

I am Melanie M. Blankenship owner of Nature's Touch Nursery & Harvest in Templeton for the last 8 years. Nature's Touch is a specialty farm stand with all locally grown Produce, Meats, Dairy and Breads. We are also a specialty plant nursery that specializes in California Natives, Vegetable, Herb and Antique Flower plants. We believe in knowing our food systems. If our neighbors or us cannot farm how do we know how safe our food is or how can we have a sustainable economy without a food economy. If you want to know more about what is going on in our Templeton area and you are a resident of this beautiful community **Vote for me, Melanie M. Blankenship, for TAAG** (Templeton Area Advisory Group), on **Thursday, March 5th** at the Templeton Community Service District & Fire Station **between the hours of 5pm to 8pm.** I will always be available at naturestouch@sbcglobal.net or 434-3062.

I have been a part of Templeton for the last 9 years. I was born and raised in Paso Robles and graduated from Liberty High School in Paso Robles. My husband, Clint M. Blankenship, and I moved back to Templeton to be a part of the community that he grew up in. We have two children and we hope we can preserve some of the freedoms that we knew as children for our two children. He is the owner of From The Ground Up since 1994. His company is about restoring and renewing and maintaining residential and business properties here in San Luis Obispo County.

I am a part of several non-profit organizations in donating my time and knowledge of creating more of a sustainable community and environment. The first one is Urban Farming (Vineyards Growing Veggies). This organization believes that we are to teach people how to create their own food. There is a one acre garden that was donated in Paso Robles to grow food for people in need. It is all created by gathering volunteers to maintain this farm. The way it works is you work you eat. Everything else that is harvested and not needed by the volunteers is then donates it to Loaves and Fishes or The Food Bank. We produced over 8100 lbs in one season.

Another non-profit group I am involved in is, The Institute of Sustainable Living. This group is gathered to help people learn to live within their own means.

We believe in our home and community and love to be a part of helping to maintain its beauty and sustainability. I have chosen to pursue a seat on TAAG to help my community be more aware of projects and ideas that are happening in our community. I would like to help my neighbors understand what it takes to maintain this wonderful community in which we all live in. I would like to be a part TAAG and this group of citizens with their knowledge and experiences to make our community even better.