

The Springs Chat

A Newsletter for the residents of Santa Rita Springs

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

April 2013

Phone: 520-648-1699, Website: www.thespringshoa.org, email: springschat@gmail.com

The Springs Chat is your newsletter.

There has always been a HOA Newsletter Committee that produced newsletters that have provided information from the HOA Board. This time the committee wants to take a new 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. There will still be information from the Board but 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 i.e. new grand child, new boyfriend, a recipe, pet news, you passed a kidney stone, a thank you for receiving help, giving the Board a pat on the back, reports of service providers, have something for sale or want to locate a service. 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, Sandy Stone.

Springs Calendar for April/May

Apr 14 Picnic in Perry Park 1:00

Apr 13 Board Meeting, Fiesta Room 9:30

Apr 17 Meet & Greet, Fiesta Deck, 3:00-5:00

Apr 27 HOA Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

May 11 Board Meeting, Fiesta Room, 9:30

May 25 HOA Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00
(no Picnic in the Park or Meet and Greet during the summer months)

NOTE: Picnic in the Park has been changed from April 7 to April 14

WHATS

(**W**hat's **H**appening **A**t **T**he **S**prings)

Speed Bumps at entrance

Several months ago speed bumps were removed on both sides of the office kiosk at the entrance/exit. The safety hazards still exist and may even have been increased for the Board members and staff using the office and pedestrians and drivers passing the area. The HOA Board has been asked to take action to address the problem.

Possible solutions:

- Signage warning of pedestrians or reduced speed limit
- Installation of rumble strips on the exit lane roadway
- Installation of speed humps on the exit lane
- Install a pedestrian walkway
- Set the default position of the exit gate to CLOSED 24/7
- Moving HOA Office to the Dorn Office complex.

Semi-annual ***Home & Yard Inspection*** to be done in March/April

Board received a notice from Green Valley Council that the state legislature has proposed ***19 bills affecting HOAs***. Want to know what they are?? See President's Report on the website.

<http://thespringshoa.org/reports/reports.html>

The ***annual garage sale*** was held Feb 23rd. Juanita and Jay Kauffman passed out 250 maps. Thanks to Jay and Juanita and all who participated for making this another successful event.

The ***Grounds Committee*** under the leadership of Norm TenBrink has been busy

and productive. More information about their work is found later in the newsletter. Please see Grounds Report on the website for details.

<http://thespringshoa.org/reports/reports.html>

Street Repair and maintenance will begin on Monday, April 15 and is scheduled to continue through April 26. **Residents on Blue Fox, Fonda, Cristal, Viva, and Placio will be affected.** Detailed information will be communicated as work schedules are finalized. For more details, see Streets, Buildings & Utilities Report on the website.

<http://thespringshoa.org/reports/reports.html>

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

PICNIC April 6 at 12:00 noon in Perry Park. We want to show our appreciation to all who contribute their time and talents to make our community one of the most attractive and effectively run in Green Valley

The Gate code has not changed

Please enter carefully. If the wrong code is entered on three consecutive attempts, the gate system shuts down for three minutes.

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Pima County required the formation of the Canoa Ranch Architectural Committee, to review and ensure that new construction in the Canoa Ranch area is in harmony with the historical nature of the area. The committee recently had its second meeting. The newspaper summarized some of the key points but several others were not mentioned. First the building will be 8,000 square feet larger than requested in the zoning request with all the space in the basement. The county was not required to review or approve the additional space. The landscape plan is not finalized, but there will be minimal plantings on the north side of the hospital, since there will be a future undisclosed business development and

construction on that site. There will be two unshielded signs for the emergency room – one at the Frontage Road entrance, the other on the north side of the hospital. These signs are exempt from the lighting restriction. The lights in the parking lot will all be low power LED lights and completely shielded. The hospital, as well as the Springs, is within the distance from the observatory that has the strictest light pollution controls in Pima County. The parking lot light poles will be 20 feet tall. Since the building is 30 feet tall, the buildings will block the lights on the south side of the complex. The colors for the buildings are desert colors, and from the views provided by the architect the buildings blended well into the site.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE VOLUNTEERS!

A local real estate agent recently had several enticing ads for properties located in a wonderful neighborhood with beautiful and well maintained parks, a picnic area and nature trail. Sounds like a great selling point! The ad was for homes in the Springs. Sometimes we take for granted what we have, and it takes something like an ad to remind us. We have 16 parks, including a picnic area, fitness stations, a dog run, a 25 acre nature area, and a beautiful fountain. It's a place you're proud to have your children and grandchildren come to visit... but not too long a visit!

In order for the Springs to maintain its fresh and welcoming appearance, multiple issues such as weed control, erosion, dead/overgrown vegetation, new plantings, buffelgrass, etc., must be managed in a well thought-out, organized fashion and cost effective manner. This is accomplished by the many volunteers of the Grounds Committee which utilize the Springs Master Landscape Plan to ensure our neighborhood is as beautiful 10 years from now as it is today. If you would like to review the Master plan, it is located on the Springs website <http://thespringshoa.org/grounds/grounds.html>

Norm TenBrink recently took over the chairmanship of the Grounds Committee from outgoing board member Lance Johnson, who provided years of innovative leadership. Many of you have probably seen Sam Coggins or Vic Bignall working in the parks or hauling clippings away, but there are many more of your neighbors who devote numerous hours so that all of us can continue to enjoy our surroundings. Most of us are aware that the HOA contracts with Hot Desert Landscapers to provide year round maintenance, however the many hundreds of hours provided by the volunteers save us thousands of dollars a year. The volunteers also have a good time at their work parties. A few things these party animals recently worked on were seeding natural grass and wildflowers by the dog run, Perry Park was reseeded, the entire wash from the Frontage Road to the Nature Trail was cleared of brush/debris, buffelgrass was removed, trees on HOA property overhanging on private patios were trimmed, and the fountain was drained, power-washed, and new filters installed. An erosion control action plan for 2013 has also been developed. Who does all this work? More than likely, you know at least one of the following people:

Norm TenBrink –Chair

Vic Bignall

Sam Coggins

Lance Johnson

Barbara O'Halloran

Dick Bierman

Bob Buehler

Mike Dant

Scott Denzer

Bob Fillion

Charlie Jones

Bob Muller

Bob Murray

Jim & Eileen Owen

Bill Perry

Fred Searle

George Schlieff

Ron Sills

Ron Stevens

Martha Teters

When you see them as you are walking on the Nature Trail or enjoying Perry Park, give them a pat on the back or a cold drink for playing a major role in maintaining our

resort like lifestyle and property values. Or better yet, pick up a rake and join in the fun!!

BOARD MEETING UPDATES

March 9, 2013

(For a full report, go the HOA website)

<http://thespringshoa.org/minutes/minutes.html>

- The GVC has asked the county to put in bicycle lanes on the east frontage road on the stretch just north of Canoa Rd exit before the hospital is completed.
- The picnic for volunteers will be April 6 at noon in Perry Park.
- The streets paving project will be 4/15-4/26 and involve Blue Fox, La Fonda, Cristal, Viva and Placio. Notices will be posted to let everyone know when the streets will be shut down.
- The easement committee is meeting with Farmers Water and Cox Communications re easement requests.
- An update on the proposed hospital was given.
- The trees TEP planted around their complex last year died but TEP is to replace them this spring.
- The audit review has been completed and was accepted by the Board.

DID YOU KNOW???

When winter guests arrive and you want a list of **area attractions**, check the Springs website under *Links; Things to See and Do* <http://thespringshoa.org/links/links.htm>

You have house repairs or a remodel and you want to **check out a licensed contractor**, go to the Springs website under *Links; Helpful Links; AZ Registrar of Construction; On Line Services; Contractors Search (fill in name or license number)* **or** <http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>

Part-time residents.

Things to do before you leave for the summer:

- Newspapers – stop newspaper delivery
- Mail – hold or forward
- Call utilities – seasonal rates may be available
- Spray for bugs – inside and outside if you do not have a service agreement
- Lock all windows & doors – place large dowels in tracks
- Timer – you may want to have an inside light on a timer
- Key & contact number – leave with neighbor, if possible
- Cover shower & tub drain – to prevent bugs from entering the house by way of sewer lines
- Unplug appliances – computers, TV, coffee pot timers, etc
- Contact Sheriff's Aux Volunteers to check your house
- Provide the HOA office with an emergency number and the name and phone number of your caretaker

If you have a caretaker for your property, ask them to:

- Flush toilets
- Run dishwasher & washing machine once a month
- Check on irrigation system
- Check GFI breakers after heavy rains
- Check for water leakage after severe storm
- Prune & remove weeds. Cut back sidewalk overhang

NEW TO THE SPRINGS

Since the first of the year, we have had three new residents purchase property in The Springs:

Lawrence Kowalski – 3891 Calle Viva – from Bloomingdale, IL

Eugene & Diane Stein (2nd home) – 3779 Camino del Golfista – summer in Seabeck, WA

Bill & Sylvia Collins – 3907 Camino del Golfista – from Vancouver, WA

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

Six sales pending with escrow companies.

Now that you have read the newsletter, please let us know what you would like to see in the next issue springschat@gmail.com



"Lonesome George" greeting the Biermans



Unwelcome "greeter" at the Owen's patio door

Want to see more pictures in the next newsletter?? May issue will be cactus flowers--send us one of your favorites springschat@gmail.com