



October 15, 2020

Dear Community Member:



1. MAIL IN/EARLY BALLOTS ARE OUT: You can return your ballot by: (a) mailing it either at your local mailbox or the post office; (b) the drop-in ballot box at Good Shepherd UCC, 17750 S. La Canada (between Duval Mine Road and Sahuarita Road) starting October 19; (c) the curbside ballot drop off at the Recorder's Office, 240 N. Stone in Tucson starting Oct. 19 and ending November 2; or at your normal polling place on November 3, Election Day. Whichever you choose, don't forget to sign your ballot and add your telephone number in the space provided. **If you don't sign your mail in/early ballot, it will not count.**

2. COVID IS STILL WITH US: Arizona and Pima County are making some progress on the pandemic but we still have a long way to go. By enforcing strict rules and with the cooperation of the University of Arizona, Pima County was able to contain the surge that started when students returned to live classes at the University. The County is continuing to watch the University area closely for any more outbreaks. It has also gotten its positive rate on COVID testing down considerably. Both the State and County are being vigilant as over ½ of the United States are experiencing sharp increases in COVID cases- perhaps the beginning of the feared "second surge." Five states reported more than a 50% increase in COVID cases from one week to the next. Because of this it is important for all of us, particularly vulnerable adults, to continue our "mask up", socially distancing, hand washing and other prevention measures. This is really getting tedious, isn't it?

3. LIVING ALONE IN GREEN VALLEY: One of the most frequently ignored groups in Green Valley is those who live alone. Once you are not part of a couple, or maybe were never part of a couple, you become almost invisible in a lot of neighborhoods. From observation and reports, it seems to happen to women more than men. Your spouse/partner dies and with that your social life often also dies except with your friends of your own gender. Why is this? You are the same person you always were. Was it only your spouse/partner your couple friends liked? Do you now make them uncomfortable? Whatever the

reason, this problem exists. Please think about your single neighbors and, particularly during these times of more isolation, give them a call to ask how they are doing or if they need anything. It gets lonely out there!

4. PIMA COUNTY HAS DISTRIBUTED OVER 6.7 MILLION PPE ITEMS DURING PANDEMIC: Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pima County's Health Department has secured and delivered over 6.7 million masks, face shields, gowns, and gloves within the community. Spencer Graves, Logistics Sector Chief of the Pima County Health Department said the priority was PPEs for doctors, nurses and other essential medical personnel. Next, the focus was on helping businesses reopen more safely. Now the Health Department is supporting schools as they begin hybrid openings plus PPEs to childcare centers, social service workers and government agencies. However, the Health Department urges us to continue to do our part to contain the COVID-19 virus. (Pima County Bulletin, 10/13/2020)

5. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS: The Council's Environmental Committee meets monthly from September through May. The primary focus is on: (a) water--both quality and quantity; (b) air quality, which from trying to see the mountains the last few days is taking hits from the fires in California; and (c) trash/recycling and helping HOAs deal with that issue. If you are interested in the environment here in Green Valley and doing something about it, please join the Committee. Just send your name to info@gvcouncil.org and volunteer for the Committee or contact cordova@gvcouncil.org or coker@gvcouncil.org.

6. DICK ROBERTS NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT PENDING COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Yesterday at its regular meeting, I resigned as President of the Green Valley Council to be effective at 5:00 today. I will remain as Past President. The Executive Committee named Dick Roberts Acting President to hold the office until the results of the December Board of Representatives election are in and the new Council Executive Committee members are sworn in. Dick, who was Council President in 2003-07, brings extensive experience to the table as he has long Chaired the Traffic & Arroyos Committee. He will also serve as mentor for whomever is nominated for President. The Nominations Committee is still accepting nominees for both Executive Committee officers and member at large positions. Some of you responded to our first ask-- hooray! We welcome new people joining the Council.

SAYING OF THE WEEK: The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been. (Madeleine L'Engle, American writer).

This is my last Community Letter as President of the Green Valley Council. However, the Community Letter will continue under Acting President Dick Roberts and probably under whomever is elected President in the December Board of Representative's election. I will miss writing to you each week. Hopefully this Community Letter is useful to you and helps you keep in touch with what is happening in our community, County and State, particularly on the COVID issue. I also hope the little tidbits of information and sayings have brightened your day. It has been my honor and pleasure to have served you and this community. So, my best wishes to all of you and continue to be kind to each other, be kind to yourself, be safe, and be well!

Thao Tiedt

Thao Tiedt, outstanding President

