#### Official Paper For Dreamland Villa Retirement Community

Vol. 15 No. 10 October 2020 12 Pages

#### WELCOME TO DREAMLAND VILLA!

by Cyndy Munday

Mark your calendars, Saturday, October 3 at 10:00 am, 320 N. 55th Pl. Read Hall will be our special time to welcome all our new residents to Dreamland Villa. Please plan to come on down for a friendly gathering. We have a dedicated committee who will be here. Refreshments will be served. Yes, we will plan to be social distancing and probably be wearing masks.

Our community is in the process of growing pains and we have so many new residents we want to meet. There is some information you will want to have regarding your new residence as well and we do have packets of information available for you.

You will be our first group to be welcomed this winter season. This time has been set aside especially for you. Please plan on this event as it is sure to be informative and friendly.

Retirement should include sharing time with others who share similar interest. We look forward to meeting you soon and hope you will not hesitate to call with any questions you may have regarding Dreamland Villa. Again, our office staff is there for you. This can only remain a clean, quiet, friendly place with you so we genuinely hope you will come join us!



The Dreamland Villa Retirement Community, Inc. is in need of a couple of volunteers for the Policy and Procedures (P&P) Committee

This Committee usually meets once a month on a date communicated by email. The purpose of the committee is to initiate, and/or review, proposed changes to the Corporation's Policies and Procedures, the By-laws, and any other official documents of the Corporation. These Policies and Procedures and other documents are the guidelines for how the Corporation operates. A few of them are posted on the DVRC Website. The ultimate goal is to have all of the P&P posted online.

The current Chairman of the Committee is Earl Munday. Volunteers for the Committee must be paid up members in good standing of DVRC. If interested, please contact the office at admin@dreamlandvilla.org.

## **Board Meetings**

Board meetings and Study Sessions will resume this month on October 7th. Study Sessions are held the first Wednesday of the month and Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month through May. The meetings start at 6:30 pm at Read Hall. Masks are required and social distancing will be in place. No more than 50 persons allowed in the hall at any one time.

Study Sessions are designed for the Board to discuss items provided for their consideration. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please provide a written request with your name, member number and the reason for your request. Requests should be received by the office at least five days prior to the meeting date. An open forum is available after each Board meeting. Please let the door monitor know if you wish to speak.

Call the office at (480) 832-3461 or email Admin@Dreamlandvilla. org if you have questions.

#### **Difficult Times**

By Johna Sharp, President

This year has been a difficult one for all of us. The virus has wreaked emotional and financial havoc on many businesses. It's even caused some long-standing businesses to permanently close due to financial loss. We need to continue to support our local businesses if we want to keep them open after this pandemic has passed.

Even though your community facilities have been forced to close for several months, we too need your support. This month begins our winter visitor season and the start of our annual funding drive. These are uncertain times and we want you to know that our staff has remained dedicated to keeping our office running and keeping the bills paid, all while continuing to prepare for when we can reopen to full capacity. Please know that Dreamland Villa Retirement Community remains dedicated to providing you with quality facilities, events and activities. We also continue to address your property concerns, maintain our 55+ age-restriction materials, track home sales and keep our swimming pools operating. We hope that you will continue to support us as we strive to provide you with the activities and events that we know you enjoy.

#### DVRC BRIEFS

Welcome New Homeowners Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. Read Hall

**Study Session**Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Read Hall

Line Dancing Lessons
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 20, 27
10 – 10:30 a.m.
Farnsworth

Line Dancing
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 20, 27
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Farnsworth

Board Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 14 6:30 p.m. Read Hall

## ART CONTEST!

Show us your creativity by creating a colorful design that represents Dreamland Villa for use on our 60th anniversary promotional items.

All Dreamland residents are encouraged to submit your design in jpeg format for reproduction.

All submissions must be received by 5:00 pm on November 13, 2020. The winner will be announced in the December issue of the Citizen and will receive \$100. You do not need to be a member of DVRC to participate.



## President's Message

by Johna Sharp, President

Finally, cooler weather has descended on our community so we can open the doors and windows. We have also opened our facilities since the COVID-19 numbers continued to go down. We all need to continue to be diligent about wearing masks and social distancing since flu season will pick up shortly. Let's work to keep each other healthy and safe this winter season.

During the summer months your Board of Directors continued to work on implementing portions of the Strategic Plan. The focus at this time is on getting a new capital reserve study conducted so that we can determine the actual costs of the operation of our facilities over the next several years. Three bids have been obtained and a scope of work has been drafted. Board meetings will resume this month on the first and second Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Read Hall. Masks are required and social distancing will be adhered to.

Our financials continue to look good, and we are developing our plan for increasing our

membership numbers by 10 percent for 2021. This year has been extremely difficult for everyone and we anticipate the job ahead of us will be a difficult one as well. Many of our winter visitors will not be returning and we don't know yet if the Canadian border will be opened.

We hope that you will continue to pay your annual fee and support us in our efforts to maintain our 55+ status, our facilities, and the staffing necessary to maintain our office and address your concerns. For those of you that are new to Dreamland, we appreciate your loyalty and support.

Let's work together to make 2021 a better and safer year for all of us here in Dreamland Villa.

## What's ?

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## WHERE RETIREMENT DREAMS COME TRUE! DREAMLAND VILLA CITIZEN Mary Barry, Editor

The Dreamland Villa Citizen is a monthly newspaper produced for the Dreamland Villa Retirement Community by Miller Media Services.

#### DREAMLAND VILLA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY 320 N 55th Place Mesa A 7 85205 • Tel: 480-832-3461

320 N. 55<sup>th</sup> Place, Mesa, AZ 85205 • Tel: 480-832-3461 Fax: 480-832-7585 • Website: <u>www.dreamlandvilla.org</u>

#### **STAFF**

Diane Fisher - Administrative Services Manager Mary Newkirk - Administrative Services Assistant Beverly Jackson - Bookkeeper Jeff Childers - Foreman; LeRoy Atkins - Maintenance

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month; email Mary Barry, Editor at dvcceditor@gmail.com.



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## **AROUND THE VILLA**

#### Volunteers Needed to Deliver the Citizen

By Judy and Don Goodroe

Now that the cooler weather is coming, it's time to put on walking shoes and enjoy the outdoors while delivering the Citizen!

We are calling all of the Citizen paper carrier's -- 20 captains and over 80

carriers. I am only on route #6 and already have seven carriers that must be replaced for November, and maybe December deliveries.

If you are a Dreamland neighbor and would like to help us out so we can deliver in November and December, please call our landline (no text) at 480-699-

6397. Or text this cell, 480-297-6059.

2020 has been a different year, but just a reminder -- it is safe to deliver the Citizen! Many residents depend and look forward to having it delivered to them every month! Please help us keep it going!

Thank You, Judy and Don

### Reopening of Read Hall During the Pandemic

Effective September 14, 2020

Read Hall and the Exercise/Billiards rooms will reopen on a limited basis.

- Use of the facilities is at each person's own risk. It is up to each person to monitor and care for their own health
- Hours will be:

8:00 am to noon

Closed from noon to 2:00 pm for cleaning Reopened 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

- Masks are required and social distancing is recommended
- Card playing will not be allowed at this time.
- Visitors should bring their own sanitizing wipes for equipment, chairs, etc.
- The hall will be available for rental and/or activity use for limited numbers of people (to allow for social distancing).
- The office will remain open on Wednesday mornings, with additional days/times to be determined later.

### Dreamland's Secret Helpers

that one of our greatest neighbors here in Dreamland suddenly passed. Mary Kloeckner and her hubby Chuck have been the greatest neighbors anyone could ask for. They watched out for their neighbors and helped whenever needed or noticed something amiss. With so many single homeowners here they particularly paid attention so as to help whenever needed. They both were members of the bowling league and always had a kind word for everyone and were great cheerleaders for the Board members. We need more like them and we will miss you Mary. Chuck we ex-

This past week we heard tend our deepest sympathy at one of our greatest eighbors here in Dream-tender dear wife.

There are so many others here in Dreamland that we can't begin to mention them all, but there is another couple of folks that deserve a kind word. Karen Peterson and Helen Ike have both been a huge help. They have worked with the Membership Committee for years and are always ready to help if needed. They have helped with behind the scenes at the annual High Tea, they have helped with voting and other events too numerous to mention. Thank you ladies for your kind service and willingness to help your community.

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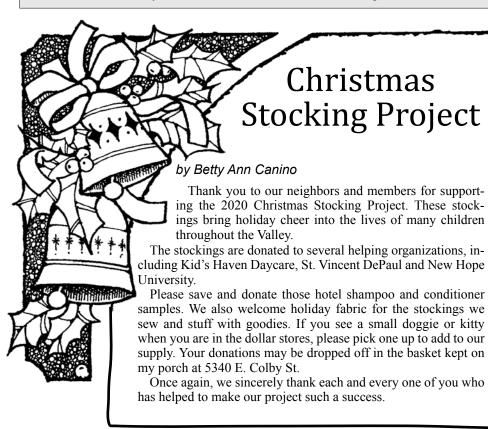
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## **AROUND THE VILLA**

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

the Outdoor Activity committee chair DreamlandVilla.org.

Seeking persons to take over the Hob- positions. If you are interested, please bies, Crafts, and Indoor Activities and contact the office or email Admin@



#### **BOOK SALE**

Dreamland Villa Library 5502 E Butte off of 55th Place

Donna Hopp

Hope this message finds everyone doing well. Please mark your calendars. The Book Sale will open on Monday, November 2nd. We will be selling all remaining books. We will be open on Mondays and Fridays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will open two Saturdays, November 7th and 21st from 9am to 1:00 pm. We have a very large variety of books left. All books are \$0.25 and some are 2/\$0.25. We do not know how long the sale will continue. You will have to wear a mask and practice distancing. If you do not have a mask please do not enter the Book sale. This is open to the public and bulk buyers. Please tell all your friends, relatives and neighbors.

## Veteran's Day Program

Dreamland Villa will military. This outdoor be celebrating Veteran's Day at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 7 at the Farnsworth Hall bandshell. Come join us as we recognize veterans with a special focus on women in the

event will adhere to recommendations of wearing masks and social distancing. So, put on your patriotic gear and come celebrate our military at this unique event.



#### Contact the Office

A reminder that the office is open for walkin business on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 am until noon. If this is not convenient for your schedule, please call the office (480 832-3461) and we'll be happy to make an appointment to suit your schedule. Phones are answered on weekdays between 8:00 am and noon. If it's after hours, please leave a message and we'll get back to you by the next business day.

#### POOL USERS REMINDER

All Members are required to adhere to the DVRC rules posted at the pools.

Members must exit the pool area at closing time. No exceptions.

Sign-in sheets are required for your safety. Members and their guests are required to sign in at the time of entry to pool areas and should sign out upon leaving the pool area. Please print your key card number and name legibly.

Security personnel are responsible for the safety of our members and the closing of the pool areas and all other facilities. Please be considerate by adhering to these requirements.

Pool hours will currently remain the same as posted (7:30 am – 10:00 pm). Pool closure times may be adjusted due to weather conditions. Children's hours remain the same.

Additional Pool Rules effective 5/23/2020:

- Use the pools at your own risk.
- You are required to rinse off before getting into the pool. Please wait 15 minutes before entering the pools if you have applied any lotions.
- There is to be no personal grooming conducted in the restrooms. Save your shaving, shampooing, hair cutting and personal hygiene grooming for at home. Shower curtains have been removed to reduce sanitizing requirements and to discourage personal grooming.
- You should rinse off before exiting the pool area and returning home.
- Restrooms and pool furniture will be sanitized twice a day.

- Wash your hands after using deck chairs.
- If you move the furniture, please put it back before you leave.
- Pool noodles and weights will not be provided at this time. You may bring your own.
- You are encouraged to maintain social distancing of at least six feet.
- 10. It is recommended that no children or guests attend the pools at this time.
- 11. It is not recommended that you wear face masks in the water.

Please enjoy the pools and remember that you are responsible for your health. If you notice any unsafe actions by others, please report them to the office.

### WANTED Woman Veterans

Seeking women veterans willing to participate in Dreamland Villa's Veteran's Day program.

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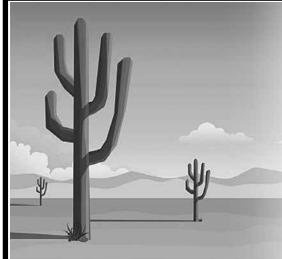
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## **AROUND THE VILLA**

by Lev Hoos Fr we h are ir

by Lewis (Lew) Hooser

From time to time we have residents who are interested in donating medical equipment such as lift chairs, mobility

scooter along with other large items to Help Services. However, they don't have any way of getting these items to us. Don't worry, it's as easy as 1-2-3! Just call us at 480-985-6021 and we will be happy to schedule a pick up time for these large items and help you out, as we appreciate your donations.

If you would like Help Services to deliver a large piece of equipment on a loan basis, we also would be happy to deliver the item to you as well however, there is a \$ 30.00 donation charge to cover our cost. This also includes, trained personnel or specific type of equipment set up.

Update, training is going well with the desk monitors. We are creating a list of trainers to assist monitors with their computer training, so you will always have someone to help you. You can also check out the computer training instructions at www.HelpServicesinc.org. Go to the bottom of the front page of the web-site and you can look over at the computer training section. Please don't let the new computer systems restrict your interest in volunteering for Help Services. We need you!!

We are also looking for new board members and encourage all of you to think about joining our Help Services board. You could consider joining the board as an appointee. This way you would be able to get an idea if you would like to continue being on the board or identifying if this isn't something you want to continue.

Thanks to one and all and please remember we are solely supported by all you good folks in Dreamland Villa and Velda Rose Estates, by your donations.

Our summer hours are still in effect, we are closed on Saturdays. The rest of the week we are open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. We hope that our ladies will be back to do blood pressure again on Mondays. Please check to make sure. Until next time, from our President Patty Thorpe and the rest of the board members and monitors, have a great month and stay safe!







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## **AROUND THE VILLA / EVENTS**

## How Have You Been Spending Your Time?

By Lu Wald

Have you been passing the time over the past six months being creative? If so, you may want to consider spending the rest of our down time making things that you can sell. Staying busy is important and why not do it to bring in a little cash?

As we are all hoping that we can have somewhat of a normal life come January, we are still crossing our fingers in hopes that we can proceed with the 60th Anniversary Celebration the last week in January, 2021. As part of the week-long celebration, the Singles Club will be hosting a Craft Show and Sale on January 29th, 2021.

Here is your chance to show off your talents. Even though you may only have a few special items and cannot fill a booth, we can combine artisans. And I am still hoping you will please think about "repurposing or upcycling" items. Let's see who can be the most creative in this category.

Anyone interested in reserving a booth to sell any type of crafted items, please contact the Dreamland Singles Club at singles@dreamlandvilla.org or call 701-527-0146. The cost per booth will be \$10 and will be limited to residents living in Dreamland; no outside vendors will be accepted.

The tentative time schedule is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm: however in

pm; however, it is not definite. Please

contact us as soon as possible as we may need to limit the number of booths we can set up in order to properly social distance. For those who have already requested a booth, I will contact you in November with more details.



#### Posse Corner

The Dreamland Villa Posse has been patrolling the streets of Dreamland Villa each day throughout the summer. We're really happy to have enough members to be a regular presence on the streets!

We can still use more volunteers to help us. If you would like to find out more about the Posse, you can chat with one of the members while they are out or call the Posse phone # (480 654-2227) and leave a message. If you'd like an application to join us, you can pick one up at the Dreamland Villa Office.

For those of you returning from your summer adventures, please remember to call the Dreamland Villa Office and let them know that you have returned. The office staff will let us know of your return. We look forward to seeing more residents as we are out on patrol! Have a great fall!

SATURDAY AM

Q/A Computer Club

### 'Line Dancing' at Farnsworth Hall

begins October 13th every Tuesday 11:00 am - 1:00 pm You are invited!

By Pat Berg

We start class with easy dances and I continue calling the steps as the music plays. If you have never line danced before, you will find the steps easy to follow. Partners not needed. Both men and women have fun at the lessons. It is an excellent way to exercise to enjoyable music. The cost for those who have a current DVRC card is \$3 and for all others if \$5.

The three Tuesdays of October, from 10:00 until 10:30 am, I will add a lesson on line dance basic steps. This can help you know some steps before they are put to music.

Don't put it off any longer. The new classes will start October 13th with new and reviewed dances. Now is a great time to get started. You will be glad you came!



## Welcome Back!!! 4 pm 'Happy Hour' + 5 pm Show! Dangerously FUN Juggling

.....

By James Reid

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#### **OCTOBER WEEKLY ACTIVITIES MONDAY AM** WEDNESDAY AM FRIDAY AM **DAILY EVENTS TUESDAY AM** THURSDAY AM Lapidary Lapidary Woodshop Lapidary **Help Services** 9:00 - 11:45 8:00 - 11:30 8:00 - 11:30 8:00 - 11:30 9:00 - Noon R-10 R-6 R-6 R-6

9:00 - 10:00 HS Woodshop Woodshop Woodshop **Help Services** 9:00 - 11:45 R-10 9:00 - 11:45 R-10 9:00 - 11:45 R-10 9:00 - Noon HS **Help Service** 9:00 - Noon HS **Fused Glass** 9:30 - Noon R-7 **Fused Glass** 9:30 - Noon R-7 **MONDAY PM** TUESDAY PM WEDNESDAY PM THURSDAY PM FRIDAY PM SATURDAY PM **Fused Glass Fused Glass** 1:00 - 3:00 R-7 1:00-3:00 R-7







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## **CLUBS**

## Attention Visiting P.E.O. Sisters

Welcome back, P.E.O. sisters. We are looking forward to meeting and catching up with each other's summer activities. P.E.O. is a philanthropic educational organization with a mission to support women in finishing their educations.

We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. with the first gathering on October 14. We will try to meet at a restaurant but depending on the continued quarantine, we may need to find another place to gather. An e-mail will be sent to

those who joined us last year with further information.

We would like to invite other P.E.O. members and unaffiliates to join us. If you have questions, please call Mary Epperson at 520-208-3628, text or email.

#### Computer Club

by Kay Hawbaker

The DCC Board met in Room 9 at 1:00 p.m. on September 21, with several members joining via Zoom. This next season of classes and activities remain very uncertain at the time of the writing of this article.



As with many of the activities in DVRC, the computer schedules depend on the individuals who volunteer time to share the information or skills. Please check the website DCC calendar for November classes and the general meeting. An updated calendar will also be posted on the Room 9 door and in the office.

The Photo class has been meeting informally and if someone is interested in it, please contact Marsha Spencer, our club president.

#### **FUSED GLASS CLASS**

#### by Cyndy Munday

The Fused Glass class has been open all summer on Mondays and Wednesdays. We have had a good turnout all summer and been very busy creating. We have had fun and many challenges to say the least when creating art. It's been so great and we are very appre-

ciative to have this opportunity. We do show off a few of projects in the window and there are a few items for sale. This is a good outlet for regulars and for those of us who appreciate their abilities.

You are always welcome to drop in for a short visit and a look around. We are more than happy to help you get started if you want to give this class a try. It's a little scary working with glass at first but soon enough we find it's an element that is quite interesting. We hope you will drop in for a visit.

We are looking forward to seeing our winter visitors return soon and know that the schedule will change in the glass class.



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## **CLUBS**

#### **WET PAINT**

by Alicia Short

October...let's hope that by now things are starting to be normal. But then maybe normal has changed. At this point we are planning to have classes starting in November, however there will be changes.

As mentioned last month, we have six tables in the art room and we will only allow one person per table and they will be spaced out. Masks will be required as well. The room has a bottle of sanitizer and the tables, sink, door knobs etc. will be cleaned before and when classes start and end. This will probably be the same for January and February classes.

As of this date, we will have our usual classes: Monday afternoons with Ila Wandtke. And at least Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoons with me, Alicia. If needed I will add another time for a class of

six. Until this virus is over we will limit the number of students per class.

#### ART BOOK WORKSHOP



I am also planning a workshop on creating an art book. I have been making several art books this summer. Each page in the book is a different creation. If you check my Facebook page I will start showing some of

the pages I have created. The books usually have a theme and then I use a variety of papers and images to decorate a page. I've



included a couple of examples in this issue of the Citizen.

The book in the workshop will be themed, "In the Garden." We will paint background papers on a variety of papers and other ele-

ments. We will have images of things found in gardens such as flowers, birds, butterflies, bees and more to add to create a beautiful, interesting page. You will make pockets, envelopes, tags and other pieces to make a page fun and "artsy."

The class will be a one-day workshop, probably on a Saturday, and if there is enough interest a class on a weekday. If you think you might be interested let me know at artroom@dreamlandvilla.org. You will supply a few items and I will supply most of the materials to create a booklet of fun junk book journal like art pages. I have flyers that will be set out detailing this workshop in more detail. There will be a charge to cover supplied materials.

If classes in November can't happen then we will hope for classes in January. Take care, be well, have some fun and be creative, it does help the spirit stay happy.



## Dreamland Villa Quilting Club

by Becky Lamson

Our photo is of a charity quilt made by Faye Miller. I say it's a good way to use up some of her scraps.

On Aug 20th, a small group from the quilt club met at Faye Miller's home to reminisce on our quilting activities from the past and for the future.

By the time you read this we should have been able to meet once again at Read Hall.

October is the month we change back to our winter schedule, meeting weekly on Thursday afternoons 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Read Hall. We will remain on this schedule through June 2021. We will have quilt tops to piece or bindings to sew.

The 3rd Thursday of the Month is Special Project Day. You are always welcome to bring a project of your own to work on at the meetings.

New and prospective members are always welcome. If you desire, bring along an item for show and tell. If you have quilt club questions, contact Becky Lamson at 480-202-7003,

Quilters Quote: Life is better when you're quilting!

## Remembering Vivian Acuff

Vivian Acuff, 83, a five-year resident of Dreamland Villa passed away on Saturday, September 5, 2020.

Originally from Bisbee and Fargo N.D., Vivian was the mother of six, the grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of 19. She was an active in the Music Federation of America. She enjoyed playing piano and gardening.

As a member of the Dreamland Villa Singles Club, she organized some of our events and participated in many. She will be missed by all who had the opportunity to meet her.

## **Dreamland Singles Club**

By: Lu Wald, President

As some of the Dreamland facilities are working on opening their doors, our Singles Club will be testing the waters, as well. Our club, very cautiously, will move ahead and try to bring some things back to normal. As of October 7th, we will be going back to our regular scheduled meetings to be held on the second and fourth Wednesday each month.

At our September 16th meeting, we discussed assisting with the lunch after the Veteran's Day celebration on November 7th. Also, the group voted to hold a drawing of members present at the end of each meeting to receive \$5. In addition, the meeting minutes will no longer be read at each meeting, instead, everyone will be given a copy. The minutes will also be posted on our bulletin board at Read Hall. Corrections or additions will be noted before voting to approve them at the meeting.

We will be gathering information on places that members would like to go as a group and plan to do limited excursions as it is safe. Any ideas are welcome and you can either contact Kathie Chismar or send an e-mail to singles@dreamlandvilla.org. If you were not at the meeting and had Hale Theater tickets this past season, please contact Kathie Chismar about using them at future plays.

We hope all is well with everyone and really look forward to seeing each and every one of you. Sadly, we lost one of our dear members, Vivian Acuff, this month. We will miss her loving heart, as well as her willingness to step up and help in the many ways she participated in her community. Our sincere condolences go out to her family, both here in Arizona, as well as back in North Dakota.

## Dreamland Tuesday Bowling League

By Cyn Munday

Summer is coming to a fast close and due to Covid-19, we have not bowled all season. However, there is some hope on the horizon. We are looking into possibly starting back up again in the not too distant future. It all depends on the Governor's mandates and if we can find an alley. Apparently there are open places now and it's just a matter of negotiations. So keep your eyes open and stay tuned and hopefully we can enjoy our indoor exercise again before too long.

If you are interested in joining or need more information, please give Darlene a call at 480-330-7640. Thank you.



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## Ladies Golf League

By Kay Hawbaker

The Dreamland Ladies Golf League will kick off the 2020/21 Season will an Awards Dinner at 5:00 pm at Rochester's in Sunland Village on the 4th of November. We have reserved the private dinning room and it will be a plated dinner with several choices of pasta, salad,

and desert. Last spring, seventeen members indicated they planned to be available for this event. But things change and so I will be sending out another email in October to give more details about the choices for dinner and get a final count of attendees for the staff at Rochester's.

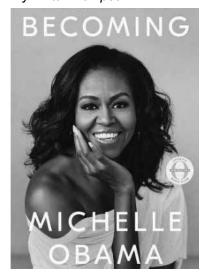
The first play of the Fall season is at 12:16 pm on Thursday, the 5th of November at Royal Palms. Please respond to my October email with your plans to participate in league play and when you plan to be available to play. Tee times have to be arranged Wednesday prior to our scheduled league tee time.

If you have any friends visiting or moving to the East Valley, they are welcome to join us in the League. New faces are always welcomed. Our dues are \$20.00 and checks can be submitted to our Treasurer, Jan Thorsteinsson at the Awards Dinner or before the tee time at Royal Palms.

I am looking forward to the new season. Hope to see you all soon.

### "Becoming" by Michelle Obama

By Anita Thompson



Put politics aside to at least read this book review and consider this book which is very well-written and very interesting. In this season of racial unrest, it gives us a view of growing up black in the U.S.

It's divided into three parts, the first is "Becoming me". It centers on her childhood, growing up poor on the south side of Chicago. It is an interesting story of a close-knit, loving, supportive family. A strong mom who went to bat for her children as all of us moms always want to do. A father who worked in spite of disease to provide for his family. A family poor in money, but rich in love.

The second part is "Becoming Us". The story of the struggles of a young black woman in the United States and how much harder they have to work to succeed than the rest of us do. It points out the importance of education, supportive teachers, etc. It points out the importance of hard work and

speaking up. It tells of her meeting Barack, their courtship, their marriage, and the birth of their two daughters. It talks about the difficulty of political campaigns, the efforts it takes to maintain any kind of normalcy for children with all that was going on. That section ends the night Barack is elected President of the U.S.

The third part is "Becoming More". It follows them through eight years in the White House, the pressures to be more than any other couple had to be because they are black. The things that were important for them to accomplish, the highs and lows. The book ends as they leave the White House and wonder what the future will bring. We are all "becoming" every day, something different than the day before and hopefully something

I very much enjoyed this book and am thankful to the friend that lent it to me. It's a good read.

#### **DVRC** Funnies

I told my wife that a husband is like a fine wine; he gets better with age. The next day, she locked me in the cellar.

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