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The Village Life

A MONTHLY SOCIAL NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FOR
THE VILLAGE AT CAREFREE

thevillagelifenewsletter@gmail.com

Summer's Coming...



This is the time of year when many of us return to summer homes and family, and when full-timers make travel plans to escape the summer heat.

Monday breakfasts and Friday happy hours continue through May 13. The Library is open all summer (see page 2).

As the social season progressed, Villagers supplemented Monday coffees and Friday happy hours with seasonal and monthly special events and new ongoing activities. Let's fill next season with reasons to get together for food and fun, in (and outside) our beautiful Clubhouse and surrounding area.

The Village Life Newsletter will take a break till fall.

For those who are leaving, safe travels. For those who are staying, enjoy the quiet and the wonders of the Sonoran Desert in summer. We'll look forward to next season, when we'll see one another again.



Summer-izing Tips

Turn to page 3 for helpful tips on making your condo ready for the summer and staying safe if you'll be spending time here in Carefree.

Spring Food Drive Results



CONGRATULATIONS!! The Village at Carefree contributed **355.5 pounds of donations and \$100** to the Foothills Food Bank's Spring Food Drive!

Thanks to everyone who made a donation. See the Food Bank's letter of thanks on page 4.

CLUBHOUSE SUMMER USE REMINDERS

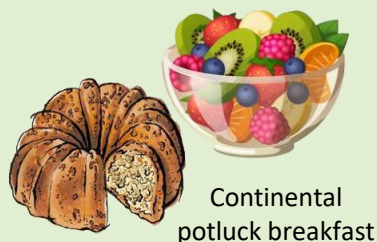
- ❖ The food service area is for serving food, not for cooking it.
- ❖ Please clean up any crumbs or spills before you leave. Use the white kitchen towels stored in a drawer next to the sink to blot up any spills on the cloth-covered furniture. (Club soda is in the refrigerator if needed.) Return any kitchen towels you take home to wash.
- ❖ Turn off the lights in the food service area when you leave. They are not on an automatic timer like the rest of the Clubhouse.

POOL ETIQUETTE REMINDERS

- ❖ The pool closes at 10 pm. **DO NOT OVERSTAY.** Noise after that hour may disturb those who live or rent near the pool.
- ❖ Pets are **NOT ALLOWED** in the Clubhouse or pool area.
- ❖ Put down umbrellas when you leave and take your pool towels and belongings with you.
- ❖ Toss any trash in the bins. Please leave the pool area as nice as you found it.

Pass this information on to renters and guests.

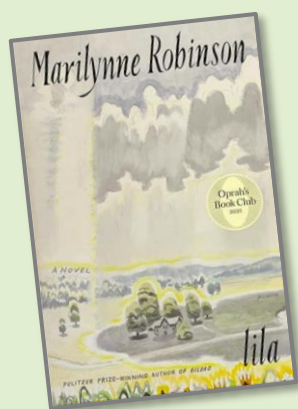
Ongoing Events through May 13



Continental
potluck breakfast



Happy Hour finger food



May Book Selection



Monday Morning Coffee

Every Monday
8-10 am, Clubhouse



Join your neighbors for coffee and conversation on Monday mornings. **Coffee, tea, and mugs are provided.** Bring a breakfast snack to share or just stop by to visit. Thanks to Pam Wold and Babs Jones for organizing.

Friday Happy Hour

Every Friday
5-7 pm, Clubhouse



Friday evenings are a great time for casual socializing in the Clubhouse and outside on the patio when weather permits. **Bring finger food to share and BYOB.** The service area has plates and silverware.

Please clean up the Clubhouse when you leave and turn out the service area lights.

BOOK CLUB

On April 6th, Book Club met in the Clubhouse for a great discussion of *Solito* by Javier Zamora. Then, on April 18th, club members lunched at Stumblina's Cantina to visit before Book Club moves to Zoom for Summer and Fall.

The next series of books, to be discussed on Zoom, are:

- May 13 *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson
- Jun 10 *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty
- July 8 Check-in via zoom, no book to read
- Aug 12 No meeting
- Sept 9 *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese



Book selections from October on will be announced in the Village Life when it resumes publication. Questions? Contact Edith (ewmeserve@yahoo.com).

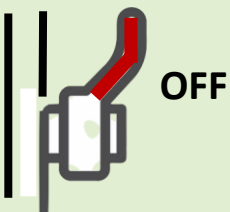
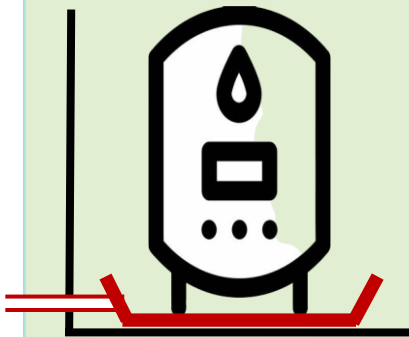
SUMMER LIBRARY REQUEST

The Village Library in the Clubhouse will be open all summer. However, our wonderful Librarians, Jane Ross and Heidi Eckstrom, will be gone until Fall, so will not be emptying the return/donation baskets and reshelving books.

If you use the Library this summer, **please return books onto the shelves**, in alphabetical order by author's last name. Keep standard size paperbacks separate; they do not have to be in any special order. **Please only return or donate books that are in very good condition.**

MISSING AMAZON DELIVERIES?

If you are missing an Amazon delivery, try looking in front of building 3B. That seems to be where drivers set packages if they have no Unit # or the drivers are in a hurry.



Before You Leave...

Helpful Tips for 'Summer-izing' Your Condo

If you're leaving for all or part of the summer, here are helpful tips for preparing your condo, so you can lock the door behind you and head out without worries.

- **Set your air conditioning to 85 degrees** to avoid the heat cracking your cabinets, drywall, wood floors, etc. Before you leave, it's also a good idea to change air filters.
- **Turn off the water.** Use the water shut-off valve outside your unit, as toilet and sink feed lines can crack and cause a flood. (Or turn off the water at each toilet and sink.) Put plastic wrap over the toilets to slow evaporation.
- **Turn your water heater to "off"** (not "vacation"), or you may also want to have someone come in to turn on your water once a month, flush the toilets and run the taps, then turn your water off again. (More water heater tips below.)
- **Turn off garage lights** or you'll find yourself with burned out bulbs.
- **Shut off the power** to anything that won't need it, to minimize "power drain" and high summer utility bills. Remove batteries from remotes and clocks, but not from your smoke detector.
- **Leave the refrigerator on**, set to high, with an open jug of water inside. Put your candles in there so they won't melt, but not your batteries (per Duracell).
- **Consider leaving a 5-gallon bucket of water** in every bathroom and one in the kitchen, to keep moisture in the house if you'll be gone a long time. Buckets can be placed in the shower/tub and kitchen sink to avoid making rings on the floor.

Preventing Damage from Water Heater Failure

IMPORTANT: Check your water heater to see if it has a **pan underneath and/or a PVC discharge line properly installed** to drain any leaking water away from your unit and to the outside of your building. (Another option is to install a tankless water heater.)

- **If you own an upper-level unit**, this recommendation is especially important.
- **If your water heater is original to your unit**, consider replacing it, as it has most likely aged out.

As your water heater gets older it will eventually leak (sometimes quickly) as the inside liner rusts out. Consider the damage that 60 to 80 gallons of water can do to flooring, drywall, framing, cabinets, and more – not only in your unit but to your neighbors below or next door. **You are responsible to make all such water damage repairs.**

Turning the water shut-off valve located outside your garage to off when you're gone will also help to prevent damage to your home and your neighbors' homes from unrestricted leaking water.

WATCH OUT FOR RATTLESNAKES

As the weather warms in Carefree, it's getting to be rattlesnake season. Be aware, but if you see a snake, please don't kill it. To have a rattlesnake removed, call Rural Metro at **(480) 945-6311**.



Spring Food Drive a Big Success!

Read this lovely letter of thanks from the Food Bank's Executive Director to the Village at Carefree. By the time Heidi Eckstrom delivered our last load, we ended up contributing **355.5 pounds and \$100** (more than listed in the letter). Thanks to everyone who donated, and to Heidi and Jane and Dave Ross for organizing.



April 23, 2024

The Village at Carefree
36601 N. Muletrain
Carefree, AZ 85377

Dear Villages at Carefree Residents,

Thank you for your gift of hope. Your generosity has made a significant impact on the lives of those in our community who are faced with difficult choices every day.

In our neighborhood, many families find themselves torn between fulfilling basic needs like paying utility bills or feeding their children. It is through your compassion that we can restore hope and bring relief to those who need it most.

Thanks to the kindness and support of individuals like you, we were able to achieve remarkable outcomes last year. Through our collective efforts, we distributed over 739,000 meals through our community pantries and programs to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances. You are making a positive impact in the lives of those who depend on our services!

Your donation of \$100.00 & 263 pounds collected from your spring food drive in April 2024 holds immense value to us.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your invaluable contribution.

With deep gratitude,

Leigh Zydonik, Executive Director
and the Foothills Food Bank team

PS. Should you wish to learn more about how we support the community, please visit FoothillsFoodBank.com or explore our Facebook page, where you can witness the joy and gratitude that radiates from the smiling faces of those we serve and those who share.

No goods or services were promised or provided in consideration of this gift. Therefore, all of your contribution is deductible. We are a registered 501 (c) 3 Corporation, our Federal Tax ID number is 86-0619725. We are a Certified Charitable Organization. This donation is eligible for full Arizona Tax Deduction and beginning in 2018, you MUST use QCO Code "20514" to claim the tax credits for contributions to the Foothills Food Bank. Please retain this receipt for your tax records

Craft Night: Horseshoe Paperweight

Linnea Zueck and Elizabeth Bint led our crafters in making a Southwestern paperweight, using wire and assorted beads to decorate a real horseshoe. Many plan to place it above a doorway as a “good luck” token, per a tradition that Linnea explained to the group. Linnea and Elizabeth provided delicious gourmet treats and wine to celebrate the end of our crafting season.



Gourmet delectables



Crafters hard at work, assisted by Linnea and Elizabeth, at left.



Showing off their finished horseshoes, participants (l to r): Karla Krebsbach, Heidi Eckstrom, Terri Owen, Babs Jones, Paula Lee, Olivia Cannon, Nancy Fallon, Delia Longthorne, Jane Ross, Judy Cummins, Linnea Zueck, Toni Van Voorhes, Kirk McCallum, Elizabeth Bint, and Alyson Miller (photographer, not pictured).

Trivia Night at Happy Hour

Our last Trivia Night of the season was a big success. After potluck snacks and social time, Wayne and Paula Lee kept everyone engaged in friendly competition with challenging questions on a series of topics.

Potluck and social time



The Trivia contests begin, with Wayne and Paula officiating, off to the right (not pictured).





In a tight contest, the two teams at right tied for the prize. One last question saw the table at the back move into the lead.

Terri Owen, Dave Ross, Joe Souza, and Alyson Miller (not pictured) won gift certificates to Venues Café in Carefree!



Online Bulletin Board

Owners are invited to join the online Village At Carefree Owners Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board is a **Facebook group** operated by and for owners as a forum to share the wealth of knowledge that exists in the Village. The more owners who join, the more useful the Bulletin Board will be. Even if you won't be in town this summer, join now to be ready for when you return.

It is meant to be a safe and welcoming space where we can share or ask for recommendations, post items to sell or give away, and request items or assistance. It does not replace the Village Life newsletter.

If you need assistance joining, email thevillagelifenewsletter@gmail.com



If you are not on Facebook, please ask a family member or friend who is an owner and who has joined the group to post or look for information for you.

VAC Board of Directors

Carl "Buzz" Cummins – President
 John Longthorne – Vice President
 Tony Jones – Treasurer
 Paula Lee – Secretary
 Kevin Barr – Member at Large

Sentry Management

Annette Rathbun – Senior Community Association Manager
 480-345-0046, Ext 55503
arathbun@sentrymgt.com

Jen Loflin – Administrative Asst.
 480-345-0046, Ext 55511
jloflin@sentrymgt.com

*Disclaimers: The sole purpose of The Village Life is to announce, promote and document activities and events that are deemed entertaining, beneficial and enjoyable by all that live within our walls and those they choose to share this with.

Without exclusions, we reserve the right to determine the quality and benefit of submissions to the greater good of the community. In addition, we reserve the right to reject event proposals whose sole purpose is to fulfill any entities' or individual's political, religious or ideological agenda. Thank you for your understanding.

The Village Life Newsletter's mailing list will be used to keep the Village at Carefree apprised of social activities, events, and related information and will not be used for the purpose of solicitation. If you do not wish to receive The Village Life Newsletter, reply to thevillagelifenewsletter@gmail.com with the word "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the Subject line.

NOTE: Sentry is a national company. For best local service, use **Annette's** or **Jen's** extension. DON'T DIAL "O."

Upcoming HOA Meetings

Tues, May 21 @ 2 P.M. AZ time
Tues, July 16 @ 2 P.M. AZ time
Tues, Sept 17 @ 2 P.M. AZ time
 All remote, on Microsoft Teams

Thoughts for Next Season

This season saw residents step up to organize monthly Trivia and Craft Nights, Book Club, a Holiday sing-along and other song-fests, an Easter/Spring Potluck, and weekly hiking, table tennis, and musical groups.

In the past, we've also had weekly game nights and water aerobics; monthly consignment shopping and restaurant outings; wine tastings, square dancing, art shows, and concerts during Friday happy hour; a progressive dinner, Thanksgiving potlucks and New Year's Eve parties; and other activities.

All it needs for these or other ideas to happen is for someone to organize an event and let me know the details so I can include it in the Village Life. Over the summer, please think about what community-wide events or ongoing activities you might want to organize, host, or help support next season.

Contact me with your thoughts and ideas for next season at thevillagelifenewsletter@gmail.com.

Have a great summer!

Alyson Miller, Editor
 The Village Life Newsletter

