



Summer 2020



**RVHA Board of Directors:**

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Lori Bridwell  
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To contact the board email [info@rvha.us](mailto:info@rvha.us)

*Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.*

**Message from the President**

Well, we certainly do find ourselves swimming in uncharted waters as 2020 rolls into one challenge after another. Fortunately, we're living in an era during which we have the technology to navigate it with Zoom meetings replacing board meetings. Companies are finding workers can be just as productive, if not more productive, from home. We just have to learn to make it work for us, while laughing at ourselves as we travel along this learning curve. Laughter is the best medicine, right?

We welcomed 3 new RVHA Board of Directors members this year; Ruth Kaplan, Liz Potof and Linda Vinson. Thank you for volunteering to join our board. We are delighted and excited to be working with each of you these next two years.

We hope you enjoy the articles prepared in this Roundup. We apologize for the lapse of time between newsletters. Hopefully we can get back on track of our quarterly offerings to members.

Stay safe and healthy!

*Terry Holmes-Stecyk*





*We have developed a Phase 1-High Priority text-based system that will send a text alert directly to your cell phone in the event of any fire in the immediate area, or serious accidents, that may cause delays or extended closures of Dynamite/Rio Verde Drive or other roads nearby.*

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association (RVHA) is continually looking for ways to better serve our members and the extended community. The recent fires in our area and other surrounding communities reminds us all how vulnerable we can be and how important accurate information can be for our family and neighbors. It's crucial that you and your family have an emergency plan. We believe that we can help you with the first step in any emergency plan with quick and precise information related to an incident. We are extremely excited to announce that we have developed an alert system that can immediately notify you and your family of the critical events in and near our community.

This system will not require you to be a member of any social media platforms, download any potentially confusing phone apps, or subscribe or pay for any additional services. We have developed a Phase 1-High Priority text-based system that will send a text alert directly to your cell phone in the event of any fire in the immediate area, or serious accidents, that may cause delays or extended closures of Dynamite/Rio Verde Drive or other roads nearby. Our goal is to build upon this system in the future to provide other critical information automatically concerning our community and allow you to decide what information/notifications you will want to receive based on level of priority. You will also choose if you want to receive notifications 24/7 or only during normal waking hours.

ALL information will remain private and will not be shared with anyone outside of the Foothills Alert System Text. Messaging and data rates may apply, depending on your carrier.

We are very excited about this alert system and strongly believe it will improve the communication within the community in the event of an emergency. We truly appreciate the development efforts of G.C. Saarp, our RVHA FAST System Committee Chair, as well as our webmaster, Frank Turben, who created the signup form for our website.

Please click on this link, fill in the information and submit to be added to this alert system.

<https://www.rvha-az.com/rvha-alert.htm>

The RVHA Board of Directors

# WATER HAULING

## UPDATE ON COMMERCIAL WATER TRUCKS – TEXT AMENDMENT HEARING (TA2019006)

The RVHA received the following information regarding the Text Amendment (TA) hearing on August 6, 2020. We would first like to clarify the difference between “support” vs “oppose” of this zoning Amendment, as there was some confusion on the intent of the responses submitted to the County. As noted below, it is currently illegal to park ANY non-accessory vehicle over 10,000 lbs. in any rural or residential area. Ranches and farms with agricultural exemption are not subject to this zoning. The TA currently being discussed by County Planning and Zoning is addressing WATER TRUCKS ONLY. If you support the Text Amendment (TA2019006) you are asking the County to change the existing zoning to allow a commercial water truck to be parked on an employee’s property. While we support that change, we are also requesting that the County allow 2 trucks, (rather than just one), to be parked within 500’ of another property. We do support the TA; we just want to change the number of vehicles allowed from one to two. If you oppose the TA, then you are asking the County to keep the zoning as is, which would make it illegal to park any water truck on any property in the Foothills, effectively removing the water haulers from our community. More information will be posted from the RVHA, along with a County link for comments.

In summary, from Planning and Zoning:

- Please note the August 6<sup>th</sup> ZIPPOR meeting motion resulted in **‘initialization’** (not approval) of the proposed text amendment which states:  
*The parking or storage of a non-accessory vehicle except for normal deliveries having a gross vehicle weight great than 10,000 pounds on any lot in a rural or residential zoning district is prohibited.*  
*This prohibition shall not apply to an employee of a water hauling company which parks a single water truck at this residence on a lot in a rural zoning district and within an area not served by a public water system and who makes the truck available for emergency response for fire suppression registered with the local fire district or department.*
- The Commission action gives the Planning Department direction to proceed with modifications and changes of the text amendment language, the ***amendment language is not approved at this stage.*** The next step includes bringing amended language back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendation. The Commission is a recommending body, the final determination with the text amendment language will be with the Board of Supervisors.

*If you support the Text Amendment (TA2019006) you are asking the County to change the existing zoning to allow a commercial water truck to be parked on an employee’s property. While we support that change, we are also requesting that the County allow 2 trucks, (rather than just one), to be parked within 500’ of another property. We do support the TA; we just want to change the number of vehicles allowed from one to two.*

### Planning & Zoning Commission and Enhanced Regulatory Outreach Program:

The text amendment is tentatively scheduled for the September 10<sup>th</sup> Planning and Zoning Commission hearing. The text amendment is also proceeding via the Enhanced Regulatory Outreach Program (EROP). You can sign up via e-mail to received notification of when the amendment moves through the various steps.

**Sign up to receive notification – Enhanced Regulatory Outreach Program**

<https://www.maricopa.gov/2733/Planning-Development>

Click on the link that states ‘Sign up to receive e-mail updates.

**Enhanced Regulatory Outreach Program (EROP) webpage – Planning & Development**

Follow the amendment through the EROP process

<https://www.maricopa.gov/2778/Active-Regulatory-Process>

The text amendment will be moving to Step 5 with the tentative September 10<sup>th</sup> Commission hearing. If you sign up for the e-mail notification for EROP, you will receive notification of the stakeholder notification when the amendment moves to step 5.

**Support – Opposition – Comment for the September 10<sup>th</sup> Commission hearing**

Please note since you received this e-mail we received your comments on the text amendment, no need to submit additional comments or documentation, the comments will be included with the 9/10 Commission staff report. We received a total of 127 public comments on the amendment. If you want to submit additional comments to be included within the 9/10 Commission staff report – we need documentation to be submitted by close of business on **Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**. This allow us time to process comments and obtain figures of support/opposition for the Commission. Anything received after 8/28 – will be included with the staff report for the Board of Supervisors.

Please note all 127 comments received for the ZIPPOR meeting will be included with the Commission staff report.

**Planning & Zoning Commission Agenda & Staff Report**

The September 10<sup>th</sup> agenda and staff report will be available for download from the following website on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.maricopa.gov/AgendaCenter/Planning-Zoning-Commission-9>

Please note, the September 10<sup>th</sup> hearing will be a virtual Gotowebinar hearing.

- 1) You will need to register early to participate for the webinar. The Planning & Zoning Commission agenda will include a link to register for the hearing, we recommend you start early with registration. The system will auto-generate a separate e-mail with your registration. This registration is unique to your e-mail address, do not share this link with others. This allows us to identify your attendance during the hearing.

Gotowebinar link for questions regarding registration for a session:

<https://support.goto.com/webinar/help/register-for-a-session-g2w030007>

- 2) After registration, you will receive a separate e-mail from Planning & Development requesting if you want to speak/not speak during the hearing. Respond to the e-mail and notify me if you want to show any images or PowerPoint presentation for the hearing. Any additional documentation for speaking during the hearing is due **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> by noon.**

**Projected Timeline:**

A projected timeline for completion includes a tentative Board of Supervisors hearing date of October 7, 2020 with adopted language 30 days after Board hearing.

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# The Pen in the Preserve

By Rachel B.



If you've hiked, ridden a bike, or gone horseback riding the northern part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in the recent months you may have stumbled upon a pen semi-tucked away, loaded with grain, water, and hay. Perhaps you've passed this pen and it went unnoticed or maybe you were one of many caught on the nearby trail camera staring and wondering why it exists.

Back on a sunny Saturday in February I brought my formerly wild burro, adopted from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), out to Fraesfield trailhead to train for packing. I'd invested hours into this jenny burro's training: she was one of the smartest burros I've ever known and one of the most self-preserving. Things were going great on the trail but a series of unfortunate events led to an epic spook down the mountainside and ultimately her escaping into the more than 30,000 acres of the preserve. It was this escape, this spook, that showed me just how amazing our local horse community is and what eventually brought the pen in the preserve.

Starbird the burro was difficult on her best days but through our training and time together we had developed a bond and partnership but even with that bond I knew I needed help. Within minutes of her getaway I called a friend who was a steward of the preserve and with her help we got a hold of other stewards and the preserve manager. A call came in that she was spotted near Granite Mountain trailhead and the search was on.

I posted on Facebook for help-the post was shared over 3,000 times. Multiple groups and associations shared the information and on Sunday morning I witnessed no less than 50 horsemen and women, hikers, cyclists, and concerned citizens swarm down upon Granite Mountain trailhead to help track down Starbird the now missing burro. There were many of my friends who had shown up and came from all over the state: Mesa, San Tan Valley, Queen Creek, Wittman, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Rio Verde, Tucson, and even Yuma. There were many more strangers-people I had never met who I found all of the sudden just as vested and concerned in my missing pack-partner as I was. Horses went up and down the trails as their riders held lariats tightly in their hands. Cyclists zipped and zoomed through the trails trying to catch a glimpse of her. Hikers poked into every crevice and canyon. Spotters sat on hillsides with binoculars, glassing the land for a flash of brown or two long ears. Other burros and donkeys were brought in to bray, honk, hoot-and-holler in hopes she would answer.



So often the horse community seems so fractioned between breeds, disciplines, and training styles. I've dabbled in many of the equine coteries and have seen first-hand some of the dividing attitudes within our hobby. That Sunday (and following Monday and Tuesday) you would never know the quarter horse reiner from the week warrior trail rider, the English eventer from the ropers as everyone gathered with the same goal: bring Starbird home. It's a day I often like to reflect upon during these times of chaos when our world can seem so divided. A reminder of how wonderful the equine community can truly be and

how important organizations such as the Rio Verde Horsemen's Association are for support, help, and community.

Despite the best of efforts and a few sightings Starbird did not come home that weekend. She was spotted and I was able to trail her a few times but my hiking was no match for her surefootedness over the desert landscape. With the help of Arizona Equine Rescue Organization (AERO) and the wonderful cooperation of the preserve manager we have our strongest plan of attack set up and waiting: a pen in the preserve, stocked with food and water. Now it is simply a waiting game for her to finally come back home.

**UPDATE:** Just a few days after this article was written, the following happened...

After herculean efforts by all those involved, after 6 months and 2 days, after countless hours of waiting, after countless days of hope followed by hopelessness, after pulling together hundreds in and out of the equine community, after infrequent sightings and scattered pictures... **Starbird the burro is home.**

The list of thank yous is longer than any one person probably cares to read in a sitting, however, I want to pull some names/organizations out. I know not everyone is mentioned by name in this quick list and I apologize. I recognize all the individual efforts people put in: from staying at the trailers to organize searchers, to driving up from cities such as San Tan Valley, Benson, and Yuma, to riding the trails all these months in search of her and offering a stall for Starbird if I needed it once she was caught.

A huge thank you for Arizona Equine Rescue Organization (AERO) for the extended use of their panels and game camera: we had the bait/catch pen and camera set up for exactly 6 months. For a majority of that time Starbird never visited the pen even when it was stocked with food and water. On July 20th we finally had some luck as the camera caught her in the pen! She stayed for a while, eating. Unfortunately, she stayed away until the 27th where a switch flipped and her visits began to form a pattern. Additionally, AERO assembled the night of August 3rd to help extract Starbird from the preserve using slide boards, a pick up, and lots of manpower.

A huge thank you to my Grandpa who is an avid wildlife hunter and former Game and Fish employee who tirelessly drove his ranger in to haul water to the pen, haul me into the pen during summer to leave food, sat with me for over 25 hours waiting for her to show up in the pen, kept my spirits up while waiting, and, most importantly, pulled the rope that closed the pen.

A huge thank you to Dr. Keyser at Chaparral VMC who, aside from being an amazing vet, came out to sedate and anesthetize Starbird so we could get her out of the preserve and on her way home. Starbird recognized her and was extremely calm and friendly, a role model patient for the best equine veterinarian I know.



*After herculean efforts by all those involved, after 6 months and 2 days, after countless hours of waiting, after countless days of hope followed by hopelessness, after pulling together hundreds in and out of the equine community, after infrequent sightings and scattered pictures...  
**Starbird the burro is home.***

A huge thank you to Scott Hamilton and John Loleit from the City of Scottsdale and McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Scott graciously helped us with moving every cogwheel in this machine. He was hands on with the pen, with loading her out, and helping us with water/food. John made sure Starbird's water kept full as did the catchment for the wildlife. Their continuous support, kindness, and encouragement was helpful during the most trying of times.

Thank you to Miller Ranch: we had a nearby hub to base out of as we stored a ranger, water barrels, and burro bait food. They also had riders out looking for her.

Thank you to everyone who gathered back on that cold Sunday in February to help search for a missing burro. Thank you to those that helped in the following days and those who continued to keep up the hope and search. They carried the hope when I felt hopeless.

**My Starbird is finally home.**

## FRIDAY PIZZA

Submitted by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

*Lisa Darling, Kevin Neumann, Jeri and Terry Weeks, Michele and Mike Pitek, Kevin and Donna Campbell, Cherris Walton, Steve's sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Mike Flannery, Brian and Nicole Amarel and Karen Nabity. Steve Cherrier, back row, far left*



Several volunteers in the Rio Verde Foothills community gathered every Thursday and Friday in an effort to help feed their community during the COVID-19 pandemic with 100% of donation proceeds supporting a local food bank. It all started with a very caring and giving neighbor – Steve Cherrier.

Steve Cherrier is a former pizzeria owner and has been making pizzas for charitable causes for 15 years. Until the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he had been delivering pizzas every week for the past few years to the Foothills Food Bank, located in Cave Creek, Arizona, for needy families and food bank volunteers. Steve has a love for making pizza and developed a proprietary dough recipe. With the cases of COVID-19 increasing, a shut-down of many of our State's businesses and non-essential workers, Steve knew many people were losing their jobs, had decreased income, plus many local restaurants had limited takeout

*The best part was he knew he was helping individuals in our community who were struggling and at the same time helping to support our local food bank. He raised \$7,529 in generous donations from the Rio Verde Foothills community for the Foothills Food Bank. They also made pizza for our local Rural Metro Fire Department to thank the firefighters who work hard to protect and support our community.*

*KUDOS and THANK YOU to Steve Cherrier and Lisa Darling for welcoming these volunteers in their home every Thursday and Friday and for the kindness and friendship you have shown to so many in our community. None of this could have happened without the amazing volunteers who joined in on the fun: Lisa Darling, Kevin Neumann, Jeri and Terry Weeks, Michele and Mike Pitek, Kevin and Donna Campbell, Cherris Walton, Steve's sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Mike Flannery, Brian and Nicole Amarel and Karen Nabity. Steve Cherrier, the Friday Pizza volunteers.*

options. Steve wanted to help feed his Rio Verde Foothills community and help alleviate the increasing burden on the Foothills Food Bank. Steve began his initiative by posting a notice on March 26, 2020, through social media on the Rio Verde Foothills Bulletin Board, a local Facebook page. Pizza orders were sent to Steve's phone via text message. By Friday evening, he had made 22 pizzas and raised \$366! FRIDAY PIZZA was a go!!

After that first night, Steve realized if he wanted to produce more pizzas during the dinner hour, it would help to have more ovens. Steve then purchased one more commercial pizza oven, a commercial dough proofer for all the dough and 50 more pans to hold the dough balls, once made, to rise in the refrigerator and proofer... all for this fundraising effort. Volunteers were enlisted to help make pizzas in his home every Thursday and Friday to fulfill the increasing orders. For 14 weeks they advertised their free pizza on the community board and week after week, sold all available order times before Friday! With the extra oven they were able to bake up to 60 pizzas in 2 ½ hours!! He also spent hours each week shopping for ingredients. Every Thursday morning Steve made the batches of dough as volunteers helped work it into balls that were placed into individual containers to rise overnight. By Friday it was time to work and have fun doing it! Steve needed a few hours of prep time before volunteers arrived to ready the toppings to go onto the pizzas, along with the placing of signage for pickups and setting up for assembly! To respect social distancing, pizza pickup times were spread out over the course of a Friday evening.

Friday Pizzas was such a huge success, Steve and his volunteers worked hard to keep up with the increasing demand. The best part was he knew he was helping individuals in our community who were struggling and at the same time helping to support our local food bank. He raised \$7,529 in generous donations from the Rio Verde Foothills community for the Foothills Food Bank. They also made pizza for our local Rural Metro Fire Department to thank the firefighters who work hard to protect and support our community.

Steve Cherrier and his volunteers are looking forward to continuing this new tradition in September 2020 when he returns home to Arizona from his summer residence.

Some fun facts!

Ingredients needed for this initiative:

Flour.....	250 lbs.	Cheese.....	250 lbs.
Sauce.....	210 lbs.	Sausage.....	40 lbs.
Pepperoni.....	40 lbs.	Onions.....	20 lbs.
Mushrooms.....	15 lbs.	Sun Dried Tomatoes.....	15 lbs.
Artichokes.....	10 lbs.	Raspberry Chipotle Sauce.....	2 lbs.
Pesto.....	5 lbs.		

# Mini Tales

Encouraging reading and promoting literacy, one story at a time.

By Terry Holmes-Stecyk



*Congratulations to our RVHA president, Terry Holmes-Stecyk and Tender Little Hearts Mini Tales!*

*Terry was awarded first place in the Arizona State, SW Division and at National level for Outstanding Service by a Member in Literacy Promotion by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).*



Are you looking for an interesting reading opportunity for your children, grandchildren or students?

Reading to our miniature horses and donkey is now just a click away!

Tender Little Hearts Mini Tales strives to bring reading opportunities to those who would benefit from the interaction with a therapy animal. By using our miniature therapy horses and donkey to encourage readers, we provide a safe, empowering environment to spur on literacy growth.



Together, we can inspire readers to develop new confidence in reading, giving them the opportunity to unfold their imagination, gain new knowledge and stretch their confidence in what they can accomplish.

Our equine assisted 501c3 programs offer a literacy promotion program for young readers where we bring our mini horses and donkey to libraries and schools so that children can read to them. This unique experience is intended to build confidence in young readers because after all, a diminutive equine isn't going to pass any judgement but will simply "listen."



This program has been put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, but our founder imagined creating the experience virtually through a video where young readers can read to her minis and donkey through the internet. She has already teamed up with local libraries and has great plans for this

video to be enjoyed by home schooled children and all young readers everywhere who are at home during this time.

Our friends, Ritchie Fliegler and Leslie Nichols, created this fabulous video for us. It's a 10-minute video so that the young readers have ample time to read to them, but it is an awesome video, if we do say so ourselves. Please enjoy! <https://www.tenderlittlehearts.org/read-to-a-mini.html> Feel free to share this virtual reading link with friends, teachers, home school groups, and children's organizations.

Prefer to do a one on one session? You can also book a LIVE Zoom session. Choose a book and enjoy up close reading time with one of our minis. Email us at [tenderlittleheartsaz@gmail.com](mailto:tenderlittleheartsaz@gmail.com) to book a private reading session. You'll receive your Zoom meeting number and password for a LIVE Zoom session for you and your child.

Tender Little Hearts, Mini Tales and Facilitated Equine Mini Therapy, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, is located in our Rio Verde Foothills area. If you'd like to learn more about us, or are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact 480-318-3281. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Making friends, warming hearts, sharing smiles and spreading joy, one tender little heart at a time.**

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

By Carmela Lizzo



*Recent fires have made it all too apparent that we need to be ready in case of emergency. Are you ready? Do you have a plan? Do you have a go bag ready? If the answer to any of these questions is, "No." you need to read this article and make some preparations. NOW!*

The number one action that you can take to defend your home is to create defensible space!

1. Clear a 30 foot - 50-foot-wide space around your home, free from weeds and dry brush. Trim tree branches away from your home, remove wood piles.

2. Check fire extinguishers and add them to strategic locations around your property.

3. Keep fire tools handy - rake, axe, bucket, shovel, hose, fire extinguisher.

4. Do not forget your roof - sweep off any leaves, pollen, or other dry debris. One spark igniting dry pollen can set your roof on fire.

5. If you do not have a Rural Metro Fire Subscription, *please* consider getting one. If your house is on fire and you do not have a subscription, you will be sent a bill for their services (it is not inexpensive). You can schedule a property survey with one of the firefighters by calling Luther Moorhead at 480-606-3398. They will come out and do a visual inspection and assess the steps you can take to protect your property. Rural Metro also provides Emergency Services and Rattlesnake Removal.

6. Check with your insurance company to make sure that your policy is up to date and covers appropriate replacement value. Also check with them to see if they will process your claim without a Rural Metro subscription.

7. Drive alternate routes from your house so you are familiar with the area and possible escape roads/trails.

8. Make sure your address is visible from the road.

9. Take videos/pictures of your personal belongings or household item, along with valuables, back up the pictures/video to the cloud/Amazon Prime or your phone carrier.

## **All-Hazard Evacuation Steps: Ready, Set, Go**

### **READY**

**Sign up** for the Rio Verde Horseman's Association Emergency Alerts. Enter your phone number, name and carrier. Visit [www.rvha-az.com](http://www.rvha-az.com) and click on RVF alerts tab. You will receive a text in the event of fire, evacuation, road closures. On Facebook, join the following groups: RVHA, Arizona Foothills 911, Rio Verde Foothills Bulletin Board. These groups will give you up to the minute info on fires/emergencies/road closures

**Download** the website [www.ein.az.gov](http://www.ein.az.gov) for current emergency area information.

**Make** a family evacuation and communication plan that includes family phone numbers, out-of-town contacts and family meeting locations. Keep in mind physical distancing recommendations, wearing face coverings or other public health recommendations.

**Plan** for livestock, they may need to be evacuated. Set up a relocation spot in advance. Make sure your horses will load into a

trailer, as they may need to be left behind if they cannot load. Have a dog tag, small luggage tag or other ID (vet marker/write your number on their hoofs) ready to braid into their manes or tails. Note: Westworld is available in the event of an evacuation (depending on availability). All horses need current shots and health certificates. Current rates will apply.

**Build** an emergency go kit with enough food, water and necessary supplies for at least 72 hours. Include supplies to help keep you and your family healthy, such as face coverings, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes. Start with the five Ps; **people and pet supplies, prescriptions, papers, personal needs and priceless items.**

**Know** your neighbors and check with them, family, friends and elders through video chats or phone calls to ensure they are READY.

### **SET**

**Be Alert!** Residents should consider voluntarily relocating to a shelter or with family/friends outside the affected area. Residents should avoid close contact with those who are sick and should practice public health recommendations when relocating. Grab your emergency go kit. *This might be the only notice you receive. Emergency services cannot guarantee they will be able to notify everyone if conditions rapidly deteriorate.* **Be SET to GO.**

### **GO!**

**Evacuate!** Danger in your area is imminent and life threatening. Residents should evacuate immediately to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area. Residents should avoid close contact with those who are sick and should practice public health recommendations when relocating. Follow instructions from emergency personnel, stay on designated evacuation routes and avoid closed areas. **If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand emergency services may not be able to assist you further.**

#### ***Remember the 5 Ps of Evacuation***

**People and Pets** and other animals/livestock and supplies.

**Prescriptions** with dosages, medicines, medical equipment, vision and hearing aids, batteries and power cords, face coverings, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

**Papers** including important documents (hard copies and/or electronic copies saved on external hard drives or thumb drives), insurance papers, contacts.

**Personal Needs** including clothing, water, baby supplies, food, cash, credit cards, first aid kits, phones, and chargers (solar chargers), flashlights and extra batteries, bottled water, personal hygiene items, whistle, dust mask.

**Priceless items** including photos, irreplaceable mementos and other valuables.

*The SET alert might be the only notice you receive. Emergency services cannot guarantee they will be able to notify everyone if conditions deteriorate rapidly. Once you get the SET alert, be ready to GO!*

# “MASKATEERS” of the Rio Verde Foothills

By Terry Holmes-Stecyk



I think we can agree 2020 is one of the most difficult years we have faced in a long time. As we learned more about the COVID-19 virus, many businesses were forced to close in an effort to slow the progression of the pandemic. Masks and other personal protective equipment were becoming difficult to purchase, even for medical facilities. Many women’s organizations, quilting guilds and those who enjoyed sewing from across the country



responded to the need by initiating a grassroots effort to produce handmade facemasks to donate to medical staff and essential workers. Several ladies from our community also took up the call. A mask making project was launched in March by local resident and founder of Cherished Ones Angel Wear, Tara Novotny, in an effort to supply local medical staff with masks at hospitals. As more volunteers came



forward, more masks were sent to food banks and other businesses caring for others. Our RVHA president, Terry Holmes-Stecyk, teamed up with her Scottsdale DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Chapter and the combined efforts

produced and distributed over 2000 masks and 1250 ear savers and hair covers.

Our local Rio Verde Foothills Maskateers donations were sent to the Veterans Administration Hospital, AZ State Veterans Home, Allegiant Healthcare, Mayo Clinic, Honor Health Shea and Honor Health Thompson Peak Hospitals, the Navajo Nation, an Army Reserve Unit in Afghanistan, Fountain View Memory and Senior Care, Flagstaff Regional Hospital, Hospice of the Valley, Phoenix Rescue Mission, Florence Crittenton Girls Ranch, two veterinarian offices, a dental office, an obstetrician office plus many more were supplied to friends and family. Maskateer and local resident, Judy Taylor, states; “We know these are tough times for everyone, with most of us staying home to help stop the spread of this virus. However, we have several



*"I'm busy...very busy sewing. And dog tired. 12-18 hours a day. I am driven and determined. But sometimes I get so discouraged. There is so much demand, and I can only go without sleep for so long. On Easter, my dear friend gave me a precious gift I want to give each one of you. She asked me how many masks I've sewn. I told her. Then based on the rate of transmission of the disease I was to multiply it by 13. I did. That, she said, is the actual number of people I have helped. The number blew my mind. Have I really??? Now I want each of you to add up your numbers. What a gift to know how many potential people we have given service too. I cried. And went back to my sewing."*

local residents working in healthcare related fields and we wanted to do whatever we could to help take care of them, their coworkers, and others on the front line of this health crisis."

I found this profound post on a Facebook page dedicated to mask making efforts across the country. "I'm busy...very busy sewing. And dog tired. 12-18 hours a day. I am driven and determined. But sometimes I get so discouraged. There is so much demand, and I can only go without sleep for so long. On Easter, my dear friend gave me a precious gift I want to give each one of you. She asked me how many masks I've sewn. I told her. Then based on the rate of transmission of the disease I was to multiply it by 13. I did. That, she said, is the actual number of people I have helped. The number blew my mind. Have I really??? Now I want each of you to add up your numbers. What a gift to know how many potential people we have given service too. I cried. And went back to my sewing."



Our mask total to date is  $2056 \times 13 = 26,728$ . These are the potential people we have given service to through our mask making efforts. Kudos to all our ladies and their families who gave hours of their time washing, ironing, cutting and sewing yards and yards of fabric and elastic. Cutting and sewing buttons on elastic for ear savers. THANK YOU to our local residents and friends for giving your time, supplies and talents to serve so many others.

**Maskateers:** Tara Novotny, Joan Maceyko, Joyce Schopfer, Anita Schneider, Annalie Badenhorst, Donna Kelley, Lisa Goettsche, Pam Newton, Judy Taylor and Terry Holmes-Stecyk.

**Ear Savers and other PPE items:** Nancy Hollinger, Jamie Hagan, Annalie Badenhorst, Casey Chevront, Aline LaForge, Judi Hughes, Pamela Newton and Ann Hodgkins.

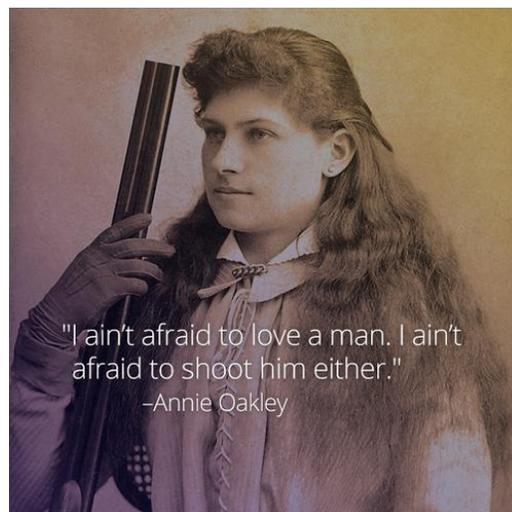
# YOU MIGHT BE AN RVHAOT\*\* IF YOU.....

By Carmela Lizzo



\*\* *Rio Verde  
Horseman's Association  
Old Timer*

- Have been to the RVHA Burger Night at Greasewood Flat
- Yielded for cows on your way home from work
- Closed the gate at 136<sup>th</sup> and Dove Valley that crossed the cattle guard
- Ate a burger at the Cook Shack
- Think BLM stands for Bureau of Land Management
- Rode in Della Vella's Poker Run
- Attended an RVHA event at the Box Bar Ranch
- Met Doc, Nena Henry, George Williams and Carla or know who they are
- Made a call using the Telephone Tree
- Enjoyed The Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Station
- Walked the actual remaining homestead of Brown's Ranch
- Know where the original "Ti\*\*ie Rock was and where it is now
- Hiked to the Rio Verde Hermit's Hideout
- Saw motorcycles in the Preserve
- Were on the RVHA Greasewood ride that went down the "horse trail" on Jomax next to the sidewalk
- Ate a steak at Reata Pass or Pinnacle Peak Patio
- Picked your phone number with Midvale Telephone
- Your building permit was approved in 2 weeks
- And the application was only 5 pages long
- Heard the jeep tours during their target practice demo
- Participated in the first (and second) Fire District effort
- Witched your own well
- Showed up to protest the first Scottsdale National at the City of Scottsdale Council meeting
- Your closest neighbor was a mile away
- Were here for the Rio Fire
- Fenced the cows out to keep them off your land
- Were an RVHA member along with only 99 other residents



# Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

*Saving our wildlife, one life at  
a time!*

By Ruth Kaplan



*Educational and humane  
scientific research  
opportunities are offered in  
the field of conservation  
medicine, including advice  
on living with wildlife and  
the importance of native  
wildlife to healthy  
ecosystems.*



Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center is often referred to as "Arizona's best-kept secret."

Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center (SWCC) rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced, and orphaned. Once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. Sanctuary is provided to animals that cannot be released back to the wild.

Educational and humane scientific research opportunities are offered in the field of conservation medicine, including advice on living with wildlife and the importance of native wildlife to healthy ecosystems.

We are proud of our contribution to the recovery of an endangered species – the Mexican gray wolf. As a holding facility, we offer space at our sanctuary to care for part of the captive population of this rare wolf and participate as a member of the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP).



We are open to the public by **appointment only** for guided tours.

**Book your tour today at**

**[www.southwestwildlife.org](http://www.southwestwildlife.org)**

**Southwest Wildlife Conservation  
Center**

**27026 N. 156th St**

**Scottsdale, AZ 85262**

**Wildlife Emergencies: 480-433-5656**



# Foothills Ramblings

By Linda Vinson



One of my favorite things about living in the Rio Verde Foothills is the easy access to both the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve and the Tonto National Forest. I go to them to walk, but you can also ride a horse, a mountain bike, run the trails, or on the Tonto, ride a motorcycle. The Scottsdale preserve is closed to all motorized vehicles.

During the summer temperatures climb and hiking in the desert becomes a dangerous activity. My hiking in the Valley comes to a halt, but once in a while my husband and I make a break for higher ground and hike there. One of my favorite places to go is Walnut Canyon National Monument.



Walnut Canyon is a short drive – about 20 minutes – east of downtown Flagstaff. To get there, head east on I40 to exit 204. Turn right onto Walnut Canyon Road and follow the signs to the visitor's center.

The Island trail is short, a one-mile round trip, and takes you from the top of the canyon down to the level where the Sinagua people lived in rooms built into the side walls of



the canyon. The canyon walls look much like someone came along with a giant ice cream scoop and hollowed out long, open caves in places. The Sinagua people, built walls along the fronts of those open caves to form rooms with living rock for ceilings and floors.

The water source is a stream that runs at the bottom of the canyon, some 200 feet below the level where people lived. (And we think we have water delivery problems!) As you can see in the photos, there were homes built into both sides of the canyon. A visit to the neighbors involved a bit of work. As a mother to active boys, I could only imagine what it took to keep children alive in that environment.

Things to know when you go: The Island trail, while short involves lots of stairs. You will lose, then gain some 200-300 feet in elevation in a short time. The trail is at about 7,000 feet in elevation. The air is thin, you will tire sooner and you will be thirstier than you expect. Some of the ruins are open to explore, some are look-but-don't-touch. Please respect the posted signs.

If you are hungry on your way back through Flagstaff but feel a bit grubby for one of the nicer places, remember, the burgers at Bun Huggers are good, but the fried zucchini and mushrooms are AWESOME!



# What's Happening at the Preserve?

By Jenny Powers,  
Photos by Dennis Eckel

As you may imagine, COVID-19 restrictions have impacted most activities and events at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. However, trails are open to hikers, bikers and equestrians and the patrol stewards are still active on the trail to engage visitors, offer assistance and answer questions.

## **Watch for New Signs!**

The Pathfinder Stewards are temporarily sidelined by COVID-19 restrictions. These are the helpful stewards at the trailheads who greet visitors, offer advice and assist in identifying the best routes to meet the trail users' goals. While not active at the trail heads currently, Pathfinders have been active in soliciting input from Patrol stewards on favorite routes for trail users. The information gathered has been condensed into trail recommendations for short, medium or long hikes, bike rides and horseback rides. Trail descriptions include distance, elevation changes and type of terrain, level of difficulty, cautions and any unusual or interesting facts about the trails. These signs will help fill the gap while Pathfinders are not able to provide recommendations to trail users. Watch for new signs coming to trail heads soon!

## **Did You Know?**

If you have visited the Granite Mountain Trailhead you have probably noticed horseshoes lining the road within the horse staging area. Local stewards solicited donations of used horseshoes from the Rio Verde Foothills Community on behalf of the trailhead architects. The response was incredible, and stewards collected hundreds of horseshoes used in the design of the staging area and for future projects. The horseshoes indicate the direction of travel (clockwise) and guides entry

to packing spaces that allow the tow vehicle to park on pavement while the horse trailer is on gravel. This arrangement facilitates the safe unloading of horses on a non-slip surface. Please take time to note the wide range of horseshoe sizes from pony size to draft horse size!

## **Pima Dynamite Trailhead Construction Starting Soon**

On July 1, 2020, the City Council approved the construction contract for the Pima Dynamite Trailhead. The contract with Path Construction Southwest, LLC. has been signed, and the project is moving into the early phase of construction. The project has an 11-month construction period, with anticipated completion in summer 2021.

The project will begin with the process of salvaging the native plants from the site, which is best done during the warm season while plants



are actively growing. The large native trees and cacti will be salvaged by the contractor and the smaller cacti will be salvaged by our stewards and the City's Preserve staff. As has been done successfully on prior Preserve trailhead construction projects, the small cacti will be dug up and planted in a temporary nursery and then replanted into the finished landscape at the end of the project. These plants are small, but are important to the desert ecosystem as they support other native species, including pollinators.

When the native plant salvage process is completed, the project will move into the phase of site grading, underground utility construction, and construction of the main parking lot, equestrian parking/staging area, and the restroom/office building.

#### **Need a Break?**

If you need a brief respite from these unusual and sometimes stressful times, check out the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy *60 Seconds in the Sonoran Desert* series! There are currently 14 segments of photography in the series and a new segment is added each week. The photos provide a glimpse into life in the desert featuring flora, fauna and geographical features. Give yourself a chance to pause and refresh by visiting

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQcZm9PDF9pwU6vwPHRRtPK1Wz06nZBIJ>

#### **15 Minutes of Fame**

For the first time in the history of the publication, the *Mountain Lines* magazine representing the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy featured an article on equestrians in the Preserve. The



article was accompanied by photos of current, active equestrian stewards taken during a professional photoshoot in May. You may access the magazine at

<https://www.mcdowellsonoran.org/2020/mountain-lines-summer-2020>

If you are interested in becoming an equestrian steward, please contact me at [jpowers@gorvw.net](mailto:jpowers@gorvw.net). We have several RVHA members who are stewards and welcome additions to our team.

We are fortunate to have the McDowell Sonoran Preserve at our doorstep. Take advantage of the vast trail system, the education available on the website, and the beauty of the Sonoran Desert while getting outdoors and enjoying the plants and animals sharing the desert with us.

*Public access to the Pima Dynamite Trailhead will be uninterrupted during construction. The temporary gravel parking lot will stay open while the permanent parking lot is constructed. Once the permanent parking lot is complete, public parking will be relocated there.*