

What Makes a Neighborhood?

(1) Before we discover the history of some of the neighborhoods in Menifee, we have to first understand the meaning of the word, *neighborhood*. A neighborhood is an area of town that has its own name. Many times that area is known for a certain landmark, a special area, or a certain group of people. For example,



San Diego has a neighborhood called *Little Italy*. Many families from the country of Italy settled there over 100 years ago. They opened businesses such as grocery stores or restaurants. Many of them were fishermen and owned their own boats. Today if you visit Little Italy in San Diego, you will see busy streets filled with people who still speak Italian, old houses built by the original settlers, and many Italian restaurants.



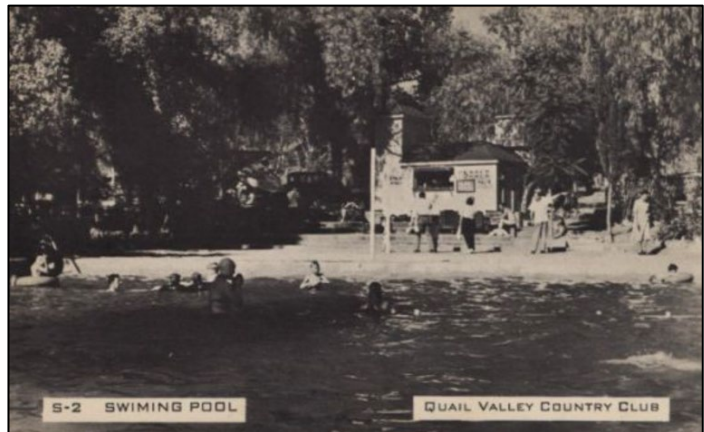
(2) Menifee Lakes is a well-known example of a Menifee neighborhood. Homes in this neighborhood were first built in 1989. Why is it called Menifee Lakes? A man-made lake was built at the center of this community. People who live in Menifee Lakes can walk, jog,

or ride their bikes around the lake. They can even visit the beach club, rent a paddle boat, and cruise around the lake. Menifee Lakes is also known for its golf course. Many golf tournaments are held here and the local high school golf team uses it as their home course. Menifee Lakes is also known for putting on the annual Fourth of July parade and fireworks show. This started out as a small event back in the early 1990's. Now people come from all over to see the parade, visit food booths, enjoy games, and then watch the spectacular fireworks show. This has been a neighborhood tradition in Menifee for over 25 years.

(3) Menifee also has older neighborhoods. One of the oldest neighborhoods in Menifee is Quail Valley. In 1891 Mr. Charles L. Cooper purchased 300 acres to be used as a game preserve for hunting quail, dove and rabbit. In 1910 the property was combined with land owned by the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank to form nearly 3,000 acres of prime hunting grounds.

In the 1920's most of the land was sold to investors who began developing a project they called "Lake Elsinore Lodge" that included a club house, tennis courts and equestrian stables as well as a large swimming pool "the plunge".

In the 1940's Mr. Cooper's son Charles E. Cooper changed the name to Quail Valley Country Club to honor his father. He fenced the property, added a guard gate front entrance and organized parades and events for residents and guests of the resort community.



The community had a restaurant, a small store and gas station. Plans for an 18-hole golf course and 80-acre lake were short lived, and by 1970 the Country Club and its amenities were no longer in use.

Today's residents of the Quail Valley community of Menifee can take pride knowing that their neighborhood was the original exclusive, private resort in the Menifee valley.

Many new houses and a new school were built in Quail Valley. When Menifee became a city in 2008, Quail Valley was included in the new city limits.



(4) Menifee's newest neighborhood is Audie Murphy Ranch. This area was once a large ranch and farm owned by James Ferrell. His daughter, Ella Ferrell, married Henry Evans and they farmed much the land around what is now Canyon Lake. But why is it now called Audie Murphy Ranch?

It is named for a man named Audie Murphy who was the most honored war hero of World War II. He bravely fought off the enemy during battle and saved hundreds of lives many times throughout the war. After the war ended in 1945, he left the Army and became an actor in Hollywood. He even worked with singers and wrote songs. But he never lost his love for the ranches and horses of his home state of Texas. In the 1960's, he purchased a large piece of land around the Salt Creek area of Menifee. He owned this ranch and raised quarter horses until his death in 1971. Another ranch owner in Menifee, Tom Fuhrman, saved some of the old buildings of the original ranch owned by Murphy. He has these buildings on his ranch today. Another part of the original Murphy ranch is owned by the Pechanga Tribe. They have sacred, or special spots in the area that are protected.



Today, Audie Murphy Ranch is a neighborhood with over 2,000 houses built along Salt Creek. The neighborhood has a skate park, walking and riding trails, a swimming pool, and a sports park.



1. What is a neighborhood? Write your answer in the box below.

2. The area of Menifee Lakes is known for... (choose all correct answers)

- a. A sports park
- b. A golf course
- c. A man-made lake
- d. A skate park
- e. A large swimming pool

3. Explain how the neighborhood of Quail Valley has changed over the years.

4. Look back at the information about Audie Murphy. Which of the following describes the information in that paragraph?

- a. It compares two things.
- b. It lists a sequence of events.
- c. It provides a list of instructions.
- d. It shows a cause and effect relationship.

5. Based on evidence in the section about Audie Murphy, choose two words that would describe his traits.

- a. polite
- b. courageous
- c. friendly
- d. creative
- e. patient

6. Write the evidence from the text that you used to support your two answers in #5.