



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

Summer 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

Aug 21 Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

Sept 18 Potluck, Anza Rm, 5:00

Sept 22 Board Meeting, Fiesta Rm, 2:30

Cinco De Mayo Party

Pictures from the Cinco de Mayo Party held in May on the Springs Rec Center roof deck. There was delicious Mexican food, Mexican music, and many door prizes . Thanks to Marge Burt and friends for organizing this fun event



November Chinese Auction

Don't forget the "Chinese Auction" to benefit the food bank at the November potluck. Donations to be auctioned will be accepted anytime between now and then. Marge Burt (648-3596) and Debbie Cox (399-9893) are organizing this and will be happy to answer any questions and accept donations of items. Suggested things to donate are new or very gently used nicknacs, pictures or art work, tools, bottle of wine, decorations, plants, useful or fun items you are no longer using but someone else might enjoy.

Don't forget, Bill Perry has asked winter visitors to bring back a picture of yourself as a youngster and also your high school graduation photo.

Board Meetings

No Board meetings are held during the summer months of June, July, and August. They will resume September 22 at 2:30 in the Fiesta Room. Please note **this is a new date and time.**

HOME SALES

(since the last newsletter)

3865 S. Camino Del Golfista - John & Virginia Shea, Bloomfield Hills, MI

3891 S. Calle Viva - Hal & Jo Beiler, Oswego, IL

997 W. Via de la Fonda - Fred & Judy Abood, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

3789 S. Camino Comica - Craig Coffey, Yorkville, IL

3957 S. Calle Viva - Carol Christ, Whitewater, WI

3825 S. Avenida De Los Solmos - Terry & Catherine O'Brien, Stillwater, MN

3744 S. Camino Del Golfista - David & Kathleen Emmel, Tucson, AZ

938 Via De La Fonda - William & Christine Rawls, Green Valley, AZ

ARC Late Breaking NEWS

The paint industry is in flux due to the Environmental Protection Agency's new regulation. In an effort to reduce hazardous components all paint suppliers are now required to use water-based pigments for tinting paints. The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has been proactive by addressing these problems with their recommended paint suppliers. If you are in the process of painting or staining, please continue to use our paint codes contained in "ARC Conversations about Painting & Paint Codes" (Revised 05/10/2014). This document is published on our web site

<http://www.thespringshoa.org/> under the Architectural Review tab on the left of the cover page and then look for Paint Suppliers.

Presently **True Value** at Green Valley has changed their codes to meet our color requirements and has extended a hand by offering a 10% discount (not to be used with any other promotional discount) for The Springs homeowners. Because the ARC has not had time to check all the other paint suppliers listed for a color comparison, ARC **HIGHLY RECOMMENDS** that you or your contractor use **True Value** as your supplier for all exterior paint. Other suppliers may or may not be able or willing to supply acceptable colors and if the color is not acceptable, you may be required to repaint. It is the homeowner's responsibility to paint with the correct color. If you have any questions contact the ARC for approval. Thanks for your patience. Steve Gilbert, Architectural Review Committee

More Garbage from Your Board

Saguaro Environmental Services /Republic Services is encouraging you to use their new larger "totes" for both trash and recycle. You are *not* required to use the new "totes"... (but you know who runs the trash business and do you really want to mess with them?). 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. You could always sell your car to fit the "totes" in your garage. The new "totes" are the type that allows the driver of an automated truck to empty the trash without a crew, eliminating more jobs from the economy. These "totes" are commonly used in communities with one pickup per week. 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, all garbage bags should be placed in covered plastic trash cans. The ravens will open the plastic garbage bags quicker than your grand kids opening Christmas presents. They (the ravens) will spread your business all over the streets for your neighbors to see and pass judgment on your life choices. If you place the bag in a trash can, the raven will say "Nevermore".

Get Da Flock Outta Here

It may not be a well controlled scientific collection of defined data, but anecdotal evidence points to a shift in the roosting patterns of our foul feathered fowls, the *Columbia Livia* or common pigeon. After one species of bird (comminus snowbirdus) left the springs in May, some of the remaining thermophiles noted that pigeons were frequent squatters on their roofs and chimneys. Pigeons are highly dependent on us to provide them with food and sites for roosting, loafing, and nesting. It could be that some of our attempts to rid our community of these pooping machines are starting to be effective or at least get them to move to other parts of the Springs.

Some residents have called in pest control specialist to construct cages or barriers around roosting areas and their heat pumps. Several have gone through or hired someone to perform the disgusting task of cleaning the toxic droppings of the pests. It could be that some of the part time residents who are absent now from the Springs, were feeding the pigeons. Pish-Posh you say..., no loyal red-blooded Springer would defy the state, local and HOA rules NOT to feed the pests. None of our residents are like the old ladies or men in the park who throw bread to these pestilent prone pests... or are you? Read my lips..."Don't feed the birds" or other wildlife. Besides checking your roof for adequate coating, and parapet for cracks, check for signs of PRD, pigeon related damage.

There is a steep price to pay for feeding the birds. Two conscientious residents have paid as much as \$700 to have the infectious waste removed and deterrents added. Failure to remove animal waste from your property may

result in fines for Pima County Department of Environmental Quality or Health Department, as well as the HOA.

Forced to be a Streetwalker in the Springs

One of the outstanding attributes of the Springs is that we are a “walkable” community. There are miles of sidewalks and walking pathways that wind through beautifully landscaped common areas. There are many neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks. Many of those appear crowded. Ours is a unique open setting and invites a lifestyle that encourages walking and interaction with others in our community.



To promote and sustain this community resource, the 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. However, this common courtesy is not being given by some residents, visitors or contractors. Unsightly and destructive parking across sidewalks or on the curbs is forcing walkers into the street. Some residents who already have challenged mobility have been placed in dangerous situations. 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.

My Summer Travel

(submitted by Sandie Stone)

Rocky Point, Que Pasa?

It’s been seven years since we visited Rocky Point, Mexico. The city developers at that time were promoting a ten year plan which included many more resorts, gated communities, golf courses, restaurants and much more. It looked great. And then, the recession hit.

On July 8-10, Tom as our chauffer drove Mary Yager, Joyce McGlaston and me across the border and on down to Puerto Penasco to see what the community looks like today. Several of

the resorts that had been in the 10 year plan were built and are operational. Many others are only partially completed. Some actually have residents living in portions that are done. We found that amazing.

The resort at which we stayed was great. The apartments were a bit outdated, but the pools especially the one with the bar and the ocean view were spectacular. We dined the first night at a restaurant just down the road (a very washboard road) called Mare Blu. It’s an Italian restaurant and it is superb. In hindsight, we wish we’d gone back the second night. Instead, we went to a local favorite La Curva. It was good Mexican fare, but nothing unusual.

At Mare Blu, we had a charming young waiter, Julio. Over the evening we learned that he is studying at a community college in Thatcher, AZ. After his second year, he hopes to finish his degree in business at the UofA after which he will return to Rocky Point to help his dad run his restaurants, one of which is Mare Blu. Even of more interest was the story he told us of his dad. As a young man, he was one of those kids that would wash your windshield when you were stopped at a stop sign and you’d give him a couple of bucks. He saw no future in that so he then started selling shrimp out of his truck. He then moved on to open a bar that featured shrimp. He still owns the original bar, Mare Blu and two others. A great success story.

We truly enjoyed our three day visit. The drive, although a rather boring drive, is an easy 4 hours from door to door. We felt very safe and would recommend the trip to everyone. Enjoy the beautiful beaches and friendly neighbors to our south.



What did you do over the summer?

If you went somewhere special and would like to share your experience with a short write-up and include a few pictures, we would like to hear from you. Send to: springschat@gmail.com

Hospital Construction Continues

The Green Valley Hospital continues to make progress as work began on the second floor of the main building. Opening is still more than nine months away, but the noise and bustle at the site points to the future. For several nights in mid June, lights from the construction site brightened the night sky, and sleep was disturbed by the beeping of trucks backing up while crews worked through the night apparently pouring concrete for the second floor. The inconvenience to the locals was necessary, to allow the concrete the best chance to cure, avoiding the heat of the day. Perhaps this was the hospital's first cure. Get it...cure concrete...cure disease. Construction can be viewed of the construction site webcam, <http://greenvalley.workzonecam.com/newgencommercial>

As work progresses on our hospital, two major health systems in Tucson announced major financial losses. The UofA health system is in the red to the tune of almost thirty million dollars in the current fiscal year, due to cost of electronic medical records and decrease in patient revenue. Carondelet reported a similar loss for last fiscal year. Their on-going issues are also related to reduced admissions and reimbursement rates. Both networks reported, they are being purchased by (or as the euphemism goes, establishing new working relationships with) larger networks. The UofA hospitals will be operated by Banner Health and Carondelet (St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and Holy Cross) will be part of Dignity Health which is owned by Tenet. The two acquiring organizations are highly rated and should provide for significant improvements in service.

This changing of the local dynamics in healthcare will be interesting to watch and see how we are impacted. Developers rationalized the need for a local for-profit hospital because Green Valley was designated as an underserved community. The Pima County Health Study documented that we have more providers per population, and have a very high percentage of residents with insurance compared to other areas of the county. The most significant factor leading to the underserved designation was that a significant number of people lack the transportation to a health care provider. There is no public transportation and many people no longer drive (and there are a lot of us who shouldn't be driving). The location of the hospital doesn't solve the transportation issue and city leaders (i.e. Stan Riddle) haven't addressed the problem.

Those of us who use our new hospital, will be causing a shift of payment from struggling not-for-profit care providers to a foreign funded for-profit business. However, we have a shorter drive to get there. Let's stay healthy and not use any hospitals. Live long and prosper.



The Springs Forum

In the May newsletter we asked, **“What question or idea would you like to see put out there for the neighborhood residents to comment on.”** There were only two responses which are:

Assuming we could find the space, would there be any interest in a small lending library?
Mike Dant, Calle Rambles

I would like to see what our residents think about us being able to park our golf carts in our driveways so that those of us with one car garages can keep our car in the garage.
David Hankins, West Camino Erranle

A comment from a resident: If your mailbox key is sticking, put a little Vaseline on it. Susan Olsen (WD-40 works, too)

The main purpose of the newsletter is to communicate and share ideas that bring us closer together as a community. Please address your comments on the above two topics to: springschat@gmail.com

My Summer Trip

(submitted by Carol Bender)

Rubber rafting for 8 days through the Grand Canyon (188 miles) on the Colorado River was a fantastic experience for me! There are no words to describe the incredible beauty we saw each day. We slept on beautiful sand beaches - no tents. There are so many gorgeous stars - no lights to dull them or hide them. The quarter moon was bright enough to be a flashlight. One night my campsite was near a lovely waterfall. The setting and rising sun cast beautiful colors on the rugged cliffs. We always heard the river flowing by as we went to sleep. In the morning we woke up to a guide calling us for coffee. All the meals were delicious! The boatmen cooked and we took turns cleaning up.

The rapids are a blast. The temperatures near the river were a little over 100 degrees and the water in the river was about 50 degrees. So we stayed comfortably cool with all the splashing. I chose to ride near the bow or in the bathtub. In big rapids the water came up and over our heads. We had many "showers" each day. The type of rocks and cliffs we saw changed each day. We dropped about 1600 feet in elevation over the course of the trip. At first we saw the colorful red rock cliffs. In the inner gorge we saw shist - a polished black rock that is harder than granite. It is the oldest exposed rock on earth. Because of its hardness, the river is narrower - less carving. Other days we saw interesting layered rock formations. The best way I can describe them is to say they were like enormous pancakes with ruffled edges. We hiked to some gorgeous caves on these rocks. The last day we saw lava rock. Most of it hardened before it could shoot out of the volcano, so the lava flowed horizontally. We also saw California condors, great blue herons, mule deer, desert bighorn, and coyotes.

Each day we took a couple of hikes to waterfalls and beautiful places. One day we hiked up and over a steep ridge on shist to see a water fall that came out of the rocks sideways. Another day we saw a 100 foot falls. We cooled off in the pools near the falls. Two hikes were especially gorgeous. One was along the Little Colorado River. The color of the water is a soft aqua. We rode down a small rapid with our life jackets on upside down to protect our bottoms. What fun!

Another day we hiked up Havasu Creek a little way. The water is also a lovely aqua color. The rock formations were beautiful. The eighth day a helicopter came and took us up to a ranch. The eight minute flight was spectacular!! After a much needed shower, we took a 35 minute plane ride back to Page, AZ. Flying over the Colorado Plateau is unbelievably gorgeous also.

I am so grateful that I learned about this trip from the Sills, friends in Green Valley. It's an amazing experience!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

