



# Grayhawk Flight

November 2020

give thanks

**Inside:**

*What Grayhawk  
is Thankful For*

*Guardhouse  
Remodel Project*



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# Features



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## Grayhawk Community Association

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

Phone  
(480) 563-9708

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



**Cierra Austin**  
Administrative Coordinator  
caustin@ccmcnet.com



**Richard Dearo**  
Maintenance Supervisor  
rdearo@ccmcnet.com



**Chantel Martin**  
Maintenance Assistant



**Martha Castaneda**  
Maintenance Assistant



# 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 which went 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 2021 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 \$64.00 per month (\$192.00 per quarter) which reflects approximately 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 \$91.00 per month (\$258.00 per quarter) which reflects approximately a 2.2% 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 three members to the GCA Board of Directors and two 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 2020

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

### Grayhawk Board of Directors

Monday, Nov. 2 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom  
Call the GCA Office at 480-563-9708 for more information.  
grayhawk\_board@grayhawkcommunity.org

### Grayhawk Board of Directors Executive Session Meeting

Monday, Nov. 2 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom  
The Board of Directors will be meeting in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. Section 33-1804 (A)(3).

### Retreat Village Board of Directors

Monday, Nov. 2 via Zoom following the GCA Board meeting. Call the GCA Office at 480-563-9708 for more information.  
retreat\_board@grayhawkcommunity.org

### Retreat Village Board of Directors Executive Session Meeting

Monday, Nov. 2 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom  
The Board of Directors will be meeting in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. Section 33-1804 (A)(3).

## 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

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

### Architectural Review Committee

Tuesday, Nov. 3 and 17 at 4:30 p.m.  
Call Stacey Harvey at 480-563-9708 for more information.

## OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

### Avian Condominium Association Board Meeting

Call Associated Property Management  
480-941-1077 for details.

### Cachet at Grayhawk Condominium Association Meeting

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

Call Amcor Property Professionals at  
480-948-5860 for details.

### Tesoro Condominium Association Board Meeting

Call Kinney Management at 480-820-3451 for details.

### Venu Condominium Association Board Meeting

Call Vision Community Management at  
480-759-8683

### Village at Grayhawk Condominium Association Board Meeting

Call FirstService Residential at  
480-551-4300 for details.

### Vintage Condominium Association Board Meeting

Call Associated Property Management at  
480-941-1077 for details.

### Grayhawk Community Association Board Members

David Van Omen  
President

Paul Alessio  
Vice President

Richard Zielinski  
Secretary

Jeanette Griswold  
Treasurer

Lou Ender  
Director

Derek Moore  
Director

Bob Mann  
Director

### Retreat Village Association Board Members

Arlene Smith  
President

Ira Mallin  
Vice President

Alan Fernandez  
Secretary

Barb Nelson  
Treasurer

Michael Loya  
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 5, 2020

### Homeowner Forum

A resident inquired as to whether or not minutes from Board meetings are posted on the Grayhawk community website and also whether or not approved/disapproved plants could be found on the website. Staff noted that both are available on the website. The resident was specifically wondering if palms were allowed in condominiums, which staff noted that they are not.

Another resident requested that staff send her Architectural Review Committee minutes from previous meetings.

Multiple homeowners from the Retreat Village inquired about short-term rentals. Linda Shaw, former GCA Board President, clarified that it was the state legislature that changed the law and gave some history on what the GCA had done to try to change the CC&Rs when the law was changed. David Van Omen shared that he had been in contact with the Scottsdale Police Department in regards to a short-term rental behind his home and might be able to offer some advice. The discussion was then deferred to the Retreat Village Association Board meeting.

Grayhawk Board member Derek Moore commended community patrol for helping catch someone breaking into his vehicle.

### New Business

A motion was made and approved to appoint Don Morse to the GCA Board of Directors to fill the position previously held by Bob Mann.

### Development Committee

David Van Omen reported there was no new development to speak of in the Grayhawk area, however, the former Tavern Americana will open soon as The Craftsman Cocktails and Kitchen. He noted that there were only nine family homes currently on the market in Grayhawk, which is an all time low.

Don Morse asked if anyone knew if there were plans for Hualapai Road to be extended, as many residents in Cachet use that for parking extra vehicles. Paul Alessio shared that he believes what people are seeing now is temporary extension for construction vehicles and dust control, and that there are no plans to finish that road anytime soon. Michael Fee noted that the City of Scottsdale previously indicated that finishing that road would need funding through the city's Capital Improvement Project fund to be completed which currently does not earmark any funds for this project.

### Operational Review Committee

Dick Zielinski reported that the committee did not meet.

### Landscape Committee

Arlene Smith reported that the committee did not meet.

DLC Resources has been completing routine maintenance. A saguaro fell over in the Monterey Retreat neighborhood, damaging a wall and fence. DLC removed the saguaro and repairs were completed.

### Community Enhancement Committee

Stacey Harvey reported that the committee did not meet.

### Event Planning Committee

Sarah Van Dwyne reported the Food Truck Event with Aioli Gourmet Burgers was successful. So much so that the owners of the truck have asked to bring out their taco truck soon.

The free Shredding Event filled up quickly and was cut off at 120 residents. The committee hopes to do another shredding event early next year.

Upcoming events include a Single Sippers event in the Grayhawk greenbelt near the GCA office, free pumpkin/craft delivery, a Trunk or Treat event and a Virtual 5K.

### Communications Committee

Jennifer Sheets reported that Stacey Harvey and Cierra Austin were making final edits to the new Architectural Review forms. A new "Paint Only" form was created in addition to updating the original ARC submittal form.

The committee will be meeting in October and will be working on communication for the guardhouse remodel project.

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## Architectural Review Committee

Paul Alessio reported that there were two meetings with a total of 24 submittals in September. There has been a significant increase in submittals, which the committee believes is largely due to the COVID pandemic and people having more time to work on projects.

## Budget/Finance Committee

Jeanette Griswold reported that the committee met in person and virtually on September 29 to review budget scenarios. The committee wanted more information on the possibility of adding a part-time Covenants Coordinator staff member, as recommended by the Operational Review Committee. The proposed budget does not include funding for an additional staff member.

A motion was made and approved to increase the GCA budget by \$1 a month to \$65 per month, and approved the GCA reserve fund contribution in the 2021 GCA budget by \$148,068 plus the recommended adjustments from the GCA Finance Committee from the GCA community enhancement fund.

## Executive Committee

David Van Omen reported that the committee did not meet.

## Treasurer's Report

Jeanette Griswold reported that the revenue was over budget in August. Expenses are over budget for the year, primarily due to increased water usage and landscaping repairs expenses.

In August, there was approximately \$65,679 collected in community enhancement fees. That brings the total \$636,233 year-to-date. The balance in the community enhancement fund is \$2,470,717.

## Management Report

Michael Fee reported that new carpet was installed in the office and rental spaces and that new chairs would be arriving soon for the Talon Room.

Mr. Fee also announced that he would be retiring from Grayhawk at the end of 2020.



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## Virtual 5k Turkey Trot "Run for the Dogs"

**November 2 – November 25**

Right before the holidays is a great time to get in shape while enjoying the outdoors! This virtual 5k is an opportunity to stay active, stay connected to your neighbors and support a local charity. The Turkey Trot 5k is all about combining two of your favorite things: Running (or walking) and supporting furry friends! Registration cost is \$29 and \$5 of each registration fee will be donated to the Foothills Animal Rescue of Scottsdale.

### **YOUR REGISTRATION INCLUDES:**

- Turkey Trot Run/Walk Race Bib
- Finisher Medal
- Private Grayhawk group results posted
- Turkey Trot 5k T-shirt
- \$5 Starbucks gift card

### **TO JOIN:**

- Register for the Virtual 5k Turkey Trot on: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AZ/Scottsdale/GrayhawkCommunityRunfortheDogsTurkeyTrot>
- Complete a 5K (3.1 miles) run, walk, trot, or exercise any time in the month of November
- Send us your results on the online form (your confirmation email will include instructions)
- Celebrate your accomplishment and your love of dogs by posting your pics on the facebook page (optional)



## Streaming Services Seminar- Cutting the TV Cord

**Thursday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Virtual via Rocket Repair website**

Have you been getting frustrated with rising cable costs? Have you considered looking into a streaming service instead, but quickly got overwhelmed? Join the Cutting the TV Cord seminar with Jeff Toomey. He will be showing participants easy ways to save money by eliminating the need for traditional cable or satellite TV and how to switch to more affordable options. Register online at [www.rocketrepair.com/cutting-the-cord](http://www.rocketrepair.com/cutting-the-cord) and Jeff Toomey will email the class reminder to everyone the day before the class.

## Adopt-a-Road Clean Up

**Saturday, Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

**Meet at the GCA Office, 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. #102**

Calling all volunteers! We are looking for a few good people to help us keep our community beautiful. The City of Scottsdale will provide all volunteers with gloves, trash bags, safety vests and cold waters. All litter pick up will be on the property beyond the curb so we will not be in the road. We will meet at the GCA office at 8 a.m., go over some quick instructions and then start walking the trails along Hayden Road north of Thompson Peak Parkway. The walk will be approximately one mile each direction, a little over two miles in total after both sides of the road are cleaned. All volunteers 17 years of age and under must come with a guardian. This is a great way to complete community service hours for school, and get some fresh air while social distancing. We are only able to accommodate the first 12 volunteers who register. All others will be encouraged to sign up for the next chosen date in the spring. Register at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) to sign up today!

## Thanksgiving Craft Kit

**Registration: Nov. 2 through Nov. 11**

**Kit Delivery: Friday, Nov. 13**

We have a free Thanksgiving craft that is sure to keep your kids busy for a bit while you prep to make a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. The craft will be in a bag ready to go and dropped off at your door on Friday, November 13. We have 50 kits available and they will go fast! Register for your kit at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) before they are sold out. One kit per child please!



## floo-id YOGA in the Park

**Saturday, Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, and Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

**Grayhawk Greenbelt at 78th Way & 78th Pl., Park at 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy.**

floo-id YOGA is a locally owned boutique yoga studio at the 101 and Scottsdale Rd. They offer a wide variety of classes to accommodate all ages and skill levels to help you become a better version of yourself and has proven to aid in a healthier, physically fit and less stressful lifestyle. floo-id has been kind enough to host a couple classes at no cost just for Grayhawk residents! This is a great way to clear your mind and social distance while exercising. Just bring your mat, a can-do attitude and your body will do the rest. The classes will take place in the narrow beginning section of the greenbelt that starts at the tunnel under the Thompson Peak Pkwy and Hayden intersection. Walk down, ride bikes over or park in the Offices at Grayhawk Parking Lot and head down to the greenbelt from there. Register online prior to each class at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org).

## Healthier for the Holidays

**Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**

**Virtual via Zoom**

What if we can turn the challenge of staying healthy during this time of the year into an opportunity to boost our awareness and learn new great habits? Please join Tina Uphoff, Grayhawk resident, certified health coach and fitness instructor for strategies and tips on being healthier during this busy time of year. Tina will also be sharing a Healthier for the Holidays handout with fun and healthy recipes with all attendees. All attendees will be entered into a raffle to win an Arbonne protein shaker cup with product samples. Register online at [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org) by Nov.16 to save your spot.



## Modern Tortilla Food Truck

**Wed., Nov. 18 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Grayhawk Greenbelt at 78th Pl. & 78th Way**

Save the hard work in the kitchen for Thanksgiving. Join us to enjoy Modern Tortilla food truck with menu options that are sure to make the whole family happy. From delicious tacos to mouth-watering burritos, Modern Tortilla has it all. Their food is the product of blending years of classical training with a southwest heritage, resulting in an unforgettable dining experience. There will be no street parking, please park in the Offices at Grayhawk parking lot located at 7940 E. Thompson Peak Pkwy. and walk up to the greenbelt to enjoy the food truck.

## Concert in the Park

**Sun., Nov. 22 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Grayhawk Greenbelt at 78th Pl. and 78th Way**

Join neighbors for an outdoor live music concert in the Grayhawk Greenbelt! We are excited to have Lee Perriera and his band bring their energy to the community at a time that we all need it most. Bring a chair or blanket to sit in the lawn with your family. The delicious Aioli Burger food truck will be on site with food available for purchase. Feel free to bring coolers and snacks to enjoy in your area (no glass please). We will have designated circles in the lawn to help everyone properly socially distance. Masks are required while you are outside of your designated seating area. Masks will be provided for those who do not have one. Registration is limited due to social distancing guidelines provided by the state. We will adapt accordingly to stay in line with current mandates and recommendations. Register for your spot on [www.grayhawkcommunity.org](http://www.grayhawkcommunity.org). Each registration is limited to a total of seven. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required and walk ups cannot be accommodated.

# SAVE THE DATE

## **Holiday Drink Mixer Mixology Class**

Wednesday, Dec. 9  
from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Virtual via zoom

## **Drive up Movie**

Saturday, Dec. 12  
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thompson Peak Park  
Parking Lot



## **Hanukkah Cookie Decorating Class**

Tuesday, Dec. 15  
from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom

## **3 International Tenors Christmas Concert**

Saturday, Dec. 19  
at 7 p.m.

Private Virtual  
showing thanks to  
TAD Management

## **Holly Jolly Bingo**

Tuesday, Dec. 22  
from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom

## ***Holiday Gate Access in the Retreat Village***



If you live in the Retreat and will be hosting parties during the holiday season, please remember to drop off a complete guest list to the guardhouse if you are not adding those guests to your ABDI account. The guards will call on every guest that they have not been notified of prior to the party. If you are busy having fun and don't hear your phone ring, your guest may be denied admittance, and that is no way to spread holiday cheer!

If you are not sure how to log in to your ABDI account, you can find more information on [grayhawkcommunity.org](http://grayhawkcommunity.org) under Resident Services/ABDI Gate Access.





# I am

# THANKFUL

# for...

Mine is simple. I'm thankful for my faith and my health. Pre-Covid, I nourished both, which has helped to keep me safe and spiritually strong.

– Melinda Medina, Tesoro

I am more than thankful for my health and my family. Family has helped me get through all of this!

– Sue Lukebill, Encore

For moving to AZ in February right before everything hit. It has been priceless to be so close to family and even though we can't hug, we can still get together for socially distant backyard dinners.

– Nikki Windhorst, Tesoro

My 4 new Grand children.

– David Van Omen,  
Coventry at Grayhawk

I'm thankful for my husband recognizing my need to remain in AZ (he returned to WI) while my 97 3/4 YO mom was in total quarantine for six months.

– Pat Seago, Tesoro

Family and friends.

– Debra Gold, Featherwind

This year I am thankful for my physical therapist. Without her I would still be struggling with my vestibular disorder. She has been the best thing that has happened to me this year – kind, patient and always available when I needed her.

– Jamie Marks Snider, Volare

More family time.

– Kim Garay, Los Vientos

I'm thankful for Instacart, Netflix and frequent phone calls from family and friends, both of which got me thru the worst year of my life.

– Marcia Thompson, Los Vientos

The opportunity to meet some wonderful caring people, even during an isolating pandemic.

– Maria Maheras, Tesoro

I'm thankful that the nature of my job made for an easy transition into working from home when COVID hit and I was not at risk of losing my job. So many others did not have that luxury.

– Kim Scarabello



## GUARDHOUSE REMODEL

The Grayhawk Operational Review Committee decided to do a thorough assessment of the Raptor and Talon Guardhouses in 2017 to determine whether or not design flaws were hindering full functionality. The guardhouses were built 25 years ago and serve three primary purposes:

- Control access and monitoring for the Retreat Village
- Break Room for community patrol staff
- Office for community patrol manager and housing for a radio tower

Through interviews with CCMC, the GCA on-site staff, and Trident Security staff, it was determined that there were multiple issues, including but not limited to, guest traffic extending onto Thompson Peak Parkway, an overhang that is too low for vehicle clearance, visibility issues caused by the structure, glare issues, electrical and IT limitations, lack of power backup and shared storage/restroom space. The committee determined that they should continue looking into whether a remodel or complete tear down and rebuild would be a good choice for mitigating the issues presented.

In early 2019, the GCA Board of Directors approved the engagement of a project manager to begin the process of interviewing and selecting an architect, city permitting and

Board presentations, and Barry Ebert with Santa Fe Management was hired. Barry is an existing consultant on the Grayhawk Architectural Committee and one of the original community planners, and it made perfect sense for him to take on this role.

Late in 2019, Barry recommended and the Board approve Keith Zollman with Studio KZ to serve as the project architect. What followed were many months of Studio KZ presenting renderings and estimated costs to both the Grayhawk Community Association and Retreat Village Association Boards. Both Boards were in agreement that some sort of a renovation did need to happen at the guardhouses, although how extensive and at what cost was debated at great length over many months.

It was ultimately determined that the best course of action was to tear down and rebuild both guardhouses. This allows for

extending the visitor guest lanes and creating a more workable space for staff. The Grayhawk Community Association Board approved funding \$700,000 of the project total from the Grayhawk Community Enhancement Fund. The Retreat Village Association will fund the remainder of the project from the Retreat Village Community Enhancement Fund.

This project will result in a major improvement for both Retreat and Park residents. The guardhouses, although they are entry and exit points for Retreat residents, are extremely visible amenities for anyone driving through the community. The upgrade will be an improvement consistent with the recent monument sign renovations. The remodel will:

- **Reduce vehicular back-up at the gatehouses.** Back-up obstructs resident access and creates a hazard on Thompson Peak Parkway. If we were not to complete a remodel, it's possible the City of Scottsdale would require that the Association mitigate the traffic issue on Thompson Peak Parkway. The double-width guest entrance lane and increased canopy height being proposed should alleviate this issue.
- **Provision for the current- and next-generation of security technology.** New equipment will be installed, including climate-controlled data racks and structured conduits for future technological needs. This will allow the guardhouse to grow with technology over time.
- **Strengthen human oversight of security.** Greater visibility of the traffic at the gates is provided by additional high-definition cameras and a larger window area with significant glare control.
- **Maintain operational security during construction.** By constructing new gatehouses in a new location, rather than remodeling or rebuilding in the same location, we are able to prevent a prolonged disruption or interruption in security services while also achieving the benefits of the goals above.

The Retreat Village Association Board of Directors will be presented with additional budget information and data at a future Board meeting, and they will determine at that point the process for moving forward with the project.





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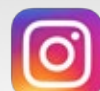
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## Our Desert, Our Home

By Victoria Kauzlarich, Volare

# For the Love of Palos

Ahhh... Those green trunks and branches. Those lovely, ephemeral yellow blossoms in the spring. Their often-delicate shapes. And, the mess. Oh, the mess.

I'm guessing that when you first moved here, you admired these trees without reservation. After you became the proud owner of one, did you change your mind? If you hit the jackpot and acquired both a Palo AND a bougainvillea, you likely doubled your displeasure. But I digress.

All Palos are messy. In fact, there are only a couple of months a year (through our winters) when they're not. They leaf out twice a year, drop these leaves both times and then also drop the connecting pins where the leaves attach. Add dropped blossoms and seed pods to this mix and you have a mess for about 10 months out of 12.

Still, people love them. They love the novelty of green trunks and branches. They

love the wonderful yellow flower color in the spring. People love them until they don't.

Falling out of love with a Palo typically happens after you've reached your frustration tolerance with one that has grown overly fast, or is planted near your pool, or is planted in an area where you get a lot of foot traffic, or is planted in an area too small for its growth habit.

My sense is that most people like/love Palos until they own one. Then? All that familiarity breeds contempt.

### All Desert Trees are Messy, but...

Some are messier than others. Still others are uniquely messy and can drive homeowners to distraction. Before you level too much criticism in trees' direction, let's look at this from a tree's point of view.

All that messiness is largely a function of species continuation—an imperative for

all plants. Most desert trees are leguminous, meaning they have seed pods which is how they ensure the survival of their species. Seed pods must fall to the ground; no way around it.

No matter what tree you chose, there will be a mess. The question becomes how much mess and for how long? What attributes create or minimize messiness?

Let's circle back to Palos for a minute. Palos are drought deciduous and behave much like Ocotillos - both leaf out twice a year, following the monsoons and again after the winter rains. The similarity ends there. The leaves, "connecting pins" and seed pods, not to mention their massive blooming serve to make a Palo way messier than an Ocotillo.

### What to do?

All trees engage in leaf replacement, but one key to help you pick a less-messy



tree is to look for those that are evergreen or semi-evergreen. Sure, there will be leaf litter but far less than from those trees that are some form of deciduous. So, evergreen or semi-evergreen is a place to start.

Another important factor is overall tree size. If a mature tree has a 25-30 ft canopy, it provides great shade but also a lot of square feet of mess when it drops leaves, seed pods, (possibly) connecting pins and blossoms.

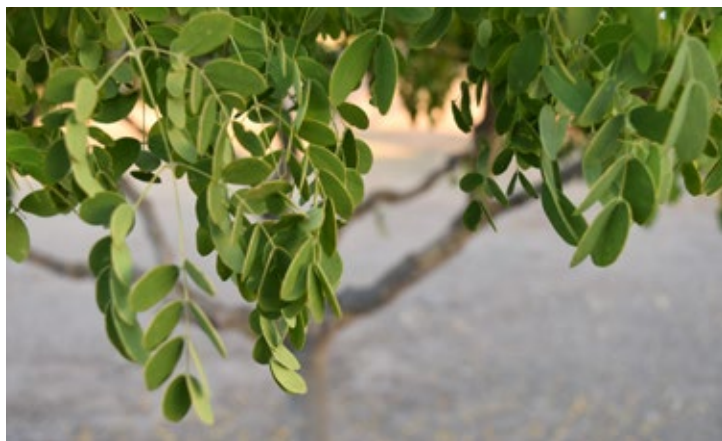
Other trees that rack up a lot of complaints include the following. **Sweet Acacias** reward their owners by dropping their seed pods all year long. **Texas Ebony** trees have really large (and very annoying) seed pods which owners often complain about. **Mesquites** create a big mess because they lose their seed pods AND their leaves at about the same time and then, they turn around and bloom, with the flowers hitting the ground next.

As the former owner of two Palo Verdes (planted near a pool in areas far too small to avoid frequent pruning), I was ecstatic to be rid of them.

IMHO, Palos are the messiest of desert trees. They're lovely from a distance, but up close and personal, not so much. There are other options. Think of these two as unsung heroes, worthy of consideration.



"Yellow Bird"



"Yellow Bird" - Leaf Detail



Mulga Acacia



Mulga Acacia - Flower & Leaf Detail

### **Mexican Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia mexicana*)**

These relatively small (15'x15') trees are lovely in a variety of ways. They generally have multiple trunks. Their leaves are dark green and fern-like. They're evergreen and sport gorgeous yellow flower clusters from Spring to Fall - often well into the Winter months. "Yellow Birds", as they are sometimes called, have a moderate to rapid growth rate.

The litter from this one comes from spent flowers and seed pods, but it has no spines, attracts hummingbirds and is a real "show stopper" if planted in the right location.

### **Mulga Acacia (*Acacia aneura*)**

This is a tree that you don't see very often, although Grayhawk planted a bunch of small ones a few years ago. If there is a lack of enthusiasm for this tree, I'm guessing it's because the foliage is truly a silver/gray.

The photo, here, is a good representation of what this tree looks like at maturity. It gets up to 15'-20' x 15'-20' but it can easily be pruned to keep its habit in check.

Mulgas bloom multiple times a year and they DO have seed pods but they are evergreen (er, uh, evergray?) and so there is minimal leaf litter.

Desert trees are rich in their diversity. Palos and Mesquites are just the beginning. Next time you're looking for a tree? Look beyond the norm. You're likely to fall in love all over again.



# Grayhawk Elementary News

By Grayhawk Elementary School PTO

As we settle into the familiarity of our fall season which brings cooler weather and more outdoor activities, it is safe to say we still live during unfamiliar times. Grayhawk Elementary has adjusted and adapted to the ongoing changes and expectations while still providing the quality learning environment that is expected. The school continues to navigate through unconventional times with new educational processes, different approaches to events, and with community support.

Paradise Valley School District, which Grayhawk Elementary is included in, met the metrics to return to in person learning in late September and transitioned students back to the schools by mid-October. Students were also given the option to remain on the PVConnect model with their regular teacher via Google Meet or continue with the PVOnline independent learning model. The school will remain open to in person learning as long as the metrics from the Maricopa County Dashboard are maintained from week to week. This dashboard and the Paradise Valley School Board have provided guidelines to be met and maintained in order to remain safely in person.

Grayhawk Elementary has taken cautious measures to provide a safe environment for teachers, staff, and students with mandatory masks, social distancing, not sharing supplies, hand washing, and contact tracing, among many other protocols. The school is doing their best to maintain a familiar environment by still providing special area classes, lunch in the cafeteria, and recess along with the regular classroom learning activities. The library at the school

WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON LEARNING!

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has instituted procedures to allow for students to continue to check out books online. The administration and staff have established a school setting that the students were used to and comfortable with, even with the new procedures, and were excited and ready to have students back on campus.

The teachers worked hard for weeks to set up their classrooms in a safe and welcoming manner. They were elated to have students back in person and devised effective procedures to keep the students and themselves safe while still maintaining an engaging and hospitable classroom. They have dedicated hours above and beyond to effectively teach all students during this time.

The Grayhawk PTO wanted to maintain familiarity as well with the events typically scheduled. The always anticipated Fall Book Fair will still take place this month, although it will be an online event this time. There will be access to the various books and activities seen at the Book Fair, and students, teachers, and the school will benefit from the offers given by Scholastic books.

Another event that students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members enjoy is the monthly Dine for Donations. October featured Lou Malnati's Pizza. All members of the Grayhawk community can participate in giving back to Grayhawk Elementary through dining. Other ways to show support for a neighborhood school like Grayhawk Elementary are through programs such as Fry's Community Rewards, Amazon Smile, and eScrip Dining. Grayhawk Elementary prides itself on being a school that supports the community while the community also supports the school. Through this relationship, valuable connections are made and maintained.

Grayhawk Elementary continues to move forward through the second quarter of the school year by blazing new paths in uncharted territory. For more information on Grayhawk Elementary School visit [www.pvschools.net/schools/grayhawk-elementary/home](http://www.pvschools.net/schools/grayhawk-elementary/home) or [www.grayhawkpto.com](http://www.grayhawkpto.com)







# Snnnnnnnaaaakkee!

By Melanie Johnston

I've heard neighbors report snake sightings, but I never imagined I would be calmly watching TV one night and see one slither across my patio. Worse still, I could see it had black and white bands near its tail. While I don't know much about snakes, I know that's a bad sign. I couldn't see its rattle because it blended in with my patio, so I wasn't sure what I was dealing with.

I quickly dialed the Grayhawk Neighborhood Patrol and asked for their help. Like a knight in shining armor, the night supervisor Patrick Pittman arrived at my door with his trusty bucket, his snake stick and plenty of courage.

While I observed from the safety of my living room, Patrick sought out the intruder, who was now nowhere to be found. Patrick kept searching until he found the snake slithering through the grass. After a false start, when the snake wiggled his way out of the hold, Patrick clutched him a second time. Victory!

The snake was hissing and rattling and writhing the whole time. Patrick kept his cool and dropped him into the bucket, yanked the stick out from under the lid and screwed the lid tight. I was so thankful that he knew what to do and did it so well! Yay, Patrick!

I recorded a short video with him that I shared on social media. You can hear the snake rattling away in the bucket. Also remarkable was the photo that Trident Security staff member Thomas Day took after Patrick released the snake into the desert across Scottsdale Road. It belongs in the pages of National Geographic!

Thank you to Patrick and the entire Neighborhood Patrol for coming to our rescue to relocate these unwelcome visitors!



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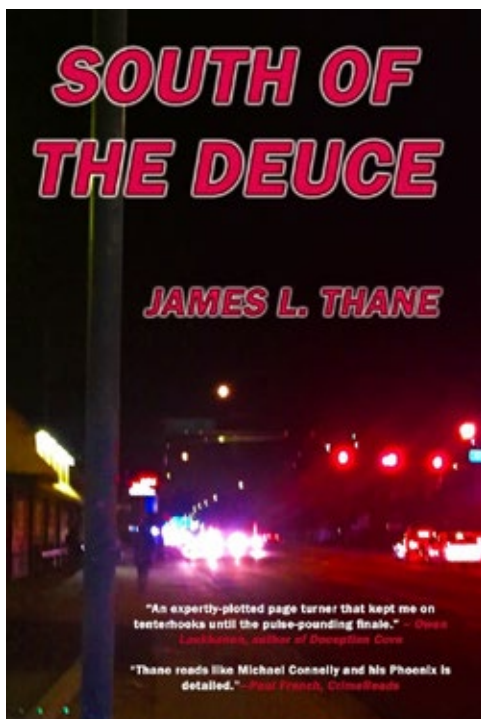


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*Residents enjoyed the  
Aioli Burger Food Truck  
in September.*







## Still Sweet and Salty

By Lori Bosch and daughter,  
Stephanie, Cachet at Grayhawk

One of our favorite easy appetizers is baked Brie. In fact traditionally we start off every holiday meal with baked brie and a glass of wine before serving dinner. It is the perfect alternative to a cheese plate and it will satisfy your guests until your holiday meal is ready to be served. It melts in your mouth and the creamy, sweet and savory goodness pairs perfectly with your favorite glass of pinot noir or chardonnay.

There are only five ingredients so this couldn't be any simpler. We top ours with toasted almonds and fig jam which gives it a nutty crunch and gooey sweetness. We hope you try this delicious baked Brie this holiday season not only because it is simple, but also elegant and an absolute crowd-pleaser. Enjoy!

And always, always, always fill your home with delicious smells and favorite dishes over the holidays! Your family and friends will cherish the memories of the delicious food you share together. We welcome your feedback, suggestions and recipe requests! Please feel free to email us at [boschl@me.com](mailto:boschl@me.com).



## EASY BAKED BRIE

**Prep time: 5-10 minutes**

**Bake time: 20-25 minutes**

**Servings: 4**

### Ingredients:

- 1 wheel 8 oz Brie cheese (leave rind on)
- 1 can Pillsbury crescent rolls (or your favorite puffed pastry)
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ cup slivered almonds (toasted)
- 1 jar fig jam (only need 2 tablespoons)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Unroll dough, and cut in half to form two separate squares. Pat dough to seal perforations. Place one square of pastry on ungreased cookie sheet. Place cheese on center of dough and form dough around the cheese. Place remaining square of pastry on top of cheese and gently stretch dough around the cheese, then flip over so seal is on top. Seal completely.
3. Brush with beaten egg.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes.
5. Cool for 10 minutes.
6. While Brie is in the oven, toast almonds in a non-stick pan on medium heat stirring constantly for 3-4 minutes until lightly golden.
7. Top baked Brie with toasted almonds and fig jam.
8. Serve with your favorite crackers.



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## Sip and Tell

By Sue Lukenbill, Encore Resident

Welcome to the month of November. For many reasons, this is one of my favorite months. I love the change in temperature and the ability I have to sit outside and watch the sunset from my patio which overlooks the 18th fairway of the Talon golf course. I may also love to sip a cocktail or two while I watch. I also genuinely love the effort everyone seems to make to be more thankful. This year especially, I think we should all take pause and really think about what we are grateful for.

I know that I must sound like a broken record every year, but it is worth saying at least yearly: I am so very thankful for the almost 24 years living here in Grayhawk for our all of our CCMC on-site staff members and our Board of Directors. It goes without saying that I love this Community. I tell everyone that they will have to take me out in a body bag because I have no plans to leave.

We are also very lucky to have so many great places to choose from in the area to eat. I thought I had eaten (or at least had drinks) everywhere there was in the area, but I was mistaken. Jennifer Sheets, the Grayhawk Director of Communications, always seems to surprise me. This month we did a takeout and delivery from **Croque Famous Sandwiches**, located on the southwest corner of Scottsdale Road and Thunderbird Road.

**Croque** (pronounced "crock" as in crocodile) serves a little bit of everything and the menu really spans the globe. You can choose between French, German, Italian and traditional American sandwiches. They have 20 varieties of hot sandwiches, eight cold sandwiches and eight different wraps. **Croque** also offers a variety of soups, salads and breakfast selections and sides from fruit to potato salad to kim chi.



Due to busy schedules, we opted to have food delivered to Grayhawk. It was different, but very suited to the times. Grayhawk's Lifestyle Director Sarah Van Duyn was even able to join us. Jennifer ordered **Bulgogi** sandwich which was Korean BBQ steak, grilled red bell pepper, grilled onion, tomato, provolone, and lettuce on a plain baguette. Many reviews claimed this sandwich is a winner and she had to see for herself. Sarah ordered the **Chicken Pesto Club** which was chicken breast rubbed w/ basil-pesto sauce, bacon, provolone, tomato, lettuce on a plain baguette. I ordered the **Monsieur** which was double ham, mushroom, tomato, mozzarella, lettuce on a multigrain baguette. All of our sandwiches were 6 inches of delicious!

**Croque Famous Sandwiches** delivers and also caters. It's a great option for family gatherings during football season or the holidays. You won't be disappointed! Until next month, stay safe, and healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!

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**Marc and Ellen Poortinga**

**Todd and Kari Sumney**

## Important Contact Numbers

Grayhawk Onsite Office	480-563-9708
Capital Consultants Management Corp.	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

Southwest Gas	877-860-6020
City of Scottsdale Water	480-312-5650
City of Scottsdale Solid Waste	480-312-5600
APS	602-371-7171
Street Light Repair (SA/ ID prefix on pole)	602-371-7171

### CITY OF SCOTTSDALE

Non-Emergency Police Department	480-312-5000
Fire Department Main Phone	480-312-8000
Police or Fire Emergency	911
Parks and Recreation	480-312-2771
Street Light Repair (SS prefix on pole)	480-312-5483

### SCHOOLS

Grayhawk Elementary School	602-449-6600
Mountain Trail Middle School	602-449-4600
Pinnacle High School	602-449-4000
El Dorado Private School	480-502-6878

### LIBRARIES

Appaloosa	480-312-7557
Arabian	480-312-6250
Mustang	480-312-6050

Grayhawk Golf Club	480-502-1800
Boys and Girls Club, Thunderbirds	480-538-9547
Motor Vehicle Division	602-255-0072
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Darren shares how he got involved with Foothills Animal Rescue and why this nonprofit is so important to him and his family.

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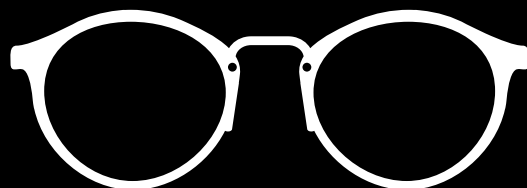
  
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