

The Ridgerunner

April 2015

Web site: www.portilloridgehoa.org

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Email: portilloridgehoa@yahoo.com

Notes From Your HOA President

The April through May timeframe here in Green Valley is a time of change. It is during this period that the majority of our seasonal residents head back to their summer homes and many of our full-time residents make plans to escape the upcoming heat for a while with a trip or two. What happens if there is a problem with your property while you are out of town? Do you have a plan if someone identifies a problem? Your participation in our Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) is a great place to start.

Gene Dirkes, our NWP chairman, has put together a new set of volunteer "Block Captains." With guidance and help from the Green Valley Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer (SAV), he is arming them with information about the new NWP. Their main focus is contacting a person of your choice if there is a concern on your property when you are away or unavailable. Even though this is just a small bit of information, it may prevent your concern from growing into a larger problem.

Your new Block Captains will be introducing themselves to you in the coming months. We will provide you with information about the NWP and what it can do for you in a separate e-mail later this month. It will include a form to fill out if you wish to participate in the NWP.

It is important to note that participation in the NWP is VOLUNTARY. You are the only one who decides if giving contact information to a Block Captain is the right thing for your property. There will be no pressure from the HOA for you to join this program.

In the coming months, the Block Captains will make arrangements to pick-up the forms from you. They will explain the information required for NWP participation. Hopefully, they or Gene Dirkes, will be able to answer any of your questions.

Your HOA would like to partner with you while you are away by providing information that may help prevent problems from occurring with your property, and by contacting the person of your choice to minimize any concerns that do arise. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is here for you.

Jim Chisholm



On March 7th Diane O'Callaghan lost her battle with pancreatic cancer. We all lost a wonderful neighbor and, for many, a dear and beautiful friend. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Corky O'Callaghan.

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HOA 2014 Food Drive Report



Portillo Ridge HOA- April 2015 Ridgerunner Food Drive Committee

Thank you to our Portillo Ridge neighbors for your many donations!! The April 9th HOA "Spring Food Drive" committee delivered 390 lbs. of food and checks of \$995.00 to the Food Bank.

Financial donations, (checks), are only used to purchase Government Food (TEFAP). A written receipt is provided for gift cards and checks. Donations of checks and gift cards are deductible \$ for \$ from AZ State Income Tax, even if you do not itemize!

If you are leaving for the summer, just call me at 805-377-7240. I will pick up your donation before you leave.

Thank you again to our wonderful neighbors for your continued support in the fight against hunger and thank you to your committee, Deanna Brooks, Larry Parker, Russ & Mary Alice Carlson, and Mack Summers who donated their time to pick up and deliver your donations.

*Sandy Churchill
Food Drive Chairman*

Social Committee Report

*** HELP WANTED ***

Volunteers are needed to take charge of our 2016 Spring, Fall, and Winter/Holiday social events. This is my third year serving on the Social Committee and I plan to step back - but not step down - in 2016.

I will continue to organize the Annual Meeting Potluck in January, as well as the July 4th Potluck, and I will gladly assist anyone who volunteers to run any of the other events.

You do not need to be a full-time resident to chair a social event! These events are held during the months when many of our seasonal residents are in town, giving everyone an opportunity to get involved. We need fresh faces and new ideas . . . or take an old idea and improve upon it! Our social activities help foster a sense of community.

Won't you please help? Contact me at arichizona@cox.net or 777-8334 for more information.

*Lynn Chisholm
Social Chairman*

Pizza Party

SPRING SOCIAL - PIZZA PARTY

Forty-two neighbors and one tiny cowgirl (Katelyn, Nina Keck's granddaughter) gathered at the East Center on March 22nd for our Portillo Ridge HOA Spring event, the Pizza Party! After a social hour spent conversing with friends, we enjoyed a variety of delicious pizzas from Two Girls Pizza and the wonderful salad prepared and served once again by



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Stafford and Janice Smith, assisted by George and Ellie Higginson. The Strolling Valley Players provided entertainment after the meal, performing a comedy skit entitled "College Reunion". Many thanks to the Smiths and Higginsons, along with Sandy Churchill for set-up, sign-in, serving, and clean-up, and Jim Chisholm for all of his help. A special THANK YOU to everyone who attended this fun event!

*Lynn Chisholm
Social Chairman*

ARC

The following projects have been approved for the year 2015:

- Lot 98: Build rear entertainment area
- Lot 135: Paint exterior of house and trim
- Lot 133: Landscape yard with desert plants
- Lot: 127: Replace entrance gate and change exterior trim color
- Lot 83: Rear yard add concrete pad, fire pit, and flower beds

The ARC needs additional Homeowners to serve on the committee. This is an important committee of our HOA. If you are interested or want more information, please contact any member.

Concern and Caring Committee

If you know of a neighbor who would appreciate receiving a comforting note due to serious illness, hospitalization, or bereavement, please contact Jan Sink at 625-9471 or Lynn Chisholm 777-8334 or E-mail – arichizona@cox.net

Meet Your Neighbors



Meet Mike and Sandy Milliken who moved into their home at 1014 W. Placita Apartada in October, 2014.

They have been “snowbirds” for the last four years. After looking at so many homes, Sandy knew early on that the only place they wanted to buy would be Portillo Ridge. She says they loved the look of Portillo Ridge, the friendly neighbors and a certain positive energy. Immediately upon seeing the house, they knew this was the one and they had found “home.”

Moving here from a small town, Mossy Rock, Washington, was easy - leaving all their family back in Washington – not so easy. Mike was born in Evansville, Indiana and Sandy has been a Washington girl all her life. Mike is a retired general manager for an independent phone company and Sandy, an interior designer.

They have been married 35 years and have a blended family – six children altogether, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. In fact, they will be heading back to Washington this spring for two graduations.

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Just like everyone else in Green Valley, they are busy people. They both enjoy gardening and cooking together. Mike is a Master Gardener, avid woodworker (belongs to GVR Woodworking Club) and volunteers as a docent at the Titan Missile Museum. Sandy hopes to volunteer at the Green Valley Hospital. They also attend the Evangelical Free Church.

They have two small dogs that live with them – a little pug that is blind and doesn't get out much. The other, Sunny (the cutest thing), some of you have probably met on your walks around the neighborhood.

WELCOME, MIKE and SANDY!! You're a wonderful addition to Portillo Ridge.

(In each issue of the newsletter, we will randomly be selecting a neighbor to interview, so that we can get to know one another better.)

HOA Informational Meeting

April 8, 2015, was our PRHOA Informational meeting. The Green Valley Fire Department gave a very informative talk. There were only 14 homeowners in attendance. Minutes will be posted.

Did you Know??

DESERT BROOM – plant or weed???

Look in many desert landscape books and you'll find desert broom listed as a plant. However, just because a plant grows in the desert doesn't make it a good plant for the landscape or the environment. Desert broom grows faster and more aggressively than other native plants which are bad for animals that live in the desert and depend on desert plants for resources.

Another big problem of desert broom is how it pollinates and spreads. The white fluffy fruit causes many people misery because they are allergic to it. And, if you've ever tried to remove desert broom, you know the difficulty of pulling it out.

The best thing to do is to remove desert broom when it's very small. Once it takes hold and grows, it becomes an ongoing struggle between you and the plant. And, sometimes the desert broom plant wins.

2015 HOA Board Members

President - Jim Chisholm

Vice President - Dave Churchill

Secretary - Marsha Barnes

Treasurer - Ed Davis

Member-at-Large – Nina Keck

2015 Committee Chairs

Architectural Review: Dave Churchill

Audit: Tom Six

Common Area/Median Maintenance:

Jim Chisholm

Food Bank: Sandy Churchill

Neighborhood Watch: Gene Dirkes

Social: Lynn Chisholm

2015 Special Representative

GVC Representative: Dave Churchill

Alternate – Nina Keck

Webmaster

Primary - Jim Chisholm

Alternate - Dave Churchill

Please note that the Ridgerunner is your avenue of sharing news and events that may affect our wonderful neighborhood. Your newsletter is produced by Nina Keck. Please submit any news items to her at portilloridgehoa@yahoo.com or Ninakay52@gmail.com