

April 9, 2020

Dear Community Members:

1. OUR HOSPITAL IS IN TROUBLE AND WE CAN HELP SAVE IT: Our Santa Cruz Valley Regional Hospital is in real danger of closing. Since elective surgeries have stopped and ER visits have become far fewer, the Hospital is not taking in enough revenue to survive. The Hospital appealed to Governor Ducey for assistance and to be a designated COVID-19 care provider but was denied, despite the millions of dollars the State has received from the CARES Act, some of which was specifically designated for rural hospitals. Our Hospital is totally prepared to accept COVID-19 patients--it has the ventilators, rooms and staff and can ramp up to treat more than its normal number very quickly--and has successfully treated several cases of the virus. We need that kind of help here. There are cases in Green Valley now and there will be more as COVID-19 is still increasing in Pima County. Our Supervisor, Steve Christy, has contacted Governor Ducey and urged him to take action to save our hospital. You can also help save our Hospital but only if you act. Email Governor Ducey at azgovernor.gov/engage/contact-governor-ducey or write to him at the Office of the Governor, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007. Do this now!

2. PIMA COUNTY COVID-19 CASES GOING UP BETWEEN 40-50 PER DAY: The statistics from the AZ Health Department and the Pima County Health Department aren't good. Age group 20-44 represents 33% of the cases and age group 65+ represents 32%. However, age 65+ represents more than ½ of the hospitalized cases and 44% of the deaths. Age group 45-64 represents another 44% of the deaths. What does this mean? It means Pima County is still on the upswing of the bell curve of cases and that we are not paying enough attention to the "Stay at Home" order. From what I read on the chat sites like NextDoor, hear from people I know and observe (in my very infrequent trips out of the house), we understand "danger strangers" pretty well and take precautions when we are out in public but somehow believe that, because we know our friends are cautious, it is okay to still get together without social distancing to have meal, play cards or just visit. We forget that a person can be contagious but without symptoms for up to two weeks and it takes only one cough/touch that doesn't get washed away to make a person sick. We won't flatten the bell curve until people take staying at home with just those who reside there seriously. Any others are kept at least 6 feet away and never come into your home. This kind of isolation is very tough, particularly for those who reside alone, but it is the only thing that really works. Both Seattle and New York have flattened their curves by strictly enforcing the isolation rules.

3. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND MR. HUCKELBERRY CONCERNED ABOUT US: The Board of Supervisors and Mr. Huckelberry have expressed great concern about us because we are a vulnerable population. The Council responded by trying to find out how the Green Valley HOAs and residents are coping and what might be needed. We reached out to as many of you as we could get to respond and found, to a very large degree, that Green Valley is taking care of its own. All of the HOAs we were able to contact, and that was almost all of our members plus several non-members, reported plans and efforts in place to be sure that no one lacked the ability to get groceries and medicine. They also reported they were aware of and keeping in touch with their most vulnerable members. If your HOA didn't respond or you would personally like to respond, we still want to hear from you. Give your information to info@gvcouncil.org, or to me at thaotiedt@gmail.com, 520-398-5443. We are in daily communication with the County. It is heartening to know that Green Valley is continuing its tradition of taking care of our own. Our thanks to the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Huckelberry for their concern.

As of this writing, Valley Assistance Services is still providing rides to doctor appointments and, to some degree, grocery stores. Friends in Deed is still providing rides to doctor appointments. Both could use more volunteer drivers. SAV is continuing its daily check in calls to 71 of our very vulnerable residents.

4. PIMA EATS: Pima County has a new Facebook page, PIMA EATS, listing the restaurants that are open for take out or delivery in Tucson. The Council has a list of our local restaurants on its website, gvcouncil.org. We are focusing on Green Valley restaurants as Sahuarita has its own list posted. The Chamber also has a list of its member restaurants both in Sahuarita and Green Valley doing take out/delivery. Without our take out/delivery support, a lot of our local restaurants won't be able to survive, particularly the ones that are not part of a chain. Some of our restaurants are providing delicious full scale meals--protein, starch, vegetables, optional desserts and even drinks/wine/beer. The County urges us to do take out or deliver at least once a week to support our restaurants--I can get behind that!

Last, the Council would like to thank our member HOAs and all their residents for supporting the Council through your dues payments. Not one of you has complained that we are presently spending resources to reach out beyond our membership. The Council could not conduct this outreach and the other activities we are doing during this COVID-19 crisis without you. Thank you!

As usual, I am available to hear your concerns, suggestions and questions at 520-398-5443 or thaotiedt@gmail.com. Be kind to each other but only at a distance, stay safe and stay well!

Thao Tiedt
Green Valley Council President



Thao Tiedt
President