

The Springs Chat February 2017

A newsletter by and for 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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Thoughts from the editor: As I look out over the mountains, I have to provide some disclosure information. First of all, I am not looking out at the mountains as I write this, I am looking at the computer screen. I look at the mountains beforehand, while I am thinking. Second, your Chat editor is now on The Springs HOA board, as vice president. No, I don't need my head examined, but it is dual duty. I would like to continue to do the Chat for another year, and in

the meantime, find a replacement for the editor position so that the transition will be a smooth one next January. I know that the board will take more and more time as I get my feet wet, so turning it over next year is a good decision.

Being editor is fun, if a bit trying at times with my computer skills. But, like most of you, I never learn anything new on my computer unless pushed by an intense need to do so. You might remember that the previous Chat editor had columns and a format more like a newspaper. I couldn't do that without driving myself nuts (and still can't). This is a job where you get to do what works for you format-wise, while keeping an open mind regarding content. Think about it, you budding editors. I have great help.

And as I write this (staring at computer screen), I am wearing a several layers of clothing because in true AZ fashion, the indoor temp is cooler than the outdoor temp. Get outside and warm up! Hope you can enjoy these cool days with bright sunshine. Rebecca Keenan

Events Calendar (all the details on pages 9 & 10):

HOA Potluck: February 9th @ 5pm in the Anza Room
A-F Salad, G-O Main Dish, P-Z Dessert.

Perry Park Picnic: February 19 @ 12:30 pm, Perry Park

Meet and Greet: February 4th from 3-5pm on the Fiesta Deck

Board Meeting: February 21st @ 9:30 in the Fiesta Room





The Springs Chat is your newsletter, and it contributes to the vitality and culture of our community. The Newsletter Committee invites your contributions, your ideas, and your suggestions. It is best to contact a committee member in person: Juanita Kauffman (community and board news), Sally Bryan (brain child), Jeannie McGaughey (home sales and Chat delivery), Pat Strnad (pets and recipes), Pat Keenan (neighbor interviews and news of the weird), Cindy Deckinger (ads), Laurie Boyett (intermittent restaurant reviews), Neysa Dickey (proofreader), and Rebecca Keenan (editor). An email for the Chat has been set up: Thespringschat@gmail.com. You may contact us this way if it is more convenient.



Tips for Homeowners



On these windy days, garbage cans can blow around, quite a long way at times especially when empty. It has been suggested that you place your address on the can (and lid) with a marker, so if it moves away from your home, your neighbors know where it belongs. Also be mindful on windy days, that your garbage and or recycling are securely in the can, so they can't blow around. Thank you!



People are doing better at NOT placing garbage and recycling containers on the sidewalk (needs to be on driveway). Thanks for that too!!

Annual Meeting

Board highlights (full text of meeting minutes can be found at www.thespringshoa.org).

The annual meeting was attended by a quorum including 82 homeowners. Howard Bryan presided over his last meeting with a big smile on his face. Thanks Howard for your fine leadership and good humored outlook on issues. It was a productive year with a financially positive budget. There is more work to be done and there are problems to solve, but the entire board deserves credit for a well-run organization. Their annual reports were interesting and are found on the website as well. Key in each board member's report was a positive outlook and profound appreciation for the volunteers at work in the community. The work plan for the year 2017 was presented.

The new board met briefly after the annual meeting. The jobs for board members were established as follows: David Dethmers - president, Rebecca Keenan - vice-president, John Green- secretary, Roger Olson – treasurer, Michael Ford – streets and buildings, Jim Owen – grounds, and Ted Boyett – architectural review. Please note, that at the January meeting, the job descriptions for the ARC committee chair and the compliance agent were amended to include handling additional CC&R issues that arise in our community. Let's have a great year in 2017 and please remember: we are not perfect; we are retired; we are volunteers doing the very best we can.

Pecans 102 Part two of an article by Pat Keenan



In the last issue of the chat we discussed the pecan harvest. With this issue we cover other points about our pecan orchard neighbors. You may remember the orchards in our area are owned by the family-run company Green Valley Pecan Company (GVPC). The pecan orchard of GVPC is made up of the Wichita and Western varieties. The two varieties are needed for pollination. They tend to produce a bit smaller nut, but they have qualities that make them ideal for our desert setting. The crop is early to mature, and thrives on lots of sunlight and a dry climate. (Other pecan producing countries include Israel, Australia and Mexico.)



The trees themselves can be long lived and bear nuts for more than 300 hundred years. Most of the local trees were planted back in the 60's. New trees are being planted regularly. The pecan is a member of the hickory family which is native to Mexico and southern US regions. If left on their own, the trees can grow up to 100 feet tall. At this size they would “shade out” smaller trees and nut production would go down. So GVPC mechanically prunes the trees with tall machines that look like a 30 foot hybrid of Tyrannosaurus Rex and a chainsaw.

The GVPC is increasing its use of organic farming methods. They compost manure, pecan shells, and tree cuttings. When this compost is applied to the orchard, it promotes habitat for beneficial insects like lacewings and ladybugs. The “good bugs” eat up the “bad bugs” (aphids).



Processing



The orchard has dense plantings of about 48 well-spaced trees per acres which then yield about 1,000 pounds of unshelled nuts per acre. After harvest, all the nuts are taken to the Green Valley facility for processing. There the nuts are frozen in the shell and stored until needed.

To ready the nuts for market they are first heat pasteurized for health safety. When cool, the nuts are put on a conveyor belt and run through a cracking machine. Most orchards use air pressure to crack the shells, and then drum shellers to remove the nuts from shells. The mix of nuts and shells is then separated using a vacuum. The shell pieces are lighter than the nuts, so they are easily sucked up and removed to the composting area. After passing both visual and infrared quality controls, the pecans are packaged and sent to your store. Marketed forms are in shell, shelled, whole or pieces, and can be eaten raw or roasted or candied. Some of the unique ways to used pecans other than in sweets are in cereal and mixed with salads and vegetables.

Health Benefits of Pecans

Wild animals such as turkeys, squirrels, raccoons, crows love pecans in their diet. Local critters that forage across our wash include deer and javelina. Native Americans in central and southern US have long used pecans in their diets.



Pecans are a good source of energy because they contain lots of fat. One cup of pecan nuts has 684 calories. But, not to worry, it's the heart healthy kind of fat (and a cup is a lot of pecans!)

Some health benefits have been well documented for pecans and other tree nuts. Pecans are loaded with Vitamin E and the B vitamins. They are high in potassium, magnesium, zinc and dietary fiber. Tree nut intake lowers total cholesterol, LDL and triglycerides. Pecans are high in oleic acid which is good for the heart. Heart health benefits seem to be related more to amount consumed rather than the type of nut.

Pecans are rich in ellagic acid which may reduce cancer risk, and in magnesium which can reduce inflammation. Unfortunately, other claimed health benefits, like reversing skin wrinkles in seniors and growing hair on bald gents, are not fully documented.

But the best quality about pecans is that they are just plain delicious. President George Washington knew it. He frequently carried pecans in his pockets to snack on. And I'm sure he would like these cookies.

Pecan Sandies



½ Cup margarine and ½ Cup vegetable oil

½ Cup white sugar and ½ Cup confectioners' sugar

1 egg and ½ tsp vanilla extract

2 Cups flour and ½ tsp baking soda

½ tsp cream of tartar and ½ tsp salt

1 Cup chopped pecans and ¼ Cup white sugar to roll dough in

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cream together the margarine, oil and sugars until smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Combine the next four dry ingredients before adding to creamed mixture. Stir until well mixed. Add pecans and mix. Form 1-inch balls and roll in remaining ½ Cup sugar. Bake for 10-12 minutes in a preheated oven (or until the edges are golden). Remove from cookie sheet to cool on wire rack. Recipe is easily doubled.



Are you a senior citizen? Probably you are. Then you need to know that seniors get a 10% discount on all purchases at Fry's and Safeway on the first Wednesday of every month. Be aware, it can be extremely crowded on this day, especially from 10am - 2pm. Both stores also have gas discount reward programs worth looking into.



China View Restaurant Review

by Laurie Boyett

Some nights I just have no energy for cooking dinner! Such was a Saturday evening in late January. The perpetual dilemma of ‘where to go’ had to meet the following criteria: nothing fancy, reasonable prices, close by, and decent Chinese food. After checking Trip Advisor and Siri’s advice, we decided on China View, less than 5 minutes from The Springs. By then it was 6:15 and dark. Because the restaurant is small and almost hidden in the furthest most corner of the Green Valley Mall, we had trouble finding it even with the trusty I-phone. It turns out that management forgot to turn on their sign that particular night.

Located at 101 S La Canada Drive, Suite 19, the restaurant was small, clean, and not overly crowded. No wait time! It was also QUIET – no background music blaring over speakers. My husband and I could actually hear each other speak. Service was very good. As we perused the extensive menu the waitress promptly brought fried won tons with dipping sauce and water to drink.

The menu advertises, “No added MSG”. Reviews on Trip Advisor recommended the ‘Spicy Chicken Wings’ as an appetizer. We found the fried wings themselves to be rather bland, but the salsa drizzled over them was delicious. We would have raved about the wings if they had been drenched in that sauce.



My husband ordered, Spicy Firecracker Shrimp (\$14.45). The dish was delicious, but not very spicy. We eat extremely spicy food and needed to request a bowl of spicy sauce to add to the dish. I ordered the Kung Pao Vegetable Delight (\$8.95). The menu listed it as spicy, but it was not very hot. The vegetables were cooked perfectly, but there were too many peanuts.

Portions were generous and we had a choice of steamed or refried rice. All vegetables were fresh and maintained their bright colors. We both agreed that China View would be worth visiting again. Most likely we will try different dishes as we both enjoy Chinese food. If you are in a hurry, tired or just plain hungry for Chinese food, try China View. They are open Monday-Saturday 11 am to 8 pm, closed on Sundays. At lunchtime there is a buffet from 11am to 2 pm weekdays (M-F). Be aware that the buffet lunch is a much more limited menu.



2017 Home Sales

Buyer

From

3808 S. Camino Comica

Vivian Lea Lynch

Monroe, NC

3695 S. Camino Del Cefiro

Sanford & Virginia Downs

Lincoln, NE

Welcome to The Springs!!



Pet Profile by Pat Strnad

What are those quail I see running through the yard in the distance? Oh yes, Gambel's quail. No, those aren't for me, as I am only interested in Mearns's quail. That is because I'm a German Short-haired Pointer, and that is what I do – hunt for Mearns's quail. They are also known as Montezuma quail, harlequin quail and fool's quail.



My name is Heidi x Honker, but just call me Heidi. I am five years old and weigh about forty-five pounds. I am from Chisago City, MN where my owners, Gary & Pat Moe own a home on Green Lake. This is my first visit to Green Valley because I wasn't allowed in their rental homes before, so they changed to a different one this year. Before, I had to stay with friends for three months. But this year I traveled well, and have adapted to the smaller living space as well. That's probably because I'm very quiet, and used to sleeping and relaxing in my travel cage but only on NONHUNTING days.

Hunting days? Here in Green Valley? Well, no, but Gary takes me out to some rough AZ terrain two days each week and we hunt the whole day. You see, that's what I was bred to do and it is my first love. I am listed by the American Kennel Club (AKC) as a Master Hunter which means I have passed a grueling hunt test on six different occasions to earn that title.

Gary has owned me since I was four months old and began my training immediately. We work as a team as that is the goal of a good hunting dog and her master. I am so well trained that when Gary says "whoa" I stop immediately and won't move until he says "Heidi, OK", even if he lays down my favorite morning biscuit treat (just to test me I think). Boy, that is a tough one but as I said, "I'm well trained and we are a team!"



I come from a long line of Champions (including my mother, whom Gary formerly owned, in addition to my sister). He says I am one of the top three dogs that he has ever owned. Since I've already had two litters of pups (8 + 3), maybe someday I will be the mother of some Champions. Or maybe I already am? Hmmmmm. Better check into that.....

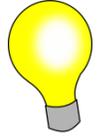


In MN I get some exercise by running, unleashed, alongside Gary as he bikes the gravel roads there. Sometimes, I even jump into the lake for a cooling swim on very hot days. Here, we walk twice a day in the neighborhood or on the Anza Trail where I am very friendly to the other dogs and people along the way. I really get excited when I see him fetch my red walking collar. Wait a minute!! What is Gary doing right now? Oops, don't mean to be rude, but - red collar!! Gotta go, hope I see you out walking somedayyyyyyyyyyyyyyy.....



Reminders from the Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

While most of us are or try to be good neighbors, there are times when we fall short and create obstacles for our friends, neighbors and visitors. Some hints to help you avoid distressing people in your neighborhood include:

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- 1) Keeping sidewalks clear of vehicles, bags or cans of garbage and recycling, or debris that might cause folks to stumble.
 - 2) Making sure YOUR address light and sensor are in good working condition.
 - 3) Checking to see that your outside lights do not glare into your neighbors' home or property.
 - 4) Maintaining the community standards found in our community documents pertaining to yard and building care.
 - 5) If you have questions or are planning any outside renovations, it is a good idea to run the idea past our compliance agent and ARC first. That way, issues can be corrected BEFORE \$\$ is spent and hopefully avoid redoing a project.
 - 6) The new HOA Handbook is completed and will be sent out shortly. It is recommended that you carefully review it to ensure you are in compliance.
 - 7) If you have a concern about a neighbor's property, the ARC recommends you take the high road and first discuss the situation with your neighbor in a friendly and respectful manner. If unable to resolve a difference, THEN bring it to our attention.
 - 8) It has been my experience that people here want to get along and will make efforts to correct a problem if approached kindly.



The Springs is a great place to live and neighboring communities look on us with a trace of envy. It is a joy to live here and my wish is to keep it so.

A big thank you for your consideration,

Ted Boyett, ARC chairman

Community Garage Sale March 18, 2017 7 - 11 a.m.



You set up your sale in your garage and on your driveway (or go together with a neighbor). The posted start time is 7am, but many times vehicles are checking out the neighborhood before that time. You may close up any time you want.

The HOA will pay for the ad in the paper and supply maps to those who enter. As usual, the more homes that participate the better the turn out.

On the maps we show the location of participating homes. Also if you want to list a few items as a draw to your house, you can let me know and they will be listed on the back of the map.

To be included on the map email your name, address and phone number to samtootsie@aol.com or call Juanita Kauffman at 520-625-1509 and include that information. The deadline to be included on the map is **March 14**.

The Springs Salute by Sally Bryan

This is a new feature of The Springs CHAT. It is intended to provide an opportunity for you to briefly comment on any positive, fun, or unusual aspect of life here in The Springs. Perhaps you might mention helpful neighbors, things you've enjoyed while living here or something that made you smile. Actually, anything positive about our community is welcome. Please send your contributions to Thespringschat@gmail.com.



“We feel blessed to be living in The Springs where people have been so kind and generous. We are surrounded by people who have come forward in different ways. We feel secure and happy here.
Grace and Marc Dallanegra

We find Springs residents to be friendly and enjoy the monthly social activities. The walking trail is great and we like the proximity of the Anza Trail. Our HOA is well run and volunteerism is alive and well. It is a bonus to have Valley Assistance Services within walking distance for those who wish to volunteer.
Bill and Sylvia Collins

A letter to The Springs community

My name is Lyle Weber, and I currently live on Camino del Golfista. Four years ago my wife and I left Wisconsin in search of a winter warm weather destination. After looking at several different locations, we landed here in Green Valley, and probably more fortunately, here in The Springs. After renting the first year, and part of the second, we made the decision to purchase a winter home. Now in our fourth winter, we feel more blessed than ever that we are where we are. We have made many friends and continue to enjoy the Arizona winters.



One thing that seems to have been a constant in our brief time here, from a variety of people, is the talk of the lack of paint choices for the exterior of our homes. Knowing that we all purchased our homes with the paint restrictions in place, I made the decision to look into this. After attending multiple board meetings and bringing this subject up, I have found that this has been addressed more than once in the past, but apparently, no one has pursued it. A small committee headed by me is now in the process of looking at this. We have looked at various paint palettes that other areas of Green Valley are currently using, and are now moving forward with the intent of presenting a formal proposal to the ARC Committee. We have no interest in making this a 'Tubac Circus Wagon' community, but would like to give home owners the 'opportunity to have a choice'. I realize that some people have strong feelings, both pro and con, regarding this. Please feel free to e-mail me with any constructive comments at lweber605@gmail.com.



"Getting to Know You"



by Sally Bryan



I hope you've found The Springs to be the neighborly, friendly place, that we, and so many others, find it to be. If you'd like the opportunity to meet your neighbors, or to get to know them better, here is a suggestion that has worked for many of us who want to connect.

All the neighbors on our street (Golden Lynx) are invited to a monthly gathering. A different homeowner hosts each month. We usually meet from 4 pm to 6 pm, but the date & time is up to the host. During colder months with shorter days, we often meet from 3 to 5 pm. Believe me, our adult children get a real chuckle when they find out that our parties end before they have supper!!! The host home provides paper plates, plastic cups, plastic tableware & ice. Each person brings their choice of beverage and a dish to share. There is no rhyme or reason to what you can bring. Attendees bring everything from a fresh veggie tray, homemade Mac & Cheese, chicken wings, Cheese & crackers, Papa Murphy pizza, cut up fruit chunks, salsa & chips, a variety of desserts - you get the idea. For beverages some folks bring everything from Gatorade to wine, and some folks love their craft beer.

I chatted with neighbors who live on Golfista and their neighborhood has an even easier model for their monthly get-togethers. They call it the "flamingo party" as the person hosting has a colorful, metallic flamingo in their yard to mark the site. Their event is more of a happy hour with the host providing light snacks, such as chip & dip or salsa and perhaps a few dishes of nuts. They ask those attending to bring a beverage and perhaps an extra chair along!!

The food really doesn't matter (no one seems malnourished around here). It is the chance to get together regularly that counts. It can be helpful if someone in your neighborhood keeps an email list and sends an email announcement out monthly. In addition to getting to know your neighbors, perhaps sing Happy Birthday, or become aware of needs in your neighborhood and how you could assist folks. I've been both a joyful giver and a thankful recipient of help, as have many others. So let's see how many other Neighborhood gatherings pop up around The Springs. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose! Cheers!

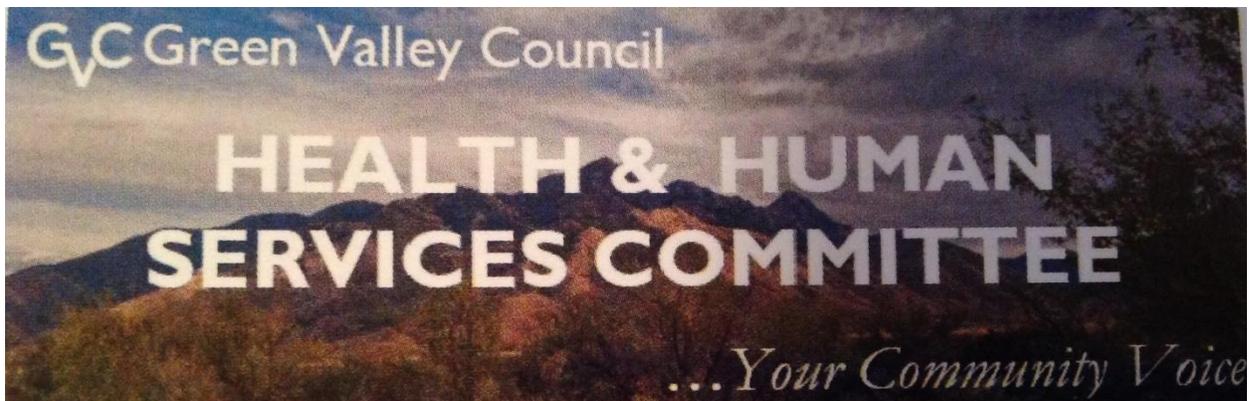


What you need to know for potlucks: Potlucks are held at 5 pm in the ANZA room on the second Thursday of the month; guests and renters are welcome. If you bring food to share, it should be enough to feed 8 people and if it has nuts or shellfish, people appreciate a sign saying so. Wear name tags – it is such a help! Bring a table setting, beverage, a dish to share, and a food shelf donation if you like. 'What to bring' is on a rotating schedule found on the website social calendar. Bill Perry is our leader/organizer/food bank/birthday guy. In January, we had 90 people, lots of fun, and collected \$245 & #5 of food for the foodbank.

If you are interested in giving food items or money to the Amado Food Bank, please call Bill Perry at **520-393-7402** and he will pick up your items and deliver them to the food bank. Thank you!

What you need to know for meet & greets: Meet& Greets are held from 3-5pm on the first Saturday of the month on the Fiesta Deck of the recreation center; guests and renters are welcome. Wear your name tag and a smile; bring your beverage and a snack. If it rains or is chilly, the party moves indoors to the Fiesta Room. Cindy and Jim Uminski are your hosts. There are no summertime Meet & Greets.

What you need to know for Perry Park picnics: the PP picnics are held December through April on one Sunday each month starting at 12:30 pm for social time followed by organized eating at 1 pm. There are usually enough tables, but a chair is often welcome. Bring your lunch, beverage, something to grill, something to share. Grill and coals provided. Doug and Nancy Crosby help coordinate the picnics. It is usually a nice size group around 25 people, and a great way to meet your neighbors. And you get to be on real green grass!



Green Valley Council (GVC)

Green Valley does not have a local government (mayor and city council) because it is unincorporated. To represent the citizens of Green Valley and the businesses here, the Green Valley Council was formed to promote the best interests of the community and mobilize its resources. Most important, it helps plan for the future. The website www.gvcouncil.org has a great introduction to GVC and its missions.

One new resource for our Green Valley community is the GVC Medical Directory. This was put together by the Health & Human Service Committee of the GVC and can be found on the website listed above.

The Chat plans to help promote GVC by publishing factoids each month. HOA members are encouraged to contact their GVC representative with community questions and concerns. For The Springs, Tom Kramer is our representative (and Juanita Kauffman is the alternate representative).

Classified Ads

House-sitting Service

Cindy and Gary Deckinger

3624 Paseo de Los Nardos

520-262-8622

mgghorse@yahoo.com

WE DO IT WELL!

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Complimentary Makeovers*

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716-397-8099

HOME WATCH SERVICE

STEPHANIE WALTERS

Stephwal65@gmail.com

480.330.8916

Well, that's all folks. Remember to smile, pick up your dog's excrement, stay positive, and try to think of a fun Salute to put in next month's Chat. Cookie recipe is calling you! RK