

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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