

Quail Valley Proud

Inside the Cover

April 2024



2024 Planned Events

- Easter Saturday March 31 members only
- Memorial Day kids' bike, wagon and dog parade – Saturday May 25
- Bingo Every Friday from May 31 – July 26 members only
- Independence Day Friday, July 5
 www.quailvalleyproud.com

Meet the new QV Proud President, Ginny Sullaway!

I am excited to be President of Quail Valley Proud. Yes, the last name is familiar as my husband, Guy, served as President for the last 3 years. During that time I was the "woman behind the man" helping him as needed as both a board member and spouse, so the transition will be smooth.

Now that we have a great lineup of events for Quail Valley, we will look to see which ones we want to refine/adjust as our community continues to grow and change.

One such change is to grow our Crime Watch program. Over the past 3 years our chair, Don Hazelwood, has done a good job getting this committee up and running. We have heard how much the neighborhood likes this program and as such, Quail Valley is asking for more neighbors to get involved running patrols!

There is a quick training and then you are set to ride around the neighborhood (getting great landscaping ideas from our neighbors!). Rarely do any of us see something worth calling in, but that is a good thing! That means we are visible and high-visibility + a Crime Watch neighborhood team = less crime in our neighborhood.

Finally, we are expanding our sponsorship opportunities this year and you can help. Rising costs over the last few years have QV Proud feeling the pinch as we strive to keep our membership dues at \$40/annually and cover the cost of our events.

If you own a small business or know of a business that would be interested in becoming a 2024 sponsor, we would be happy to share all available 2024 sponsorship opportunities with you.

Ginny Sullaway



Bingo will run every Friday from May 31 - July 26 except 4th of July weekend.

BIG NEWS FOR BINGO 2024!

We are pleased to announce that Bingo will be in the Magnolia Room upstairs this year! This means that we can accept more people to play each week. It also means that if you attend you will asked to eat from the buffet only. Ordering off the menu is not an option with us being upstairs.

Due to the popularity of this event, registration will be open for 1 day. As you register, everyone will be automatically added to the waitlist. After registration closes, a random number generator will be used to determine who will be moved off the waitlist for Bingo that week. Those people will receive an email to confirm their registration.

We realize that some people may not prefer this format as they were quick to register and able to attend most weeks. We are trying to be more accommodating to those that wanted to attend and never had the opportunity.



A Proud Easter Celebration!

Quail Valley had some EGG-cellent fun Saturday, March 30th at the Quail Valley Proud Easter Celebration and egg hunt.

It was a beautiful day and the perfect event to welcome spring!

There were over 100 kids that participated in an egg hunt, sack races, did crafts and posed for pictures with the Easter bunny.

This event is such a success, we plan to hold it again next year. We "hop" to see you next year!





We will host our annual Memorial Day Kids Bike, Wagon, and Dog Parade on Saturday, May 25 starting at 10 AM at City Center, check in starting at 9:30am so you can decorate in the parking lot.

Our route will be the same as previous years – from the City Center to the Cottages and back.

Decorate your bike, wagon, stroller, dog, golf cart and/or yourself and come join us! We will have a fire truck leading the parade. Arrive early to have your picture taken with the fire truck or with one of our public safety officers.

Information about shirt orders will be coming.

It's Scholarship Time!

Our annual scholarship process has started and applications will be due April 19! Scholarships are available for any graduating senior who has lived in Quail Valley at least the 4 years they have attended high school. Last year we awarded over \$5,000 in scholarships to local seniors.

Visit https://www.quailvalleyproud.com/Scholarships to fill out an application!





Our 2023 Recipients

FORT BEND ISD 2024 GRADUATION DATES Be sure to congratulate your neighbor!

All Ceremonies will be held in the new Fort Bend EpiCenter in Rosenberg.

Thursday, May 23, 2024 3:30 p.m. Ridge Point High School 7:30 p.m. Travis High School

Friday, May 24, 2024 8:30 a.m. Bush High School 12 p.m. Hightower High School 3:30 p.m. Elkins High School 7 p.m. Dulles High School

Saturday, May 25, 2024 8 a.m. Clements High School 11 a.m. Austin High School 2 p.m. Kempner High School 5 p.m. Marshall High School 8 p.m. Willowridge High School

QVST Dolphins - An Olympian for Quail Valley

Since returning with a BANG! in the summer of 2021, your Quail Valley Swim Team has been completed rebranded, become a 501c3 organization, moved to a new (& heated) pool facility & brought back the beloved Learn To Swim program. All that has been missing is strong, on-deck leadership....but not anymore!



Quail Valley, please welcome your new Head Coach, Olympian, Marlene Bruten! Come & meet her in-person & sign-up to volunteer for the season at any one of the public board meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at DoubleDave's PizzaWorks on Hwy 6.

Practices & our Learn To Swim program will be held at the heated Meadowcreek Pool. Swim meets are held Monday evenings in June and end before the July 4th holiday. (Full swim schedule is available online.) Jr. Coaching opportunities available to ages 16+.

Register today for our Summer League swim team & our Learn To Swim program! <u>www.qvst.org</u>

Krystel Seier – QVST – Past President







DID YOU KNOW





It's Almost Berry-Pickin' Time!

Spring is here, and one of the most original family activities this time of year is to go to a berry-picking farm! Within a short drive of Missouri City, you can find strawberry, blueberry and blackberry farms that are open to "pick your own." Here is a list of our our favorites. Please call or visit the farms' websites to plan your visit. Their hours vary.

Froberg's Farm and Country Store

3601 W Highway 6 Alvin, TX www.frobergsfarm.com This one is just down the road in Alvin. Strawberry season has already started and blackberries will be available starting in May. Visit the country store, eat a picnic, and let the kids play!

Blessington Farms

510 Chisolm Trail Simonton, TX www.blessingtonfarms.com Along with blueberry picking, this farm has a Funland where you can feed camels, ride trek bikes or go down slide mountain!

Chmielewski Blueberry Farm

23810 Bauer Hockley Rd Hockley, TX www.chmielewski-blueberry.com This no-frills farm lets you fill your bucket for only \$5 per pound.

Thomas Family Ranch

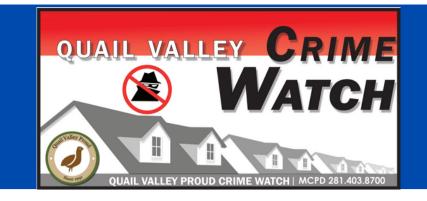
12753 Hahn Rd Sealy, TX www.thomasfamilyranch.com This family farm has blackberries and blueberries to pick, but you have to make a reservation for your visit. While you are there you can visit their beautiful collection of quarter horses, and some are for sale.

Thanks to Our Sponsors!









Quail Valley Proud Crime Watch needs you!

Do neighborhood crime watches work?

The Department of Justice found that <u>"citizen policing</u> <u>programs are associated with a significant reduction in</u> <u>crime.</u>" Neighborhoods with crime watch programs tend to see fewer burglaries that those without. That is because the programs tend to prevent crime from happening, instead of "catching" criminals after the crime.

Participants in Quail Valley Proud's Crime Watch only need to commit to ONE HOUR PER MONTH and complete a brief training. Some of our participants use their car to perform their shift. But some participants conduct their shift while they take their daily exercise walk. Even more use their shift to go for a bike ride or golf cart!

Please consider being part of Crime Watch! Visit https://www.quailvalleyproud.com/Crime-Watch for more information and to fill out your application!

Don Hazelwood



Each month, Varmints in the Valley will highlight a species of wildlife that calls Quail Valley home. **If you** have any suggestions for a future column, or if you would like to share interesting wildlife photos you have captured in our neighborhood, please email events@quailvalleyproud.com!

Quail Valley has its fair share of predator sightings in the neighborhood – coyotes, hawks, bobcats, etc.But none elicit a bigger response than an American Alligator. If you have not seen one in person, a quick look at social media tells you they are definitely among us!

The American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is native to the Southeastern US and a small region of NE Mexico. Adult males can grow to be 15 feet long and weigh as much as 1,000 lbs, although there are unsubstantiated claims of much larger sightings. The American Alligator prefers freshwater wetlands like marshes and swamps...and golf course ponds. They are apex predators that eat mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles.

The muscles alligators use to open their mouths are not very strong, which is why you see people on TV using tape to close their jaws. But the same can NOT be said for the force at which they snap those jaws shut! Adult American alligators own the record as having the strongest laboratory-measured bite of any living animal, measured at up to 2,961 pounds of force.

If you live in SE Texas, you are bound to run across one of these reptiles sooner or later. What should you do?

DOs AND DON'TS FOR LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS

Adapted from "Living with Alligators," <u>Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission</u>)

Don't - kill, harass, molest or attempt to move alligators. State law prohibits such actions, and the potential for being bitten or injured by a provoked alligator is high.

Do - call your TPWD regional office if you encounter a nuisance gator that has lost its fear of people. **Don't** - feed or entice alligators. Alligators overcome their natural shyness and become accustomed or attracted to humans when fed. It is now a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500, to intentionally feed an alligator.

Do - inform others that feeding alligators creates problems for others who want to use the water for recreational purposes.

Don't - throw fish scraps into the water or leave them on shore. Although you are not intentionally feeding alligators, the end result can be the same.

Do - dispose of fish scraps in garbage cans at most boat ramps or fish camps.

Don't - remove any alligators from their natural habitat or accept one as a pet. It is a violation of state law to do so. Alligators do not become tame in captivity and handling even small ones may result in bites. In particular, never go near baby alligators or pick them up. They may seem cute and harmless, but mama alligator will be nearby, and will protect her clutch for at least two years.

Do - enjoy viewing and photographing wild alligators from a safe distance of at least 30 feet or more. Remember that they're an important part of Texas's natural history, as well as an integral component of many wetland ecosystems.

Some Local Varmints...



















2024 Board of Directors

President

Ginny Sullaway Term Ends 2027

Vice President

Krystel Seier Term Ends 2026

Secretary

Traci Munsey Term Ends 2026

Past President Guy Sullaway

Treasurer Alicia Bloch Term Ends 2025 **Crime Watch** Don Hazelwood

