

STROLL[®]

Sunset Palisades

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR **MARVIN DANIELS**

*Strengthening Our Community and Beyond
Through a Lifetime of Service*



JOIN US FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

Dairy Creek Golf Course
Tuesday, August 18 | 6:30-8:30 PM
San Luis Obispo

RED, WHITE & REMEMBER WHEN

A nostalgic look at Fourth of July
celebrations in Sunset Palisades.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR MARVIN DANIELS

Planting Seeds of *Community*

From presenting tree grafting to removing tumbleweeds, Marvin Daniels has spent a lifetime helping others and strengthening the communities around him.

For Marvin Daniels, caring for a community has always meant rolling up his sleeves and getting involved.

If you've noticed fewer tumbleweeds blowing through Sunset Palisades in recent years, there's a good chance Marvin had something to do with it.

Several years ago, Marvin noticed Russian Thistle, commonly known as tumbleweeds, blowing off Ontario Ridge and from Avila Valley onto Shell Beach Road, sometimes blocking the road completely. He also discovered that seeds were hitching rides home on the undercarriage of his truck and germinating in his yard.

Rather than accept the problem, Marvin contacted Caltrans and San Luis Obispo County Public Works for permission to remove the invasive weeds from their property. For the past three years, he has volunteered his time to eradicate the weeds and was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from San Luis Obispo County Public Works for his efforts.

"Neighbors in Sunset Palisades have let me know the weeds are no longer blowing into their yards," Marvin said.

That willingness to serve others has been a defining theme throughout Marvin's life.

Born in King City, Marvin was just 10 weeks old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He lived in King City until he was 4 years old. After his great-grandfather passed away in 1946, Marvin and his mother moved to join his grandmother on her ranch in southeastern Monterey County, where he grew up.

Life on the ranch taught Marvin the value of hard work, responsibility, and neighbors helping neighbors.

"Ranchers would work together at gathering time to get ready for branding calves," Marvin recalled. "It was a team effort."

After graduating from King City schools, located 20 miles from the ranch, Marvin attended Coalinga Junior College before spending four years in the U.S. Air Force. He later built a career with PG&E, working as a Linesman and Troublemaker before transferring to the Pismo Beach Region Transmission Department.

In February 1991, Marvin moved from Coalinga to Sunset Palisades, where he continues to invest his time and energy in the community.

One of Marvin's greatest passions began after joining the California Rare Fruit Growers Central Coast Chapter in 1994. Learning how to graft fruit trees quickly became one of his favorite pursuits and eventually led him into the classroom.

Dr. Joe Sabol, Dean of Agriculture at Cal Poly and a member of the California Rare Fruit Growers, repeatedly encouraged Marvin to help teach students about grafting.

At first, Marvin resisted.

"I said to Joe, 'Why would I want to go? I don't know anything about grafting.'"

A year later, Dr. Sabol asked Marvin if he had learned to graft.

The answer was no.

"Would you like to learn to graft?" Dr. Sabol asked.

Marvin agreed.

"San Luis Obispo High School, Tuesday morning, 8:00 a.m.," Dr. Sabol replied before quickly walking away.

Marvin knew he had better be there.

That morning marked the beginning of a journey that would eventually

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One of Marvin's latest creations: a young grafted tree with a promising future.



take Marvin and his late wife, a certified teacher, to schools throughout California, teaching students and educators the art and science of grafting. Together, they shared their knowledge with thousands of students eager to learn.

“The students were so eager to learn I never missed a class,” Marvin said.

Over the years, Marvin became deeply involved in sharing his knowledge with others. He has presented grafting demonstrations throughout California, helped teach at Ag Venture, and introduced countless students to agriculture and horticulture.

“It is so rewarding a dozen years later when the kids will say, ‘I was in your grafting class, Mr. Daniels, and I know how to graft.’”

Marvin’s volunteer efforts extend far beyond grafting.

He was a Charter Member of GleanSLO, helping harvest excess produce and fruit for donation to the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County. He helped build mountain bike trails with the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers organization, volunteered with Arroyo Grande in Bloom, sharpened tools for the Five Cities Repair Café, volunteered on local farms, recruited volunteers for community projects, and donated grafted fruit trees to nonprofit fundraisers throughout the county.

Closer to home, Marvin and his late wife spent years volunteering with the Sunset Palisades Garden Committee, helping remove dead and dying shrubs and plant new landscaping throughout the neighborhood.

“My wife joined the Sunset Palisades HOA Garden Committee and drafted me,” Marvin said with a smile.

When asked what community means to him, Marvin’s answer reflects the values that have guided him throughout his life.

“I think of Community as people working together to accomplish their goal in our Community.”

Retirement may not be the word Marvin would use to describe this chapter of his life. Between volunteering, teaching grafting, recruiting, planting, weeding, and helping wherever he is needed, he remains as active as ever.

As Marvin puts it:

“I try not to volunteer more than eight days a week.”



A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

One of my favorite parts of creating this publication is getting the opportunity to meet incredible people who quietly make a difference in our community.

After speaking with Marvin, I left feeling inspired. His story isn't just about the many organizations he's volunteered with or the projects he's taken on. It's about a lifetime of choosing to contribute, serve others, and make the world around him a little better.

What struck me most was that Marvin never seemed interested in recognition. Instead, he simply saw opportunities to help and took action. Whether teaching students how to graft fruit trees, removing invasive weeds, or volunteering alongside neighbors, his impact can be felt throughout our community and beyond.

It was truly an honor to meet Marvin and learn more about his story. I'm grateful he was willing to share it with me, and I'm excited to share it with you in hopes that it inspires others as much as it inspired me.

Rilyn Gross

STILL PLANTING SEEDS

Marvin's commitment to community service continues to grow. This Fourth of July, he will be helping with a plant sale benefiting Arroyo Grande in Bloom (AGiB) during the Fourth of July concert at Heritage Park in Arroyo Grande.

Proceeds from the sale will support AGiB's ongoing efforts to beautify the Arroyo Grande community.

“I think of Community as people working together to accomplish their goal in our Community.”

Tom and Marvin spent countless hours side by side, weeding and trimming shrubs to help keep Avila Beach beautiful.



▲ Teaching the next generation. Marvin demonstrates tree grafting to Cal Poly students.



Dairy Creek
Golf Course and Event Center
2090 Dairy Creek Rd
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Let's play!

SWING TIME

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