



May 28, 2020

Dear Community Member:



1. MORE COVID-19 DISCLOSURE FOR CARE CENTERS: In a May 4th Executive Order 202-35, Gov. Ducey ordered nursing homes, assisted living facilities and congregate settings to report to residents and next of kin/guardians cases and deaths from COVID-19 within 24 hours after their occurrence. In addition, Gov. Ducey ordered the facilities to continue to update the information. However, the Order also required that the data be kept confidential even by next of kin/guardians. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick has been focusing on this issue. In a letter to Gov. Ducey dated May 7th, she asked that he not only tighten the reporting requirements but that he also allow the public access to such information. Rep. Kirkpatrick received no response from the Governor's office so May 21st she again urged more disclosure, more oversight of the facilities and more focus on being sure the facilities have needed PPE and sufficient staffing.

It was interesting to see in Sunday the 24th's edition of the Green Valley News that more information about the number and severity of cases at care facilities in Green Valley suddenly became more available. Good job, Green Valley News for keeping our residents informed about an area of great concern! For those of you who think that "all the COVID deaths are in facilities", the fact is only a little more than 1/2 of the COVID deaths in Arizona are estimated to have originated in nursing homes or assisted living.

If you are the guardian, next of kin or resident of a facility, speak up and demand the COVID information to which you are entitled if the facility is not forthcoming with information. Also, if there is the prospect of entering a facility or moving from facility to facility, you are also entitled to COVID-19 information so you can make informed decisions. As we told you in an earlier Community Letter, Pima County has its own Health Department task force which actually goes into the facility reporting a COVID-19 case to be sure staffing levels are sufficient, training up to par, PPE is available, and best practices are being followed.

2. RESTAURANT RULES CHANGE: On May 21, the Board of Supervisors, in response to criticisms and concerns expressed by the restaurant industry, revised some of its Health Department rules for operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the most important changes was eliminating the fine for restaurants that do not follow the rules. However, those restaurants that consistently don't follow the rules will be listed on a Pima County website. Restaurants that do consistently follow the rules will be awarded a badge it can display and use in its advertising. Word to the wise--check the website before you

dine out and look for the badge at the restaurants you might consider giving your business. Like the Boy Scouts, be prepared!

3. LIBRARY GOES FINE FREE! Pima County has decided to make its libraries fine free as of July 1. However, this doesn't mean you can get away with keeping that book forever. Your books will be auto-renewed up to 4 times unless there is a hold on the book (those you have got

to return by the due date as someone is anxiously waiting for that book). This also does not mean you get to start your home library with books from the Green Valley/Sahuarita Library. If the book is overdue for more than 30 days, the Library will consider it lost *and bill you for the cost of the book*. You can wipe out that bill by returning the book. If you have fines presently outstanding, in July the Library will wipe them off your account. If you have costs other than just fees for overdue books, those costs won't be wiped out so work with the Library to pay them off in small increments. There are further details on the Fine Free plan so consult with the Library if you have long overdue books at home.

Why is the Pima County Library system going fine free? It is a growing trend with libraries all over the United States. Studies have shown that the fine structure deters potential patrons from using the library, particularly low income people for whom the libraries are often the only practical source of a variety of reading material. It is also really helpful for our community when "Green Valley moments" make us forget to bring our books back on time.

4. MORE MONEY FOR ROADS--\$55 MILLION: The tentative budget recently approved by the Board of Supervisors includes \$18 million more in road money than was allocated in our present County fiscal year. Additional money means more roads will be repaired in a shorter period of time. However, don't take this money to the bank yet. The County does not yet know the full financial impact COVID-19 will have on County income although the Board of Supervisors did its best to estimate that impact. The Council's Road Prioritization Committee submitted its road list just as everything was shutting down. The County just released its tentative list of roads to be repaired in the 2021 fiscal year. For Green Valley--Local: All of Villages of GV, including Via Alamos; Desert Meadows III; GV Foothills; GVCountry Club Vistas and Paseo Seco. Arterials and Collectors: Camino del Sol from Calle Tres to Via del Pulpo; Camino del Sol from Calle de la Adelfa to Desert Jewel Loop; La Canada from Esperanza to Apero. *Remember, this could change depending on real funding ability and the discussions among the members of the Transportation Advisory Committee.*

For the next two weeks, I will not be writing this Community Letter as I am having surgery to remove a non-functioning right kidney. The left kidney is doing a great job so this is not a huge ongoing health worry but surgery is never a lot of fun. Debbie Kenyon, VP of the Green Valley Council, will be acting in my stead while I am away and will continue the Community Letter on its usual schedule. Debbie is also the organizer of the Friends of the Canoa Parks so you can look forward to some inside information on what is going on now and planned for the future. Be nice to her! You can reach her at info@gvcouncil.org. Be kind to each other, be kind to yourself, be safe, and be well!

The Green Valley Council



Thao Tiedt, President
