

The Gratitude Circle

The Gratitude Circle is a partnership between the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Play Conejo. Annually, the CRPD Board of Directors celebrates and honors individuals who have made a significant contribution of time, effort, or energy to

recreation and parks in the Conejo Valley.

The Gratitude Circle is also a place where people can honor loved ones and support CRPD's parks and programs through charitable giving.

Gratitude Circle Honorees

2019

Tim Hagel
Elayne Haggan
Bruce Stanton

2018

Richard F. Newman

2017

Doris Granholm

2016

Frances Prince
Rorie Skei

2015

Dennis Gillette
Mike Berger
Barbara Kloster

2014

Tex Ward
Mark Jacobsen

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The **Conejo Recreation & Park District** is an independent special district serving the Conejo Valley since 1963. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life for our community by preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities, parks, and open space.



Play Conejo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 2012 to provide volunteer, charitable, and financial support for public park facilities and recreation programs which benefit Conejo Valley residents. Play Conejo is raising funds to help the District maintain quality parks and offer diverse and affordable recreation programs.

2019 Gratitude Circle Dedication Monday, May 13 at 5:30pm

The Board of Directors
of the
Conejo Recreation and Park District
is proud to honor and recognize

**Tim Hagel
Elayne Haggan
Bruce Stanton**

for their dedication
to the people of the Conejo Valley
through recreation, parks, and open space

1. Gratitude
2. Children's
3. Stream
4. Lake
5. Volley ball
6. Turf
7. Restroom
8. parking
9. picnic
10. Concret.





Tim Hagel

Police Chief, Thousand Oaks Police Department

Tim Hagel is a Commander with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) and serves as Police Chief for the City of Thousand Oaks. Chief Hagel, who has a passion for the outdoors, worked as a teen and young adult with the US Forest Service's Youth Conservation Corps and as a Wilderness Ranger with State Parks.

Chief Hagel's early public service career included a stint with CRPD - serving as a Park Ranger and working on COSCA open space - making improvements to Wildwood Regional Park's trails and facilities as well as helping design and build a large segment of the Los Robles Trail, from the end of Moorpark Road west to Newbury Park. He worked closely with a UCLA professor and archaeologist helping survey many of the 150+ archaeological sites within the Conejo Valley. Chief Hagel then left to work with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and was stationed at Circle X Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Tim moved on to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office in 1987, where he spent time in many roles from patrol deputy to back-country helicopter co-pilot. Chief Hagel was a first responder during the Borderline tragedy and has worked tirelessly in support of the victims' families.

If all this were not enough, when Chief Hagel began to think about remedies for hyper-localized gang and crime activity, he assembled people, funds, and institutions to help an afterschool homework club blossom into a robust youth enrichment program offering elementary school kids expansive opportunities to be involved in positive experiences and activities through his Safe Passages non-profit organization. Safe Passages is directly improving the quality of life in Thousand Oaks by reducing local gang activity, providing opportunities for at-risk kids, and strengthening and expanding community bonds.



Elayne Haggan

President, Conejo Open Space Foundation

Elayne moved her family to Thousand Oaks from the East Coast after her husband was offered a promotion that required relocating to the Los Angeles area. Thinking it would be a short stay, they have now been in the Conejo Valley for 35 years!

They purchased a home bordering Wildwood Park, with no idea how important the open space would be to them. They became avid hikers and mountain bike riders and, in 1987, were founding members of CORBA (Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association). Elayne's involvement with local open space issues began when CRPD considered closing trails to mountain bikes and development was scheduled for Wildwood Mesa.

An initial appointee to COSTAC (Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee) in 1989, Elayne served on the committee through 2009. In addition to working with COSCA and CRPD staff on trail issues, COSTAC creates programs and events benefiting the community. The project closest to Elayne's heart is Trails Education Days, a "crash course in environmental education" for CVUSD students. Since 1992, nearly 40,000 students have participated in the annual field trips.

Elayne is also involved in the non-profit Conejo Open Space Foundation (COSF), established in 1995 as a way to raise funds for COSCA programs. She considers it a privilege to be serving as a director since its founding.

Having been employed in the consumer electronics and personal computer industries, including Apple Computer, and later with her husband in the high-performance bicycle light business, she says much of her volunteer work was informed by her professional experience, and vice versa.

In her own words, "It's hard to imagine what life might have been without COSCA, COSTAC and COSF - or the open space that I treasure."



Bruce Stanton

Creator/Owner, Reign of Terror Haunted House

If you can believe it, October 2019 will mark the 20th year of the impressive, sophisticated, award-winning, local attraction Reign of Terror. We used to say it was "Universal Studios quality." Now we say, "It's better!"

The Reign of Terror journey began back in 1999 at Bruce's home in north Thousand Oaks. The first year the haunted house drew 40 people. By the eighth year, the haunted house drew 4,400 people over four nights! That's when it was time to leave the neighborhood...

CRPD stepped in to help in 2008 and Reign of Terror moved to Hillcrest Center, featuring 13 rooms and \$5 admission. In an effort to

find a more permanent location, Reign of Terror moved to a vacant shoe store at the Janss Marketplace in the fall of 2009. This was the beginning of an amazing 3-way partnership between the Janss Marketplace, Conejo Recreation & Park District, and Bruce Stanton. The haunted house expanded to 17 rooms, covering more than 3,500 square feet. This was the first year that Reign of Terror provided CRPD with a donation - \$5,000.

By Fall 2010, Reign of Terror had moved to its current location above Gold's Gym, and the square footage went up to 4,000 with the production running for nine nights. The donation to CRPD also increased to \$10,000. Over time, Reign of Terror has expanded to 25,000 sq. ft. and donations to CRPD continue to increase. To date, the total donation to CRPD is nearly \$300,000!

The Board of Directors of the Conejo Recreation and Park District are grateful to Tim, Elayne, and Bruce for their positive impact.

The quality of life in the Conejo Valley is due, in no small part, to their unflinching dedication and passion for recreation, parks, and open space.