



SPRINGS CHAT

MARCH 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

SAFETY SENTINELS



Several volunteers installed a safety mirror on the pathway between the Springs and the Greens near the water tanks. The willing workers were Springs residents Keith Smith, Mark Koruga, and Brent Gordy (left to right). They were assisted by Mike Seipel from The Greens (not pictured).

The mirror will enable bikers, golf carts, and walkers approaching from opposite directions to safely "see" each other on the curve and avoid collisions.

Great job, volunteers!

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday to Jim McGraw, who will be celebrating his 100th Birthday on March 9.

Born and raised in Saginaw, MI, in 1941 Jim joined the Army Air Corps (now known as the Airforce) and was part of the 448th Bomb Group, 8th Airforce, England. As a tail gunner on a B-24 Bomber, Jim flew 7 missions before being shot down over France by the German Army. He was captured while attempting to rescue his pilot and taken to Stalag Luft 1 where he remained for 14 months.

After his release in 1945, Jim received a purple heart.

Upon his return to the US, he received his B.S. in Business at University of Michigan.

Jim's hobbies include keeping in touch with friends and family via email, following national and world news and spending time with his beloved cat, Tinkerbell.

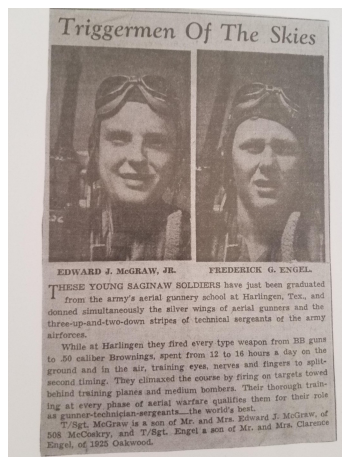
His secrets to longevity include surrounding himself with good friends, a quick sense of humor and enjoying happy hour whenever possible!

NO VISITORS, please, because of COVID, but BIRTHDAY CARDS are welcome!

Please **mail your card** to: Jim McGraw, 3977 S Camino del Heroe, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Let's all honor this great man and war veteran/HERO on his birthday.

There will ALSO be a presentation by the AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS on motorcycles, at 2 pm on Tuesday, March 9th on Camino del Heroe. It's a **SURPRISE**, so keep it quiet! There will be a Presentation of Colors and Salute from his military brothers/sisters, along with a brief presentation. Civilians may remove their hats and put their hand over their heart during the flag ceremony.

Please **DO NOT PARK on Camino del Heroe** at this time. Also, if you would like to be present, stand on the SOUTH side of Camino del Heroe. Please do not cross the street at any time. We know many of you may want to greet Jim. However, because of COVID risk, please just wave from across the street!



Good Neighbors

By Elvira Bayless, HOA Board

It's great to see Springs neighbors enjoying our Nature Park, 1-mile walking trail, sidewalks passing by our many parks, or hiking the Anza Trail to the historic Canoa Ranch.

More bicycles are on our streets enjoying our mild Arizona weather. Please be a good neighbor and watch out for the bicycles, pedestrians, and pets by following the **20 miles per hour speed limit** on our streets. Also, please stop & look both ways at stop signs for people and pets who are passing.



Vermillion flycatchers captured by *Dick Bierman* in the Springs Nature Park. Female on left; Male on right. This bird like golf courses and wet areas around ponds.

KEEPING the SPRINGS BEAUTIFUL!

From Ted Boyett, ARC Chair

Questions have been raised about who is responsible for maintaining the land between the homes/townhomes. The quick answer is the homeowners! Even if the builder did not locate walls on the property lines, neighbors should work out agreements to assure the land between the homes is regularly maintained to meet our community standards. When in doubt, please just take care of it.

Let's all do our part to make The Springs the best.

BOBCATS, Part Two

By Rebecca Keenan

An *Arizona Daily Star* article caught my attention after my Bobcat article in the February 2021 CHAT. The *Star's* focus was a study being led by retired state wildlife biologists from the Tucson area.

Here are a few key points:

1. The City of Tucson has one of the highest urban populations of Bobcats in the US because of numerous green spaces and wildlife corridors provided by the many washes, park areas, trails, and near-by mountains.
2. This study began because the interactions between humans and wildlife are often one of the last things studied. This study is more proactive and acknowledges that many Tucson folks enjoy the wildlife from a safe distance and want to see it safely continue without a negative impact on the community.
3. The all volunteer team consists of retired state wildlife biologists from the Tucson area. Their budget, which was small by today's standards, was mostly used to purchase satellite tracking collars. Live traps were used to capture the cats for study.
4. Tests done on the animals include blood work (looking for viruses affecting Bobcats), fur samples (indicates what and how much food they ingest), DNA samples, feces, and measurements of teeth, body weight, and tail patterns.
5. Tail markings and length of the tail are very distinctive in Bobcats.
6. All of these tests will help further understand how Bobcats hunt and eat, where they rest, and how they raise their litters.
7. Urban chickens are one of the concerns listed when assessing the diet. The biologists hope to shed more light on how much 'raiding of the chicken coops' actually goes on in an attempt to decrease conflict and increase appreciation of wild Bobcats.
8. Each trapped Bobcat of appropriate age for testing is anesthetized, named, numbered, collared, and tested in a short time before release back into the wild. The collars drop off when the long term batteries die and usually can be collected and reused again.
9. The website bobcatsintucson.net further describes the project and will release results as they become available. The website also describes some interactions with Bobcats and interesting sightings (such as the lady who had a Bobcat litter reared in her quiet backyard).

Researchers may be looking to expand their trapping and research in the greater Tucson area, so check the website if you are interested. The article can be found in the February 21st edition of the Daily Star.

2021 HOME SALES

Address	Sold To	Home Town
3779 S. Avenida de los Solmos	Phillip Bacon & Kathryn Hill	Lenexa, KS

The Chat Newsletter

Is there something you'd like to see added to our monthly missive? Have you discovered interesting activities 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.