

# Grayhawk Flight

November 2018



**Inside:**

*Register NOW  
for Grayhawk  
Holiday events*

*Sponsored by Andrew Bloom & David VanOmen*

# Grayhawk Community Health & Wellness Jamboree 2018



## Community Health Fair in the Park

**Date: Saturday, November 10th, 2018**

**Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**@The Greenbelt on 78th Way, Scottsdale, 85255**

**Fun activities for all ages!!!**

**Meet with Local Health and Business professionals!**

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## Features



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### 22 Denizens of the Desert: Aloe

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## Grayhawk Community Association

Professionally managed by



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

Phone  
(480) 563-9708

RSVP  
(480) 563-9839

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



**Michael Fee**  
Community Manager  
mfee@ccmcnet.com



**Stacey Harvey**  
Assistant  
Community Manager  
sharvey@ccmcnet.com



**Jenn Sheets**  
Director of Communications  
jsheets@ccmcnet.com



**Sarah Van Duyne**  
Lifestyle Director  
svanduyne@ccmcnet.com



**Richard Dearo**  
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rdearo@ccmcnet.com

**Chantel Broomfield**  
Maintenance Assistant  
tbroomfield@ccmcnet.com

**On the Cover**  
Enjoying fall in Grayhawk

# Manager's Corner



This month I thought I would write about the budgeting process and everything that the Budget/Finance Committee reviews and considers when they put together the annual budget for the Grayhawk and Retreat Village associations. The committee begins the budgeting process with the intention of keeping the assessment rate the same with no increase from the previous year. Unfortunately, this cannot always be achieved especially with the annual increases in the Arizona minimum wage rate through 2020 which has caused our landscaping and security/patrol expenses to increase so we can continue to have our contractors pay a competitive wage to ensure that they are hiring the best employees for their Grayhawk account.

Regarding assessments, the Board of Directors of the Grayhawk Community Association (GCA) and the Retreat Village Association (RVA) are very sensitive to keeping the association assessment rate(s) as competitive as possible while still maintaining our existing amenities and service level. The GCA and RVA Board of Directors are also aware that the Grayhawk homeowners who live in a condominium development also pay an additional assessment to their condominium association which is considerably greater than the GCA assessment rate. These issues have been factored into the current discussions of the Budget/Finance Committee in the development of the 2019 Grayhawk Community Association and Retreat Village Association budgets, which will be presented to the GCA and RVA Board of Directors at the November Board meetings.

The current GCA monthly assessment is \$61.00 per month (\$183.00 per quarter) which reflects less than a 1.5% increase per year over the past 15 years. For those of you living in the Retreat Village, the current RVA assessment rate is \$83.00 per month (\$249.00 per quarter) which reflects approximately a 2.0% increase per year over the same time period. As I have stated in past articles, your assessments are used to pay for a wide range of services and expenses necessary to successfully run the Grayhawk Community Association and the Retreat Village Association. Difficult decisions may need to be made in the future regarding the assessment rate but you can be assured that the GCA and RVA Board of Directors are committed to keeping Grayhawk as one of the Valley's premier communities.

On another note, the Grayhawk Community Association and Retreat Village Association (RVA) Annual Meetings, which are held every year in March, will be here before you know it and it is not too early to begin thinking about running for election to the Board of Directors. We will be electing four members to the GCA Board of Directors and three members to the RVA Board of Directors. If you have questions regarding these elections or what is involved in serving on the Board of Directors, please feel free to contact me.

We'll talk again soon,

*Michael Fee*

Grayhawk Community Manager

## GRAYHAWK ADVERTISING

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 – NOVEMBER 2018

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

### Grayhawk Board of Directors

Mon., Nov. 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., Nov. 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 Dwyne at 480-563-9708 for  
more information.

### Landscape Committee

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

### Operational Review Committee

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

### Architectural Review Committee

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

## OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

### Avian Condominium Association Annual Board Meeting

Thur., Nov. 15 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., Nov. 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](http://www.theedgegrayhawk.com) or call  
480-584-4647 for details.

### Encore Condominium Association Board Meeting

Wed., Nov. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Encore  
Clubhouse. Call HOAMCO at 480-994-4479  
for details.

### Tesoro Condominium Association Board Meeting

No meeting scheduled. Call Kinney  
Management at 480-820-3451 for details.

### Venu Condominium Association Board Meeting

Tues., Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Venu Great  
Room. Call Associated Property Management  
at 480-941-1077 for details.

### Village at Grayhawk Condominium Association Board Meeting

Tues., Nov. 13 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., Nov. 12 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

Richard Zielinski  
Director

### Retreat Village Association Board Members

Arlene Smith  
President

Ira Mallin  
Vice President

Patrick Thompson  
Treasurer

Alan Fernandez  
Director

## VISION

Grayhawk: a Sonoran Desert  
home to vibrant southwestern  
living with an uncommon  
commitment to community.

## 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 – October 1, 2018

### Development Committee

David Van Omen reported that Parma Italian Roots has opened in the Grayhawk Plaza at Scottsdale Road and Grayhawk Drive. He also reported that Tavern Americana I the Hayden Peak Crossing shopping center on the SE corner of Hayden Road and Thompson Peak Parkey has closed.

### Operational Review Committee

Stacey Harvey reported that the committee did not meet.

### Landscape Committee

Arlene Smith reported that the committee did meet in September. The committee got a general overview of the day-to-day operations of DLC Resources and looked at several new proposals.

A motion was made and approved to pay for eight additional days for the Deer Valley Wash cleanup at a cost of \$9,888.00.

A motion was made and approved to replace 35 of the 40 trees lost during the 2018 monsoon season at a cost of \$9,471.00. All trees will be a 24" box and will include 16 Ironwoods, 11 Texas Ebonys and 8 Acacia Mulgas.

### Community Enhancement Committee

Bob Mann reported that the committee did not meet.

### Event Planning Committee

Sarah Van Duyne reported that events have started to pick up for the fall. The meditation series was fantastic and many in attendance asked if it could continue.

This year's Pumpkin Patch event will feature new activities including a blow up corn maze, mechanical pumpkin, wax hands and more.

The Grayhawk Night Out at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess will be a welcome back event for new residents.

The Health and Wellness Jamboree is an event in place of Sunday in the Park this November. The event will feature similar activities to Sunday in the Park but with a healthy twist. Activities will include a revolving stage with Jazzercise, yoga, pilates and more as well as food samples, golf activities, and fun events for the children.

### Communications Committee

Jennifer Sheets reported the recent issue of the Grayhawk Flight had featured an article on Grayhawk's new non-profit partner, Arizona Helping Hands. Articles will be featured throughout the year highlighting various aspects of the partnership.

Many residents have started to use the new website for event registration now that the initial payment and registration issues have been resolved.

### Architectural Review Committee

Paul Alessio reported there was two meetings in September. The committee reviewed the monument sign stone sample and felt that the stone color was too light. Stacey Harvey reported that there had been a problem with the color mix and that she had asked the company to install a new sample with a slightly darker stone color.

### Budget/Finance Committee

Jeanette Griswold reported that the committee had finalized their proposed budget. The proposal includes an increase, which is predominately to cover an additional maintenance staff member, increased cost in patrol services and additional landscaping costs.

A motion was made and approved to increase the GCA assessment by \$2 a month and to fund \$90,204 of the \$184,836 contribution to the reserve fund through the GCA community enhancement fund.

### Executive Committee

Linda Shaw reported that there is a RVA Board vacancy due to Mitchell Cooper selling his house. Current issues being addressed by the committee include neighbor to neighbor issues involving string lights, wall damage and barking dogs.

The strategic goals being completed include the all-inclusive sporting/fitness event (Health and Wellness Jamboree), fire mitigation and an article on front yard landscaping.

### Treasurer's Report

Jeanette Griswold reported that year to date the GCA has a surplus of \$44,300, however, this amount does not include additional costs for storm cleanup due to the monsoon rains. There was \$44,168 taken in by the community enhancement fund in August, bringing the total year to date to \$514,877.

### Management Report

Michael Fee reported the holiday light installation is going to be starting soon so that lights are ready to be turned on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

The Rawhide Wash project is still moving along but is taking longer than anticipated.

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## CREATING A HOLISTIC FINANCIAL PLAN FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE GRAYHAWK COMMUNITY



Mike Kelley, a new homeowner in the Grayhawk Community, is a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual, A Wealth Management Company.

Mike provides a unique personal and/or business planning analysis to deliver and implement a financial plan that integrates a wide spectrum of world-class insurance products such as life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance as well as annuities, investment products, and investment advisory products & services.

*"I'm excited to be living in the Grayhawk Community! I look forward to meeting with you soon and am eager for the opportunity to earn your business" ~ Mike Kelley*

**MIKE KELLEY** | FINANCIAL ADVISOR | 406-270-5030 | michael.kelley@nm.com | michaelkelley.nm.com

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities, and life insurance with long-term care benefits) and its subsidiaries. Michael Scott Kelley is an Insurance Agent of NM and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, (long-term care insurance) a subsidiary of NM, and a Registered Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (NMIS) (securities), a subsidiary of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser and member FINRA and SIPC.

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[Don@ScottsdaleRealEstate.com](mailto:Don@ScottsdaleRealEstate.com)



## Grayhawk Night Out – Welcome Back Winter Visitors!

**Thurs., Nov. 1 from 6 pm to 8 pm**

**Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E Princess Dr.**

Help us welcome back our seasonal residents by celebrating together at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. We would like to offer you an opportunity to welcome back your neighbors, and to re- connect with friends you haven't seen in a while. Imagine tasty appetizers, great drinks, live music, your friends, family and neighbors all around. Thanks to our sponsors Kelley Carter and John Doering with The Agency Group at My Home Group, and Dwornik Law for making this event possible and only \$20 a person. \$20 will include delicious tray passed appetizers, your first drink, valet parking, live music and an ambiance that can't be beat. Join us in kicking off the winter season and don't forget your dancing shoes! Space is limited! RSVP at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) and pay by Monday, October 29 to reserve your spot.

## Health & Wellness Jamboree: For Every Age, Body, and Mind

**Sat., Nov. 10 from 11 am to 2 pm**

**Grayhawk Greenbelt, Corner of 78th Pl and 78th Way**

Enjoy samples of tasty, yet healthier options from favorite area restaurants like JJ's Deli, Nektar Juice, Grimaldi's, Thai Chili To Go and more, while enjoying the sounds of our Live DJ. Kids will love the rock wall, Bounce Bootcamp and golf games sponsored by the Grayhawk Golf Club. Stay active following the revolving stage with classes like Yoga, Zumba and Pilates. We will also have an incredible raffle including tons of local restaurant gift card giveaways, and a one night stay for two at the CIVANA Carefree Resort. We will be introducing our new partnership with Arizona Helping Hands, and representatives will be on hand to answer questions regarding their non-profit benefiting foster children in Arizona. For a chance at extra raffle tickets, donate a new/ unused toy for 1-2 year olds or 8-12 year olds, or a \$5-\$10 gift card to Target, Walmart, Subway, or Starbucks. You will receive an additional raffle ticket for each toy or item you donate!

Cost for the event is \$3 for adults and free for kids 12 and under. A huge thank you to our sponsors and participants David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom with BVO Luxury Keller Williams AZ, Premier Fitness Systems, Club Pilates Scottsdale Promenade, Focal Point Salon & Spa, and Grayhawk Golf Club for making this event an unforgettable experience! RSVP and pay online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) to get in on this memorable Grayhawk event.



## Bodega 13 Dinner Show Concert

**Thurs., Nov. 15 at 7 pm**

**Bodega 13, 8876 E Pinnacle Peak Rd #100**

Come check out one of the Valley's most popular Latin Jazz performers, Carmela Ramirez, at Bodega 13 on the one and only Grayhawk Night. If you enjoy Jazz with an extra pizzazz and want to test out your salsa skills (dancing is encouraged but not required), this event is great for you and your friends. You will want to arrive at the restaurant between 6-6:30 p.m. to get seated and situated prior to the show. Our residents will be seated together community style and will have access to the full food and drink menu. Bodega 13 is offering half off the \$20 concert fee for Grayhawk residents. The \$10 concert fee will be added to your bill at the end of the event, no need to pre-pay! Please RSVP online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by Monday, November 12 to ensure we reserve your seats.

## Single Sippers Potluck and Game Night

**Wed., Nov. 28 at 5:30 pm**

**Raptor Room, GCA Office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. Ste. 102**

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! This is a fun way to broaden your circle of friends and to try something new if Happy Hours aren't your thing. We are switching things up this month in honor of Thanksgiving and decided to have our own Single Sippers "friendsgiving". Everyone will be asked to bring either an appetizer or bottle of wine to share. Join us for this fun night of getting to know your neighbors and playing fun teambuilding games to help break the ice. We must have at least 10 people registered to attend in order to follow through with this event. Please RSVP by Mon., November 26 at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org).

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## Grayhawk Hiking Club

To learn more about these hikes 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.

### UNION PEAK IN THE PHOENIX SONORAN PRESERVE

**Sat., Nov. 10 at 8 am**

Join the Hiking Club for a moderate hike in the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. This 7 - 8 mile loop hike will loop up and around Union Peak and is ideal for intermediate hikers. Estimated hiking time is approximately 2-3 hours.

### EXTENDED GO JOHN TRAIL IN CAVE CREEK RECREATION AREA

**Sat., Nov. 24 at 8 am**

Join the Hiking Club for a hike in the Cave Creek Recreation Area. We will hike the popular Go John Loop, with an extension on the Quartz and Slate Trails. This 9-10 mile moderate to difficult hike is best suited for intermediate hikers. Estimated hiking time is approximately 3.5-4 hours.

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Chanukah Celebration

**Wed., Dec. 5 from 4:45pm to 6:45 pm**

**Large Firepit at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess patio**

Happy Chanukah! All residents are invited to enjoy a traditional lighting of the Menorah at the exquisite Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Resort. A beautiful setting and a beautiful evening with family and friends. Stick around after the lighting of the Menorah to enjoy some sweets, a fire at the outdoor patio and all the festivities at the Princess. One drink per person will be provided by David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom with BVO Luxury Keller Williams AZ. Cost to participate is \$5 per person and also covers valet parking. RSVP and pay online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by Monday, December 3. Thanks to the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess for hosting this beautiful event.



### Masquerade Merriment Christmas Party

**Thurs., Dec. 6 from 7 pm to 9 pm**

**McDowell Room at the Grayhawk Golf Club**

'Tis the season to eat, drink, dance and be Merry! Join us to revel in the mystery and merriment at this year's Masquerade Party all while enjoying cold drinks and warm hors d'oeuvres. Don't miss out on the first class live entertainment by Jesse Berger, International performer and singer. He'll be performing some holiday classics, Sinatra favorites and Michael Buble covers. This year we want everyone to come dressed to impress in Masquerade attire. There will be prizes for the man and woman who come best dressed! Enjoy the elegance, mystique, and intrigue for \$45 a person. The price includes first class entertainment, great apps and two drink tickets! A big thanks to our sponsors David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom with BVO Luxury Keller Williams AZ and Mo Hamideh, Home & Commercial Loans for their sponsorship. RSVP by November 30 and the cost is \$45 per person. After November 30 the cost goes up to \$50 a person. You must RSVP and pay online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by the end of day December 5. Seats are limited and will fill up fast!



# In & Around Grayhawk

## Corks & Canvas – Holiday Edition

Mon., Dec. 10 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Raptor Room, GCA office

Start the season with an evening of artistry and libations. Enjoy light appetizers and other seasonal treats along with your favorite wine all while painting a beautiful scenic winter picture. Lisa Fitzgibbons, one of Arizona's top art instructors, will guide you with light-hearted, step-by-step instruction that guarantees terrific results. This is a great outing for groups of friends! Expect to have lots of fun and to leave with a painting you will be proud to show off at your holiday gatherings. Cost is \$35 and includes all art supplies and food. Please bring your favorite wine to share. Seats are limited! RSVP and pay online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by December 7.

## Santa Party: Breakfast for Dinner and Pajama Party

Tues., Dec. 11 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Fairway House at the Grayhawk Golf Club

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's time again for Santa's annual visit to Grayhawk. Kids are encouraged to dress in their most adorable holiday pajamas. We will give a special prize for the best dressed! The evening will be full of magical holiday cheer including crafts, gifts, treats and more. The meal portion will feature "breakfast for dinner" for the kids, plus a selection of appetizers and a cash bar for the adults. There will be a hot chocolate station to warm you up and get you in the Holiday spirit! RSVP by December 4 and the cost is \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids. After December 4 the cost is \$18 for adults and \$15 for kids. Parents should drop off a wrapped gift at the GCA office for Santa to give your child by no later than December 7 to hold your spot. Clearly mark your child's first name, last name and age on the gift. Space is limited. RSVP and pay online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by December 7. Thanks to David Van Omen and Andrew Bloom of BVO Luxury Keller Williams AZ and Jeremy Mueller with State Farm for sponsoring this magical event.



## GRAYHAWK GOLF CLUB HOLIDAY SALE

November 30 - December 1  
from 7 am to 5 pm

Don't miss this great sale! Take advantage of discounts of 50-75% off everything in the big white tent! Spend \$450 pre tax to earn a free twosome of golf. Call 480-502-1800 for details.

## Holiday Hayrides

Wed., Dec. 12 and Thurs., Dec. 13 at 6 pm, 7 pm, and 8 pm

GCA Office

**RSVP's will begin on Wednesday, November 28 at 9am and close once each time slot is full. We are ONLY taking online RSVP's. NO RSVP's WILL BE TAKEN BY PHONE OR IN PERSON.**

Please read all registration instructions to know how we have changed and improved the registration process this year. This year we will double up on the hayrides to open up the experience for more residents. Families will enjoy the beautiful holiday light displays, sing carols along the way and hear a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Hayrides will stop at the Montevina neighborhood Cocoa Shack for hot cocoa and cookies before heading back to our North Pole drop off at the GCA office. Price is \$5 per child and \$10 per adult (lap children 2 and under are free). We ask that each person bring one non perishable food item per person that we will donate to St. Mary's Food Bank. RSVP online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) on or after **November 28** to save your spot. Thank you to PR Partners Julie Pelle and Christina Rathbun with Realty One Group and Jeremy Mueller with State Farm for sponsoring this incredible Grayhawk tradition! **DUE TO THE POPULARITY OF THIS EVENT, NO MORE THAN 6 PEOPLE PER RESERVATION AND NO MORE THAN 2 NON-RESIDENTS GUESTS ALLOWED PER PARTY. MANDATORY PRE-PAYMENT BY 12/7 OR YOUR RESERVATION WILL BE MOVED TO THE WAIT LIST.**



## Grayhawk Single Sippers Club

Wed., Dec. 19 at 5 pm

Rhythm and Wine, 7605 E. Pinnacle Peak Rd., #D1

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! Grab yourself a light bite to eat and a drink on this beautiful heated patio all while meeting some new people. This is a great way to broaden your circle of friends and to try something new. We will have a raffle at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m., so don't miss it. We must give the restaurant our final count of attendees by December 17. Please RSVP by that date online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org).

# Holiday Decorating in Grayhawk

The “most wonderful time of the year” is fast approaching, which means it’s time to pull out the wreaths and menorahs and start decorating! Grayhawk welcomes the display of holiday lights, inflatables and décor. In fact, residents celebrate your efforts on the Holiday Hayrides (see page 10 for registration information) when they “ooh and aah” while sipping hot chocolate and caroling on horse-drawn wagons.

Decorations can be up beginning Thanksgiving weekend and must be removed by January 31. Holiday decorations do not require approval. We do remind you to be neighborly and respectful with your decorations. If you are not quite sure where to start, we have a few tips:

- Start with a plan or theme in mind, and start out small. If you are a decorating novice, light just two or three items that will serve as focal points, then add to your display each year.

- Make sure to use lights and extension cords approved for outdoor use.
- Avoid old-fashioned nails, staples, screws, or hooks when mounting your display. Electrical tape is a quick and easy alternative. Clips, such as shingle tab or parapet clips, hold lights to surfaces by applying simple, safe pressure.
- Use timers to ensure your lights turn on and off, even when you aren’t home.
- When in doubt, visit the Montevina neighborhood for ideas! They go all out and even host a Cocoa Hut each year, where they hand out cookies and hot cocoa in exchange for non-perishable food or monetary donations for St. Mary’s Food Bank. Check the December issue of the Grayhawk Flight for a schedule if you plan to stop by.

When all of the presents are unwrapped and the mess remains, it’s important to remember the proper way to dispose of trash and Christmas trees. If you have



bulk trash to dispose of, make sure to check the City of Scottsdale website for the collection schedule and remember to keep your bulk trash out of public view until no more than one week prior to first day in during the week of collection.

The City of Scottsdale also typically advertises Christmas tree recycling locations, which are normally open the second week in January. The city can also pick up your tree curbside during your regular brush and bulk collection week, however, trees may not be placed curbside any more than one week prior to the collection date. For more information, contact the City of Scottsdale Solid Waste Department at 480-312-5600 or visit [scottsdaleaz.gov](http://scottsdaleaz.gov).

We hope you enjoy the merriment of decorating with friends and family!



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				1	2	3
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	GCA/RVA Board Mtgs. 5:30 p.m. Talon Room	ARC Mtg. 4:30 p.m. GCA Office				Hiking Club 8 a.m.  Wellness Jamboree 11 a.m. Grayhawk Greenbelt
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Vintage BOD Mtg. 10 a.m. Talon Room	Village BOD Mtg. 6 p.m. Raptor Room		Avian BOD Mtg. 6 p.m. Talon Room  Dinner Show 7 p.m. Bodega 13		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		ARC Mtg. 4:30 p.m. GCA Office  Venu BOD Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Venu Great Room	Cachet BOD Mtg. 6 p.m. Cachet Clubhouse	<b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>		Hiking Club 8 a.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			Single Sippers Potluck 5:30 p.m. Raptor Room  Encore BOD Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Encore Clubhouse			

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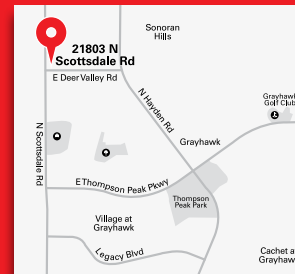
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## The Right Tool for the Job

By John Eubank, DLC Resources Field Manager

The DLC Resources landscape professionals that take care of your common areas know exactly what tools to use for every job they do in your community. Having the best tool for the job makes everything go much more easily and efficiently. In your own backyard, occasional tree and shrub pruning are needed in order to maintain the look and health of your plants. Here are a few tools we recommend you have on hand for taking care of these routine tasks:



### REMOVING BRANCHES

Bypass Loppers are a great option for tree pruning. They are long handled tools that have scissor-like blades at the end. They are best if used on branches that are **less than 1 inch** in thickness. We recommend bypass loppers over anvil loppers because the bypass will slice a branch when its blades cross each other. Anvil loppers have a single blade that cuts by pressing the branch between the blade and a flat metal piece. They tend to crush branches, which can damage your tree or shrub.



Bypass Hand Pruners are another tool that can be used on smaller tree branches and shrubs. It should be used on branches that are **less than 1/4 inch** in thickness. Bypass hand pruners look like miniature bypass loppers. They are sized perfectly to use with one hand for small cuts throughout your yard.



Handsaws should be used on branches **larger than 1 inch** in thickness. You can find a standard handsaw in any garden department. Make sure that you don't try to use a wood-working saw for these kinds of projects. Handsaws are designed for trees and will perform much better because of their rounded shape and serrated blade. Handsaws should also always be used for branches that are dead, regardless of their width, because dead branches are tougher to cut than living ones.

### PRUNING

Scissor Shears are long serrated scissors that can be used to give your hedges and shrubs a natural look. Gas or electric hedge trimmers can also be used on large projects or to speed up the pruning process. When using a power tool, make sure to pay extra attention to safety and follow instructions provided by your tool's manufacturer.

### TOOL MAINTENANCE

Having the right tool won't do you any good if it's in poor condition. A few simple steps can help ensure your tools are always well-maintained and ready for work.

Keep your tools sharpened. Most tools can be easily sharpened with a file or can be taken to a professional. In the case of handsaws, it is often cheaper to simply replace your blade when it gets dull.

Also, keep your tools clean. If you are trimming a plant that has been infested by a parasitic organism like mistletoe or witch's broom, dip your cutters in rubbing alcohol between each cut. This will help prevent the spread of the parasite. Even if you're not trimming away parasitic plants, it's a good idea to wipe down your tools after each use.

To help protect your tools when they are not in use, utilize sheaths and holsters to cover the blades. This will also help prevent accidental cuts or injuries. For regular storage, keep your tools in dry spaces like the garage to prevent rust and damage. They shouldn't be left in the yard or exposed to the elements and moisture.



### TOOL SAFETY

Regardless of the tools you use, there are precautions you should take to help keep yourself safe while landscaping your yard. Remember to always wear gloves and protective glasses. Make sure your glasses are specially made safety glasses and provide eye coverage and protection. Regular sunglasses will not do the trick. When trimming, it is safest to trim from ground level and to not trim anything over your head. For projects that require these actions, consider hiring a professional.

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## Best Banana Bread Ever

By Lori Bosch and daughter, Stephanie, Cachet at Grayhawk

Since this column is called “Still Sweet and Salty” every once in a while we have to provide a recipe for something sweet! Stephanie and I have

been making this banana bread her whole life, and this recipe goes back even further for me. My best friend since 5th grade, Faye, had an amazing mom who was always cooking and baking and I have so many memories from when I went to her home after school. Her mom, Marie, would always welcome us with a smile and have warm banana bread waiting for us or some other freshly baked-good like apple cake or red cake. Marie was not only an amazing baker but she also made the most delicious Lebanese food such as tabbouli, grape leaves, cabbage rolls and homemade pita bread-authentic recipes handed down from her parents who were from Lebanon. Everyone was always welcome after school or to stay for dinner at Marie’s home, even though she and her husband had six children of their own, there was always plenty of food made with love. I still pull out the old torn, smudged recipe that is over 30 years old when I bake this bread because it just warms my heart and reminds me of Marie.

This bread is crunchy on top, and soft and moist in the middle and it is best about 10 minutes after it comes out of the oven, if you can wait that long! It also makes a wonderful welcome gift for a new neighbor, or coffee klatch with a friend, or even if you want to make a loved one feel special after school. I’ve tried to make healthier substitutions using coconut sugar, and whole grain flour but it’s just not as good. So from Marie’s home, to ours, and now to yours...here is the best banana bread ever.

And always, always, always save your old, treasured hand-written recipes AND memories, and be sure to share them with others! We welcome your feedback, suggestions and recipe requests! Please feel free to email us at [boschl@me.com](mailto:boschl@me.com).



## Best Banana Bread Ever

Prep time: 10 minutes; Bake time: 45-55 minutes

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup dark brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 ½ mashed bananas (medium)
- 1 2/3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup sour cream
- 2/3 cup pecan pieces (optional)
- Pam baking spray

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl mix sugar, eggs, butter and vanilla with mixer for about 1 minute.
3. Add bananas.
4. In separate bowl stir together flour, soda and salt.
5. Add flour mixture to the wet banana mixture using the mixer for about 1 minute.
6. Add sour cream and nuts and mix for 30 more seconds.
7. Spray a 6” x 9” loaf pan with Pam baking spray.
8. Using spatula transfer bread mixture to a loaf pan.
9. Bake for 45-55 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.
10. Eat while warm and spread with butter (optional).



## Sip and Tell

By Sue Lukenbill, Encore

November will always be one of my favorite months for so many reasons. I love that we finally start to feel a slight chill in the air. I also love that people, including myself, are making more of an effort to be thankful. I try to be grateful for what I have all year, but sometimes even I get caught up in the craziness. I've said it before but it is definitely worth saying again- I'm so thankful for my almost 22 years in Grayhawk, all of the CCMC on-site staff members and our Board of Directors. This community is really so wonderful and wouldn't be without the staff and Board that keep things running so smoothly.

Speaking of being thankful, how lucky are we to have so many fantastic choices of places to eat and drink in our area? I know many of you will have visiting friends and family this month and I want to make sure that you have a fantastic list of selections.

Somehow I didn't realize that there were a few places that opened in our area over the last couple of months. One of them, **Raven Gastropub**, opened in July. I was on vacation and never saw any advertising about it! My family told me that we needed to check it out because of the happy hour and great food. Naturally it was my choice of establishments to review for this month's issue. **Raven Gastropub** is right across from **Lamp Pizzeria** in the La Mirada Shopping Center at Pinnacle Peak and Pima Roads.

**Raven** features "American Comfort Food combined with a full bar and cocktails ranging from modern classics to inventive twists." The menu features elevated pub food and lots of comfort classics, as well as sandwiches like the *Vegetable Pita*, *Pulled Pork* and *Roasted Turkey with Brie*. I'll take one of each, please!

I ordered the *Chicken Avocado Sandwich* that was served on toasted sourdough with grilled chicken, avocado, applewood bacon, lettuce, tomato, onion and sundried tomato aioli. It was



more than yummy! Grayhawk's Director of Communications Jennifer Sheets joined me for lunch and ordered the *Roasted Veggie Pita* which was served with kale, roasted red bell peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, crimini mushrooms, hummus and crumbled feta cheese finished with a drizzle of balsamic reduction in warmed pita bread. I ordered the regular fries and Jennifer had the sweet potato fries just so we could sample both.

The service was great as was the food. I've heard nothing but great things about the food there and can't wait to try the Fish and Chips as that seems to be a popular item. One online reviewer even said it was the best he'd ever had!

If you're thinking about checking it out, I'd recommend you do so during Happy Hour, which runs from 3 – 6 p.m. every day. Drinks and appetizers are \$2 off. The bar is a great place to sit and I hear the bartender, Andrew, is very entertaining.

Enjoy your November and Happy Thanksgiving! Thanks to Grayhawk for the wonderful memories that seem to go on and on.



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## Denizens of the Desert: Aloes

By Victoria Kauzlarich, Volare

Just shy of two years ago - March, 2017 to be exact - I wrote a column titled "In Praise of Aloes" in which I made the argument that Aloes can be a great winter antidote. Aloes typically bloom in late winter and they serve as welcome harbingers of spring.

For that piece I focused on the wide variety of Aloe species. There are over 450 of them with more than 100 of these being commercially available. The size range of Aloes is enormous - from 6" to 60' at maturity. Most species require some shade from our summer heat but, once they've settled in, they require very little attention.

### Winter Color

While Aloes are nearly bullet-proof plants with interesting forms, another reason for their popularity is their colorful, long-lasting blooms. It is difficult to appreciate the wide variety of bloom color and the different forms these plants take until you see them side by side. So, let's take an Aloe bloom tour, shall we? We'll focus our attention on those plants that do well here and are available locally.

### Medicinal Aloe

Our tour begins with the familiar Medicinal Aloe. Like all of the smaller Aloes, this one is equally happy planted in a pot or in the ground. It readily spreads through offsets or pups and can consume a large space if you let it. Controlling this spread is easy. Just remove the offsets when they're small. When in bloom, these plants



attract Hummingbirds, Gila Woodpeckers, and Cactus Wrens. Their flowers last long enough (4-6 weeks) to get us into spring and the riot of color our warmer weather brings. Find them at Lowe's for about \$5.

### Blue Elf Aloe

I've written about the Blue Elf in several columns and they are worth mentioning again, here. I have a lot of these plants - most in the landscape and another bunch in a pot. They do equally well in both. This is a small species, growing in clusters of about 1' across with the leaves reaching about 8-10" in height. Their coral flowers tower above the plants and are a lovely contrast to the blue/gray foliage. You can get these at Lowe's, too - also for about \$5.







### Red Hat Aloe

Unlike other Aloes, Red Hats bloom multiple times throughout the year. And, it seems, just when you think they're done, they'll fire up another bloom cycle. When viewed from the side, the flowers look like candy corn.



Something else that sets these apart from other Aloe species is their deep green foliage. So, even when they're not in bloom, they give the landscape a pop of that dark green color we crave.

Watch out with this one, though. They do NOT like afternoon summer sun. I planted mine in the shade of a tree that we later replaced. Until the replacement tree creates enough shade, I have to cover these with shade cloth throughout the summer to preserve their dark green color.

Interested? These can be found at a reputable nursery. Try Desert Foothills Gardens and Nursery in Cave Creek.

### Tree Aloe (*Aloe ferox*)

This Aloe literally stands apart from the Aloe crowd because of its sheer size - 10' at maturity. The leaves get up to 3' long, producing a mammoth 6' spread. A closer look reveals dark brown spines on their leaf margins.



This Tree Aloe is at the Botanical Garden in a lovely shady spot. The surrounding trees give it just the right amount of sunlight. Note that the dead leaves have not been trimmed away from its trunk. These dead leaves form a protective petticoat, preventing the trunk from sun damage.

Note also the bottle-brush shape of the deep red flowers. These late winter blooms never fail to impress. And, in case you're wondering, this tree is about 6' tall. These plants can also be found at Desert Foothills Gardens and Nursery in Cave Creek.

### Hummingbirds

All Aloes attract hummingbirds because of their tubular flowers. These are a perfect fit for hummingbirds in search of food.

If you have a hummingbird feeder, place it near your Aloes or any other tubular flowering plant like Chuparosa or Valentine Bush. Your hummingbirds will stay longer if they have multiple food sources. They will feed on one, then the other and often back again.

### Next Month

Come back next month for the final installment in our 'Denizens' series where we will explore the wonderful world of Yuccas.



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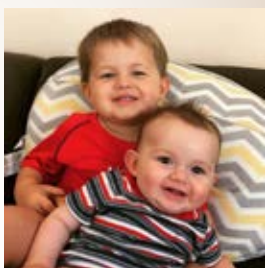
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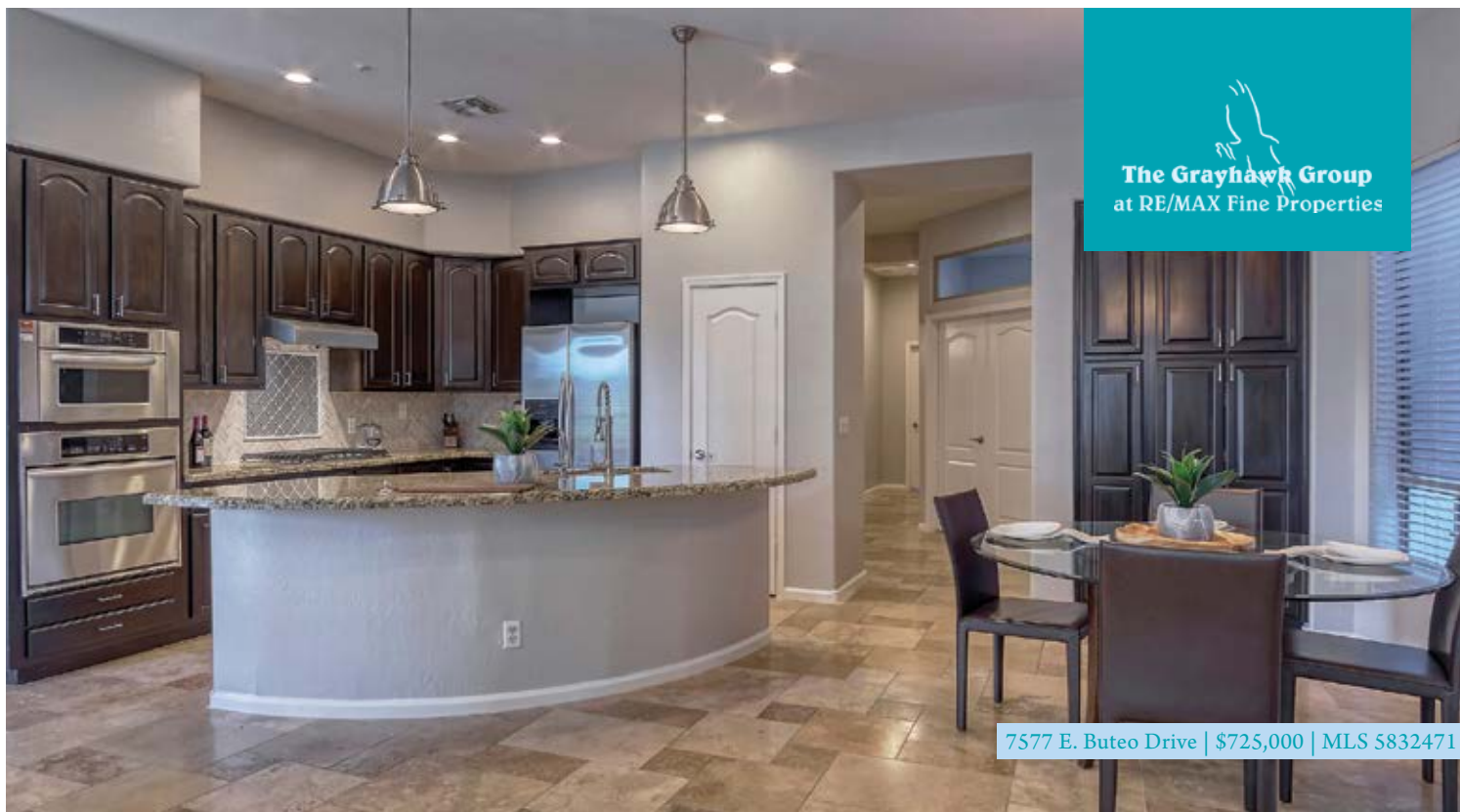


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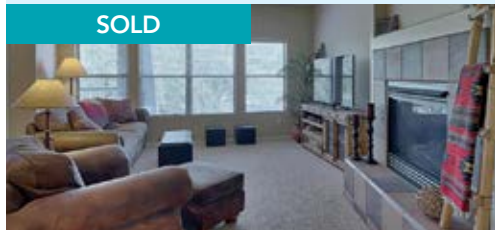


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DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DELIVER BY OCTOBER 31.



# PRECISION

eyecare

Located in Offices at Grayhawk  
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