

# THE SPRINGS CHAT ~APRIL 2020~

A newsletter by and for the residents

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BY MADISYN TAYLOR

*A plant is a weed only within a certain context; one person's weed is another person's wildflower.*

Simply expressed, a weed is any plant that grows where it isn't wanted. Weeds are defined by their tendency to flourish at the expense of a gardener's overall vision, and we tend to battle their presence in our yards. It is interesting to consider, though, that a plant is a weed only within a certain context, which is to say that one person's weed is another person's wildflower. Most of us have pulled at least one dandelion up by its roots and disposed of it in the interest of preserving the look of a perfect green lawn, yet the dandelion is good medicine, packed with healing properties and vitamin-rich leaves that are a delicious, spicy surprise in a summer salad.

In the wild, there is no such thing as a weed because the overall vision is in the hands of Mother Nature, who accommodates and incorporates all forms of life. In nature, balance is achieved over the long term, without the aid, or interference, of a human supervisor. While one plant may prevail over others for a certain period of time, eventually it will reach an apex and then it will naturally decline, allowing for other forms to be born and survive. This self-regulating realm was the first garden of our ancestors, who learned the art of agriculture from studying the forests and fields of the as yet uncultivated earth. In a sense, weeds are harbingers of this wildness, pushing their way into our well-ordered plots, undermining more delicate flora, and flourishing in spite of us.

The next time you see a weed, you might want to look deeply into its roots, discover its name, its habits, and its possible uses. Instead of seeing an unwanted intruder, you might see a healer offering its leaves for a medicinal tea or its flowers for a colorful salad. At the very least, if you look long enough, you will see a messenger from the wilderness of Mother Earth, reminding you that, even in the most carefully controlled garden, she cannot be completely ruled out.

**From the editor:** Cacti are blooming, birds are hatching, and animals are enjoying the spring...Go out and discover!

## CALENDAR & EVENTS & INFO

- Where to Put Your Bins
- Scams
- Food Bank Info
- HOA Meetings
- Where's the Beef?

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)

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
ALL MEETINGS AND  
SOCIAL GATHERINGS IN  
"THE SPRINGS" ARE  
CANCELLED.**

**ANY IMPORTANT  
UPDATES WILL BE SENT  
TO YOUR EMAILS.**

## Letter from Our HOA President,

By now, most of your closets have been cleaned, your plans have all been cancelled, and the quiet is settling in. If you have some hair, it's probably longer and daily walks have new meaning. Life is a little more worrisome, like waiting for the storm to hit. Everyone is hunkering and watching old movies.

So what is the message? How does one cope in slow motion? Life is not in the fast lane anymore unless you work in healthcare or manage a supply chain. As oldsters we need to be smarter about and more aware of what "works" for us and for the greater community.

For example, **thankfulness** has new meaning - a bigger meaning now that we are doing without some of our usual blessings. We always, even in the worst of times, need to remember that it's always more desperate someplace else. Clean water, fresh air, and food sources are blessings that many do not have. But an even better example is we still have the blessing of hope.

**Hope** is in short supply, so let's make some. Not false hope, but a resilient hope. A generous hope that is bigger than just you. Energetic hope that lives in your brain and radiates out. Read with new meaning, not out of boredom. Paint your hope, or sing your hope, or exercise your hope. Write a letter of hope.

Hand wash with hope while acknowledging concern. Figuring out how to laugh and still hope is a good skill. Acceptance of grief while still hoping, even better. We are not lost, because we can hope for peace, and help, and sanity. The tiniest being can send out hope to others. My dog is always hopeful of a walk (that I probably need) and a belly scratch. Hope for others is a generosity we can each give. Please, be hopeful, send out hope, embrace hope.

From six feet away,  
Rebecca Keenan  
President of The Springs



Photo By Brent Gordy

LIFE ISN'T ABOUT  
WAITING FOR  
THE STORM TO  
PASS IT'S ABOUT  
LEARNING TO  
*dance*  
IN THE RAIN

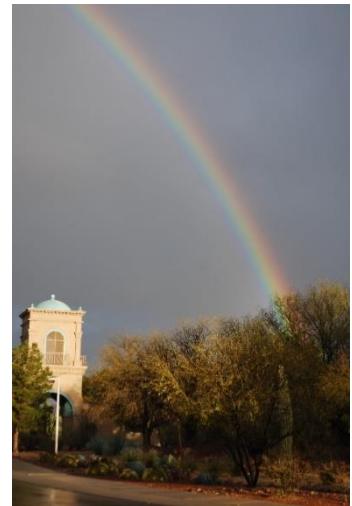
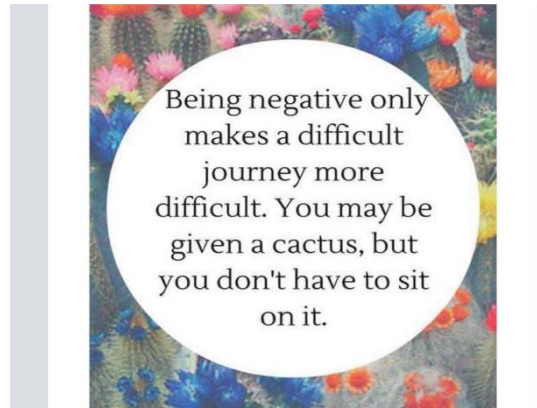


Photo by Jim Rusk



## Update on annoying situations -

1. **Nuisance phone calls:** the calls are occurring but only occasionally; HANG UP; and keep our HOA updated by email if you receive such a call, so we can track them.
2. **Robberies:** a recent isolated robbery involved theft from a parked car; sDO NOT leave valuables in your car and keep it locked - this isn't rural Iowa; REPORT all robberies to Pima County; and email the HOA so we can track them.
3. **Solicitations:** to our knowledge they are infrequent; they are not allowed in The Springs in any form - religious, political or sales; tell solicitor it is posted, ask solicitor to leave, watch solicitor leave; NOTIFY Pima County if you feel threatened in any way; email the HOA so we can track them.
4. **Scams:** the potential is always there but we are unaware of any recent hoaxes; call the Sheriff's Auxiliary Department to report; email the HOA so we can track.

Thank you all for your vigilance!





## WHERE'S the BEEF?

Feeding wild animals in The Springs is unfair and unwise.

It is unfair to the animals. They should eat Mother Nature's food which is safer and better for them.

It is unfair to your neighbors. The animals are wild. So welcoming them to your yard area can cause problems with cars (packrats), snakes and other predators attracted to packrats, pet safety, the mess, and so on. Not a good idea and not allowed in The Springs.

Go enjoy animals out in nature or watch them on TV.

If they happen into your area, enjoy them and wave good-bye. What a gift you were given!

## Food Shelf Donations

Due to health concerns, Bill Perry won't be collecting donations from snow birds this year. Please remember the local food shelves still need your help. Money donations are always gratefully received. **The Amado Food Shelf** is where The Springs' donations from the potluck crowd usually go, so please consider helping them. Thank you!

<https://www.communityfoodbank.org/Locations/Amado>

## Behind every Man

Lesley Stahl did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan several years before our involvement in the Afghan conflict.

She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands.

Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem to, and are happy to, maintain the old customs.

Ms. Stahl approached one of the Afghani women and asked, "why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?"

the woman looked Ms. Stahl straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "land mines."

No matter what language you speak or where you go the moral of the story is:

Behind every man, **there's a really smart woman.**

## HOA Meetings

Well, there are some changes around here in The Springs.

1. The April 14th meeting is cancelled. No pressing business. Other issues can wait. Tentative plan is to do a **closed meeting on April 28** that would be an April/May combo to take care of business. Any major vote would be announced ahead, but right now it looks like Reports and business as usual. Residents with questions or concerns can send them to the HOA email, the Board will discuss, I will report back any comments to the sender, and if appropriate publish in the May Chat.
2. The Fiesta Room is being remodeled into Clay Studio rooms. Our future meetings, once public, will be held in the Anza Room. .
3. Of course, call or email the HOA with questions. ( HOA social functions are cancelled until further notice.)

