



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

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The Springs Chat is your newsletter. The committee wants to take an approach that facilitates and encourages communication with, from and between the residents of the community. Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Springs Chat is your newsletter-- for you and by you. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions - information you would like to share with the community. The committee also wants your ideas and suggestions- just email them to: springschat@gmail.com or contact a member of the newsletter committee: Eileen Owen, Lisa Pope, Joe Misinski, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone.

- Because of the repaving project, there will be **no garbage pickup Monday, September 30, and no garbage or recycling pickup on Thursday, October 3.**
- The rock installation project west of Nardos has been completed. Trees were trimmed and 200 ton of rock spread over the area.
- Joe Misinski will continue to fill in for Board member/Treasurer, Paul Dittmer while he recovers.
- GVR has decided not to purchase the Dorn Building. President Sandie Stone will ask the Dorn company to keep the Springs HOA in the "loop" as to potential business buyers in our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Sept. 28	Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00
Oct. 16	Meet 'n Greet, upper deck, 3-5
Oct. 26	Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

Many thanks to the volunteers who continued to work hard over the summer months keeping the Springs in tip top shape: street work, Joe Barton; grounds, Vic Bignall, San Coggins, Ron Sills, Scott Denzer, Barb O'Halloran, Hai Gilbert; treasury, Joe Misinski; potlucks, Bill Perry and Suzy Baker.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

(September 14 2013)

Full board member reports can be found on the Springs HOA website.

- A committee has been formed to look into a possible addition to the entrance over the fountain.
- Four vacancies on the Board for 2014. Anyone interested in volunteering for the betterment of our community is asked to consider running for one of these positions.
- The final phase of the street repair project will be completed by the end of September/first week in October with a seal coat. There will be a rumble strip by the gate with 4 rows of bott dots to slow drivers in this area where volunteers cross. The rumble strip will be installed by volunteers after the seal coat is completed.

End of the Road

The Green Valley Council (GVC) announced that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) confirmed that \$750,000 in federal money has been budgeted to widen and add bike lanes to the East Frontage Road from the hospital site to Canoa Road. The bulk of the work will not start until after July 2014. The usual hurdles apply before work can begin: the Federal Highway Administration must classify the road as a state roadway and confirm that it qualifies for funding, and there must be environmental and archaeological reviews. Since there still is not an operator for the hospital, does the roadway qualify for a "Road to Nowhere" federal funding program?

Pet urr Pest Profile

Clap,clap,clap...while we're all happy our neighbors are returning, the applause you're hearing is not in celebration but rather to scare

away our pigeon residents. You may have noticed over the past months that flocks of pigeons have taken up residence in the Springs. Pigeons are year-round nesters, non-migratory and considered the number one pest bird in the country. Due to their instinct to stay close to their birth-site and multiple offspring per year, a flock will grow quickly in size. The rooftops on our homes have become their favorite spot for "hanging out". It has been reported by homeowners and retail air-conditioning companies that pigeon droppings are extensive on many roofs in our neighborhood. Their droppings contain uric acid which may cause damage to roofs and rooftop machinery.

What can we do to encourage them to fly on down the road? The primary control method recommended by the Humane Society is to "Stop Feeding the Pigeons" both intentionally and unintentionally. Many of us have bird feeders in our yards. Perhaps pigeons don't frequent your feeder but they will feed on the seed dropped on the ground by other birds. Feeding is addressed in the Springs CC&R's 10.3.7:

" There shall be no feeding, capturing, trapping, or killing of wildlife within the Property, except in circumstances posing an imminent threat to the safety of persons using the Property. Wildlife does not include rodents, ants, termites, and other common pests."

Please help in resolving this issue in a humane manner by removing or not filling your bird feeders. You may just receive applause from your neighbor!

Pima Council on Aging

The Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) is the designated area agency on aging serving older adults and their families living in Pima County. PCOA offers a number of services and referral systems. Their website is www.pcoa.org and their helpline is 520-790-7262. They usually have a representative in Green Valley on a regular basis. They may be able to provide information assisting you, or those with special needs or with lower incomes to obtain assistance with medical cost and home repair.

CONTRIBUTE

You've heard the rumors (and spread a few). You have seen something that interests you. You know what your neighbors are doing. Share it. This is a newsletter- a chat line – a back fence for and by the residents of the Springs. It is not the voice of the HOA Board. You are welcomed to contribute articles that benefit the positive spirit of community. Rules of common decency applied....you know what that means, right?

"It's Dead!"

The death pronouncement was made by Dr, I mean, Ms. Joyce Bulau, Chairperson of the GVR's Planning & Evaluation (P&E) Committee. She announced that any evaluation of purchasing the Dorn Building is a dead issue and would not even be considered or discussed. For those who may not know, that large building with multiple parking spaces on Heroe is not the HOA Presidential Mansion. It is the office of the Dorn Construction Co. Dorn is relocating their offices to Prescott. (I hope it wasn't because of a weed letter from the ARC). Dorn has been an excellent neighbor over the years, and a double dues paying member of the HOA. The HOA Board will try to regularly communicate with Dorn, to be kept apprised of a future sale and potential new neighbor. The lot is zoned as transitional, which allows single, multiple and mixed dwelling residence as well as professional office type uses, such as assisted living centers, library, healthcare, private club, child care center, hotel and other similar type businesses.

It was generally known that Dorn would be moving out of the Springs. But the news that GVR was a potential buyer generated some actual excitement and questions in our village. GVR was considering using the space for offices and classrooms, and possibly a coffee shop run by LaPosada. Apparently GVR had reviewed earlier opportunities to purchase the building but declined because of acquisition and renovation expense. GVR members opposed to the purchase have feared that the acquisition would result in a significant rise in the dues and strain capital reserves. Others questioned the need for additional space, especially when GVR still does not have a clear assessment of members' future needs. Others see value in obtaining a significant amount of space at current low real estate prices. Since the building and grounds is in the heart of our neighborhood, we should

express our individual opinions to the GVR Board.

Several Springs residents and at least one HOA Board member attended the P&E Committee meeting. The HOA is not a GVR member, so it is not taking an active position on the issue, but wants to make sure our homeowners have the information. There was a large crowd in attendance; the majority was made up of members of the activist group, GVR4us. That group is opposed to the Dorn purchase. The stated goal of GVR4us is to provide members "complete, factual...information...from a thoughtful and independent viewpoint". Oh, well, the best of intentions often go awry. The P&E chair gave the impression that she, the committee, and the President of GVR gave in to the pressure from this small but vocal group when she proclaimed, It's Dead! You won!

According to Ms. Bulau, the potential purchase of the Dorn Building must be reviewed by the P&E Committee and then the Fiscal Committee before it is permitted to go to the GVR Board. There was a motion to remove it from the agenda. It was seconded and approved. No discussion, the topic does not exist..."I seeee nothing." She would not even allow any discussion of ideas. The next issue that was discussed was how to spend more money on pickleball noise suppression. There was significant self-praise and a committee was formed. Another courageous decision. Within 24 hours of the meeting, 5 GVR Board members resigned. Of course, the resignations were not related to the suppression of open dialogue or the pressure from the gray panthers. Resigning board members probably just wanted to spend more time with their family and pursue other areas of interest.

Springs resident, Ron Sills, still remains on the GVR board. If you see him out and about, give him a thumbs up for hanging in and trying to keep GVR an important and positive part of Green Valley life.

100 Best Places to Retire for 2013

Category: Best Retirement Towns and States

As has been the case since Topretirements published its first list in 2007, Asheville, NC is the #1 town, Asheville's reputation as a great place to retire, its mountains, gentle 4 seasons climate, and recreational/cultural opportunities all make it the standard that all other retirement towns can aspire to. Sarasota (FL) once again occupies the #2 spot, while Austin (TX), Venice (FL), and Prescott (AZ) retained their 3 and 4 and 5 rankings. Naples (FL) and San Antonio (TX) climbed into the top 10 this year at the #7 and #10 positions respectively. Paris (TN) and **Green Valley (AZ)** slipped out of the top 10 to make room for them, **although both are still in the elite 15**

HOSPITAL UPDATE

Board members Steve Gilbert and Sandie Stone met with Joe Guertin, superintendent of construction for the hospital development to talk about the truck traffic traveling north on the frontage road. Guertin had promised in an earlier meeting that all trucks would head south. He said he would speak with the subcontractor again about the issue, but couldn't promise 100% compliance.

He was then asked if there was an operator for the hospital. He said that McDowell, the developer of the project, actually has a hospital developer on staff who has worked for McDowell some 30 years. If a company to operate the facility cannot be found, this person will do all of the hiring and manage the hospital until they can turn it over to an operator. Guertin did say that he urges McDowell to be more communicative with everyone in Green Valley. He said they have recently hired a communications spokes person.



Hospital site as of September 14, 2013

GVR UPDATE (Ron Sills)

GVR won the so called Kennedy lawsuit. The board was fairly confident about the outcome, which turned out to be a "slam dunk" for GVR, but since you can never be sure, it was a major distraction to the work of the board. This reinforces the New Member Capital Fee, which provides maintenance revenue that we all depend on.

The other major development was the sudden resignation of 5 board members on September 11. This is a real blow to the organization, as it contained 3 of the 4 officers, and most of the committee chairs. The resignations were not planned, nor a contrived group action. It was more like dominoes. Simply put, these members, many of them among the most experienced, simply became fed up with the constant criticism, ridicule, and inaccurate accusations from a negative group in town, and a newspaper willing to print every wild rant these folks come up with. The focal point of this surge of negativism was the planning and evaluation committee's research into the possible acquisition of the Dorn real estate building within the Springs. The noisy group was ultimately successful in killing further study, which in my opinion will become a decision that members may well regret in a few years.

Bottom line, GVR lost a group of intelligent, dedicated volunteers whose talents will be missed. One director will be replaced by the next highest vote getter in the previous election. Applications for successor directors are currently being solicited, and I would urge you to consider running. We need talented, proactive folks on the board, right now

2013 Home Sales (since last newsletter)

3840 S Camino Del Cefiro – Federal National Mortgage

3990 S Camino Del Heroe – California Reconveyance Co

3765 S Avenida De Encino – Wells Fargo Financial Bank

3680 S Paseo De Los Nardos – Mary Casagrande, Green Valley AZ

Who's Driving?



It is only natural for man's best friend to stay close by his master's side, but for dog owners who drive frequently, bringing Fido along for the ride can be risky. The problem is particularly worrisome for older drivers; a recent study conducted by researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham showed that for people 70 years and older, crash rates were higher among those who frequently drove with pets in the car. But for many drivers, leaving precious pets behind isn't an option. The best compromise is to find solutions that will get you from point A to point B without compromising the safety of human or animal passengers.



SPOTLIGHT ON TALENT

Our talented artist this month is **Cathy Rogge** who lives on Wolf Run Rd. Cathy has lived in the Springs with her husband, Larry, since 2006. While in high school she had her first art lesson from a student of the famous local (Anamosa, Iowa) artist, Grant Wood. Cathy considered an art major in college but instead chose French. Although art was not her major she did manage to study calligraphy, drawing, and painting. Cathy has a BA and MA degree in French and a BA degree in Spanish. Before retiring, she taught English as a second language, calligraphy, French and Spanish for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

In retirement, art is still Cathy's passion. She is a member of the Green Valley Santa Rita Art League and the Tucson based Paperworks. She has designed First Day Covers for US postage stamps as well as personal cards, bookmarks, journals, and books.

In 2011, Cathy was awarded second place in the Briggs Abstract Art Competition in Green Valley. Her 36 x 36 mixed media painting "For Cara" is dedicated to Cara Black, her favorite murder mystery writer. Shown below is Cathy with her painting and prize money.



There are many talented artists here in the Springs. If you have a talent and are interested in being featured in future editions of the newsletter, please contact a committee member at: springschat@gmail.com

This oil painting was done with a palette knife only and will be on display at the Tohono Chul exhibit house between October and December.



Some of her other works:

