



The Springs Chat



A Newsletter for and by the residents of the Springs at Santa Rita

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

April 2014

Phone: 520-648-1699,

Website: www.thespringshoa.org,

email: springschat@gmail.com

The Springs Chat is your newsletter. Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community. The Springs Chat is 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, Pat Strnad.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 1** **Meet 'n Greet**, Fiesta deck, 3-5
- Apr. 14** **Board Meeting**, Fiesta Rm, 9:30
- Apr. 17** **Potluck**, Anza Rm, 5:00
Program: Show and Tell
- Apr. 27** **Picnic in the park** Perry Park, 1:00

April Potluck Program

Our April 17 Potluck will be followed by two short multi-media shows by our neighbors Patsy Sills and Barbara Wolf. Patsy will take us on an adventurous hike into a world famous but remote area of Vermillion Cliffs National Monument called The Wave. Barb will take us on a tour of southern Utah National Parks as well as Antelope Canyon, a photographer's paradise near Page, Arizona. Come learn about this area and enjoy the beautiful photos and music. The entire presentation should last about a half hour.

Board Meeting Summary

March 10, 2014

The president's report included a thank you to the Relay for Life group who sold coffee and cookies at the garage sale. They raised \$136 for the American Cancer Society. Sandie noted that she would like to dispel a rumor and/or concern that has been floating around. It's in

regards to the compensation of our compliance officer. The issue is whether or not payment is based on the number of letters issued? The answer is absolutely not. It is an annual contract with a stipulated flat amount."

The Vice President's report stated the annual volunteer recognition picnic will be on 4/5/2014 in Perry Park at 12 noon

The ARC chairman reported 12 requests to the ARC to date this year, 8 have been completed and 7 are still in process including some started last year.

The Grounds chairman reported the volunteer crew and Hot Desert have been continuing the cleanup of the grounds. The TEP wall painting is out for bids. The planting plan for parks has been sent to the board. Two large Saguaro cacti fell after the rain we had. One was a total loss the other had the top cut off and it will be re-planted to see if it will grow.

Streets Crews have been replacing some street signs. TEP has been notified of street lights that are out.

Please go to www.thespringshoa.org for the full reports from the board members.

Tips for our Seasonal Residents

Snowbirds, please check the Springs website for helpful tips before leaving for the season. It is under **TIPS – While you are away** <http://thespringshoa.org/tips/away.html>

Amado Food Bank Donations

(Bill Perry)

March 2014 – \$212 and 21 pounds of food

The less fortunate need our help. Please keep donating. Bring food or a check to the monthly potlucks. Snowbirds, if you have left over non perishable food items, think about donating it to the Food Bank. Bill Perry is in charge of the Springs donations.

BOOM ! SPLAT!

It could be the flashing graphics from the Batman television series or it could be one of our old prickly residents hitting the pavement. Yep, it was a cactus. About 5:30 on a March 2nd Sunday evening, a pair of saguaro along Golden Lynx near Puma Peak fell over. One fell across the sidewalk and began to ooze its stored up water. The other fell within the park. Some residents nearby reported hearing a loud thump or boom and actually felt a few windows or doors shake a little. At about the same time, across town near the Green Valley Country Club, a 30 foot saguaro crashed onto someone's garage damaging two vehicles.



The Grounds Committee quickly responded but one of the giants was declared DOA, the other had a partial saguaroectomy removing its bottom half. It now resides in the park shrouded in white cloth, looking like a CSI scene, and waiting for its wound to harden. It will be replanted with the hope that it will live to sprout arms somewhere in the distant future. Each cactus may have weighed between 1,000 to 1,500 lbs.

Saguaro are shallow rooted plants with a tap root of around two feet and a wide network of roots near the surface extending out a distance equivalent to its height. These two cacti were planted very close to each other and close to the sidewalk. This along with the recent rain and possible wind burst may have sealed their fate. So now not only do you have to look down to watch out for snakes, but also up for falling cacti.

A tree saves the day for this saguaro cactus on Golfiesta, but for how long?



The Springs Forum

Last month in the March "Chat" we asked readers this question:

Did the pigeon problem fly away?

There were a few responses to that question, They are as follows:

I saw in the February newsletter that we have a pigeon problem. Funny, I have NEVER seen a pigeon in The Springs. Comes the March Chat and the question "Did the pigeon problem fly away?" My answer: I cannot tell when invisible pigeons fly away, so perhaps they have not left. Doves, yes, are a problem. The white-winged doves are starting to call each other again, but that isn't a problem. The regular doves, the only flying bird without a brain, is a problem when they get the nesting urge. They will gather a few sticks together and call it a nest. They loved to nest on top of our patio light, until many contraptions later they couldn't do it any more. Unless doves are being called pigeons, we do not have a problem. -- Wayne Beal, S Camino Del Cefiro

We are still having pigeons on our roof. We have evicted them from the air conditioner and have put up barriers, but they won't give up! -- Susan and Richard Brown, Blue Fox

I had pigeons roosting on my roof and driving me crazy. I had Truly Nolen come out and put barriers, screens and a gel out. They come quarterly to check, etc. I think I will have to do this constantly. I see pigeons on everyone's roofs now but I am not bothered -- for the present. -- Joyce McGlaston, Wolf Run

I saw in the newsletter that feedback was wanted on the problems of feeding the birds here in the Springs. I hadn't sent any update because it takes awhile to see what happens if the birds are not fed. The birds, unfortunately, stick around after being fed and wait for more food. Well, it took about two weeks after the food stopped for the birds to dwindle down to what I would consider the "normal" amount of birds for this time of year. I had to battle doves that wanted to nest but even that has stopped. I checked with another neighbor who had trouble with the amount of birds and we compared notes. Neither of us has had a problem....for several weeks. -- Barbara Peters, Avenida de los Solmos

Some homeowners still have bird feeders in their yards although the HOA has asked that they be taken down. Perhaps these homeowners don't realize that the pigeons fly to their neighbors' homes after they eat and make a mess on their neighbors' rooftops and possibly build nests inside the heat pump units. We see more pigeons on our neighbors' roofs since the weather is getting warmer. Pigeons are a problem here in the Springs and very soon those pigeons will be a problem to homeowners who feed them.

There are so many cacti and plants that attract birds. Birds love staghorn cholla and occotillo including cardinals; hummingbirds love penstemon, autumn sage, emu bush, baja fairy duster, red yucca, aloe, damianita.... You will find plenty of birds and sometimes bobcats in the nature park and in the common areas if you take an early walk in the morning.

Please help us keep our community clean and beautiful. Don't let the pigeons ruin our property values. Hai Gilbert and Tom/Barbara O'Halloran, Wolf Run

Solution to the pigeon problem!?

I took this photo with my smart phone while walking in the Springs this September. Sandy Buehler, Calle Viva



This is in response to your request for the information I have gleaned, both by research and experiment, regarding managing the pigeon issue here at the Springs. First to answer two key questions that seem to be floating around: 1) Yes, you can still feed birds by using a certain type of feed and 2) No, the pigeons are not gone; I see them flying around frequently and can tell where they are roosting late in the day. The way to get rid of pigeons is to get rid of what they want and need plus adding deterrents. If the residents of the Springs really want pigeons to go elsewhere, there needs to be a concerted, community wide effort. To state the obvious, pigeons can fly and getting them to leave one property does not solve the problem if nearby properties have not been pigeon-proofed.

Pigeons need three things: food, water, and nesting space. So...

1. Remove **water**. No more filled bird baths. Fountains without large basins are okay. If you don't see pigeons in your fountain basin, you're fine.

2. Remove food they want/need. This means **all bird food** with the exception of Nejer seed and the possible exception of black oil sunflower seeds. Nejer is not thistle seed as is often thought. Rather, it is seed from a type of African daisy. Nejer, although it is tiny, does have a hull that must be pecked off so the bird can eat the actual kernel within. Smaller birds such as finches and some sparrows love Nejer. Pigeons cannot eat Nejer, although they do occasionally try to peck at it and then, disappointed, fly off. I have read that, pigeons do not like black oil

sunflower seed. If you use it, watch for pigeons and judge whether they seem to be attracted. If they are, stop using black oil sunflower seeds, at least for a time. We get our Nyjer from True Value in the Continental Mall. True Value also carries black oil sunflower seeds.

3 & 4. Unfortunately, following ## 1 & 2 above will not eliminate the pigeons unless property owners are willing to work on their roofs or have a service provider take care of the job. Somebody needs to remove the nests, clean the roof, and install pigeon deterrents, particularly wire around the heating/cooling equipment on the roof. This is a good time to have the roof checked and coating re-applied if needed. I urge other property owners to have the "pigeon stuff" removed by a professional who knows how to safely deal with the accompanying toxicity and disease potential. Deterrents, in addition to blocking nesting areas around the heating and cooling equipment, include installing "fake" owls, hawks, and snakes. Some residents have taken care of these all-important steps only to see that the pigeons take up residence on nearby roofs where the property owners had neglected to take responsibility for pigeon proofing. . The result is that there are still pigeons in the immediate area and in yards even though owners of those yards have pigeon-proofed their yards and roofs.

In short, really eliminating the pigeon population from the Springs requires not only withholding water and food that attract pigeons, but also it requires taking care of roofs. Either technique by itself will not eliminate pigeons. Moreover, if only some – but not all – residents withhold water and certain types of food and clean up their roofs, then the result will be , alas, that the pigeons will continue to live in the Springs as "flying rats." Jody Marquis, Via de Cristal

Just a note to say that we had been feeding the birds for a long time here with thistle seed and sunflower seeds in the shell. Pigeons just were not interested in seeds that have to be opened. However, we were asked to not put feeders up when we got back here last fall and we understood and complied. Strangely, we do now have a pigeon issue – we can hear them cooing and rustling about right under our roof unit. So we are trying a head-swiveling owl up there, as well as chicken wire under our heat exchanger. It's too soon to say if these efforts are working. It's just been about a week (but no cooing or

rustling heard since...hurray!!). Will report in a month or so.

Short of getting all in a twirl about this, we are on board with any reasonable effort to try to get these guys to move on. Is it possible that it may take a generation of pigeons or two to get real results? I think so. Bette Briggs, Wolf Run.

Note: If you clean an area with dried pigeon droppings, use a mask to reduce inhalation of waste material.

A Question for You

Does the Springs need a cosmetic "make-over"??

Do all houses have to be the same color? How about a pallet of 5 or 6 earth tone colors to pick from when it's time to paint?

Let the Chat know how you feel, email to: springschat@gmail.com

Also, let us know if you have a question you would like to see addressed.

March Potluck

If you read "The Springs Chat" in March, you saw that Lance & Pat Johnson were Residents of the month. For our Show & Tell program, they brought some of the wooden toys that Lance and his wood shop crew make for sick and/or impoverished children for Christmas in both Green Valley & Nogales, Arizona. They included a carousel, race car, a #s puzzle, elephant puzzle, truck, boat & a doll cradle--all hand painted and simply adorable. In the cradle was a fully-clothed rag doll and bedding made by Pat and a group of other talented ladies,

Unfortunately, the rest of our talented Springs crafters were too timid to bring and display their wares.



Lance also donated a large, attractive serving tray made of strips of various hardwoods, which was raffled off, with the \$100 proceeds being sent to the American Cancer Society. The lucky



winner was Gary Moe. Congratulations Gary!

Meet the New Neighbor



A good turnout by Springs residents interested in the new Green Valley Hospital.



The monthly Meet and Greet is always a good chance to connect with owners and renters in the Springs. But this month we got to meet the neighbor who is building the big place on the south side of the Springs. When there is a new arrival in the hood, we want to know what kind of work they did, where they come from and how they are going to decorate their place.

David Wanger is the new guy in town and he is the CEO of the Green Valley Hospital. He was as proud as a new grand dad, sharing a lot of drawings of and plans for the new addition to Green Valley. In spite of his east coast background, he is a very charming and likeable guy and projects the confident image of a competent administrator. He reviewed the background of the hospital assuring the group that all the funding is in place, primarily from foreign investors. The numerous services he listed were those common to small community hospitals. He quickly skimmed over some of the more contentious issues but did address some of them as being different than originally shared with the community, such as more helicopter flights, having obstetric and pediatric services, and marketing to populations outside Green

Valley. He mentioned that groups were already meeting to organize volunteers for the hospital. He is currently putting together his leadership team, but he said his biggest task is physician recruiting for the hospital. He made the dining facilities sounds good enough that our Springs After Dark food reporters have added it to the list of must try. We hope he can come back for another session. We wish him success.



Drawings of the proposed hospital.

Construction is on schedule for a first quarter 2015 opening

Project heavily financed by foreign investors through EB-5 (in exchange for money, foreign investors are given green cards for themselves and their families for residency in the US) Some \$57 million was provided this way with the bulk of the funds from mainland China.

\$63 million project includes: 146,000 sq ft hospital, 40,000 sq ft two-story office building on the southwest side scheduled to open when the hospital does. A third building, possibly accommodating a Geropsychiatric facility is being considered for the northeast side of the hospital. There will also be a helicopter pad.

Hospital will employ 250 full-time employees. There will be many part-time and per-diem workers (possibly 350 to 400)

Physicians are independent contractors and will do their own billing. Everyone else will work directly for the hospital.

Pet Profile

My name is Nellie Rose. I don't think cats are all that interesting, and so I decided to submit an article about myself (much more interesting). I am a four year old yellow lab. I have had both knees surgically fixed so I am a bionic lab. That means perpetual puppy. I love to walk in The Springs area and one of my best traits is that I cause my owners Patrick and Rebecca Keenan to meet people that they probably wouldn't otherwise.



Because there are coyotes along the De Anza trail, I wear an electronic collar so I can be called back by a warning beep if I start to chase them. Not much fun, but a safer way to go. I know other commands because of the wildlife in The Springs. When the quail feed on our patio, I leave them alone, because my owner says "NO BIRD". When the ducks graze along our fence, my owner says "NO BIRD". When the great white egret lands in our pine tree, I bark, and my owner says "QUIET!" I leave the javelina alone because they smell bad. I have had two classes for rattlesnake avoidance where I use my nose and my owner says "LEAVE IT" and passed both times.

I have fun when other dogs walk by, but I like people the best. Once I jumped the wall and gathered up all the golf balls on the 10th green. My owner was so embarrassed – I had all four balls in my mouth. I will never do that again because I am a good dog and she gave me 'the look' (it means a serious offense just took

place). Meanwhile, I still have fun finding golf balls in the pond and along the De Anza trail and I love to play with sticks.

I weigh 90 pounds, but I like all sizes of dogs and all kinds of people. Say hello to me when I next walk by.

This article was submitted by Rebecca Keenan
654 Calle de la Pelotita.

We encourage anyone who as a pet and would like to have him/her featured under Pet Profile, to please send your article and picture/s to: springschat@gmail.com

2014 Home Sales

788 W. Puma Peak Road - Jim & Nancy Wesorick, Berthoud, CO

3732 S. Paseo De Los Nardos - Donna Talarski, Union, MO

3709 S. Camino De Cefiro - Theodore & Laurie Boyett Jr, Wakefield, RI

3707 S. Paseo De Los Nardos - Henry DeJesus, Green Valley, AZ

730 W. Calle de ls Pelotita - Nancy Demmith & Donna Davis, Green Valley, AZ

Need firewood?

The grounds volunteers have chopped up wood too large to fit in the chipper. It's free and available near the maintenance shed area at the corner of Cristal and Fonda.

Interested in coin collecting?

(Larry Urbine)

Springs resident Larry Urbine is president of the Green Valley Stamp & Coin Club. The purpose is to create an interest in collecting stamps and coins. The club meets every third Tuesday of the month in room "C" of the Friends in Deed building. Trading and selling begins at 12:30, and the meeting at 1:30. Annual dues are \$2. See Larry for more information. His email address is urbinec@aol.com Phone, 399-1415

GVR News and Notes

(Ron Sills, GVR Board Member and Springs resident)

The GVR Board has been advancing with plans for our goals for 2014, in addition to orienting our new CEO, Kent Blumenthal.

We continue to try and formulate a work plan for possible procurement of new revenue sources to offset your dues. Chief among these is to increase membership, by recruiting new members in voluntary participation subdivisions, and possibly adding new subdivisions already within our boundaries, but not presently included. This would require a well formulated marketing effort, and approval from our membership by vote. Another might be the creation of a GVR foundation, whereby members and businesses could contribute funds and receive a tax benefit. Kent has some expertise in this area, and if successful, this could be a boon for us members.

On Friday of this week, our new, and hopefully more user friendly website is schedule for launch. It is an integral effort to improve communications with members. There is an incredible wealth of information on this website, especially with regard to finances and board rules and activities. If you desire more communication and transparency regarding GVR operations, this website should be your first source. We tested it out to gauge its "user - friendly" quotient, and at first glance, we are optimistic that it will serve members well.

A great deal of our attention over the last month have been toward the recent election, and to try and blunt the negative assertions that have been floated in the community regarding our motives with regard to proposed bylaws. The results are now in: Elected to the board were: Jeff Harrell, Tom Kennel, John Arnold, and Barbara Mauser. Richard Kidwell was elected as a successor director to fill out the term of Kathleen Vishner who left the board.

The bylaw results are more complex. All six received a majority vote, but Arizona statutes require a two - thirds vote to approve bylaws. Only 2 of the 6 garnered excess of the necessary 67% vote. These were the ones dealing with "member in good standing" (all dues and fees paid) and the change in title from executive director to CEO. Among those that failed, the "20 mile" rule change got 51% approval and the other three all received 60 -

62% support. So we are disappointed with these results. But we move on. FYI, 5845 votes were cast out of 13,340 eligible, or 43%. Despite all the contentious publicity, this meager total displays too much apathy among the membership. You need to be involved, even if, or especially if you are happy with GVR.

Our CEO has scheduled 7 "conversations with Kent" each dealing with a different subject matter of importance to our members. The schedule was emailed to you, and is posted on the website. These are great opportunities to get questions and concerns addressed, and to simply meet Kent. Consider attending one or more.

We are in the process of recruiting members to serve on committees for the upcoming year. It would be nice to see some Springs folks join in on the decision making. Besides our regular finance, planning and evaluation, elections and board affairs committees, we have two new ones for this year: one is concerned with "growth" as described above, and the other deals with all of our "racket sports." This one will research actual court usage, identify problem concerns, and offer potential solutions. Again, consider getting involved.

And a reminder, summer pool hours have begun (yea!) and wherever you go, do swipe your card or sign in, it is really important.

Benches

Sue Schairer and her son Paul are enjoying their renovated bench on the corner of Cristal & Blue Fox. Sue's husband had put the bench there for all to use as a memorial to Sue's father. Over the years the AZ sun had weathered the boards and iron. Lance Johnson and Joe Barton did a great job of refurbishing the bench and it will be a welcome spot for all to use for years to come. Thanks also to the crew who put in more benches -- Norm Burt, Howard Bryan, Vic Bignall, and Jim Owen.



Springer's After Dark

Now that the potential border dispute is past (whether Green Valley should leave Pima county and be part of Santa Cruz county), we decided to venture south of the Pima county border to Rio Rico in search of food after the GV locals close for the evening. There is a great little Italian spot located in the Rio Rico Shopping center at the intersection of I-19 and Rio Rico Drive. The family owned and operated NONNA VIVI PIZZERIA is tucked away in the middle of this mall, and if your sinuses are clear you can follow the scent from their wood fired oven to find this cozy place.



There is a small but well selected variety of wines to choose from by the glass or bottle. There are a couple of the expected appetizers like bruschetta and several salads as well as the required meatball and spaghetti. One interesting item is the Penne Mediterraneo – penne with pesto sauce artichokes, olives, roasted pine nuts, tomatoes, grilled chicken and feta.

But when there is an inspired owner, using local ingredients and a wood fired oven, you don't graze on greens or pounce on pasta.... you partake of pizza. Now we have been known to go to Phoenix for pizza by the master Chris Bianco. This Rio Rico creation achieves a high score for this area. They offer two styles of pizza. We tested the classic margherita in both styles for a true comparison. Once again, sacrificing so you will benefit from our labor. The napoletana pizza is the thicker of the two variations and has a lower gluten content. This 9 inch pie has a crust that is more mainstream. It well supported the homemade pizza sauce and the moderate amount of mozzarella. It definitely did not have the doughy taste that some chain pizza might have and did have the right amount of chew.

The star of the show is the 12 inch Gasty's style



(apparently named after the owner Gaston). The crust is thin and crispy. It skillfully avoids being a cracker crust by having just enough chew in it while still able to support the sauce and cheese. The thin crust also carries the charred markings that verify its wood fired oven origins. So if you are one of *those* who think they burned the crust, stick with Pizza Hut. Both pies offer a wide variety of toppings and combinations – sausage, caramelized onions, pears-gorgonzola-pine nut and pesto, prosciutto-arugula-parmesan, shrimp-asparagus-red bell pepper.

Dessert, well we didn't even want to hear about it and if you have room for dessert, you should have eaten more pizza. The staff was very friendly, attentive and well informed about the menu items. Nonna Vivi is in the middle of the small shopping center at 1060 Yavapai Dr. in Rio Rico. Prices range from \$7.50 to \$13.50. They are open noon until 9:30 PM and closed Sunday and Monday. If you go, don't expect to gas up at the Chevron station there. They are 40 cents per gallon more than Green Valley's high prices. But check out Garrett's market. The family owned market is generally more expensive than Safeway, but has a fresher selection of produce and meats that are less expensive.

Have you found a new place to eat or have a drink? Do you want to let your neighbors know about your favorite hang out? Write about it and send to springschat@gmail.com

Favorite Recipe from the Potluck

We are adding a new section to the newsletter— favorite recipe from the monthly potlucks. There were many delicious dishes but here is a favorite from the March potluck. Thank you Ann Bignall for sharing it with us.

SPINACH ROCKERFELLA

Cook & drain (very well) 4 boxes (10 oz.)... (or 3---16 oz. bags)...frozen **CHOPPED** spinach.
Add: ONE cup butter, cut up & let melt.

In another bowl , mix:

1 1/2 cups dried bread crumbs,

2 med chopped onions.

2-4 tsp garlic powder,

4 dashes Tabasco sauce

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese (grated).

Mix with the spinach/butter & put into a greased 9 x 13 pan. Top with 2-3 thinly sliced tomatoes & bake @ 350 for 25 minutes.

Springs Residents Show Their Caring Spirit

The last Saturday in March was a beautiful Arizona day, and 19 Springs residents spent the day participating in an event on the track at Anamax Park. It was the American Cancer Society "Relay For Life". It was not an event of speed and endurance but an event of the heart. It was more than a fund raising event. It was also an opportunity to join with others in the community to show support for those whose lives have been touched by cancer.



More pictures on the website. Go to http://thespringshoa.org/photo_gallery/pics.html

This is the first time residents of The Springs participated as a team in the event. The first "lap" of the relay was a victory lap - where cancer survivors walked, and others lined the track and cheered them on. Our team has 10 survivors - the most of any team participating. The second lap was made by care-givers (past or current), who were also recognized by the crowd. The rest of the day until 10PM, someone from our team was walking at all times.

The team had already raised over \$3,500 from contributions from Springs residents and corporate sponsors. All funds going to the American Cancer Society for research and services for those with cancer.

Lights On—It's Important

Those yellow lights above your house numbers are very important. In case of an emergency at your home at night they are a big help to the emergency vehicles trying to locate your home. Friends coming to visit at night will find it much easier to locate your house when they can see your house number.

We have been having a lot of problems lately with the lights and the sensors that control turning the lights on and off. The sensor, which is located underneath your electric circuit panel, turns the light on at night and also turns the light off during daylight. We would like to have all the lights working properly but will need the homeowner's help to do so. Some things that cause a light to remain on all day are having someone paint over the sensor, having a large bush or tree shading the sensor or the sensor may be defective and need replacing. If the light fails to turn on when it becomes dark outside, it could be a burned out bulb or again the sensor failing. If the bulb is burned out notify the HOA office and someone will replace the bulb right away.

Replacing sensors is not a job that the HOA bulb replacement people do. There are some people living in the Springs who are knowledgeable enough about the procedure to do it. Otherwise we recommend that an electrician do the replacing. The sensors themselves are not expensive.

Keeping the lights working properly can save crucial time in an emergency situations. -- Harold Moberly, Light bulb Replacement Chairman

Residents of the Month

Marilyn and Don Ash started visiting GV 15 years ago. The first three years they were here with their motor home for short winter visits. Then bought their home on Avenida de los Solmos 12 years ago.

Both spent their careers in education in Washington. First as secondary teachers, then assistant principals, Don retired at that level, but Marilyn moved on to Director of Vocational Education and then Executive Director for Washington State Education and Learning. Their education careers were not in art.



The Ash's have three children and four grandchildren. Marilyn and Don also serve as the adopted grandparents to several neighbor children which has added more grandchildren to their family. All of these keep them busy back in Washington.

When they first came to GV they made items for the spring crafts sale at the West Center. Marilyn painted scenes on roof tiles, walking sticks, trays, candle sticks, and bird houses that Don made in the wood shop. They did this for three years before deciding they would spend the GV time having fun rather than getting ready for a crafts sale.



When they moved into their home they needed to fill the large space over their bed. Marilyn and their daughter, Kelly, put together a picture

from fabric pieces in an afternoon. Kelly is an artist in Washington. Kelly was at the Springs pool one evening and saw a beautiful AZ sunset so she sketched it then went home and painted a picture of it.

Marilyn and Don both enjoy being members of the camera club and Santa Rita Art league where Marilyn is a very active member. Marilyn previously belonged to the clay studio.



They have enjoyed the southwest by traveling to the four corners area, Taos, and the Grand Canyon to mention a few places. Many of their travels serve as an inspiration for Marilyn's paintings. She calls some of them eclectic with whimsical colors.

The Ash's have a wonderful back yard that is shaded with a large tree. It is a nice place to relax.



This picture painted by daughter, Kelly