



SPRINGS CHAT

FEBRUARY 2021

PHOTO CREDIT: DICK BIERMAN

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

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CHAT Editor: Sally BRYAN

HOA Annual Meeting Highlights

Our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom, with more than 57 homes represented, and 75 individuals attending. It was helpful to have a safe alternative to in-person meetings at this time.

By way of a reminder, the best way to contact the HOA Board is via the HOA email (hoa@thespringshoa.org) or, second best, via phone (520-648-1699).

Four Board members were accepted by acclamation for the open positions and were introduced. Roger Olson & Jim Owen ran unopposed for another term. Cathy Roberts and Elvira Bayless are new to the Board. Individual reports are posted on the HOA website. To summarize, things are going well, the HOA was under budget for 2020 thanks to our frugal directors, and people have stepped up to lead for 2021.

While we're missing our opportunities for social interaction through pot lucks, happy hours, picnics and the like, we look forward to coming out of hibernation later in the year. Like many businesses have found, good work can happen remotely, and your Board of Directors is doing just that. Stay safely distanced, mask up, and be KIND.

New Board Members



Cathy Roberts is one of two new members of the Springs Board of Directors.

Born in Missouri, Cathy completed her senior year of high school and nurse's training in Southern California, where she worked for 12 years. During a visit back to Oklahoma to visit her parents, she met Don and they have been married 37 years. In Oklahoma, Cathy continued her nursing career for an additional 29 years and also managed a small animal rescue organization, whose goal was to save dogs & cats from euthanasia. She & Don grow a large kitchen garden, enjoy canning and home cooking.

While their primary home is in Oklahoma, Cathy & Don spent 20 winters in Sun City AZ. After visiting two of Cathy's cousins here in The Springs, they purchased here in April 2017. Cathy has been actively involved around The Springs assisting the Grounds Crew and putting up annual holiday decorations.

Before social distancing, she enjoyed several card groups and won GOLD at the GVR Senior Games in Mahjong. Welcome to the Board, Cathy.

Our second new Board member is Elvira "Elvie" Bayless, who has lived in The Springs since October, 2019.

Elvie was born and raised in northern California but visited her mother in Germany throughout her childhood, moving there when she was 18. Elvie worked as an Information Guide, assisting travelers with their vacation and business needs, and later for a travel agency.

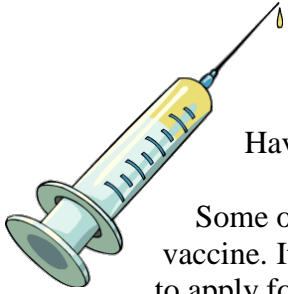
Moving back to the US and Olympia, WA, she earned her Bachelor of Education. For 17 years, she taught elementary, middle and high school classes. She also taught classes for the Department of Defense working with young military personnel teaching classes on Basic Skills and Parenting. While living in the Northwest, Elvie spent most of her vacation time exploring the Southwest.

Working with the state educational system, she was granted a scholarship and earned her Master's Degree in Library Science. She was then instrumental in updating many school libraries in the state of Washington.

At the age of 50, Elvie earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. She then worked as a therapist with combat veterans and the homeless for Veteran's Affairs. She is licensed in the State of Arizona as a therapist/counselor. As a cancer survivor, she plans to become active as a cancer care therapist.

She is currently working to promote her own good health and has discovered "The Loop" in Tucson. The Loop is a paved walking, running and biking trail of 131 miles, where she has reached 25 miles and is closing in on the 50 mile marker. She plans to eventually complete all 131 miles. This lady believes in setting & reaching goals. Welcome to our HOA Board.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



Have you had problems getting an appointment for the COVID19 vaccine?

Some of our SPRINGS neighbors have had difficulty obtaining an appointment for the vaccine. It may be because they have no computer or are discouraged by the convoluted way to apply for an appointment.

SPRINGS resident, **Martha Teters**, has learned how to make numerous appointments and has volunteered her time to help our residents **aged 75 and older**. At this time, she has not been successful making appointments for those aged 65 to 75.

Please call Martha at **520 625-3297**, if you would like her assistance. She will ask for information from you, and will then go online to get you an appointment at Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium or Tucson Medical Center. These locations vaccinate you without you having to leave your car.

When Safeway here in Green Valley opens up appointments, she will help schedule those, as well.

OR, if you are a SPRINGS neighbor who would like to **volunteer to help** in this effort and have **computer skills**, Martha would appreciate your help. Just call Martha with your offer of help. She will be glad to share websites where she have been successful in making appointments.

The sooner we all are vaccinated the better it is for the whole community!



Male Pyrrhuloxia
In Springs

PHOTO BY DICK BIERMAN

TISH IN THE KITCHEN

In this time of social distancing, we haven't been hosting the monthly potlucks in The Springs. Along with the camaraderie, we miss sharing good food as well as recipes.

If you would like to contribute recipes for the Chat, email Tish at tishmowrer@gmail.com or call her at 520-647-9270. We'd love a regional specialty, seasonal taste treat, or family favorite.

Chat editor, Sally Bryan, submitted this month's recipe for Zuppa Toscana, which is typically made with potatoes, but cauliflower makes for a lighter meal.

Zuppa Toscana Soup. Servings: 6

Ingredients:

1 lb. bulk Italian sausage* (if you enjoy spicy, use hot Italian sausage or add red pepper flakes.

1 yellow onion, diced

1 head cauliflower, cut into large florets

3 cloves garlic

6 cups chicken broth

2-3 cups chopped kale or spinach

¾ cup heavy cream

Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions:

-In a soup pot, sauté sausage*, breaking apart with back of spoon until browned.

-Add onion and sauté until soft.

-Add garlic, cauliflower and chicken broth and bring to a simmer for about 20 minutes or until cauliflower is fork-tender.

-Add kale or spinach and heavy cream. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for 20-30 minutes. Serve warm and enjoy on a cold winter night!

*Note: if you enjoy spice, use hot Italian sausage and/or add red pepper flakes to sausage while sautéing.

Torres Blancas Golf Course

The H.O.A. Board would like to remind our residents that the golf course is not part of The Springs. It is private property, intended for golf. We have received letters from the golf course complaining

about folks walking their dogs on the course, not picking up after their dogs, and walking them without a leash, all during golf playing hours. It is not only forbidden; it is potentially dangerous.

Also, we have complaints of our residents fishing in their ponds, and riding bicycles on the course. I have witnessed this myself. It is wrong, disrespectful, and not allowed.

Even more, some folks are trimming trees, shrubs, etc., burning clippings, and completely ground clearing behind their property. Again, this is part of the golf course and is private property. It is not permitted. The only thing the course would allow is for a property owner to get rid of weeds within 4-5 feet behind their property boundaries.

The golf course has been a good neighbor to us. They have allowed us to walk our dogs during non-golf playing time if we keep them on a leash and pick up after them. They don't have to do that. It would seem some of us have taken advantage of their hospitality. If we don't change, even this "privilege" may be taken away from us.

So, let's all ask ourselves how we would feel if the shoe was on the other foot and a neighbor took advantage of us and our property.

Proper conduct by all of us is expected and appreciated. Thank you.

The H.O.A. Board of The Springs at Santa Rita

Everything you wanted to know about bobcats **but were afraid to ask** by Rebecca Keenan

Springs residents have noticed more Bobcats in our area. The current drought may have impacted their range and need for food and water. As far as I am concerned, they can eat all the Packrats they want. Here is the lowdown on Bobcats.

***The Bobcat and the Lynx - are they the same thing?**

The former is a medium-sized cat with long, tufted ears and a short, bobbed tail, while the latter is, well, a medium-sized cat with long, tufted ears and a short, bobbed tail. But, the trick is, Lynx is a genus (Lynx) and a Bobcat is one of four species of Lynx - *Lynx Rufus*.



The largest Bobcats are found in Canada and the western USA, while the smallest are found in Mexico. Bobcats range from southern Canada, down through the USA to northern Mexico. As “habitat generalists”, they live in a wide variety of areas, including all types of forest, coastal swamp, desert and scrubland.

***What eats a Bobcat in the food chain?**

Predators of the bobcat include mountain lions, coyotes, foxes, owls, wolves, and humans. Actually, humans usually just kill them, not eat them.

Photo by

Dick Bierman

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) can be identified most easily by its short bob-tail which is 2 to 8 inches long. The tail has black fur on the top and is white on the underside. It has a wide flat face with longer fur on the cheek area. It has long legs and big paws. The bobcat’s color ranges from an orangish-brown to pale gray with black spots and bars on its legs and chest and less noticeable spots throughout its body.

The bobcat's ability to adapt to many different habitats and ranges is what has made it such a successful species. In the Sonoran Desert it has adapted to survive on marginal habitats. A marginal habitat is one that might not be as rich in prey or shelter as other places.

***Does the Bobcat have protected status?**

Overall, the population of the Bobcat is fairly stable. In some areas their numbers are increasing and in other areas the population is declining due to loss of habitat. They are currently listed as a ‘species of least concern’.

***Diet?**

Bobcats are carnivores and thus prefer an all meat diet. Their food of choice is rabbits, but they will also eat birds, lizards, rodents, snakes, and carrion. Occasionally they have been known to kill deer.

***What kind of resting place?**

Bobcats could be described as itinerant, usually changing their shelter on a daily basis. When they are not active they will rest in hollow logs, a rocky den, a cave, a low tree branch, a boulder or some other covered shelter. When the female has kittens to care for, she will have several dens and will move the kittens around between them.

***Vital statistics**

Bobcats can live to be 13-15 years old in the wild. They generally weigh between 15 and 30 pounds. Males are larger than the females. Their body length is 20 to 50 inches.

***Quick Facts from National Geographic**

1. Bobcats are found only in North America.
2. Bobcats often ambush their prey by waiting motionless and then pouncing on it. This is the same hunting technique used by the mountain lion.
3. Bobcats are closely related to the larger and more northerly dwelling Canadian Lynx with the biggest difference being that only the Bobcat has a small “bobbed” tail, from which it gets its name.

4. Measuring about double the size of a domestic cat, the Bobcat has the greatest range of all North American felines but their secretive nature means that they are seldom seen.
5. There are currently twelve recognized sub-species of Bobcat which vary in their coloration and geographic range, with individuals found in mountainous forests being darker with more markings than their lighter-colored cousins that are found in more arid, semi-desert regions.
6. They are incredibly secretive yet powerful animals that are able to pounce on their prey from up to three meters away before delivering a fatal bite, allowing Bobcats to hunt animals that may be up to double their own size.
7. Although Bobcats are generally quiet animals, the fierce growls and snarls that they make when they are hiding often leads people to believe that there is a Mountain Lion in the area. Whichever one it is, back away and give it some space.

The Chat Newsletter

Is there something you'd like to see added to our monthly missive? Have you discovered interesting activities to do during this global pandemic? Do you have a suggestion of how we can support YOU or how you support YOUR neighbors during this time? Do you like to write and would like to contribute an article regularly or occasionally?

If so, contact Sally Bryan, CHAT Editor, at thespringschat@gmail.com.

