



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 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, Juanita Kauffman, Jeannie McGaughey, Sandie Stone, Pat Strnad, Rebecca Keenan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 4** **Meet 'n Greet**, Fiesta Deck, 3-5
- Jan 11** **Board Meeting**, Fiesta Rm, 1:00
- Jan 21** **Potluck**, Anza Rm, 3:00
- Jan 23** **Annual Mtg.** Anza Rm, 3:00

January Potluck Program

A reminder to have your "Favorite Photo" ready for the January Potluck. Please send photos digitally to Shani Murray. Email address is bofnshani@cox.net. For those who cannot send them by email, please drop off the photos to Shani at 944 Fonda with your name and address and phone number attached and she will scan the photo and get the original back to you. The deadline to submit photos is one week before the potluck, but the sooner the better. Shani's phone number is 399-2599.

Board Meeting Summary (Dec 8, 2015)

There have been more thefts in the Springs, the bench in front by the fountain is gone. A resident reported a bird feeder and pedestal missing. If you see anything suspicious, call the sheriff (351-6511). If you are going to be away, contact the Sheriff's auxiliary (351-6744). They will check on your property while you are gone.

Big thanks to Santa's helpers for putting up the Christmas decorations—Sandie, Tom, Vic, Mark, Sylvia, Bill, Jim, Juanita, and Howard. A chairperson and volunteers are needed for a permanent Christmas decorations committee. Please see a Board member to volunteer.

Four candidates have volunteered to serve on the HOA Board of Directors.

A big thank you for the three Board members who are leaving—Sandie Stone, Steve Gilbert, and Joe Barton. They have given hours of their time to help make the Springs one of the best communities in Green Valley to live. Don't forget to thank them for their service.

There will be funds set aside to seal coat the nature park trail. An estimate of the project cost will be presented at the January Board meeting.

A contractor has been selected to repair the wood beams over the gatehouse.

Funds will be budgeted for the maintenance building expansion. Funding is also needed for rocks in the area around the back gate to stop erosion, curb weed growth, and make the area look better.

Many thanks to all the grounds volunteers who have done an amazing job in keeping the Springs looking clean and neat.

A volunteer is needed to replace Pat Johnson for desert plant expertise. Please contact Jim Owen if you are interested.

Please see our website, www.thespringshoa.org, for the full report from each committee.

Special Board Meeting (January 14, 2015)

A special Board meeting was called by President, Sandie Stone. Norm TenBrink's resignation was reluctantly accepted by the Board. His vacated position was changed from a one-year term to a

two-year term. Many thanks to Norm for his dedicated work on the Board and countless hours spent as Grounds Chairperson.

Because there are 4 positions and 4 candidates, they will all be elected by acclamation. The nominees to the Board are: Mike Ford, Ron Delvaux, Dave Dethmers, Ted Boyett.

Garage Sale Update

The Springs community wide garage sale will be held on the last Saturday in February. In 2016 that will be on February 27th. Watch for announcements regarding sign up on the information boards by your mail box. There is not a charge to anyone participating in the sale.

Hazardous Waste Collection

Watch for notice from the Green Valley Council about the collection of medicines, paints, oils, computer equipment etc. It will be in February but the date has not yet been established. It is held in the parking lot of the Presbyterian Church on Camino Del Sol.

Fun Golf

Are you a Springs couple interested in playing 9 holes of noncompetitive golf at a local course and meet for drinks and food after? If so, contact Eileen Owen (jimeileenowen@aol.com) with your name, address, and phone number and you will be added to the list. We meet twice a month (2nd and 4th Fridays). Snowbirds welcome.

Want to bicycle with a friendly group?

Carol Bender has volunteered to lead a group of leisurely cyclists for a weekly Saturday ride. If interested, email her at: carolb369@gmail.com for more information.

Food Bank Donations

For the month of December, Bill Perry collected the following from Springs residents:

Cash/checks - \$305.00
Food - 3 pounds

Springs Christmas Spirit

Thank you for all of the Christmas lights which decorated our streets this year. The homes on Encino and the homes backing onto Encino did a great job of decorating



Photos by
Juanita
Kauffman



Favorite Recipe from Chat Member

Pat Strnad

Hamburger Soup

- 1 # lean ground beef
- 1 c chopped onion
- 1 c. cubed raw potatoes
- 1 c shredded cabbage
- 1 c sliced raw carrots
- 1 16-oz can diced tomatoes with liquid
- 6 c water
- 1 bay leaf
- 12 tsp crushed dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp crushed dried basil
- 3-4 tsp salt and 1/8 tsp pepper

1 C cubed cheddar cheese

Saute beef until pink disappears; add onion & cook until transparent. Pour off excess fat. Add all other ingredients, except cheese; cover & simmer for 1 hour.

(You can serve it after 30 min., but the flavor improves with longer cooking.) Place a few pieces of cheese in each bowl before serving. Makes 3 1/2 quarts or about 10 servings.

Pet Profile

Hi! My name is Doc. I am an Australian Cattle Dog, and if you walk the Springs nature trail, you have probably seen me!



I was found as a stray in a picnic area near Silver City, NM and rescued from a shelter there. My mom and dad, Val St. Marie and Charlie Jones, came to NM to get me and brought me to our home in Niwot, CO (near Boulder). They thought I was about two years old then, and I've lived with Mom and Dad for a little over 12 years now. So I'm about 14 now- that's a lot of dog years!



I'm still in pretty good shape for an old guy, but I am slowing down- one loop around the trail is enough now, and I'd really rather just stroll and sniff! This summer Mom and Dad stopped bringing me on long hikes, which has been very hard on them. Luckily, I still don't look too old because my coloring doesn't show the gray in my face like some dogs. Some people say I look like a wolf or coyote- but I just don't see it! I mean- I'm spotted, and I don't even have a tail (well- just as stub!).

I live with my younger cat sister, Carli, but just like some human siblings I just tolerate her. I really want Mom and Dad all to myself! When we all drove down to AZ together I tried to block the front seats so she couldn't go up and sit in Mom's lap. I like it better now that we spend the whole winter in AZ. Because we take two cars- Dad and I are in one, and that cat is in the other car with Mom!



I sure miss my grass in Colorado, and rolling in the snow!

2015 was an exciting year for me because my picture was chosen for the Page-a-Day Dog Calendar. My big day was Oct. 24- a photo of me in my Batman costume! I'm not really the dress-up type, but I have to admit I feel pretty special with my cape on!



Mom and Dad are very proud of me. You may have seen the bumper sticker in the back window of our SUV.



I have lots of friends in CO and here in the Springs- especially my BFF, Latte. If you see me walking in the "hood" stop and say "hi"!

Article submitted by Val St. Marie and Charlie Jones.

If you have a pet and would like to submit an article or have a Chat member (Pat Strnad) write it up, please contact the newsletter committee at springschat@gmail.com.

A Pet for You????

According to a recent article in the Arizona Daily Star, Charlene Kampfe, a retired U of A professor and author, stated that exercise and improved mood are among the leading reasons why pets can help a person stay healthy and active as they age. Other reasons are:

- pets help stimulate the senses
- dogs can help push people to exercise
- pets can make people laugh
- pets foster a sense of responsibility and feeling of self worth.
- pets help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation
- dogs increase a feeling of security for the hearing impaired (barking dog warning of someone's presence)
- some studies show animals not only reduce stress, they also offer a boost to the immune system.
- other studies show that just touching an animal can raise brain chemicals that help us feel calmer and more relaxed.

Other considerations:

- don't get an animal that may get underfoot and increase the risk for a fall.
- Are you capable of exercising a pet?
- Do you have the financial resources for a pet? Caring for an animal not only includes food, licensing, grooming and boarding, but vet visits, too.

If you do decide on a pet, the Animal League of Green Valley has some wonderful pets up for adoption. Providing a foster home for a pet can help you decide if pet ownership is for you without being totally committed.

For the Birders



Finch

The House Finch is a cheery bird, which is a good characteristic to have, if you are a bird. It is cheery because it sings a rich happy warble (both sexes), calls when flying, and hangs around populated areas. I chose to write about this common bird because even though we see it all the time, we can't always easily identify it.

The breeding male usually has a wonderful "dipped in cherry juice" look to it (upper left). There is some geographic variation in color (usually diet related), ranging from yellow to orange to crimson red. BUT most often what we see is more like above (upper right) – lots of brown streaks and maybe a hint of the red.

The female is brown with a streaky breast. Some bird watchers don't enjoy small brown birds, but this is a good one to be able to identify. It's hard to speak eloquently about brown streaks, but this bird has LONG brown uninterrupted streaks that go all the way from neck onto the belly and flanks. Few other birds have this. The streaks are BLURRY, not crisp and they pretty much stay the same size from top to bottom. I know you are yawning now, but try looking, it works.



The House Finch has a large conical beak that is uniformly gray in color, and is used effectively to crack seeds. One biologist examined the stomach contents of 1,200 House Finches (early 1900's) and found that almost 90% of the House Finches' diet was seeds of "noxious weeds". However, at certain times of the year, this bird eats other natural foods. The reason for the study was that the concern that they (a very common bird) would populate the fast growing western orchards, feed on the crop and destroy a lot of fruit. Farmers needed to know whether they should try to exterminate them or just deter them. One article I found stated that they decided to use loud noises to frighten them away. I was impressed that they did a study before doing anything!

The birds nest in and on almost anything, including eaves, drain spouts, outdoor light fixtures, old sheds, abandoned machinery, and of course trees and shrubs.

The House Finch uses a variety of natural and artificial materials, including string, bits of wool or pet hair to build their cup shaped nest. They will even dismantle an old nest to build a new one. Recycle and Reuse.



Historically, the House Finch was considered a western bird (and called a Linnet), until somebody carried it East in the 1940's, and it was fruitful and multiplied such that it is now one of the most widely distributed song birds in North America. It is gregarious, meaning it hangs out in flocks and so they make a happy racket.

One trick to good birdwatching is to know the common birds around you, so you quickly know if you are seeing something different. I used to look at expert birders checking out EVERY SINGLE SEAGULL on the shore with their binoculars, or EVERY SINGLE SPARROW in a flock and wonder??? Answer is: They are looking for something different, the oddball in the flock that might be their next new bird. Even if you aren't that compulsive, one joy of identifying common birds, is you then start to observe behaviors, color patterns, the quality of their songs and really appreciate the wonders that they are. The House Finch, that wonder of geographic adaptation, is all around you. Happy New Year. --Rebecca Keenan

HOME SALES

(since the last newsletter)

3717 S. Camino Del Cefiro - Stephanie Walters, Chandler, AZ

3788 S. Calle Rambles - Mary Lou Wacek, Milwaukie, OR

3756 S. Camino del Golfista - Joel & Lisa Swanstrom, Edina, MN

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Services Offered

Travel Agent I specialize in River Cruises, but I can handle most of your travel needs. I am a licensed travel agent working through By the Sea Travel, LLC (Susan Beck-Brown, Travel Consultant, 970-759-3421, sbeckbrown@yahoo.com)

Household services I do high quality interior painting, bathroom remodeling & miscellaneous household services. Contact: Craig Trego, 955 W via de la Fonda, 206-734-5426 h2o.homme@yahoo.com

House Sitting (light maintenance)
See Gary & Cindy Deckinger, 3624 S. Nardos, 520-262-8622 or 620-988-0625. mghorse@yaoo.com

For Sale

Computer & Printer for Sale

DELL Inspiron Notebook Computer \$300
Windows 7 Home Premium; Intel Core i5, 64 bit SP1. 2410Mhz; ~~cpu@2.306~~ Hz. 6 gb of Ram; 500 GB hard drive, Optical Drive installed. It has always been plugged in with adapter, so battery may not last more than an hour. Barb Wolf 399-1204

HP Deskjet Printer (D4360) works with windows 7. \$30. Barb Wolf 399-1204

Printer Cartridges for Sale

4 Dell black ink cartridges (9XL), and 2 Dell color cartridges (9XL)--\$75. Mike Dant 777-5760

House For Sale

Our property on Pelotita offers a chance to own a fully furnished property with a golf course view of the 11th hole on Torres Blancas. It is already rented for the months of Jan., Feb., and March 2016 which means the buyer will have immediate income and will be able to take occupancy April 2016 providing they close escrow before December 31, 2015. (We are the original owners) William and Rosalie Clapet email: racgv@aol.com 520-399-2449

Headboard for Sale Southwest style headboard. Full size (double). Pine and metal. 58 w x 50 1/2 h \$75 OBO. Call Katrina to view. 520-393-1990



Art for Sale

METAL ART FROM TUBAC; Two 52" long Spears with feathers and One 25" Quiver, originals by artist Jay L. Tschudy with Certificates of Authenticity. Shades of dark brown, gold and muted turquoise. Spears can be hung or propped against a wall or in a corner. Quiver is hung. Paid \$300 each for Spears and \$400 for Quiver with receipts available. Make offer. [520-393-7474](tel:520-393-7474)

Found

A nice pair of black and orange gloves were found and turned in to the office.

A large set of keys have been turned in and unclaimed for about two months.

Call the HOA office if either belong to you. 520-648-1699

Want to advertise in the Chat??? Here's the deal--if you are a resident of The Springs and you have a property you want to rent or sell, or a household item you want to sell, or a service you provide such as house sitting, pet sitting, window washing, or an item you are looking for, etc., you may place an ad. There are three sections: FOR SALE, WANTED, and SERVICES OFFERED. You must live in The Springs to place an ad. Email your ad with your name, address, photo (optional), and phone number to: Springschat@gmail.com