

Freshly-Painted Gatehouse



PHOTO BY MARK KORUGA

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The Springs CHAT

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The Springs at Santa Rita

951 W Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ

85614

Phone: 520 648-1699

<http://www.thespringshoa.org>

CHAT email: koltun3@gmail.com

Doesn't it look great! This has been but one of the summer jobs of our intrepid Grounds Crew, who worked on Tuesday and Friday mornings despite the heat before the rains. Restoring the park at the eastern end of Rio Fuerte, they were aided by others' generosity, including a saguaro donated in memory of a resident's late husband. The crew also watered, cleared brush and removed junk. All this adds mucho moola of savings to homeowners. **See story, page 5.**

July Events

- 12 Santa Rita Art League
1 PM Anza Room
- 15 Deadline for August
CHAT
- 19 Potluck (Bill Perry back)

Santa Rita Art League Meets Artists' Needs in Varied Media

This is the second in this summer's series of articles about groups that inhabit our Recreation Center, the largest of the 13 neighborhood centers. In addition to such amenities as its comprehensive fitness center, swimming pool, and social rooms, our center is home to four of the town's premier clubs. Although membership in them is available to all Green Valley Recreation (GVR) homeowners and renters, the clubs—Camera, Computer, Clay Studio, and Santa Rita Art League of GVR (SRAL)—are all within walking distance for those of us fortunate enough to live in Santa Rita Springs. A huge parking lot helps those who prefer to drive.

The SRAL welcomes two-dimensional artists in any media, and promotes awareness, appreciation, and development of talent in visual art. Membership, \$35/year, is open to all members and tenants of GVR. Inc.

Let's begin our tour with the SRAL, located on the south end of the Rec Center's first floor. Its current president, Nancy Wesorick, contributed the lists of groups (ten) and shows (eight) that comprise the outreach of these lively creators.

These groups, formed by and serving a variety of artists, include the Abstract Brigade; Collage/Mixed Media; Desert Doodlers; Life Drawing; OPAL (Oil Painters of Santa Rita Art League); Pastel; Plein Air; Portrait; Printmakers; and Watercolor.

Wesorick, a former science teacher, has specialized in pastels, but also is investigating her inner oil painter.

At monthly general meetings, SRAL provides demonstrations by regional and national experts. All members may use its professionally-equipped studio, free educational sessions and open groups for plein air and specialized in-studio painting, and both juried and non-juried opportunities for members to exhibit their work.

Such opportunities are plentiful. SRAL shows include the Eva Briggs Competition; a juried members' show; an annual members' show; and open (unjuried) shows of abstract, southwest, and master's subjects. Permanent (three-month) shows are hung at Canoa Hills and Desert Hills display spaces.

Last month, in a departure from the usual demos at general meetings, SRAL presented eight artists discussing their specialties, sources of inspiration,



Terry Hodson wields a brush loaded with oil paint in the SRAL studio.

and examples of their work: Pat Chaloux (Desert Doodlers); Mary Lou Lembcke (realism); Jean Schwafel (pastel); John MacGraw (printmaking); Annella Campbell (watercolor); Jan Holland (portraits); Skip Perkins (acrylics); and Susan Ettl (collage).

A small group of Green Valley artists started SRAL in May, 1978. One of the founders, art teacher Gloria Hammond, “voiced her dream” to promote and encourage friendship, artistic growth and development. The group was to be non-partisan, non-political, and non-profit. That year, they held a “Starving Artist” show of unframed works “humorously priced under \$25,000.”

The non-profit objective was met during 1979-80, when they held a sale that earned \$485. to fund 15 scholarships for students recommended by their schools.

Meeting at first in banks, a church, and at West and East Centers, SRAL affiliated around 1986 with GVR. In 2005, GVR converted a former storage room at the Rec Center into a dedicated studio, which opened that year and added an ongoing figure drawing workshop. The next year, SRAL added its own website, which continues. Skip Perkins serves as webmaster.

Since then, SRAL has grown considerably from the initial 75 members to its present roster of 305 artists. A board of directors, consisting of all elected officers and chairs of standing committees, manages SRAL with by-laws developed by board planners and approved by members.

Improvements to the studio include better lighting and air circulation, sinks, disposal containers, a hanging system for displaying art, rental lockers, easels, a demonstration projection system, and an honor-system library that contains some 300 books and DVDs.

Further information may be obtained from the Website by searching for Santa Rita Art League of Green Valley. Next meeting will be July 12, 1 PM, in the Rec Center’s Anza Room.

Such a 50-year journey, a credit to artists, organizers, and the visionary retirees of Green Valley!--JAN KOLTUN

Editorial Policy

In order to meet our HOA size requirement—4 MB/issue-- CHATs need both deadlines and light editing. We ask that your articles, except for occasionals with multiple contributors, be limited to 500 words. Photos need to be formatted as Jpegs. Deadlines, approximately mid-month preceding the following month’s issue, are printed on the front page. Your generous cooperation with these few rules is appreciated. THE EDITOR

Hedgehogs, Unite! Find (and Use) Paint Guidelines for Approved Hedgehog Color

Stephanie Long-Walters, CPC, who is Compliance Officer for The Springs, stresses “how important it is to take the paint guidelines with you or give a copy to your paint contractor when you buy paint.”

Somebody once quipped that there were 18 different Hedgehogs in The Springs. However, recent boards have managed to consolidate them so that there’s currently but one. So looking up the guidelines on the website will save homeowners the anguish, cost, and time of repainting to the community-approved color.

Long-Walters observes that each paint dealer may have different formulas for Hedgehog. If you don’t take the paint guidelines with you and show them to the company, you could end up with a color approved for another community that is not even close to our color.

This also applies to exterior wood, front doors and security screen doors. Paint guidelines can be found easily on our website. We include a copy of the guidelines with violation letters.

Book Review

Mary Karr, *The Art of Memoir* (New York, Harper Collins, 2015)

On my refrigerator is a *New Yorker* drawing by Victoria Roberts in which one turtle is telling another, “Whatever you do in there all day is fine with me, so long as it’s not writing a memoir.”

If, as the drawing reflects, the genre of memoir is replacing self-help and murder in the preferences of writers and readers, the person most responsible for this development would be Mary Karr. Her fine book, *The Art of Memoir*, sets a high standard for potential memoirists, a benchmark that she fulfills herself.

After reading and re-reading her book, my only regret is that I hadn’t read it before making a memoir about a family member. (O well, there are more family members.) There is nothing I don’t like about her book, including its bibliography, which prompted me to read—guess what?—more memoirs.

--JAN KOLTUN

Grounds Crew Plants Saguaro Donated in Memory of Resident's Husband



Mark Koruga, Lee Blahnik, Ron Sills, and Jim Owen had a busy summer, starting at 6 AM two days a week last month to beat the heat. They cleaned up the



Photos by Jim Owen

nature trail, trimmed trees, spread new rocks and pebbles, painted railings and the old shed off Fuerte, as well as metal supports for the new message boards near the mailboxes. They worked sometimes on their own, sometimes with the aptly-named Hot Desert landscapers, to restore the park at the eastern end of Rio Fuerte.

In the latter job, the Grounds Crew was aided by the kind donation of a saguaro, which is now staked and ready for its next 100 years. Bonnie Delvaux donated the healthy plant in memory of her late husband, Ronald.

CHAT AD

Xi gong group? Anybody wanting to meet in The Springs twice a week to practice xi gong? Potential convenor also goes to Tubac on Mondays to practice with Linda Cormier; could share rides. Anyone interested in practicing closer to home, contact Jan at 520-300-4819; if enough Springs residents are interested, we can find a place to play.

Welcoming New Leader for Meet & Greets

We are fortunate to have a new leader for the monthly Meet & Greets. Maureen Kosnik will begin in October to head these festivities, a long-time Springs tradition held on the top Fiesta deck of the Rec Center. You'll find a more complete story in the August issue of CHAT.

2018 HOME SALES

<u>Address</u>	<u>Sold To</u>	<u>Home Town</u>
4071 S. Wolf Run Road	Robert & Ginny Muller	Hackensack, MN
800 W. Calle de la Pelotita	Annette Williams	Peoria Heights, IL
3781 S. Camino Comica	Michelle Fair	Tucson, AZ
3695 S. Camino del Cefiro	Harry & JoAnn Cook	Green Valley, AZ
3689 S. Calle Rambles	Robert Blake	Bozeman, MT
1018 W. Via del Placio	Robert Bahler	Green Valley, AZ
3985 S. Camino del Heroe	Howard & Sally Bryan	Green Valley, AZ
3826 S. Camino del Golfista	Todd Stuehler	Loves Park, IL
3741 S Avenida de los Solmos	Gary & Gail Myhre	New London, MN
3664 S.Paseo de los Nardos	Steven Barton	Murrieta, CA
3870 S. Camino del Golfista	Catherine Alstatt	Benson, AZ
3857 S. Camino del Golfista	Larry & Barbara Swanson	Tulalip, WA



QUAIL FAMILY Photo by Ernie Cox Jr. These feathered relatives stood on a corner of the wall belonging to the Coxes' neighbors, Norm and Marge Burt. The congregation was waiting for birdseed that Deby Cox) prepared to throw on the ground for them.