

The Roadrunner



News You Can Use From Around The Desert Hills Fire District

April 2014

Plenty of Action at Senior Center

Meals on Wheels Helps Homebound

Bruce Hinman, President of the Board of Directors of the Senior Center and the Meals On Wheels program, was the first speaker at the March 4th meeting of the Desert Hills Fire District Community Association. He gave a brief history of the Center and discussed the activities now available.

The Senior Center is a result of the 1965 Federal Older American's Act. The Center here was established in 1980 and their Board took over operation of the Mohave County Meals on Wheels program in 1999. The Center provides services for the entire southern portion of Mohave County and is open to all residents.

The aim of the Center is to enrich the lives of senior citizens.

To encourage social activity the Center has on-site daily luncheons Monday through Friday between 11:15 and noon. There were 70,022 meals prepared during 2013, 48% of them were delivered. He said there has been a drop in the number of people served – they are estimating only 60,000 for 2014.

The Meals on Wheels people not only deliver the food, they also check on how the customer is doing. They talk to the people providing, in some cases, the only personal interaction the customer has all day. The volunteers report any challenges to the Mohave County Public Health person assigned to the Center. (He and his wife deliver 21 meals on Tuesday and Thursday to people ages mid-40's through mid-90's.)

In addition, there are 21 activities planned during the

week at the Center – exercises, card games, dances, sports – to help get people out of their homes into social activities and to keep physically active. A new service, with a recently purchased bus, is the Services on the Move. Seniors can call to get transportation to the Center and for shopping, doctor's visit, etc.

Financially the Center is doing better. Relations with the County have improved. Primary funding comes from WACOG, Mohave County, United Way, AAA/DES/AA, Senior Center Fund Raising, Havasu Senior Center and Meals on Wheels, Board of Directors and donations from the Community. One-half of their money comes from the people using the Center and from donations from the Community. (There are minimal charges for some of the Center's activities.)

Mr. Hinman said his speaking to us is his part of marketing the Center to increase the number of people they can serve. He urged each of our senior citizens to investigate what they have to offer.

The second speaker of the evening was Ray Powell, a Director on the Home Owners' Association for the Refuge. He presented his personal views of what is happening in the ongoing challenge with City Center, Inc. (translation Jerry and Cindy Aldridge).

Mr. Powell give a brief history of his family developing 3 sections of land in Dutch Flats and his move to the Refuge in 2005. He feels the HOA and all other residents are the victims of the developer. They were not given the chance to buy their golf course.

At the first Home Owners Association meeting with the Aldridges, Mr. Aldridge said, "We have bought a failing golf course and there is nothing the HOA can do about it." He then he presented his plans which took away 57 acres – the golf course, club house and, the area around the club house, from the original Refuge. He was putting in a large meeting place (the tent) and taking away some of the golf course property to make a Recreational Vehicle Park, thereby taking it out of the Arnold Palmer design.

About 1/3 of the Refuge residents were against, same number for and 1/5 neutral (wait & see).



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It resulted in two (2) law suits – City Center, Inc. vs the Refuge HOA and HOA vs City Center, Inc.

On May 20, 2013, the issues were presented at trial before a jury, the jury found for the Refuge Home Owners Association for a majority of the issues. City Center, Inc. filed a stay of execution and they have filed an appeal.

The Home Owners Association want:

The golf course brought back to the Arnold Palmer design.

The RV pads gone or relocated.

The current challenges are: the HOA recommendations were accepted by the court. However, City Center attorneys have clouded the titles. The Army Corps of Engineers is going to rule on the flood zone.

In other news:

The Desert Hills Fire District Community Association elected the 2014-2015 Board at their March 4 meeting.

Those elected were:

President	John Hayes
Vice-President	Mathew Espinoza
Secretary	Jeanne Kentch
Treasurer	Judy Moore
Director	Charles Hunter

The nominating committee members were: Jeanne Kentch, Patricia Kereszteny and, Dee Moscou.

Pancakes Make For Busy Days!

The Desert Hills Fire Department Auxiliary reports that this season has been record breaking. With several of the pancake breakfasts topping out over 500 customers (all served in a 2 ½ hour timeframe), auxiliary members have been very busy. The March 1st Pancake/Biscuit & Gravy

Breakfast did NOT break last year's total of 552 people and we were two (2) less than February's, but we had fun and made money too. The sale of the T-shirts and Bill Dewey's banana bread went very well. The all volunteer help did a wonderful job of serving, cleaning up and, making sure all attendees enjoyed themselves. At times it was standing room only as customers patiently waited for a chance to dine.

The last fund raiser of the year, the final Pancake/Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast will take place from 8:00-10:30 AM, Saturday, April 5th, on the equipment floor of Fire Station #1, London Bridge Road and Chenoweth Drive. Hope to see everyone there.

And Speaking of Busy...

The last Spaghetti Dinner of this fiscal year was an outstanding success. We served 390 people, had 24 volunteers to help and, had NO food left over. It was wonderful. The previous spaghetti dinner entertained 267 people. The auxiliary was expecting a larger crowd but was pleasantly surprised when the crowd was much larger than anticipated. While it did leave auxiliary members scrambling for more resources, and working fast to prepare more sauce and spaghetti, everyone left with a full belly.

The Silent Auction was also a spectacular success. The Auction was run in the Si Mock Building (because of the wind) from 2:00-7:00 PM on Saturday, March 15 – the same date of the Spaghetti Dinner. Auxiliary

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member Hal Ries was the custodian the whole time.

Following is the list of winners: (apologies for misspelled names!)

Sofa – Joanne Vianos; Marble Topped Table w/4 chairs – Nancy Mittlestadt; Metal & Marble Serving Cart – Dobbio Cay (sp?); patio folding chair – Karen Raddatz (donated back to Auxiliary to auction at a later date); Sony 60”TV – Deanna Pepe; Sony 32” TV – Jim DeLine; Wool Rug – Ron Baldwin; 3 outdoor rugs – Lisa Settle; “Elephants d’Afrique” print – Shon Smith; Mongoose XR Men’s Mountain Bike – Bill Etterlein; Hard Rock Men’s Mountain Bike – Bob Giacolino; Women’s Mountain Bike – Lisa Sentle; Sentry Safe – Shon Smith; Air Conditioner – Kathleen Blair; various decorative items – Linda (no last name); Joanne Vianos; Bill Gardner; Nancy Mittlestadt; Rex Miller; Deanna Pepe; Karen Eisenhauer; June Miller and; Chaddie Williams.

We thank all of the people who attended and made it success.

And I, Dee Moscou, as chairman, thank all 24 volunteers for doing a yeoman’s job with so many lovely customers.

We are hoping for the same success at the next Spaghetti Dinner in November.

In other news:

The March general meeting of the Auxiliary was held in the Si Mock Building, 2:00PM, Tuesday, March 18.

The most important part of the meeting was the election of officers for the year 2014-2105. There were two (2) changes in the list presented by the nominating committee last month. Coco Giacolino and Alisha Gibson asked to be excused for this year. Elected by voice vote were:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| President | Hal Ries
(the first man to be Pres.) |
| Vice-President | Judy Moore |
| Secretary | Peggy Haynes |
| Treasurer | Maggie Hickson |
| Directors | Gloria Hudnall, Lois Keeler |

Thanks you for serving next year.

Also discussed were the Spaghetti Dinner and training for volunteers:

Peg Haynes supplied, on the spur of the moment, the snacks for the meeting attendees. Thanks for the help, Peg.

The last Auxiliary event of the year will be the Installation Potluck Dinner which will be held at 4:00 PM, Saturday, April 2, on the equipment floor of Fire Station #1. This occasion is for Auxiliary members, friends of the Department and all Fire Personnel and their families.

The Fire Department will again provide the meat and potatoes. All other attendees should bring a dish of good food plus their



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own eating utensils and drinks, if they don't want coffee or soft drinks on site.

Not only will the Auxiliary install the new officers but the Auxiliary will present Fire Chief Mathew Espinoza with a \$10,000 check for the purchase of equipment for which there are no budgeted funds.

Welcome Aboard!

The Desert Hills Fire District board meets once a month, normally the second Wednesday of the month, 5pm at station #1; 3983 London Bridge Road. The board consists of 3 Board members; Chairman Shon Smith, Board member/Clerk John Hayes and Board member Michael Griffin. Agendas are posted at Station #1 and on the district website at:

www.deserthillsfire.com.

The district welcomes all to attend. If there is anything the public would like to discuss with the board please request an agenda item by briefly discussing your concerns at the Call to the Public. The fire district board is working very hard on a voluntary basis. The next scheduled meetings are April 16th, May 14th and June 4th.

The next election for board members will be held this November, one position will be on the ballot. For anyone interested in running for the board, packets are available at the Mohave County Election Department (<http://www.mohavecounty.us/ContentPage.aspx?id=118>) or call them at: 928-753-0733

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opt. 2. The first day for filing is July 7th, 2014 and last day is August 6th, 2014.

Hope to see you at a future meeting.

Colorado River Adventures Donation

Once again, the terrific guests from Colorado River Adventures have stepped forth to raise funds to purchase equipment for the Desert Hills Fire Department. At a barbeque on March 12th, the guests had a great dinner of grilled hamburgers or polish hotdogs, baked beans and chips and drinks. It was the perfect day. The sun was warmly trickling through the canopy of trees overhead. A light breeze ensured the smell of grilling burgers wafted through the crowd, making everyone ravenous with hunger. Some singers were entertaining the crowd with the karaoke version of their favorite songs.

As usual, firefighters from the nearby station soon joined the crowd and even belted out their favorite song (Jeremiah was a Bullfrog) to the delight of the crowd.

After it was all said and done, the guests raised \$1,250 for the fire department during the afternoon event. The money will be used to purchase equipment for the fire department.

Aspecial thanks goes to all of the wonderful people who worked so hard to make this event as great as it was.

HAPPY EASTER!

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What's That Thing in the Tree?

by petra port

Having been a desert dweller for over forty years, first in the high desert, Apple Valley area of California, then the low desert, Mojave Desert are of Arizona, I have come to love, appreciate and respect the environment. The plants and vegetation are so unique and beautiful, all set against the hills and rugged mountains, which change colors throughout the day—from earth colors in the morning, to soft colors resembling pastels towards dusk. After a forceful spring rain, wild flowers emerge like magic. It has to be seen to appreciate, as this phenomena is hard to believe if not familiar with the desert.

When the hot summers come and the water turns scarce, the plants and animals go into a dry tolerant mode, so all can survive. Recent years, however have brought about some confusion and irritant to the eyes as I drive or talk a walk outdoors. My eye catches an irregular white mass, not an organic shape, but something which protrudes from many of the plants. It is spaced irregularly throughout an area, not being particular. It does not seem to be selective as to what it is attached to, fences, wires, plants, trees, any vertical or horizontal object will do. Sometimes, these "things" appear wanting to leave, especially in any kind of wind, but cannot. Because of the nature of their make-up, once hooked, they stay. Upon closer scrutiny, they have no fragrance, no organic qualities, no beauty, their purpose has been transformed to purposelessness becoming a visual nuisance. Visually or mentally, they do not register as something that should be there. Sometimes, they even spiral into the air, not even close to being a runaway balloon.

These "things" which I have described are our wonderful plastic bags. Yes, what would we do without them? They carry our groceries and all the

other treasures we buy home. We cannot live without them. Like our cell phones, they are indispensable.

So, the problem really lies in their disposal. We all know about recycling and many, many of us do that. However, we need to take that extra step and make sure they do not become "escapees". We need to put them away securely and make sure a bit of wind doesn't carry them off to places we do not want them. If we all become a bit more aware to recycle responsibly, maybe it will make America the Beautiful, a more refined truth, as this menace is all over the country. Really!

What did it for me personally and in addition to what I have stated, is that we took our grandson fishing. He was so excited and about to catch his first fish, when upon reeling in his fish, it was... you guessed it... a plastic bag!

My hope is that we all continue to recycle and take that extra step so that we do not prolong the lifespan of these things on some plant, tree, roadside area, fence, the list goes on and on. They are a menace and a nuisance to our environment when not disposed of properly. It would be nice to make a positive difference and securely recycle them.

Chris Blythe, Pastor

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My Backyard

by mathew espinoza

I live in the desert and the desert is my backyard....

After spending many hours trying to reach an abandoned farm on the banks of the Bill Williams River south of the city the week before, my family and I couldn't say that we were disappointed. In contrary, we had found that besides the disappointment of the



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fruitless search, we had an enjoyable time and created many new bonds between my children and my cousin's children.

However, the determination still existed to complete the journey. So, I returned to satellite imagery to determine how to reach the destination we so eagerly sought. I found that there was a very direct route to the goal if we traveled through Parker and drove to the river from the south instead of approaching from the west. It would mean more driving but less hiking.

We set out early on Saturday the very next weekend with a renewed vigor and excitement. After driving across the county line, through Parker, and turning on a desolate road that eventually turned to dirt as it began winding through a narrow slot canyon, we found ourselves parked at the edge of the river, once again looking at a heavily wooded obstacle. With a smile on our faces, backpacks full of snacks and drinks, we dove into the heavy brush, knowing that the destination we so desired was only a hundred yards away.

We found that the first major obstacle was crossing the river- by river I really mean stream that had formed a pool that was probably twenty feet wide. Shoes were quickly shed as we waded into the pool fully expecting to suddenly find the pool was a lot deeper than we expected as we disappeared below the surface. Despite our apprehension, we got no wetter than our kneecaps (I knew enough to wear shorts this time). Once we emerged from the other side

and returned our shoes to our feet, we found a well marked path leading us in the right direction. While the ranch house is not a popular tourist destination, there are enough people who visit to keep the trail alive.

After making our way through across the river bed, balancing along a fallen tree to cross another pool and winding our way through a narrow passage of trees, we soon emerged on the long forgotten fields of the old alfalfa farm. We were first greeted by an old plow that had become mired in the soil. It's rusting hulk slowly becoming reclaimed by the native soils.

We fanned out across the fields as we made our way to the many remnants of the farm workings that we could see from ground level. Our first destination was to an old fuel tanker perched on a hill. While the tanker looked easily accessible, we found that the growth of trees slowed our progress as we had to seek a winding path through the brambles of mesquite trees. The tanker had probably been used to fuel the many machines used on the farm. Placing it on the hill allowed it to gravity feed to the thirsty tanks below.

After climbing on top of the tanker, which sat on top of a low hill, we had a much better view of our surroundings. We marked each for exploration. They included the basement of a building that had long been gone. Perhaps the basement was the place where the farmers placed their food for cool storage. There was also more farm

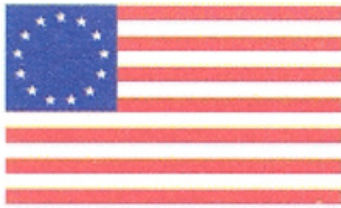
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equipment, plows, conveyors and reapers, long idled and hidden amongst the brush. As we explored each, we became more excited to see the next, and then the next...

Our search soon led us to a cemetery perched upon the side of a hill. There were a couple of graves that had proper headstones with their names and dates carved. Others were clearly piles of boulders within the boundaries of the cemetery. There were about sixteen different graves. The dates on the headstones showed that the former residents had been returned to the soil from 1910 to 1935. We took a moment to display silence as we imagined how hard life had been during that time. Some had died before Arizona reached statehood. At that time, the nearest accessible cities would have been Signal and Swansea, Arizona, which themselves are nothing but deteriorating ghost towns now. The lake wasn't even a concept and riverboats still plied the waters from Yuma to Hardy's Landing (now Bullhead City). Despite the hardship, one grave was marked that the deceased was nearly 100 years old. WOW!

We soon moved to explore more of the old ranch. The ranch house had been burned but the block walls stood testament to its existence. It had several rooms, a bathroom and shower, and windows. The roof was long gone, consumed in the fire that was probably started by vandals after the final tenant walked off the property. There were also old cars and trucks, long forgotten, cast into the sandy soil. One looked to be a pickup truck from the 1950's and another, a sedan from the 1960's. There was an old water tank perched on a stand, a well house that probably fed water to the entire farm and all the buildings, and even some very old coke bottles. The electric lines that fed power to the farm had been abandoned many years ago. After figuring the dates of some of the vehicles and bottles, we figured that the ranch was worked at least until the seventies, long before I moved to the area.

After a long, exhaustive day of exploring we gathered in the center of an old field, pulled some food and drinks from our backpacks and took in the silence of the world.

In a parched field that hadn't seen a plow in generations, surrounded by some of the most beautiful mountains and plateaus in the state, on the banks of a gentle flowing river, my family, my cousin and his family, and I found serenity and peace.... It had been a wonderful day. Yes it had.....



Mohave County, Arizona

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What If I'm Only a Renter?

Do you really need coverage if you are renting? Not everyone who rents a home or apartment realizes it, but just as a homeowner should have insurance to cover accidents to or on their property, most renters also need **renters insurance**. If the home you are renting suffers from a tree falling onto the roof, the landlord's homeowner insurance will pay for the repairs. But who will pay for damage caused to items you had stored in the attic, or for the broken china or collectable stained glass you own? You will, unless you have renters coverage. Should someone shatter the glass at the rear of the house while you're away on vacation, the homeowner's insurance will take care of the

glass, but not your expensive audio equipment that was stolen. Renters coverage also covers you against liability should someone become injured on or off the property and pursue a lawsuit against you.

Insurance coverage for renters covers a wide range of catastrophes. Most types will insure your belongings against lightning strikes, fire and smoke, hail, explosions, flooding from a sprinkler system, broken pipe or other interior cause, electrical charges and the like. Many policies also cover a range of natural disasters, although the more likely such disasters are in a given area, the more likely they are to be excluded from a basic policy.

Before purchasing *insurance coverage*, you will want to review the various options. For example, actual cash value insurance might be a better fit for renters who prefer to make lower premium payments and own newer furniture, appliances and the like. Those with older, but still functional, belongings that would cost considerably more to replace than their current cash value, would gain greater protection with a replacement cost policy. It's also important to understand the deductible defined in the policy, as well as the total dollar amount of the coverage.

Something else to consider when purchasing insurance for renters is whether the policy insures loss of personal property as "all risk" or "all peril". "All risk" policies are those that are written to insure against every possible disaster except those that are specifically excluded. For example, if your home is flooded and you own an "all risk" policy, the insurers can only refuse to pay if flooding was a risk that was specifically excluded at the time you purchased your policy. On the other hand, if you own a "named peril" policy, the risks that are covered are specifically listed. In this case, flooding would have to be specifically included in the insurer's list of perils before they would pay out.