

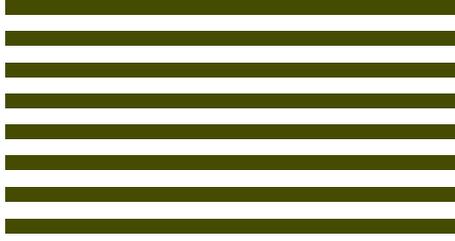
# THE SPRINGS CHAT ~APRIL 2019~

A newsletter by and for the residents

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## CALENDAR & EVENTS & INFO

- Recycling
- Meet Your Neighbor
- Snowbird Info
- Dog Owner News
- Board Info
- Bees

The Springs CHAT is your newsletter.

Communication and sharing information can contribute to the vitality and the culture of our community.

The CHAT invites your contributions - information you would like to share with the community.

The editor also wants your ideas and suggestions, so just email them to

[editor.thesprings@gmail.com](mailto:editor.thesprings@gmail.com)

It's that time of year – again! Our Compliance Agent has advised us that she is preparing to perform the semi-annual community walk around beginning Monday, March 25th. As directed by the Board of Directors, she will be looking at our house paint, our wood beams, our yards and the sidewalks bordering our yards.

Please take the time (or ask your property manager) to look over your property and be sure you are in compliance. That means...yards are free of weeds, debris, and dead plants; garbage cans, etc., are properly stored in garages; and, sidewalks are clear of rocks and overhanging plants.

The Springs HOA  
[www.thespringshoa.org](http://www.thespringshoa.org)



## **Becoming An Effective Recycler**

Members of The Springs recycling committee recently met with Republic officials at their Tucson recycling facility. We were able to get our questions and concerns answered, and now offer what we have learned to help our residents to be efficient recyclers.

Conscientious recycling can be done without becoming an excessive burden on the homeowner, and doing so is not only a blessing for Mother Earth, but advantageous for our pocketbooks.

Republic's facility is a busy place. They handle 300 TONS of materials a day to be recycled. There are 95 workers at the site, going at a literally dizzying pace. With other nations cutting back on materials they will accept, Republic is under increasing pressure to provide "high quality" materials to their buyers in order for them to receive a decent price. Or, to have the material accepted at all. Prices for recycled materials are falling at the same time that quality levels required are increasing. High quality means fewer "contaminants." An example of a contaminant we see in The Springs is a pizza box, with a grease stained bottom. The presence of that can render an entire "load" of otherwise recyclable materials useless --- and destined for a landfill.

An important thing to learn is that not all materials that are clearly recyclable should go into your recycle box, as they are not part of the program of recyclables Republic can deal with. The best example of this is shredded paper. While paper is absolutely recyclable, when cut small, it literally gets blown all over the place by the moving equipment, and never makes it into the bales of recyclables while creating a big cleanup job. So, it is important to learn what should go into your recycling box and what shouldn't. This is not a difficult task. We'll provide guidelines for you.

Taking the time to recycle effectively can help all of us to control the cost of disposing of our trash. Understand that landfill space is becoming increasingly scarce and expensive to operate and maintain. The "tipping fees" to dump trash at landfills is rising, and those costs will be passed on to us. Further, as recycling becomes less profitable, in order to help it to continue, we need to help our agent (Republic) to be able to provide a higher quality product with less contaminants. It is inevitable that our costs for trash disposal will be rising, but if we all are more diligent, we can possibly slow these cost increases down.

Over the next several CHATS, your recycling committee will issue more articles like this to help us all become precise and effective recyclers. We will work with Republic to try to ensure we help them succeed with the challenge facing them, for it is entirely in our interest to do so.

From The Springs' Board President, Rebecca Keenan

The winter rains got the wildflowers blooming and they are beautiful. I hope you enjoy the little tiny individual colors nestled in the desert scrub and also the large expanses of color along the roads and walking paths. It makes me smile and feel like Spring. Now for BUSINESS. There is an issue the Board and some HOA committees have been considering for the last few months and it boils down to this: Your working Board is doing just that, working with due diligence to handle the affairs and maintenance of The Springs. If we don't get more participation from volunteers, we may need to utilize the help of a management company, particularly with Streets, Utilities, and Buildings (SUB). Not our first choice, but it is a second choice that we are looking at. Next week, I plan to visit several companies recommended to us, to see what proposals they have and the cost. This is just necessary gathering of information for the future, if needed. By the way, Lee is doing a fine job as a director and chair of SUB but he cannot do it all. A recent retirement on the committee has created more work for him, and he would like help from knowledgeable folks.

We take good management very seriously and hope to continue our current practice with enough volunteers. There are many ways to volunteer and we hope all residents will consider giving time to The Springs to keep our dues reasonable, get to know more folks in the community, and feel really really good about helping. For more information, please contact me or Lee Blahnik.

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On Monday March 25 an African bee colony was removed from the bell tower by the entrance gate. The workers started early and safely removed the combs and bees by 7:30am. Work will proceed with gate canopy repairs later in March and the Board wanted safe working conditions for those folks. Also the swarm, attack in an HOA near us, heightened the desire for quick removal. The colony was in an unstable position at 48 feet and required a lift to complete the work. Thanks to Lee Blahnik for organizing the removal and to Linda Ruge for serving us breakfast after - a nice surprise!

**BE AWARE THE RATTLE SNAKES ARE OUT AND HAVE BEEN SEEN ON THE ROADS AND SIDEWALKS.**

## HOA Adopt-a-Highway

The winter HOA Adopt-a-Highway clean-up along the Frontage Road was done on Wednesday, Feb. 13th. A very small, but enthusiastic group showed up, donned bright yellow safety vests and stuffed big blue bags with trash. The temperature was 40 degrees when we began at 9 a.m., but was 60-something by the time we finished. Layering sweatshirts and jackets was a good idea!

In years past, along with paper, plastic bags, shredded tires and car parts, we always collected lots of beer cans and bottles. Last year, very few beer cans, but lots of wine bottles. This year, no wine bottles, but lots of vodka and tequila bottles. Not sure whether there's some social significance in that or not! We always ask the volunteers about the most interesting thing they found. This year, it was an almost complete set of (clean) bones, possibly javelina, scattered along the road.

Thanks to Mike Dant (self-proclaimed bag man, meaning he got stuck carrying the bag!), Neysa Dickey, Ron Stephens, and Norm Bert for all your help!

Foot long jaw bone! Mike Dant in background.





Thank you to all who signed up for garage sales. It helps when everyone signs up because the more homes participating the more traffic your street gets. Those who had sales but did not sign up, please consider signing up next time so it helps your entire street.

Thank you to Tish Mowrer and Bill Perry who handed out maps from 6:35 a.m. to 8:05 a.m.

Juanita

### **SNOWBIRDS....great information!**

All snowbirds who are leaving their homes for a few months may want to call or email the City of Tucson for a suspension on their sewer bill. They will put your sewer account on a special rate for the months you are gone. You will need your account number which is on your invoice each month.

They will want your leaving date and estimated return date. You should call them in the fall and let them know you are back in town.

The e-mail is <http://dot.pima.gov/wwm/apps/sewerbillingsuspension/>

Phone number 520-724-6609

**The Sheriff's Auxialry Volunteers** (SAV) will check the outside of your home while you are gone. Call 520-351-6744.

Bruce and Dana Arlt, Springs homeowners, in the rec. ctr. hot tub recently during a rain.



## I WENT FOR A WALK IN THE SPRINGS TODAY

And I wondered.....

The street light outside our home was working again. Who knew it was out and how to have it fixed?

The streets were in good condition, sealed, and sinking areas repaired nicely

The sidewalks and curbs had been repaired, or were marked for repair

There were new emergency exit signs posted

The stop signs were in the proper location so the residents could walk under them

The fountain was clean and flowing

And I wondered.....

I looked down into the wash

It had been cleaned and cleared out for the upcoming monsoon water deluge from the frontage road all the way to the golf course. Hadn't it been full of brush when we got here in December?

There was scaffolding by the entry tower as workers were preparing to work on the entrance canopy. I thought of how pretty this area was at night during the holidays with all the lighted decorations

The frontage road near our entrance was clear of trash and debris.

Common areas were neat and tidy, the trees were trimmed, songbirds were singing, and the quail were scurrying around; it sure made me smile!

I walked by beautiful, well-kept Perry Park and thought about how much we enjoy going there for the community picnics, not to mention the joy of meeting folks at the Meet and Greet and Potluck dinners where, with my terrible voice I got to sing Christmas carols one night in December and how much joy that gave me

And I wondered.....

I walked on our hiking trail which, I noticed, had some repairs done to several areas. It was nicely mowed, trimmed, and folks with dogs were in the dog run with woman/man's best friends chasing balls and sticks. How happy they all were! I walked by beautiful blooming Mexican gold poppies next to our recently resurfaced trail.

I sat on a bench that was beautifully decorated in a southwest theme. There were even painted rocks on the ground nearby. There were many such benches on the trail, so beautiful, so pretty. It sure made me happy!

People walked by me and were pleasant, friendly, happy and they said "hello" to me. Nice people, I thought.

I walked by an area that earlier in the year had a rattlesnake laying nearby. I thought about how it came to be that the fire department knew where it was when they came to safely and humanely remove it?

And I wondered.....

I thought about people I knew, kind thoughtful people. They had told me earlier they were making plans

-to help other people who might have a cardiac arrest in The Springs

-to keep our finances in ship shape order, even to do our tax returns, ugh!

-to educate new owners about our community; to write up a monthly newsletter

- to keep us in good communication with each other and handle important details
  - to keep our homes and properties all looking good and keeping up to community standards
  - to lead us forward and watch out for our best interests, always with the utmost respect for all of us, even if they have to come here in the summertime at their own expense to do these things
  - to be our friends on every block, to watch out over us, to be our “captains”, to help us with garage sales
  - to figure out what needed to be repaired/replaced in the future and wisely budget our fees to pay for these
  - to wisely and respectfully represent us with other communities in Green Valley
- And I wondered.....

**WHO DID ALL THESE THINGS AND MORE? WHO CARED ENOUGH TO MAKE ALL THIS HAPPEN?**

**THEN I THOUGHT: FOR MOST OF THIS, AND MORE, IT WAS.....OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!**

**AND I WONDERED.....WHO WOULD CARE ENOUGH TO VOLUNTEER IN THE FUTURE TO KEEP THE SPRINGS AT SANTA RITA SO BEAUTIFUL, SO FRIENDLY, SO SECURE AND SAFE, SO IN DEMAND AS A PLACE TO LIVE, AT SUCH A REASONABLE COST? WHO WOULD CARE SO MUCH?**

**SO, I STOPPED WONDERING, I KNEW. IT WAS YOU.....WILL YOU PLEASE BE A VOLUNTEER?**

### **Meet Your Neighbors - for April 2019 by Sally Bryan**

Pat & Rebecca Keenan have a tradition of helping others, both in their chosen professions and through community volunteerism.

Pat’s career spanned 38 years as a Family Practice Physician in Minnesota. He spent the last 12 years supervising & teaching Family Practice residents in the University of Minnesota’s program at North Memorial Hospital.

Early in his career, following his medical internship, Pat spent 3 years working at a rural hospital in Zululand in South Africa. He was single at the time, but later returned for 6 months with Rebecca and their 3 pre-school age boys, to work in the same small government-sponsored



hospital among the Zulu, who lived in extreme poverty. In this medical setting, Pat says he treated “whatever came in the door”. He performed C-sections, treated burns, broken bones, tuberculosis, and cared for children with nutrition-related diseases.

Later in his career, during a sabbatical from his University of MN “gig”, Pat and Rebecca spent 6 months working in rural New Zealand medical practices to give some local doctors a month-long break.

After retiring in 2009, Pat began researching destinations in Arizona, Florida & Texas, to escape the Minnesota winters. The plan was to spend a month in each of the states and decide which they liked best. After two winters, their first choice was Arizona and they’ve not looked back. They first rented and then purchased their home here in The Springs in 2013. They know that Arizona is the place for them.

In addition to being the heartbeat of their home & family, Rebecca enjoyed two careers. She first worked as a Medical Technologist in the U of MN microbiology lab. After their children were born, Rebecca stayed home to nurture and rear their 3 sons. When the boys entered Middle School, Rebecca began her second career as a Registered Nurse, working in orthopedics and then a trauma/neuro ICU.

As a family, they loved camping, fishing, hunting and spending time at their cabin in Northern MN. Pat learned to play classical violin and joined a community orchestra, which included gigs in nursing homes, shopping centers and churches. He also assisted the coaches of their sons’ hockey and soccer teams. Now he bakes excellent scones for his neighbors and spends time keeping bees and puttering around the cabin in the summer.

Rebecca relished weaving, playing piano, & gardening. During retirement, she enjoys reading, both fiction and non-fiction. One of her favorite authors is Alexander McCall Smith, author of several series that take place in Scotland (her maternal heritage). She also recently read Michelle Obama’s *Becoming* and just finished *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

For the last three years, she has been taking Spanish classes and is getting comfortable working in the Clay Studio. She is impressed with the quality of the instructors in her GVR classes.

Bird-watching is her life-long hobby. Travel with groups in Central & South America has been a highlight for Rebecca, with trips to Chile, Ecuador, Peru & Venezuela. While in AZ, the couple often seeks out new birds in Tucson, Patagonia & Madera Canyon.

Pat & Rebecca love spending time outdoors in AZ. In addition to hiking and birding, they are also fascinated by the geology in our area and are trying to educate themselves about mining and water use in the desert.

Both of them golf the local courses and work on improving their games.

Nellie, their 90 lb yellow lab, revels in retrieving golf balls from the scrub and water hazards on Torres Blancas Golf Course, near their home. She rescues 50 to 75 balls a week, which Pat then cleans and recycles by placing a box at the 12th tee for other golfers to reuse.

Pat & Rebecca are the proud grandparents of 5 little ones, all under the age of 4. They all love to visit Mimi and Pop Pop in AZ in the winter.

As AZ retirees, they continue their passion of giving back to their community. Pat has been a 'cub reporter' for The Springs CHAT. He now is a patient volunteer with Family Care Hospice of Green Valley.

Rebecca is currently serving her second year as The Springs HOA President, after previously serving as Vice President and CHAT editor. She says "there is no better way to get to know something than to be a part of it. I gain so much more than I contribute, when serving in this way."

If you haven't already, be sure to say hello and meet these great neighbors.

### **Shredding Goes a LONG Way**

Saturday May 11, 2019 9:00am-Noon (first come, first serve)

#### **LONG REALTY GREEN VALLEY**

275 W Continental Rd #101

In an effort to serve the community we live and work in, we are happy to offer document shredding and hard drive recycling. Hard drives can be in the computers. No other electronic recycling! More Info call Long Realty 520-625-5000

**2006 Procrastination Cake**  
**Original Recipe by Neysa Dickey**  
**Updated by Rebecca Keenan**

1. Forget about the potluck.
2. At about 3 hours (or less) prior to potluck, remember it.
3. Run to store to buy a cake mix, any brand, any flavor. Betty Crocker has a pretty good track record and she and I are very close.
4. Prepare according to directions on box and put in oven to bake.
5. Scrounge around for frosting stuff, or else run to the store again and buy any brand, any flavor of canned frosting. Try to not buy a can that has already hardened (like cement that stuff). Do not buy pink frosting. Nobody does.
6. Frost the cake shortly after it's out of the oven and has slumped in the middle.
7. Put extra frosting in the slump.
8. Cover with foil and go to potluck. Betty Crocker will not be there.

Note: Try to do this on a day when lightning threatens power outage because if they cancel the potluck, you can have the warm gooey cake all to yourself (or better yet, procrastinate and don't bake it until tomorrow).

**A word to the wise....**



**by Rebecca Keenan**

Recently, I was made aware of several behaviors which need your attention.

1. Placing your dog feces in GVR trash cans is not acceptable.
2. Walking your dog or yourselves on the golf course while people are playing is not acceptable.
3. The De Anza Trail adjacent to the golf course is used by many. Please be aware of the people and activities around you when exercising your dog(s).
4. Yes, dog poop does smell, but it is your dog poop, not anyone else' and please handle it safely all the way into your garbage can.
5. Enjoy the benefits of pet ownership but don't ignore the responsibilities of leashing and cleaning up.
6. Our household used to be an occasional offender. We are now reformed thanks to polite reminders. This is a polite reminder..