



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

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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, Barb Madsen, Pat Strnad.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 4** **Meet 'n Greet**, Fiesta deck, 3-5
Meet CEO of new hospital
- Mar. 10** **Board Meeting**, Fiesta Rm, 9:30
- Mar. 20** **Potluck**, Anza Rm, 5:00
Program: Show and Tell
- Mar. 30** **Picnic in the park** Perry Park, 1:00

March Potluck program – Show and Tell and perhaps Sell – If you have a hobby in which you make things, you are invited to show them off at the potluck and tell about them. There will be tables set up to display and sell items. It's been a few years since we have done this, so anyone interested is invited to participate. If you want to tell about your hobby and are not interested in selling, we welcome you, too. Bill Perry is in charge of the potluck programs, contact him if you want more information: Bill Perry 393-7402 or wperry42@cox.net

Time to Vote

You should have received your GVR ballot in the mail. GVR must receive your ballots by March 18th. Please mail early or drop off at the Member Service Center. You are voting for new directors and bylaw amendments. Please learn about the individuals and issues and express your opinion by voting. GVR is an essential part of our community. If you don't vote, you are not allowed to complain....really.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

(February 10, 2014)

Jon Watson and Mary Spencer of The Metal Gardener presented a proposal for metal art to enhance the top of the current spring at our front gate. These were very attractive and well received by the attendees. There is a committee looking into options for this enhancement.

The President's report included comments on the governing documents for our HOA known as the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's).

The Vice Presidents report stated dates for the Meet & Greet, HOA potluck, Picnic in the Park and garage sale.

The ARC chairman reported two new requests this month. A total of six ARC requests this year with none completed.

The Grounds chairman reported the volunteers, Hot Desert, and Danny's Tree service have been busy trimming trees, testing irrigation lines, clearing brush etc. Also proposals have been received for painting the new wall on the south side of the complex.

The Streets chairman reported Sunland covered over some of Farmers Water valves when they repaved. Sunland will be fixing this problem. Street signs are being replaced by volunteers. Jim Owen will be conducting a sidewalk survey. Upheavals in the sidewalk which present a hazard will be fixed. TEP has been notified of the non-working street lights.

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

GVR Update (Ron Sills)

While your GVR Board tries to move forward with its work, we cannot help but be encumbered by the political realities that exist.

Our new chief administrator has affirmed, in my mind, that he is an excellent choice, showing vision, high levels of energy, an ability to articulate his mission, and great people skills. I am confident he can lead GVR into a great future if we can get back to the business we are really about. I hope we can get past the current political squabbles and let him move us forward. Many folks, both here in The Springs, and around town have been asking me about the election that you received ballots for. There are two aspects: the election of directors to the Board, and some by-law amendments. People have asked me for clarification so I will attempt to provide some thoughts I hope will be useful.

The Board election is simple. Four seats are open annually, and a fifth will be open due to a resignation. We have 6 candidates, and you are entitled to vote for 4. The top 4 vote getters will be elected, and the next highest vote getter will be awarded the last seat as a "successor director" per our bylaws. Candidates Jeff Harrell and Tom Kennel joined the board in November as successors, and have impressed me as hard workers, good spirits, and supporters of GVR with no agendas. I would like to see them continue. I also got positive vibes about Richard Kidwell, being thoughtful and without agendas. Two of the candidates have shown little interest, really, not attending candidate forums, etc. Since elections are decided by total votes received, I would suggest you vote only for those candidates you want to see elected, not necessarily casting all 4 votes you are entitled to, as a vote for a candidate you are not enthusiastic about will cancel out the vote for a favored candidate. And Ron Woodrow has withdrawn his candidacy after the ballots were printed so votes for him will not be counted.

The bylaw amendments have raised the most discussion, and with it some surprising assertions. I will try to respond to some of the allegations surrounding these.

Amendment 1-- removes the 20 mile exclusion to use of guest passes.

Reason: Equity, pure and simple. Members have requested this, as they moved to GV to be

closer to adult children and grandchildren who already lived in Sahuarita. If the children lived in Tucson they could use our facilities as a guest, but at present, not if they lived in Sahuarita. Doesn't seem right, does it. Plus, we LIMIT this privilege in this instant to defined "immediate family members."

Possible Concerns: the pools will be flooded with children. NO! First, kids still go to school and then soccer, dance lessons, whatever. Parents work, shop for groceries, cook, clean, maintain houses, and then transport kids to soccer. We won't be seeing a major difference, and if we do, it will still be during "kid time" - 11-1 and 4 - 6 only, except for West pool.

Another argument I have begun to hear: some folks will learn of this and choose to live in Sahuarita and have a friend give them a guest pass not paying our capital fee or dues (that we paid as residents). Or worse, some developer will build in Sahuarita and finagle a wholesale scheme using guest cards. First, who thinks like this? And again, it's for "immediate family" only. There won't be any more abuse of this than what already exists and we are unable to police. (Unless you want us to hire security to do this)

Amendment 4-- Quorum size

Reason: needed to conduct business in the kind of emergency we faced in September when five board member resigned. Had it been six, it would have been impossible for the board to do any business, like hire an administrator, replace empty board seats so we could conduct business, authorize spending to conduct regular business. Unlikely that this provision would need to be used, but just in case it occurs again, the board will be legally able to function.

Possible Concerns: that a scenario of 8 or 9 simultaneous resignations will occur, leaving only 3 or 4 individuals, who would then be drunk with power and suddenly raise your dues by horrendous amounts. Again, who thinks like this? Bylaws already state you need seven votes to pass a budget or raise dues. That kicked in this fall when the board voted 6 - 2 to pass a budget, which failed because we needed 7 votes (which we got later). Plus people serve on the board to serve, not to become dictators, believe me. Remember, they came to GV to retire and have fun, not to be governmental dictators.

Amendment 6: CEO title

Reason: when we were recruiting a new executive director. The head hunter told us that old title was a hindrance as CEO was more in line with what the job was and what candidates recognized as the job. Further, our members were confused by the ED title, confusing it with the President of the Board. The change just made sense and seemed harmless.

Possible concerns: folks read about CEO's in the news and extraordinary salaries, and assume the title change will cause us to have to pay multi-million dollar salaries to our chief administrator. It is a title change, nothing more, and does not have any effect on how much we will pay in salary.

I've not heard much about the other amendments, so I assume these are understood without controversy. The board worked long and hard on these issues, conducted public meetings in the deliberations, and offer them to you in the best interests of GVR. Small outside groups are campaigning to have all of them defeated in what appears to be nothing more than to slap the face of your board. I urge you to support all the amendments with your vote.

And as always, remember to swipe your card and/or sign in when using facilities. I can't emphasize how important that is.

Sit on Us

Six new benches have been added throughout the Springs along sidewalks. Additional donations mean more benches will be added in the future. Thank you to Larry and Catherine Schmidt, Peter and Bette Briggs, Joe and Barbara Barton, Bill Perry, Thomas and Barbara O'Halloran, and Juanita Kauffman for the monetary donations. Equally important is the thank you to Norm TenBrink, Howard Bryan, Mike Dant, Doug Crosby and Vic Bignall for installing the benches.

Trash Talk

Saguaro Environmental/Republic Service, your trash and recycling service, is encouraging customers to use their new larger "totes" for both trash and recycle. You are not required to use the new totes. You can still use smaller trash cans (available at local stores) and the smaller recycle boxes if you wish. For most of us, the larger receptacles do not fit in our small

garages, as well as the smaller ones do. Remember, the Springs CC&Rs clearly state that all trash "receptacles" must be stored out of sight during the non-pickup days. This includes plastic containers or plastic bags. Please do not put any "receptacle" in front of your home on non-pickup days.

Also as a reminder, the ravens will rip open plastic bags of garbage if not placed in covered receptacles. Place all garbage in covered plastic trash cans, unless you want to see all your trash on public display.

More Trash Talk

On Wednesday, January 29th at 10 a.m., about ten of The Springs hard working folks donned fashionable glow-in-the-dark lime green vests and carried heavy-duty, over-sized blue trash bags to clean up stuff tossed out car windows and items that had fallen off the back of pick-up trucks. ADOT rules require us to do a clean-up



four times a year, and this was the third one since we originally signed up to get our community's name on the Adopt-A-Highway sign. We were pleased with the pleasant weather, as our last clean-up was in the rain in 40 degree weather, and the time before was below freezing, prompting us to change the meeting time to later in the morning! There's a list of items that we need to be wary of (coolers used for transporting drugs, flashlights that can explode), but we find mostly run-of-the-mill trash. There was one item that was a bit suspicious, however: Jeannie

found a bunch of batteries tied together that resembled a crude bomb. We finally decided it was just a battery pack for some electronic gizmo. We observed that this time we found many empty wine bottles, compared to the other times when it was all beer and soda bottles and cans. Hmm. A higher caliber of litterers this time?! Many thanks to all who helped to keep The Springs lookin' good!



Keep Sidewalks Clear

One of the best things about the Springs is that it is a "walkable" community. Because of all the beautifully landscaped common areas, many sidewalks and the walking path, we have a unique setting and lifestyle that encourages walking.

That is why our governing documents clearly state that sidewalks must be kept clear and all vehicles must be parked in such a way as to never block sidewalks. Homeowners are not only responsible for their own vehicles but also the vehicles of visitors and contractors. Please make sure that no parked vehicle is blocking the sidewalk in front of or near your home.

Garage Sale

The quiet streets of the Springs were transformed into a crowded and bustling market place like the Bazaar of Baghdad or the open markets of Marrakech – It was the Spring Garage Sale. Once again Juanita Kaufman was the lead person for this popular community event. Ricky Konshak and Jody Milton assisted Juanita in walking to the homes, giving out balloons and making the map for buyers. The map listed 30 participating homes, but there were more who decided to join in at the last minute. Buyers were welcomed by Peg Penny & Bill Perry who took the early morning shift handing out maps. Pat Johnson and Sandie Stone finished the morning welcome session after the more than 250 maps were gone.

Many residents reported selling more items than anticipated. But this is more than a chance to get rid of that ugly vase or ashtray or what ever it was, that your friend made at clay studio, or the Ab-Exerciser you swore you would use religiously. It is a chance to get out of the house, hang out in the street and interact with

neighbors and visitors. The Relay for Life Team sold coffee, cup cakes and cookies and had a successful campaign for the Cancer Society. This may be the only time some people come to the Springs and find out about us. It's a chance to show off our community and its residents - you. It is something small that makes us a desirable community to live. This is one reason why the advertising cost is paid by the HOA.

So if the heavy traffic inconvenienced you, thanks for understanding, that was your part in this community event. And thanks to everyone

who participated and helped to make it a success.

Amado Food Bank Donations (from the Springs)

Dec 2013 – \$270 and 14 pounds of food
Jan 2014 – \$216 and 6 pounds of food
Feb 2014 – \$292 and 11 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.

Relay for Life

American Cancer Society Relay For Life events bring together more than four million people to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to fight back against the disease. Relay events bring people together from all walks of life to raise much-needed funds and awareness.

This year our local Relay For Life takes place in Anamax Park, just north of Duval Mine Road, on Saturday March 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Participants may choose to partake in any of various events that are planned throughout the day, as they wish.

Sam Coggins and Lance Johnson are forming a Relay team to represent The Springs. We are asking our neighbors and friends to consider joining us as team members or as contributors. We'd love to build a team of 15 or more. Cancer survivors, family members, care-givers and concerned friends are all welcome.

If interested in joining us, please contact Lance Johnson (612) 751-2270 or email:

PatsyLance@Hotmail.com

Classified

For Sale: Set of men's RH Tour Edge Bazooka JMAX Gold golf clubs. 14 clubs and cart bag, excellent condition. \$300. Inge Adams, 3832 S Camino Del Cefiro. 520-269-6510

If you would like to advertise in the classified section of the monthly Chat or contribute an article, deadline date in the 26th of the month. Send to springschat@gmail.com

Springers After Dark

You're famished after your 5:30am workout at the Fitness Center and the thought of one more bowl of oatmeal makes you want to gag. Well my fellow Springers, it's time to head to Tucson for a breakfast worthy of the calories you just burned. We know it's not after dark, but you worked out in the dark so that counts!

We recently tried one of Tucson's newest "in" spots for breakfast/lunch/brunch and soon learned why all the chatter. PREP & PASTRY, located at 3073 N Campbell, had only been opened 3 weeks but it already has a faithful following. When you walk in the door you know you're in a different place; wooden rafters, concrete floors, chalkboard walls, open window into the divine pastry kitchen combined with an innovative menu equals success. The inside dining area is relatively small but there is a patio which helps accommodate the weekend brunch crowd. We arrived at 9:30 on a Thursday so there was no wait and the parking was easy. Our fellow diners were of mixed ages from 20 somethings to those of us who have enough silver in our hair to retire. This is always a good sign when a restaurant attracts all ages.

The breakfast menu offers fewer choices than Denny's, but it is so much more interesting and edible too. The A.M. Relleno is a breakfast version of Chili Relleno with eggs and a special mole. The Monte Cristo features Brioche French toast and mascarpone. I won't even describe the Pork Belly Breakfast Sandwich. After much deliberation we decided on the lemon poppy seed pancakes with vanilla poached seasonal berries and brioche bread french toast with berry compote and a side of bacon.

The texture of the pancakes was just right, slightly crisp on the outside yet soft and fluffy on the inside but it was the light lemon flavor combined with the berries that made my taste buds smile. All future pancakes will be measured against these lemon poppy seed wonders. The french toast was... well... french toast, but the berry compote took it up a couple of notches. The freshness and sweetness of the berries stood out and perfectly complemented the toasted battered bread. We made the mistake of going up to the pastry



counter and when we saw the Candied Bacon Dossant (not to get embroiled in the foodies' debate if the dossant is a cronut in disguise) a cross between a doughnut and croissant. We knew two were coming back to Green Valley. The Dossants were a layered salty sweet treat with a late evening cup of coffee.

Just a week or so later, the lemon poppy seed pancakes were calling our name (are poppy seeds addicting?). We went back, but the



pancakes were a casualty of a menu change. They are being offered as a chef's whim or rotating daily special. Undaunted, we found a new favorite, the sweet potato hash. Fine diced sweet potato, crispy browned outside and tender, supplemented with diced bell pepper and shallot, roasted corn and thin stalks of asparagus, all mixed together with a savory mixture of herbs. Of course topped with an egg. Being a devote carnivore, a side order of bacon was ordered and cut up and added to the hash....now it's perfect!

The service was attentive and informative. One of the owners took time to talk to us about what they had done to get the restaurant ready for opening day and seemed genuinely interested in our opinions of the food and experience. It's wonderful to see a group of energetic people opening a "non-chain" restaurant in Tucson and we wish them the best.

Prep & Pastry is located at 3073 N Campbell Ave near Native Seeds, south of Ft. Lowell and is opened Mon-Fri from 7-4 and weekends 8 - 4.

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

A Question for You

Did the pigeon problem fly away?

Let the Chat know if you have seen an improvement in the pigeon problems, email to: springschat@gmail.com

Also, let us know if you have a question you would like to get your neighbor's opinion on.

Pet Profile

Hi my name is Zazu and I'm a Yorkiepoo. Ok, I see you scratching your head thinking Zazu, Zazu, where have I heard that name before? Well, I'm named after Zazu Pitts, the actress, who played in many comedies, including the Gale Storm Show. Zazu Pitts was always my Dad's (Frank Strnad) favorite name and so when Mom (Pat Strnad) suggested I be named Zazu there was no turning back! Personally, I think the moment they saw me as a 6 week old pup in Ohio, they knew I had movie star qualities. I do enjoy the finer things in life, for example no hard toys for me, I like the soft, luxurious ones. I thoroughly enjoy a biscuit now and then, I have to watch my figure, but I will only eat the treat on a soft rug. One of my best dance moves is doing the back-up wiggle to be sure I'm on the carpet to eat my treat.

Due to all the paparazzi, my favorite game is being chased and I am good at it! I'm still trying to figure out all the cameras, I don't pose, just action shots! As



any movie star, I have several homes and quickly become acclimated to my surroundings. In Arizona, I love to sunbathe on the back patio, especially if my folks are with me. I don't go for the George Hamilton look, just enough sun to make my BDF's (best doggie friends) back home a little jealous. I have visited the dog park in Green Valley but wasn't thrilled with all the canines. I much prefer the attention of their owners instead, with all their petting and kisses, after all I am a star!

Some stars get tired of all the travel but not me. As long as my folks are pushing my wheeled carrier in front of them so I can see all my fans in the airport, I'm fine. Learning my script comes easy too, I know numerous words to the point my folks have to spell them at times. As any good actress, I'm empathetic, if Mom isn't feeling well I will stay right next to her without disturbing her.

Mom & Dad get perks from my star status as well. You see, I sleep in my own bed on the

floor. I only get to sleep with them if they've been out for the evening. So, since I'm on the A-list in Tucson, I've made many dinner reservations for them (Mom hasn't caught on, she still thinks Dad is planning the evenings out). More nights out for them, more snuggles for me!

Well, the curtain is about to go up so it's time for Zazu to perform. If you see me in the neighborhood, I'd be happy to give you my paw print sealed with a kiss!

Question sent to the Chat

Recently the lots around the golf course were rezoned. We called the planning department but they never returned our call. Does anyone have information about this that they can add to the newsletter? What does this new zoning mean and why was it done? Thanks in advance.. Bill & Bonnie Albright

Answer - A couple of weeks ago the HOA received a notice of hearing from Pima county. It was about the long term Sahuarita Farms Project. The owners of the Pecan groves believe that in some undetermined future time they will sell the groves and are working with Sahuarita and Pima county to develop a long term plan to convert it to housing and parks. It will take 20 to 40 years to complete and there should not be any significant development starting for at least 5 to 10 years. There will first be major work on roads and improvement in the Santa Cruz riverbed and flood control. I believe most of the land behind the Springs is leased by them, but is included in the plan. The current plan is for large lot (what ever that means) single family homes. The development will have lots of park land and bicycle paths. We are at the far south end of the plan.

The developers are planning some sort of change that requires zoning changes. Homes that are within a certain distant of the affected area were notified of the hearing for the change. There are open public meetings held by the grove owners every 6 months or so, to discuss plans. Here are links to the project.

<http://www.sahuaritafarms.com>

<http://www.sahuaritafarms.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Final%20Sahuarita%20Farms%20Specific%20Plan%20April%202013.pdf>

Big, Big thanks to these volunteers who have made the Springs look like a show place. They have pruned and cleaned out the washes on the north and south ends of the nature park in addition to the washes from the entrance of the Springs to the nature park. Pruning and clean up has also been done behind Blue Fox, Nardos, and Viva. Not only have they saved the HOA money on labor, but by chipping the prunings, less money is being spent for dumpster fees.



Norm TenBrink



Scott Denzer



Charlie Jones



Jim Owen



Vic Bignall

Other volunteers (who escaped the photograprer) are Doug Crosby, Bob Fillion, and Barbara O'Halloran. You will see these hard working people several times a week in various places around the Springs. The next time you see one of these awesome volunteers, tell them how much you appreciate what they do for our community.



Central wash by GVR Center



Wash, north end of Nature Park



Wash, south end of Nature Park



Wash under GVR facility bridge



Wash near entrance to the Springs

Resident of the Month

Our featured residents for the month of March are Lance and Pat Johnson. Lance served six years on the Springs board of directors as the grounds committee chairman. Under his guidance the master plan for the Springs parks was created and serves as a guide for our parks. He still volunteers on the ground committee.



Both Pat and Lance are active in the GVR tennis club. Pat usually plays four to five times per week, and Lance three to four times per week. On Sunday mornings, they play together in a mixed doubles group which Lance says is especially fun, as the group will often go out for breakfast afterwards.

Pat is the beneficiary of the beautiful furniture Lance has created as a member of the wood working shop. His works include a sewing table for Pat, a desk, credenza, buffet, television stand, luggage holder, bedside table (for which he incorporated recycled grill-work for the sides), a mesquite entry table and numerous other items. He says he likes to always have a project "in process". More often than not, Pat applies the paint or stain and fine finishing for Lance's projects. It seems to be a winning combination.



Pat, a horticulturist in Minnesota, is learning a lot about desert plants so the Johnson's have a

wonderful backyard, which is beautiful and buzzing with bees. She has also combined her Clay studio activities with her love of gardening and has several interesting creations nestled among her plantings. For instance, near the edge of her patio is a group of clay golden barrel cacti posing as the real thing. Nearby is an

ocotillo that is a little too cute to be real. A clay javalina peeks from behind a prickly pear, joined by a desert tortoise, St. Francis and other unlikely denizens.



The Johnson's also help with many of the miscellaneous volunteer opportunities that pop up here in the Springs, but one major volunteer job they both do each year is making toys for disadvantaged kids through a program at the GVR wood shop. Lance serves on the wood shop board of directors and coordinates a group of around 40 volunteers (several of whom live in The Springs) who make 600 toys a year, including over 100 cradles and dolls. The toys are made by wood shop members and then painted by other volunteers as needed to finish them for the kids. Pat paints and sews. This year, she is making 130 dolls. Lois Alexander (another Springs resident) paints the faces on the dolls and Lois and other volunteers make the clothing and complete bedding sets for the cradles (mattress, sheets, pillows etc). The toys are distributed to children through the St Andrews Children's Services in Nogales and Valley Assistance Services in Green Valley.



Pat and Lance have two daughters, a son and 2 grandchildren who all live in Minnesota. While the Johnson's enjoy the winters here they are happy to return to the North Country and family for the summers.