

Periodico de Esperanza



January 2013

EEHOA Annual Meeting

By Cynthia Surprise

We are pleased to report that our Annual Meeting on January 21 was extremely well attended. If EE is your only experience living in an HOA, you might be surprised to learn that annual meetings in some HOAs attract so few homeowners that business cannot be conducted. EE's meeting attendance reflects the enthusiasm of the vast majority of our residents for what we consider the best subdivision in Green Valley. And we didn't even have to serve refreshments.

We encourage you to read the official minutes of the meeting, which are posted on our website, but here are some of the highlights.

Board members Joe McCalpin (194 votes), Sam Barnard (191 votes) and Eric Ellingson (187 votes) were re-elected to the Board for another three-year term. Eleven write-in candidates received a total of 46 votes. Homeowners who are interested in serving on the Board in the future or who want to recommend another member were encouraged to contact the Board.

Continued on page 2

January Photo of the Month Congratulations to Bill Eads

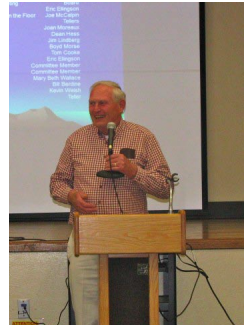


Bill Eads, Placita Nueva, captured this pair of javelinas on Christmas Eve morning. For information on next month's contest, please see page 13.

Annual Meeting

Continued

Jim Lindberg, Ben Sheffield and Kevin Welsh received gift certificates in appreciation of their work on the construction of the restrooms at the tennis/pickleball courts.



President Ellingson reviewed some of the HOA's achievements over the past year. Some of the board and standing committee chairs reported on the accomplishments of their committees during the year and plans for future projects. Scottie Blum announced that after seven years as chair of the Hospitality Committee she would be stepping down at the end of the year. Volunteers interested in taking over this crucial position should contact Scottie.

Homeowners passed the following ballot questions (179 affirmative votes needed to pass):

Sect. 4.6: action taken without a meeting – Yes 216, No 12

Sect. 9.2.1: remove vehicles stored on streets – Yes 204, No 23

Sect. 10.3.1.2: project committee – Yes 196, No 24

Sect. 10.3.1.3: create plans and present to members – Yes 206, No 11

Sect. 10.3.1.4: prospectus for member finance solicitation – Yes 180, No 32

Homeowners defeated the following ballot questions:

Sect. 8.5: exterior paint – Yes 127, No 100

Sect. 10.2.1.1: member approval needed for expense over \$25,000 – Yes 153, No 69

Sect. 10.3.5: remove board discretion to distribute membership name and address lists – Yes 152, No 72

Pool Report

By Tom Cooke

Board Meetings

Feb. 18 • Mar. 18

April 15 • May 20

June 17

No meetings in July & August

Board member list &
meeting minutes available
at <http://esperanzaestates.net>

Esperanza Estates

Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 181

Green Valley, AZ 85622-0181

All work on the pool decking has been completed, and it looks great. All of the old decking was completely removed, and a new coating applied after all of the underlying concrete was repaired and sealed. The old decking was in pretty bad shape, and was definitely ready for a re-do. The color on the new decking was changed slightly to complement the Travertine on the enclosure walls and the changing rooms. If you have not seen the new decking, stop by and take a look.

We have been experiencing a lot of difficulties with the pool cover and have determined it is no longer practical to continue to repair it, and that it needs to be replaced with a sturdier model. A cover is important to conserve the pool water heating during the chillier months of the year. Without it, expenditures for natural gas to heat the pool become excessive.

The EE Gardeners have plans to do some landscaping outside the pool enclosure, which will further enhance the area.

Our EE Volunteers

By Tom Cooke

This is the first in a series of articles to appear in subsequent issues of the Periodico, recognizing our Esperanza Estates volunteers, and explaining who they are and what it is they do for us. Esperanza Estates as we know it could not exist without the many people who work, largely behind the scenes, with little acknowledgement or recognition, and with their only reward being the satisfaction which comes from helping their neighbors and their neighborhood. These are people who ask for nothing, but who deserve a big thank you and a large measure of recognition for what they do. This article will recognize only a few of our many volunteers, and future articles will continue with this important story until it has all been told. If you are an EE volunteer, we won't miss you. We will seek you out and tell Esperanza Estates how appreciative we are for all your help.

Our Communicators:

Among the most important tasks performed in any HOA is keeping all residents fully informed about what is happening, and what is going to happen. Esperanza Estates is blessed with a highly talented group of volunteers who handle this task with skill and acumen, who publish, maintain, and distribute our monthly magazine, the Periodico, our website, and our weekly newsletter, the Monday Morning Memo. Denise Roessle is the publisher of the Periodico and Cynthia Surprise is the editor. Mary Hess, Sandy Reed and Mary Ferland are frequent contributors of articles. Dean Hess delivers print copies of the Periodico to those unable to receive it electronically or pick up a copy at the Ramada.

Our webmaster is Craig Surprise, and our co-editors of the Memo are Cynthia Surprise and Kris Bean.

Our annual GVC Community Directory detail and delivery work is done by Judy Prado.

Our Welcomers:

Making newcomers to Esperanza Estates feel welcome is the function of our Bienvenidos Committee. In addition to planning an annual welcoming party for new residents, this Committee does much more. Committee members Barb McCalpin, Cheri Day, and Stacie Meyer make a personal visit, give out the welcome package, and answer questions the newcomers may have, and do what is necessary to get our newcomers off to a good start. The full Committee is made up of Barb McCalpin, Cynthia Surprise, Cheri Day, Stacie Meyer, Eunice Doman, Lou Fritson, and Marilyn Meyer.

Our Governing Board:

Overall responsibility for the management of our subdivision is vested in our elected Board of Directors. They meet monthly and as necessary to plan for the operation and maintenance of our facilities. Our Board consists of Eric Ellingson, Tom Cooke, Joe McCalpin, Jim Lindberg, Boyd Morse, Sam Barnard, Joan Moreaux, Stacie Meyer, and Dean Hess.

Coming up next month and in future reports: Our Enhancement Team, Hospitality Committee, EE Gardeners, Neighborhood Watch, Public Art Committee, Annual Meeting helpers, and our individual assistants.

Neighborhood Watch

Mary Beth Wallace has a supply of EE Directories, available at \$3.00 each. Contact her at 399-0299 or merrymary7@q.com to arrange to pick them up.

Neighborhood Watch is seeking two volunteers to be Block Captains for the zones that include a portion of Ensalmó, and the homes on the north side of Del Sur. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors and does not require a lot of time. Contact Mary Beth at the number or email above.

Upcoming Events

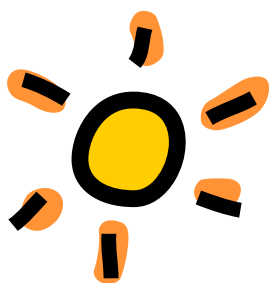
Hamburger Night Tuesday, February 12



Sunset Ramada • 4:30 Cocktails, 5:00 Grilling Begins
\$6.00 per person includes a hamburger, cheeseburger or veggie burger and chips. Sodas, beer and mixers supplied. Plus a special Valentines Day dessert.

EE Coffee Klach at the Ramada

Join your neighbors on the third Wednesday of each month, 8:30 a.m., for free coffee, pastries and conversation.



Ramada Sale/Bake Sale

Sunset Ramada
Saturday, March 2nd
Open at 7:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the Enhancement Team
Proceeds go toward EE improvement projects
To donate Ramada sale items: Lorna Kitchak (838-0653)
or Jackie Rautio (269-7864).
To donate baked goods, call Sandi Oster (625-0039).



St. Patrick's Day Party Sunday, March 17th Sunset Ramada

Watch for details!

Birdhouse Raffle

This delightful, ceramic birdhouse can be yours if you are the lucky winner of the EE Arts Club's raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, and will be sold at upcoming Ramada functions. The winning name will be drawn at the reception following the March Home and Garden Tour.



EE Gardeners Report

By Bill Berdine

The Gardeners thank the EE HOA Board for their \$2500 budget allocation. The funds will be used to purchase plants, trees, planting materials and “enhancement items” for the HOA’s Common Areas during 2013. The Gardeners have either started or completed the following activities since November.



EE Gardeners building a rock wall at Palo Verde del Norte Park. More photos on page 7...

November and December 2012: The Gardeners completed the initial re-purposing planning for Mesquite and Mountain View Parks.

Plans for Mesquite Park include planting native grasses and ground cover, installing a mosaic bench, and adding gravel and stone to enhance the appearance of the area and reduce dust.

Plans for Mountain View include installing a mosaic desert tortoise under the leadership of Jane Ellingson and Stacie Meyer. The Gardeners will also inventory the existing plantings in Mountain View and their relative health, remove unhealthy plants, and plant new cacti, succulents and spreading ground cover. New signage will be installed to assist residents in learning what grows well in EE. An emerging notion is to re-purpose Mountain View into the HOA’s cacti/succulent demonstration park/garden.

A summer watering sub-committee will be formed to facilitate first year growth of plants in all EE Parks. The summer 2012 water volunteers were successful, and no EE Gardener plantings were lost. This is a major accomplishment as new planting will require regular, once a week summer water for at least two years regardless of type of plant.

January 2013: Stacie Meyer restored and tiled the cement bench from Esperanza Monument with a mosaic design. The Gardeners will install it in Mesquite Park.

Several Gardeners visited a private cacti grower, Mike Ellis, in Tucson and purchased three native desert grass bundles, a one-gallon Saguaro and three two-gallon containers of Golden Barrel cacti.

The Gardeners created two large planting beds in Palo Verde del Norte Park and will plant native grasses there. The Saguaro and Golden Barrels will be planted in the Sunset Ramada area. The installation of an accessible paver walkway at the entrance to Esperanza Park was completed.

Carolyn and Randy Acher donated a 4-foot tall barrel cactus which was replanted on the far west entrance to Esperanza Park. The cactus needs a spring and summer water committee to try to beat the 50/50 odds of making a successful transplant. Barbara Rydall donated a toothless desert spoon and a small Texas Laurel. The Gardeners encourage EE residents to contact them about donating movable plants for use in the seven EE Common Areas. Remember, our motto is “No Plant Left Behind.”

Bill Berdine has started a photo study of all common areas as well as trees and shrubs in EE. The plan is to take images of EE sites across the three seasons and identify specimens by scientific and common name and their respective characteristics. The Gardeners hope to provide the study for resident reference when deciding on landscaping. EE has the potential to be an affordable and sustainable model for Green Valley HOAs with regard to development and maintenance of green space.

Next meeting: February 7 at the Ramada (1:00 – 2:30), followed by planning visit to Mountain View Park.

Around Esperanza



EE Carolers, led in song by Jim Kitchak, braved the chilly temperatures the evening of December 20th.



Residents enjoyed some food and camaraderie at the First Day Potluck.



Early morning visitors to EE: In case anyone wondered why we close the gate on the West Desert Land at the head of Excelso.



Left: Arts Club member Barbara Copeland works on mosaic tortoise.

Right: Arts Club President Kevin Welsh at work on pueblo village project.



Around Esperanza



EE Gardeners at work: (left) at Palo Verde del Norte Park; (below) a new paver walkway at Esperanza Park.



Mosaic bench created by Stacie Meyer.



(Above left): Roberta Bower and Stacie Meyer dig up a Texas mountain laurel donated by Barb Rydall. (Right) Bill Pratt, Bill Berdine and Dick Carver carefully place the new golden barrel cactus.

At the 2013 EEHOA Annual Meeting: (Below left) Lois Blacker and Pat Sharpe at the registration table. (Below right) Ben Sheffield, official teller for the election.



Eric Ellingson addresses residents, with Tom Cooke, Joe McCalpin, Stacie Meyer and Jim Lindberg at his left.

EE History: Esperanza's Private Swimming Pool

By Sandy Reed

Some people enjoy a crowded beach scene, with swimmers filling the ocean side. Others like more secluded locations without the shouts, skimpy swimwear, and smell of sunscreen. Most of us in Esperanza have a poolside choice - the sometimes crowded Green Valley Recreation facilities, or the tranquil setting and waters of our own pool where we can sunbathe and swim in relative calm.

Our quiet, palm-lined pool and spa did not come easily to Esperanza Estates. Because GVR in its early years could not handle new members except on waiting lists, EE's developer, Earl Whigham, verbally promised potential home buyers that he would build one swimming pool for every one hundred houses. But, like all builders, his verbal commitments exceeded his cash flow, and Whigham had to renege. However, his one swimming facility stands up in its beauty to any pool in Green Valley, and more Esperanza pools would be superfluous.

Initially the pool was heavily attended. In fact so heavily that residents set up swimming schedules and had volunteer monitors. They had a difficult job in insuring that all swimmers took showers before entering the water, that children did not use the pool as a toilet (Wow! How do you monitor that?) and that no unclaimed bodies were around at closing time.

Now that many of our residents use GVR facilities, our pool attendance has dropped to moderate levels. However a detailed review of the sign-in sheets for the last two years produces some large and interesting numbers. (A 5% increase was applied to the numbers since some people do not sign in because they forget, don't know, or don't want to). The grand total for 2011 is 5,162 and for 2012 is 5,515, for an average daily usage of 14 and 15, respectively.

Included in these numbers are the energetic participants in water aerobics classes which are open to both men and women and emphasize stretching, cardio, and resistance exercises. They're mostly in the water at the shallow end of the pool, using rubber balls and weights, routines vary, and, by the laughs echoing from the pool, are a lot of fun.

Esperanza residents should appreciate that our pool, Ramada and tennis/pickleball facilities are unique in Green Valley and add considerable value to our homes. Our Board takes good care of their upkeep and repairs.

So, come on in—the water's fine!

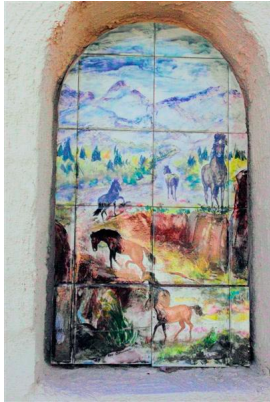


The Tiny Masterpieces of Esperanza Estates

By Cynthia Surprise

Sometimes little details make a big difference. Our address tiles are a good example of a little detail that adds a lot to the much loved architecture of our subdivision.

Each of these address tiles is unique, but they all have a southwest theme. Some depict a southwestern landscape, others highlight our native wildlife and yet others show cowboys at work on area ranches.

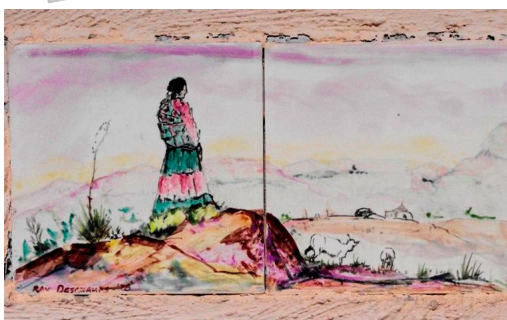


Have you looked closely at your tile lately? If you examine the writing on the bottom of the tile, you will see the date your home was built. You will also see the name Ray Deschamps. He was the artist who painted these tiles.

Ray Deschamps (1911-2005) was born in Idaho and grew up on his family ranch. He worked in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. After he retired in 1968 he lived in Tucson for 26 years. During those years he devoted much of his time to perfecting his artistic skills and became proficient in oil and ceramic tile painting. What had formerly been only a hobby became a profession. His oil paintings hang in many homes and his tile address paintings decorate a number of housing developments, including Esperanza Estates.



We are fortunate that EE's developer, Earl Whigham, cared about these little details when he selected these small masterpieces to adorn our homes. Here is a sample of these delightful tiles.



Try Home Exchanging & Live Like A Local

By Mary Ferland

Tom and I love to travel but we don't like spending a fortune once we get to our destination. One of the best ways we have found to save is by doing a home exchange. It takes a bit of work but in our estimation it really pays off. We save on lodging and the cost of eating in restaurants. I have found that grocery shopping in different parts of the country and in foreign countries can sometimes be challenging but it is always interesting.

There are two types of exchanges: simultaneous and non-simultaneous. A simultaneous exchange means that you exchange at the same time as the other party whereas a non-simultaneous exchange is only possible if you have another place to go when someone else is in your home. Most of our exchanges have been the latter as we usually go to Tom's cottage twelve miles away or we visit out-of-town friends or relatives during that time.



One of our more memorable experiences was exchanging with two families from Spain who stayed in our New Hampshire home for twenty-six days. When it was time to take our half of the exchange we had the choice of going to Madrid or to Buenos Aires. We chose Buenos Aires and had twenty-six fabulous days! We have become good friends with them and when we visit Spain in a couple of years we have been invited to stay in their Madrid apartment.

You may be asking "OK this sounds good but how do I do this?" There are many home exchange web sites which you can find by searching "home exchange sites." Some require payment to list your property but there are also free sites. Our New Hampshire home is listed on the Home Exchange website (www.homeexchange.com) which has two levels of membership: Silver which costs \$9.95 per month, and Gold which costs \$41.67 per month and lists 700 exclusive homes plus you have access to the other 41,000+ listings in 149 countries listed on the site. A Free Guest Pass is offered if you want to explore exchanging before you purchase but if you want to list your home you have to pay.

In the past few years we have had several enquiries from Australians who want to visit New Hampshire for the fall foliage season. Three couples have already visited and it is now our turn to stay in their homes. Melbourne was one of the cities we wanted to visit but I couldn't find anyone interested in visiting NH at this time. A friend told me about a free site called Exchange Zones (www.exchange-zones.com) and luckily a couple from Melbourne was interested. They will visit New Hampshire in October (when we are back in Esperanza) and we will stay at their apartment in Melbourne in February.

You may also be wondering if there are any downsides to home exchanges. If there are we haven't experienced them--we have had nothing but success. In fact when the Spanish family visited, one of their children broke the globe on an antique lamp and they scoured all the antique shops in the area until they found a replacement. Another time we came home to discover that the couple had hired a cleaner before we returned. Home exchanges are an act of faith: I will take care of another home like it was my own and I know they will do the same for me.

So if you love to travel, want to feel like a native rather than a tourist and like saving money why not try a home exchange? What have you got to lose?

EE Kitchen Renovation

EE homeowners are always curious about changes others have made to their homes. Our new EE Renovation series will periodically feature a creative home reno project that might inspire you. Of course, you'll want to attend the EE 2013 Home and Garden Tour in March to see the "best of the best."

Ken and Patty Adler fell in love with their Model 264 two bedroom home the instant they walked into it. But they knew they wanted to change the kitchen arrangement. After living in their home for a year, they figured out exactly what they wanted to do.

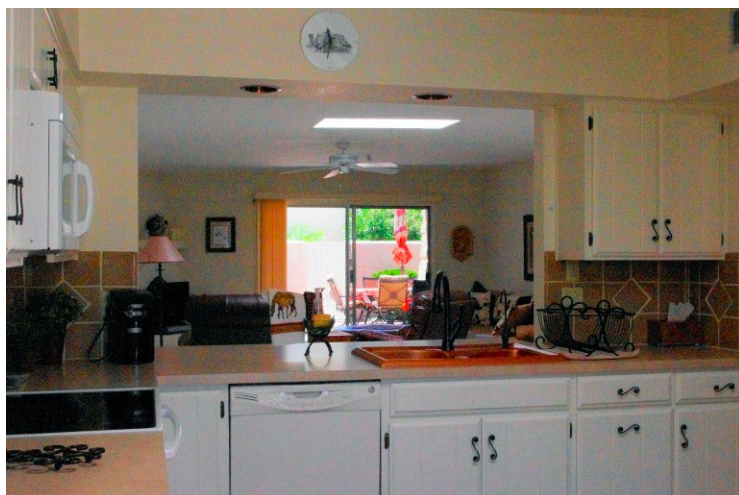
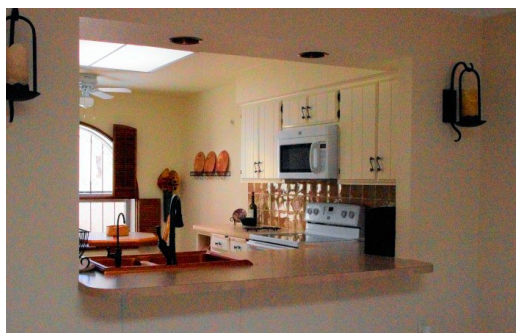
Ken has a great deal of construction experience, having built their home in Colorado himself, stick by stick. So he was not afraid to tackle the kitchen renovation as a do-it-yourself project.

First, the Adlers decided to open the kitchen to the dining/living room area to create a great-room feel. Ken took down the drywall and luckily discovered no plumbing or electrical work in the way. He then expanded the small pass-through opening and built a large breakfast bar at counter height on the dining side. The Adlers now enjoy a large serving area that makes entertaining buffet style very easy.

The second change sounds small but greatly enhanced the openness and utility of the kitchen layout. Ken simply switched the location of the refrigerator and the cabinet next to it. The Adlers see several advantages to the new plan. "It opens up the area where you come into the kitchen, and you don't see the refrigerator," Ken says. Patty agrees and also finds she has easier access to the counter, making it more useful to her.

In order to make the switch, Ken had to eliminate the little cabinet over the refrigerator, and remove the pocket door to the hallway. "I needed the studs for the cabinet," he explains, "and we never used the pocket door or the above refrigerator cabinets anyway."

You'll be able to see the results of these and a few of the Adlers' other DIY projects on the EE Home Tour.



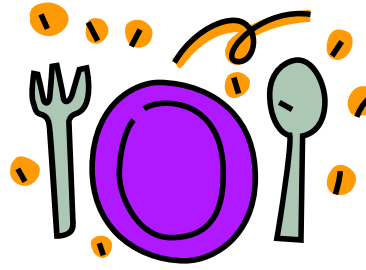
Restaurant Review: OPA!

By Michael Christopher

OPA! Greek Cuisine & Fun

2990 N. Campbell

www.opatime.com



My parents were born in Albania which is immediately north of Greece. Albanian cuisine is very similar to Greek food. Since I have fond recollections of my mother's wonderful cooking, I have always loved good Greek restaurants, and an EE friend introduced me to an exceptional one. OPA! is not to be missed.

"Opa" is a Greek word which is an exclamation that celebrates the joy of life itself. I can't promise that you are going to experience a life transformation if you go to OPA! but I can guarantee that you will experience extraordinary food at very reasonable prices.

OPA! is a family-owned and operated restaurant that has been around Tucson for 5 years. It's not a fancy restaurant, but it's a fun place. Bright blue tablecloths and murals that remind you of Greece put you in the mood for what is to come.

What comes immediately are warm triangles of pita bread with sides of tza-tsi-ki which is a yummy blend of cucumber, yogurt, garlic, lemon, dill and olive oil along with a side of delicious hummes. There is no charge for this heavenly appetizer, even if you order a modest lunch.

The lengthy menu lists 81 dishes ranging from traditional Greek appetizers like Dol-ma-des to amazing greek salads to a wide variety of grilled wrap platters of chicken, filet mignon and, of course, gyros. Personally, I don't like long menus with tens of choices, but OPA's unusually organized menu makes it easier to choose. It's divided based on the cost of the item, ranging from the \$6 items to the \$16 dishes, with most being less than \$11.

I ordered the gyros platter and experienced the best gyros I have ever had. My wife ordered spicy chicken breast with a fairly mild spicy sauce and one friend ordered organic penne pasta with light tomato cream sauce, spinach and mushrooms. The other friend ordered a burger and fries. When he ordered the burger, I thought to myself: "That's strange, you could order a burger from any restaurant." I was wrong. This one was a grilled, half-pound piece of fresh Angus ground beef with great Greek spices served with fresh cut kettle fries that tasted like they were right from Idaho. When the waiter came with it, there was a surprise which added to the fun experience. I will keep it a surprise for you in case you go there.

Dessert consisted of homemade baklava which was as good as what my mother used to make. The total bill for four people, which included huge portions, wine, dessert and a generous tip for the outstanding service was \$64. It certainly helped that my friend brought a \$25 off coupon along which he printed from OPA's website. Overall, I would rate OPA! a solid "A."

Editor's Note: Michael Christopher loves good food and good restaurants, and will periodically share some of his favorite places to eat in the area.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations

Don't forget to submit your nomination for Volunteer of the Year Award. Email your choice to Kay Miller at gvkaybaby@msn.com. Those without email may phone Kay at 393-1914 (if there's no answer, leave a message with your nomination). The deadline for nominations is March 1.

Show your pride in EE

The Gardeners will be selling these license plates for \$10.00 each. A great way to show your pride in EE wherever you go. To order a plate, contact Bill Berdine at whberdine@roadrunner.com or 344-7301.



Hit Us With Your Best Shots! Photo of the Month Contest

Resident photographers are invited to submit up to three photos taken around EE during the past year. The judges will choose the winners, whose winning photo will be published in the next Periodico and displayed on the bulletin board at the Ramada. They will also receive a gift card.

Deadline for this month: February 18. Please only three photos per person. You may submit your entry/ies to Denise Roessle (droessle@mac.com) as an email attachment, or save them on a CD or provide actual prints for scanning and deliver to 801 Napa.

EE Name Badges Available

Name badges for Ramada gatherings are available for \$6.00 each. If you would like to order a badge, contact Melodye Cooke: 399-0455 or melodye1@cox.net.



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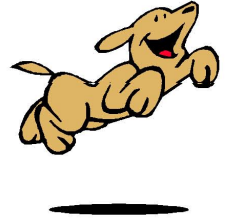
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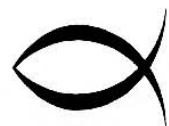


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1/2 Page	\$80	\$150	\$235
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Bus. Card	\$40	\$70	\$90

The EE HOA Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Periodico staff, and other personnel are not responsible for the business credentials of those that advertise in the Periodico. It is the responsibility of each homeowner interested in a service to verify credentials and see referrals.

For additional information, contact:

Denise Roessle, 399-3312, droessle@mac.com

Help us reach everyone in EE...

Do you have a neighbor who isn't receiving the Periodico because they don't have a computer? Please let us know — Denise Roessle, 399-3312, droessle@mac.com — and we will add them to our delivery list. Or offer to pick up a copy for them at the Ramada.

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