



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

**January 2023**

**Website:** [www.thespringshoa.org](http://www.thespringshoa.org)

**Chat email:** thespringschat@gmail.com

**Editor:** Eileen Owen

**The Chat** is a venue for the Springs HOA Board of Directors to communicate with the residents of the Springs, but more than that, the newsletter hopes to contribute to a sense of community camaraderie.

**Board of Directors :** Brent Gordy, President; Elvira Bayless, VP; Cathy Roberts, Secretary; Sharon Toborg, Treasurer; Jim Owen, Grounds; Mark Koruga, Streets & Infrastructure; Ted Boyett, ARC.

### JANUARY CALENDAR

#### **Monday – Jan 2 – Christmas Decorations take down – 1:00**

Volunteers to take down Christmas decorations (weather permitting)

#### **Wednesday – Jan 4 – HAPPY HOUR – Fiesta Deck 3-5**

Please bring your dinnerware, napkins, beverage, and a munchie to share. In the event of inclement weather we will meet in the Anza room. Hosted by Jo Adams.

#### **Tuesday – Jan 10 – HOA Board Meeting 2:00 pm (new time for 2023)**

We plan to have a hybrid meeting again this month. The meeting will be held in the Anza Room beginning at 2:00 pm. Zoom information will be included in the agenda.

#### **Thursday – Jan 12 – Potluck - Anza Room 5-9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday for 2023)**

Potlucks are open to residents, their guests, and renters. The food is excellent and it is a good way to go off your diet. You need to bring your dinnerware and beverage. In addition, bring a dish to share that will feed 8 people (also a name tag) If nuts or shellfish are in the dish, please make a small card stating that. Also if you make gluten free or vegan dishes, a sign is helpful. Food assignments for January. Hosted by Kathy Szeto.

Last name starting with A-F (salad)

Last name starting with G-O (main dish)

Last name starting with P-Z (dessert)



#### **Saturday – Jan 21 – Annual Meeting – Anza Room 3:00 p.m.**

Hybrid meeting, zoom information will be included in the agenda. There are four Board openings and four candidates; they will be voted in by acclamation at the January board meeting and introduced at the annual meeting.

#### **Sunday – Jan 29 – Picnic in Perry Park 12:30**

Hosted by Dave & Gloria Dewing. (Yea! Another volunteer has stepped up) You provide something to grill (or bring a sandwich), glasses and silverware, and something to drink. A dish to share like an appetizer, salad, or dessert is optional but appreciated. Notices will be posted on the bulletin boards in advance with specific information.

## Board Business

### Highlights From Your December 2022 HOA Board Meeting

By Cathy Roberts

We continue with the hybrid in-person/Zoom format for our meetings. The November meeting was called to order with better than average homeowners present; 20 on Zoom and 16 in-person. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Board member reports were presented and can be found in their entirety on the HOA web site, [www.thespringshoa.org](http://www.thespringshoa.org) for your review. A brief synopsis follows.

- President: Has continued work with the ARC and our attorneys to clearly define timelines and requirements as it relates to noncompliance issues with the CC&Rs. Consulted with the VP regarding upcoming board election. Addressed concerns of residents related to standing water, pack rats, etc.
- Vice President: Announced that a full slate of candidates have submitted applications for board positions. Elections will occur at the Annual Meeting in January.
- Treasurer:
  - Checking/Savings Balance 11/30/2022 \$567,582.86
  - Reserve Fund/Savings 11/30/2022 \$482,642.86
  - Operating Fund Savings 11/30/2022 \$65,476.41
  - Operating Fund Checking 11/30/2022 \$19,463.59
- ARC: There have been 45 project requests submitted for approval so far in 2022, 39 of which have been completed. Issues such as bird feeders, non-functioning vehicles parked for an extended period, and pet potty courtesy were addressed.
- Grounds: November posted 148 volunteer hours. That's an impressive number of hours donated by residents. If you are considering joining a volunteer team contact Jim Owen or email [Grounds.thespringshoa@gmail.com](mailto:Grounds.thespringshoa@gmail.com)
- Infrastructure: Mark addressed issues with Republic not emptying the HOA dumpster.

Many new holiday decorations are in place at the front entrance thanks to the efforts of Judy Bierman and Deb Fillion. Volunteers are needed to help take down decorations on Monday, January 2 at 1:00 pm. Donations are being accepted through the HOA office for continued improvements and replacement of aging supplies.

Bruce Grieshaber presented information on the "Firewise Assessment". The Springs Master Landscape Plan parallels the report very well. The assessment is very informative and will be available for review on the HOA website.

Contact Roger Brink by email at [Rogerbrink8@gmail.com](mailto:Rogerbrink8@gmail.com) to get information and "opt in" to the HeartSafe program. Keep those on your property safe.

Dr. Bob Muldoon, our representative on the Green Valley Council, presented a synopsis of the recent meeting. Please see his report as it highlights the matter of homelessness, panhandling, crime, Canoa Ranch, GVR passes, and new Green Valley construction.

A reminder that the full minutes and other reports are available in their entirety on The Springs Web site: <http://www.thespringshoa.org>

## Message from the President

I am hearing complaints about issues with mice, packrats, and rattlesnakes in The Springs. One reason they hang around is we feed them. How do we do that? By putting out bird seed which falls on the ground creating a food source for mice and packrats. They become a food source for rattlesnakes, and so on.



Our CC&Rs prohibit any kind of animal feeding except hummingbird liquids. We have brought this up many times in the past but some residents continue to ignore our rules. I don't know why, and it is frustrating and unhealthy/hazardous for us all.

Be a caring team member of our community. If you have bird seed feeders outside please permanently remove them immediately. I have asked the compliance agent to keep a close lookout for such activity. If she sees them we will enforce our CC&Rs. That could include fines and this problem is so easily fixed without resulting to such measures. Thanks for helping take care of our community. It's worth it. Brent Gordy, HOA President

## Volunteer Needed

A Block Captain for the north end of Golfista is needed. Anyone interested, please email Jacki Marketti, Block Captain Chairperson, at [jmarketti@gmail.com](mailto:jmarketti@gmail.com)

## Love those volunteers

Holiday decorations committee did a great job in making our entrance a beautiful holiday scene. The volunteers in our community are amazing. Thanks to all.



Deb Fillion and Judy Bierman headed up a group of volunteers who showed up early in December (after two days of rain delay) to put up the holiday decorations.





## Can you help?

We hope your holiday season was merry and bright and that the new holiday decorations at the Spring's front entrance were able to spread a little extra cheer to you and put a smile on your face. A big thank you goes out to the crew who helped put up the decorations. We have received some great donations of lights that have replaced old strings. Our holiday decorations have unfortunately been showing their age. You may have noticed over the last three years most of the larger displays have had to be retired. This year our old Frosty the Snowman will be retiring as his lights no longer work and he is jury-rigged together. He spent eleven months traveling around in Barb Wolf's backyard; as of last year he no longer could be unfastened for storage. He was wrapped in plastic, but he never settled in for a long summer's nap and didn't enjoy the hail storm at all!!

With some bargain shopping and sale prices, we were able to purchase some of the larger items like the new deer. Due to several items being retired this year, we will need to replace them putting a strain on our budget. If you are inclined to donate to the decoration's fund, you can do so by putting your donation in an envelope marked **Holiday Fund** and dropping it in the mailbox at the front entrance.



The Holiday Decorating Committee

## December Happy Hour



Photo by Bruce Greishaber

## December Potluck



There was a good turnout for the Christmas potluck--64 residents in attendance. As always there was the acknowledgment of birthdays and anniversaries. After consuming the delicious assortment of salads, hot dishes, and desserts, a white elephant gift exchange was orchestrated by host, Kathy Szeto.

The guest speaker was Chris Erickson from Valley Assistance Services which is located here in the Springs (old Dorn building) Chris spoke about services and volunteer opportunities provided by the organization.



## **Packrats, Birdfeeders, and Compliance**

Are packrats a problem? Here's some information you might find helpful.

### Where will I find evidence of packrats?

You might see a nest under a low growing prickly pear cactus, in a covered BBQ, or a low growing palm with fronds on the ground. They even like the cute little box built around a sprinkler controller.



### How will I know if I have packrats?

Examples of packrat destruction include chewed vehicle wiring, and chewed up outdoor cushions or pillows. Holes in the ground with lots of plant debris piled around the hole are typical evidence of these little critters. They often use the base of prickly pear or cholla cacti as the sites for their homes, using the cactus spines for protection from predators.

### Are they multiplying fast?

The breeding cycle is every 8 weeks. They produce 3 to 4 babies at that time.

### How can I get rid of them?

When a nest is located, it needs to be removed so that the occupant will move away. If the nest is not removed, another rat will move in. Packrat nests smell bad and can harbor disease.

The desert wildlife food chain goes like this—bird seed, quail blocks, water and pet food attract birds, mice, and packrats. Packrats have poor eyesight and are slow movers, which make them ideal meals for snakes, owls, bobcats and coyotes. All of these predators are capable of entering our walled yards. Just as packrats seek food, predators are seeking their food as well.

### What can or should I do?

If you must park your vehicle outdoors, consider investing in a "Rid a Rat." It is a strobe light which runs off a vehicle battery and is mounted with a magnet under the hood. This device is meant to keep packrats from nesting under the hood. They are carried at the local hardware stores.

Prevention and trapping are the best controls because poisons kill the predators who feed on packrats.

Don't put out bird food. The CC&Rs do not allow feeding birds or wild animals other than hummingbirds. Bird feeding can be written up by our compliance agent.

## Where Have you Been??

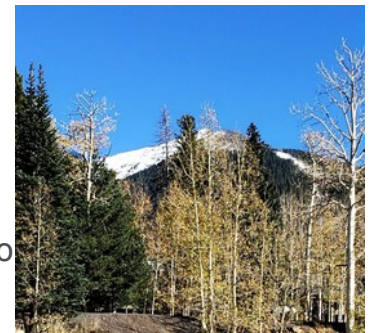
There's a song that goes, "Yesterday when I was young." Yes, it does seem like yesterday when we were young and loved planning trips, exploring new areas, driving distances, etc. We bicycled trails in many states and hiked all over the US, but now that we are in our 80s, our hiking boots only see the nature trail in Madera Canyon, our bicycles go no further than Quail Creek, and our traveling is quite often by bus with a tour group. That being said, we still think "it's the good life."

In October Jim and Eileen Owen booked a five day **Fall Colors** tour with Pleasurebent Tours. We spent two days in Flagstaff and two days in Show Low.

Upon arriving in Flagstaff, we visited the Riordan Mansion which borders the NAU (Northern Arizona University) campus. The Riordan mansion (house) was built in 1904 for two Riordan brothers who brought the lumber business to Flagstaff. We had a docent led tour arranged by the tour company. (Docent led tours are always the best way to learn facts about the site you are visiting.) After the tour we checked into Little America hotel for a two night stay. In my opinion, Little America is one of the best hotels in Flagstaff—spacious rooms, great restaurant, and a 3 mile walking path behind the hotel.



The next day we visited the Museum of Northern Arizona which included their annual "Day of the Dead" Festival. In the afternoon we traveled to Snowbowl, a ski area located in the San Francisco peaks, to see the fall colors and views.

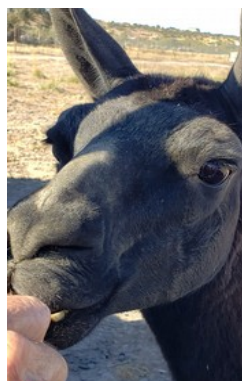
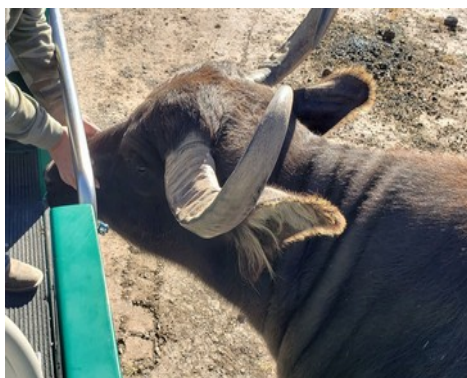


Day 3 we traveled east to Meteor Crater & Barringer Space Center. The mile wide crater is the result of an asteroid traveling 26,000 miles per hour hitting the earth 50,000 years ago. Once again, we had a scheduled tour where we learned many interesting facts about the crater's discovery.

The afternoon was spent visiting La Posada Hotel a restored historic hotel in downtown Winslow, Arizona, designed by Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, a visionary architect who has designed and furnished some of our Southwest's most fascinating buildings. Lunch was at the Turquoise Room, a southwestern style restaurant inside the Hotel. Then on to Show Low for a two night stay.

The next day we traveled to Eagar, AZ, and spent the afternoon at R Lazy J Wildlife Ranch, a 65 acre wildlife conservation ranch that focuses on breeding and exhibiting wildlife while educating the public about rare and endangered animals from all over the world. The first part of the tour was a walk through area where we saw many penned animals and birds, one animal being a sloth who loves carrots.





Next, on our guided tour open air tour wagon, we got to feed some of the roaming animals like camels and water buffalo.

Our last day and journey home included a stop near Payson for a short hike to see the fall colors on the Mogollon Rim. The Mogollon Rim separates the high desert of northeastern Arizona from the low desert of southeastern Arizona. The rim is 1000 to 2000 feet high and covered with forest. Colors were beautiful.

Pleasurebent Tours is located in Tucson and most of the participants on this tour had done at least one previous trip with the company (including us). A big plus is they pick you up at your front door and return you there at the end of the tour.

If you have taken a trip recently and would like to share, send a write up and pictures to [thespringschat@gmail.com](mailto:thespringschat@gmail.com)



### **Bierman's Pics**



This **Green Heron** I photographed at the Canoa Conservation Park just south of The Springs. Green Herons are usually close to water as their food source is small fish, frogs, and other aquatic critters.

This one showed a perfect mirror image in the still water.



## Spotlight on the Rescue Pet

Who is the rescuer? Mary or Noelle?

Those of you who have live in the Springs for any length of time know Mary Yager. Anyone who walks in the Springs has seen Mary and her fur baby, Noelle. Sometimes they are “out and about” two or three times a day, depending on Noelle’s mood that day. Most of us with pets know who’s in charge! There are many health benefits of owning a pet. They can increase opportunities to exercise as well as get you outside and socialize. Some days Mary’s walks take twice as long because of the many neighbors and friends she talks with on her route around the Springs.

Our long time resident, Mary Yager has lived in the Springs since 2000. She retired from teaching in upstate New York at age 55. Mary taught physical education and coached women’s softball; a high light was when her team went to the NY State Women’s Softball Championship. After retirement, seeking a new destination, she talked with fellow teacher, Barb Wolf, and both ended up in Green Valley, in the Springs.



Mary is no stranger to rescue pets. She has had two previous rescue dogs, Freckles and Rascal (both cocker spaniels). Her present rescue pet, Noelle, is a mixed breed, and was adopted from the Animal League of Green Valley about a year ago. Noelle was estimated to be around four years old and was found wondering around by herself. She was spayed but not chipped. Her loving nature led the Animal League to believe she was well cared for by a previous owner although she was in need of major grooming. It was love at first sight by both Mary and Noelle--a happy ending for all.

Many residents here in the Springs have rescue pets. It goes without saying that when you adopt a rescue pet, you're saving a life—but you're actually saving more than one. By adopting, you're helping make space for another animal in need and helping to give them the opportunity to become beloved pets.

If you have a rescue animal and would like to contribute an article about your pet, contact the Chat editor at [eileenowen42@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenowen42@yahoo.com)

## Position Open, No Experience Required

Openings available on the newsletter committee. Just like Lois Lane and Clark Kent, you, too, can be part of a newspaper staff. If you would like to add your name to the committee, send an email to: [thespringschat@gmail.com](mailto:thespringschat@gmail.com). Job description entails writing articles that you think would be of interest to your Springs neighbors and friends. You do not need to be a “full time” resident or have a super hero disguise. Not interested in being on a committee you say? You can still submit articles for the Chat. If you see something interesting, take a picture (if possible) and write up a paragraph or two and send it to: [thespringschat@gmail.com](mailto:thespringschat@gmail.com) or [eileenowen42@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenowen42@yahoo.com)

## **Picnic in the Park Hosts**

Dave and Gloria Dewing are our new Picnic in the Park hosts. When neighbor and previous host, Doug Crosby, indicated he would be moving back to Portland, Maine, full time and would no longer be in charge, Dave and Gloria stepped up. The picnics were something they looked forward to and they were determined to keep them going.

The Dewings are "snow birds" and spend the summer months in a seasonal park near Clear Lake, Minnesota on the Mississippi River. Gloria grew up near the small southwestern town of Currie, MN. Dave was raised in Portland, North Dakota (Gloria prefers that he say he was raised there instead of "grew up" since she is still waiting for that to happen). They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.



Gloria and Dave bought their house in the Springs without renting or checking out the area before they committed. We're glad they did, and that they have taken over the hosting job.

Picnic in the Park will be held on the last Sunday of the month beginning on January 29, 2023 and continuing through April. Residents should gather in the park around 12:30. Hot coals will be available. You provide something to grill (or bring a sandwich), glasses and silverware, and something to drink. A dish to share with everyone, like an appetizer, salad, or dessert is optional but appreciated. Notices will be posted on the bulletin boards in advance with specific information.

## **A requested favorite potluck recipe from the past**

### **Chicken Enchilada Casserole**

(Pam Koruga)

2 large cans green chili enchilada sauce  
4 chicken breasts  
2 (8oz) pkg. shredded Mexican blend cheese  
8 flour tortillas

Put the two cans of green chili enchilada sauce and chicken breasts in slow cooker. Cook on slow for 8 hours Remove chicken from cooker and shred. Then add 1 cup of enchilada sauce from the cooker and 1 pkg of cheese. Mix together.

Put mixture into each of the 8 tortillas and roll up. Put enchiladas seam side down in 9 x 13 greased baking pan. Pour rest of green enchilada sauce from cooker over tortillas and the other package of cheese. Bake 350 for 30 minutes.