**Newcomer Information**

**Living in an HOA**

There are rules and regulations that we accept when we buy a house in an HOA. You can go to our website at sigegv.org to take a look at our CC&Rs (Conditions, Covenants, and Restrictions) in which you will find information about regulations involving parking, pets, paint colors, adding to your property, landscaping, etc.

**Living in the Desert**

Living in the desert means living with a variety of wildlife. It is a good idea to make sure garage doors and screen doors are closed to keep out snakes, centipedes, tarantulas, rats, lizards, etc. Gates should also be closed to prevent javelinas, coyotes, bobcats, and cougars from entering your backyard. In your front yard, you can put large rocks around the base of your plants to stop javelinas from eating the roots. Also, be aware of bees, hornets, and wasps and call a pest control company for help if needed.

Desert monsoons can be challenging. Be sure to monitor the forecasts. You do not want to get caught in a flash flood situation. If you do, watch out for dips in the road that might be full of rushing water. Desert heat can also be a problem. Be sure to have water with you at all times and stay hydrated. Many times, trips to urgent care or the ER are due to dehydration.

Take good care of your pets by making sure they are attended at all times. Even in your own backyard snakes, owls, hawks, coyotes, bobcats can attack. Keeping your pet leashed on a walk, controls encounters with javelinas, snakes, and cactus. It’s a good idea to have water for them to drink and a comb to get spines out of their paws. It is also a good idea to have a cell phone to call for help.

**Living in an Area New to You**

The library, the Green Valley-Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, and even the Green Valley News can help you get started in understanding how to find medical care. We have two small local hospitals: Santa Cruz Regional Valley Hospital and Northwest Medical Center Sahuarita. The Health Services Directory that is published annually might be helpful in finding doctors, dentists, home help care, etc. In addition to Fast-Trac Urgent Care, we are especially fortunate to have access to Dispatch Health which is a service that comes to your home for urgent needs.

Often newcomers are looking for opportunities to buy used furniture and/or household items. Places like the White Elephant, the Attic at the Animal League, Pinky’s, and Vensel’s Treasure Shoppe might work for you. Estate sales and items listed on nextdoor.com might also have what you need.