

The Springs Chat April 2017

A newsletter by and 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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One of the best things about looking at the mountains every day is that they always look different. The air is different, the light is different, the sky is different, the weather is different (well, maybe), but those mountains are there, unmoving rocks just ready to reflect what is going on. So they are the same, yet different each day. People are like that, too. Deep down the same, but outwardly aging, looking more mature (well maybe), changing with circumstances often beyond their control, dealing with all sorts of stimuli and stressors, medical issues, political events, family ties, and really great experiences. So we are the same, yet different each day.

At our Volunteer Recognition event recently, it was so special to look out at a diverse group of community-minded individuals, meet with them and talk a bit, learn more about who they are, and see them having some fun and food together while competing for prizes. Unfortunately, I got so busy doing that, I didn't take any pictures for the Chat. However, you can imagine Sandie Stone tossing bean bags, Doug Crosby telling jokes, Bill Perry helping with the sound system, David Dethmers putting sticky tags on people for a game, Sally Bryan cajoling people to play, loads of food, and lots of laughter. All of it was a good tonic. We also spoke about some folks who weren't there, how their commitment to the community is such a positive thing, and how we will try to get them to the gathering next year.

Those volunteers are mountains, the foundations of our community. They keep things going, they love doing it, they strive to help others, and the rewards are bigger than their efforts. People who give of themselves are happier, livelier, and more vibrant. They endure stressors and adversity, experience joy and fun, and they are probably a bit different each day, but they are connected to a bigger picture that isn't just them, and we thank them for that.

A couple of our volunteers have recently retired from their efforts. We understand, and applaud them. New challenges are always ahead for these folks. Also, a couple of volunteers leave for the summer, so there are some spots for new folks to join in. A couple folks have already stepped up to help, but please consider some options we still have available: chairman of the block captains; a block captain (or two) for Paseo de los Nardos; and the summer potluck chair while Bill Perry is gone. Let me know if you can help or if you have questions. Be a mountain. Just shoot me an email! Thespringschat@gmail.com Rebecca Keenan, editor.

The Springs Chat is your newsletter, and it contributes to the vitality and culture of our community. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions, and your suggestions: Juanita Kauffman (community and board news), Sally Bryan (neighbors and activities), Jeannie McGaughey (home sales and Chat delivery), Pat Strnad (pets and recipes), Pat Keenan (local color and news of the weird), Laurie Boyett (food and photos), Neysa Dickey (proofreader), and Rebecca Keenan (editor).





April 1 – Last Meet & Greet this winter.
Meet on the Fiesta Deck from 3-5pm with hosts Cindy and Jim Uminsky. Bring your name tag, your drink of choice, and a snack to share. Thank you for a fun season!

April 2 – Last Perry Park Picnic this winter.
Meet at the park at 12:30 pm with host Doug Crosby. Bring your lunch and drink, and something to share. There will be a grill and coals ready to go. Thanks for a great season!!

April 5 – A Special Board Meeting is at 3pm in the Anza Room to discuss the issue of changing to a new color palette or leaving it the same. For more information, read the letters on the next pages. Give the board your thoughts on this issue.

April 9 – A Green Valley Stage Band Performance. This is a GVR free event on the Fiesta Deck from 6-8pm. Come and enjoy some great music under the stars.

April 13 – Springs HOA Potluck in the Anza Room at 5pm. Come and enjoy some great food and good company. Bring your name tag, dinner settings, beverages and a dish to share that will feed 8-10 people. This month: A-F dessert, G-O salad, P-Z main dish. See you there, and thanks to Bill Perry for another fine season.

April 18 – Regular Monthly Board of Directors Meeting in the Fiesta Room at 9am. There will be the regular business meeting followed by an open forum.

Hopefully you have all received your new edition of The Springs Handbook delivered to your homes by the block captains. Please read and review the changes. **THANK YOU BLOCK CAPTAINS – WELL DONE!** The handbook is also available online at our website. www.thespringshoa.org



Two letters on the subject of paint

SPRINGS AT SANTA RITA HOA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 3 PM IN ANZA ROOM

Friends and fellow owners in The Springs,

Over the past several months a group of owners within The Springs has been working on a proposal that would allow for a variety of colors on the exteriors of our homes. The proposal was formally presented to our Architectural Review Committee (ARC) on March 16th. Individuals in The Springs opposed to the change in color palette were also given the opportunity to present their position on that same day.

At our HOA Board meeting on March 21st the Architectural Review Committee announced that it had decided **not** to make any change in the color options for the exteriors of our homes. According to our HOA's Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs), the individuals proposing the change have a right to appeal the decision of the ARC to the Board of Directors. Those proposing a change in the paint color palette have appealed that decision. As such, the Board of Directors is calling a Special Board of Directors Meeting on Wednesday, April 5th, to give all owners the opportunity to speak to the issue before the Board of Directors makes a final decision.

The meeting will be held at 3 PM in the Anza Room and will last approximately one hour. If you would like to provide input to the Board on this matter but cannot attend the meeting, you are welcome to communicate your view by sending a brief message to hoa@thespringshoa.org or

The Springs at Santa Rita HOA, 951 W. Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

Mailed or e-mailed communications should be received no later than Monday, April 3, to give the Board opportunity to review the input prior to the Special Board Meeting. The name and address of the owner must be included.

In closing I want to thank the leadership of both sides in this discussion for conducting the conversation in a civil and constructive manner, addressing the merits of the issue and respecting those who hold a different perspective. The matter has also been discussed at some length in the Member Open Forum portion of both the February and March Board of Director meetings with the same courtesy. We look forward to an equally engaging and positive conversation on April 5th and trust that our members will respect the outcome, regardless of the decision.

Sincerely, David Dethmers,

The Springs HOA Board President



Two letters on the subject of paint (continued)

Paint Palette Update -- March 25, 2017

As many of you know by now, at the March 21st Board Meeting, the ARC Committee came to the conclusion to deny the residents of The Springs the opportunity to have a voice in the color of their homes. ARC Committee chairman Ted Boyett gave his version of the events that have gotten us to this point. In the end, it seemed that the number of e-mails that were received by myself, Don & Nancy Kelly, and Ted, were a large part of the decision. According to Ted approximately 150 e-mails had been received, 60% of them on the status quo side of the issue. I guess that means that the other approximately 300 homeowners in The Springs should not be allowed an opinion in this matter.

As of now, the paint palette committee has appealed the decision to the Board of Directors, and there is a special board meeting scheduled to discuss this matter at 3:00 PM on April 5th. This meeting is open to all residents, and I would encourage everyone, both for and against, to attend.

Since the beginning of this process, about 14 months ago, there seems to have been a lot of miss-information being spread around. I have heard everything from ARC Chairman Ted giving people a website to look at, to I just painted my house and I don't want to paint it again. Things like this just aren't true. There is no website, and no one needs to repaint their house, or change the color, as we are recommending keeping our current brown color in what we hope would be an expanded palette. The eight colors that we presented at the February meeting were done for one purpose. ARC Chairman Ted told us we needed to have a palette to present. At no time did we say these were the final colors we wanted. Even at the ARC Committee meeting at Ted's house on March 16th, we stressed that we hoped we could work with multiple people, members of the community, the ARC Committee, Don & Nancy Kelly, and whoever would like to have input, to develop a new, final palette. At this point, it continues to be the committee's goal to allow ALL members of our community to have a voice in this matter.

In last month's The Chat, in their letter to the editor, Don & Nancy Kelly wrote: 'Changing the intent of the design of our neighborhood is something that should reflect what the majority of the homeowners want, not a select few.' We could not agree more. Whether the select few they speak of is the expanded color side, the status quo side, the ARC Committee, the Board of Directors, or the select few individuals that seem to make the majority of the decisions here in The Springs, let everyone have the opportunity to give their opinion. We have been told in no uncertain terms that the Board has the right to make the decision they see fit. It certainly would be nice to see the Board, who are representatives of the community, make the decision that all of the residents should have a say in this matter.

Lyle Weber



Meet Your Neighbors by Sally Bryan



Jim & Nancy Wesorick are adventurous people who have lived in the Springs for 3 years. They moved here from Colorado and have enjoyed 42 years of marriage.

In 1982-1984, they served as caretakers of a private resort in Naples, FL owned by the heirs to the Texaco Oil Company. During the 1990's, Jim & Nancy were living on the beautiful Oregon Coast in Astoria & in Corvallis, WA. Both chose to become adult students at Oregon State, where Nancy earned her education degree and went on to teach science to middle school students. Jim graduated with a degree in safety engineering and worked for 20 years for a government contractor who manufactured nuclear components. After his retirement, Jim trained as a professional chef, studying for 5 months in Colorado, followed by a month of training in France. Nancy was treated to a culinary delight each day after she finished teaching, prepared by "Chef Jim".

In 2004, Jim mentioned to Nancy that he was bored and she suggested he find somewhere to volunteer. After researching his options, Jim announced that he would be going to China or Ecuador. Ecuador won out, as Jim felt he'd handle the language more easily than in China. Jim travelled to Ecuador and began volunteering with JATUN SACHA, a non-profit focused on protecting environmental areas within Ecuador. He lived in the rainforest for a month, with no phone, no internet and no postal service. He was missing Nancy and embarked on a 2-hour round trip by bus and left Nancy a phone message telling her he was "having a wonderful time with 23 young, female volunteers from Denmark."

If you know Jim, you will recognize that he has fun & a great sense of humor. When his month ended, he returned to Colorado and told Nancy that he'd "spent some money and bought some supplies for the local schools in Ecuador." Nancy was fine with that, but also was becoming increasingly interested in traveling to this beautiful place that had stolen Jim's heart. Nancy was still teaching, so they planned their trip for July, during her school break. They arrived in July and visited one of the schools. Nancy was hugged, thanked for the supplies and she also developed a heart for Ecuador and its people.

From 2004 through 2007, Jim continued to volunteer for a month each year in the Ecuadorian rainforest, always bringing school supplies to give to the teachers and students. Coinciding with Nancy's retirement in 2007, Nancy & Jim formed a nonprofit called "Friends of Ecuador Schools" and returned to Ecuador to volunteer with JATUN SACHA and bring supplies to the schools. They lived in Quito for a month to sharpen their language skills, and then moved into the rainforest where they lived in a 14' x 14' cabin. Instead of windows, the cabin had openings, covered with chicken wire to keep the "big things" out. What adventure!! Nancy said geckos or other creatures would fall on her while sleeping at night. With no television or other type of entertainment in the evenings, they traversed around the area with a flashlight looking at all the interesting bugs! Good thing Nancy was a former science teacher!

Neighbors continued

Over a period of 8 months, they delivered supplies to 25 schools. They didn't have a vehicle, so they travelled by canoe, bus or made the deliveries when they were offered a ride in someone's vehicle. Even though the rainforest was warm, Nancy said taking 73 degree showers never lost its shock. She remarked on the European young men who came to volunteer and she would hear their squeals when they went to shower! Nancy began to teach English in the schools, but soon realized that the people were generally illiterate in their native language. She stopped teaching English when she realized it would be more beneficial for the students to work on Quichua, the language the students learned while growing up, and Spanish (the national language).



As bird enthusiasts, Nancy and Jim witnessed amazing specimens while living in the rainforest. After 10 months, they travelled to Quito for a hot shower and a change of pace from the boring, staple diet they consumed (think lots of rice and beans). Quito was 5 hours by bus over the Andes Mountains from their cabin in the rainforest. While in Quito, they purchased a small apartment which provided an opportunity to go back and forth between the two places.



After returning to the U.S. in 2008, the Great Recession was in play, resulting in a drying up of their donations for school supplies and their frequent trips to Ecuador. For the next four years, Nancy and Jim lived in Colorado and moved to Green Valley in January of 2014, in order to be closer to Nancy's sister, who also lives here. They had all visited Green Valley in the early 1990's and it clearly made an impression on them!!!

Now settled in, they continue to be active and involved. Both Jim and Nancy were avid birders, until macular degeneration made it necessary for Jim to give up birding. Jim was a volunteer with the Springs HOA grounds crew for a number of years. He also has a variety of beautiful flowerpot gardens in his backyard and enjoys growing a few herbs and cactus. He likes listening to audiobooks with his favorite genre being detective stories.

In addition to birding, Nancy is an accomplished artist and enjoys pastels, oil and graphite as her primary mediums. The top photo above shows Nancy with one of her pastel paintings. To the left is a pastel she completed of Jim. She is currently Vice President of the Santa Rita Art League and is scheduled to become the President in 2018. She is also a member of the Tucson Pastel Society. Nancy was honored to win the "Artists' Choice" award at the 2017 SRAL Masters' Show (for the painting on the right).



Traveling is a great love of theirs and they've been to all the countries in Central America plus Kenya, Ecuador, Peru, Bahamas, Japan, Italy & France. They are planning a future trip to the Netherlands for a River Cruise. Be sure to get to know this delightful, adventuresome and friendly couple.

GVR Senior Games

Congratulations to The Springs residents who recently competed in swimming events for the Southern Arizona Senior Games. Stephanie Walters won a silver medal in the 25 yard backstroke. Laurie Boyett won 2 golds in freestyle and 2 golds in breaststroke. Michael Tanner joined them in winning two golds in breaststroke. Wow. Well done!

Any other participants who need to ‘fess up’ about participating or winning in the games this year? Any plans for next year? It is never too early.....



Mike Tanner^^

**Stephanie Walters
<<on the left**

**Laurie Boyett
on the right>>**



Springs Salutes



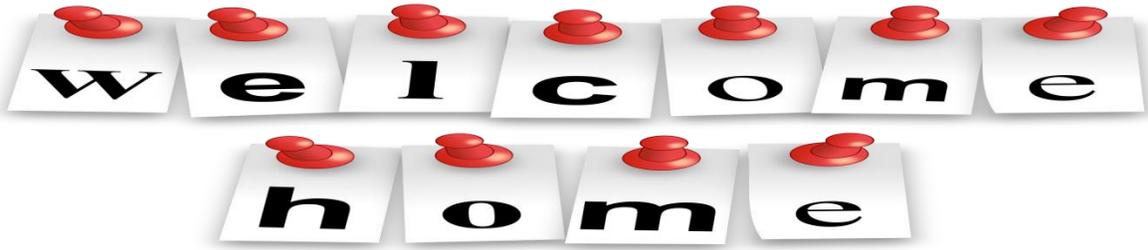
Please extend my deep appreciation to the HOA Board for last Saturday’s Volunteer Recognition Event. I enjoyed celebrating with my fellow Springs volunteers.

From Lee Blahnik, Grounds Crew Member

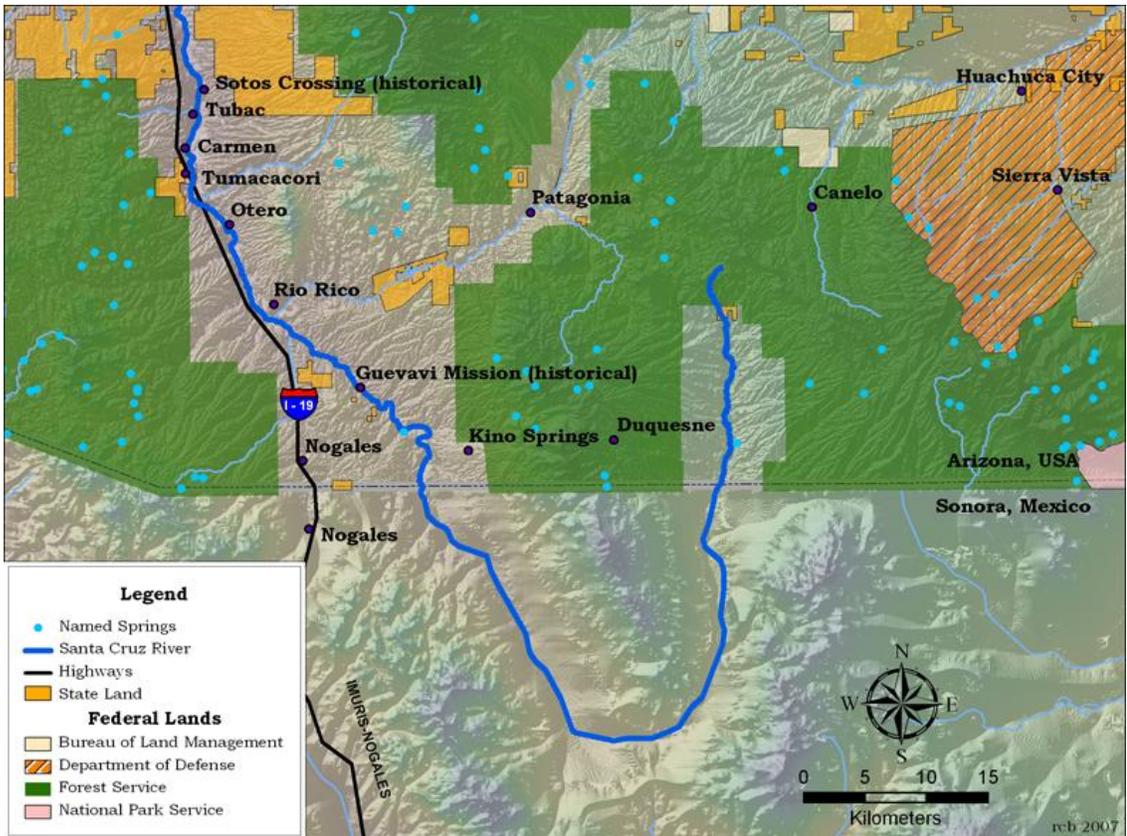


I have been fortunate in my life to be at the right place at the right time. Finding my home at The Springs was no exception. The residents of The Springs are exceptional people - friendly and caring. We are “family” and keep an eye on each other. The convenience of the facilities is another plus. The walking trails, the pool, gym and clubs based here give the feel of resort living. I count my blessings every day that I made the right choice of picking to reside in the best community.

From Sharon Toborg



- 3808 Camino Comica Vivian Lea Lynch Monroe, NC
- 3695 Camino del Cefiro Sanford & Virginia Downs Lincoln, NE
- 3657 Avenida de Encino Brent Gordy & Janice Kennedy Topeka, KS
- 880 Calle de la Pelotita Mark Peterson Forest Lake, MN
- 3965 Camino del Golfista James & Janice Dols Bloomington, MN
- 3753 Avenida de los Solmos Davy & Gloria Dewing Clear Lake, MN
- 762 Paseo del Cuple Thomas & Suzanne Mandeville Clovis, MN
- 3689 Avenida de Encino Michael & Patricia Gregerson Plymouth, MN
- 4031 Wolf Run Road Harold & Jo Beiler Oswego, IL
- 3796 Paseo de los Nardos Linda Ruge Stone Park, IL



The Santa Cruz River

by Pat Keenan

To most snowbirds, the Santa Cruz River is a mystery. How can it be a river when it's mostly just sand? Where's the water? Here's the low-down.

Course: The course of the Santa Cruz ("Holy Cross" - Spanish) River is very interesting. It starts from a few creeks in the San Rafael Grasslands on the eastern side of the Santa Rita Mountains, near Patagonia.

For the first 15 miles it then flows south into Sonora, Mexico and does a 35-mile U-turn, re-entering the United States at Nogales. The river continues to head north through Tubac, Green Valley and Tucson. Finally, after 184 miles, it flows into the Gila River southwest of Phoenix. And I use the term “flow” loosely.

From its source, there is a natural flow of water that dwindles as it goes through Mexico and vanishes by the time it reaches Nogales. There, effluent from the water treatment facility restores flowage for about 15 miles. At Rio Rico, the Sonoita Creek joins the Santa Cruz as its main tributary. At Tubac, the river has some idyllic walks in the shade provided by the cottonwoods along the De Anza trail; just don't drink the water.

From Tubac, the river historically flowed underground to Tucson, showing its path by a series of pools and springs. However, the water in these aquifers was pumped dry years ago and the pools and springs dried up. The river makes another cameo appearance at Tucson.

Sadly (to an ecologist) its “flow” again is the result of a water treatment system plant and the “flow” is through concrete tunnels and drains. After Tucson, the river dries up near Marana, only to be seen after heavy rains.



Ecology: Despite its precarious flow, the river has great ecological importance for this parched land. First, it drains the mountain ranges called “sky islands”, where the great changes in elevation bring great biodiversity. Second, the Santa Cruz River brings enough moisture to maintain a “green corridor” of plant life, including mesquite and cottonwood trees. The north-south orientation of the corridor serves as a route for the migration of many birds. (As I write this in March, birders from all across the United States come to sit in lawn chairs at a park in Tubac. There, they count raptors as the big birds lift off on thermals and glide north. The raptors include the threatened grey and black hawks, zone-tailed hawks and golden eagles.) Third, because this “green corridor” is close to the Mexican border, it forms the northern-most place where many Mexican birds can be seen. This makes our Green Valley area (e.g., Madera Canyon) a hot-spot for birders. Other animals that live in this wooded area include deer, bear, bobcat and javelina. There are even reports of ocelot and jaguar making appearances on trail/game cameras.

History: Archeologists have found evidence of maize-growing agriculture along the Santa Cruz 3,500 years ago. At times, Hohokam, Pima, and Tohono O’odham Indians lived along the river. Then it served as a path of entry for the Spanish as they colonized southern Arizona during the 1700s. Their missions sprang up along the course of the river. Near Tucson, early travelers describe a 4-mile wide mesquite forest with abundant bird life and game animals. After the Mexican War of 1848 and the Gadsden Purchase 6 years later, the area became part of the United States. The population grew, and so did the demand for water. The old wood-burning pumps not only depleted the subterranean aquifers below but also the trees above. The water was used for mining and farming. The pools and springs dried up. Six species of fish became extinct. Thus began over 100 years of abuse of the Santa Cruz River.



Current Status: In 2001, a Tucson weekly gave this sad description of the river. “The Santa Cruz runs north through the 21st-century city like a desiccated scar, its eroded banks replaced with an ugly construction material called soil-cement. Water runs in this glorified drainage ditch only when torrential rains fall, and marring the former waterway is discarded trash, a shopping cart here, a dead cat there.”

Flooding: Though normally dry as a bone, some parts of the river flood and get feisty with heavy rains, especially during monsoon season. The Santa Cruz can sweep cars (and occupants) downstream. With heavy rains, those signs by dips in the road that warn “Don’t enter when flooded” don’t look as out of place. Larger floods have even washed out bridges (1993, 2006, 2010). The river rises up quickly, floods, and then subsides quickly. (There were two episodes of water flowing in the nearby Santa Cruz Wash this January following heavy rains).



Future: There may be hope for restoring some of the Santa Cruz flow. Improved water utilization in the Tucson area has helped already. A group of environmentally concerned folks have formed the Santa Cruz River Alliance. Their goal is not to restore the river to what it was 100 years ago, but rather to make use of the river to increase green space in Tucson. There are recent proposals for the city to pump some of its water treatment effluent back upstream, have it run through the city again and develop something akin to San Antonio’s River Walk. Hopefully the riverside ecology could be restored with more birds and other wildlife. And, of course, Tucson could expect to see more tourist business. So, that’s the story of the Santa Cruz. There’s more than meets the eye.

Oh those Canadians. This is a written record of a conversation of a US naval ship with the Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland one October. It was released by the chief of naval operations.

CANADIANS: PLEASE DIVERT YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES TO THE SOUTH TO AVOID COLLISION.

AMERICANS: RECOMMEND YOU DIVERT YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES TO THE NORTH TO AVOID COLLISION.

CANADIANS: NEGATIVE. YOU WILL HAVE TO DIVERT YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES TO THE SOUTH TO AVOID COLLISION.

AMERICANS: THIS IS THE CAPTAIN OF A US NAVY SHIP. I SAY AGAIN, DIVERT YOUR COURSE.

CANADIANS: NO, I SAY AGAIN, YOU DIVERT YOUR COURSE.

AMERICANS: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRER **USS LINCOLN**, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH. I SAY AGAIN, THAT'S ONE-FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

CANADIANS: THIS IS THE LIGHTHOUSE. YOUR CALL.

Clearly this happened a decade or two ago, but serves as reminder to speak carefully and have all the information **BEFORE** insisting that you are right.....



Spring Is Here – A few tips & reminders from your ARC Team

Now that The Springs has hosted the annual garage sale. and the inside of your house has been cleaned and excess items removed (hopefully with a little profit), it is time to turn your attention to the outside.

The first rule is safety:

- * keep hydrated;
- * stay protected from the sun;
- * seek shade;
- * take it a little at a time;
- * and have fun!





Second rule, be considerate of your neighbors:

- * store trash in containers **inside** except on trash day;
- * keep **sidewalks clear** of trash cans, debris and vehicles for our mobility challenged residents and their friends;
- * and **have fun** through positive interactions and activities!



Third rule, maintain your house and yard:



- * protect your investment by keeping it looking nice and preventing unnecessary repair by painting/staining before it requires extra preparation;
- * eliminate weeds through pre-emergence applications, and if they have become established, use of a shuffle hoe or pulling may do the trick;
- * shrubs should be trimmed back so that they do not become over-grown during the monsoons and while you may be away;



- * trees should be cared for and pruned if needed, making sure there is a pedestrian clearance above any side walk of at least seven feet.



A word of caution about hiring contractors:

- * Get references on them, and ask to see some of their work, and make sure that they are using The Springs specified paint/stain (found on the HOA web site) **without diluting it.**
- * There are several very qualified painters and wood craftsmen as well as handymen residing right here in The Springs, so **ask around.**

The end of April into the first part of May is the scheduled time for the spring inspection of properties by the Compliance Agent. Get a head start and avoid those pesky notices.

Thank you, Ted Boyett, Chairperson ARC



Kale and Apple Salad

from Rose Blaylock

1 tsp unsalted butter

1 T maple syrup

½ C apple jelly

2 T balsamic vinegar

¼ C plain Greek yogurt

1 T poppy seeds

1 C red grapes, halved

Black pepper to taste

½ C chopped pecans

¼ tsp kosher salt

¼ C minced shallots

½ tsp kosher salt

2 T safflower oil

5 oz. baby kale torn in bite size pieces

1 Honeycrisp apple, thinly sliced



Heat butter in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add pecans and maple syrup, and cook until nuts begin to brown, 3-4 minutes; transfer to a plate to cool. Season with ¼ tsp salt.

Melt jelly in a small saucepan for the dressing. Stir in shallots, balsamic vinegar and the ½ tsp salt; simmer one minute, then transfer to a bowl to cool.

Whisk yogurt, oil, and poppy seeds into the cooled jelly and season with pepper.

Toss kale, grapes, apples and pecans with dressing. Makes 4 servings.

Mmmmmmm Mac and Cheese

from Pat Strnad

2 pkgs Kraft Deluxe Mac & Cheese Dinner

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (divided)

1 cup sour cream

½ tsp cayenne pepper

12 Ritz crackers, crumbled

2 T butter, melted



Heat your oven to 375 degrees. Prepare dinners as directed on packages. Stir in 1 cup of cheese, sour cream and pepper. Spoon the mixture into a 3-quart casserole that has been sprayed with a cooking spray, and top with remaining shredded cheese. Mix cracker crumbs and butter, and sprinkle on the macaroni mixture. Bake casserole for 20 minutes or until heated through.

Classified Ads

Cruising the Rhine. I never thought I could top our trip on the Danube River, but experiencing the castles along the Rhine on an 8-day trip beginning in Amsterdam and ending in Switzerland was a journey I'll always remember. This time we traveled in October. Whenever we returned from an afternoon of sightseeing, the crew would meet us at the entranceway of the boat with a warm towelette and a hot drink. Talk about an attentive crew! They were, in a word, fabulous.



Our voyage began in Amsterdam. The first several kilometers were spent cruising in a canal that joins the Rhine River to the Atlantic, and the countryside was dotted with the quintessential Dutch windmills. Some of our fellow travelers set their alarm clocks to get up in the middle of the night so they could experience the locks we passed through entering the actual Rhine River.

From Holland we passed into Germany, where the terrain changed from flat countryside to gently rolling hills. Every day our tour guide would point out, and name for us, a different castle. When we weren't exploring a village or town on a tour, the crew would keep us entertained with a Black Forest cake-making demonstration (I was chosen to help make the whip cream, from scratch, with the Master Chef!) or a tasting of bratwurst, knockwurst, and every other kind of wurst! On the 'wurst tasting day', my husband was sick and missed the tasting, something he had been looking forward to immensely. The very next day the chef came to our table to see how my husband was doing, and returned with a complete sampling of the wursts he had missed the previous day. Just another example of how wonderful the crew was.



My favorite day was the day we passed the Lorelei and viewed over 20 castles on both the German and the French sides of the river. Our guide explained that the castles were built as a way to collect revenue; to pass through on the river you had to pay a fee to the lord of the castle. Some of our shipmates took the bikes the boat provided and rode along the path by the riverbank, joining up with the boat at our next stop.

Fresh autumn strawberries purchased at the local market, sightseeing in Strasbourg, France, and visiting the sweetest village ever, the birthplace of Albert Schweitzer, were all part of this unforgettable voyage. If you would like to experience a riverboat cruise first-hand, please think of me. I work from home for **By the Sea Travel** and would love to give you more information on riverboat cruising. **Susan Beck-Brown 520-396-4601**

Home Watch Service

Stephanie Walters

Stephwal65@gmail.com

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Page Fourteen



SALLY BRYAN
Independent Beauty Consultant

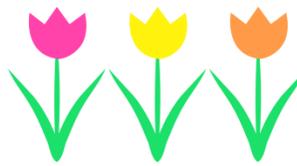
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ADVANCED COLOR CONSULTANT

MARY KAY

Final Page Thoughts



Thanks to the people who helped with the garage sale: Juanita Kauffman – chair, Bill Perry, David Dethmers, Peg Penny, Norm Tenbrink, and Roberta Ruef. 43 homes participated.

Thank you to Mary Kult, Pat Keenan, David Dethmers, and Linda Wagner for helping with the Volunteer Recognition event.

Thanks to the Jim Owen and his grounds crew, and Sharon Toborg for assisting with moving and storage of office equipment and furniture during remodeling.

Thank you to Gene and Jeannie McGaughey for helping with phone book distribution, along with Barb Coggins and her block captains.

Did you know that snowbirds can make a food donation when they leave this spring by calling Bill Perry at 520-393-7402? He will deliver any nonperishable food items to the Amado Food Shelf.

Did you know that the editor does try most of the recipes she prints in the Chat?

Did you know our pet article writer, Pat Strnad, has been down with pneumonia? We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Did you know that there are four miles of paved roads in The Springs?

Inquiring minds want to know:

Who will write an article about the Santa Rita Mountains?

What is the best way to remove bird droppings from stucco?

Where do people go for really great ribs?

When will the article with silly explanations of street names return?

Why does The Chat keep getting longer?

How high is the bell tower at the entrance?

Will The Springs residents exceed last year's donation to Amado Food Bank in 2017?

BE WELL

DO GOOD

WORK

KEEP IN TOUCH

