



The Springs at Santa Rita, 951 West Via Rio Fuerte, Green Valley, AZ 85614

May 2024

Website: www.thespringshoa.org

Chat email: thespringschat@gmail.com

Editor: Eileen Owen

The Chat is a venue for the Springs HOA Board of Directors to communicate with the residents of the Springs, but more than that, the newsletter hopes to contribute to a sense of community camaraderie.

Board of Directors : Bruce Grieshaber, President; Becky Schroer, VP; Cathy Roberts, Secretary; Sharon Toborg, Treasurer; Jim Owen, Grounds; Victor Frankfather, Streets & Infrastructure; Rick Fillion, ARC.

MAY CALENDAR

May 1– Wednesday – Happy Hour – Fiesta Deck 3-5

Please bring your dinnerware, napkins, beverage, and a munchie to share. In the event of inclement weather we will meet in the Anza room.

May 14 – Tuesday – HOA Board Meeting – Anza Room - 2:00 pm

Hybrid meeting. Zoom information will be included in the agenda.

May 23 – Thursday – Potluck -- A "Mexican Fiesta"– Anza Room – 5:00

Please note the date change. This potluck will be a "Mexican Fiesta". Kathy will be providing chicken and beef tacos with all the fixings and margaritas will also be provided. Food assignments are:

Last name starting with A-O (Main Dish)

Last name starting with P-Z (dessert)



The Voice of the Board

The Voice of the Board is one way the HOA Board communicates with The Springs HOA residents regarding current activities or issues.

From The President

Late spring is a time of transition for The Springs and, indeed, southern Arizona. Some of our wonderful neighbors return to their homes in more temperate climates. Our outdoor summer activity is somewhat restricted to early mornings, later evenings, higher elevations, pools, and indoor gyms. And, here in The Springs, our Infrastructure team looks to complete roads and buildings projects that will have the least impact on our neighbors because we have a bit smaller population in spring and summer months.

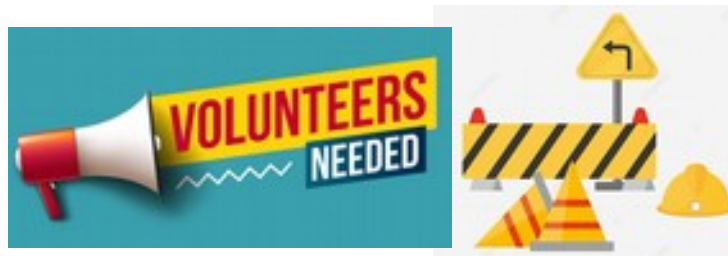
This spring and summer are no different. You have already received a notice from our Infrastructure Chair, Victor Frankfather, regarding the contractor's painting of the entrance to The Springs including the Frontage Rd. walls, gatehouse area, and bell tower. We will also be re-sealing the streets that were not paved last year. The gate area painting will begin on or about April 22. The road re-sealing is scheduled for on or about May 14.

We will also begin an active project to reduce speeding into and out of the front gate and refurbish all the STOP stencils and stop lines at intersections with STOP signs. We'll be using quick drying traffic paint to reduce inconvenience. We'll publish email blasts that will keep everyone informed as these projects are about to begin and how long they will last.

All the road work, except the re-sealing, will be done by volunteers. None of the volunteer work will include heavy lifting or hours in the hot sun. It will consist mostly of painting stencils on the streets, placing small signs on posts, glueing small items on the streets at strategic points, and helping with traffic control. All this work will hopefully reduce speed and the potential for car/pedestrian accidents, particularly at the gatehouse, where paid staff and volunteers work in the gatehouse office fairly regularly. We have had more than a few close calls at the gate area both incoming and exiting. We have also fielded concerns from some residents about drivers ignoring or quick rolling through STOP signs.

One final note: Please contact us at hoa.thespringshoa@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer for the road projects! We'd love to have a team of ready volunteers so we can complete projects quickly. Many hands make small work. Thank you!

Bruce Grieshaber, President



FROM DOG POOP TO SNAKES

Residents don't like dog poop on or near the sidewalk, street, or nature trail, this includes bags of poop thrown into the open area. They don't like to see, smell, or step in it. But there are other reasons for residents to dislike poop being left behind.

First, the dog owner lets the dog off the leash, the dog poops and the dog owner doesn't pick up the poop or picks it up and throws it into an open area. Then the dog poop draws rodents, insects and bugs. Rats, mice, skunks, ticks, mosquitoes, and roaches enjoy dog poop. Mice draw tarantulas.



Then the rodents draw raptors. Rodents are a primary food source for birds, including owls, eagles, and falcons.

Then the raptors draw snakes. The basic snake diet includes birds but the snake can bypass the raptors and go straight for the rodents and most species will eat small mammals such as chipmunks, prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels, and rabbits.

Then the snake bites the dog. Approximately 150,000 dogs and cats are bitten by venomous snakes each year in the US and bites from nonvenomous snakes are thought to be even more common. But don't worry... on average, snakes in the wild eat only once every 2 to 3 weeks and often hunt at night.

Put simply, after the dog owner lets the dog run free...the dog takes a poop, the rat eats the poop, the bird eats the rat, the snake eats the bird. Then the snake bites the dog. Snakes never heard the phrase "Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

Residents don't typically like rats, mice, tarantulas, skunks, ticks, mosquitoes, roaches, prairie dogs, gophers, or snakes which are all ultimately drawn because of the dog's poop. The residents often don't like the loss of birds, chipmunks, ground squirrels and rabbits resulting from mother nature's circle of life that originates from the dog's poop.

Pima County Dog Solid Waste Regulations state it is unlawful for the owner or person having custody of any dog that is not physically restrained by a leash or, fails to immediately remove and dispose of any solid waste deposited by the dog in a sanitary manner and is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars, up to forty days in jail, or up to two years' probation, or any combination thereof. No judge may grant probation in lieu of, or otherwise suspend, the imposition of the minimum fine.

This is the reason why the HOA Board puts up signs requiring dog owners to pick up dog waste and keep the dog on a leash.

Rick Fillion, ARC Board Member

Highlights From Your April 9, 2024 HOA Board Meeting

By Cathy Roberts

The meeting was held in the Anza Room following the hybrid format. The meeting was called to order with a total of 15 homeowners present. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

Board member reports were presented and can be found in their entirety on the HOA web site, www.thespringshoa.org for your review. A brief synopsis follows.

- President: Worked with Lee, Mark, and Sharon to resolve issues with Republic for the dumpster near the OK Corral. Responded to concerns by residents. Worked with Dark Skies Southern Arizona and GV News to observe the lighting in The Springs. Biggest offender is the GVR rooftop lights. Worked with Rick and Victor on new signage. Reviewed AZ legislation that may impact our HOA.
- Vice President: Absent
- Treasurer:

◦ Checking/Savings Balance	3/31/2024	\$520,519.13
◦ Reserve Fund/Savings	3/31/2024	\$372,963.10
◦ Operating Fund Savings	3/31/2024	\$137,419.51
◦ Operating Fund Checking	3/31/2024	\$ 10,136.52
- ARC: 45 new maintenance notices mailed out related to painting, etc. needs. One home owner received a final notice. 38 weed violations issued
- Grounds: There were 642 total volunteer hours for 2024. Bruce shared that according to a study done by the University of Maryland, the average landscaper receives \$31.40/hr. That's roughly \$20K saved just in March by having a volunteer crew. Always remember to thank these folks when you see them out working on our behalf. They are saving us money while being a good neighbor. The need for workers doesn't stop when the snowbirds leave. The Buffle grass is still there and needs pulled. If interested in volunteering, contact Jim Owen or email Grounds.thespringshoa@gmail.com
- Infrastructure: Monday, April 22 is the target date for the painting of the gatehouse, bell tower, and perimeter fence to commence. A 50% deposit has been paid toward the project. Shooting for sometime in May for Tucson Asphalt to resume their work. They will also assess and repair areas of breakdown on previously completed work.

There was a need to adjust the equipment maintenance budget. All the power equipment and vehicles used by the grounds crew is aging. Most repairs, such as chain sharpening, is done by volunteers like Gary Moe. All the crew uses their skill and knowledge to keep things running with the least expense to homeowners. Occasionally there are things beyond their expertise or an item such as tires that are needed.

Watch for education upcoming related to Dark Skies and Pet leash and waste warning signs.

Expect new guidelines from GVR as it relates to reserving meeting space.

A reminder that the full minutes and other reports are available in their entirety on The Springs Web site: <http://www.thespringshoa.org>

April Happy Hour

Bill Perry was again the volunteer host to a dozen or more residents who enjoyed socializing at the April Happy Hour. The event was held inside due to windy conditions.



April Potluck

About 60 people attended the April potluck. Host, Kathy Szeto recognized birthdays with candy bars. There were no anniversaries or first time attendees.



The Amazing Grounds Crew



While cleaning up a prickly pear cactus the crew ran into a big rattler. It was four feet long. Dick Bierman removed it and took it out to a safe place then released it unharmed.

What did the crew do this month?

Picked up donations for OK Corral pup farm
Cleaned up and removed fallen ocotillo and dead agave

Major trimming and cleanup in the park between Fonda and Hero

Mowing along the path in the Nature Park

Planted and marked more cactus pups

Cactus trimming and cleanup in the Golden Lynx Park

Found and removed 2 rattlesnakes in two different parks (thanks Dick Bierman for catching and relocating these unwanted critters).

Weed whack and tree trim in the Nature Park

Watered the newly transplanted pups in the Nature Park

Took down the big Santa Rita Springs sign at the entrance and weed whacked and cleaned up along both sides of the frontage road wall so it can be painted.

Moved a barrel cactus to the commons area from the patio of Vernell & Pat Lindemann



Photo by Pat Lindemann

Potluck Suppers

The monthly potlucks will continue through the summer. Tish Mowey will host. If you are a full time resident, renter, or guest, please consider attending this social event. It's a nice cool venue to eat and connect with other residents.

Bierman's Pics

Canoa Ranch Conservation Park is a great place to see a variety of birds. Here are two. The one on the left is a **Spotted Sandpiper** in winter plumage. The other bird is a **White-Faced Ibis**. The Ibis is a migrant that comes through this area in the Spring. Both of these birds dine on a variety of invertebrates and find them by probing in the mud along wetlands.



2024 HOME SALES



Address

4031 S. Wolf Run Rd
880 W. Calle de la Pelotita
890 W. Calle de la Pelotita
4021 S. Wolf Run Rd
1006 W. Via del Placio
3973 S. Golden Lynx Rd
3750 S. Camino del Cefiro
3709 S. Avenida de Encino
3949 S. Via de Cristal

Sold To

Raoul & Margo Davion
Kathy Day
Sandi Lee
Stephanie Long & Andrew Hetzel
Rhonda Lawson
A. Leon & Jean Hanson
Kendahl Sweet
Bruce & Bonny Bowen
Kim & Kathy Johnston

Home Town

Billings, MT
Tucson, AZ
Tucson, AZ
Appleton, WI
Lees Summit, MO
Buhl, ID
Brainerd, MN
Plainwell, MI
Lakeside, AZ

Bye Bye Birdie (snowbirds that is!)

It's that time of year when our winter visitors leave us.

Pima county allows you request a sewer fee vacant rate for the months you are away from Green Valley. There is still a fee but it is lower than regular billing. You will need your account number from your billing record. You will also need the dates for when you are leaving and when you will be returning. <http://pima.gov> In the search box, key in "suspend sewer" and hit enter. Look for sewer billing suspension, click on that link and complete the form, or call phone # 520-724-6609.

Donate non perishable items left in your fridge or pantry to the Green Valley Food Bank.

Make sure the HOA Office has your summer contact phone number as well as the phone number of your property manager while you are gone. When an emergency occurs these numbers are important.

The Sheriff's Auxialry Volunteers (SAV) will check the outside of your home while you are gone. There is no cost for this service. Phone 520-351-6744.

Safe travels. Have a wonderful summer.



Repeat

Several years ago there was an article in The Chat, I don't know who wrote it but I thought it needed to be repeated. I added a few things but the anonymous writer who lives here in The Springs said it so much better than I ever could.

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. 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? 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 Happy Hours and Potluck suppers.

And I wondered.....

I walked on our paved path in the Nature Park which, and I noticed, had some newly transplanted cactus pups marked with a white flag. 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 sat on a bench that was beautifully decorated by Judy Bierman in a southwest theme. There were many such benches on the trail, so beautiful, so pretty. It sure made me happy! There were even painted rocks on the ground nearby. 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, -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.....THANK YOU ALL YOU WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS AND IF YOU AREN'T ALREADY ONE, WILL YOU PLEASE CONSIDER BEING ONE.

