

## GOLDFIELD RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

April 7, 2010

#### Rattlesnake Count

Everyone seems interested in rattlesnake stories. Snake season started a little early this year. The first rattlesnake that we heard about was one in February at the LaPollas' place. After that the Dudgeons reported one and the Gracis found a large and aggressive rattler inside their goat pen in early March. Sara Goodnick's Border pup alerted her to the fact that a 2 foot rattlesnake was on their property. Two were recently seen at the Heekin's place. One of them was removed and relocated by neighbor Joey Patrizi.... "Thanks Joey!" There have probably been other rattlesnakes spotted around GR this season. Have you seen one? Karl Mann is keeping count of how many we see, and he is recording the number on our message board. If you see a rattlesnake, let Karl know about it by e-mailing him at [faymann@aol.com](mailto:faymann@aol.com) or by giving him a call at 602-320-9258. Of course be careful out there! We don't want to hear about any snake bites! By the way, if anyone knows of snake-training being done for dogs out here, let us know. We'd be glad to get the word out!

#### Goldfield Property Owners Association

By now everyone should have received their ballots to vote for Directors on the GPOA Board. Along with the ballot came a notice of the GPOA's annual meeting on Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Hopefully many of us will be attending that meeting! By the way, there have been a number of residents who did not receive their packet from GPOA. If you are one of those people, be sure to get your ballot by calling James Hazlewood (attorney) at 480-991-6949. Ballots must be in by April 16<sup>th</sup> so there isn't much time left to vote. The GRHA Board is supporting both Art Reichsfeld and write-in candidate Marty White (Martin J Wojtysiak). Let's continue with the progress that both Marty and Art have helped us make on our roads. \*In the recent communication from GRHA regarding candidates, it was stated in error that Marty White had been President of the GRHA Board. He was not President. He was a very active Board Member.

#### Goldfield Ranch Volunteer Fire Department

In a recent note regarding our Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Al Glenister gave the following report:

The GRVFD has just completed 8 months of preliminary training, and has approved 12 firefighters for incident response. These include 4 firefighters (Theresa Franklin, Alan Glenister, Mike Graci, and Gloria Wells) who recently completed an AZ State Forestry Wildland Fire Training course in Wickenburg. The two weekend course included extensive classroom and field work. As a result of completing multiple state certifications as part of this course, they have been certified as Fire Fighter level 2, and are qualified to work any wildland fireline in the state. In addition we have John Connor with extensive volunteer fire experience back East, John Moretti who serves as a Captain/paramedic for the Salt River Fire Department, and myself with experience fighting wildland fire in New Mexico and 20+ years experience working race fire at tracks such as Phoenix International Raceway. Others on the crew are signed up for future training offerings, and for now will apprentice under the more experienced personnel.

The GRVFD dispatch system went live for training purposes on March 14<sup>th</sup>. We are now waiting on Goldfield Ranch Fire District Board approval for the purchase of Personal Protective Gear and firefighting hand tools necessary to participate in actual incidents. Obviously we can't respond to a fire without the proper equipment to fight it... so at this point we are simply practicing deployment for when the real calls come in. Once our requested equipment is received and distributed, we can join the Fort McDowell Fire Department's emergency dispatch system and assist on real calls within Goldfield Ranch. FMFD Chief Tom Christmas and myself have been working since last summer to make this happen, and are looking forward to working together to protect the residents of Goldfield Ranch.

#### OneCallNow

Plans are coming together for us to start using our new emergency notification system for such things as fire and security issues. The plan is called OneCallNow. Anne Dutton has been hard at work with this project. She says that within a few weeks she will send information to all residents about the plan and how it works. Then we will do a trial run. We are expecting a vast improvement over our old Emergency Phone Tree system, a system that we apparently have outgrown.

#### Fountain Hills Sheriff's Posse

Summer will soon be here and that means lots of Goldfield Ranch residents will be taking vacations or leaving to escape the heat. You might want to consider the FH Sheriff's Posse program called Vacation Watch. Posse members will walk the home exterior and property looking for any signs of possible problems. It was during one of these Vacation Watch inspections that posse member Tommy LaGiglia, a GR resident, noticed something suspicious at the Quinn home on Goldfield Road. Apparently, thieves had been stealing carloads of the Quinn's personal property including cherished heirlooms and even Sue's car. This posse discovery stopped the thieves from taking off with additional items that they had set aside to take from the house. If you are interested in requesting a Vacation Watch on your home, you can call the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Fountain Hills at 480-837-8800, or stop by the MCSO in the Fountain Hills Town Center and complete a Vacation Watch request card. Vacation Watches can be requested for periods up to one month. There is no charge for your Vacation Watch, but an appropriate donation is appreciated. Tommy pointed out an important fact. Posse watching your home need to be able to find your property. Posting your address where they can see it along the road is really a necessity.

Also, the F.H. Sheriff's Posse needs your financial support so that they can continue their patrols. Your donations to The Fountain Hills Sheriff's Posse are appreciated. This is a 501-C-3 corporation so your donations may be tax deductible. Donations may be sent to Fountain Hills Sheriff's Posse, P O Box 17114, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269.

During a conversation with Posse Sergeant Tommy LaGiglia, he mentioned that there has been a change in the routes that illegals are taking to get into the Phoenix area. With DPS stopping many suspicious vehicles on I-17, some of these vehicles have been cutting across 260 and dropping south along the Beeline. Many such vehicles have been stopped along the Goldfield Ranch stretch of 87, and when this happens, sometimes illegals escape, running in to GR. That is why we have had a few recent incidents of our Emergency Telephone Tree putting out security alerts. Tommy pointed out that 99% of these people are not armed and they are just trying to escape. But just to be safe, these alerts will be issued in the future through our new OneCallNow system. If you ever feel that you need to talk to Tommy, he says that he is available 24/7 at 480-518-6828. He also says that if you have an urgent need for help, you can call the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 602-252-7840. This number will give you an immediate response. Thank you Tommy for this information. We are lucky to have you in our neighborhood!

#### Thanks to Bob

Just a note of thanks to Bob Dias for his efforts in once again repairing the Neighborhood Watch/Private Property sign at the west entrance to Goldfield Ranch. Bob put his welding skills to use to refurbish the sign and to get it firmly cemented back into place. He added an additional warning to the sign to try to keep people from dumping tires and trash in that area. So far, it is working.

#### Traffic Speed

At this time we do not have speed signs posted along our roads. Please help us to keep our roads safe for all by driving at a safe speed, by slowing down for pedestrians and equestrians. High speeds also generate "roostertails" of dust that settle on the houses and horses of your neighbors. Please show some consideration, and ask your children and visitors to do the same. If you want to see how fast your new quad can go, what better place than that large track of undeveloped land just west of us.

#### Membership

As always, we are looking for your support. If you haven't renewed your GRHA membership yet, please do so. Our Treasurer, Geno Mei, likes to find mail in our PO Box! So let's keep him happy! Renewal forms and our mailing address can be found on our website, [www.GRHOA.org](http://www.GRHOA.org). Thanks.

#### Your Comments

We welcome your comments and ideas. Just click on "reply" to this news bulletin and the GRHA Board will receive and review your e-mails.