

A close-up photograph of several aloe vera leaves, showing their serrated edges and pointed tips. The leaves are dark green and are set against a bright, warm sunset or sunrise sky. The sun is a glowing orb partially obscured by the leaves, creating a lens flare effect. The overall color palette is dominated by oranges, yellows, and greens.

Grayhawk Flight

February 2018

Inside:

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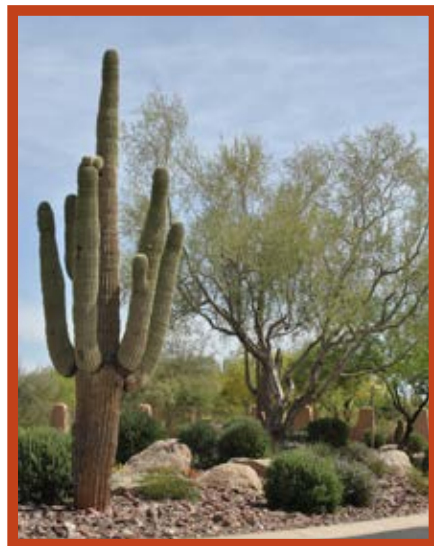
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Grayhawk Community Association

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CCMC
7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy.
Suite 102
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
www.grayhawkcommunity.org

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RSVP
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Fax
(480) 563-9709

Talon Guardhouse/Roving Patrol
(480) 502-7685

Raptor Guardhouse
(480) 502-5078

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

GRAYHAWK STAFF



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Anthony Day
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On the Cover
Desert Sunset

Manager's Corner



The month of February is often associated with love and kindness, and that theme has made its way into Grayhawk this month. We will be having our Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 24. This dance has become a very popular annual event and it is a great chance for all of the fathers in Grayhawk with young daughters to spend an evening with their "Little Princess". I encourage all of the men in Grayhawk to bring their special little lady or ladies to this fun-filled dance. My daughter and I have attended this event in past and we have always had a great time – just make sure you have your dancing shoes on.

Also this month this is "Random Acts of Kindness Week" from February 11-17. As Grayhawk residents, I encourage you to consider your own random acts of kindness this month in your community. There are many things you can do for others in your neighborhood or community to show your appreciation and/or kindness. You can welcome new homeowners to your neighborhood with a "hello" when they move in and offer assistance if they need help or have questions about the community. You can offer to keep an eye on a neighbor's house when their away or watch a neighbor's pets for them, if necessary. If you see a neighbor's trash container has been left out, pull it in for them. I know my neighbor and I do that for each other all year long. You might want to even write a letter of thanks to the GCA or RVA Board of Directors for all their hard work and for volunteering their time to continue to make Grayhawk an even better community.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, later this month you will be mailed a ballot for voting in the Grayhawk Community Association 2018 Board of Directors election and, if you live in the Retreat Village, a ballot for voting in the Retreat Village Association 2018 Board of Directors election. In this mailing, you will also receive information about the candidates and their responses to a questionnaire regarding their qualifications, goals for the association, and community interests if elected as a Board member. During the past several years, the Election Committee,

Communications Committee and the GCA on-site staff worked very hard to improve the voter turnout in these elections and we have been able to increase the number of ballots returned each of the past four years, but we can still do better. In 2018, we are hoping to have our largest voter turnout ever at Grayhawk. This is your community so we are encouraging you to do your part and become involved in the Board election process. Please take the time to read the candidate information and questionnaire, and vote in this year's election(s).

Finally, you should have already received a ballot via email or text message for a proposed amendment to the Grayhawk Community Association CC&Rs requesting your vote to prohibit homeowners from leasing their property for less than 30 days. To amend the Grayhawk CC&Rs, the affirmative vote of 67% of the 3,784 homeowners is required, which amounts to 2,536 "Yes" votes to pass the proposed amendment. To date we have over 1,600 affirmative votes and approximately 85% of the votes we have received are in favor of the CC&R amendment. However, almost half of the homeowners have not voted yet and, as you can see, the GCA still has a long way to go to pass this amendment.

The GCA will have volunteers going door-to-door to homeowners who have not voted yet to inform and encourage them how to vote. The GCA will also be having a contest among three groups in the community – Park residents, Retreat residents, and condominium development residents -- beginning this month with the neighborhood/condominium development in each group with the highest percentage of votes received winning a neighborhood party sponsored by the GCA.

This is a very important issue for the community. If you have not yet voted, or don't know if you received the information and ballot for voting, please contact the GCA office at 480-563-9708 or email Dana Gonzalez at dgonzalez@ccmcnet.com for further information.

We'll talk again soon.

Michael Fee

Grayhawk Community Manager

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The Grayhawk Community Association (GCA) offers advertising as a service to our community and does not support or endorse the products, persons or services advertised in the Flight. GCA shall not be held liable or responsible for any misleading or incorrect advertising.

BOARD MEETINGS – FEBRUARY 2018

Board meetings are open to residents and we encourage you to attend.
Your involvement does make a difference!

Grayhawk Board of Directors

Mon, Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the Talon Room,
GCA office
Grayhawk_board@grayhawkcommunity.org

Grayhawk Board of Directors Executive Session Meeting

The Board of Directors will be meeting in
Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. Section
33-1804 (A)(3) at 5:00 p.m. in the GCA office.

Retreat Village Board of Directors

Mon., Feb. 5 following GCA meeting in the
Talon Room, GCA office
Retreat_board@grayhawkcommunity.org

Retreat Village Board of Directors Executive Session Meeting

The Board of Directors will be meeting in
Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. Section
33-1804 (A)(3) at 5:00 p.m. in the GCA office.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Communications Committee

Call Jennifer Sheets at 480-563-9708 for more
information.

Event Planning Committee

Call Sarah Van Duyne at 480-563-9708 for
more information.

Landscape Committee

Call Stacey Harvey at 480-563-9708 for more
information.

Operational Review Committee

Next meeting scheduled on Mon., Feb. 26 at
3:30 pm in the GCA office. Call Stacey Harvey
at 480-563-9708 for more information.

Architectural Review Committee

Tues., Feb. 6 and 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the GCA
office.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Avian Condominium Association Board Meeting

Tues., Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Raptor
Room, GCA office. Call Associated Property
Management 480-941-1077 for details.

Cachet at Grayhawk Condominium Association Board Meeting

Wed., Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the Cachet
Clubhouse. Call FirstService Residential at
480-551-4300 for details.

Crown Point Board Meeting

Call Stacey Harvey at 480-563-9708 for
details.

Edge Condominium Association Board Meeting

Visit www.theedgegrayhawk.com or call
480-584-4647 for details.

Encore Condominium Association Board Meeting

Wed., Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Encore
Clubhouse. Call HOAMCO at 480-994-4479
for details.

Tesoro Condominium Association Annual Meeting

Mon., Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Talon Room,
GCA office. Call Kinney Management at
480-820-3451 for details.

Venu Condominium Association Board Meeting

Tues., Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Venu
Greatroom. Call Associated Property
Management at 480-941-1077 for details.

Village at Grayhawk Condominium Association Board Meeting

Thur., Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Raptor Room,
GCA office. Call FirstService Residential at
480-551-4300 for details.

Vintage Condominium Association Board Meeting

Mon., Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. in the Talon Room,
GCA office. Call Associated Property
Management at 480-941-1077 for details.



Grayhawk Community Association Board Members

Linda Shaw
President

Paul Alessio
Vice President

Jeanette Griswold
Treasurer

David Van Omen
Secretary

Margo Bellock
Director

Robert Mann
Director

Martha Troy
Director

Retreat Village Association Board Members

Arlene Smith
President

Ira Mallin
Vice President

Patrick Thompson
Treasurer

Mitchell Cooper
Secretary

Alan Fernandez
Director

VISION

Grayhawk: a Sonoran Desert
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MISSION STATEMENT

Grayhawk Community
Association strives to enhance
quality of life and community
strength through inclusion,
participation and pragmatic
stewardship of human,
financial and environmental
assets.

Grayhawk Master Association Board of Directors Meeting – January 8, 2018

Old Business

Linda Shaw led a review of the proposed Strategic Goals Action Plan.

There was question regarding the date of the Desert Edge presentations. Paul Alessio noted that Scottsdale City Council will be discussing the Desert Edge project further in the near future and suggested perhaps we wait to hold presentations to residents. Linda Shaw suggested the fall of 2018 and all agreed this made sense.

Jeanette Griswold suggested that under Building Community something should be added regarding bringing people together. Margo Bellock noted that connecting residents was something the Event Planning Committee already did. All decided to keep the objective title the same.

Development Committee

David Van Omen reported that there were no major developments.

Operational Review Committee

Martha Troy reported that a Trident Security staff member had hit a saguaro located in GCA common area. Trident Security is covering all of the damage.

There was no significant vandalism over the past month.

Landscape Committee

Arlene Smith reported that the committee did not meet. She noted that there had been an overage in water usage, which was not due to watering, rather broken and damaged pumps throughout the community.

Community Enhancement Committee

Bob Mann reported that the committee did not meet.

Event Planning Committee

Margo Bellock reported that the Event Planning Committee would be sharing part of their February meeting with the Communications Committee to discuss charitable giving.

The committee has been working on a series of events for women which will feature a variety of activities.

Sarah Van Duyne reported that the holiday events had all been very successful. Upcoming events include the annual trip to Tubac for the Festival of the Arts, which is always very popular.

Communications Committee

Jennifer Sheets reported that the committee did not meet in December.

Jill Richards, the photographer hired to take photos for Grayhawk, has started working and should be done with shooting and editing by the end of January.

Architectural Review Committee

Paul Alessio reported that the committee met twice in December and reviewed seven submittals.

Budget/Finance Committee

Jeanette Griswold reported that the committee did not meet.

Executive Committee

Linda Shaw reported that the GCA Building Purchase Ad Hoc Committee met on December 15 and discussed potentially purchasing the building located at 7910 E. Thompson Peak Parkway to be used as the GCA office.

Before the discussion started, Michael Fee shared that there homeowner group working on proposing legislation that would drastically reduce the amount an association can charge for a community enhancement fee and if the current rate is changed, this would have a very negative affect on the GCA community enhancement fund.

Linda Shaw shared that Michael Fee, Jeanette Griswold and Paul Alessio had met with the owner of the current building being leased by the GCA to discuss the possibility of getting out of the lease early and potentially purchasing the building. The owner of the building did not seem interested in letting the GCA out of the lease early, and would potentially be willing to sell the building where the GCA office is currently located, although at a price per square foot that is greater than the current building for sale.

Paul Alessio posed the question as to whether or not the GCA can own an asset, which Michael Fee said is possible. Paul also asked if the GCA could profit from the sale of such an asset, to which Michael responded that he would have to obtain legal advice regarding this question. Paul noted that he would want more transparency with Grayhawk residents if the GCA Board decides to purchase a building.

David Van Omen stated that he keeps asking himself whether or not the purchase of the new building would be best for homeowners, or whether or not it would be increasing their property values.

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He noted that perhaps money would be better spent elsewhere on something that would somehow increase property values for owners.

Margo Bellock stated that she agreed with both Paul and David's sentiments.

Bob Mann stated that although he feels like we are being given a bad deal by our current landlord, he's not sure that purchasing a building and spending more than \$1.5 million from our community enhancement fund makes sense.

Linda Shaw asked Michael Fee to list a few projects that the GCA might have to forgo should they decide to purchase the building. Michael noted that we would likely have to reduce the scope or not be able to continue with the following current projects:

1. Fund a portion of the GCA reserve fund through the GCA community enhancement fund which would increase assessments by \$2 per month
2. The monument sign upgrade project
3. The Condominium Community Enhancement Program
4. Holiday lights
5. New landscaping at monuments

Linda Shaw also asked Michael Fee and Stacey Harvey to share their opinion from a staff perspective. Both stated that they were originally in favor of the building purchase, however, felt that perhaps there were other projects where community enhancement funds would be better spent. A motion was made, seconded and approved to discontinue any efforts toward purchasing a building to be used as the GCA office at this time and the GCA office to remain in its current location.

New Business

A proposal from The Ballot Box was presented for ballot printing, distribution and counting services for the 2018 GCA board election. The proposal for the turn-key service was slightly more (\$200) than the 2017 proposal.

A motion was made and approved to accept The Ballot Box proposal of \$6,490 for the 2018 GCA board election.

Treasurer's Report

Jeanette Griswold reported that the water overage has hurt the budget slightly, but that we may be able to recoup some of the cost through the City of Scottsdale.

Through November, the Community Enhancement Fund took in \$682,635.

Management Report

Michael Fee reported that holiday lights are coming down in mid-January. A Call for Candidates letter was mailed to homeowners for the 2018 GCA and RVA Board elections. There are three positions on the GCA Board and two positions on the RVA Board available in this year's election. Board candidate applications are due by January 26.

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MacKenzie LeBeau

January 4, 2018

Food Drive Manager

Date



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the \$5,715.05 that they collected, and the neighborhood provided a total of 41,166 meals for people in the valley! Thanks to all who volunteered, as well as anyone who stopped by to donate.



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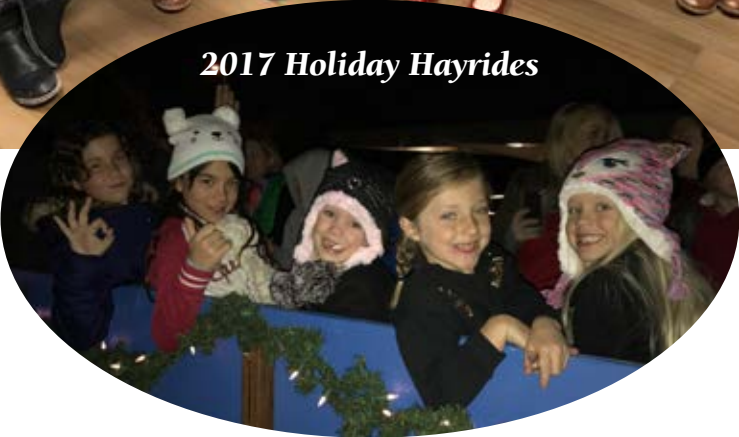
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In & Around Grayhawk

Hiking Club

Sat., Feb. 3 at 8 am

Dixie Mine from Fountain Hills

Join the Hiking Club for a moderate lollipop loop hike to see petroglyphs near Dixie Mine from Fountain Hills Trailhead. This 6-mile loop is ideal for intermediate hikers. Estimated hiking time is 3 hours. To learn more about this hike and/or RSVP, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Grayhawk-Hiking-Club/>. To participate, you must have joined the club online (if you have not already done so) and RSVP'd "YES" to this event. On the website, you can review many other upcoming hikes and email the organizers with questions.

Tubac Festival of the Arts Day Trip

Thurs., Feb. 8, Bus Departs from the old Bashas' at Grayhawk Plaza at 8 am

Spend the day seeing hundreds of visiting artists, crafters and musicians from around the country at the very popular Annual Tubac Festival of the Arts. Serious paintings share the streets with whimsical sculptures, jewelry and much more! You will find many fine restaurants along with a packed food court ranging from tacos to gyros. Grayhawk residents will depart at 8 a.m. from the center of the Grayhawk Plaza parking lot at the SE corner of Scottsdale Road and Grayhawk Drive. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure. Price is \$22 per person and includes water and snacks for the bus ride. RSVP to 480-563-9839 by February 5 to assure your spot. A bus waiver must be completed for this event and no refunds will be given.

Murder Mystery Dinner Party

Thurs., Feb. 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Talon Room, GCA office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. #102

Join us at the Grayhawk office for a killer night of food, fun and crime solving with your neighbors. You will have a blast dressing up with your friends while enjoying to-die-for entertainment you aren't likely to forget. A delicious dinner will be catered and there will be plenty of sweets to go around! The cost to participate in this event is \$35 per person and includes the entertainment and dinner. Beer and wine will be available thanks to our sponsors Kathy Craig and Nancy Costlow- Skin Care Consultants with Rodan + Fields, and Kelley Carter & John Doering, Realtors with The Agency Group at HomeSmartElite. Seating is limited, and this event is sure to fill up! Call 480-563-9839 now to register for this event. Deadline to pay and register is end of day Monday, February 12.

Just For Her- Chocolate 101 and Wine Pairing

Wed., Feb. 21 at 6 pm

Talon Room, GCA office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. #102

Just For Her is a new monthly activity we are putting on just for the ladies of Grayhawk. With these events, we plan to provide creative, social, all-inclusive experiences to help women meet, connect, and network. This will be the first for the year and we are very excited it involves two of our favorite things... chocolate and wine! During the Chocolate 101 and Wine Pairing event you will learn and experience that Chocolate is more than the flavor we think of...chocolate can actually have many different natural flavors. Some of the pairings may surprise you. Bring an open mind and have fun! You will get to sample four different chocolate and wine pairings all while enjoying the company of fellow female neighbors. Thanks to our sponsors Kathy Craig and Nancy Costlow- Skin Care Consultants with Rodan + Fields and Kelley Carter & John Doering, Realtors with The Agency Group at HomeSmartElite, the cost to participate in this special event is only \$35 per person. All RSVP's and pre-payments must be in the GCA office in cash or check by Monday, February 19. Call 480-563-9839 to register today!



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Hiking Club

Sat., Feb. 24 at 8 am

Coyote Canyon in Browns Ranch Area of the Preserve

Join the Hiking Club for a moderate hike from the Granite Mountain Trailhead in the North McDowell Mountain Preserve. This 8 mile hike is ideal for intermediate hikers. Estimated hiking time is approximately 3.5 - 4 hours. To learn more about this hike and/or RSVP, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Grayhawk-Hiking-Club/>. To participate, you must have joined the club online (if you have not already done so) and RSVP'd "YES" to this event. On the website, you can review many other upcoming hikes and email the organizers with questions.

Daddy Daughter Dance "Once Upon a Time"

Sat., Feb. 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Grayhawk Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room

Join us as in an Enchanted Evening with your favorite Princesses at this year's Daddy Daughter Dance!

There will be lots of fun to be had with a DJ playing all your favorite music and raffle prizes to be won. Price is \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional person. RSVP deadline is Monday, February 19 to receive this cost. RSVP's will be accepted until end of day Wednesday, February 21 at a higher cost of \$35 per couple + \$10 for each additional guest. **No day of walkups or RSVP's after February 21 will be accepted at this event**, as food and supplies are purchased days prior. Please RSVP online or to 480-563-9839 by end of day Monday, February 19 to reserve your spot.

Raffle Prizes:

This year's raffle prizes for the girls include exciting gift cards, glitter pillows, crazy slime kits and so much more! Don't worry Dads, we didn't forget you. You also have the chance to win baskets stuffed full of manly goodies, including golf balls, gift cards to local restaurants and more.

In addition to the chance to win raffle prizes (with raffle ticket purchase), every girl will have the chance to snag a special something at the event. No one will walk away empty-handed. If you have anything that you would like to donate to be used for raffle prizes, please contact Sarah at svanduyne@ccmcnet.com or 480-563-9708.

SAVE THE DATE

**GCA and RVA
Annual Meeting**
March 20 at 5:30 pm

**Community
Garage Sale**
April 21 at 7 am

Easter Egg Hunt
March 31
from 9:30 am
to 12 pm

Family BBQ
April 27
at 5:30 pm

Painting with a Splash: Watercolor Workshop

Mon., Feb. 26 from 9 am to 1 pm

Raptor Room, GCA office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. #102

Have fun, make new friends and become the artist you were meant to be! Join neighbors for this exciting new take on our usual painting classes. You will learn creative secrets in techniques and texture while using watercolor. Beginners or advanced painters are welcome. No need to feel intimidated, instructor Lisa Fitzgibbons will guide you with step-by-step instructions and plenty of personal attention. Cost is \$50 and will include light snacks, refreshments and supplies. RSVP to 480-563-9839 and pay in the GCA office with cash or check by February 23. Stay tuned for a "Fractured Flower Painting" workshop in March as well!

2018 Tax Planning Strategies

Mon., Feb. 26 from 6 to 7 pm

Talon Room, GCA office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. #102

Many dread this time of year because it is tax season! This year, there is no need to fret because we are having a free Tax Seminar brought to you by Williams & Williams Law. They will be covering the top 10 changes and updates on 2018 Tax Law that could directly affect your taxes. For example: Do you know what personal exemptions have been changed? Or that mortgage interest may be limited? The professionals at Williams & Williams Law will be doing a short presentation on the tax law changes effective January 1, 2018 and how they might impact your taxes. Bring your specific questions and get a jump on tax planning for 2018! RSVP to 480-563-9839 by February 23.

Grayhawk Single Sippers Club

Wed., Feb. 28 at 5 pm

Eddie Merlot's, 23207 N. Scottsdale Rd.

If you are a single looking for casual conversation, a friend or just to meet some other singles in your neighborhood, then this event is for you! Come grab yourself a light bite to eat and a drink all while meeting some new people. This is a great way to broaden your circle of friends and to try something new for the New Year. Our reservation starts at 5 p.m., but you are welcome to join a little later if you cannot be there by 5 p.m. We must give the restaurant our final count of attendees by February 26, so please RSVP by that date to 480-563-9839.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WHO TO CALL ROVING PATROL (480) 502-7685 GRAYHAWK ASSOCIATION (480) 563-9708 SCOTTSDALE POLICE (480) 312-5000 RSVP FOR GRAYHAWK (480) 563-9839				1	2	3 Hiking Club 8 a.m.
4	5 Vintage Board Mtg. 10 a.m. Talon Room GCA and RVA Board Mtgs. 5:30 p.m. Talon Room	6 ARC Mtg. 4:30 p.m. GCA office	7	8 Tubac Bus Trip 8 a.m. Grayhawk Plaza	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Murder Mystery Dinner 5:30 p.m. Talon Room Village Board Mtg. 6 p.m. Raptor Room	16	17
18	19 Tesoro Annual Mtg. 6 p.m. Talon Room	20 ARC Mtg. 4:30 p.m. GCA office Avian BOD Mtg. 6 p.m. Raptor Room Venu Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Venu Greatroom	21 Just For Her 6 p.m. Talon Room Cachet Board Mtg. 6 p.m. Cachet Clubhouse Encore Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Encore Clubhouse	22	23	24 Hiking Club 8 a.m. Daddy Daughter Dance 5:30 p.m. Grayhawk Elementary School
25	26 Watercolor Workshop 9 a.m. Raptor Room Tax Planning Strategies 6 p.m. Talon Room	27	28 Single Sippers 5 p.m. Eddie Merlot's			

Chunky Cinnamon Applesauce

By Lori Bosch and daughter, Stephanie, Cachet at Grayhawk



We have been making homemade applesauce in our home for years. I remember wanting to serve applesauce with dinner one night and looking in the fridge and pantry and not finding any. So I just started cutting up apples and cooking them on the stove with cinnamon and sugar. In Michigan there are apple orchards everywhere and there is nothing better than picking fresh McIntosh apples in the fall and eating them as you pick them.

I can remember my parents peeling bushels of apples and the smell of huge pots of applesauce stewing, which they canned and stored in our cellar and served at almost every meal. I never got into canning

but I just don't enjoy the taste of store-bought applesauce, so whenever we want some we just make it fresh. Applesauce has actually replaced cranberry sauce at our Thanksgiving and holiday dinners because family members always request that I bring a big bowl to share.

When you make it as often as we do and in mass quantities, I highly recommend getting a Williams-Sonoma apple peeler/corer. It cuts prep time down from 15 minutes to 3 minutes when making a double batch with 8 large apples. We use golden delicious apples for this recipe because they are naturally sweet so they require less added sugar and their texture is perfect when cooked. We like to serve it slightly warm, and it can be re-warmed in the microwave after refrigeration.

When you try a few mouthfuls of this heavenly applesauce you will think you are eating apple pie, minus the fat and calories. That's it! No nutritional information to share on apples because you already know that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. We do hope you give this recipe a try because we GUARANTEE your family will never want grocery store applesauce again.

And always, always, always learn to make memorable foods from your childhood, and pass those recipes on to future generations! We welcome your feedback, suggestions and recipe requests! Please feel free to email us at boschl@me.com.

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Vet Spotlight

Meet our Medical Director, Dr. Ann Fan! Dr. Fan has called AZ home since 2008, after completing her vet training at Colorado State University. Her professional interests include dermatology, pain management, wound care and dentistry. Dr. Fan is a strong believer in client communication and eliminating stress for your loved furry friends during their hospital visits. Being a "Fear-Free" certified practitioner, she looks forward to providing the best care for both the emotional and physical well-being of her patients.



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Chunky Cinnamon Applesauce

Prep time: 10-15 minutes • Cook time: 8 minutes

Ingredients:

- 4 large yellow delicious apples, peeled, cored and sliced 1/2" thick
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 lemon peel grated (optional)
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1. Combine all ingredients in a lidded pot and bring to a boil.
2. Cover and simmer on medium-low until tender 8-9 minutes.
3. Remove from heat, and mash with a hand masher while applesauce is still hot
4. Let sit uncovered for 20-30 minutes before serving.



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Great Desert Landscapes, Part II: Hardscape, Berming & Shaping

By Victoria Kauzlarich, Volare

Last month, we began our analysis of great desert landscapes by considering the thought that goes into them. We focused on the desert as context and proposed rethinking watersheds and ecosystems by notionally scaling both down to the size of an individual residence.

This month and next, we're going to tie our focus back to those preliminary frames of reference and, with luck, by the time we conclude next month's column, we should easily be able to see the component parts of a beautiful landscape. Let's start from the ground, up, shall we?

There's Nothing Like a Berm

Landscaping is all about creating visual interest and flat is not very interesting. Any opportunity to bring plants and boulders closer to the eye is an opportunity worth seizing. Creating berms throughout your landscape gives your space instant interest. You can go with full-fledged berms or more gentle swales, but anything that elevates plants and rocks is a great start. And, the best part is that it isn't even difficult. Most of this work can be done with shovels and may not require additional loads of dirt (creating a mound also creates a little "valley" so dirt is just getting moved around).

Shaping

If berming is a little more than you want, consider at least some gentle shaping. If you look at your back yard from your patio, start with the corners of your property and think about how you could bring them up a little. Your plants will be more visible and raising those areas will have the effect of making the corners seem closer. Your yard will immediately feel more inviting.

Note, too, that once you have some shaping, you can use it to your advantage. See how these Artichoke Agaves are planted on a slope? They become much more interesting when they are tilted toward the viewer.

Rocks

Though there are lots of examples of hardscape i.e. stacked stone walls, gabions, raised beds, etc, the most perplexing of these may be rocks. Most of us don't have enough rocks and I've come to believe that it is difficult to have too many. Why? Rocks create their own brand of visual interest. They can be dispersed throughout your landscape and they can be clustered together to make a statement of their own.

Rocks are a good backdrop for plants aesthetically and horticulturally. Aesthetically, a rock provides a nice background for a plant. Horticulturally, rocks help plants because any of their surface area below ground level will continue to provide moisture to a plant long after the last rain or irrigation.

Rocks are essential in desert landscaping but their sizes, shapes, colors and textures can be truly overwhelming. How do you pick a good rock? It may be difficult if you're new to this. Using the advice of someone who "knows rocks" can be enormously helpful.

Another thing to consider in your existing landscape is that rocks can be easily moved and rearranged into more pleasing configurations. Unless they're huge and require a crane, most of this work can be done with some shovels, a gynormous crow bar, an extra-wide moving dolly, and a few guys with strong backs.

Burying Rocks

There are some rules of thumb when it comes to placing rocks. The first is that they should always be buried - anywhere from 25% - 50% of the height of the rock. For those who think I've just gone 'round the bend', listen up. To blend with your terrain, your boulders and rocks should look like they have emerged from the soil, not dropped from the sky. An unburied rock cannot be made to look like a natural part of your landscape.

Another rule of thumb is don't place a rock by upending it. If you do, the effect will be more like a monument rather than a natural part of the landscape. Rocks should be placed with the widest side as the base.



Desert Marigold Tucked Between a Rock and a Stepping Stone

Rip Rap

Rip rap is that big chunky rock that is often used as the base for a dry stream bed. Here in Grayhawk, you'll find it at the end caps of medians to punctuate the landscape. It has a lot of uses, some practical, some aesthetic. It comes in a wide variety of sizes and colors and, if you're creative, you can create your own combination of colors by hand selecting rock from a local rock retailer.

This month's focus has really been one of terrain. What it looks like and how, with a few simple tricks, we can make it better. And, except for our example of unburied rocks, all of the photos here reflect thoughtfulness and mindfulness - showing off our place in the desert and enhancing our ecosystem.

The number of photos this month have taken the place of our usual "plant of the month". In March, we will close out our series on Great Desert Landscapes with a discussion of harmonizing our wide variety of plants into a beautiful whole. Come back and join us, won't you?



Agave Surrounded by Rip Rap



Unburied Rocks



Properly Buried Rock

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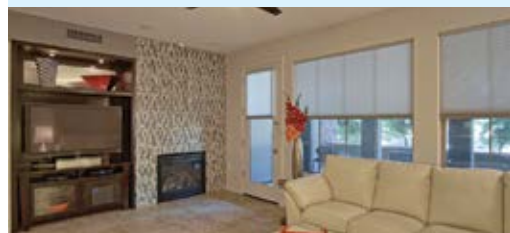
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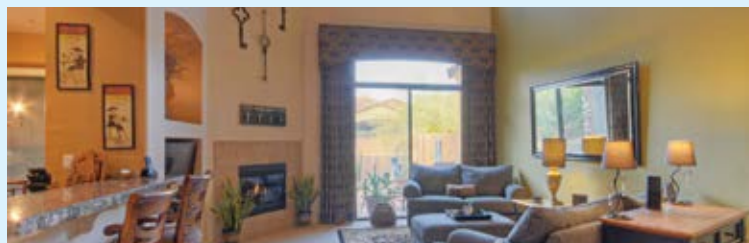


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Sip and Tell

By Sue Lukenbill, *Encore Resident*

Hopefully everyone has returned to somewhat of a normal life with the holidays behind them. I say that as we jump into "Scottsdale event season". It never ends!

History shows us that the February holidays seem to lead us to celebrate with food. Did you know that around the world there are 38 holidays in February? Thankfully all of those aren't crammed into our calendar in the United States. I couldn't keep up!

With Chinese New Year beginning on Friday, February 16th, I thought it was appropriate to review a Chinese restaurant in the area which is very close to home. An Encore neighbor, Jack Keller, actually asked me to write a review on **Jade Palace**. This is definitely not a new restaurant, as it's been in the area for some time. They've moved locations and seemed firmly settled at Pinnacle Peak and Pima Roads. I'd say it's an oldie but a goodie that needs a fresh look for our newer Grayhawk neighbors.

Glancing at the website, I learned that **Jade Palace** is a true family business that goes back three generations to the Guangdong Province of China, where Grandfather Mei (pronounced "May") owned his first restaurant in the outskirts of Hong Kong. The Mei family migrated to America in the 1980's where they worked at their first restaurant in the very competitive market of Chinatown in New York City. Years later, friends that lived in Arizona would call them frequently asking their family to open a place in the Phoenix area since there were very few options for high quality Chinese food. So in 1996 the Mei family opened their first Scottsdale restaurant at Shea Boulevard and 92nd Street. The second location followed suit and today, brothers Leon and Davlen each run one of their two locations.

Both restaurants take pride in using fresh, high quality ingredients to create plate after plate of flavorful food. **Jade Palace** has been a favorite in the area for some time, and it's easy to see why. Many of my friends order their platters for celebrations, or even just takeout for the nights when dining in anything but yoga pants or pajamas seems difficult. Whether you visit the restaurant or order takeout, I'm sure you'll love it!

Grayhawk's Director of Communications Jennifer Sheets and I grabbed lunch at the Pinnacle Peak location in December. I had not been to Jade Palace since they moved from their original location on Pinnacle Peak Road and Scottsdale Road, and I loved the new vibe that the restaurant had. The décor just seemed a little more upscale than the last location.

Jenn ordered the Spicy Homestyle Chicken, which she seemed to like. I ordered the Shrimp with Broccoli. I was left missing something, and I decided that maybe I prefer the family-style experience with Chinese food. There is just something about sampling a little bit of multiple dishes that I enjoy!

Their lunch combinations are served with your choice of Egg Drop or Won Ton Soup, a crab puff and fried rice. Jenn and I ordered the Won Ton Soup, but she quickly remembered that she preferred their Egg Drop and changed her order. The price for the complete meal seemed to correlate to the amount of food we received.

Two of my friends, Lauren Mc Dermott and Elaine Benisek enjoy **Jade Palace** for special occasions like birthdays. When quizzing them on the restaurant, Lauren said, "I do enjoy **Jade Palace**. I find the ambience a "step up" from your typical, local Chinese restaurant, and the food is excellent. My personal favorites are the chicken lettuce wraps and the sautéed string beans. Their food also travels well for take-out."

Elaine agreed saying, "The wraps are really good. I had the green beans, which were really good and crispy. And they have a good wine list, nice atmosphere and helpful wait staff."

I think if you're looking for a solid staple for Chinese food in the area, Jade Palace fits the bill. Make sure you make your reservations this month to ring in the Chinese New Year. However, I highly recommend that you make it on a Tuesday because every Tuesday all bottled wine is 30% off. You can't beat that!

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Jade Palace

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Are You Up for a Little Competition?

We want to see which neighborhood in Grayhawk can get the highest percentage of votes on the CC&R Amendment ballot. To make it fun, we're sweetening the pot with a **SPRING BLOCK PARTY** for THREE neighborhoods (one in The Park, one in the Retreat and one of the condominium communities), complete with **FREE** food, drinks and fun for the winners.

SO WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

1. If you aren't familiar with the CC&R Amendment ballot, you can find more information by signing in to grayhawkcommunity.org or calling the GCA office at 480-563-9708.
2. If you haven't voted, we can send you a ballot via email or text. It's so easy to vote and there's no reason you shouldn't do it! Verify that we have the correct information for you by contacting Dana at dgonzalez@ccmcnet.com or 480-563-9708.
3. If you have already voted, start applying some pressure to your neighbors who haven't! The more people in your neighborhood that vote, the better your chance of winning **FREE** food, drinks and fun! Contact Dana or Jenn at the GCA office at 480-563-9708 if you want some ideas on how you can increase your neighborhood vote count!

The contest will run through 8 a.m. on March 5. Voting in the CC&R Amendment ballot will continue through April 30, but at 8 a.m. on March 5, we will determine which one neighborhood in The Park, which one neighborhood in the Retreat and which one condominium community have the highest percentage of votes. **The winners will be announced in The Buzz e-blast that day and party planning will commence. Good luck!**

Thanks to David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom with Keller Williams AZ Realty and Mo Hamideh with Homeower's Financial Group for sponsoring the "So This is Christmas" Holiday Spectacular."



Thanks to David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom with Keller Williams AZ Realty for sponsoring the 2017 Santa Party!



2017 Snake Handler Extraordinaire

Between February and November of 2017, a total of 186 snakes were caught by Trident Security staff after responding to calls from residents. Snakes are released into the desert after capture.

Congratulations to Tim Baumer with Trident Security for being presented the "2017 Snake Handler Extraordinaire" award. Trident Security recognized him for his outstanding snake catching (and releasing) skills following the 2017 season. Tim was responsible for the capture of 100 snakes. Thomas Day was second to Tim with 58 captures.

Since 2008, the Trident Security staff at Grayhawk has captured and released 842 snakes, saving the City of Scottsdale approximately \$412,000 by reducing the number of calls to the Scottsdale Fire Department.

Trident Security staff members have been trained by the Scottsdale Fire Department in snake removal. If you encounter a snake on your property, you can call 480-502-7685 or 480-502-5078 and request that patrol come to aid in removal.



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Bacterial Necrosis: A Rare Saguaro Cactus Disease

By Jim Carter, DLC Resources Field Manager

Saguaro Cactuses are a staple of the High Sonoran Desert. At Grayhawk, they are an impressive addition to your landscape, helping to create an authentic desert look throughout your common areas. In all, there are about 935 Saguaros that live in your Community.

Because Saguaros are hearty desert plants native to our area, they need little ongoing care once planted in your landscape. They thrive naturally in this environment and don't require prunings or irrigation that the other plants in your landscape need.

As your landscape management partner, DLC Resources, Inc., helps to make sure that your Saguaros are healthy and thriving. One thing we do is watch out for a disease called Bacterial Necrosis. While it's not widespread, Bacterial Necrosis does occur occasionally – both in the natural Saguaro population and in Saguaros that are planted in landscapes. There have been a handful of Saguaros that have suffered from Bacterial Necrosis at Grayhawk over the last couple of years.

As the name implies, the disease is caused by bacteria that gets into the Saguaro's tissues through wounds or natural openings and causes it to rot. It's not known how the bacteria get into the cactus, though it's thought to be spread by birds or mites.

Once a Saguaro is infected, the bacteria begin rotting the plant's tissue internally. Soft, dark spots appear on the outside of the cactus and grow larger and turn purplish-black. These spots can split open and a dark, rancid-smelling liquid seeps out.



Bacterial Necrosis in Saguaro Cactuses looks like dark purple-ish or black spots on the cactus' skin. A foul-smelling liquid can also leak out of the spot.



Though dark spots appear on the outside of the cactus, Bacterial Necrosis rots plant tissue deep inside the cactus. The outside spots are not always a good indication of how big or widespread the infection is.



Healthy Saguaros in Grayhawk's common area landscape. Grayhawk has about 935 Saguaro Cactuses.

If caught early enough and the affected area is still quite small, it can be treated by cutting out the rotting tissue. To do this, the Arizona Department of Agriculture suggests digging into the infected area and removing all the rotting tissue including up to one-half inch of the surrounding healthy tissue. Slope the bottom of the excavation so that the water will drain out. Be careful not to puncture the remaining healthy tissue, as the bacteria can spread through a cut. Thoroughly wash the cut area with 10% household bleach solution and allow the pocket to stand open to speed healing. If the affected area is very large or located so that this treatment would weaken the structure of the cactus or an entire arm, serious consideration should be given to removing the whole Saguaro.

Sometimes, the Saguaro is able to contain the infection itself by creating a barrier of protective tissue or callus around the affected area, though this is not always possible. Sadly, bacterial necrosis will usually end up killing the Saguaro, though there is no way to predict how long a cactus will survive once symptoms of Bacterial Necrosis appear.

One good thing about the disease is that it doesn't necessarily spread through proximity. So if there are multiple Saguaros planted closely together and one cactus gets Bacterial Necrosis, the nearby cactuses aren't at any greater risk than they would naturally be.

If you ever see a Saguaro in Grayhawk's common areas that have large, soft-looking dark spots on their skin, please report it to your HOA. This way, DLC can help treat the problem or remove the affected cactus.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Tara Abrams	Brett and Leslie Manning
Ronald and Lori Austin	Eugene and Cynthia Owens
Brian and Laura Bieller	Sharon Parisi
Martin Dempsey	Kristopher Patton
Thomas Fafinsky	Roger Pencek
Nancy Hastings	Howard and Susan Schnitz
John Khademi	Christine Stamato
Cindy Lai and Cuong Mai	John and Nancy Sullivan

Important Contact Numbers

Grayhawk Onsite Office	480-563-9708
Capital Consultants Management Corporation	480-921-7500
Grayhawk Community Patrol	480-502-5078
Talon Guardhouse	480-502-7685
Raptor Guardhouse	480-502-5078
After Hours Answering Service	602-234-9288

UTILITIES

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City of Scottsdale Solid Waste	480-312-5600
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Boys and Girls Club, Thunderbirds	480-538-9547
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