



# Saguaro News

Newsletter of the SKP Saguaro Co-op  
Benson, Arizona



April 2011

## FROM THE BOARD

Wow! It is certainly true that time flies when you are having fun. It's hard to believe that another season is drawing to a close. We have countless, wonderful memories of all the activities, dinners, and entertainment this season has offered us.

The “happenings” in March were no exception. Our own Saguaro Chorus under the direction of Norma Taylor provided us with a very enjoyable “Evening with Irving Berlin.” Who can forget all the fantastic entertainment and scrumptious meals we enjoyed this month? The Spring Fling Garden Party, headed by Annie Porter who recruited a host of volunteers, was a huge success – lots of fun, laughter, good food, coffee and wine, and great entertainment. The beautiful spring flowers decorating the walls and the awesome mural providing the stage background made us all feel as if we were truly in a spring garden. Kudos to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the month of March so great!

Our cable TV system is growing. The installation of equipment needed has been installed and six new channels are up and running. The new channels, chosen by surveys are Food, Reelz, Science, Sleuth, Versus, and MSNBC. Thank you, Dick Johnson, for all the work you do on our cable TV system.

We also have a new in-park channel in addition to Channel 5. Check out Channel 43, our new in-park “Community Network.” Although available in late February, it had its official debut during Spring Fling under the direction of Bryan



Photos by Ron Dempsey

Lavender, one of our hard-working guests. An ad hoc committee has been busy working on guidelines and content. Thank you all!

Our Facilities Manager will be keeping his crew busy this summer with several different projects. Please be courteous and assist them in any way you can—even if it means some disruptions on your lot. They will be working to improve our park for everyone.

The Board is continuing to address erosion problems, especially with the main wash. Project Manager Jim Rett, assisted by Maxine Vert, Don Newport, and Doug Miller, Facilities Manager, will keep us informed of our options. This committee has stressed that we are looking for cost-effective solutions.

As a reminder to all, the Board does welcome suggestions for improving our park. You may either write a letter to the Board or place a note in the Suggestion Box in the Clubhouse. In either case, the letter or note must be dated and signed. Unsigned letters or notes will be discarded and not be considered by the Board.

This is a good time for all leaseholders to review the Bylaws to ensure they are following them. We all need to be reminded once in a while of the responsibilities we have by being a leaseholder in this co-op. Two of these as stated in Article II, Section 3 are: “A. Members shall share knowledge, labor and time toward the betterment of the Co-op. All Leaseholders who spend a substantial period of time at the Co-op are expected to serve on one of the committees or in one of the positions which have been established to ensure the smooth running of the Co-Op” and “E. All lots, recreational vehicles, buildings, and personal property on a lot, or in storage, shall meet standards established by the Board of directors for maintenance and appearance. Should maintenance of any of these items cause expense to the Co-op, the expense shall

be charged as a fee to the leaseholder.” Are you in compliance?

Don’t forget the SKP Luncheon on April 13 at the Turquoise Hills Golf Course Triple Green Café at 11:30 A.M. You’ll be in for good food and great conversation.

Now that April has arrived, this will be the last newsletter of the season. The next will be October with a cutoff date for submissions of September 15.

Many of you are planning or are ready to head out on your summer odyssey – whether it is some new adventure or the usual routine. Those of us remaining here will keep everything going and the air conditioners humming while we wait for your return in the fall. Before you leave, make sure to update all your information and please check out with the office. Whether heading out or staying here, we wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

Faye Bragg  
Board Secretary



#### **FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER**

*Tisha Luzadder*

"Spring Fling" has come and gone. What fun! Thanks to all who helped make it such great three days.

Soon everyone will be pulling out for the summer. It will seem like a ghost town compared to the fun busy winter we've had. The quiet time is a good time for the girls and me to regroup and reorganize here in the office before the next busy season starts again. We will miss you all. Have a happy, healthy summer and safe travels.

Your general assessments will soon be out. Payment is due by April 17.

**LOT TRADES:**

Gene & Donna Struble from Lot 287 to 282  
Sam & Carolyn Kidd from Lot 92 to 227

**LEFT THE PARK:**

Raymond & Jeannie Butts Lot 282  
Marvin & Jeanne Smoot Lot 227



**FROM THE CLUBHOUSE**

*Ingrid Kruegel*

Where has the time gone? I can't believe we are writing the April Newsletter. What a month of March we have had. I have never seen so many people and activities in the Clubhouse. Of course, we have to mention SPRING FLING and what a party it was.

First of all, we can't thank Annie Porter enough for conceiving and driving this event. She enlisted and organized 168 volunteers. And what a great job Pam Masters did. She spearheaded the breath-taking decorations in the Clubhouse. Even after partial dismantling it still looks beautiful.

The party started with a fabulous breakfast put on by Bob and Cheri Kok. If you were not there, you really missed a winner. On Thursday afternoon a parade took place led by Warren Smith and his two horses with the help of Mike Lenney. They were followed by a number of golf carts spruced up for the occasion. The walkers included a flower girl and a belly dancer. Of course, we also had our own parade band. Many people came out to take part including dogs and their masters. The two Boards served cake and ice cream to everyone, gave a special thank-you to all

volunteers, and presented flowers to Annie Porter, Pam Masters and Jan Huggins. Jan unfortunately had an accident while helping at the event. Jan, we wish you a speedy recovery and hope you will be back soon.

The next day was Game Day in the Clubhouse. I doubt if a noisier or more fun-filled clubhouse has ever existed in any SKP Park anywhere at any time.

Saturday kicked off with a pet show. A lot of prizes were handed out for various pet categories. A Polar Bear party on Saturday ended the exhausting celebration.

To finish the season, on March 19, the Saguaro Chorus entertained us with music by Irving Berlin.

On March 21, the Benson Barbershoppers wowed us with their talents followed by Johnny Bencomo with his 18-string guitar.

The Elliotts will be here on March 26, followed on March 28 by the Simmons Family.

Then, inevitably, comes April. The entertainment will be over and many of us will be wending our way north. Kind of sad, but we will all be together again next fall. Until then, GOOD LUCK AND GOD SPEED!

**OTHER PARK ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**SAN PEDRO RIVER ARTS COUNCIL**

*Sylvia Burnside, President*

As I write this, we are in the throes of a week of Arts events that we've called Celebrate The Arts! 2011. By the time you read this, the event will have ended and life will be

somewhat back to normal. Still to go is the Southeastern Arizona Teen Art Competition Award ceremony on Sunday afternoon of April 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. The public is welcome to attend this event. We had six schools competing here (Benson Photography class, St. David, Bisbee, Patagonia, Safford and the Berean Academy in Sierra Vista) but 18 had been invited. It is a sad commentary on the state of the arts in our area, and, indeed, in the nation.

Where I grew up near Boston, Massachusetts, and in many parts of the world where you come from, the arts have been supported, and still thrive, but in rural areas like this one, it is a struggle that has failed in the face of AIMS testing. This organization is hoping that by sticking with our mission to turn this situation around, that some day, right here in Benson, we'll have a performing art's theater; we'll also have classes in the schools and after schools programs in the arts.

Because you may have a temporary home here in Benson, doesn't mean that you need to seek a vacation from life as you know it where you come from. Supporting the arts wherever you travel supports creativity that will come back in the work force later in life for the kids for whom this is a possibility.

Some of us have landed here in Benson after a life of traveling around the United States. RVers tend to think of Benson as a quiet little town with a western flair, and a place to just "BE." However, as Dick and I have found, although this is home for us, quiet, dusty, western towns are a mind set, not necessarily a way of life. We have yearned for something more than cowboys, Indians, trains, barbeque and small town arguments. The way to do that is not to complain that you don't have such and such here, but to make better things happen.

Those of you who have told me that you would like to volunteer, but "I'm only here for two months out of the year," miss the point. We can use your expertise in many areas. We can even use your energy to help with sitting in our City Hall Gallery in Benson for a 3-hour stint on a Saturday. That is enormously helpful. City Hall is the only WallSpace gallery that we maintain that needs this kind of attention. The others (Turquoise Hills, and Skyline Assisted Living) are open to the public all the time.

But I digress: I'd like to thank all of you who have come to our events during Celebrate The Arts! 2011. Thanks too for understanding that even though the events are "free," that, like freedom, it isn't REALLY free. An event like this takes enormous amounts of planning and energy to pull off, as well as infusions of money to pay for performances and workshop people. We welcome your input of ideas, time and money. With a little luck and lot of the former, we'll be back next year.

Have a great summer and enjoy the arts that you encounter along the way, with a new perspective.



## **Blood Drive**

*Loretta Williams*

The need is constant- the gratification is instant— GIVE BLOOD.

Every time you give blood you may be helping to save more than one life. The next blood drive is at Benson Lion's Club, Thursday, March 31 from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Please call Marilyn Gourley for appointment. 520-586-2322.

## **Donation to CARE**

*Lee Pease*

Remember the Saguaro Cactus and Star relighting project? Money was donated for the project with the understanding that any left over would be donated to CARE. That has been done to the tune of \$300. Thanks to all who donated.



## **From the Security and Safety Committee**

*Craig Melms*

Over the past several months, much emphasis has been placed on the display of vehicle ID tags by the residents of the Co-Op. From a security viewpoint, reinforcement of this rule has been considered a critical step toward the identification of authorized vehicle traffic within the Co-Op.

We now enter a new phase. At the request of the Board of Directors, the Security and Safety Committee submitted recommended guidelines for the issuing of visitor and vendor vehicle ID tags. The intended purpose of these guidelines is to provide a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the issuing of visitor and vendor vehicle ID tags by the Office staff. The guidelines which have become to be known as the “Visitors & Vendors SOP” were approved by the Board of Directors on February 22, 2011. Some of the key elements are as follows:

- Co-Op residents may request extended period vehicle tags for their frequent visitors.
- Co-Op residents will be required to obtain vehicle tags for their visitors and accompany

them when attending after hour functions such as dances and entertainment at the Clubhouse.

- Visitor/vendor access to the storage area is restricted, unless accompanied by a Co-Op resident or authorized Co-Op manager.
- Tickets for meals will be sold to Co-Op residents ONLY!

With implementation, all components of vehicle identification are in place; leaseholders, renters, visitors and vendors.



## **Helping Hands News**

*Carole Melander*

The “Sunshine Team” would love to send cards to those in the hospital, rehab, nursing home, etc. Don’t forget those dealing with long term illness who might enjoy a “thinking of you” card. We also do sympathy cards and wedding cards. We would rather receive several calls about one person than none! If you know of a need, call the Helping Hands monthly coordinator.

Thanks to all who participated in the Food Auction! We took in \$4013 on the auction, exceeding our highest amount by over \$2000! Pizza brought in \$293. We are already planning for next year!

Summer is coming rapidly! Safe travels to all who are going on the road. For those staying here, if you would be willing to prepare an occasional meal if needed, please call Carole Melander, 520-586-7092. It is nice to have some back up for our slim summer crew. Have a safe, healthy summer.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

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Please send submissions to:

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Published October through April

Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.