



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

January 2024

Website: 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; Bruce Grieshaber, VP; Cathy Roberts, Secretary; Sharon Toborg, Treasurer; Jim Owen, Grounds; Mark Koruga, Streets & Infrastructure; Rick Fillion, ARC

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan 3 – Wednesday – 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.

Jan 4 – Thursday – Mail Stuffing Gathering – Anza Room – noon

Jan 6 – Saturday – Take Down Christmas Decorations – front entrance – 1 pm

Jan 9 – Tuesday – HOA Board Meeting – Anza Room - 2:00 pm

Hybrid meeting. Zoom information will be included in the agenda.

Jan 18 – Thursday – Potluck – Anza Room – 5:30 ([Time Change](#))

Potlucks are open to residents, their guests, and renters. Please 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.

Last name starting with A-F (salad)

Last name starting with G-O (main dish)

Last name starting with P-Z (dessert)



Jan 21 – Sunday – Picnic in Perry Park - 12:30

Hot coals for grilling will be provided. You bring something to grill (or a sandwich if you prefer), dinnerware, and something to drink. A dish to share like an appetizer, salad, or dessert is optional but appreciated.

Jan 27 – Saturday – Annual Meeting Anza Room - 3:00 pm

BOARD BUSINESS

Highlights From Your December 12, 2023 HOA Board Meeting

By Cathy Roberts

Our December meeting was held using the hybrid format once again. The meeting was called to order with 18 homeowners present. Roll was called and a quorum was established. This meeting was a little unusual in that it was held outdoors on the deck. An unexpected power outage was the cause but it was a nice change of pace. Board member reports were presented and can be found in their entirety on the HOA web site, www.thespringshoa.org for your review. A brief synopsis follows.

- President: Attended the GVC presentation, “Conflict Forum” and the HOA President's Roundtable. The basic GVC survey of our HOA was completed. Worked with the VP to complete performance evaluations of contracted employees. Prep work for the annual meeting, consulted with attorneys regarding statutes for unpaid homeowner dues, continued working with the grounds crew, and dealt with a few complaints.
- Vice President: Reported that there has been three residents volunteer for the three open board positions in 2024. Spent time working with board members and employees on various community issues. Still seeking a volunteer to host the Happy Hour each month.
- Treasurer:
 - Checking/Savings Balance 11/30/2023 \$422,795.33
 - Reserve Fund/Savings 11/30/2023 \$349,807.62
 - Operating Fund Savings 11/30/2023 \$ 65,177.20
 - Operating Fund Checking 11/30/2023 \$ 7,810.51
- ARC: A fairly quiet month with only four new requests for property improvements received and three notices of project completions. Most attention is going to unresolved final notices.
- Grounds: For the month of November there were a total of 1,672 volunteer hours posted. That is an amazing feat when you consider that is a HUGE savings to The Springs. All the efforts keep The Springs looking beautiful year round. If interested in volunteering, contact Jim Owen or email Grounds.thespringshoa@gmail.com
- Infrastructure: The paving project is complete along with the painting of lines at the stop signs. Payment will be provided now that the painting is completed. Painting of the gatehouse and tower should occur around March or April of 2024. New blinds were installed in the office thanks to George Anderson.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 3:00pm in the Anza Room. Since there are three volunteers for the three open board positions those will be declared by acclamation rather than needing a ballot election.

Dr. Bob Muldoon gave his report on the most recent GVC meeting and encouraged residents to attend these informative meetings.

Several homeowners posed questions and expressed some concerns which were discussed during open forum. Having this opportunity can hopefully provide clarity to others by sharing in these discussions.

Your HOA Board of Directors would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season. We, here in The Springs, have so much to be thankful for.

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

Volunteers for 2004-2006 Board positions

Rick Fillion – 812 W. Puma Peak. Rick is currently serving as our Interim ARC Director and has volunteered to serve a full term. Rick was HOA President and ARC Chair in Colorado prior to moving to The Springs. As our interim, he has launched new ARC initiatives and procedures that will greatly benefit our residents. He has said he “wants to continue the work started.”



Victor Frankfather – 3958 S. Camino del Heroe. Victor retired from the US Postal Service as a Transportation Network Specialist. He was the Contracting Officer for over the road contracts where his duties included ensuring contractor compliance with their contracts. Victor said he “wants to help where he can to enhance the quality of life in our community by maintaining our development to continue to be a desirable place to live.

Rebecca (Becky) Schroer -3858 S. Camino del Golfista. Becky was a newspaper reporter in Indiana and retired from Eli Lilly and Company. She said she “so appreciates the volunteerism of our residents and wants to contribute to that.

A big thank you to our three volunteers who have stepped up to serve on our HOA Board. This will be an election by acclamation as there are the same number of open seats as there are candidates.

We Need You

Yes, you can become elevated to “rock star” status by volunteering for either Happy Hour Host or Garage Sale Organizer. Please think about taking on one of these positions.

Words from the Pres

Since this is the last issue of The Chat with Brent Gordy’s name as president in the heading, I asked him if he would like to write a final article for the newsletter. Speaking for myself and many other residents, Brent, we appreciate your leadership and all the work you put in as President of our HOA. It’s a big job and you have handled it well. Best wishes as you step away from the Board.



Year End Meanderings by the Kid From OZ

Happy new year everyone! Please do not read this if you’re expecting something significant or monumental. I was asked to put something in the CHAT for my last hurrah. Wow, where

did the last 6 years go?! What to say and write? Guess I'll just meander in hopes of entertainment instead of anything too serious. Here goes in no particular order.

I always end my monthly board reports with a "fun fact". Decembers was:
"It's illegal to own just one guinea pig in Switzerland. It's considered animal abuse because they're social beings and get lonely."

Hmmmm.....made me think. When I was bumped up to President three years ago, we were in the beginning stages of Covid. Our ability to socialize sure was knocked in the dirt, wasn't it? Maybe we were just a single guinea pig without a partner and being abused by Covid? Potlucks, happy hours, picnics in the park, neighborly visits, garage sales, in person monthly board meetings, etc. all were curtailed. Well, it wasn't fun but we eventually came through it what with our usual great attitude, patience, and perseverance, all of which are typical of Springs residents! It's so good to be able to get together in person again.

However.....if I find out who left the toilet paper roll with the cynical narrative written on it and a package of MiraLAX tablets attached at my front door this week (I had been given it a year earlier and regifted it last week at the Christmas potluck) I am going to make sure Santa gives it back to them at the next Christmas potluck! Ho, ho, ho!
I'm a refrigerator magnet junkie. I must have 200 of 'em. Heck, you could buy a new refrigerator with the money I've spent on them. I bought one last week that says:
"Dear whatever doesn't kill me. I'm strong enough now. Thanks."

Here's another:
"The fact there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven should tell you something about the anticipated traffic."

I grew up in a small town in OZ. So, in many ways, living in the Springs reminds me of it. We are family. Like any family sometimes we quarrel a little, but in the end, we are a family that sticks together, we care about each other. When I mentioned to folks outside the Springs that I was on the HOA board they said it must be a thankless endeavor. Nothing could be further from the truth! I have had so many folks here express their gratitude for my service. I can't even express how much that has meant to me. You were worth every moment of my time. Please don't forget to thank the other 6 board members, office manager, compliance agent, grounds crew, and all the other committee members/volunteers for all they do. It's a lot!

It's kind of weird that sometimes we focus on the negative things that happen to us, but put the positives in the background. 95% of my experiences on the board have been positive and I choose to focus on that. Try it, you will sleep better, lose weight, feel better, and win the lottery. (Well, maybe 2 out of 4 which ain't bad)

Springs residents have been my Dorothy. You have led me down the yellow brick road where, like the scarecrow, tinman, and lion, I have obtained knowledge, empathy, and courage. So many people have helped me, I can't name them all here. Please accept my sincere thanks for all you've done for Jan and myself and thanks for putting up with my mistakes, which I might have set an HOA record for! It has been an honor and privilege to be of service to you.

I attended a "Kindness Seminar" put on by the Green Valley Council recently. Problem is (and this is no surprise) that none of the people there needed the training! So.....do a random totally unexpected act of kindness for someone today. You will be surprised how good it makes you feel. When the person asks where you are from, just say the Springs, we grow kindness there.

Remember Andy Rooney? Here's some of his Rooneyisms I like:

"When you're in love it shows.

Having a child fall asleep in your arms is such a peaceful feeling.

Being kind is more important than being right.

Never say no to a gift from a child.

I can pray for someone I don't have the ability to help in any other way.

No one is perfect til you fall in love with them.

When you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

We should keep our words soft and tender because tomorrow we may have to eat them."

From Casey Stengel:

"It's dangerous to make predictions about the future."

From Yogi Berra:

"The future ain't what it used to be."

From our attorney:

"Don't get too hung up on Roberts Rules of order." (My personal favorite)

Now for a favor to ask: Please consider serving on the board, volunteering on the grounds crew, being on a committee, hosting the happy hours, helping the block captains, etc. You will receive back far more than you give out. Just ask another resident who does it. Remember to laugh at something (or even yourself) every day. None of us are getting out of here alive. Laughter IS the best medicine.....although brownies do come in a close second.

As for me, I'm off to see the Wizard. You come too!

Brent



Is This A Board Meeting??



Big thanks to Jeannie McGaughey for making sure the HOA meeting went on as scheduled. A power outage in the Anza building had residents out on the Fiesta Deck and the meeting went on without a hitch!

December Happy Hour



Almost 40 residents gathered at the Happy Hour on December 6. The afternoon weather was beautiful and the mountains were on full display. It was good to see returning winter neighbors and get caught up. Thank you to Bill Perry and Bruce Grieshaber for organizing the event! ***(The Happy Hour is still looking for a volunteer coordinator)***

December Potluck



The Anza Room was full for the December potluck. New homeowners, renters, and year-round residents enjoyed the potluck and the "White Elephant" gift exchange after dinner.

Sandy Stone spoke about the Heart Safe program and reminded us that to benefit, we need to opt-in our address. If you're unsure as to whether you've opted in, check with Becky Meinking.



Memories of a Brooklyn Child (by Barbara Wolf)



In June as I was walking on Blue Fox, I spied a dime lying in the road. Of course I picked it up. Holding the dime as I headed back home I began to recall what 10 cents would buy when I was young.



A dime would buy a 16 oz bottle of Mission soda; 2 candy bars; an ice cream cone; a rubber ball (on the streets of NY you could play many games with that ball; a jump rope; 10 pieces of penny candy; a comic book; a booklet of paper dolls with clothes to cut out; 2 fudge pops; and one ice cream pop from the Good Humor truck.

Would you have pick up that dime? What could you buy in your childhood with 10 cents?

Thank you Barb Wolf for contributing an article for The Chat. I am is pleased when a resident contributes to the content of the newsletter. Articles are appreciated and can be submitted to me at eileenowen42@yahoo.com.

Holiday Decorating





If you haven't had a chance at night to drive by the new Holiday lights at our entrance, it still isn't too late to view them. Hop in your vehicle ...only would take a few minutes!!

Hopefully the new display has put a smile on your face at some point this month. Our new display wouldn't have been possible without the monetary generosity of several of our Springs residents and the support of our HOA. Thank you so very much!!!! All of the elves that showed up to put up the display were terrific. It was the biggest group we have ever had! A big shout out to the grounds crew and elves Rick Fillion, Dick Bierman, Bill Studer, and Lee Blahnik who put together the bigger pieces, helped set up, worked on the lighting, and continually checked to see what had blown over or lights that weren't working. A special thank you to Rick & Deb Fillion and Arnie Fett for the surprise name sign for the pond. (We are pleased that no skaters fell through the ice on the pond.)

The date to dismantle the display is Saturday, January 6th at 1:00 PM. We would appreciate it if some of you elves could come and help us out again. Once again, many thanks to all who have helped or took the time to stop and thank us. We really appreciate our Springs residents!!

The Holiday Decorating Committee (Deb Fillion, Cathy Roberts, & Judy Bierman)

Bierman's Pics



Queen Butterflies

Here are 2 photos of Queen Butterflies. The top photo, the one with the dark spots on the hindwings, is the male, the other the female.

They are related to Monarch butterflies with the caterpillar stage feeding mainly on milkweed plants. Eating milkweed makes them somewhat toxic so birds with tend to avoid eating them.



They can be found everywhere in southern Arizona, even in the winter but in reduced numbers.

What Is This Thing Called the Master Association?

--- By Sandy Stone and Jan Canning

Let me provide a bit of history for you about the Master Association and how it got started. The Master Association members include The Springs, The Fairways, The Links, The Greens, The Legends, Sunrise Pointe, Sunrise Pointe Vistas, and Silver Springs. The association was the brainchild of the developers of these HOA's and the retirement facility. They wanted to make certain that all of the HOA's would maintain their original style and adhere to good architectural rules. Originally the Master Association had the responsibility of approving all of the ARC requests for all eight member HOA's. This became an insurmountable task. So, about 15 years ago all the the CC&Rs were rewritten to give that responsibility back to each individual HOA. So, why does the Master Association still exist? The developers had a second purpose in establishing the Master Association and that was they wanted all of the homeowners to have access by foot, bike, golf cart from one to the other. A path with a bridge was built between The Springs and The Greens. It is near the Global Water water

tank. It exists to this day. The Board of the Master Association consists of three officers – president, secretary and treasurer. Plus, there are representatives from each member HOA. The board has three meetings a year. The main task is to establish a budget to maintain the path, keep the bushes under control and to fix the railings on the bridge which get clipped now and again. It also establishes a reserve for the potential that the bridge might someday need to be replaced. The cost to each homeowner is \$4.25/year and it is included in your annual HOA dues.

Our Amazing Grounds crew



Pictured here are only a few of our amazing grounds crew workers. Let's give a big "thank you" to all our hard working grounds crew members: George Anderson, Tom Becker, Dick Bierman, Lee Blahnik, Jim Clausen, Rick Dow, Bob Fillion, Rick Fillion, John Fredrickson, Brent Gordy, John Kangas, Don Kelly, Dave Koch, Mark Koruga, Mike Mitchell, Gary Moe, Bob Muldoon, Carl Olson, Jim Owen, Dan Ridder, Mike Seipel, Ron Sills, Keith Smith, Bill Studer, and Dawn Weber. (Thanks George Anderson for the pictures)

Adventure on a Budget

by Lynn Daniels-Anderson

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to explore our local area a bit more, be sure to include a stop at the Pima County Library! Their Culture Pass Program allows anyone holding a Pima County Library Card to "check out" a pass good for two admissions to many of the area's prime attractions.

From the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson to The Heard Museum in Phoenix, there is a Culture Pass venue to suit most any interest. All you need is your Pima County Library Card. It is a first-come, first-served program, so you might find your first choice isn't available, but there are many to choose from. See the website at <https://www.library.pima.gov/culturepasses/> for more information!



Thank You

I would like to thank Lynn Daniels-Anderson for filling in for me with pictures and write ups while I was away. She covered the happy hour, potluck, and board meeting. Great job.

HOME SALES

The following is a list of homes sold in the Springs since the last newsletter



Address

3788 S. Calle Rambles
992 W. Blue Fox Rd.

Sold To

Thomas & Trinna Ritchey
Michael & Sandra Brady

Home Town

Salem, OR
(not listed)

Welcome 2024

Put on your party hat and celebrate all that is to be in 2024.

With joy and optimism, we look to the year ahead. Wishing for good things each and every day.

Wishing you all the things that make you smile in the New Year.

Open your heart to the year ahead and your soul will follow.

Hoping 2024 is filled with new adventures and possibilities yet undiscovered.