



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

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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 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

Dec. 18 Meet 'n Greet, upper deck, 3-5

Dec. 21 Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00
Christmas caroling led by Mike Kearns after potluck

FYI

(Bill Perry)

As some of you know, we had 4 Green Valley Firemen speak at our October Potluck. I decided to do the smoke alarm battery program. GVFD will come to your house and change all the batteries once a year for \$20.00. When they checked my smoke alarms, they were found defective. They were the original alarms and were installed in 1999. One of the men said that smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years. He recommended BRK smoke alarms - ac powered - with battery back-up. I found them at Ace Hardware for \$15.99 each. The 2 men came and left while I went to Ace to buy the smoke alarms and after returning home, I called them and they came back (after taking care of a snake call) and installed the new smoke alarms. The only charge was the \$20.00.

This is a great service by our Fire Dept. and one that I think all residents should consider. Green Valley Fire District Smoke Alarm Battery Program (393-7505)

CHANGING MEETING DATES FOR 2014

Regular monthly meetings will be on the **2nd Monday** of each month, at 9:30 a.m.

in the Fiesta Room with the exception of the January 2014 meeting. It will still be on the second Monday but will be in the Anza Room

Potlucks will be on the **3rd Thursday** of each month in the Anza Room from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the exception of the January potluck. It will be on the 4th Thursday in the Anza Room from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Meet N Greet will be on the **1st Tuesday** of each month - with no exceptions!

The Annual Meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday of January (1/18/14) in the Anza Room from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. We reserved the entire evening in case the Board chooses to have some sort of social following the meeting. This could also take the place of the January potluck should be Board decide to do so.

Christmas Caroling will be after the potluck on December 21. Group singing will be lead by Mike Kearns

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

(November, 2013)

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

- Bill Perry is taking over the pot luck program.
- Sandie Stone is attending the traffic and arroyo meetings to keep up on the expansion possibilities of the widening of the frontage road to the south end near the hospital to Canoa Rd. The concern is for the safety due to the amount of traffic and speed of those using the frontage road, especially for exiting vehicles from the Springs.

- The grounds committee reported the javalina have been rooting in Perry Park and the best deterrent is moth balls.
- The wood chipper has been working well for the grounds volunteers.
- The ARC has had 31 requests in 2013. 27 completed 4 in process. Painting and staining of homes had 12 completed this month, 83 in process and 15 past due.
- The rumble strips will be installed near the exit.
- The new controller for the gate is in and a remote maybe purchased for \$20 or you can borrow a loaner remote to train the opener on your vehicle. The code will be the same for those who stop and punch the code in.
- Tucson Electric will be modifying the street lights to direct the light downward and reduce the lateral dispersion. This should help for those who had light coming into their homes from the street lights.
- The budget was discussed and approved. The 2014 dues will be \$485.
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GVR Update

(Ron Sills)

Busy times for the GVR Board! During the first three weeks of November, it has been a nearly full time job, but with what has been accomplished, things should settle down for awhile.

On November 11, we elected 4 candidates to join the board, bringing us to full strength. I felt pleased with the choices, and believe these folks will be positive additions, as they are articulate, thoughtful, and appear not to have any agendas other than to serve the well being of our organization.

Next, we were able to pass the budget for 2014. The budget represents a reasonable compromise between spending cuts and revenue enhancements, as I outlined last month. For members, dues will increase \$19 to \$440, a 4.5% increase. Present services and maintenance should be preserved under this budget.

On November 13, the board selected Kent Blumenthal to serve as the next CEO for GVR. This followed a nation wide search that attracted nearly 100 applicants. Kent has a doctorate in recreation management and lengthy experience

in areas highly transferable to leading GVR. He intends to move here from Corvallis, Oregon in January, and we plan to hold a reception for him where members can meet him and offer well wishes. Kent has studied our organization extensively, and is very personable, so I urge you to come meet him. The date of this event will be announced soon. I served on the search committee beginning in August, and feel very optimistic about the hiring of Kent.

On the downside, our organization continues to be dogged by a small group of naysayers who spend their time and energy micro-managing the Board. Their behavior is destructive, demoralizing and in no way represents the feelings of the members they claim they speak for. The local press feeds off the negativity these folks supply them with. I truly believe that the very vast majority of our membership is pleased with what GVR brings to their lives, and finds it to be a good bargain. We don't hear from these folks as they are too busy enjoying life in Green Valley. I would point out, that when this small negative group is able to paint us as a dysfunctional, untrustworthy, and over priced organization, it tarnishes the reputation of the community and de-values our property. Moral of the story: take what you read in the letters and columns in the newspaper with large grains of salt. Hopefully, with new leadership we can get the more positive vibes we deserve.

Please Help!

Pigeons are a problem here in the Springs. The rooftops on our homes have become their favorite spot for "hanging out" and leaving the evidence behind. Here are the pictures of what was cleaned from one roof—almost 20 pounds of droppings!



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

Please do not put plastic garbage bags out on the sidewalk on garbage collection days. The crows and ravens love picking apart the bags for the prized contents. This creates a mess on the sidewalk and street.

SPOTLIGHT ON TALENT

Our feature artist this month is Katy Danhof. In 2005, Katy walked by the GV clay studio windows and was impressed with the items displayed. So she entered, took the tour, and signed up for the beginning class, and has been an active member ever since. Katy took a wheel class when she was in Michigan but she likes hand building with clay best.

Katy and her husband, Cal, have been married for 55 years and have 4 children. A son and daughter and four grandsons are in Michigan. A daughter and two grandsons are in California. Another son and two grand-daughters are in Georgia. Over the years Cal and Katy visited the Tucson area often as Cal has a brother in Tucson. As with most of us, they started with a short visit to Green Valley then rented for a month or so and eventually the right property came up and they bought here in the Springs.



Katy says she had a wonderful time painting with her mother. They painted furniture, trays, etc. They used a type of painting called roses mauling. That evolved into canvas work.

Katy enjoys being active in the Stephen Ministry at her church, walking and reading as well as the arts. Even in retirement there doesn't seem to be enough time to do all she would like.



These photos are a small collection of her many works

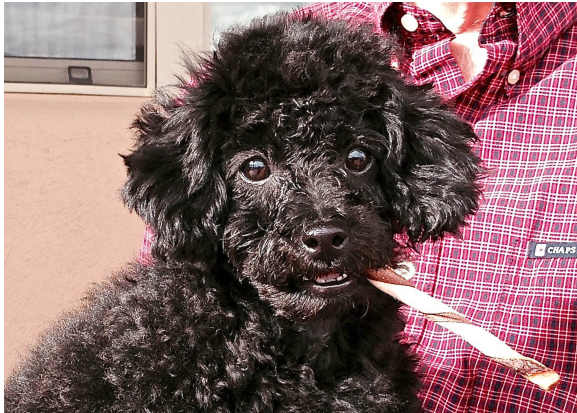
Katy's artist education started when her best friend's mother set up a room in her basement and had a gallery owner come and teach the girls with colored chalk. They were young girls at the time and both have continued to enjoy art ever since. Katy does painting during her summers in Michigan and pottery work during the winters in Green Valley.

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

Pet Profile

(Newcomer Edition)

Hi, my name is Maddie, and I came to live in the Springs in September when my folks, Sally and Howard Bryan, brought me home from Mesa.



Imagine my surprise when the stork turned out to be a Toyota 4-Runner! Since I'm a true Arizona pup, I was named after Madera Canyon by my Auntie Juanita Kauffman. I may not be the newest resident in the Springs but I bet I'm one of the youngest, only 2.3 yrs. old in people years (whew...so glad 55 and over doesn't apply to pups).

Due to my young age, I am discovering new activities everyday. For example, I wasn't sure why my Dad would tie a strap around my neck and then drag me up and down the sidewalk. But when I saw my friends Molly & Lizzie (Joanna and Larry Smith) actually walking next to their Mom, I had my aha moment. Now I walk the nature trail two times a day with my folks and this has become one of my favorite activities. Everyone seems so happy to see me, they bend down and pet me all over, especially when I start to wiggle and give kisses!

I'm officially known as a Miniature Poodle but due to my high intellect (I'm not bragging, it's scientifically proven), I know I must stay active to be healthy and svelte when I grow up. I created an aerobic exercise called "Crazy Dog". I start at one end of the house and run laps as fast as I can so I can have more yummy fish and sweet potato kibble. I want to be sure I stay well-rounded so I also love to play fetch with my plastic Gatorade bottle and hide & seek. I hide under the bed and then pounce on my family's feet. They always act surprised which means they must like this game as much as me, especially my human bro Adam, whom I love!

Life isn't all fun and games tho, I'm working on my social skills as well. I've learned the sit command, but it's so hard to stay still, and I barely bark at all. In addition to my friends Molly & Lizzie, I've made friends with Lucy (Shirley Jantz) a rescue dog who is also new to the Springs.

New human residents have a chance to meet friends at the monthly potlucks and meet & greets, but it's really tough for us pets. This is the perfect opportunity to start the Springs Pets Newcomer Club! Heck, I'll even volunteer to be President for the first year. Stand-up Spring Pets (new and seasoned) and tell your humans to send an email to Springschat@gmail.com with your name, etc. Let's get this party started and remember "Pets just wanna have fun"!

Death and Taxes and...

Ben Franklin wrote in a 1789 letter: "... in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes". If he were writing that letter today he might add "and dues increases." Two of Green Valley's non-profit corporations have approved almost identical increases in their annual fees. They are of course Green Valley Recreation (GVR) and the Springs at Santa Rita Homeowners Association (your HOA).

Both organizations are on a similar path. Their physical facilities are aging and in need of repairs and additional maintenance, growth in paying members has stopped or slowed, and the number of volunteers is less than is needed. In the years when both organizations were increasing in membership because of new homes being built, revenue kept increasing and facilities were new. Now the only source of new revenue is from the current members.

Containing costs is difficult because old facilities have more repair and maintenance costs. Every organization will try to put positive spin on unpopular decisions. GVR Finance Director Kim Akers announced a dues increase to \$440 for next year, and stated that dues should be an additional \$20 higher if they were in line with the consumer price index. The HOA is increasing our annual fee by \$20. The HOA has averaged only an annual 1.7% increase over the last eight years; and four of those years there were no increases. But the bottom line is that expenses for critical functions are increasing faster than income. Volunteers could reduce some of this cost increase, but this resource seems to be in

decline too. Perhaps both organizations were too conservative in their increases in the past..."you can pay me now, or you can pay me later." Both organizations have a finance committee to help review financial issues. This year, both organizations reviewed multiple options before making their final decisions.

Budget information is available on each organizations website:

<http://thespringshoa.org/pdf/financial/2013/NOV%202013%20Finance%20Committe.pdf>

http://www.gvrec.org/Information/2014_Budget%20Files/Statement%20of%20Rev%20and%20Expense%201112013.pdf

New CEOs Coming to Green Valley

At about the same time, one of Green Valley's oldest organizations and one of it's newest corporations named new leaders. Green Valley Recreation (GVR), which was created in 1978 from the merger of two previous neighborhood recreation organizations, named Kent Blumenthal as its new Executive Director. Dr. Blumenthal has a strong academic background in Parks and Recreation. Not the TV show but a real Ph.D. in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of Maryland. He has thirty-five years of leadership experience with two large national organizations, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). NIRSA proclaims to be a leader in higher education and the advocates for the advancement of recreation, sport, and wellness by providing educational and developmental opportunities. NIRSA has adopted the tagline, Leaders in Collegiate Recreation, which clearly indicates their aim to provide models for excellence in the collegiate recreation profession. After his 2012 departure from NIRSA to continue his professional and personal growth and to pursue other interests, Dr. Blumenthal formed his own executive consulting company, Blumenthal and Associates. He hasn't started his job yet, but he will probably get a promotion. GVR Board President Blaine Nisson has stated that the board plans to change the by-laws to upgrade the executive director to CEO. (I guess there wasn't a pay raise, so upgrade the title.)

GVR could be a challenge for Blumenthal. Although he brings a strong academic and experiential background, GVR is a community-

based program and much smaller than the national focus he previously led. Maybe the collegiate focus of NIRSA will help him energize and revitalize Green Valley. Maybe you'll run into him at one of the centers, he regularly does cardio workouts and pumps iron.

The next new CEO to the area is David Wanger. McDowell Enterprises, the developer of the hospital site announced the selection of Wanger to lead the way through the business and compliance issues ahead. Mr. Wanger has previous history with McDowell. He was the first administrator of the Gilbert Hospital, which McDowell developed. The Gilbert facility opened in 2006 and has a service model closer to what Green Valley needs. It is primarily an outpatient and emergency facility. According to their statistics, the 19 bed partially physician owned facility has an average census of 10 patients, with 3 admissions per day and 3 surgeries per day. Each day the 21 room emergency department has more than 120 patients and claims having a minimal waiting time to receive treatment. Mr. Wanger has been listed as the CEO for Visionary Health LLC, a company that has developed hospitals including Peoria, Gilbert, and Florence. When he was CEO of Gilbert hospital, he also was CEO of Florence Hospital at Anthem which opened in early 2012. One year later it filed for Chapter 11. The hospital expected to treat inmates from the nearby correctional facility, but didn't agree on a contract with the state. Florence Hospital was also an EB5 foreign investor funded project like the Green Valley Hospital. The hospital recently canceled contracts with Aetna, Blue Cross and Blue Shield and HealthNet. The Peoria Regional Medical Center, which Mr. Wanger was involved with was planned to open in 2009, but construction was halted and remains unfinished. As late as June of this year, He was listed as CEO of Incepta Healthcare and was building a hospital in Sachse, Texas. Perhaps as an indication of a smaller service scope for our facility, the name has changed from Green Valley Medical Center to Green Valley Hospital, a limited liability for profit corporation. The "for Green Valley only" focus is also retreating, as plans for bariatric surgery and birthing services were announced, indicating plans for a more regional marketing effort. A website for the facility will be up soon to monitor the progress of construction, which is more than a year behind schedule.

Besides his leadership role at Gilbert, Mr.

Wanger has experience in New Jersey and California Hospitals. His academic background includes Economics and Political Science degrees from Rutgers University and an MBA in Healthcare Administration from Wagner College in New York. He also completed a hospital administration residency. When not developing hospitals, he is building his vacation home in Fiji.

We all welcome these two leaders to our community and offer our support for their efforts to improve significant portions of our lives. They are going to have a lot of challenges ahead and need our support to succeed.

CLASSIFIED

If you have a woman's bike that you'd like to sell, please contact Mike Dant, **777-5760**, 3673 S. Calle Rambles

The staff of the Springs Chat would like to see more residents use the classified section. If you are a resident of The Springs and you 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. You must live in the springs to use this service. Email your ad with your name, address, and phone number to:
Springschat@gmail.com

2013 Home Sales (since last newsletter)

3726 S Avenida De Los Solmos – Edward Grenda & Amy Haberstick, Gambrills, MD

2750 S Camino Del Cefiro – William & Linda Chrysler, Flagstaff, AZ

3833 S Camino Comica – Randall & Karla Burron, Errington BC Canada

660 W Calle De La Pelotita – David & Mary Kult, Little Falls, MN