



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 20 Meet 'n Greet, upper deck, 3-5

Nov. 23 Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

Welcome back winter visitors. We have missed you and are glad you are with us again. We also welcome any new residents and renters who are just joining us. We are a friendly group of residents and hope you will join us for our monthly potlucks and meet 'n greets and later on, picnic in the park.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

(October 19, 2013)

Full board member reports can be found on the Springs HOA website, www.thespringshoa.org

- The hospital dirt hauling is done for now. They are still working on getting an operator for the hospital.
- Four positions on the Board are open for 2014. Please consider giving your time and expertise to help The Springs continue to be a friendly well maintained

community. Anyone who is interested, or who has a suggested nominee can contact Howard Bryan at 495-4033 or any Board member. All nominations are due by November 29, 2013.

- The street repair/seal coating project is completed and looks great.
- The ground's committee requested purchasing a wood chipper and it was approved.

GVR Update

(Ron Sills)

These are busy times at GVR, especially working as a "shrunk" board. Recall that 5 board members resigned on 9/11, leaving us with just 7 members. By policy, Ron Woodrow, who participated unsuccessfully in the last election automatically ascended to the Board, but 4 positions remain open. We have 12 candidates for those slots, and we are going through the process to fill the open seats within 3 weeks. In the interim, the 7 present members have a much larger workload.

We have an active search committee working diligently to fill the executive director position, which we are on track to fill by Thanksgiving. We have had some excellent candidates, so I am very optimistic that we will have a strong leader in place soon, who can help lead us progressively forward. We plan a session where members will be able to meet the finalists for the position, and this is planned for November 13th. I encourage you to meet these final candidates.

Another critical decision is at hand for the Board, and that is the budget for 2014. I serve on Fiscal Affairs and as the only board holdover from before the resignations, I have had a great deal of influence on the finalization of the budget. GVR is in a financial hole. Dues increases have nowhere nearly kept pace with the rise in operations costs. Past boards have

allowed this to happen. Specifically, costs have risen at a 4.4% rate over the past 5 years, while dues increases have risen only 1.6%. At the same time, our facilities have aged to the point where they are beginning to require more maintenance. In fact, 70% of our buildings are over 30 years old. In the past, the town was continuing to be built and our membership rolls grew rapidly. Now that development has greatly slowed, our membership numbers are increasing only slowly. So, as our costs continue to accelerate, we cannot absorb these costs with dues paying membership growth.

After rounds of budget proposal cuts, the Board considered several alternatives representing packages of various cuts and dues increases. It was decided to raise the dues \$19 to \$440. This still resulted in large scale budget cuts, and represents a 4.5% increase. On a monthly basis, the dues would rise from \$35.08 a month to \$36.70 a month, hardly a budget buster, but still larger than past years. The Board felt it is finally time to face the realities rather than pass the inadequate funding problems down the road, as has been done in the past.

On October 22, the full board brought this recommended budget to a vote. The board supported the proposal by a 6 -2 vote, but it failed because policy requires the budget to receive 7 votes in order to pass. With only 8 board members at present, it was easy for one member to essentially veto the proposal.

I felt that considering the realities we face, that this proposal was very conservative indeed. We did the math, and had we simply raised dues consistent with the Consumer Price Index increases over the past 6 years, dues THIS YEAR would have been \$460 instead of the \$421 we paid. This in itself portrays the problem. I was disappointed in the result.

By policy, our dues notices must go out to members in early December, so it is fairly imperative that we approve a budget in a timely manner. We cannot be Congress. What I think will happen is that we will seat new board members soon, and we will get the one vote we need to enact the proposed budget that failed on October 22. This is urgently needed for the fiscal well being of GVR. I am hopeful. By any measure, GVR remains a tremendous bargain for our members. It costs barely more than a morning newspaper each day.

Please Help!

Pigeons are a problem here in the Springs. Pigeons are year-round nesters, and considered the number one pest bird in the country. Due to their instinct to stay close to their birth-site and multiple offspring per year, a flock will grow quickly in size. The rooftops on our homes have become their favorite spot for "hanging out".

Please consider resolving this issue in a humane manner by removing or not filling your bird feeders.

We Need You

The Newsletter staff wants YOUR input for the newsletter. This is a newsletter- a chat line – a back fence for and by the residents of the Springs. It is not the voice of the HOA Board. You are welcomed to contribute articles that benefit the positive spirit of community. Email your comments to: springschat@gmail.com or contact a committee member. Without your feedback, we do not know what you would like to see in your newsletter.

Note from GVC Meeting

At the last GVC meeting there was a round table of HOA's and one of the items mentioned was how some HOA's have found unoccupied homes targeted for theft. Supposedly the potential thief will place something like a rock or lighter in the driveway, or another ruse is to leave a card in the door and if these items have not been removed in 2-3 days the thieves break into the home.

We should remind all neighbors to look out for each other and pick up telephone books, flyers, etc. that make a place look unoccupied.

2013 Home Sales (since last newsletter)

3819 S Avenida De Los Solmos – Scott & Yvonne Denzer, The Springs

1029 W Blue Fox – Lynette Mowrer, Citrus Heights, CA

When Did My Yard Turn into a Jungle?

Remember the days when our backyards were dirt? We hired Landscapers to create a desert oasis for us to sit back and enjoy, ahhh the maintenance free yard. At least that's what we thought compared to the mowing, raking, fertilizing of our summer home yard. Fast forward 5 years or so and you may have found that your desert oasis has turned into a jungle of agave, prickly pears, etc. If you are having any of your plants removed, instead of becoming homeless, there is the potential they could be transplanted to one of the common areas in the Springs. If you are interested in donating plants, please contact the HOA at 648-1699 or via e-mail hoa@thespringshoa.org.

Time Flies...(Do I Need a Facelift)

We all know that aging is a natural phenomenon, one that many of us embrace gracefully. We exercise, eat healthy, slather on moisturizing sunscreen, learn new hobbies, socialize, and perhaps get a little help from our physician friends. Remember today's 70 is yesterday's 50!

It's hard to believe, but our lovely Springs neighborhood is aging as well. The youngest homes are now 9-10 years old, and many were built more than 15 years ago. While there are few complaints about our weather, the Arizona sun is not kind to our homes. In order to maintain the quality of your home and the Springs overall, exterior maintenance must be done on the stucco, wood, and roof. Valuable information on this topic is located on the Springs website thespringshoa.org. Just go to the website, click on **Architectural Review** (on the left side of the page), and then click on **Paint Suppliers**. This will bring up a document containing HOA approved formulas and suppliers for paint and stain, FAQ's to ask potential contractors, and a list of contractors who have done work in the Springs in the past. Please remember that only HOA approved paints and stains may be used and it is the homeowners' responsibility to insure the contractor has the correct formula/supplier. Another great source for information on the care of Arizona homes (interior/exterior) can be found on the rosieonthehouse.com website. While we can't stop aging, we can certainly insure that homes in our neighborhood age as gracefully as we do. Wouldn't it be great if real estate agents described the Springs as a vibrant, well

maintained, increasing property value community!?!?!?

Volunteer Corner

Who's that knockin' on my door? Well, it could be the Springs Welcome Committee or perhaps your Neighborhood Watch Block Captain. Both of these Springs volunteer committees are led by Barbara Coggins. Barb and her famous husband Sam (yes the Sam who spends hours volunteering on the grounds committee) moved to the Springs from California 6 years ago. We were lucky when they came to visit friends in Desert Hills and liked Green Valley so much they decided to buy a home in the Springs. For most, keeping track of Sam would be a full-time job, but somehow Barb still finds time to paint (acrylic), volunteer, and watch over Bella (their 5yr old pup)! For many of our neighbors, the first person they meet from our community is either Barbara or their Block Captain. New residents are greeted with a welcome packet, which contains valuable information to help in transitioning to their new home. In addition to welcoming new residents, the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains keep an eye on their area of responsibility. If something appears to be amiss, they will get in touch with the homeowners emergency contact (if known) and/or the Sheriff's Department. The Block Captains also deliver the annual GVC Phone Directory to their homes.

For a community as large as the Springs, it takes numerous Block Captains to insure all of our homes are covered. Current Block Captains:

Suzy Baker
Jackie Marketti
Judith Bouzoun
DeeDee Carl
Ernie & Deby Cox
Shani & Bob Murray
Quarnig & Nancy Dorian
Mike & Bobbie Kearns
Tom Kramer & Sandie Stone
Joyce McGlaston
Bill Perry
Pat Strnad
Barb Barton
Barbara Wolf
Mary Yager

There are Block Captain openings for Encino, Rambles (partial), Comica, Solmos, and Pelotita (partial). For logistic reasons, it's preferable if you live on the street you volunteer for but not

absolutely necessary. So if you would like to meet your neighbors, contribute to the well being of the Springs, and join this great group of people, please contact the HOA. Many thanks to Barb and all of the Block Captains for being wonderful ambassadors of our community and keeping us connected! If being a Block Captain isn't in-line with your interest/personality, there are several other volunteer committees in the Springs. If you would like to find out more information, please go to the HOA website, www.thesprings.org, and click on Board//Committees (left side) for a listing of opportunities. There will also be volunteer sign up sheets at the annual HOA meeting in January

Pet Profile

Hi, my name is **Minnie** and this is my little brother **Taco**, aka Velcro Dog (I'll get to that in a minute). I'm approximately 11 years old and bro is 9. I say approximate, because we were both rescue dogs from BARK. The happiest days in our lives was when a very nice lady adopted us in January 2005 and November 2006 and we came to live in the Springs.



It took Taco a few weeks to get acclimated to his new surroundings. You see, he was abused as a pup; even had a BB pellet surgically removed from his shoulder while at the shelter. Due to his survivor instinct and understanding shown by Mom and me, he soon knew he would be safe and loved forever. Taco has a "daredevil" personality; he's always up to something. Mom tried to trap a baby bunny in the yard last year by setting the trap with lettuce. Guess what, Taco got in the trap, ate the lettuce, and was sunbathing, all without setting off the trap! He

likes to leap across the furniture onto your lap, similar to a circus act, and you should see how high he can toss his stuffed carrot! His favorite activities are going on walks with Mom and me and sitting in Mom's lap, thus the name Velcro Dog. Taco even likes technology; he loves to jump on Mom's lap when she's on Skype, so he can visit too.

My personality is a little different from Taco's. I'm the calm, always put together one. I love to get dressed up and even had my picture in the paper in my Halloween and Christmas outfits! However, I'm not just another pretty face, I'm also very intelligent. I quickly learn commands and in 2005 passed the AKC test for the Doggie "Good Citizen" certification. This allowed me to visit area nursing homes to spread the joy of my sparkling personality to other Green Valley residents. Beside our walks and playing with my brother, my favorite past time is to chase the lizards and birds in my yard. I guess it must be my hunter instinct.

Well that's our story. Since our first day in the Springs, we have been trying to thank our Mom, Barbara Wolf for taking a chance and rescuing us from the shelter. We think she'll agree that adopting us was one of her best decisions and you might just have the same experience if you give a shelter pup a chance!

A day after Minnie and Taco were interviewed for this article, Taco passed away. We are grateful Minnie and "Mom" shared this little guy with the Springs community and we will miss this funny daredevil. We all know what an important role our animal companions play in our lives. Barbara Wolf allowed us to post this article as a memorial to Taco



SPOTLIGHT ON TALENT

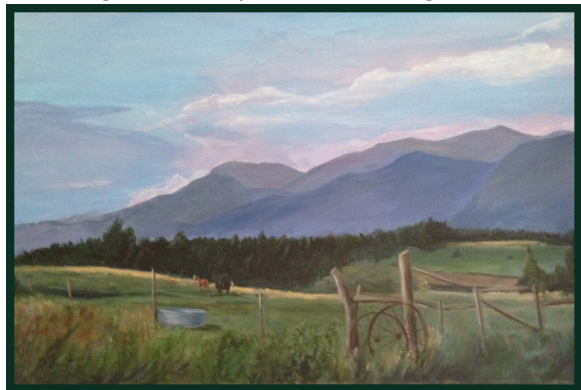
Our talented artist feature this month is a talented couple, **Norm and Marge Burt**. They have lived in the Springs since 2005. Both are originally from Massachusetts and spent 30 years in Fitchburg, MA raising 4 children. They have 9 grandchildren, all in New England so they return in the summer to reconnect with family. Their summer home is in Quinebaug, CT.



Norm joined the Woodworking Club 4-5 years ago and started making projects out of inexpensive pine. Then he tried more expensive wood, making a chest out of sycamore and cherry and a shaker style table out of mahogany for their grandson.



Marge started out with a goal of having something to put on bare walls, and turned into a passionate hobby. The many excellent and talented artists in the Santa Rita Art League encouraged and helped her as a beginner.



She then pursued more challenges taking many of the classes offered both through GVR and the Art League. Marge enjoys painting many subjects – landscapes, animals, portraits, flowers, and abstract painting.

In the annual Eva Briggs Abstract Competition, she won the People's Choice award in 2008 and 2nd place in 2012.



This past summer Marge had her own show in Connecticut for the month of July, in which she sold a few paintings and was given a commission. Plans are in process for some of her paintings to be on show at Posada Java in February and other venues in Green Valley.

The Burts feel it is wonderful to make it to retirement age and have the opportunity to pursue interests and talents.



There are many talented artists here in the Springs. If you have a talent and are interested in being featured in future editions of the newsletter, or if you have a talented friend you would like to see featured, please contact a committee member at: springschat@gmail.com