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February 2014

The Prez says, *“Tucson is the happening place this month!”* On behalf of the Countryside Valley HOA Board of Directors, I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful welcome to spring. This is one of a series of bimonthly newsletters to help keep you up-to-date on important information regarding our neighborhood and community. We hope you find it useful. If you are new to our neighborhood, welcome.

- **We Want You!** Well, we want your email address. The Board wants to improve communication lines with residents and homeowners. So, please take a moment to leave your email address at info@countrysidevalleyhoa.com. Thank you for helping us get information to you in a timely manner.
- **Updated Website:** Recently, the Board hired a Webmaster to update the Countryside Valley website. While it is still not considered finished, it does provide some information that may be useful. We encourage everyone to visit the site and review the CC&Rs that govern our community.
- **WinterWonderland:** The Board would like to thank everyone who made the community look festive during the Christmas holidays. It really made driving through the neighborhood a sight to behold. Now that Christmas is over, it is time to take down the lights.
- **Road Conditions:** As we can easily see, our roads are beginning to show their age. The goal is to save enough money to have the roads in Countryside Valley completely redone. However, that is a very costly project. We have just reached the \$100,000 mark in the bank that, hopefully, will allow the work to be done in two years. In the meantime, the Board will continue to identify potholes as they arise and repair them ourselves to save money.
- **Lessing Lane History:** Speaking of roads, the Arizona Daily Star does a weekly column that focuses on the people for whom the streets in Tucson are named. I thought it would be nice to give a little background information about the streets in Countryside Valley. Little did I know when we moved here in 1990 that all of the streets in this neighborhood were named after authors. Of course, I had heard of some guy named Twain, but I was unaware of the others; Ferber, Lessing, and Fitzgerald. So, beginning with this newsletter and continuing with the next three, I will share a little information about the people for whom our streets are named.

Lessing Lane was named after **Doris Lessing**, a Nobel Prize winning author from England. She was born Doris Mary Tayler in 1919 in Persia, now known as Iran. Lessing lived for some time in Zimbabwe as a child and began her writing career after moving to London. She married and divorced twice, but kept her second husband's (Gottfried Lessing) surname. She published her first novel in 1950, but became a feminist role model in 1962 with her book, *The Golden Notebook*. Over the years, Lessing wrote many works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and even opera. She was the oldest person to receive the Nobel Prize for literature at the age of 88 in 2007. When she was told of the award, she responded, “Oh, Christ... I couldn't care less.” Lessing recently died in 2013 in London. In the next newsletter, we will learn a little bit about the author Edna Ferber.

- **Dues:** Please remember that our monthly HOA dues are \$31. This is separate from the \$40 required by the Countryside Community Club. Our dues pay for a variety of things including maintenance of the common areas, roads repair, phone and electric for the front gate and light, maintenance and repair for the gate, postage, copies, legal fees, and other expenses. Dues can be paid by mail or Paypal online. There is a \$10 late fee if the dues are not paid by the last day of the month.
- **Open Sesame:** Anyone interested in getting a remote to the front gate can purchase one through **Alltech**. Call 747-4441 for more information.
- **Waste Management:** Waste Management agreed to offer Countryside Valley residents an extremely good rate for one recycling and two trash pick-ups per week and we are contracted to have **Waste Management as our sole provider** until the contract expires. **Therefore, no homeowner is permitted to retain trash services from any other vendor.**
- **Architectural Changes:** One of the things that we need to remember is that when we plan to paint our homes, add something permanent to our homes, or construct a structure in our yard, we need Board approval. While this may seem like an invasion of our privacy, it is required in our CC&Rs. So, **if you plan to make a change, or you have made a change without Board approval, please notify us as soon as possible.**
- **Friendly Reminders:** Members of the Board recently toured the neighborhood to assess the current condition of the homes and properties within Countryside Valley. After the walk, letters were written and will be sent to residents and owners who rent their homes to others. Please know these are friendly reminders that we are all responsible to maintain our homes to the highest standards. Residents will receive letters with deadlines to address the issue, most of which include weeds. Thank you for your time and financial effort in keeping up with the Countryside Valley CC&Rs.
- **Visitor Parking Passes:** As we know, parking on the streets in Countryside Valley is prohibited. The goal is that every resident utilizes their garage and driveway to accommodate all vehicles. However, guests do not always have the luxury of parking in driveways. Therefore, if you plan to have visitors for an extended stay, contact the Board and request a guest-parking pass. Again, these passes are for visitors, not residents who have more vehicles than the space available in the garage and driveway.
- **Drive Safely:** This is just a gentle reminder that the speed limit in CV is 15 m.p.h. Please drive slowly through the neighborhood as we are sharing the road with kids on bikes, pedestrians, and folks walking their dogs.
- **New Residents:** We want to welcome everyone who is new to the neighborhood! You have selected a great neighborhood in which to live. All of our Community Rules and Regulations are online at our website as well as other links that you may find helpful. **Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.**

Well, that is a lot of information in a small amount of space. The bottom line is we are all responsible for making our homes and community look their best whether we own or rent. If you have any questions or concerns, contact us at our voicemail number or email address. The next homeowner meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2014, at 7:00 at the CCC on Bald Eagle.

Respectfully,

Todd Autenreith - CVHOA