

periodico de Esperanza



March 2013

Enhancement Team Holds Another Successful Ramada/ Bake Sale

By Cynthia Surprise

The 2013 Ramada sale brought \$3,300 into the Enhancement Team's coffers to be spent on enhancements for our neighborhood. This year's sale included a one hour pre-sale on Friday exclusively for EE residents, who proved they know how to power shop. There were still plenty of treasures left when the gates opened to the general public at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, thanks to the generous donations by EE residents. Baked goods proved to be the hot item, and brought in a substantial portion of the profits.

We appreciate the hard work of the Enhancement Team members, who spent weeks preparing for the sale. Thanks are also in order for the other volunteers who helped out at the sale, and to those who generously donated space in their garages to store the donated items.

Continued on page 9

March Photo of the Month Congratulations to Colleen Simonsen



It was a bird lovers' month, with lots of entries featuring various feathered friends. Colleen captured this beautiful shot of a roadrunner. The deadline for the next contest is April 12. Details on page 4.

Green Valley Council News

By Joe McCalpin

First and foremost, do not forget that Saturday the 23rd of March the Hazardous waste event at the Presbyterian Church from 8:00 to noon. At the last event there was an hour long line and at the end some people didn't get in. There was some dissatisfaction with the lines and not being able to get in at the end. Please understand that this event is possible because the city of Tucson pays the city crew to come down here for one-half day. This restriction means that at the stroke of twelve they must fold up and leave. These events are very popular. To demonstrate the regard people here have for them, when the GV News carried an article that the event might be cancelled due to a lack of volunteers sixty plus individuals showed up. I am particularly proud of how well represented Esperanza Estates is in that number.

Things should flow a little better this time due to some changes made in the set-up of the traffic flow. This year, if you have only meds to dispose of, they will be collected near the entrance to the parking lot, if you have nothing else you will be directed to the exit. If you have only shredding, you will be directed to that spot. The same is true of electronic waste. Please remember that we are amateurs learning as we go and we are perfect only in our mother's eyes.

A wonderful thing has happened, Cynthia "Scoop" Surprise has established a direct line to the GVC Office and is now getting alerts about workshops and seminars to be held. These alerts will be posted on the website. An example of how pertinent these can be is the recent one on HOA law. This event was attended by Eric Ellingson and Stacie Meyer who were pleased with what was presented. Cynthia is very skilled at collecting information. There are rumors that the CIA is copying her information collection techniques, but there is no truth to the rumor that she is using drones.

The Environmental Committee heard a report that the Sahuarita land fill will reach capacity in the next three years. Freeport McMoRan will be placing scannable bar code trail markers on the West Desert Trails. No indication was given on what the hiker would use to interface with the markers. The Health and Human Services Committee Introduced Jessica Dalton as the new Public Health Nurse in Green Valley.

Board Meetings

April 15 • May 20
June 17

No meetings in July & August

Meetings resume Sept. 16

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

Esperanza Estates
Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 181
Green Valley, AZ 85622-0181

What are those creepy creatures hanging off the saguaro at 802 Regalo? Bill Berdine calls these motion-activated artificial spiders "attack spiders" and they are intended to discourage woodpeckers and cactus wrens from taking up residence in the cactus.



Our EE Volunteers

By Tom Cooke

This month our series of articles giving recognition to our EE volunteer groups will recognize our Hospitality Committee, and one of our newest groups, the Esperanza Gardeners.

Our Hospitality Committee is one of our oldest and most active, year around groups. Many of the current members of this hard-working bunch have served with the Committee for more than 10 years. They plan, organize, schedule, advertise, set-up and clean up, and generally do all that is necessary for most of the many social events we enjoy in Esperanza Estates each year. They normally charge a nominal fee for their regular events, and occasionally have used any proceeds to throw a "free-be" for all to attend without charge. We all know that social interaction is important, and our Hospitality Committee promotes this by scheduling events that allow us to have times of relaxation together when we can meet new friends and enjoy old ones.

Current members of the Hospitality Committee are Scottie & Fred Blum, Sam Barnard, Ed & Mary Bucholz, Lynn Theder, Kathy Sick, Pat Sharpe, Virginia Arendt, Concetta Deodati, Pat Flowers, and Sue Keitzer. Although not officially a member of the Committee, but a regular worker at its events, is the daughter of Scottie and Fred, Lorraine Blum.

The EE Gardeners is one of our newest--and busiest--volunteer groups. This committee was formed by a group who wanted to help rehabilitate and re-purpose our parks and common areas to make them both more beautiful and user-friendly, and to promote and help our residents to improve and enjoy their own yards and gardens. Their accomplishments to date have been impressive, and include remakes of Esperanza Estates Park and Mesquite Park, and the creation of Palo Verde del Norte Park. They have also undertaken beautification of both our Esperanza Blvd. and Portillo entrance monuments, and the Sunset Ramada arch, and the planting of cacti in common areas needing sprucing up. They have extensive future plans for additional areas needing work and upgrades. This group is one to watch. Current members are Kris Bean, Bill Berdine, Roberta Bower, Dick Carver, Tom Cooke, Donna Dailey, Jane Ellingson, Dean Hess, Geri Lindberg, Jim Lindberg, Barb McCalpin, Stacie Meyer, Kathleen Normand, Judy Prato, and Cynthia Surprise.

Next month we will be featuring our EE Arts Club, and our very important individual volunteers, who are not members of any particular committee, but who help us out in keeping our neighborhood operating in ways that we couldn't do without.

Welcome New Owners

*Harvey W. Dailey
1080 W. Calle Excelso*

*Carla L. Goings
715 W. Calle Del Ensalmó*



Show your pride in EE

The EE Gardeners are 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.

Upcoming Events



Hamburger Night Tuesday, April 9th Sunset Ramada

Cocktails 4:30 • Grilling begins at 5:30

\$6.00 per person

Includes a hamburger, cheeseburger or veggie burger.
Sodas, beer and mixes supplied.



Cinco de Mayo Potluck Sunday, May 5th • 4:30 Sunset Ramada

Bring your favorite Mexican dish to share and join your
neighbors for this annual fiesta!
Soda, water, and margaritas will be provided.

EE Coffee Klach at the Ramada

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



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: Friday, April 12. Please only three photos per per-
son. 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.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

IF YOU...

Want to make architectural changes to your property:

Jim Lindberg, 777-4972

Notice common areas that need attention: Dean Hess, 398-4829

Have questions about EE HOA finances: Joan Moreaux, 648-7515

Have questions about the pool, tennis/pickleball courts or ramada:

Tom Cooke, 399-0455

Need a light bulb for your lamp post: Tom Cooke, 399-0455; Dean Hess, 398-4829;

or Joe McCalpin, 867-8067

Need help dealing with a neighbor: Stacie Meyer, 344-7301

Notice suspicious activity or something is awry at a neighbor's home: Mary Beth Wallace, 399-0299

Need to make changes to your emergency contact information:

Mary Beth Wallace, 399-0299 or your Neighborhood Watch block captain

Want to place an ad in the Periodico: Denise Roessle, 399-3312

Need delivery of the Periodico: Denise Roessle, 399-3312

Want to volunteer for a committee:

Neighborhood Watch — Mary Beth Wallace 399-0299

Hospitality — Scottie Blum, 399-0955

Enhancement — Barb McCalpin 867-8067

Bienvenidos — Barb McCalpin 867-8067

Periodico (to write or suggest an article) — Cynthia Surprise, 857-209-1978

EE Gardeners — Bill Berdine, 344-7301

Arts Club — Kevin Welsh, 231-838-6851



Enhancement Team Report

By Barb McCalpin

Once again, it's time to say a big thank you to all of you who helped make the Ramada/Bake Sale a big success! Kudos go to the Enhancement Team, to the Men's Auxiliary and helpers, to people who worked at the sale, to those who contributed both sale items and the marvelous baked goods, and, finally, to those who shopped at the sale. Esperanza always amazes me!

You may have noticed the very large storage bins (appropriately, Norfolk Brown) at the west end of the ramada. Thanks to Al Prato and Joe McCalpin for conquering the challenge of assembling these behemoths. We are gradually filling the bins with seat cushion to be used by all at ramada events. We only ask that you return the cushions to the bins when you are through using them.

Several years ago, the Enhancement Team bought new trash cans for the ramada. The cans themselves have held up well, but the lids are deteriorating from constant exposure to the sun. We were pleasantly surprised (astonished, actually) when Rubbermaid agreed to send us five new replacement lids at no charge!

On Friday, March 22, we will give the ramada a spring cleaning, just in time for the weekend events. On Saturday, March 23, we will have a pre-tour for homeowners and workers participating in the EE Home and Garden Tour. The Tour itself, featuring a combination of ten outstanding homes and gardens, will be held on Sunday, the 24th, from 1:00 to 3:00. The Tour will conclude with a wine and cheese party at the ramada. Decorative items will be sold by the Gardeners and the Public Arts Club. A drawing will be held to determine the winner of the raffle for the colorful ceramic bird house, with proceeds going to support the good work done by the Gardeners. Hope to see you there.

Around Esperanza

A Walk in Esperanza's Parks

Esperanzans need not envy Londoners their Hyde Park or New Yorkers their Central Park – we now have some wonderful parks right in our own neighborhood, and they are perfect for a leisurely stroll.

It's taken a lot of collective volunteer efforts over the last several years, but the results are nothing short of spectacular. Thanks to the Gardeners, the Arts Club, the individual volunteers, and Director of Common Area Maintenance Dean Hess for transforming some rather forlorn areas into pleasant spots in which to tarry a while.

Our volunteers have done so much with new gravel, realignment of the trails through the parks, new plantings, rebuilding the old picnic tables, and the creation of mosaic works of art. Stop by Palo Verde del Norte Park (Circulo del Norte), Sunset Ramada Garden, EE Park (Esperanza Blvd and Holgado), Mountain View Park (southeast corner of Napa) and Mesquite Park (Holgado) and enjoy the good fortune of living in such a wonderful neighborhood.



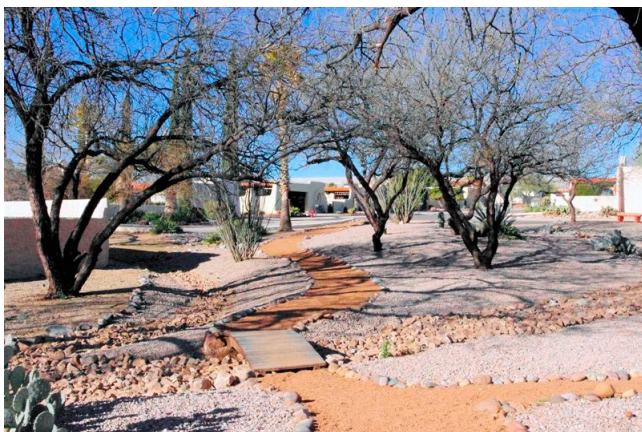
One of Stacie Meyer's tiled bench masterpieces



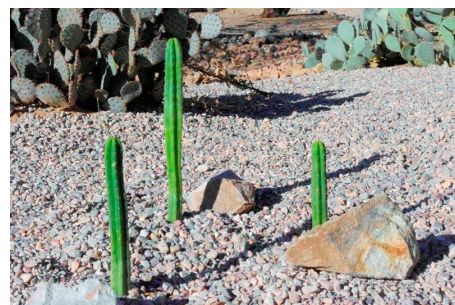
Bill Berdine and Bill Pratt have just installed new signs on each of the parks. The two of them made them and Stacie Meyer, Rosella Pratt and Cindy Krantz helped paint them.



Dick Carver and Bill Pratt install the ceramic tortoise at Mountain View Park.



Mesquite Park: (above) new gravel and trail; (top right) new cacti; (below right) refurbished bench.

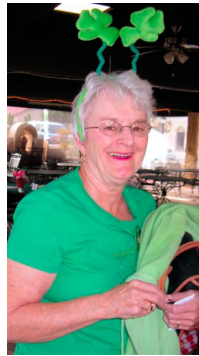


St. Patrick's Day Party at the Ramada

The enticing aroma of corned beef and cabbage wafted slowly along Ensalmó on Sunday, March 17th as the Hospitality Committee prepared their annual Irish feast at the Ramada. After salivating all day in anticipation, party goers were not disappointed in either the meal or the festivities.

While the committee took care of set up and clean up of the Ramada, Chef Lorraine prepared dinner for 70 guests with help from her mother, Scottie Blum, who peeled 20 pounds of potatoes.

During the scrumptious meal, attendees enjoyed musical entertainment provided by Vicki Belville accompanied by our own Patty Adler on the violin.



Who is Chef Lorraine?

Lorraine Blum has been a professional chef for 10 years. She trained at the Art Institutes' International Culinary School in San Diego, where she learned from world class instructors and graduated at the top of her class. She worked as an executive chef in several different fields before starting Sahuarita Chef, a personal chef and catering business. Lorraine also teaches at Pima Community College's culinary school. Although world cuisine has influenced Lorraine's culinary style, her favorite food is American comfort food.

Checklist for Closing Your House for the Summer

By Cynthia Surprise

Many of our readers will be leaving Green Valley before our April issue comes out, so we are re-publishing the SAV Vacation Checklist here.

Here's my own personal tip for remembering what items you left in EE. A day or two before I leave, I take pictures of all the rooms, then open every closet, cabinet and drawer, and take pictures of what's inside them. It's easier than making a list of items (especially if you take a lot of items back and forth), and if I don't remember whether I packed an item or left it here, I just look at the photo.

Here's another idea: If you contact Tucson Water Company in advance of closing up your home, you can put your service "on vacation" and pay a flat rate, which is lower than the minimum you would otherwise pay. The key is that you must do this before you leave as they will not make a retroactive adjustment. Contact them at 520-791-3242.

PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS (SAV) VACATION CHECKLIST

Residents leaving for vacation or the summer may be leaving a welcome sign out for burglars or other potential problems. Please take the time to do the following:

1. Call SAV (520-351-6744) a week before you are leaving to request house checks. Then, about once a week SAV will check all your doors and windows. They will also look for running water, bee activity, etc. Make sure your street number is on the back of your house/gate. There is no charge for this service.
2. Make sure all doors and windows are locked. Use track locks, and pin any sliding windows. If possible, use security bars or wooden dowels on sliding doors. Lock security screen doors.
3. Close all drapes and blinds.
4. Suspend all deliveries (e.g., newspapers, food, prescriptions) and forward your mail to your summer address.
5. Arrange for an emergency key holder (or two, if possible). Make sure they have your summer contact information.
6. Arrange for yard-care to keep weeds and debris cleared away, and keep trees and shrubs trimmed.
7. Turn buckets or other containers upside-down so they won't collect water and create a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Make sure any ponds or pools are emptied, or arrange to have them properly maintained in your absence.
8. Have a neighbor keep watch for strange occurrences. 'Neighborhood Watch' programs are very effective.
9. Warning decals are available to put on your front and rear windows.
10. If available, use electric timers with multiple settings to turn some lights, even a radio, on and off at different times.

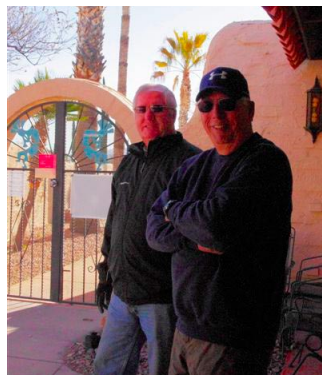
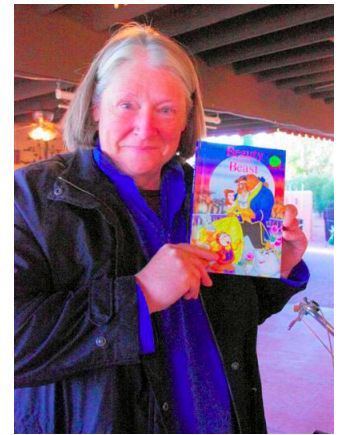
Some other things you can do:

11. Install outside motion-sensor lighting as a deterrent.
12. Mark all valuables with your driver's license number and state.
13. Keep a written record of your possessions.
14. Install an alarm system to provide added security.
15. Install rolling shutters which offer great protection, although expensive.
16. Install tinted window film to reduce glass breakage & visibility from outside.

Ramada/Bake Sale

Continued from page 1

Did you find a treasure at the sale? I did, and it has EE provenance. Labeled "Stone-lined Derby," this cute little item (pictured at right) is a trombone mute donated by Alan Niemi from his days playing in a big band. Maybe it'll make it on to Antiques Roadshow. Linda Welsh (pictured far right) was delighted to find "Beauty and the Beast," one of her favorite childhood books.

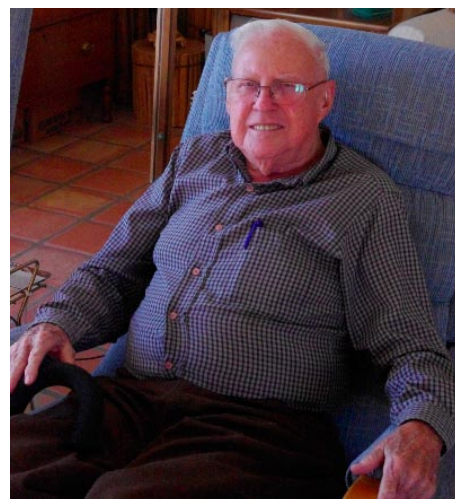


People You Should Know: Don Helms

By Paul LaVanway

As time marches on, we are losing the living memory of the generation of veterans who fought World War II. Of the more than 16 million individuals who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the 1939-45 conflict, only about 1.2 million remain alive today. Soon there will not be anyone left who experienced the epic struggle first-hand.

While each passing year finds fewer and fewer World War II veterans, one who was there and who witnessed the conflict “up close and personal” is one of Esperanza Estate’s own: Don Helms.



Don was born in Barnesville, Ohio in 1923 and graduated from high school in 1941. Given the onset of war, it wasn’t long before he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Sent to Camp Butner, NC, Don trained as a combat infantryman.

Don shipped-off to the European theatre of operations as a replacement soldier. According to Don, “just the trip across the Atlantic Ocean was enough to cause anxiety--of the 23 or 24 merchant marine ships in our convoy, 6 were sunk by German U-Boats. Given how dangerous the Atlantic was at the time, no one went back to pick-up the survivors.”

Assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division, Don functioned in a variety of infantry roles, including Rifleman, Forward Observer-Mortars and Heavy Weapons Machine Gunner. He saw combat in places such as Anzio Beach, Italy, southern France and western Germany.

Life in the infantry was tough and dangerous. Don commented, “men at the front were slaughtered left and right.” Yet, even the most combat-hardened soldiers of the 157th were unprepared for what they soon encountered. The date was April 29, 1945, and as the 157th advanced into southwest Germany, it liberated the infamous Dachau concentration camp.

Don recalled that as soon as they entered the village of Dachau, things seemed out of place. “The entire town had an odd, roast beef-type of smell to it--and then we reached the concentration camp. What we saw shocked everyone.”

“When we arrived at the camp the barbed wire fence was still electrified and when the prisoners saw we were American soldiers, several of them rushed the fence and were electrocuted. We were eventually able to get the gates open and the electricity turned off.”

“The crematoriums were still running. There were stacks of dead bodies laying everywhere. The barracks were filled with prisoners who were emaciated and looked more like skeletons than human beings.”

Continued on next page

"I climbed up on top of one of the dozen railroad cars lined up along a sidetrack, and as I looked down into the cars, they were loaded with bodies. Some were still alive, but just barely. It was bad---it was really bad."

"Some of the GIs took revenge against the Nazi SS concentration camp guards, killing them outright." (Note: The number of Dachau SS camp guards killed vary by the account, however, most historical reports place the number killed at 123.)

Less than ten days later on May 8, 1945 the armed forces of Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allied forces, thus ending the war in Europe.

Hostilities over, Don's unit was moved to Nuremberg, where they provided security for the prosecutors and judges preparing for the International Military Tribunal war crimes trials.

By the end of 1945, his term of military service nearly completed, Don was on his way back home. He recalled, "I was shipped back to the States on what had formerly been a Norwegian passenger liner. There must have been 5,000 of us on the ship; we were packed in like sardines with bunks stacked five high. Well, we reach New York harbor and there is the Statue of Liberty--and everyone on board immediately rushes to the side of the ship so we can see Miss Liberty. Well, the ship started to list so badly we almost capsized. I couldn't help but think that after everything I had gone through in Europe how ironic it would have been to get almost all the way back home, only to die in New York harbor, within sight of the U.S. coast."

After the war, Don attended college, married and had a couple of children. Embarking upon a career in merchandising, Don worked as a buyer for several department stores. In 1958, Don moved west, taking the job of Merchandising Manager for Goldwater's new flagship store, Fashion Square, in Scottsdale. Within a year, Don was named General Manager of the Scottsdale store, a position which he held until his retirement in 1984.

Three years later, looking for a different community in which to spend their retirement years, Don and his wife took advantage of an offer which a local developer, Fairfield Green Valley, Inc., was advertising, "3 days and 3 nights in Green Valley for \$49.00." Don and his wife liked what they saw and purchased an Esperanza Estates home at the northeast corner of Regalo and Portillo.

Over the course of the past 25 years, time has taken its toll. Don's wife died in 2001 and both of his children have passed away as well. Don is dealing with some of his own health issues; in his own words, "I am getting old and feeble, I've had two strokes and a few bad falls. Nonetheless, life has been good to me. I have a number of wonderful friends, a couple of grandchildren and a former daughter-in-law who I am close to-- she calls me everyday. A real revelation with age is how courteous and helpful everyone is. The people in Esperanza, in particular, have been very caring. Lots of people have given me a great deal of help---more than I ever asked for---certainly more than I ever expected."

A highlight for Don was participating in the Honor Flight program of November 16-18, 2011---an event enabling veterans to fly to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II memorial, to reflect on the past and to be honored for their sacrifices. As Don mused, "it was truly a heart-rending experience. To have little kids come up to you and thank you for what you did so many years ago---it brought tears to my eyes---I cried more than you can ever imagine."

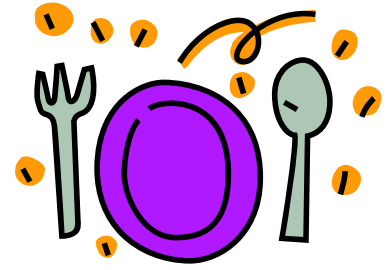
Don will turn 90 this July. If you don't know him --get to know him. Don is one of those people who has sacrificed to help make this world a better place.

Restaurant Review: Sweet Tomatoes

By Michael Christopher

Sweet Tomatoes
6203 E. Broadway
4420 N. Stone

www.sweettomatoes.com



I am not a great fan of buffet restaurants. Although there is a lot of food served at reasonable prices, I find a number of problems with most of them. The food is often tasteless and unhealthy. It is, by definition, mass-produced. When I walk out of a buffet restaurant, I always feel like I've eaten too much. Because the amount of tipping is minimal, staff often give you the impression that they don't really enjoy working there.

In all respects, Sweet Tomatoes is not your typical buffet restaurant. It started in San Diego in 1978 and is now in 15 states with 112 company-owned stores - two of them in Tucson. Most of them are located in Western states but they are as far East as Illinois and Florida.

I have been to both of the Tucson restaurants and each time I go, there are many things that never change. The restaurant is always clean, bright and has extremely helpful and pleasant staff. It is always divided into food stations, including salads, soups, pastas, baked goods and desserts. The one constant that stands out for me the most is that the food is very fresh, healthy and delicious. It is amazing to me how the food served there can be individually-tailored for what appeals to you at that moment but at the same time being made in large quantities.

What is unique about this restaurant is that although the great constants are always there, each time I go, I find surprises in the foods offered at each station. For example, in December, the featured salad was Smoked Turkey and Spinach with Almonds, the pasta was Turkey Chutney and the muffin was Sweet Orange and Cranberry. In January, it all changed. How about some Whole Grain Fiesta Couscous, Vegetable Bean & Barley Stew and Banana Crunch Muffins?

One of my favorite stations is the soup area. Every day, there are six different soups to choose from, including delicious soups like Cheesy Corn Chowder with Bacon, Black Bean & Chorizo and Asian Ginger Broth.

This is also a fun place to take your grandchildren. They will love the brownies, the soft ice cream and the strawberry lemonade - and so do I.

There is a 10% discount for seniors. Since seniors like me want to stay away from driving in the evening in Tucson, a great time to go is to have your main meal for lunch, especially because it's all you can eat. Great coupons are always available at the restaurant's website. My grade for Sweet Tomatoes is 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.

Social Media Marketing Seminar

On Sunday, April 7th, social media "guru" Serena Freewomyn of Tucson will present a seminar at the Sunset Ramada, arranged by EE author Denise Roessle. Although the focus will be on social media (Facebook, Twitter and websites) for authors, anyone who is interested in learning more about using these tools for marketing is welcome to attend. The cost \$15 for the two-hour seminar (1-3 p.m.). For more information or sign up, contact Denise at droessle@mac.com or 399-3312.

Road Trip Adventure: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

By Paul LaVanway

Bill Berdine, Stacie Meyer, my wife Kathy, and I took a day trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument at the end of February. Organ Pipe is a Sonoran Desert wilderness area located about 160 miles west of Green Valley – 3 hours by car.

The national monument was established in 1937 to preserve the unique and spectacular organ pipe cactus, one of the only places the succulent is found in the U.S. The wilderness area is large – well over 500 square miles, with numerous hiking trails and several scenic drives.



We found that Organ Pipe proved to be much more rugged and spectacular than we had expected, with dramatic mountain-and-plains scenery. Additionally, while the organ pipe cacti were interesting to see, what truly caught our attention were the saguaro cacti at Organ Pipe – saguaros which were generally taller, wider and more “multi-armed” than any which we had previously seen – even including those at Saguaro National Park. Lastly, we found that Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is seasonally several weeks ahead of Green Valley, with plant life at the park already beginning to turn green and some flowers (such as the desert marigold) beginning to blossom.

The 21 mile Ajo Mountain scenic drive which we took in Organ Pipe was both fun and safe. We spent about a half a day at the national monument; all felt that the wilderness landscape is a wonderful spot to soak in the beauty of the desert Southwest.



There aren't many places to stay or eat near Organ Pipe, so if you want to do this as a day trip, I suggest bringing along plenty of snacks and beverages. The closest places to stay or eat are Why and Ajo. We extended the trip by driving over to Yuma (3 hours) to spend the night and returned to Green Valley the next day.

 Heating & Cooling Products  	<h2>Scott Guerin Heating & Cooling</h2> <h3>520-648-2504</h3> <p>Sales Service Installation</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>Air Conditioners</td><td>Furnaces</td></tr><tr><td>Heat Pumps</td><td>Duct Cleaning</td></tr><tr><td>Mini Splits</td><td>Service/Repair</td></tr></table> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">FREE ESTIMATES</div> <p>Affordable, Professional Heating & Cooling</p>  	Air Conditioners	Furnaces	Heat Pumps	Duct Cleaning	Mini Splits	Service/Repair	<h3>Special Pricing</h3> <p>Split A/C Systems or Package Unit</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>3 Ton – \$3,700.00</td></tr><tr><td>4 Ton – \$4,400.00</td></tr><tr><td>5 Ton – \$4,700.00</td></tr></table> <p>Installed Prices Prices Valid with Cash or Check</p> <h4>"The Buck Stretcher"</h4> 	3 Ton – \$3,700.00	4 Ton – \$4,400.00	5 Ton – \$4,700.00
Air Conditioners	Furnaces										
Heat Pumps	Duct Cleaning										
Mini Splits	Service/Repair										
3 Ton – \$3,700.00											
4 Ton – \$4,400.00											
5 Ton – \$4,700.00											
<p>THE WEATHER IS CHANGING, WE WANT TO KEEP YOU COMFORTABLE</p> <p>Licensed Bonded Insured ROC 252995</p>											

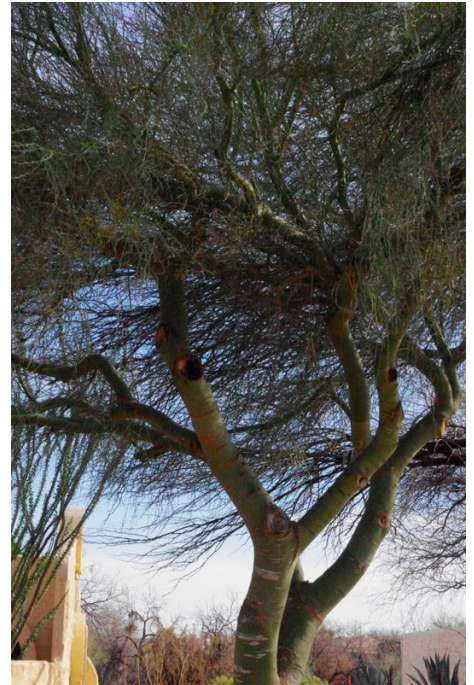
Plant of the Month: Palo Verde

Since Esperanza Estates named its newest park Palo Verde del Norte, it seems appropriate to make it our plant of the month. Named Arizona's official state tree in 1954, the palo verde is one of the most beautiful trees of our desert area.

It's easy to recognize this tree by its green trunk from which it got its name. "Palo verde" means "green stick" in Spanish.

When in bloom in the spring (late March until May), each tree becomes a mass of yellow flowers. Leaves are absent or inconspicuous and don't distract from the golden bloom.

There are two palo verde species that are native to Arizona: blue palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*) and foothill palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*). Blue palo verde has blue-green branches and leaves and has spines along the twigs. The blue palo verde is less tolerant of drier soils than the foothills palo verde so it is more common along washes. Foothill palo verde has yellow-green branches and leaves and the spines are formed as pointed branches. It's smaller than the blue.



To meet the challenge of conserving water, palo verdes have relatively few leaves and shed them shortly after flowering. With most plants, the green leaves are the parts which manufacture food. The palo verde's bark plays the role of leaves and carries on photosynthesis.

Birds enjoy the seeds of the palo verde, and they seem to be an important item in the diet of the gambel quail.

If you haven't been up to Palo Verde del Norte Park on Circulo del Norte, take a few minutes to visit it and see the lovely palo verde for which the park was named.

TECH TIP

Password Refresher

Once upon a time, long, long ago, unless you belonged to a secret club, you could go through life without the need to remember a password. Now, it seems you need a password for everything you do and keeping them secret is of the utmost importance.

Here's some tips to consider when choosing passwords:

- Use a different password for each of your online accounts.
- Change your passwords frequently – at least every six months.
- Don't use personal information such as family names, birth dates, or pet names.
- Mix it up – use uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols, in your passwords with at least eight characters.
- Use abbreviations for memorable phrases such as 2B-or-Not_2b?

If you have so many passwords that you need to write them down, don't keep your list near your computer.





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For additional information, contact:

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