



**September 2023**



## **Board News**

### **Annual HOA Meeting Postponed Until 2024**

Due to family health issues, HOA President Suzanne Kinkel is postponing the Annual HOA Meeting until next year.

If you have questions or concerns about HOA financials or other matters normally discussed at the Annual Meeting, please reach out to [Suzanne](#) and she will work with the Board to answer your concerns.



*A Catalina State Park saguaro in bloom. Photo by Michael Theis*

## **Saguaros in Bloom**

May and June are traditionally the time the Saguaro Cactus blooms. But you need to look quick as an individual blossom only lasts a day. Saguaros start to flower when they reach about 7' tall and are 30 to 65 years old. Typically, they will bloom at dusk and the next day the blossom withers away. When the blossoms are open, birds (including the numerous Doves we have

here), bees and at night bats, step in to pollinate them. Once the flower has been pollinated, it matures into fruit.

The fruit start as a bud at the base of the plant's short-lived white blossoms. It then turns green with a pink tint. When ripened, the fruit splits open exposing bright red pulp. According to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, each piece of fruit contains about 2,000 small black seeds and saguaros can produce 200 fruits each season.

The fruit is food for a variety of desert critters including coyotes, javalina, birds, bats and tortoises. It has also served as nourishment for people in this desert land. The Tohono O'odham have been harvesting saguaro fruit for centuries. To get to the fruit, traditional Tohono O'odham people use a "kuipad," a long pole made from the ribs of a giant saguaro, with a short crosspiece at one end to hook the fruits. It can take some practice to use a 20' long pole to knock off the fruit without destroying it.

The saguaro fruit is naturally sweet but will only last a short time, so if you do not eat it right away, you will need to preserve it. During harvest season (late April and continuing into June), the Tohono O'odham would gather families and friends together and light fires under big pots. The fruit is put into the pot to boil. After a while, the seeds, pods and debris rise to the surface and are skimmed off. The syrup is also strained to remove pulp and seeds. After a few hours, it is a thick syrup, which can be poured into jars. Then it can be used on pancakes, ice cream and even tortillas.

Most of us in Sunridge Estates will never know the sweet taste of the fruit or the syrup. It is not sold in most stores, or even on Amazon. Harvesting saguaro fruit in public places is usually illegal. You can harvest the fruit of a saguaro on your own property. So, if you happen to own property with one of these green giants on it, have a sense of adventure and a long pole to knock off the fruit... Just be sure to bring some to the next homeowners meeting or no one will believe you actually went through the process. -- Written by Michael Theis



*Dave and Michelle Arellano*

## **Meet Neighbors Dave and Michelle Arellano**

Even though they were born in the same hospital, Michelle and Dave Arellano did not meet, and fall in love, until they both attended college at Sacramento State. After 36 years of marriage, their love is still going strong!

Following graduation, Michelle went into nursing and Dave started working in the real estate field. Raising a family (three boys and one girl) brought Michelle to being a full-time mom. Dave used his knowledge of the Bay area real estate and property management to propel him into starting his own company, which specialized in litigation support for law firms and corporations. Their software could identify whether

a case should settle out of court or be taken to trial. The company was a success and he eventually sold the company, with the caveat that he stay on as a consultant for five years.

At the time, two of their sons were attending the University of Arizona and two were still in high school. Because he would be working from home, it turned out to be an excellent opportunity to leave California and head to Tucson. Initially they landed in the Ventana Canyon area and stayed there four years. When their last two children moved out of the house, they wanted to downsize and started looking in Oro Valley. Initially, they wanted a view of the Santa Catalina Mountains, a pool and a smaller house. They found a great home on Kachina Ridge Place that had both a terrific view and a pool. They settled for two out of three, but the extra space comes in handy when the kids, family and friends come to visit. They also have a dog and two cats. They have lived in Sunridge Estates II for the last six years.

While they are avid golfers and volunteer for a number of charitable organizations, they like to keep busy. When they moved to Oro Valley, Dave's consultant work came to an end and he decided to start a Home Watch business utilizing Dave's 30+ years of real estate experience and knowledge to open their business.

In the desert, many bad things can happen quickly and being there for the absentee homeowner, provides homeowners peace of mind and comfort when they are away from their home. There is a big need for a capable and responsible Home Watch service.

Together, the Arellanos started [Oro Valley Home Watchers](#). Their clientele includes homeowners who want to get away from the worst of the summer heat for a couple of months, snowbirds, absentee home sellers and new home buyers who need someone to take care of the home until they move in. They have one part-time employee.

The summer is definitely their busy season and does not leave them a lot of time... except for a few games of golf. When it slows down in the winter, Michelle likes to paint watercolors, read, hike and volunteer. Dave likes to tie flies for the times he gets to visit his son and go fly fishing in Utah. He also has a model railroad that he works on when he is between home improvement projects. They are both active in their church and like to play golf and hike. They are both very grateful for living in their Oro Valley community of Sunridge Estates II. -- Written by Michael Theis



## Attend Oro Valley's Community Academy this October

Join us this fall for Oro Valley Community Academy's 26th session! Community Academy is a fun, interactive, and



award-winning opportunity to learn about your Town and local government. Join staff and your neighbors to learn more about Oro Valley and help shape the community's vision for the next 10-years!

This year's classes will focus on upcoming efforts to plan for Oro Valley's future. The Town is kicking off efforts this year to achieve a voter ratified General Plan with a focus on community (public safety, parks, finance, public safety), environment (views, open space and water supply), development (roads, public services, built environment), and more! Classes will be held from 6-8 PM, twice a week from Oct. 10 - Oct. 30.

Graduating participants will receive a certificate at the Nov. 1 Town Council meeting. The classes include:

- Welcome and Overview of Town Governance
- 2026 General Plan – Importance of Public Participation
- Housing and Development Trends
- Zoning 101 and Development Review
- Town Finances and Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Parks and Recreation
- Town Water Resource Planning

Please [register](#) for this free and exciting opportunity by October 1, 2023. Questions? Contact [Jeanna Ancona](#) at (520)229-5062. -- Written by Jeanna M. Ancona, Senior Office Specialist – Planning Division, Town of Oro Valley, Community and Economic Development



## Unleash the Fun at Oro Valley's Dog Party!

Bark in the Park

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023

Time: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Steam Pump Ranch (10901 N. Oracle Road)

Details: A FREE event for all OV's furry friends! Food trucks, music, crafts for kids, dog talent show, dog costume contest, and prizes! Come meet the newest OVPD K-9 "Ari"!

### Sunridge Estates HOA Board

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