



The Springs Chat

A Newsletter for 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. The committee wants to take an approach that facilitates and encourages communication with, from and between the residents of the community. Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Springs Chat is your newsletter-- 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, Lisa Pope, Joe Misinski, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone.



This photo illustrates why the HOA encourages the use of garbage cans or BLACK trash bags for Saguaro Waste pickup. The birds were systematically working their way down the street...attacking each white trash bag. Please put newspapers in a bag in the recycle bin weighed down with a rock before putting them out. When it is windy even the soda cans go flying because they are so light.

Springs Calendar for Apr/May

April 27 HOA Potluck, anza Rm, 5:00

May 11 Board Meeting, East Center, Lounge 9:30

May 25 HOA Potluck, East Center, Auditorium 5:00

(no Picnic in the Park or Meet and Greet during the summer months)

PET OWNERS

Several homeowners/renters are unleashing their pets on the walking path or in the nature park area. The HOA CC&Rs clearly state that pets must be leashed at all times in The Springs. This is also required by Pima County Ordinance. Please ensure that your pets are leashed and, if you are renting your property, please advise your tenants of this policy. There is an off-leash fenced area located at the south end of the nature path where pets may roam around freely.

Winter Residents, please remember:

- Contact Sheriff's Aux Volunteers to check your house
- Let Block Captain know when you are leaving and when you plan to return
- **Provide the HOA office with an emergency number and the name and phone number of your caretaker**

During the facilities closure at The Springs, the monthly Board meetings for May, June, and July will be held in the East Center lounge. The May and June potlucks will be held in the East Center auditorium.

The Annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic was held at Perry Park on April 6. Approximately 45 volunteers out of 85 invited were able to attend. A special thanks to Howard and Sally Bryan for planning the event, and Doug Crosby and Jim Owen for setting up for the event. Volunteers were recognized by their committee chairs and Board members.



Lets not forget in order for The Springs to maintain a neat, welcoming appearance, it takes many volunteers putting in hours of work to manage landscaping issues, plan for street repairs and maintenance, negotiate with TEP and the new hospital over easements, keep residents informed, etc.

Volunteers also include Board members who devote many hours to meetings and decision making tasks. **Thank you volunteers for making the Springs a great place to live.**

WHATS

(What's Happening At The Springs)

- Annual tree trimming was completed in the Nature Park and front entrance area
- Perry Park was cleaned up, summer grass seeded, and damage by javelinas repaired.
- All other parks are being cleaned up, trimmed and pruned.
- Agave plants in all parks are being treated with systemic insecticides
- Maintenance building has been painted. Big thanks to Scott Denzer
- TEP's boring activities under Interstate 19 should be complete by May. Restoration of common area will begin after conduit is installed. TEP will inform The Springs one week prior to beginning restoration to discuss specifics. TEP will be off Springs' common area by May 31st, pending any unforeseen circumstances.
- TEP and its contractors continue to install electrical bus work and breakers within Caneo Ranch Substation. Work is anticipated to be complete by end of May. TEP Land Management has informed internal crews and contractors to keep all traffic on TEP's paved access drive and maintain a proper speed.
- TEP and its landscape contractor are meeting on-site next week to assess how many trees need to be replaced now that tree sprouting has begun.

- Special thanks to Lou Schulist who over the years has volunteered in multiple ways. He and his wife have put their home on the market in hopes to return to MI.

April Board Notes

Please read the full board member reports on our website at www.thespringshoa.org. The president's report contained an update on the TEP project and legislation involving changes in rules for HOA's that was before the Arizona senate. Linda Lopez is our representative in District 2 and can be reached at 602-926-4089 or LLopez@Azleg.gov.

The grounds chairman reported that the cold winter had played havoc with some of our irrigation piping and this had been repaired and replaced as necessary. Also the damage caused by Javelina in Perry Park has been repaired. If you note anything that needs attention from the grounds personnel please let the HOA know by note or email.

The streets chairman reported on the repaving project which will be finished before this newsletter is completed. The ARC chairman reported on the number of requests for changes and numbers of outstanding projects. Also a reminder that any outside changes to your property is to have an ARC approval prior to doing the work.

The easement committee is currently working on possible easements with Cox, Farmers Water and the developer for the hospital property.

The committee for the HOA office location completed its study as to the possibility of renting space from Dorn and have decided to keep the office in the entry kiosk.

The board has authorized that internet service be added to the office and new software for running the HOA business be purchased if necessary.

Ron Sills gave an update regarding the closure of the GVR building and pool as repair is need on the deck, pool, lockers and heating and air conditioning systems.

SPRINGS GVR CENTER CLOSURE

The Green Valley Recreation facilities located here in the Springs will be closed for renovations and maintenance from May 1st through July 15th. It will make the neighborhood a quiet place as part-time neighbors start heading out and others start summer travel.

Guy Sundvik, Building Services Manager for GVR, confirmed the dates and provided some details. There will be some date flexibility with the clubs, and each club president has been contacted with dates affecting their clubs. GVR is updating the club presidents as soon as schedule information becomes available. Anyone wishing further details is encouraged to contact the club in question for any updates.

The pool and fitness areas will be closed most of the time, as those areas are receiving the most focus. The pool and spa area, locker rooms, upper decking, sidewalk repairs, and various flooring replacements are the major focus. There are many smaller projects, in addition to routine maintenance that will also take place.

Other centers will also be closed for portions of the summer. So check with GVR (<http://gvrec.org/Information/Icu.htm>), if you need to jump in the pool or get on that treadmill.

Block Captains Needed

The block captain (BC) works as a part of the neighborhood watch program. The BC keeps track of homes on their block by knowing which houses are for sale or sold. Welcome kits are provided so the BC's can welcome new residents to their block and The Springs. The block captains also deliver the directory once a year.

Blocks that need BC's are De La Fonda, Calle De La Pelotita house numbers 760-920 Camino Comica, Calle Rambles house

numbers 3740-3824, Avenida De Los Solmos house numbers 3726-3777, Avenida De Encino, Camino Erranle.

The block captains need not be full time residents. If you can help with your block or nearby area please call Barb Coggins at 520-398-5201. Big thanks to all who currently volunteer as BC's.

PULVERIZE, GRADE & PAVE:



This is what the streets looked like on Blue Fox, Fonda, Cristal, Viva and Placio recently. The asphalt was pulverized, the base prepared and paving followed. Residents on affected streets were unable to drive to their homes and had to find alternate parking on the adjacent streets. During the paving process, no vehicular traffic was allowed on the streets. Several days into the tear up, it was discovered that excess moisture in the soil required additional work and extended the construction schedule by three days. The construction work was performed by Sunland Asphalt

Volunteer Corner

What a beautiful neighborhood we live in, even those large, hideous, utility boxes blend in with the desert landscaping. Isn't it great that the utility company thinks enough of our community that they painted the boxes for us? Well, that's not what happened. In 2004, **Mike Kearns** formed a committee, recruited neighbors as painters, obtained 100 gallons of paint, and changed the look of the Springs. This was one of the first major projects that Mike would lead in the Springs.

Mike believes the point of retirement is giving back what others have given to you. To him, the best part of life is what you do for free. He is an avid volunteer, which keeps him young, vibrant, and alive. His mantra is if you sit back and do nothing you will cease to exist. These aren't just words to Mike, but a call to action.

In the 10 years since Mike and Bobbie Kearns left Illinois, Mike has volunteered for numerous activities in our neighborhood. He is a past member of the HOA Board and many special committees. He currently serves on the Reserve Committee, Streets Committee, and ARC. He and Bobbie, are also neighborhood watch block captains.

Fortunately for Green Valley, Mike doesn't limit his volunteerism just to the Springs. He is the Head Monitor, Membership Chairman, and Vice President of the Board of the Green Valley Computer Club and teaches several classes at the Club. Most of you are probably aware, that the Computer Club is located at the Springs GVR facility, however did you know that this is the largest GVR club? It has 1500 paid members and this number is estimated to increase to 1800 members by the end of the year. No doubt this will happen with Mike as Membership Chairman! He is also the Membership Chairman and Newsletter Editor for the Clay Studio.

Mike is not only a Volunteer Star, he is also a Rock Star!! Our own Mick Jagger. Music is a very important aspect of his life. We have enjoyed his performances at potlucks, picnics, Christmas caroling, etc. His most

satisfying volunteer activity is singing and playing the guitar during Sunday Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. He has provided musical enrichment to congregations in 13 different churches/denominations for 45 years!

We are fortunate to be able to call Mike and Bobbie neighbors. Thank you and cheers to that "Old Time Rock and Roller"!

NEW TO THE SPRINGS

Since the first of the year, these new residents have purchased property in The Springs

Keenan, Patrick & Rebecca, 654 Calle De La Pelotita - from Fridley, MN

Collins, William & Sylvia, 3907 Camino Del Golfista - from Vancouver, WA

Stein, Eugene & Diane, 3779 Camino Del Golfista - from Silverdale, WA

Kowalski, Lawrence, 3891 Calle Viva - from Bloomingdale, IL

Costello, Vincent, 3817 Camino Comica

Dethmers, David & Anna, 3701 Avenida De Encino - from Canadian Lakes, MI

Lavoie, Claude & Dorothy, 3725 Avenida de los Solmos – from Darwell Alberta Canada

Gibson, Dale & Sheryll, 3858 Camino Del Golfista – from Spokane, WA

Neighbor Elected to GVR Board

Springs resident **Ron Sills** was elected to Board of Directors of Green Valley Recreation. He will begin his three year term as Assistant Treasurer. Local mythology has it that Ron is the first Springs resident elected to the GVR Board. Ron and his wife Patricia are from Maine and have had a place in the Springs for five years. Ron's extensive background and work experience has been in education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. The skills he has developed should serve him well with the challenges being a board member of GVR.

He is no stranger to volunteering in the Springs. He is an active member of the Grounds Committee and makes his rounds on the Light Bulb Committee. We wish him well with his new responsibility.

LOOKING FOR ET

It wasn't the typical anticipated plea to: "Turn out your lights, so I can find ET". At a recent meeting of the Green Valley Forum, Joe Frannea, President of the Southern Arizona Chapter of International Dark-Sky Association (SD-IDA), presented some interesting information about the benefits of proper and responsible lighting. Of course, proper lighting is important for the observatories. Locally the financial impact of the astronomy community is equivalent to Tucson hosting a Super Bowl every other year. The Springs is within the most restrictive light zone because of our location to Mt. Hopkins. Oddly, it is not lights that point up that interfere with celestial observations the most, but horizontal light emission (like unshielded streetlights, houselights, signs) that impact them the most. Lights need to point down and illuminate the ground. A shielded light minimizes the amount of light that shines up or to the sides. It focuses light down toward the ground. The current code in our zone limits a residence to a maximum of four 40-watt exterior lights and they must be shielded. In fact, if the Springs was being developed today, we would not be permitted to have streetlights.

Lights impact the activity of nocturnal animals – mating, foraging, migration, predator risk and sleeping habits. Lights make it more like daytime which can harm their hunting, health, mating, survival and other necessary functions. Migrating birds can get lost with too much light at night. Birds do not roost in trees with light on them. Lights indirectly attract snakes. Outdoor lights attract insects and bugs that then attract bats and lizards, and then attract snakes and owls, etc. This upsets the whole cycle

Dark sleep contributes to your health. The body has a natural rhythm or clock that is

affected by light/dark cycles (circadian rhythm). Lights on at night or streetlights coming thru your window can interfere with this body clock, affecting your mood and alertness. Valid mainstream medical research documents the role of these biological cycles in heart disease, asthma, cancer and more. You need regular dark sleep every night to reset your body clock and to generate melatonin, a chemical needed to help fight disease. Many plants need dark nights too. Some Plants and trees under streetlights tend to have shorter stems and larger leaves prone to disease and produce fewer blooms.

Safety is everyone's concern but stray and unshielded light may put you in danger. Glare, basically light shining in your eyes causing your pupils to constrict, when they need to dilate to see at night, can blind you while walking or driving and cause an accident or make it difficult for you to see someone hiding in the bushes. Poor lighting often causes shadows giving a place for criminals to hide. Just because there are lights, does not mean it is a safe area. A shielded 40-watt light provides better visibility, more lighted area and less glare than an unshielded 60-watt light.

So use shielded light fixtures, shine lights downward, only use the necessary amount of light, turn lights off when not needed and maybe we will all be able to see ET.

NEWSFLASH

A major pharmaceutical company has developed a blockbuster medication proven to:

- Decrease your stress level
- Decrease your blood pressure and heart rate
- Increase your activity level
- Increase your overall sense of happiness
- And for our single readers, increase your chance of meeting that special someone!

If this were true, can you imagine the number of prescriptions that would be written for this drug? Actually, the above are only a few examples of the benefits of having a pet. However, we didn't need

scientists to tell us that furry, 4-legged friends are some of life's best companions. It is a well know fact, that walking a dog in the Springs will bring a smile and conversation from strangers.

Beginning in the fall, we plan on having a "Pet Profile" section in the newsletter. We will spotlight a neighborhood pet and see if you can guess the human partner! We need your help to get this going. Please send a picture of your pet with their name, age, favorite treat, toy and any special tricks/talent to Springschat@gmail.com.

The Pet Paparazzi (aka Newsletter Committee) may also ask to take your pet's picture and interview them when spotted in the community.

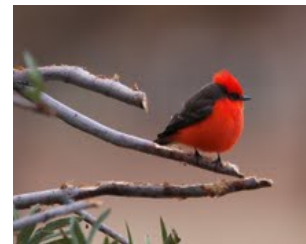
CLASSIFIED SECTION COMING SOON

The newsletter committee would like to add a classified advertisement section in the newsletter. If you are a resident of The Springs and have a property you want to rent or sell, or a household item you want to sell, or a service you provide such as house sitting, pet sitting, window washing, or an item you are looking for, etc, you may place an ad. Ads are limited to 20 words or less with no pictures. You **must** live in The Springs to use this service. Email your ad with your name, address, and phone number to: Springschat@gmail.com

Winter Residents, did you know you can put the sewer portion of your Utility Services on vacation hold and pay \$12 monthly instead of \$37.48. Call 520-724-6609, option 4 and ask for vacation hold.



BT sparrow



Vermillion flycatcher

Photos submitted by Dick Bierman