

CHERRY CHAPTERS



SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 70 YEARS TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Remember that the Cherry Chapters is always available to be viewed online at our website: www.myleonavalley.org.

The benefit is that you can see parts of it in color and can check for information even if you threw away your hard copy!

Join us all on our social media!

The website for the Leona Valley Improvement Association is: www.myleonavalley.org.
The Facebook page can be found at: LVIA
Our Instagram account is: [LeonaValley.LVIA](https://www.instagram.com/LeonaValley.LVIA)

4-H Racketteers website is: <https://sites.google.com/view/leonavalley4h/home>.
Facebook page is at: Leona Valley Racketteers.

Leona Valley Town Council website: www.leonavalleytc.org
Email - lvtc@leonavalleytc.org



Leona Valley Improvement Association presents

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Join your neighbors for great traditional food!

Monday, March 17, 2025 4 pm - 7 pm

**LEONA VALLEY COMMUNITY BUILDING
8367 ELIZABETH LAKE RD.**

Dinner price of \$15 includes corned beef, veggies, and dessert. Discount for LVIA members - only \$12.
Alcoholic beverages for sale.

Join LVIA Now

Membership good to March 31, 2026

For more information:
www.myleonavalley.org



The LVIA Community Newsletter—Cherry Chapters—is a monthly publication by the Leona Valley Improvement Association for and about the people of Leona Valley. Contents are covered under copyright laws. Material may be quoted with source cited; other use requires the editor's or LVIA Board's approval. The newsletter is published at the first of each month.

DEADLINE: ALL ARTICLES, INFORMATION AND SPONSORS COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 24TH OF THE MONTH BEFORE THE MONTH IN WHICH IT IS TO BE USED. PLEASE INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION.

At Your Service...

Editor.....Peggy Fuller 270-0771

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 Building & Rental Schedules.....Leeann Murray 270-9205
 Marquee & SignLeeAnn Murray 270-9205
 Miss Leona Valley.....Sophia Gorrindo
 Gymkhanas/Arena.....Vacant
 Cherry Parade.....Peggy Fuller 270-0771

LVIA MEETINGS

Leona Valley Improvement Association meetings are held in the Community Building at 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road.

General Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome and invited to participate.

From the LVIA President’s Desk...

I hope everyone has survived the challenges of Winter and are ready for some nice weather...just in time for the busy spring season of LVIA events.

March 17 – Don’t miss the St Patrick’s Day dinner at the Community Building. You can’t beat the price for what you get (\$15 for corned beef, all the veggies and dessert). LVIA members get a discounted price of \$12, so join soon! Thanks to Mike Burroughs and Broken Bit, the beverage table at the event will be offering discounted specialty drinks; Irish Mules (Irish Whiskey and Ginger Beer) and Irish Coffees. Talk about getting into the St Patrick’s Day spirit!

April 5 – Membership Breakfast. We invite all community members to join us for the LVIA Membership Breakfast at the Community Building at 8am. We’ll be serving up a great home-cooked meal made by your Board; free to members and \$5 to non-members. Anyone who attends and joins the LVIA will be eligible for one of two raffle prizes (one for new members, and one for renewing members).

April 12- Chili Cook-off at the Community Building. It’s been some years since we had one of these tasty events. We’re looking for participants! If you have a chili recipe you would like to cook up for the day, please contact us so we can get a count on the chili pots we will be expecting. We could use a few judges. I’ve done some chili contest judging in my life so I’ll be one of them. Who wants to join me? Besides everyone getting to taste the competing chili dishes, the LVIA crew will also be serving up chili, cornbread, and salad. With plenty of beer and wine to wash it all down!

June 7 – Cherry Parade and Festival. Since I’m sure you have this date marked on your calendar, it’s time to start thinking about participating in the parade. The more entries, the more fun the parade becomes. Last year we added a karate studio, a fitness gym, a jeep brigade, a mountain bike team and some cool cars and ride-along characters to the event. We want to break last year’s record number of entries. This year’s theme is “*Cherry Trees and Honey Bees*”. Dream up some good costumes. Creative entry décor is always appreciated. There will be a new award category for the entries with the best music (provided live or recorded). We have resident friends that ride horses together, take horse lessons together, engage with horses in all sorts of positive ways. Get yourselves together and decide how you’d like to walk and ride the parade route that Saturday morning.

Other tidbits; We are still looking for a photographer or two to join our event photography team. Remember, you don’t have to attend each event. We need a Chili Cook-off photographer. We’ll again be looking for residents to volunteer their off-road vehicle (or golf cart) shuttle service on Parade day from either 7am to 9:30am, or from 12:00 to 1:00pm to help our volunteers. If you want to make yourself available for any number of possible volunteer opportunities, contact me at cresta5555@gmail.com. Thanks, Jeff Wright

WEST ANTELOPE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be held on March 3 at 5pm at the Leona Valley Community Building. Come enjoy our potluck treats and hear a speaker reminisce about early days. There will also be a special presentation of a painting from the Cosola family (see article on page 11. WAVHS is very grateful for this donation!

Lakes & Valleys Art Guild

Our next art show begins March 1 and will feature “Young Artists”, all under 25 years old. Anyone in that age group can enter; it is not necessary to be a member. There will be cash prizes. The show opening will be on Saturday, March 8, from 4 to 7 pm. Come meet the talented young artists while enjoying potluck food, live music, and a raffle. Vote for your favorite to win the People’s Choice award. We will also have a drawing class by Ramon Ramirez on Saturday, March 15, from 1 to 3pm. Keep up to date on all our events by visiting our website at www.lakesandvalleysartgallery.org, or join us on Facebook and Instagram.

CHERRY CHAPTERS SPONSORSHIP RATES

Business Card	\$25 per month
	\$200 per year (12 issues)
1/4 Page	\$40 per month
	\$320 per year*
1/2 Page	\$60 per month
	\$480 per year*
Full Page	\$100 per month
	\$800 per year*
Inserted Flyers	\$110 per flyer/per issue
	(* 12 Issues)

Call Peggy Fuller 270-0771 for details

Our sponsors help underwrite the costs involved in producing this newsletter. All sponsorship spaces must be prepaid by the 1st of each month. Checks should be made payable to the Leona Valley Improvement Association (LVIA).

The information you wish to include as a Cherry Chapters sponsor should be mailed to the Leona Valley Newsletter, P.O. Box 783, Leona Valley, CA 93551 or left in the Leona Valley Improvement Association (LVIA) box in Rancher’s Market, located at the intersection of Elizabeth Lake Road and 90th Street West.

An Angel Amongst Us

By Jeff Wright



Guyla Clayton wasn't just a long-term resident of Leona Valley. Some referred to her as one of the heartbeats of our community. Guyla and Richard Rowland moved to Leona Valley in 1976 with their 2-year-old son David. Soon after, Sarah was born. A few years after Richard's untimely passing, Guyla married Max Clayton, who would become the husband and father the kids would know and love for most of their lives. Sadly, Guyla left us too early last December.

Guyla was an amazing person. She literally lived to help others. When Leona Valley friends or acquaintances were experiencing health crises, she would often step in to help. The kids remember many families being invited to stay in their home over the years to help weather health or other issues. Guyla was an extremely welcoming person. Many new residents, and/or members of her church would recall that it was Guyla who would be the first to reach out to make them feel like they belonged in the community.

She regularly would volunteer to be the driver for the elderly needing to get to church, as well as for those in need of transportation to hospitals or doctor's appointments. Guyla started a grocery fund for one particular elderly woman, though most did not know she was doing it. Guyla wasn't in it for the praise or the notoriety. It's what she did. She was always ready to volunteer for our local organizations and was a tremendous help.

Guyla would periodically volunteer to join missionary visits to other countries, helping in any way that she could. She volunteered in the children's nursery at church, and hosted Women's Teas. For over 20 years, Guyla hosted a Sunrise Easter Service at her home. You always wanted to be in Guyla's orbit. She was interesting, she was compassionate, and she would always be your friend.

Guyla will be remembered for her effervescent smile, and her infectious positive attitude. She'll be remembered as a shining star of our Valley that constantly and selflessly gave to her community and residents in need. It was her passion to always help others when they needed it most. Guyla was one of Leona Valley's true angels. She herself would likely say that she has now "gained her eternal crown". She will be greatly missed, but she's now at peace.

Guyla's memorial service will be held at the Clayton home (9000 Lost Valley Road) on Saturday, March 15 at 1pm. Any and all are welcome to attend. Please text your RSVP to Sarah at 661-965-8107.



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Leona Valley Improvement Association Membership Form

• New Member • Renewal • Associate (Non-Leona Valley Resident) Membership Level: • Family—\$40 • Individual—\$25 • Senior/Senior Couple—\$20

I/We would like to make an additional donation of \$_____ to support our community activities

Please make your tax-deductible check out to: LVIA and mail to P O Box 783, Leona Valley, CA 93551 or put in the LVIA Box at Rancher's Market

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____ Date: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Occupation: _____

May we include you in our Annual Roster? Yes No If yes, please check: Address Phone E-mail

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	EVENT SUPPORTER	COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	ACTIVITIES
<input type="checkbox"/> LVIA Board Position <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone/E-Mail Tree <input type="checkbox"/> Building/Grounds Maintenance Crews <input type="checkbox"/> LVIA Boosters <input type="checkbox"/> Community Queens Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Gymkhana Queens Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Arena Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-H Spaghetti Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Valentine's Day Event <input type="checkbox"/> St. Patrick's Day Event <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H Easter Egg Hunt <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H Memorial Day Event <input type="checkbox"/> Community Queens Pageant <input type="checkbox"/> Sertoma Events <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry Parade & Festival <input type="checkbox"/> Gymkhana Queens Pageant <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Contest & Caravan <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Home Tour & more	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Council <input type="checkbox"/> Sertoma <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H Club <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Safe Council <input type="checkbox"/> Backcountry Horsemen <input type="checkbox"/> Leona Heritage Park and Pioneer Building <input type="checkbox"/> West Antelope Valley Historic Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse Related <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Related <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____



The Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes
Women's Club

The LWC is a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping others not only in the local area but also beyond these borders.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday each month except December when we break for our annual Christmas party. We meet at 11 am in the Lakes Community Center on Elizabeth Lake Road. All ladies of the Lakes and Valleys area are welcome.

The LWC holds many fun events during the year, the biggest being Casino Night. In addition, most of the Lakes Community Center projects find the LWC helping in some way.

The majority of our time and effort goes to making turtle pillows, lap blankets, and quilts for the Painted Turtle Camp. The meetings for sewing these items are held most Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm. We take a break for a potluck lunch at noon.

Be a part of the fun and fellowship by calling our President, Judy Miller at 661-609-4822. You can also look us up on Facebook at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Woman's Club.

Welcome to the "Kindness Corner"

Hello neighbors!

I am publishing these coupons of kindness each month for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors around town. I would love to see you share a photo of your experience.

Post your kindness nomination on the Leona Valley Improvement Association Face-book page or send what you did to my email at kathy.owen919@gmail.com or my phone 661-733-2295. The Board will pick a winner each month. I am sponsoring a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant for the presenter! All ages are welcome!..... by Kathy Owen

Kindness is the most tender and powerful way of leaving a memory inside people's hearts.
-Dodinsky

To: _____

From: _____

Good for one Act of Kindness

(Please pick something from your heart to pass on)

Cherry Parade and Festival Changes on the Way

By the LVIA Board

You spoke. We listened. After last year's successful Cherry Parade and Festival, the LVIA Board placed suggestion boxes in local businesses for a month. We collected everything that you liked about the parade/festival, and ideas for how we could make things better for 2025. Here's where we are as of February;

1. Bring the community building activities and vendors to the main intersection where most of the parade action and spectators are (*We are making it happen*)
2. Add shuttle service from Community Building to main intersection and back (*We're currently looking for pay options, but are open to any ideas from the community*)
3. Pick up trash on Leona Avenue after parade (*Plan in place*)
4. Improve parking for spectators and festival-goers (*Multiple actions underway*)
5. Expand sound from announcer flatbed to reach farther south on 90th, and looking toward Don Chato parking lot (*Adding speakers and cable where needed*)
6. Improve sign-in logistics for parade participants (*Actions underway*)
7. Improve judging experience and be able to judge entrants while in motion (*Judging will be done in real-time, located near main intersection*)
8. Add more musical-themed parade entries (*Working on it and open to ideas*)
9. Add more horse entries (*We do need the community to submit more horse related entries*)
10. Increase speed of food prep (*New deep-fryer purchased for cherry burritos. Large BBQ will be used for burgers in new location*)

There are some other smaller actions that are also being worked on per community suggestions, but the 10 actions above are the main ones. Thanks for the feedback, and as always, please consider volunteering for any amount of time available on parade/festival day (June 7th). We would greatly appreciate assistance on the biggest day of the year in Leona Valley. You don't have to work the whole day. We'll take you in one-hour increments if that works best for you. Let's keep making it better every year!



Spring is coming just around the corner.....

Well, as the year began, we started with making backpacks for the women veterans needing a helping hand. These backpacks will be used for these women to carry personal items as they make their way back into society. We have completed sewing and now are in the process of filling them with many of those items.

As we mentioned in last month's article, we are holding another Easter Egg Hunt for our local children. The date has been set and will be April 19th. All children in the Lakes and Valleys area are welcome to attend. We are planning to have the egg hunt, crafts, cookies, hot cocoa and some prizes. All the ladies are looking forward to seeing you all.

This year's Annual Yard Sale will be on May 3rd. We will begin collecting items in mid-April so keep us in mind until then. This year looks to be a beautiful day, and we hope to see many of you there to buy, buy, buy.

Our club has been busy creating another outstanding quilt to offer an opportunity to win. Tickets will be available at the upcoming Car Show at the Lakes Community Center and then we will be letting you know where we will be for other opportunities to purchase tickets. Pictures will soon be available to see on our Facebook page, and other local sites.

The Sierra-Cahuenga District of which our club is a part, is holding its Annual Convention and some of our ladies will be attending. We submitted many reports this year and are hopeful that we will win some awards at the convention this year. Last year we won many awards from our district and also two from California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) at their convention. Our little club is well known and proud of the work we do.

If you are looking for an opportunity to help with your community, and more, as well as have a good time with some great women, come and visit on most Mondays from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Lakes Community Club. Or on the second Wednesday of each month for our monthly meeting. For information call our President Judy Miller at 661-609-4822 or check out our Facebook page at Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Woman's Club.

FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND RICH THOMAS

Rich Thomas passed away on January 12, 2025, in Oregon, where he lived with his wife Mary and daughter Perry. He and Mary had moved there recently after having lived in Leona Valley for almost 25 years. They moved to our community after Rich retired from his job as a Vice President of Honda Motor Company. They both became very involved in community activities, joining Sertoma and LVIA.

Rich was one of the founding members of Sertoma and served as President for several years. He actively participated in all their fund-raising and community events. For both LVIA and Leona Valley Town Council, he volunteered for many years and eventually, took over the reins, becoming President of both organizations about 10 years ago and served both well.

As President of Town Council, he was instrumental in the fights to keep developers out of our town, as well as working for years to successfully reach an agreement with Cal Water to lower our rates. In regard to proposed subdivisions and tract houses, his philosophy was that we should never negotiate with developers. It worked well and we defeated the Valley Vineyards project that would have added over 300 tract houses in Bouquet Canyon. During his years with LVIA, he brought his management skills to bear in creating better organization and procedures, as well as upgrades to the Community Building.

Rich and Mary were always happy to open their beautiful home, with its extensive collection of antiques, to host fund-raising events for our community organizations. They were great hosts, and Rich especially loved showing off his antique player pianos and cars. He had a wealth of knowledge of almost everything and was happy to consult on any topic. We really miss him!



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Leona Valley Racketteers 4-H

Recently, some of our club members, including Ava Bonham, Charlotte Bonham, Easton Kock, and Adan and Alina Rodriguez, received awards in the food revue. We will also be raising money, along with the other clubs and organizations, at the March 1st Barn Bash for barn improvements and new construction at the AV Fairgrounds. If a business wants to advertise or buy a table for eight that includes a pulled pork dinner, they can contact Sarah Bonham at lvracketteers4h@gmail.com. The Racketteers 4-Hers would like to invite our whole community to this year's Buyer Appreciation dinner and corn-hole tournament at the LVIA building! Exact date to be determined, but will be sometime this summer.

LVIA Community Queens Welcome Newcomers

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Leona Valley Queens hosted an elegant informational tea to share their experiences and highlight the many benefits of participating in the Leona Valley Pageant. The Queens all shared that improved communication skills, the opportunity to form lasting friendships, and serving their community were among the most rewarding aspects of being a queen.

Leona Valley Miss, Sophia Gorrindo, excitedly announced that the 2025 Leona Valley Pageant will feature a magical Disney theme. The 2025 Leona Valley Queen contestants are:

- **Little Miss Leona Valley:** Emma Jordan
- **Teen Miss Leona Valley:** Haley Hartmann
- **Miss Leona Valley:** Harley Koons

We are still searching for a Young Miss Leona Valley Contestant (9-11 years old) and a Junior Miss Leona Valley Contestant (11-14 years old)! For more information, please contact Angie Hughes at 661-547-0154. And mark your calendars! The 2025 Leona Valley Pageant is set to take place on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at the Leona Valley Community Building. As the festivities kick off, be on the lookout for those pesky flamingos—they're sure to make an appearance! Help support our local contestants as they embark on this rewarding journey.



GREEN VALLEY CALENDAR

Green Valley's upcoming events include a monthly Board meeting on March 12 at 6pm and their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 15 from 4 to 7pm, both at the Community Club.



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NRA Members’ Council of the Antelope Valley

proudly announces

People On Target (NRA First Step Pistol Orientation)

Learn to Shoot!
April 12, 2025

Where: Leona Valley Community Building: 8367 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Leona Valley 93551
A Place To Shoot: 33951 San Francisquito Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita, CA 91390

When: Saturday, April 12, sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda: 8:00-8:30 a.m. Sign-in
8:30-12:00 noon Classroom instruction (NRA certified instructors)
12:00 noon – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 4:00pm Round Robin at A Place To Shoot

Cost: \$75.00 (pre -registration required). Cost includes use of firearms, targets, and ammunition. Clinic is rain or shine.

Note: Clinic is limited to 20 participants. Payment is required to confirm spot in clinic. Free goody bags for all participants.

Contact: Chuck Sparks (661) 317-0556 (please, no calls after 9:30 p.m.) or via email at chuck@sparksfst.com.

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Valley With A View

By Jeff Wright

In 1967, John and Dee Cosola moved their family of young children to a hidden, scenic valley where other firemen had been moving with their families. They found what so many others have since discovered; a tranquil rural environment, full of wonderful neighbors and a heavenly dose of nature. Their first home was on 98th Street, but they later would build their dream home up on the north side of ELR, looking at Bouquet Canyon disappearing south into the distance. Besides the spectacular sunrises and sunsets that their new view afforded them, they also were able to take in the wonderful expanse of Leona Valley's south side.

Siblings Frank, Gina, and JoDee Cosola grew up in Leona Valley, also enjoying the lifestyle and the incredible country views with their parents for many years. A particular favorite view of their mom's was the old Juan Arrache Ranch area, a half-mile down Bouquet from ELR. The old barn and silo have been the subject of many photos and countless head-turnings by those driving the Bouquet Canyon route. The property had been vacant for some years when Dee heard a rumor that the barn was going to be torn down. Her view would be forever changed.

Daughter Gina had become an accomplished artist over the previous decade and decided to produce an acrylic painting of that barn and silo scene. Working from a photograph, Gina finished the work not long before the barn was indeed torn down. It would become a beautiful and treasured gift from daughter to mother.

Now in their late-80s and early-90s, John and Dee have downsized and moved to Temecula. Gina and JoDee have gotten married and also moved out of the area. Frank and his wife Susan still live in their beautiful LV home high up on the north side with their own spectacular view of the same south hills. Recently, Dee and John decided that to honor the valley in which they had spent so many memorable years, they wanted to donate the gorgeous painting to the West Antelope Valley Historical Society, to eventually be displayed as art in the old LV school house. Leona Valley is grateful for the donation and is appreciative of Gina's artistic talents.

Gina now teaches art to students and teachers in the AV, both in-person and virtually. If you would like to see more of Gina's stunning work, check out her website at GinaWilsonArt.com.



Original photograph



Cosola Family



Original artwork by Gina Wilson



Cherry Chapters

LVIA

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COVER PAGE

LVIA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • CHERRY CHAPTERS

MARCH 2025

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 3 - Monday - WAVHS meeting, 5 pm
March 10 - Monday - 4-H General meeting, 6 pm, LV Town Council meeting, 7 pm
March 17 - Monday - **LVIA St. Patrick's Day dinner, 4 to 7 pm**
March 20 - Thursday - LVIA General meeting, 7:30 pm
March 22 - Saturday - LVIA Gymkhana, 8 am

April 5 - Saturday - **LVIA Membership Breakfast**
April 7 - Monday - WAVHS meeting, 5 pm
April 12 - Saturday - Firearms Safety Training Class, 9 am
April 12 - Saturday - **LVIA Chili Cook-off, 4 to 7 pm**
April 14 - Monday - LV Town Council meeting, 7 pm
April 17 - Thursday - LVIA General meeting, 7:30 pm
April 21 - Monday - 4-H General meeting, 6:30 pm
April 26 - Saturday - LVIA Gymkhana, 8 am

May 3 - Saturday - **LVIA Spring Garage Sale**
May 4 - Sunday - **LVIA Community Queen's Pageant**
May 5 - Monday - WAVHS meeting, 5 pm
May 12 - Monday - LV Town Council meeting, 7 pm
May 15 - Thursday - LVIA General meeting, 7:30 pm
May 19 - Monday - 4-H General meeting, 6:30 pm
May 24 - Saturday - LVIA Gymkhana, 8 am
May 26 - Monday - 4-H Memorial Service - Heritage Park

For Future Planning!

June 7 - Cherry Parade
Sept. 20 - Garage Sale
October 11 - Oktoberfest
Oct. 31 - Halloween Caravan
Dec. 7 - Senior Dinner
Dec. 14 - Craft Fair

Use this Zelle QR code to pay for your membership in order to receive discounts at LVIA events.

