



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for and by the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

The Springs at Santa Rita, 951 West Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ 85614

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The Springs Chat is your newsletter.

Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Springs Chat is for you and by you. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions - information you would like to share with the community. The committee also wants your ideas and suggestions- just email them to: springschat@gmail.com or contact a member of the newsletter committee: Eileen Owen, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone, Pat Strnad, Pat Johnson, Rebecca Keenan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 7** **Meet 'n Greet**, Fiesta Deck, 3-5
- Apr 14** **Board Meeting**, Anza Rm, 1:00
- Apr 18** **Potluck**, Anza Rm, 5:00
- Apr 26** **Picnic in the Park**, Perry Park, 1:00

Cinco de Mayo

Once again we'd like to extend an invitation to Springs Residents, and their friends and guests to our Cinco De Mayo Party, May 5th, 2015, at 5:00 PM, on the Springs Rec Center Roof deck. Much like Meet'n'Greetings and pot lucks, please bring your own drinks, and a dish to share. Paper plates, utensils, and napkins will be provided. Along with good company and music, maybe we'll have some dancing. Also, a fun part of the evening is "door prizes" Anyone wishing to contribute a door prize, please bring it wrapped. Nothing too big – this is supposed to be fun. Any questions, call Marge Burt at 648-3596.

Bridge Players Wanted

We're looking for a couple(s) to play rubber bridge. Afternoons are nice. I think we're intermediate players. We like the game, but we're not rabid. Please respond to Mike Dant 777.5760

Board Meeting Summary

(March 10, 2015)

The Annual Volunteer Luncheon will be March 28 at noon in the Fiesta. Anyone who has volunteered for any Springs event is welcome.

The Grounds Committee has been busy pulling buffelgrass, tree trimming/chipping, sanding/painting railings, and planting cacti.

You will find there are many who contribute to help keep The Springs looking so neat. Without their help, dues would increase.

Please go to www.thespringshoa.org to read the minutes of all committees.

Arizona Residents - To contact your legislators regarding pending legislation please view www.Azvoices.com. This is a statewide civic engagement platform where you can rate pending legislation and discuss issues that impacts Arizona. All viewpoints are welcome as long as comments are respectful. www.Azleg.gov is a tool to track pending legislation. A good way to see what bills will impact home owner associations.

Please enjoy our latest bench at the entry where Fuerte and Heroe meet. Chloe Wolf donated this in memory of Shirley TenBrink. Thank you for your donation Chloe.

Bill Perry has asked us to bring our favorite pictures back with us when we return in the fall one picture per person in the household. We sure had a lot of fun guessing who people were from their graduation pictures. Make a note on your return items list to bring your pictures. Remember to check the bulletin boards by the mail boxes for upcoming events. If you have new neighbors or renters please let them know about this resource.

The Green Valley Council has a Preferred Vendor Program. Participating vendors have been vetted by the GVC. If you need a vendor call 520-444-6760 or go online to pvp@gvccouncil.org to find participating vendors.

Garage Sale Mania

Over 40 homes participated in the annual Springs Garage Sale held on Feb 28. This was a 25% increase over the 5 year average. By all accounts, the sale was very successful thanks in large part to Juanita Kaufmann and her hard working committee.

Amado Food Bank Donations

(Bill Perry)

March: Cash \$245.00 – 6 pounds of food

If you are leaving GV soon and have food for the Amado Food Bank, please call Bill Perry 393-7402 and he will come to your house, pick up your food, and deliver it to the food bank.

Time for a New Heat Pump??

(by Barb & Joe Wohlfert)

We didn't plan on getting a new heat pump for our Arizona home this winter. It wasn't something we thought we would need to do for a few more years. Then we noticed several new heat pumps being installed in The Springs. We decided to do some research, knowing that our heat pump was of a certain age (18 years.) Our research involved recommendations from friends; calling different companies for estimates; and a little online research. We decided to be proactive, and go ahead with purchasing a new heat pump. We imagined getting the call in Michigan, during the summer, informing us of the demise of our heat pump. Better safe than sorry!

Through testing, we learned that our old heat pump met the requirements (low efficiency) to receive an \$850 rebate from Tucson Electric Power. This state-of-the-art analysis was conducted under the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) Efficient Home Program. It provides an independent analysis of your system, and gives you an instant status report on refrigerant level, indoor airflow, and operating efficiency level. The technician has been specially trained to use a computer diagnostic program called "Check Me." This efficiency screening on your system determines if you have qualified for an efficiency ENERGY STAR rated system. The Early Replacement rebate is a limited time offer. For further information you can contact TEP at 520.623.7711, and request a member of the Green Team. If you decide to go forward with estimates, be sure to mention this TEP program to ensure that the companies participate.

GVC Traffic and Arroyo Meeting Notes

Sandie Stone

East Frontage Road streets lights update – Bill Strickler, PDOT, reported that Seth Chalmers wants to move ahead but still needs to combine the agreement with ADOT. Scott Beck will set up a meeting with Seth. (Once completed, the agreement will turn the cost of the lights at our entrance over to the County/State.)

Update on Extended bike lanes on East Frontage Road. Sarah Spencer, ADOT, presented the plans for the extended bike lanes from the Canoa roundabout to one-half mile south of the GV Hospital. The plans are at 60% now and expect to be 95% in February. ADOT will advertise for bids in June and construction should beginning in September. The traffic lanes are 12 feet wide and the bike lanes are 4 feet on each side. There is a 1 ½ side slope and the guardrail is placed 2 feet offset away from pavement.

Joe Guertin, Construction Manager of the Hospital was in attendance to discuss the upcoming lane construction at the entrance to the hospital.

- The project is to construct a right turn and left turn lane at both entrances to the hospital. The plans have been approved by ADOT. O'Leary Construction will start on January 19.
- There will be bike lane closures for 6 weeks. The plan is to close the lanes during construction hours, but open them up during non-work hours.
- The hospital signage will be the H symbol instead of the longer version that spells out the entire word.

HOME SALES

(since the last newsletter)

3949 S. Camino Del Golfista - John & Donna Zenz Anoka, MN

3925 S. Camino Del Golfista - Wayne & Anita Beal, Green Valley, AZ

3969 S. Camino Del Heroe - John & Karen Kangas, St. Charles, IL

3718 S. Avenida de los Solmos - James & Kathleen Perreault, Dowagiac, MI

What's that bird?

Do you ever find yourself asking "how or why does that large brownish bird with a curved bill manage to sit on cholla cactus and sing?" One of the activities I enjoy most here in Arizona is birding. So I have decided to introduce you to the common birds we see here in the Springs. Some of you might be very accomplished birders – so I checked my facts carefully.

That brown bird is the **Curve-Billed Thrasher**. It is slightly larger than a robin and has a piercing yellow eye. Using its long toes, you will often see it perched up on a cactus singing and then you can see the soft brown spots that cover the belly and breast. The Curve-Billed Thrasher is not shy, but it is a solitary bird meaning it is usually not seen in a flock of birds (like starlings). It is a common bird found in suburban areas with desert habitat, usually noticed because it sings, and sings and sings.



There are many different descriptions of its song (this is where birders really excel in creativity) with one expert saying it is "a rich puppy-like mixture of barks and whines" (Richard Taylor), while another describes it as harsh and crisp with short sharp notes" (David Sibley). I think the main thing is to focus on the repeated sounds – usually twice – and the length and complexity of

the song. For example: CHIRP CHIRP, TRILL TRILL, BLIP BLIP, COUGH COUGH, CHEEP CHEEP, TWIT TWIT, etc. and it's really quite a cheerful.

Readers may also spy it on the ground using its beak to rake through leaf litter looking for insects and other invertebrates (translation:

squishy soft things) or you might notice it because of the rustling of leaves. Most desert dwellers pay attention to rustling leaves! The Curve-Billed Thrasher will often run on the ground if disturbed and raise its very long tail up high in the air as it runs for cover, usually into cholla cactus or some other formidable hiding spot. I hope you will look for this bird as you walk around your neighborhood or the nature park.



These photos were kindly loaned to the Chat by Pat Lindemann, a favorite neighbor and photographer who took the top one on her patio, and the other at Patons, in Patagonia. Happy Spring birding to you! Rebecca Keenan

Where Have You Been??

Last month, the suggestion was for travel to Patagonia. Several of our Spring's residents have commented that they tried Paton's and liked it. AWESOME!!

Here is a fun activity in the opposite direction - downtown Tucson – that has been vetted by several Green Valley residents, BUT, you need to do some advance planning because this books up early and fast. Consider your schedule a few months down the road. And remember, if you plan it, then you will probably go! Consider inviting a few friends to join you (which can be like herding cats), but you can also enjoy it on your own as **most** groups are small (8-10). So here it is: Kruse Arizona does tours of Tucson in several modes – mostly walking, and occasionally in a van or on the streetcar, and the tours vary in their content including local history, culture, architecture, humor, and of course food. The tour guide is an interesting gentleman who values learning and fun. A Pima Community College educator with a flair for drama, Alan Kruse dresses to the period, and the self-described "king of tours" leads his tours with a

passion. A **sample** tour might include: history of the Mercado area, the significance of the Guitierrez Bridge, the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum (focus on railroad history), some movie trivia, a discussion of "life on Main" with the movers and shakers of early Tucson society, other historical topics of interest such as how men found wives in a female deficient era (i.e. the Owls Club), and often a yummy lunch at the end. A moderate amount of walking would be involved (when choosing a tour please pay attention to the activity level that you can tolerate).



Cathy Rogge, a Spring's resident, went on a Kruse Arizona streetcar tour of Tucson. The tour was on a Thursday in January and members were able to explore the busy St. Augustine market place and the amazing images around the Guitierrez bridge. Then the tour stopped at numerous places along the streetcar line and were given lots of good historical information and anecdotes. She stated "the tour was fabulous, and Alan is our favorite tour director". When queried about time frame, comfort of travel and tour content, she replied, "We have traveled with Alan Kruse numerous times and have always received an excellent tour." Their streetcar tour lasted from 9-12:30 and she was very satisfied with the "bits and pieces of history that we learned". Since the streetcar was comfortable, and the pass was good for all day, Cathy and her husband took their time riding back to their car and enjoyed a lunch on their own at the marketplace where they had started. "I had a sandwich with lots of cheese and a fantastic tomato jam." Several lunch recommendations were given to the group throughout the morning so tour members could choose where to go.

The Sun Link Streetcar Line is 3.9 miles long and travels through five distinct areas of interest in Tucson. It goes from I-19 at Congress, through downtown, up and over to the University of Arizona ending near Speedway. You might enjoy setting up your own little tour, using the streetcar to move around the city.

Alan Kruse and his wife Margret do the organizing, and try to focus on the quality of the experience. Alan has been a docent at the Arizona History Museum and currently is very involved in local tourism organizations. When looking at his tour schedule for 2015, there is quite a variety of venues, meaning that you are not getting a "canned tour" than is repeated day after day. Alan might do a cemetery tour, or focus on the three main Tucson disasters which impacted the city. He loves to interact with people and do lots of research on his topics. I have a sneaking suspicion that his wife is the background details person.

Cathy described her tour experience as very special, tailored to the group with special attention paid to use of the Sun Link Streetcar. I think this aspect can be very important as we aren't as spry as we used to be and we all want the adventure to be about learning, not struggling to get around. It sometimes makes or breaks a trip.

So don't procrastinate – take note of their website www.krusearizona.com and find a Tucson city tour that fits your schedule down the road. Cathy Rogge says, "I learned a lot about places in the downtown area I had never seen before, and it was so neat to ride the streetcar and enjoy all the views. It was a fun busy day." Cathy cautioned to perhaps bring a walking stick to help keep you steady, but found most things to be very accessible and safe.

A final note, most of Alan Kruse's city tour participants are residents (full or part-time) of area communities rather than tourists. He likes that and says "I think it means more to the people who live in them". Kruse Arizona Tours has about 25 city walking tours per year and those last about 2 hours. The number of upcoming streetcar tours is unknown at this time, so if you are interested in that, let the tour company know! You will need to get yourself to a central Tucson location to start a city tour, so plan to carpool if you can. Also, the website comments that most filled tours have a short waiting list. Another website that might be of use is www.tucson.org. Good luck and travel safely! Rebecca Keenan

Pet Profile

Are you a regular reader of this column? Have you noticed how over the past months it has really gone to the dogs? WELL, I'm here to change that. As you can see, I'm a cat; a Bengal Tiger cat. Kiyah (Kia) is my name; being cute is my game. How about the spelling of my name? That's African--get the connection?

You would have to see me in person to appreciate my beautiful bright green eyes, although one of them is partially closed due to a birth defect. And my fur is pretty awesome too.

I'm about 10 years old but Carol Hinterhuer, (my owner) has only had me for about five years. You see, I was rescued on the East coast and brought here by Carol's pastor. I even had one of those other kind of animals (a dog) in my household. Eventually, after the dog passed on, the pastor decided to move back East and asked Carol, who was a good friend and really loved me, if she would like to have me. (I'm not too fond of car rides.) "Of course," she said.

Carol loves me as she does other cats and dogs as she has a pet sitting service. I'm really good when she's gone and she makes sure to come home each day to feed and play with me. We are "best buds" and like to cuddle on the couch while watching TV, as well as to sleep together. I really talk to her a lot, too.

I'm very friendly to her visitors, especially the ones who don't want me around. I know that they are just shy so I make sure to introduce myself and stay awhile.



Carol has a convertible car and when the top is down and she's busy in the garage, I like to jump into the boot to rest and watch her. Sometimes she puts treats in there for me, too.



At Christmastime, I don't disturb the tree, but find it fascinating to lie underneath and look up at the lights. Once, she found me in her sink, so I became "Cat N Sync" I, also have fun when she puts my toys and other things in a sack and I can play inside trying to get them out.

Well, I know you'd like to hear more, but I really gotta go. It's time to check out a closet or two or take a nap under the bed. Oh! One last question. Don't you think I'm just the purrfect pet?

Volunteers Needed

This is a request to all of the Springs members. It has been reported that a lot of our utility boxes are unsightly and in need of paint. The Grounds Volunteers are stretched pretty thin. We have the paint to do the utility boxes, but not the personnel at this time to do the painting. Do you have one of those unsightly boxes near you or in your yard. All those boxes need is a little clean up. A little water to get rid of the dirt and dog urine, and a little brushing to get rid of some peeling paint. Do you want to adopt one of those boxes and paint it. We have the paint and would deliver it to you. The utility boxes are the same color as our houses--hedgehog flat latex. If you have that color in your garage, you could use up your old paint. It would improve the looks of the Springs and relieve the work burden of the grounds volunteers so we can continue to maintain the other areas of the Springs. Contact Jim Owen (jimeileenowen@aol.com or 925.457.6826)

Residents of the Month



Kathie and Jim Rusk first met in the early 50's in Cleveland, OH but didn't start dating until Jim was a Junior at Kent State University in '59. Jim received his Regular Army commission through ROTC in '61 and they were married in April '62. Their honeymoon was spent driving from Cleveland to Ft. Benning, GA where Jim underwent Airborne and Ranger training. For the next 22 years the Rusks enjoyed the fun, travel and adventure associated with a career in the Army. Family assignments included stops in Berlin, Germany for 3 years and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for 2 years. While in Germany, the family, along with Kathie's Mom & Dad were able to visit her folks hometowns in Germany and meet all of her German relatives. The time in Ethiopia was a true adventure with many opportunities to camp in wild game parks and fish in lakes that contained not only fish but crocodiles and hippopotamus'. Jim also served a one year tour in Vietnam.

Sons Mike and Jim were born in Army hospitals. Mike at Ft. Devens, MA and Jim at Ft Harrison, IN. Both reside in Indianapolis, IN. Mike is a Special Education teacher. He and his wife have adopted two girls from China – our China Dolls. Jim has been an Indianapolis police officer for the past 24 years and has a son and daughter.

When retirement time rolled around in 1983, Jim & Kathie purchased a small "Mom & Pop" fishing resort near Ely, MN. Five summer cabins with 1500' of shoreline on Bear Island Lake. Northern Lights Lodge was to be the final stop after so many moves during Jim's Army career. Unfortunately due to the sudden illness of Mike that plan changed almost immediately. For the next 6 years they operated the resort during the summer and worked winter jobs in Indianapolis. Mike was a student at Ball State University in Muncie, IN so they were able help him through

his recovery process and still keep the dream of resort ownership alive. In 1990, they expanded the resort – adding two large winter cabins and finally settled down. It was wonderful time, consumed by hard work, all types of outdoor activities and wonderful friends. Many guests returned year after year. One couple allowed Jim & Kathie to baby sit their first child and later they watched him graduate from High School. In '99 Jim's back gave out and after surgery they started to briefly think about selling. That problem associated with the "forever" winters of northern Minnesota caused them to put the property up for sale in 2000 and the business was sold to the first couple who looked at the place. Big decision, what next??

The first stop was back to Indianapolis where their children lived. They bought a small home in neighboring Plainfield, IN but knew from the beginning that they would end up moving to a warmer place. Florida was a thought since Jim's folks had retired in Sarasota and they had spent many Spring Breaks enjoying that area. On a whim, they decided to look up one of Jim's High School roommates – he went to a Military Academy in Tennessee – and had retired in Dewey, AZ just down the road from Prescott. While on that trip Jim & Kathie visited Phoenix, Yuma and Lake Havasu. As the trip was coming to an end, Kathie wanted to visit Green Valley. Friends in Ely wintered in Green Valley and always shared stories about how wonderful it was. While only spending one day in town, they knew that if they moved to AZ, Green Valley would be first choice. The following winter they rented on Nardos for two months and in the fall of 2004 the Rusks returned and purchased a home on Blue Fox Road. After selling their place in Indiana they moved here full time in the summer of '05.

Jim & Kathie have been busy in the area, enjoying numerous GVR activities, and membership in Valley Presbyterian Church. Jim served on the HOA board for two years – something every resident should enjoy at least once – and is active with the HOA Finance committee and Reserve Fund committee. Jim is also very active in Rotary – a member for 29 years – and will take over as President of the Valle Verde Rotary Club of Green Valley in July 2015. Each day Jim & Kathie thank God for being allowed to enjoy life in Green Valley and in The Springs. According to the Rusks, they have the best of everything – and are indeed blessed.

Blooming Cacti (by Pat Johnson)

Soon, many of our yards will sport gorgeous cactus blooms. The most spectacular flowers are on the columnar cacti called "Torch Cacti". These are hybrids based on *Trichocereus* and crossed with others to develop colorful varieties with large flowers that are well suited for our climate and grow well in a landscape setting. Bob & Bev White, the founders of B & B Cactus Farm in Tucson, and Mark Dimmitt created a number of hybrids in the 1980s and 1990s. A great display of them can be found at the Sonoran Desert Museum.



Here are some tips for growing them from an article by Mark Dimmitt and Mark Sitter, written for the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. "Trichocereus hybrids grow well in large pots or in the ground in the desert Southwest. Some growers can adapt them to full sun, but to avoid sunburn it's safer to grow them in light shade, as under an unirrigated mesquite or palo verde tree. They respond dramatically to generous water and fertilizer. With weekly watering and monthly feeding, the best cultivars will flush massive blooms every two weeks or so for three months or even longer. With water restriction, bloom will be much reduced in number. (Some clones will flower for only one or two days a year; there is a great deal of genetic as well as cultural variability.) The authors obtain superb results using a water soluble 'Bloom' formula fertilizer, one with low nitrogen and high phosphate. Deadheading (cutting off the spent blooms) close to the stem will result in greater

flowering potential since the plants may often abort new flower buds in favor of producing fruit from pollinated flowers. Trichocereus flowers may be enjoyed as cut flowers indoors in water."

A beautiful display is put on by a variety called "Big Bertha", a rotund columnar cacti with stunning white flowers.



Another favorite is a variety called "Flying Saucer". A spectacular specimen is growing in the Arid Garden maintained by the Green Valley Gardeners on the north side of Camino Encanto.

Enjoy the amazing blooms from these cacti, especially during April and May.

Favorite Recipe from the March Potluck

Venison Meatloaf (Howard Bryan)

Ingredients:

3 pounds ground venison (or other meat)
1.5 cups uncooked oatmeal
1 large sweet onion, chopped
1.5 cups catsup
2 eggs, beaten
2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
4 cloves garlic minced or pressed
1 tsp salt
0.5 tsp freshly ground black pepper

Preparation: Preheat oven to 350 F.

Chop onions to ¼ inch size. Saute onions until just start to brown.

Mix all other ingredients in a large bowl, then mix in onions.

Makes two loaves or one 9x13 casserole.

Optional: Coat the top with additional catsup prior to baking.

Bake loaves for 55-60 minutes.