

The Springs Chat

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Springs Potlucks Also Feed Needier Folk

Attendance at the May potluck was 28 persons, who contributed \$140 and 48 pounds of food to the Amado Food Bank, according to Bill Perry, honcho.

For the year to date, \$1,575 and 109 pounds of food have been collected for the Amado operation.

And this is in addition to feeding ourselves some scrumptious fare! Any of you fine cooks want to be in charge of recipes for the CHAT?—JAN KOLTUN

June Happenings

DATE

21 Potluck 5 PM Anza Room. Jacke Marketti in charge.

Rest of Month: Hazy, lazy days.

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MEA CULPA

Rick Fillion says, “The article in last month’s CHAT was intended to help people place only recyclable material in the recycle bin. Placing non-recyclable materials in the bin does not increase the amount we are recycling; it decreases it because the load is ‘contaminated’ and can't be properly sorted. It then just goes as garbage to the landfill.”

I never thought it would be this hard, but the recycling article published in the May CHAT precipitated good discussion about what exactly you can recycle here in Green Valley. Please note: There is no universal guide to recycling. Each area has its own rules. And the more I looked for information the more confusing it got. With the help of Rick Fillion and Lee Blahnik (“the garbage guys”) I think we will try again to make it clear. So we are asking you to slow down, take a deep breath and try to follow the Republic guidelines.

On page 4 and 5 are the recycling requirements from Republic Services. Below is some information to help you navigate that page.

1. What is plastic bag film? Plastic bags are made out of “film,” or thin flexible sheets of plastic. Plastic film is typically defined as any plastic less than 10 mil thick. The majority of plastic films are made from polyethylene resin and are readily recyclable if the material is clean and dry. The resin coding system was originally intended for rigid plastic containers only. However, many manufacturers put the code on plastic films too. Recycle bags with #2 and #4.
2. What do the numbers on plastics mean? Plastics. Wow. A nightmare. The numbers are based on the type of chemicals used to make the plastic.

Rick Fillion says, “So in general, when you ask a facility about recycling plastic, they may respond by only including those numbers that can be recycled now or may include plastics that can be reused and/or repurposed. It is a changing industry. Our recommendation to Springs residents calls for #1, #2, and # 4 plastics, which is probably different from past information. The demand for numbers 3, 5, 6 and 7 is very volatile (for example, only 3 per cent of # 5 plastics are recycled) and so Republic’s website may indicate that they have the capability but not

necessarily the demand to justify the sorting equipment expense or inventory. The US Government's policy is to encourage use of numbers 1,2, and 4 so demand is constant. The May CHAT article obviously omitted the #1 and needs to be corrected. The article was intending to say that plastic should not be put into the recyclable bin unless it is a #1, #2 or #4."

3. What about shredded paper? Rick Fillion says, "My article in last month's CHAT about recycling has revealed some misunderstandings, most notably about shredded paper. Shredded paper was on the CHAT list as non-recyclable. This caused people to believe that shredded paper was no longer recyclable. This is not correct. Shredded paper has never been recyclable! Brian Goncales, our major account representative from Republic Services, confirmed my report before I sent out the list. He said that nothing in the recycle bin is supposed to be bagged! The sorting machine cannot tell what's in the bag, so the entire bag is sent to the landfill. Brian went on to say that if shredded paper is not bagged it will blow all over the neighborhood when the container is dumped, blows around the recycle facility contaminating recyclable materials and the sorting machine is not capable of separating shredded paper from the other materials placed in the recycle bin so it is all sent to the landfill. Bottom line, do not put shredded paper in your recycling bin. Nada.

4. There may be some other items on the list that you are used to recycling, like aluminum foil. Tradition does not help here. Please comply with the request and do not put items in that are not considered recyclable by Republic in this area.

So there you have it. If I become aware of the list changing, future articles will be included in the CHAT. We all want to help the environment and knowing what gets recycled and what goes to the landfill will help all of us maximize the amount we recycle. I am currently assessing sources to handle shredded paper, so look for that in a future CHAT article. Thank you, "garbage guys," for your help in writing this article.--REBECCA KEENAN, PRESIDENT AND RECYCLER AT THE SPRINGS

Regular Recyclable Materials collected by Republic Services

Republic Services will collect the following **clean and dry** recyclable materials at no cost to customers:

Paper (staples okay) – newspaper, envelopes, junk mail, phone books, brochures, magazines

Cardboard - ream wrappers, file folders, poster board, frozen food boxes, cardboard boxes, milk cartons

Plastic - Solid plastic # 1, #2, #4, water bottles, take-out containers, soda bottles, bag film plastic #2 and #4

Glass - beverage containers, glass food jars

Aluminum/Metal - aluminum beverage cans, food cans, pots, pans, tins & utensils, scrap metal

Materials not accepted by Republic Services

The following items contaminate the entire recycled load materials and should not be placed in Republic recycling bins:

aerosol cans, aluminum foil, batteries

food waste

napkins, tissues, paper towels

mirrors, glass windows, Pyrex glass, ceramics

plastic bags that do not have #2 and #4 on them**

shredded paper**stickers/address labels

Styrofoam

****there are alternate sites for collecting plastic bags and shredded paper**

Contaminated loads prevent Republic from recovering the cost of collecting and sorting material which may result in higher trash collection rates, charges for collecting recyclable materials or discontinuing the service, resulting in additional trash volume.

Special Handling by Republic Services

Republic Services will charge an additional fee to collect the following special handling recyclable materials (**not** to be mixed with regular recycling):
incandescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, computers & electronics, needles or syringes, hazardous waste, paint, yard waste, toxic material containers. Call Republic Services to arrange for special handling.



NEW MESSAGE BOARDS!

Those old rickety message boards are being replaced. Lee Blahnik and Jeannie McGaughney have collaborated and come up with a new workable solution. Lee's summer job is mounting them on the existing supports. While they are the same size, the new door system uses up some of the viewing space, so we are asking for quarter-page-sized announcements rather than half-page ones. Try using bold type! Thanks, Lee and Jeannie, for helping to complete this important project in time for the monsoons.—REBECCA KEENAN

Book Review: Alan Alda's Masterwork

Published last year, this charming book has not received the attention it deserves. It is both a catch-up on the beloved humorist's life, a how-to on improv theater, and a primer on communicating.

From M.A.S.H. to mesh: Alda has managed to put it all together in this remarkable masterwork, titled *If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?* Subtitle: *My Adventures in the Art and Science of Relating and Communicating.*

To catch up with Alda's recent adventures: after his long-running TV stint as Hawkeye of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit in the Korean War, Alda was honored when *Scientific American* invited him to host a TV series about scientific developments. Interviewing scientists about their work, he noted that communication was often missing. This perception eventually led to his establishment of the Alda School of Communications in the State University of New York, with the mission of improving scientists' ability to communicate with their public (including sources of funds), and physicians' ability to relate to patients.

He also learned, and stimulated others' learning, about why the arts of improv theater bear a direct relation to empathy, the ability to listen and respond to others. Another book to which Alda's narrative led: Viola Spolin, *Improvisation for the Theatre*, which has theatre games to improve empathy.

Does it work? I don't know yet. But empathy is something that we all may do well to practice, and in the meantime Alda has provided a new-to-me source of strength, for which I am grateful.—JANET KOLTUN

Do you have a current or old favorite "read"? If you would like to share it with other Springs residents, jot down a few paragraphs about a book that has contributed to your general well-being; email your review to: koltun3@gmail.com.

Our Springs Rec Center, Green Valley's Largest, Serves Major Clubs, Includes Renowned Clay Studio

On your right, soon after you drive past the gatehouse, you'll see Santa Rita Springs' greatest treasure: our social center. The largest of Green Valley Recreation (GVR)'s 13 centers, ours features well-equipped fitness rooms, four meeting rooms, art studios, dance workroom replete with a wooden dance floor, swimming pool, spa, kitchen and 11,000 square feet of outdoor entertaining space for our monthly potlucks and Meet 'N Greets. Even more attractive is the fact that our center houses four of Green Valley's foremost clubs, all known throughout Arizona and beyond, and all within easy walking distance of our homes: Camera Club, Computer Club, Santa Rita Art League, and the Clay Studio of Green Valley.

This summer, the CHAT will examine each of these self-governed groups, all extraordinary for their potential to help transform your hobbies into accomplishments.

What better place to start than the Clay Studio? As Julie Jacques, president of the Studio board, guided us through the facility last month, members were busy cleaning it up for the coming season. Before joining, they must take an introductory 16-hour class spread over four weeks, to familiarize themselves with procedures and equipment. A further safety feature is the club's requirement that a trained monitor be on hand during open hours, in summer 9 AM-4 PM, Mondays through Saturdays, and until 7 PM on weekends if a monitor is present. The yearly membership fee is \$30, payable in January. Members must also be part of GVR, which includes all homeowners in The Springs.

"Potters fall into three groups: hand builders, sculptors, and throwers," Jacques observed. (Her alluring "Dog," (above) evidences proficiency at many levels.)

The 4,700 square-foot Clay Studio, which will be 30 years old in October, provides equipment to accommodate all potters: 12 pottery wheels, nine electric kilns, two gas kilns (the latter used for raku projects with their special glazes), classrooms, finished and in-process rooms, a pug mill for recycling used clay (and selling it cheaply to members), a humidity-controlled clay room, and a drying room (See photo). On the walls, you'll find information about methods and procedures, colorful wall posters showing glazes for various projects (the raku works use the more metallic glazes) or finished works for sale in outdoor display windows. (See photos, page 9)



"Dog" Sculpture by
Julie Jacques



Clay Studio Photos and
story by Jan Koltun



“Elaine” sculpture by Arlene Szypulski.
Clay Studio members are encouraged
to exhibit their work.

Sculpture in courtyard near Clay Studio

Fur, Feathers Sightings



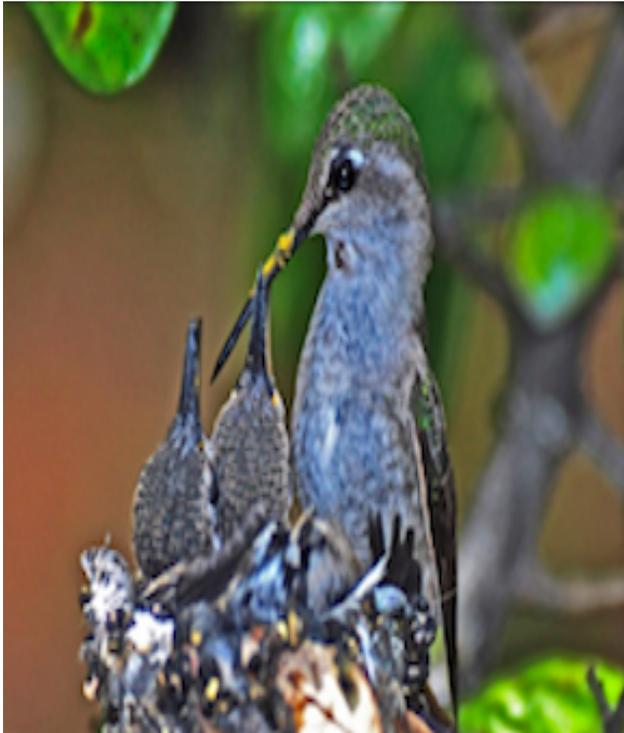
GILA MONSTER. Photo by
Deby Cox



RACCOON IN OUR BACK
YARD Photo by Deby Cox



DEER IN A HURRY Photo by
Ernie Cox Jr.



MOTHER HUMMER FEEDING HER BABIES Photo by Ernie Cox Jr.