

THE CONNECTOR

Kearney Lodge Community Connector
December 2025



Kearney Lodge Management Holiday Party

Kearney Lodge Management hosted a fun and festive Holiday party on Saturday, December 6, 2025, with a heartwarming “Thank You” theme dedicated to KL ownership, KLM staff, and residents for their contributions to the togetherness and safety of our community. The club-house sparkled with bright, cheerful decorations, setting the perfect atmosphere for celebration. A talented resident performed Christmas songs on guitar, inviting everyone to sing along and share in the holiday joy. Santa made a special appearance, delighting children and adults alike with photos and holiday cheer. Management added to the excitement by giving out raffle gifts and providing a photo booth to capture memorable moments of the season.

Guests enjoyed a delicious catered meal, as always, and appreciated the opportunity to hear from management and reconnect with neighbors. The event was a delightful reminder of the strong sense of community at Kearney Lodge.

A BIG THANK YOU to KLM and staff for making this highly anticipated celebration another one to remember!

Submitted by: Amber Bennett



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RESIDENT OF THE MONTH: NELSON RIVAS

Nelson Rivas was born in 1980, in El Salvador, Central America. When Nelson was three years old, his dad passed away. Nelson's mother struggled to make sense of life after her husband's death and being encouraged by her father to immigrate to America, she did. And so it was left to Nelson's grandma to raise him and his brother until Nelson was seven years old. During those four years away, his mother worked in Houston, Texas until returning to El Salvador to claim her sons. Nelson and his family immigrated and arrived in San Diego in 1988. He started first grade while living at his uncle's house in Encanto. Two years later, Nelson moved to Clairemont, attending Alcott, then Marston, eventually graduating from Clairemont High in 1999.

Right after graduation, Nelson joined the Navy. After basic training, he attended hospital corps school for six months, studying basic medicine. The Navy newly required corpsmen to attend Field Medical Service School (FMSS). While stationed at 29 Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in the Mojave Desert, Southern California, Nelson deployed to Japan for jungle warfare training and then sailed to the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand. In his last six months at 29 Palms, Nelson deployed to Iraq.

In 2003 he arrived in Kuwait, spending a month awaiting his medical detail. Nelson joined a Light Armored Reconnaissance unit whose duty was to travel through cities by military vehicle convoy, some hummers or large troop-carrying vehicles, to explore areas and gather information. Sometimes they were on the road for a solid month; even reaching the border of Iran, before returning to camp in Kuwait. The men stayed in tents at camp, where daily temperatures were above 100 degrees. However, most of Nelson's Iraqi deployment consisted of time in a civilian hospital or ambulance, treating casualties of all ages with injuries ranging from burns to blast traumas and gunshot wounds. Nelson recalls the constant explosions and fire reigning down from the sky. As his three-year tour came to an end, Nelson returned to Kuwait to await transfer. His unit's highly respected translator invited 40 of the men to his house for a delicious banquet feast; a healing balm to quell the smokey brimstone taste.

Nelson's next deployment was his choice—Rota, Spain. The Navy base was right on the beach, and he spoke the native language. He enrolled in college through UMUC. He worked at the hospital processing claims for Tri-Care and as a translator. He often flew to nearby Sicily, taking driving excursions around the island. He also visited Portugal, Morocco and Germany, touring old castles and attending a memorable Oktoberfest.

Nelson decided to discharge from service after three years in Spain. He relocated to Michigan and completed his BS in Psychology and then his MBA. After eight years there, he returned to San Diego in 2014. Upon returning to Clairemont, he reunited with Guadalupe, a friend from his youth, and by the end of the year they were married. In 2016 their son Israel was born; a year later, moved to Kearney Lodge. Nelson worked for Union Bank in the electronic banking department and Lupe was a stay-at-home mom until Israel was schooling age. Nelson now works at US Bank in the research department and Lupe works for IHSS as a senior caregiver. Lupe is a charming woman who loves her plants and enjoys being in her garden. Nelson attends KLCC functions and the monthly tech class in the clubhouse. He and Israel enjoy walking at the baseball fields gathering stray balls to make and sell bracelets out of the stitching. They enjoy perusing garage sales, buying and reselling action figures, and finding great deals from time to time. Father and son can be seen together often around the park, playing soccer on the grass, swimming or walking around. They also enjoy fitting puzzles and framing them as gifts for a family member.

Nelson's closing remarks intended for park residents were: "See you around. Don't hesitate to say hi and reach out if you need anything." The Rivas are a kind-hearted Christian family. They are known and liked by their neighbors and many KL residents. Every time I see Nelson and his son, it warms my heart to a smile. Thank you to the Rivas for being KL community guardians and wonderful human beings!



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Kearney Lodge Community Connection MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 8, 2025 Called to order at: 11:00 AM

Board members present: All Present

1. Administrative Business
 - a. Pledge of allegiance
 - b. Previous meeting minutes read
 - i. Approved by: Leslie
 - c. Treasurer's report: Previous balance \$83.73
 - i. Donations: 218.50 Expenses \$208.17
 - ii. Current balance \$94.06 (Bal does not reflect Leslie's Oct. \$50 donation)
 - iii. Approved by: Linda
 - d. Neighborhood watch report: BC's meeting 11/20 @ 6PM
 - i. Items for discussion: WA chat v. text string; KL website presentation by Nick (?), BC photo/bio for website, encourage more BC attendance, Town Hall update
2. Unfinished Business
 - a. November 1 Craft Fair results: poor; only 4 vendors and a dozen attendees
 - b. Meet&Greet Event- in lieu of regular meeting; Dec. 13th @ 11AM
 - c. KLCC EVENTS:
 - i. Dumpster Day- date TBD (either April 11 or 18); Val will order E-Waste truck
 - ii. Rummage Sale-March 21; Wendy to calendar with KLM
 - d. Welcome Letter redone; will go on webpage
 - e. Bulletin window on East side belongs to management; we can ask if we want to post
 - f. Neighborhood updates—power outage was due to neighborhood glitch (suggestion to put outage preparedness reminder in NL)
 - g. KLCommunity.com updates- website demonstration; 15 residents have joined; NL opt-in growing
3. New Business
 - a. Green trash cans update. The Park received one green can, NOT one for each space.
If you have yard waste or other garbage, ask the Park to lend you the green can
Check with Elise on the process and whether there is a green dumpster in the small vehicle storage area.
 - b. Suggestion boxes: no submissions; new label posted to clarify submissions
 - c. Items from the Board
 - i. Store KLCC meeting sign in clubhouse; reminder to put out 2 days before meeting
 - ii. Meeting procedures as edited: Nominated: Amber; Unanimous approval
 - iii. Election of board officer positions: December 13, during Meet & Greet event
 - d. Items from attendees:
 - i. Resident requested December Craft Fair-planned for Dec. 20th, 10AM-2PM
 - ii. Spotlight/Resident OTM articles on block captains
 - iii. Add a description of Tech Class to NL/website to encourage attendance
 - e. Yard of the Month Winner: 306 “Café Seating for Two”
 - i. KLCC will PAUSE on YOTM awards until future notice
 - f. Raffle drawing: \$4.00
 - g. # of Attendees: 9

Meeting adjourned at: 12:24 PM



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* Subject to TLC Management approval

Look at all the Yards of the Month For January



ML Pro Landcare



Marco, the owner of ML Pro Landcare and his family are longtime Kearney Lodge residents.

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- KL resident review

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Kearney Lodge Community Connection MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 13, 2025 Called to order at: 10:59

Board members present:

- President: Wendy Hunter
- Vice President: Ron Maurice
- Treasurer: Valerie Dombrow
- Secretary: Amber Bennett

1. Administrative Business

- a. Pledge of allegiance
- b. Previous meeting minutes will be read at the January meeting
- c. Treasurer's report
 - i. Previous balance \$ _____
 - ii. Income \$ _____.00 Expenses \$ _____.00
 - iii. Current balance \$ _____

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Craft Fair next Saturday; December 20; 10 AM – 1 PM

3. New Business

- a. Report on KLCommunity sign ups: 40 people signed up for emailed newsletter; 16 have requested paper copies
- b. Suggestion made to have either block captains or newsletter volunteers deliver 1 page simple directions for email delivery to keep costs down
- c. Suggestion made for Nick to provide Val with information for advertisers regarding stats that can be provided for online clicks; also ideas for new advertising options availability
- d. Wendy will chart paper deliveries on a park map so Amber can rotate delivery among the existing volunteers
- e. Meet and greet for the rest of the meeting with refreshments provided by the board members a several community members

4. Next Meeting

- As scheduled: 2nd Saturday of next month from 11:00 AM to Noon

*Just a few more of the houses in the park
celebrating Christmas*



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Painters 6 PM 29				Bible Study 5:30 PM Space 131 2	
28		30	31	1		3
4	Painters 6 PM 5	6	7	8	Bible Study 5:30 PM Space 131 9	KLCC Meeting 10 1:00:am
11	Painters 6 PM ~~ 12	13	Tech Class W/ Nick 6 PM 14	Neighborhood Watch 6 PM 15	Bible Study 5:30 PM 16	17
18	Painters 6 PM 19	20	21	22	Bible Study 5:30 PM Space 131 23	24
25	Painters 6 PM 26	27	Tech Class W/ Nick 6 PM 28	29	30	31

**KLCC
Board of
Officers**

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY

Wendy Hunter
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Amber Bennett
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**VICE
PRESIDENT**
TREASURER

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NIGHT TIME SECURITY OFFICER: 858.260.4089

NEWSLETTER AD PRICES PER MONTH

Monthly payments for ads must be received by
KLCC Treasurer: Val prior to publication.

Please contact *The Connector* at:
vadombrow@yahoo.com each month to
start, continue, pause or stop your ad post.



*ad pricing as of 3/30/25

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YARD OR RESIDENT OF THE MONTH NOMINATION

SPC# or Name _____

DESCRIPTION: _____

CUT OUT AND LEAVE IN A SUGGESTION BOX OR BRING TO A MEETING!