

Recreation Division Highlights

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Festival de los Muertos



On Saturday, November 1, CRPD hosted its 3rd annual Festival de los Muertos at the Borchard Community Center. The event featured live mariachi bands, folklorico dancers, artisan vendors, face painting, arts and crafts, games, and a variety of delicious food trucks. Conejo Community Center staff spent the last month making over 500 sugar skulls for families to decorate, which was a big hit!

This year's event also introduced a new highlight: community organization ofrendas displayed inside the gym. Participants included the Newbury Park High School Latino Connection Club, Thousand Oaks High School Latin Connection Club, and the Conejo Creek Safe Passage Youth Foundation Kids Club.

An estimated 2,000 community members¹ attended, coming together to celebrate and appreciate the rich cultural traditions, stories, memories and spirit of Dia de los Muertos. The event even made the front page of the Thousand Oaks Acorn newspaper!

¹Data provided by Placer.ai

Conejo Community Center



ELOP Fun Friday

Conejo Community Center staff and CVUSD students participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) celebrated Halloween with a specialist who taught them how to make delicious, no-bake, holiday desserts. The students also received gift bags from the Safe Passage Youth Foundation which included candy and small toys!

Foodie Tales

Foodie Tales, one of our most popular parent/child classes, was created by Senior Recreation Leader Megan Davy and combines storytelling with themed crafts and treats. In this class, Megan shared the book "At the Zoo." The children made paper plate tigers and decorated waffles to look like animal faces. This class filled with 15 children and parents in the first half hour after registration began.

Thousand Oaks Community Center

Upcoming Event at McCrea Ranch: Bingo & Bagels

This upcoming Saturday, November 15th, Thousand Oaks Center welcomes all breakfast lovers, western enthusiasts, and bingo players to join us at McCrea Ranch for Bingo & Bagels! At this event, guests will celebrate the birthdays of Hollywood stars Joel McCrea and Frances Dee with a lovely spread of pastries and bagels and a Q&A with Wyatt McCrea, followed by games of bingo and tours of the historic property's lower buildings.

Gymnastics at Thousand Oaks Center

This Fall/Winter session, Thousand Oaks Center 'stuck the landing' with new offerings of children's gymnastics classes! Taught by Cartwheel-A-Go-Go, these classes seek to boost the confidence and agility of young gymnastics. Classes vary from early childhood TOTS Gymnastics to youth Beginning and Intermediate Gymnastics, where students learn basic tumbling and develop balance beam and vaulting skills.

Therapeutic Recreation



Halloween Dance

On October 25th, the Therapeutic Recreation unit hosted its annual Halloween Dance, boasting around 75 attendees! Participants enjoyed a live DJ, a costume contest, and delicious Halloween treats donated by National Charity League, then danced the night away!



Programs

Adult Social and Friends culminated their yearlong Park Exploration Project! They visited all 52 CRPD parks including planned tours at Stagecoach Museum, Los Flores Gardens, and various community centers. On October 21st, the group presented their experiences at Hillcrest in the "Rec Room" via a PowerPoint presentation, sensory activity, and round table discussion with Q&A to Andrew Mooney and Tabitha McAtee along with other CRPD staff who attended the presentation. The group highlighted accessibility features such as walkways, playground features, and restrooms and reflected that Conejo Creek North was their favorite park visited.

Hillcrest Center for the Arts

Classes, Comedy, and Elementary Music

The outdoor "Comedy on the Hill" series has resumed being indoors and will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 8:00 pm.

The Elementary Music Program is preparing for winter assemblies and concerts in early-mid December for chorus and in early January for band and strings.



Shows at Hillcrest Center for the Arts

The Hillcrest Player's "Interdimensional House of Waffles" concluded after four packed shows. These shows are for performers age 7-14 and it is such fun to watch some of them grow up through the program and mentor the newbies.

Young Artist Ensemble's fall production of "Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy" opened on November 7 and is running through November 23. Don't miss your chance to see the most famous sisters and their adventures.

This year's Teen Drama just completed casting, and the world premiere of the "Descent of Dust and Shadows" will occur in January 2026. This fantasy show will bring fairy tales, adventures, and fantasy characters to life on a epic journey to save a unicorn and discover oneself.

Aquatic Recreation

Pumpkin Patch & Splash



On Saturday, October 4, the Aquatics Unit hosted the second annual Pumpkin Patch and Splash at the Community Pool at CLU. The event featured games with prizes, arts and crafts, themed snacks, and a floating pumpkin patch. A total of 119 participants attended the event, with approximately 100 children selecting and taking home a pumpkin. The event was well-received by the community and continues to grow in participation and popularity.