

The Chat

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

March 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 : Bruce Grieshaber, President; Becky Schroer, VP; Cathy Roberts, Secretary; Sharon Toborg, Treasurer; Jim Owen, Grounds; Victor Frankfather, Streets & Infrastructure; Rick Fillion, ARC.

MARCH CALENDAR

Mar 6 – 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.

Mar 9 – Saturday – Annual Garage Sale -- Various homes 7-11 am

Mar 12 – Tuesday – HOA Board Meeting – Anza Room - 2:00 pm

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

Mar 15 – Friday – Volunteer Recognition Party –Anza Room – 3-6 pm

All present and past volunteers and significant others and all current and past board members and their significant others.

Mar 21 – Thursday – Potluck – Anza Room – 5:00

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 (dessert)

Last name starting with G-O (salad)

Last name starting with P-Z (main dish)



Mar 24 – 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.

The Voice of the Board

The Voice of the Board is one way the HOA Board communicates with The Springs HOA residents regarding current activities or issues.

There is always a turnover of new homeowners. Therefore, this is a good time for all of us to review the need to keep our sidewalks accessible. Sidewalk access is critical for emergency personnel responding to 9-1-1 calls, essential for people using a walker, wheelchair or other transport assistance, and inconvenient for walkers. **Federal law requires the HOA to assure access to the sidewalks and the space 7 feet above the sidewalk, including grasses and low-hanging branches. Parking on the sidewalk and trash & recycle containers placed on the sidewalk are the major causes of blocking the sidewalks in our HOA.**

Parking on the sidewalk or on the incline between the street and the sidewalk is not allowed. The HOA Board believes that most people that park on the sidewalk or incline are doing it because the streets are narrow and there are no traditional curbs. But drivers are still required to park on the asphalt. We realize that this means vehicles may have to wait for vehicles coming from the other direction to pass before proceeding if cars are parked on both sides of the street.



Parking on the incline damages the incline. The inclines were designed to be driven across, not on top of. When driving across the incline most of the vehicle weight is on the street or driveway except for a very short time when the vehicle is pushing its weight down on the road base. Parking on the incline parallel to the sidewalk results in at least half of the vehicle weight on the joint where the incline meets the sidewalk, which is the weakest part of the incline, for an extended time. This is why the concrete at the joint between the sidewalk and incline crumbles. The incline is the curb and we don't allow parking on the curb.



Garbage and trash containers must not be visible **except** on the dates of regular garbage pickups. On the days of pickup they should be placed on the driveway or street and must be placed clear of the sidewalk. The HOA Board realizes that many lots have narrow driveways but this does not allow homeowners to put the receptacles on the sidewalk.

Your compliance with these simple courtesies can avoid potential personal fines or other disciplinary action for non-compliance with Federal law or the fines the HOA (which means your HOA dues) could incur. The Pima County Transportation ADA Coordinator has local responsibility for enforcing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2010 and state and local government codes.

Most of the fines that would be incurred by our HOA result from emergency personnel responding to 9-1-1 having limited access. Violators not being aware of the emergency occurring beforehand is not justification in the courtroom. Section 2.19 of The Springs Handbook is the HOA's evidence that we are encouraging homeowner compliance but does not prevent the HOA being fined for violations.

Parking on the asphalt and placing your trash & recycle receptacles in your driveway or the street in front of your house would be greatly appreciated. -- The HOA Board

Landlords, please share this article with your tenants.

Highlights From Your February 13, 2024 HOA Board Meeting

By Cathy Roberts

The meeting was held in the Anza Room following the hybrid format. The meeting was called to order with 24 homeowners present. 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 for your review. A brief synopsis follows.

- President: Attended the GVC Board meeting. Attended a Q& A meeting with our attorney group Goldschmitt & Shupe. Attended the GVC Dark Skies Forum (there will be a Dark Skies presentation at the March Pot Luck). Explored the 2024/25 initiatives, looked at creating a stronger interface with GVR, considered a Firewise program expansion, and worked on growing our excellent volunteer base.
- Vice President: Working with volunteers and getting positions filled. Still needing a host for the Happy Hour; (3-5 pm October-April). The position requires about 3 hours and all supplies needed are made available to the host. Planning to assist with grant writing projects.
- Treasurer:
 - Checking/Savings Balance 1/31/2024 \$541,616.26
 - Reserve Fund/Savings 1/31/2024 \$369,462.39
 - Operating Fund Savings 1/31/2024 \$163,434.79
 - Operating Fund Checking 1/31/2024 \$ 8,719.08
- ARC: Of the 25 1st notices due in March, 10 have been completed. Of the 8 3rd notices due in March, 3 are completed. In January, 8 requests were submitted, approved but none completed yet. A motion was made and passed to remove the Compliance Agent from the committee as this is no longer a requirement for insurance. Cynthia Drake will be added to the committee. She will be an asset with her extensive architectural background.
- Grounds: As of January 30 there were a total of 170 volunteer hours posted for 2024. Things are looking beautiful and the work being done is a great benefit to the Firewise program. If interested in volunteering, contact Jim Owen or email Grounds.thespringshoa@gmail.com

- Infrastructure: Jumping in with a big splash, Victor is acquainting himself with all aspects of his role. He spent time with Mark learning the ropes and moving forward with 2024 projects. He attended a GVR Forum on property zoning, special use areas, and land use intensity. He has been in touch with the National Park Service reporting the need for Anza Trails signs that need to be replaced.

In addition to the two ARC motions that were passed, it was also approved that the treasurer will be allowed to open a Money Market account with Edward Jones. Also, the updated volunteer board position descriptions were approved.

There will be an Ad Hoc Committee formed to evaluate needs for speed and pet information signs.

In open forum there was discussion about reinstating the ADOT Frontage Road Cleanup Committee and an inquiry about the possibility of publishing a list of approved ARC projects in the Chat.

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

ANNUAL SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Yea! We have a new leader—Nancy Kelly. Juanita Kauffman has done an outstanding job of organizing this event for the last few years but decided it was time to pass the baton to a new volunteer. Thanks, Nancy, for stepping up and thanks, Juanita, for all your past work on this annual event.



Date: March 9, 2024

Time: 7AM to 11AM

Sign up date: now until February 28 You must sign up by that date to be included on the map handed out to shoppers

Where to sign up: Jan and Feb Potlucks, Annual Meeting, or email Nancy at dnkelly@comcast.net Please include the address and a description of the items you intend to sell.

Here is your opportunity to clear out the garage and your home of unwanted items.

Host in your own garage/driveway or you may combine households into one sale. Recruit neighbors to have garage sales, too. More garage sales on a street increases the shopping traffic

The HOA will place an ad in the Green Valley News for one week ahead of March 9. Maps with a list of addresses and a summary of items for sale will be handed out at the gate as cars arrive

Renaming the shed; it is now known as the OK Corral



Pictured are Jim Owen and Mark Koruga.



Photos by Bruce Grieshaber

What did the Grounds Crew Do in February

- Removed a large area of invasive plants in the Nature Park
- Removed and sprayed volunteer bushes and Palo Verde shoots
- Trimmed trees with dead dying branches
- Removed several dead and dying trees
- Cactus cleanup behind Golden Lynx
- Removed cacti prunnings off Puma Peak path leading to Nature Park
- Trimmed up large bushes along the paved path in the Nature Park
- Put up repaired Perry Park sign



Living With Javelinas (and Other Local Critters)

(Article by Lynn Daniels-Anderson and photo by Dick Bierman)

In The Springs, we live at the edge of the urban area and so we shouldn't be surprised by the number and variety of native wildlife that visit the development. However, familiarity shouldn't lead to complacency or, worse, behaviors that encourage wildlife to rely on humans for food or shelter.

At a recent Green Valley Gardeners lecture, Mark Hart, spokesman for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, outlined the risks that javelina pose to humans. Javelinas can bite people and the incidents of the painful bites is almost always associated with humans feeding the javelinas. Regularly fed javelinas become habituated to humans and lose their natural fear of people.



Feeding javelinas is not only a violation of The Springs General Rules and Regulations, it is also illegal in Pima County and can result in a \$300 fine.

The second cause of javelina bites, according to Hart, are dog owners getting between an aggressive javelina and their dogs. A leashed dog is safest and if you spot javelinas, definitely detour around them!

Hart also told the crowd of an apparent uptick in rabies in area wildlife. Animals acting out of character, aggressively, or out during the day, should be avoided and reported. To report potentially rabid animals or other wildlife incidents, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department's 24-hour dispatch center at 623-236-7201.



Snow on Feb 10

Photo by Barb Wolf

Bierman's Pics



This Crested Caracara is a medium sized raptor, bird of prey, that can be found in our area of Arizona. They feed mainly on carrion, lizards and rodents. I have seen them flying over Green Valley and they can be more reliably found west of Picacho Peak State Park.

Attention all Volunteers and Board Members

WHAT: **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PARTY**

WHEN: **FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

TIME: **3:00-6:00 pm**

WHERE: **ANZA ROOM**

WHOM: **ALL CURRENT AND FORMER VOLUNTEERS, CURRENT/FORMER BOARD MEMBERS**, AND ANYONE WHO HAS EVER DONE VOLUNTEER WORK FOR THE SPRINGS AT SANTA RITA HOA ALONG WITH THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHER (humans only)

Food and beverages will be provided. Come hungry and thirsty!
A new, red Corvette convertible and cheap prizes will NOT be given away!

NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND? Simply do some volunteer work before March 15!

- The grounds crew meets at the shed every Tuesday and Friday from 8:00-10:00 AM. That's a great place to start.
- QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR GAMES AND OTHER FUN ACTIVITIES OR WANT TO ASSIST WITH THE SETUP?

Will you be attending?? Email me before the event at: hoa@thespringshoa.org
Becky Schroer, V.P.



February Potluck

There were over 50 residents at the potluck. Food was plentiful and delicious.



Pictured at the right is the guest speaker Jill Cruz, dog trainer from Sonoita



Two couples celebrating their anniversaries



First time pot luckers



Some Birthday celebrators



Inspecting the Sidewalks



Streets and Infrastructure Chairman, Victor Frankfather, is marking problem spots on our sidewalks. It is his hope that these markings will grab your attention when you're out and about and keep you safer on your walks!

2024 HOME SALES



<u>Address</u>	<u>Sold To</u>	<u>Home Town</u>
4031 S. Wolf Run Rd	Raoul & Margo Davion	Billings, MT
880 W. Calle de la Pelotita	Kathy Day	Tucson, AZ
890 W. Calle de la Pelotita	Sandi Lee	Tucson, AZ

Another GVR Club Housed at The Springs



A very happy group of members and guests celebrated the opening of the Glass Arts Studio on Feb 23rd here at The Springs. It was a standing room only crowd. GVR Board President Marge Garneau and CEO Scott Somers participated in snipping the red ribbon.

The new studio located where the Computer Club used to be, offers members a well-equipped, safe, open studio for fusing or mosaics; separate areas for pursuing interests in stained glass or frit work; areas for cold working, kiln firing, and a classroom. Membership is open to all GVR members with annual dues of \$40. Taking an introductory course through GVR is required to join the Club.