GVS ACTIVITY GUIDE A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

WINTER HAPPENINGS

elcome to a new year with all the events that come with it! 2023 seemed to go by in a hurry and now it is time for the whirlwind of 2024. With the anticipation of starting off a brand new year fresh and bright are all the activities that await us. Concerts, expos, car shows, the list goes on and the best news there is truly something for everyone to enjoy. So let's get started as we try to list so much of what is coming up!

Slightly out of order, but this first event is a biggie. Saturday, February 10th is the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo and Taste of the Valley. From 10 am until 1 pm at the Desert Diamond Diamond Center on Pima Mine Road, this well attended event with businesses, social organizations and restaurants is widely anticipated by all.

Here you can meet your local business people, gain information about various non-profits and sample the offerings of area restaurants. Vendors from international companies are in attendance as are local small businesses and home based businesses. This is a great chance to get to know them.

The Town of Sahuarita Parks and Recreation Dept again will be offering games and activities for the children, complete with prizes! This is a fun event for people of all ages, so be sure to stop by the Desert Diamond Diamond Center. Entrance and parking on the north side of the Desert Diamond Casino.

January 13th is the start of the 2024 Speakers Series at Historic Canoa Ranch in Green Valley. This year's series is Native Peoples, Native Voices, and are on the second and fourths Saturdays in January and February from 1 to 2:30 pm. The series will be held in the historic Manning Jr. House. Cost is \$5.00 per person, to register https://bit.ly/NPRregistration.

January 13, Before There was a Canoa (and After); presenter: Al Dart, Executive Director of the Old Pueblo Archaeology Center.



January 27, Caretakers of the Land; History of Land and Water in the San Xavier Community; presenter Dr. Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan, Member of the Wa:k O'odham, 2023 Graduate of the University of Arizona-American Indian Studies PhD Program.

February 10, Yoeme Culture and History; presenter Felipe S. Molina, member of the

Yoem Pueblo, former teacher, deer dancer. February 24, The Chiricahua Apache/A

February 24, The Chiricahua Apache/A Concise History; presenter Bill Cavaliere, Author and historian.

Art on the Lake Festival will be taking place on January 13 at Sahuarita Lake Park, 15466 S Rancho Sahuarita Blvd, Sahuarita 85629. Live Artists Demonstrations, Interactive Experience, Chalk Art

Competition, Performance Art and an Art Marketplace will all be featured. Admission is free.

Starting on January 14 and running through February 15 is the **Tucson Desert Song Festival**. Celebrate the human voice as this festival will be bringing some of the world's greatest singers. For more information please go to TucsonSongFest.org.

January 21 the **Green Valley Concert Band** will be performing at the Sahuarita
Auditorium, 350 W Sahuarita Road.
Experience Exotic Sounds from Far Away
for only \$12.00. Sponsored by Susan Davis,
this concert will feature the world premiere
of Sonoran Fiesta Overture commissioned
in honor of Peg Bowden and Lester Weil.
Tickets are available at gvcb.org or the
CPAC office located at 1250 W. Continental
Rd. All seats are reserved seating.

Here it is, on Saturday, January 27, the 29th Annual Sahuarita Classics Car Show presented by the Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts. This perennial favorite will be at the Veterans Memorial Park (across from the Quail Creek Entrance), Sahuarita from 10 am until 3 pm.

Enjoy an Organist Concert at the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior on January 28 at 3 pm. One of the most sought-after concert organists in the world, Felix Hell will be performing.

Following up in February 2 again at the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior 3 pm, will be the husband and wife organ and violin duo, Michael T.C. Hey and Christiana Liberia.

Gear up for the **65th Tubac Festival of the Arts.** From February 7 through the 11, the artist colony of Tubac is full of vendors featuring artistic creations from around the country and even the world. This fun, colorful festival attracts visitors from all over.

February 10 marks the **24th annual SweetArt Gala** for the Continental School
District Educational Foundation. This
gala features an evening of great musical

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR'S CENTER

TWO GREAT COMMUNITIES, TWO GREAT LIFESTYLES



GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA AREA GOLF COURSES

1) CANOA RANCH GOLF CLUB

5800 S. Camino del Sol, is a great example of how the Southwestern desert can be transformed into a golfer's paradise without destroying the beauty of the surrounding native land. Canoa Ranch, designed by Schmidt-Curley, boasts dramatic elevation changes, strategic bunkering and spectacular views of Elephant Head peak in the Santa Rita Mountains. This 18-hole, public course is a par 71. Club memberships also are available.

520-393-1966 canoaranchgolfcourse.com

2) HAVEN GOLF COURSE

110 N. Abrego Drive, features an 18-hole, par-72 course, along with its 9-hole Tortuga course, a par 3. Haven is Green Valley's original golf course and the busiest one in town, says General Manager Greg Chesney. It is open to the public and features a traditional style with tree-lined fairways, lakes and mountain views.

520-625-4281 • havengolf.com

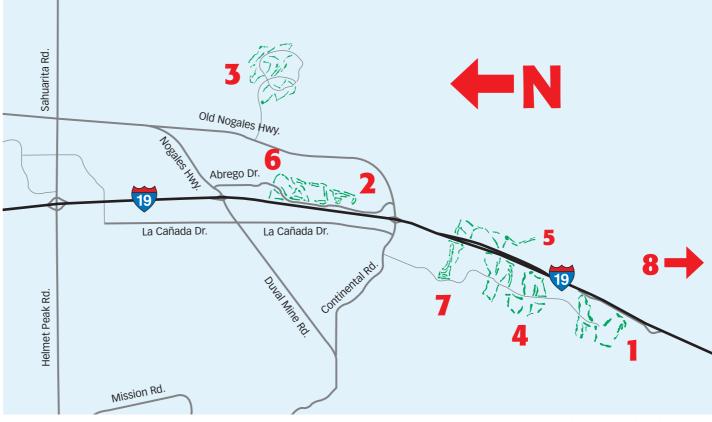
3) QUAIL CREEK GOLF CLUB

1490 N. Quail Range Loop, offers 27 holes of championship golf, with a par 36 on all three nines. Winding through the high Sonoran Desert terrain with the Santa Rita Mountains providing a panoramic backdrop, Quail Creek's semi-private championship course makes every round memorable for all levels of players, including beginners.

520-393-5802 • robson.com

4) SAN IGNACIO GOLF CLUB

4201 S. Camino Del Sol, is a 6,704-yard, par-71, Arthur Hills-designed course. Each fairway is defined by the natural landscape and abundance of mesquite trees. Considered by some to be "the best little golf secret in Arizona," San Ignacio offers a number of holes that could easily be designated as "signature" in



nature. The 522-yard, par-five 13th hole claims the top honor. This 18-hole, public course also offers memberships.

520-648-3468 · sanignaciogolf.com

5) TORRES BLANCAS GOLF CLUB

3223 S. Abrego Drive, offers an 18-hole championship course, designed by Lee Trevino, Ocampo and Fernandez, that meanders through charming neighborhoods and breath-taking scenery. The par-72 course comes with three lakes, numerous sand traps and generous, undulating greens. Four sets of tees offer a challenge to golfers of all abilities. This semi-private course offers joint memberships with Canoa Ranch Golf Course.

520-625-5200 • torresblancasgolf.com

6) COUNTRY CLUB OF GREEN VALLEY

77 E. Paseo de Golf, is a parkland style

course in one of the oldest sections of Green Valley. Although maintaining a private membership, the course does allow outside play. There are no forced carries over desert, instead golfers will be challenged by tree-lined fairways that demand being straight off the tee. Par is 72, with five sets of tees for golfers of all abilities and ages.

520-625-8806 countryclubofgreenvalley.org

7) DESERT HILLS GOLF CLUB

Los Agaves Restaurant

Manuel's Restaurant

Mario McGee's Pizza

MarioMcGeesPizza.com

Green Valley & Sahuarita

Sahuarita 520-207-1349

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mexicanrestaurantgreenvalley.net

Green Valley, AZ • 520-648-6068

Green Valley, AZ • 520-993-0055

mexicanrestaurantgreenvalleyaz.com

2500 S. Circulo de Las Lomas, isn't long, measuring 6,490 yards from the championship tees, but demands proper position off the tee. The course is private, but if golfers can find someone to play with, it's well worth the time. The course is always in superb condition and will challenge golfers of all abilities with its tight

fairways, deep bunkers and undulating greens.

520-648-1668 deserthillsgolfclub.org

8) TUBAC GOLF RESORT

At 1 Avenue de Otero Road just north of the historic village of Tubac, was made famous by Kevin Costner's 1996 movie "Tin Cup." Designed with 18 holes by renowned golf course architect Robert "Red" Lawrence in 1959, local golf course architect Ken Kavanaugh added nine new holes in 2006. All three nines offer lush fairways, lined with stately old growth cottonwoods and mesquites. With four tee boxes at each hole, you can choose your length. Par is 71/72 at this semiprivate resort course.

520-398-2211 tubacgolfresort.com/golf

RESTAURANTS

19th Hole Bar & Grille

Green Valley, AZ

520-399-4653 • 19thholebarandgrille.com

Abrego Grill

Green Valley, AZ

520-393-1933 • canoaranchgolfclub.com

Cocina La Ley Restaurant

Nogales, AZ

352-536-0083 • cocinalaley93@gmail.com 520-393-1933 • canoaranchgolfclub.com

Coyote Grill

Green Valley, AZ

520-207-8002 • sanignaciogolf.com

Culvers of Sahuarita

Green Valley, AZ • 520-249-2533 truebluesahuarita@outlook.com

Desert Diamond Casino Dining

Sahuarita, AZ • 877-777-4212 ddcaz.com

Duval Triple Play

Green Valley, AZ

520-625-7888 • tripleplayAZ.com

El Rodeo Mexican Food

Green Valley, AZ • 520-625-2111

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Longhorn Grill & Saloon

Green Valley, AZ 520-399-4653 longhorngrillandsaloon.com

La Cantina at Tubac Golf Resort

Posada Java at La Posada Sahuarita, AZ • 520-648-7870 www.posadalife.com

Santa Cruz Chili & Spice, Inc.

Tumacacori, AZ • 520-398-2591 www.santacruzchili.com

Saigon Flavor

Green Valley, AZ 20-648-2122 • www.saigonflavor.us

Sapphire Catering

Tucson, AZ • 520-622-8343 sapphireservicesaz.com

Stables at Tubac Golf Resort

Tubac, AZ • 520-398-2678 tubacgolfresort.com/ dining-tubac-restaurants/

Taco Bell

Green Valley, AZ 520-399-9175 • tacobell.com

Taco Bell

Sahuarita, AZ 520-625-4649 • tacobell.com

The Grill at **Quail Creek**

Sahuarita, AZ

520-393-5806 • qccountryclub.com

Hiking the Carrie Nation Trail

With **Norma Baker**

iking in Madera Canyon after the generous monsoon rains is a real treat these days Cascading water falls abound in the Madera Creek

One such moderate hike is the trail to Carrie Nation Mine which begins at the Mt. Wrightson Picnic Area, also known as the "Round About." From the southwest trailhead go south 0.3 mile to a signed trail intersection. include several varieties of Veer right and follow Vault Mine Trail. The metal sign is marked with an arrow to Agua Caliente Saddle. Travel about 0.5 mile to a



NationTrail goes left and up to an abandoned mine. Be aware of a severe switch back after you cross the

There are many attractions on this trail which flowers, especially when the weather is warm and there is plenty of moisture. Birds are prevalent and the sought after Elegant Trogan second trail junction. Carrie has been sited here. The



trail presents challenging rocky terrain and dramatic water falls. The destination reveals the abandoned copper mine with its relics of machinery and the mine shaft which is marked with a sign of "DANGER"!!

It is interesting to note that Carrie Nation, for whom the mine is named, was a radical member of the temperance movement, which opposed alcohol before the advent of Prohibition. She was

noted for attacking alcohol serving establishments with a hatchet and earned the nickname of "Hatchet Granny"!

Remember to always go prepared on hikes in Madera Canyon with ample

water, snacks and weather appropriate clothing. This trail is a 3 mile, "in-out" hike. It offers a cumulative elevation gain of 1,200 feet. Maps of trails are available at the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce.

Tour de Tucson Travels Across Sahuarita and Green Valley

By Hank Deutsch

ne of the current major international bicycling events is the Tour de Tucson. The Tour was held on Saturday, November 18 and the route of of this challenging event the 102-mile event with over 9,000 riders started in the heart of Tucson and traversed the major routes through the valleys and ridges of the scenic Sahuarita-Green Valley region. The Sahuarita and

Green Valley communities rallied together volunteers, businesses and organizations to serve the needs of the cyclists on the 40th anniversary of this epic event.

One of the major needs was caring for the participants with well located Aid Stations for food, water, porto-potties and medical care. One of the major stops on the route was Aid Station #7 located on Mission Road

and sponsored by local groups and organizations. LaPosada, GVR Camara and Cycling Clubs, Posada Peddlers cycling club and the Tucson Tri-Girls sponsored and equipped the Aid Station with over 30 volun-

The Sahuarita and Green Valley are noted for developing facilities and programs for a safe cycling community and look forward to the 41st Tour de Tucson.



PHOTOS BY HANK DEUTSCH **TOM WILSTEAD** serving an entrant dill pickles, a favorite by riders to supplement salt.



LEAD RACERS pass Aid Station #7 on Mission Road.



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supportingstrategies.com/locations/tucson-az Supporting Strategies provides outsourced bookkeeping, accounting, controller and operations services to growing businesses.

TUBAC JACK'S RESTAURANT & SALOON 520.398.3161

Tubacjacks.com

Tubac Jack's is one of the oldest restaurants in the area, established in 1958, offering Southwest cuisine with meats mesquite smoked on the premises. There's seating indoors as well as on the patio where well behaved dogs are welcome.



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Green Valley News

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



1325 Duval Mine Rd., Green Valley, AZ 85614 520)399-2500

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Nick Rice, Manager Lyndel Stone, Josh Arroyo, Lysi Lopez, Gabby Wander, Blanca Curiel, Sahuarita Mayor Tom Murphy and Chamber CEO Randy Graf.



EPIC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

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PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Denae Gates, Kari Harrison, Tricia Wischmann, Don Overturf



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PHOTO COURTESY **GUY ATCHLEY,** KGVY RADIO **PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:** Chamber President & CEO Randy Graf, Daniela Peña, Heather Jones, Ashley Quiroz (Pink jacket), Sahuarita Mayor Tom Murphy, Richard Fleming MD , Lorena Velasco, Diane Vandenberghe, Angie Fyfe, Elizabeth Russell and Chamber Ambassador Steve



LA PRIMERA OF GREEN VALLEY 300 W Via Alamos Dr., Green Valley

(520)625-7760

MOAA Supports Blind Veterans

By Peggy McGee

t was a real "two-fer" when two Chamber members supported the same project.

At their recent meeting Green Valley Chapter Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) members learned about the many programs the VA Hospital in Tucson offers to help blind veterans adjust to their vision loss. The Blind Veterans Rehab program wanted to start a program to teach blind veterans gardening skills, a first for the Tucson location. Recreation Therapist Shelley Marsh said that she chose gardening because that is a hobby that so many find relaxing.

The VA Hospital built a concrete walking path leading up to the garden and provided the land for raised beds and some fencing to protect the plants. However, tools were not in the

It was the MOAA Chapter to the rescue. Within two weeks after learning of the need, and with the help of a recent monetary donation from Lisa Larkin, Esq. from RE/MAX Select, MOAA delivered trowels, garden trays, hand hoes specially designed for raised beds, dribbles, pruners, seed



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Green Valley Chapter MOAA board members Darren Venters, Peggy McGee and Jack Bundy presented a variety of gardening implements to Diana Kellermeyer, Chief, Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center.

starting trays and gardening gloves. Thanks to the long growing season for the Tucson area, the blind veterans now have veggies and flowers grow-

ing in what was just an empty space a month ago. They are hoping they can harvest the tomatoes and zucchini before the first frost hits.

JGHT TO YOU BY THE GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR'S CENTEF TWO GREAT COMMUNITIES, TWO GREAT LIFESTYLES

Santa Cruz Valley **Car Nuts Car Show!**



he Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts will hold their 29th Annual Car Show this year on Saturday January 27th, 2024. Badged as the "Sahuarita Classics Car Show, it is the premier car show in Southern Arizona.

Once again, this year's event will be held at Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park in the Town of Sahuarita (Platinum Sponsor). This ten-acre, multiuse facility is home to two all grass soccer fields. Over four hundred of the area's finest collector, and classic vehicles will be on display. In addition, there will be plenty of local food trucks, vendors, and more. It is sure to be the "go to" event on Saturday, January 27th.

This year we are honored to once again partner with the Sahuarita and Walden Grove High School Automotive Programs. Last year's event provided over \$20,000.00 worth of state-of-the-art automotive diagnostic equipment.

Help us to make this another unforgettable year for the participants, programs, and students we support. Sponsorships are available in several forms including





Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

www.carnuts.org.

For more information please contact Ray Paradis, President at rbparadis25@ gmail.com 605-999-3404.

Thank you for your support, Santa Cruz Valley Car Nuts, Inc., P.O. Box 1216, Green Valley, Arizona, 85622-1216



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entertainment, food and of course, great company. Held at the restored Historic Canoa Ranch, this gala benefits educational opportunities for the Continental School District.

Do not miss this next event! On February 16th and February 17th, is the GVR Arts and Crafts Association 2024 Festival. From 9am until 3pm, at the GVR West Center, 1111 S GVR Dr in Green Valley, you will have the opportunity to see and acquire some amazing artwork from our local artisans. For more information go to www.gvartsandcrafts.com.

Tickets for the March 2, **Jazz in the Desert** are now available at the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce. This popular event features both a matinee and dinner show. Held at the Desert Diamond Diamond Center, it is a favorite of music lovers of all ages.

Dance the Night away with the Green Valley Concert Band on March the 3. Tickets are available at CPAC or gvcb. org. The concert will be at the Sahuarita Auditorium. All seating is reserved seating.

On of the most anticipated events of

the year is the 31st Annual Green Valley **Health Fair.** This year's event will be on March 4 from 9 am to 12 pm. This free community event will be held at the Green Valley Recreation West Social Center, 1111 S GVR Dr., Green Valley.

The Open Studio Tour is coming up, March 8 through the 10. March 8 is the gallery night and raffle from 4 to 7. Participating galleries and information will be available at the Tubac Center of the Arts website and in the Open Studio Tour

The Tucson Gem Show 2024 schedule can be located at https://tucsongemshow101.com/schedule-2024.

The Tucson Rodeo is celebrating its 99th year, from February 17 through the 25th. Experience the action of La Fiesta de los Vaqueros! Tickets are on sale now at https://www.tucsonrodeo.com/tickets.

For many activities in and around southern Arizona pick up the 2024 Book of Fun or Passport. In here you will find bargains and discounts (some two for one deals) as you explore the area. These books are available at the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, 275 W Continental Rd. #123, Green Valley, 9 to 4 M-F, 10-2 Sat.

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From the Green Valley Council

Council, an Arizona nonprofit corporation, has served as the civic voice for Green Valley, advocating for the community's best interests, representing the community at all governmental levels, and serving as the direct liaison with Pima County.

UPCOMING:

January 25th GVC forum on light pollution, Dark Skies Ordinance, and lighting code at the GVR Canoa Hills Center.

February 1st at the GVR Canoa Hills Center the Pima County Assessor and Pima County Development Services concerning property taxes, tax relief programs, zoning, building codes, building permitting, and more. Contact the



Council office to register.

March 23rd, 2024 for the Second Annual First Responders Fair at Historic Canoa Ranch for a day to honor and thank all those who serve and protect us. This year will be bigger than last year, with more demonstrations, exhibits, food trucks, and much more.

Call (520) 648-1936 or email info@ gycouncil.org.



Know Green Valley

KnowGreenValley.com is a free, new website that informs and entertains visitors, residents, and future residents of Green Valley, Sahuarita, and Tubac.

The website is an easy-to-use, comprehensive list of businesses, medical professionals, recreation, restaurants, professionals, and current events in the area. Blogs detail exciting day trips, special events, and the outstanding clubs and facilities available to residents and visitors.

A basic listing is free for all businesses and professionals. An enhanced, premium listing is available for \$100/year.

A premium listing on KnowGreenValley.com is a smart, economical way to get discovered by customers on Google. Premium listings include an SEO-friendly description of your business, your photos, URL, email, social media handles, hours of operation, individualized amenities, and more.

When you need the number of a business in Green Valley, Sahuarita, or Tubac, start your search at KnowGreenValley. com to support our local small businesses. KnowGreenValley@gmail.com.

2023 CHAMBER PROMOTERS

Access Wisdom In-Home Care wisdomaz.com

Action Print & Copy printapc.com

American Southwest Credit Union ascu.org

Arista Healthcare aristahealthaz.com

Arizona Self Storage & RV Storage selfstoragesolutions.com

Barker Contracting, Inc. barkerone.com

Bayada Home Health Care bayada.com

Canoa Ranch/Torres Blancas Golf Clubs

- Canoa Ranch Golf Club canoaranchgolfclub.com
- Grill on the Green canoaranchgolfclub.com/dining
- Torres Blancas Golf Club torresblancasgolf.com
- Abrego Grill torresblancasgolf.com/dining

Caryon Valley Memory Care Residence canyonvalleymemorycare.com **Carelon Health** carelonhealth.com

Commerce Bank of Arizona - Green Valley Branch commercebankaz.com

Cropper's Nogales Auto Center croppercare.com

Cultured Marble of Tucson Co. culturedmarbleoftucson.com

Del Norte Dental delnortedental.com

Dental Arts by Dr. Cantu Davis dentalarts.dentist

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Fairfield Homes Realty LLC fairfieldhomes.com/solterra-fairfield-homes

Farmers Investment Co. greenvalleypecan.com

Gentiva Hospice gentivahs.com

Green Valley Decorative Rock Inc. greenvalleyrockaz.com

Green Valley Financial and Senior Health Insurance

themedicareadvantageplans.com/store/mark-becque/

Green Valley Mortuary & Cemetery Inc. greenvalleymortuary.net

Healthy Skin Medical/Cosmetic Dermatology hsdermatology.com

Home Instead Senior Care homeinstead.com/830

KGVY Radio GV kgvy1080.com

La Primera at Green Valley laprimeragreenvalley.com

Law Offices of Walter L. Henderson, P.C. walterlhenderson.com

Mario McGee's Pizza mariomcgeespizza.com

MAS Real Estate Services, Inc. masrealestateservices.com

Meritage Homes meritagehomes.com

Mobility Plus Green Valley mobilityplus.com/fid54/Green-Valley-AZ-85614

Monstrosity Tree Service LLC monstrositytree.com

NAPA Auto Parts napaonline.com

Native Gardens of Green Valley nativegardensgreenvalley.com

NORESCO noresco.com

Pima Federal Credit Union pimafederal.org

Pioneer Title Agency - Green Valley pioneertitleagency.com

Pioneer Title Agency - Sahuarita pioneertitleagency.com

Quail Creek Country Club quailcreekhoa.org

Radiology Ltd radltd.com

Rite Way Heating, Cooling &Plumbing ritewayac.com

Saguaro Solar saguarosolar.com

Sandstone Ridge Apartments sandstoneridgeapt.com

Santa Cruz Valley Catering

- 19th Hole Bar & Grille 19thholebarandgrille.com
- Longhorn Grill & Saloon longhorngrillandsaloon.com
- Longhorn Outpost & Barbeque Company

Sergeant's Barber Shop sergeantsbarbershop.com

Smile Dental smiledentalnogales.com

Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance tucsonattractions.com

Southern Arizona Cleaning & Supply southernazclean.com

Southern Arizona Home Care southernarizonahomecare.com **Southwest Gas Corp.** swgas.com

Specialists in Dermatology specialistsindermatology.com

Sunstreet Mortgage, LLC sunstreetmortgage.com/demarco-kim **The Peaks at Santa Rita** seniorlivinginstyle.com/the-peaks-at-santa-rita

The Villas @ Green Valley the villas at green valley.com

United Community Health Center uchcaz.org

Vagabond Inn Executive GreenValley/Sahuarita vagabondinn.com/vagabond-inn-executive-green-valley-sahuarita

Visit Tucson visittucson.org

WaFd Bank wafdbank.com/locations/arizona/green-valley

Waste Management (Tucson, AZ) wm.com

Welcome Wagon welcomewagon.com











SonoraByDelWebb.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREEN VALLEY SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR'S CENTER COMMUNITIES,

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce,



RANDY GRAF

s we bid farewell to 2023 and eagerly embrace the opportunities of the coming year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and events that made this past year truly special for our Chamber.

The Business Expo & Taste of the Valley in February was a resounding success, with over 70 businesses showcasing their goods and services. The collaboration of a half dozen restaurants providing samples added to the vibrancy of the event, drawing thousands of patrons and creating an invaluable platform for networking and community engagement.

Our Annual Board of Directors Dinner & **Business Meeting in April** saw a fantastic turnout of 225 attendees. The evening was marked by lively networking and the installation of our 2023-24 Board of have been instrumental Directors, setting the stage

for a year of collaborative leadership and innovation.

In August, the Annual Golf Event at the Tubac Golf Resort was a sellout with 120 golfers enjoying the exceptional facilities of Southern Arizona. It was a day filled with camaraderie and friendly competition, further strengthening the bonds within our business community.

The Sahuarita State of the Town Luncheon in September was a true highlight, breaking records with a turnout of 407 attendees. The Business Showcase preceding the luncheon provided an excellent opportunity for networking, culminating in Mayor Tom Murphy's insightful address on the past and future developments of our beloved town.

Throughout the year, the GVS Leads program continued to thrive, with the monthly Third Thursday **Breakfast & Business** Workshops attracting more than thirty attendees. The introduction of the Executive Roundtable, a new feature of the GVS Leads program, was met with enthusiasm, and we look forward to expanding its reach in 2024.

We welcomed Robin Fassio as our Member Services Director in April, and her efforts in reaching out to our members in ensuring they access

GREEN VALLEY

SAHUARITA

all the marketing benefits the Chamber has to offer. Additionally, Cathy Chrismer, our **Communications Director** & Volunteer Coordinator, did a splendid job assembling our bi-monthly Activity Guide, a valuable resource highlighting Chamber activities and distributed through the Green Valley News & Sahuarita Sun newspapers.

One of the significant highlights of 2023 was the successful restructuring of our membership levels. We streamlined our offerings, condensing from ten membership levels to five, with a focus on enhancing our programs and marketing tools. This strategic move was aimed at providing



MARY ANN SIMONDS

our members with a more streamlined and effective experience, ensuring that

the Chamber remains a valuable resource for businesses of all sizes. I want to extend a sincere thank you to our membership for embracing this restructuring. The positive response speaks volumes about your recognition of the enhanced value that membership brings to your businesses. Your support and enthusiasm reinforce our commitment to providing meaningful benefits and fostering a thriving business community.

Lastly, I extend a heartfelt thank you to Mary Ann Simonds for her dedicated service as Bookkeeper and Office Manager over the past ten years. Mary Ann retired at the end of the year, and we wish her all the

best in her well-deserved retirement.

The state of the Chamber is strong, and I am delighted to announce that our membership numbers continue to grow. This growth is a testament to the vibrant business community we are privileged to be a part of. As we look forward to 2024, I am confident that together, we will continue to build on our successes and create even more opportunities for collaboration, growth, and prosperity within our community.

Here's to a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead!

Randy Graf

President & CEO, Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce

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