

Peppermint Dreams

A Newsletter for
the Families and Supporters
of Our Residents.

Our **SPRING 2017** newsletter.
Read about what's happening at **The Ridge!**

and Ridge Realities!

Meeting a Ridger is **ALWAYS** an Enjoyable Experience!

No matter the day, time, or occasion, Ridgers always greet you with warm smiles and if you're lucky—which you most likely will be—they'll embrace you with a huge hug. Most Ridgers are thrilled to talk about their day, things they love to do, and what's on their mind. They might even ask for your name. One Ridger who loves vehicles will sometimes ask a person he meets what kind of car they drive. There are even some who like to talk about their work. You heard that right: some of our Ridgers have jobs in the community. We either transport them to their places of employment or they take public transportation. Involvement in the community expands their skills and experiences, and being involved and productive gives them a sense of pride and purpose. Earning their very own paychecks is pretty nice for them too!

Glen M. and Missy S. are employed at a local warehouse and are always excited to talk about what's happening at work. Sidenote: Glen's quick to tell everyone that he's head over heels for his "Girl Missy." They're a sweet couple!

Freddy K. and Debbie R. also work with Glen and Missy. At the moment, they're tasked with removing inserts out of tops. After a work day, Freddy loves to relax and read his favorite books. When he's not reading, he writes his own stories. As one reads a couple of Freddy's stories, they quickly discover that he has a special writing gift and a very creative mind. He loves to rhyme and likes to think of himself as the next Dr. Seuss! When Freddy's not rhyming, he becomes quite the jokester.

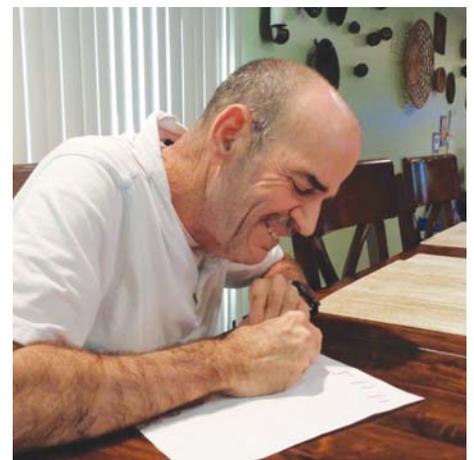
John P. is another Ridger employed by a company in our community. He, alongside fellow Ridger William K., works in an office where they help clean. After work, they come home, clean up, and relax before dinner. John usually enjoys doing a word search puzzle or working on his writing, and when the work week is over, he likes to spend time with his family and watch his favorite movies, Batman and Mrs. Doubtfire.



Ridgers Glen M. and Missy S. enjoy spending their off-time together and are very involved in the many on-site and off-site activities that Peppermint Ridge provides.



Besides being employed locally, Freddy K. finds reading books and writing stories the perfect outlets for his creativity. Maybe that's why he's one of the happiest Ridgers around!



Longtime Ridger, John P. is never at a loss for activities to fill his time away from his weekday job, and works hard to improve his reading and writing skills whenever he can.

A Message from the Executive Director

The spring wakes us, nurtures us and revitalizes us. How often does your spring come? –Gary Zuvak

2017 is ushering in a glorious spring! After rain and sunny days, the bright green hills have surrounded Corona as poppies and wildflowers blossom throughout. The citrus trees are burdened with fruit, including some we planted last year around The Ridge. This is a good time to live in Corona.

Peppermint Ridge is going through a spring revival as well. There are some exciting things in the works. While the Ridgers are out and about enjoying Disneyland, visiting the aquarium, cooking, gardening, shopping, and more, we are giving the main campus a face lift with painting and landscaping. We are also moving forward with our Activity Center, meeting with the city to identify what needs to be done to prepare the land with the generous aid of Pettit Engineering and the ongoing donations from you all—and we hope to be breaking ground soon.

We commit to being here for all seasons, now and in future, which is made possible with your special partnership. You continue to make it reality for the men and women of Peppermint Ridge to work, to play, and to be an important part of the community family.

With gratitude,

Danny

Up, down... up, down... up, down...

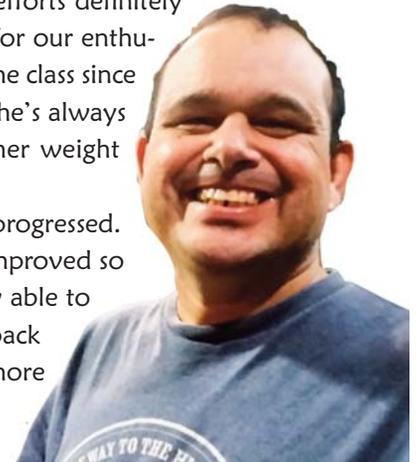
“Being happy, healthy, and safe” is known as Executive Director Danny’s catch phrase when it comes to our Ridgers. It positively emphasizes the care we provide. So, in January twelve Ridgers began an exciting new journey. Every Wednesday, they meet with Christian Aguirre of CrossFit Proper and Katie Moore of ABC Hopes in an effort to improve and practice their abilities. Rudy M. (below) was so excited on day one...he even shaved before going to his first class! He’s thrilled to try all the workouts and goes full force. His efforts definitely illustrate that no task is too big or too small for our enthusiastic Ridgers. Debbie R. has been attending the class since its beginning and although she is a bit quiet, she’s always up for new workouts and is fascinated by her weight training.

Everyone can see how the Ridgers have progressed. Recently, Christian shared that Greg K. had improved so much! Compared to his first day, Greg is now able to do a proper squat—without assistance to get back up. This new activity has definitely brought more happiness to our Ridgers—helping them to be healthy and safe!

It’s wonderful and gratifying how companies in the Corona area are so quick to embrace our goal to help Ridgers develop new skills and abilities.

(right) Christian Aguirre was quick to help Ridgers like Debbie R. do a pull-up with the ring, and Samantha Jimenez’s encouragement inspired them to hang in there.

(below) With a bit of guidance, stretching helped the Ridgers warm up for their work out. Shown left to right: Katie Moore, Dawn H., Tina P., Mark B. and Greg K.



Peppermint Possibilities Dinner and Auction a Glowing Success!

This lovely annual event took place on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at Eagle Glen Golf Course. With the help of 10 generous sponsors and 200+ guests, we raised over \$43,000 for the residents of Peppermint Ridge. The evening was filled with the background saxophone sounds of Vaughn Fahie, the always spirited Ridge Rejoicers Choir, and our engaging guest speaker, Kathy Buckley, who ignited the crowd with love and laughter as she shared her story and shed a positive light on living with disabilities. Peppermint Ridge also used the evening to show our gratitude for Elaine Norland, the first recipient of the Peppermint Possibilities Award.

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Corona Mayor Dick Haley presents Elaine Norland, owner of "A Cone Zone," with the Peppermint Possibilities Award.



Guest speaker Kathy Buckley, "America's First Hearing Impaired Comedienne," entertained guests with her wit and poignant life experiences.

Thanks to **Chick-fil-A** at The Crossings in South Corona who kindly provided chicken sandwiches to our awesome Peppermint Possibilities volunteer helpers. To recognize this generosity, Peppermint Ridge will be hosting a **Spirit Night** on Wednesday, May 17, from 2–8 pm. at the Chick-fil-A location at The Crossings. Hope to see you there!

Planning Ahead

Louise Creason was a devoted mother who worked carefully with The Ridge to place her daughter Susie C. with us in 1986. She visited Susie faithfully and often took her home on the weekends. A humble person with a kind heart, Louise began to support The Ridge through her giving. She was willing to fund much needed, but often unglamorous projects such as plumbing.

One day, Louise stopped by to drop off some soda for a Ridger event. She also handed the receptionist a check and was out the door in a flash. It was a generous gift, and Tracy Mauser, director of development, hurried to thank her. Thus began a friendship that Tracy truly cherished.

Sadly, Louise passed at the end of 2016, and Ridge staff members were saddened to lose a friend. But they were also deeply touched to learn that she had designated the organization as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Louise's foresight and generosity in naming The Ridge in her estate plan has allowed the Ridge to handle some current capital project needs, and to provide quality care to the Ridgers into the future.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Roger Jeffery Guardian Circle through a planned gift? Would you like to learn more about the various ways you can support the future of The Ridge within your estate planning? Please contact Tracy Mauser at tmauser@PeppermintRidge.org or by calling 951 273-7329, for more information.



Peppermint Ridge

Empowering Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Since 1959



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Who are these happy "Gym Rats?"
SEE THE STORY INSIDE!

Peppermint Ridge is a United Way participating agency and a member of the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.



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with very funny Fritz Coleman

Popular NBC4 Weathercaster

April 29, 2017 • 7 pm

At the beautiful Corona Historic Civic Center Theater

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GENERAL TICKETS

\$50 per person with After-Show Meet 'n Greet.

VIP TICKETS

\$75 per person with Wine and Appetizers 5:30-6:30pm
Early Admission and After-Show Meet 'n Greet.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.PeppermintRidge.org
Tickets will not be mailed and can be picked up after purchase at Peppermint Ridge
or at Will Call the evening of the event. No tickets will be sold at the door.

All proceeds to benefit Peppermint Ridge.