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THE Somich FAMILY

Photo by Cori Nichols



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family spotlight

Written by Julie Feld
Photos by Cori Nichols

THE Somich FAMILY

It has been a tough past few years for the Somich family, but they are living life with strength and resilience and are happy to be making a new start in Fairbanks Ranch!

Tami Somich, son Alexander or “Alex,” 15, and daughter Isabelle or “Izzy,” 11, moved to our neighborhood last year, following the loss of their husband and father, Nick Somich after an eight-year battle with melanoma. Before his death, Nick worked hard to make sure his family could move forward in the happiest way possible. “That’s why we are in Fairbanks Ranch,” explains Tami. “Nick felt this was the safest place for us to be, and he knew we would be supported by the many friends we already had in the neighborhood. Our friends really are like family.” After looking at many properties together, Tami eventually purchased a charming home on Camino Acampo, choosing it for its “not too big” floor plan and ideal location. With the help of Nick’s brother who lives in Murrieta, Tami gutted the home, taking down walls, raising ceilings, reframing fireplaces, and more. “It is almost done,” she says, “and was a really fun project. Nick and I used to love renovating homes together, so I felt like he was with me on this project. And I know it would make him happy to see us here.”

Tami and Nick grew up in a small town in western Pennsylvania. They met in middle school and knew one another casually throughout high school, though Nick was a year older. When Tami started college, she ended up running into Nick on her very first day on the huge Pennsylvania State University campus! The two became inseparable almost immediately and dated throughout their time at Penn State, becoming engaged when Tami was a senior and Nick was a recent grad working on Wall Street. They married soon after Tami graduated with a BA in elementary education and spent the next four years in New

York City. There, Tami earned a master’s degree in curriculum instruction at Fordham University and began a teaching career. When Nick decided to go back to school to earn his MBA at Wharton, the couple moved to Philadelphia and Tami taught at a private elementary school in Wilmington Delaware, for two years. Then it was off to Chicago for four years, where Nick worked for Citadel. “Chicago was one of my favorite places we lived,” says Tami. “We had Alex by this point and lived right in the city. It was easy to get around and there was so much to do.” Then, another job in hedge fund management lured Nick back to New York City. But this time, the young family – now with two children – settled in Darien, CT. They remained there for four years until Nick was diagnosed with melanoma.

“Nick was working crazy hours and was under so much stress,” recalls Tami. “When he got sick, it caused us to really evaluate how we wanted to live our lives. We decided nothing is more important than time with family.” They decided to move to San Diego and Nick gave his notice at work. To his surprise, his firm did not want to let him go! They allowed him to keep his same job and work from home. The family moved to San Diego and settled in the Crosby Estates. For the next five years, life was good. Nick’s cancer remained Stage 1. At his five-year scan, however, they learned the cancer had spread, jumping to Stage 4. From there, it was a tough three-year fight until he passed away in October 2019.

Now, Tami stays busy as the owner/designer at Somich Design. She started the company recently in honor of Nick and is already so busy she must turn some business away. Tami designs both commercial and residential spaces and has begun staging homes for sale, as well. When not creating beautiful spaces, she enjoys going for walks through the neighborhood with friends, playing pickleball, or reading a good book, which she says, “doesn’t happen often enough!” Of course, nothing is better than spending time with her kids.

Izzy is in fifth grade at Solana Santa Fe School. She is a ballet dancer and was featured in last month’s issue of *Fairbanks Living*. Alex is a freshman at Torrey Pines High School. He is excited to be playing freshman baseball for Torrey Pines, and is glad to finally be able to set foot on campus after having to study from home for the past year! In his spare time, Alex volunteers with Miracle League in Solana Beach. Miracle League provides children with special needs the opportunity to play baseball in an organized league.

The Somich family also supports Camp Kesem, a camp for children that have a parent with cancer or have lost a parent to cancer. And, they support Melanoma.org, in honor of Nick.

We hope this young family enjoys many happy years in Fairbanks Ranch.



giving back

Written by Julie Feld
Photo by Cori Nichols

Dan & Jo Wicher



Community service is a big part of this Fairbanks Ranch couple's life.

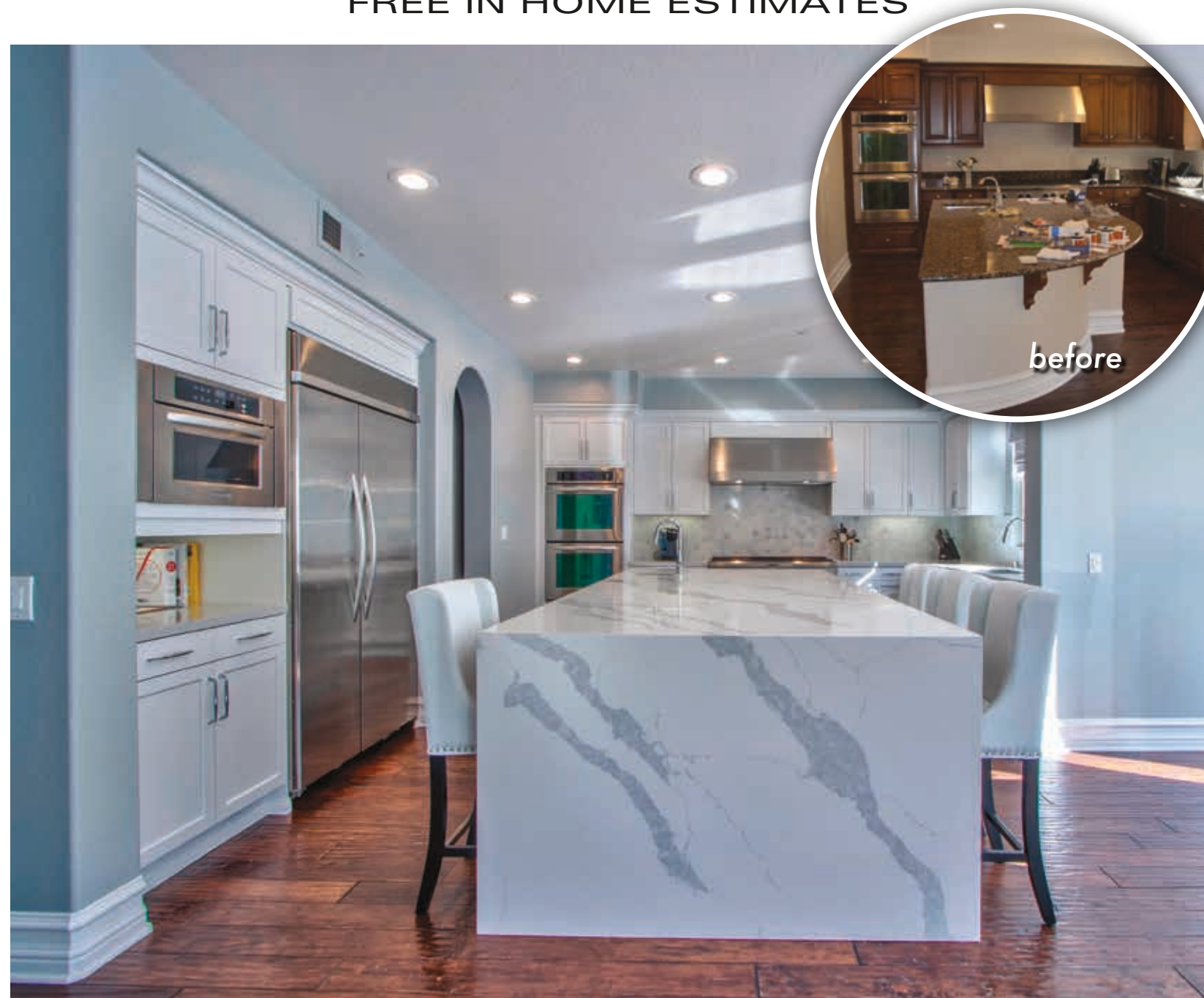
"Before COVID, Dan and Jo Wicher (featured in last month's Family Spotlight) volunteered every other week performing free surgeries for underserved patients at St. Leo's Clinic in Solana Beach. Dan is also on the Board of Directors for the San Diego County Dental Foundation, working to provide dental education and treatment to those in need throughout San Diego County. The flagship program is the John Geis Dental Clinic at Veteran's Village San Diego, which opened in 2015 to provide full-scope dentistry and oral surgery to homeless Veterans in San Diego. Not only does Dan serve on the Foundation Board, but a few years ago, Dan and Jo hosted a gala that raised over \$140,000 for needy Veterans. Dan also volunteers at the clinic as a clinician, providing free surgical care for homeless vets. If any Fairbanks Ranch neighbors would like to help, they are encouraged to visit sdcdf.org/support-our-mission or email Dan at DrWicher@CoastalOFS.com.

It is a pleasure to have this enthusiastic and giving young family as part of our Fairbanks Ranch community!"

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Las Damas

On Friday, March 19, the Ladies of Las Damas de Fairbanks were entertained by an interactive skincare and make-up presentation given by Trish McEvoy featuring International Artists, Sheila Nellis, Bianca Renne, and Shelly Virissimo. The presentation took place at Nordstrom UTC and Bianca Renne was our live model demonstrating skincare products and make-up, while Sheila & Shelly described the benefits and the proper application of the products. Sheila has been a longtime friend in the community and has provided her professional advice to so many of us! We also enjoyed samples of Trish McEvoy products that were delivered to the first 20 guests who registered for the event.

The featured charity of the month was Miracle Babies, whose mission is to unite families with their newborns in the NICU by providing transportation, supportive services, and financial aid. Board member Marianela Camarillo shared information on the programs offered including transportation assistance which provides a home-to-hospital-to-home service enabling new parents to be united with their newborn. In addition to transportation assistance, Miracle Hours provides a unique opportunity for NICU parents to get together, share concerns and feel the support of peers who understand the challenges of having a baby in the NICU. The Care Package program provides essential items and resource materials to aid and comfort families during their baby's NICU stay. Miracle Babies also has a diaper distribution service and is proud to share that they have served over 5,000 families. Marianela shared that the goal is to make the NICU the best possible experience for new parents.

In support of Miracle Babies' charitable mission, Las Damas sold opportunity tickets to win a beautiful Trish McEvoy make-up basket valued at \$600 filled with wonderful products generously donated by Sheila. Fairbanks Ranch resident, Michelle Mirandon, was the lucky winner of this amazing basket! In addition to opportunity tickets, Trish McEvoy is donating 10% of the sales to Miracle Babies.

Please join us for our upcoming event on May 21 on Zoom featuring Heidi Hendler, licensed marriage and family counselor who will share information about living a healthy, balanced life by focusing on the four tenants of "SEMP"...Spirituality, Emotional health, Mental health, and Physicality or physical health. Please visit our website at www.lasdamasdefairbanks.com for additional information.



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young achiever

Written by Fairbanks Ranch Resident, **TJ Campbell**

My Experience at PACIFIC RIDGE SCHOOL

Talk with TJ

TJ Campbell



The Kibera Girls Soccer Academy in Kibera, Kenya, has collaborated with Pacific Ridge students for ten years on an international magazine. Former student Dalifa Hassan explains to Pacific Ridge students the difference KGSA made in her life.

For the first time in the history of my “Talk with TJ” column, I’ll be covering an incredible organization, Pacific Ridge School, a sponsor of *Fairbanks Living*. As an eighth-grade student of Pacific Ridge, I’ve experienced the way the school’s unique way of teaching students compares to other schools. Rather than sixteen of us being seated in the classroom at separate desks, we actually all sit at one round table together so that the teacher can have a conversation with all of us in one big area. This also allows students to have a more open discussion, which our principal, Dr. Ogle, calls the Harkness experiment.

The nice thing about Harkness is that it allows for many interesting conversations to flourish as everyone is allowed to have their own opportunity to speak as no one has to raise their hands but rather can pitch in whenever someone finishes. Since I have always been a very talkative person, Harkness is very beneficial to me academically for it allows me to earn lots of points on in-class assignments and class participation than I normally would get in a normal classroom environment. Of course, the Harkness method has been modified during COVID-19 over Zoom, but nonetheless, this is a big selling point for the school.

Another great thing about Pacific Ridge is their willingness to give you the opportunities to have new world experiences by traveling all over the world once I reach high school. Finding ways to expose us to the world, Pacific Ridge has always been an advocate for students to be a member of the global community,

meaning we should always strive to learn about the world around us, in turn bettering ourselves to make it a better place.

One of the things I loved in seventh grade was when they brought two speakers from two different continents together to speak to us. By the time they finished speaking, what they said changed my life forever. One speaker was from Africa, and she was a woman who told a story of how she sacrificed everything to get an education and having to deal with people telling her she was nothing, abusing her, and being treated like she was nothing more than a servant. She prevailed in the end and reminded us of the importance of education. The last speaker was perhaps the one I never thought I would meet, a woman who is a Holocaust survivor. Her story was so heartfelt, one of sadness yet hope, tragedy yet triumph, which reminded me of the savagery of men, as well as the beauty of humanity.

It’s easy to see why I enjoy being a student at Pacific Ridge so much. It gives us the opportunity to learn lessons through not only the lens of classroom instruction but also through the opportunity to meet people living with real-life experiences. Pacific Ridge strives to come up with new ways to teach that are interesting and interactive and I am lucky to be a middle school student there!



TJ Campbell is a resident of Fairbanks Ranch and is an eighth grader at the Pacific Ridge School. For any questions, comments or suggestions for a future article, email TJ at tcampbell3869@gmail.com.



Holocaust survivor Rose Schindler shares her story with Pacific Ridge School students in 2020.



Fellow students at a harkness table.

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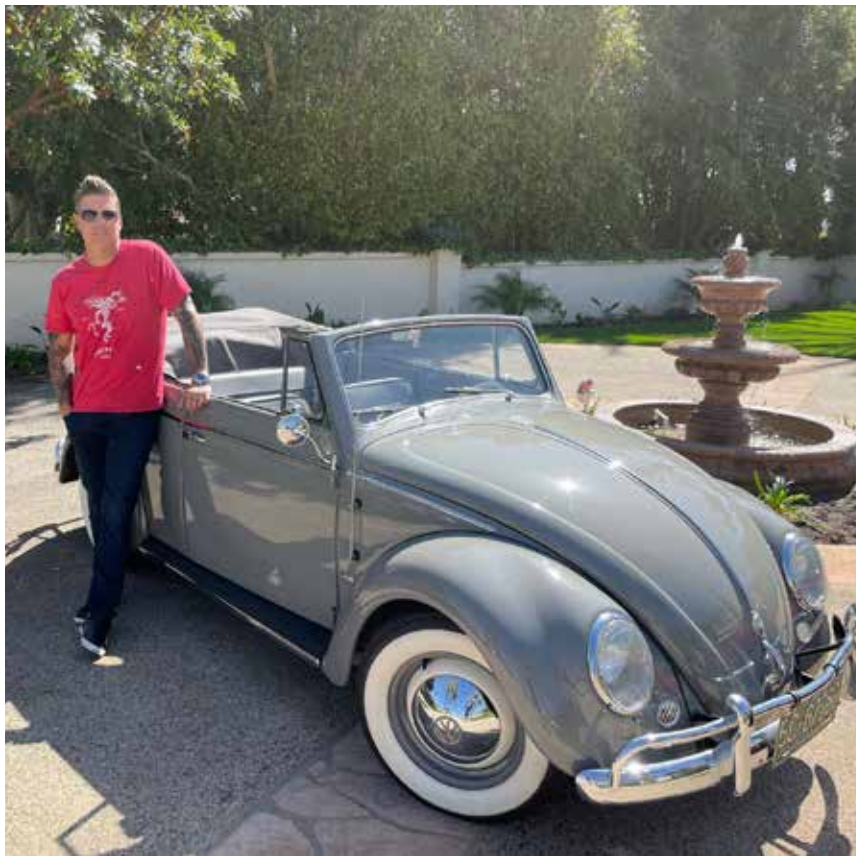



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what drives you **BRETT**

SOLIDAY

INTRODUCES US TO "KARMANN"

Part of a pair of '55s

It was 1955 and the world was getting ready to discover a young rock and roll superstar that would change the world forever. "Of course, I'm an Elvis Fan! Who isn't?" states Brett Soliday. As we learned in the last issue when featuring his '55 Corvette (Shirlene), his love of all things from the '50s started at a young age and has never left. "I grew up in the '80s and as iconic as that genre was, nothing compares to the '50s. The music, the style, and, of course, the cars."

As a teenager, Brett developed his love of the "People's Car" aka the

Wagon of the Folks or Volkswagen. "When you're young and have no money, VW's were the car of choice. Easy to repair, and cheap to purchase." A lot has changed since then. Having been a part of Southern California's original "Cal Bug" scene in the early '80s, Brett saw the extraordinary surge in popularity. "After the '80s, many Japanese collectors started buying up all of the VWs around the world. This really drove the costs up and suddenly people were thinking differently about these cars." Brett purchased "Karmann" named appropriately after

its builder who became famous for manufacturing Kabriolets and his notorious Ghia for Volkswagen. "Unlike my Corvette, there are so many things I want to do to this car. I just purchased a set of rear fender skirts, an original St. Christopher horn button, vintage tail pipes, to name a few. There is this huge underground of VW people all over the world that have original memorabilia and options for these cars. It's just insane." Karmann came with the original service books, tool kit, and paperwork from Wolfsburg, Germany. It even has a U.S. Armed Services license plate, since it was previously owned by a U.S. Army Colonel in Germany. "I have always wanted a vintage Karmann Kabriolet with semaphores (instead of blinkers on the fenders, the semaphore is a flag that pops out of the side of the car and blinks, and then closes once the blinker is turned off.). I knew those were next to impossible to get, especially in mint condition, so it took me a long time to find her."

Having searched for over a decade, Brett finally found the perfect Kab. "You cannot drive this car anywhere without people giving you the thumbs up. VWs are a true cult classic and they just make people smile, however, with its whopping 36 horsepower and cashbox transmission, this is not a car that will get you anywhere fast," jokes Brett. Love them or hate them, these hard-to-find Beetles (especially the convertibles) are more popular than ever. "I never thought in a million years I'd see the day when Volkswagens would sell for six figures but it has, and the prices are only going up. So much for these cars being cheap!"

Whether it's an American Sportscar or a German people's wagon you enjoy, you can rest assured you will see Brett driving his pair of '55s convertibles around Fairbanks Ranch soon. Make sure you give him a wave or thumbs up. "Shirlene and Karmann just love that!"



pet of the month

Louis

Fairbanks resident Anna Wilson shares her precious pooch

How old is Louis? 16 years

What made you decide to add him to your family? My daughter was in high school at the time and my husband thought getting her a puppy would distract her from boys.

Is there a story behind the name? My daughter always wanted a designer handbag, so we got her a "Louis Vuitton" dog instead.



Anything special or unusual about him (talents/quirks)? Louis was attacked by five coyotes in our citrus grove and my daughter saved him. After a long emergency surgery to save his life, he came home completely shaved with a lion's haircut. He still rocks the lion's haircut! We call him Louis, the Lion!

What do you like best about Louie? He is extremely loyal and loving.

Any funny stories? When Louis was a puppy, my daughter would sneak him into restaurants in her purse and let him nap in there. One day time he decided to sneak out of the bag and do a little potty in the middle of the restaurant! Whoops!

How spoiled is Louis? Extremely spoiled. There is never a moment he is alone. He comes to work with me every day and now runs the show at our nursing facility center.

What else should we know about Louis has enriched you and your family? Louis has been in our family for 16 years, we have had so many memories, from ripping up my daughter's favorite shoes when he was a puppy, to biting toes and being the best family dog. We have all shared responsibilities in raising him and as the kids have grown older and moved out of the house, Louis is always there to greet them when they visit like nothing has ever changed!

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home of the month

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One of A Kind Nantucket Charm meets Fairbanks Ranch

Custom built to perfection on an elevated and expansive lot, the home design and decor of this Fairbanks Ranch beauty were inspired by memorable summers spent in Nantucket. Now on the market for the first time, this charming and inviting home has been impeccably maintained, as is evidenced by the gleaming hardwood floors. With three bedrooms and three and a half baths, in 3,740 square feet, each room overlooks lush gardens of camellias, hydrangeas, hibiscus, agapanthus, and geraniums. The private property has several shade trees, as well as a small orchard of citrus and avocado trees. Rarely is there such a lawn that requires a sit-down mower and the pool is drenched in sunlight throughout the day. Truly a dream yard for children and dogs. Ideally located on the original street in Fairbanks Ranch and a short walk to the walking trails and a popular park.

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Fairbanks Village Plaza has provided office and business services to the Rancho Santa Fe community since 1981. The campus embraces the environment with its peaceful garden setting and large courtyard fountain. The center has become the “hub” of the community due to its diverse, energetic group of tenants who very often complement one another in business. Those businesses include attorneys, custom home builders, general contractors, interior designers and showrooms, architects, real estate services, travel professionals, investment advisors, medical and dental offices, fitness, beauty services, and many more.

Available offices offer new flooring, ceilings, paint, and window coverings. New spaces include an 800 square foot suite with three private offices, reception, and storage space; a 1,442 square foot suite with five private offices, reception, kitchenette, and storage space, and a 320 square foot private office. All spaces are available to occupy now.

Fairbanks Village Plaza,
Phone: 858-756-0456,
16236 San Dieguito Rd., Suite 4-25, P.O. Box 9055,
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www.FairbanksVillagePlaza.com



Spinach contains non-heme iron, which is not easily absorbed. A simple solution to absorb the non-heme iron is to add a vitamin C component. Hence, strawberries, which are an excellent source of vitamin C.

SALAD:

- 10 ounces fresh spinach
- 1 pint fresh strawberries

CARAMELIZED PECANS:

- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons water
- 1 cup pecans

POPPY SEED DRESSING:

- 2 green onions, chopped
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 1 cup salad oil (of choice – avocado, olive oil, grapeseed, etc.)
- 1 ½ tablespoons poppy seeds

SALAD: Wash greens carefully and dry thoroughly. Wash and hull strawberries and cut them into slices.

CARAMELIZED PECANS: Combine sugar, water, and pecans in a skillet. Slowly cook over low heat until all the sugar is dissolved, stirring constantly until caramelized. Immediately spread out on waxed paper to cool.

DRESSING: Put green onions into a blender or food processor and mix thoroughly, then add the sugar, salt, mustard, and vinegar, blending. Slowly add the oil, while blending. Stir in poppy seeds and refrigerate.

Assembly: Tear spinach into bite-size pieces. Combine spinach, strawberries, and pecans, pour dressing over all and toss.

Zoom Cooking Classes! I'm now offering monthly zoom cook-along classes. Check out my website: www.RD4Health.com for the schedule.

FYI, if you misplace your copy of any of my recipes, please note, I always post them on my website (www.RD4Health.com) once *Fairbanks Living* is available. Any questions, comments, or requests, please let me know: pkorody@RD4Health.com.

I'm on Facebook – RD4Health Nutritional Counseling, LLC or Instagram – @pkorody or check out my website at www.RD4Health.com.



chef's corner

Written by Fairbanks Ranch Resident, **Peggy Korody, RD, CLT**

HAIGHT STREET SPINACH SALAD

Years ago, when we lived in Northern California, I attended a fundraiser for the local high school. Similar to a Las Damas event, it was a garden tour, but at each house, the host had an appetizer, mini-sandwich, salad, or dessert to share. At the end, you could purchase the cookbook with all the recipes, and I really liked this salad.

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yard of the month

All landscape images photographed by Cori Nichols

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charity events



THE VISION of CHILDREN FOUNDATION

“A Night For Sight”

A VERY SPECIAL CONCERT FEATURING A.J. CROCE.

Founded by Fairbanks Ranch residents Sam and Vivian Hardage, The Vision of Children Foundation will be hosting A Night for Sight featuring a very special concert – A.J. Croce performing “Croce Plays Croce” on Saturday, August 28, at Fairbanks Ranch Country Club – al fresco on the Field of Dreams. The fun evening will include Reception with Silent Auction, Dinner, Live Auction, and Opportunity Drawing.*

Visually impaired since childhood, A.J. Croce, a singer, songwriter, and virtuoso pianist, though now residing in Nashville, has strong ties with San Diego. His mother, Ingrid Croce, opened the renowned Croce’s Restaurant & Bar in 1985. For 31 years, the Gaslamp staple was a venue for budding artists, including A.J.

“Croce Plays Croce” pays homage to the legacy of A.J.’s father, Jim Croce – a golden-voiced everyman, a singer-songwriter-guitarist who died too soon, leaving one of pop music’s most beautiful and memorable ballads in his wake (“Time in a Bottle” written for A.J.).

The show will feature a complete set of classics by his legendary father, Jim Croce, some of his own tunes, and songs from artists who influenced them both. The show often includes such timeless songs as “Operator,” “You Don’t Mess Around with Jim,”

“Workin’ At the Car Wash Blues,” “Rapid Roy (The Stock Car Boy),” “One Less Set of Footsteps,” “Lovers Cross,” “Box #10,” and “Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown.”

Proceeds from the A Night for Sight concert will help fund critical vision research at UC San Diego Health to find cures for genetic vision disorders and childhood blindness and to provide support services for children living with blindness or visual impairment and their families.

Can’t attend the event? You can join Vision of Children in the fight to find a cure for genetic vision disorders by going to <https://visionofchildrenfoundation.salsalabs.org/donate>.

Learn more: <https://www.visionofchildren.org/>

Questions? Contact Kellye Buchanan, Director of Development, Vision of Children Foundation, (858) 314-7915, or email Kellye@visionofchildren.org.

Visit <https://www.visionofchildren.org/> for event details and to purchase your tickets! *This event will adhere to CDC guidelines.



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Real Estate RESOURCE



Inventory remains at a record low in Fairbanks Ranch, while demand for homes is off the charts! If you've thought of selling, NOW is a great time! The 19 most recent Pending and Sold homes are shown below. For more information or to discuss the value of your home, call Julie Feld, 619-417-3638.

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	DOM	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Parking	Pending?
17667 Calle Mayor	Fairbanks Ranch	\$2,980,000			12	6	10	5,874	Attached	Yes
6295 Camino Del Pajaro	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,350,000			133	5	7	6,442	Attached	Yes
16811 Circa Del Sur	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,495,000			29	5	7	6,240	Attached	Yes
17121 Circa Del Sur	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,675,000			45	6	7	8,512	Attached	Yes
6220 Avenida Floresta	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,685,000			38	4	6	6,500	Attached	Yes
6308 Calle Del Alcazar	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,695,000			21	5	6	5,111	Attached	Yes
17398 Calle Serena	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,798,000			258	8	6	7,341	Attached	Yes
17123 Circa Oriente	Fairbanks Ranch	\$4,750,000			177	4	5	6,000	Attached	Yes
16573 Via Lago Azul	Fairbanks Ranch	\$5,595,000			143	5	7	9,847	Attached	Yes
17844 Circa Oriente	Fairbanks Ranch	\$1,925,000	\$1,900,000	03/05/21	139	5	4	3,447	Attached	No
16767 Via Lago Azul	Fairbanks Ranch	\$2,500,000	\$2,400,000	04/09/21	7	3	4	3,740	Attached	No
16745 Avenida Arroyo Pasajero	Fairbanks Ranch	\$2,547,000	\$2,500,000	03/17/21	0	5	9	6,014	Detached	No
17792 Circa Oriente	Fairbanks Ranch	\$2,595,000	\$2,200,000	03/31/21	10	5	7	5,207	Attached	No
17356 Circa Oriente	Fairbanks Ranch	\$2,895,000	\$2,650,000	03/23/21	128	6	8	6,993	Attached	No
6123 Via Canada Del Osito	Fairbanks Ranch	\$3,395,000	\$3,250,000	02/25/21	83	5	5	6,508	Attached	No
5910 Via Canada Del Osito	Fairbanks Ranch	\$4,090,000	\$3,900,000	02/04/21	39	5	6	5,158	Attached	No
17116 Paseo Hermosa	Fairbanks Ranch	\$4,600,000	\$4,200,000	03/01/21	507	9	12	14,611	Detached	No
17039 Circa Del Sur	Fairbanks Ranch	\$4,850,000	\$4,600,000	03/30/21	98	6	9	7,658	Attached	No
6028 Via Posada Del Norte	Fairbanks Ranch	\$5,250,000	\$5,100,000	02/26/21	0	5	6	7,728	Attached	No

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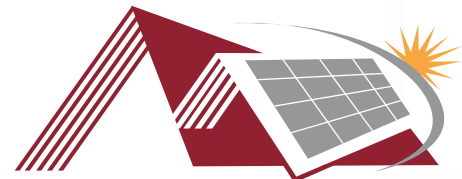
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- Heli Hoffman, Artist



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- Paul Walton, Entrepreneur

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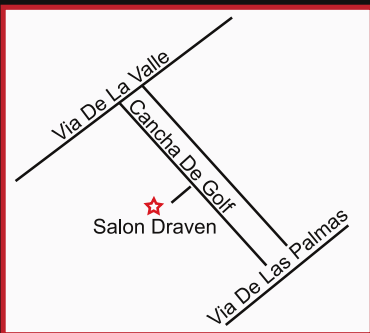
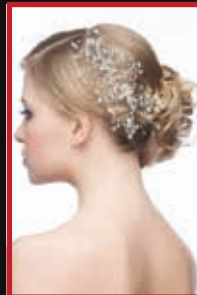
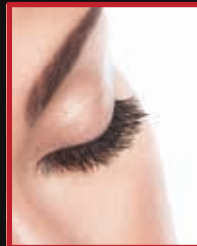
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