

CROSSROADS RANCH II

Issue 101

Property Owners Association Newsletter

November 2008



Photos compliments of Connie Tobia

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Web Site: www.crossroadranch.org

Pinyon Jays are busy socializing on the birdbath at Talking Ravens Ranch.

Meanwhile, a male Northern Flicker is busy contemplating the good life at Crossroads Ranch.

President's Report

By Brian Hague

A current topic of concern has been ATV use on Crossroads Ranch II roadways. After a great deal of discussion at the last board meeting, the Board voted 3 to 1 to send the vote to the Crossroads Ranch membership. The ballots will include the process for making changes in the CC&R's and a list of pro and con statements addressing ATV use on Crossroads Ranch II. Members should receive the ballots some time in December.

Sandy Stamper discussed the current status of the bylaw change ballot and the quorum and terms for board members ballot. All members should have received these ballots in the mail. At this point, the votes have not reached quorum and we encourage all members to return their ballots.

The 2009 operating budget was approved with a 20% increase to the annual membership dues. This increase was necessary to continue to maintain the Crossroads Ranch roadways.

The 2009 Nominating Committee was formed with Mick Supina as the chairperson. Linda Russell and Connie Tobia will be serving as members. If anyone is interested in running for the 2009 Board of Directors, please contact any one of these individuals or call the association phone number (928) 899-1524.

Mick Supina has volunteered to become the editor of the Crossroads Ranch II Newsletter. There will be change in format from printing and mailing a hardcopy of the newsletter to each resident to the posting of the newsletter on the Crossroads Ranch website – www.crossroadranch.org. If any resident does not have access to the internet, please contact Mick Supina or the Association. We want to thank Beth Worthington and Cathi Fitzpatrick for their hard work and dedication to the publication of the newsletter. We offer our gratitude to Mick for stepping up to take on this responsibility. ☀

Neighborhood Watch

Committee Report

By John Zienter

During the month of October, the Sims had their Jeep stolen from their residence while they were out of town. It was recovered in California and returned to them. The California authorities have taken fingerprints and are investigating the theft.

This should be a reminder to keep your property secured, and to be vigilant of strangers. ☀

Entrance Landscape

Committee Report

By Vera Leonard

The Entrance Landscape committee would like to welcome two new members, Carol and Allen Funderburgh. We sincerely appreciate their interest in our group and are looking forward to having them on our team.

I would like to thank Joanne Fay, Marianne Hamilton, Carol Funderburgh and Vince Tobia for weeding the hillside. Sprucing up for the winter has been our focus. The irrigation system has been drained and winterized. A winterizer, Ferti-lome, has been applied to all plants. This product promotes a better root system and increases winter hardiness. Hopefully these proactive steps will give our landscape a burst of color in the spring. ☀



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Nominating Committee Report

By Linda Russell

It's November and nomination time for Crossroads Ranch II POA Board of Directors. Board positions are for 1 or 2 years dependent on the outcome of the Bylaws ballot that will be finalized the end of the year. The term begins at the conclusion of the March 2009 Annual Meeting.

Property owners in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board and must agree to attend monthly Board meetings in Prescott. Board members are expected to ensure that the responsibilities of the POA are fulfilled. This may involve coordinating special projects with the various committees, reviewing and approving committee recommendations, and ensuring the POA's compliance with regulations and procedures. Administrative and financial management capabilities are always needed; project management skills are quite valuable to a smooth running Board; and most importantly, communication and interpersonal skills are indispensable!

Sounds like a lot? We use those skills every day in managing our households. Why not share some of that expertise with your neighbors? Property owners who wish to run should submit a brief biography (not more than one page). You should also submit a letter of interest that will help property owners learn more about how your election to the Board will impact the community, and your interests for the future of our community. This information will be shared with property owners to assist them in their voting decisions. This information should be sent, e-mailed or dropped off to a member of the Nominating Committee (see below).

Nominations must be received by **Friday January 9, 2009** in order to be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the January 16, 2009 Board Meeting.

This is a great opportunity to get involved, work together with your neighbors and help guide our association in the coming year.

2009 Nominating Committee:

Mick Supina, Chairperson
6000 W. Rambling Road
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 999-5228
swift96@commspeed.net

Connie Tobia
4200 W. Carriage Lane
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 713-4574
tobiarv@commspeed.net

Linda Russell
5900 W. Dillon Wash
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 999-1772
lindarussell@commspeed.net



Please join us for the
Crossroads Ranch
II Board Meeting
6:30 PM
Friday November
21st
WVFD Fire Station
15450 N. Williamson Valley Road
Prescott, AZ

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Social Committee Report

By *Connie Tobia*

tobiarv@commspeed.net 928-713-4574

The turnout for the **October's Road Cleanup Social** was fantastic! In no time at all ~ the roads were cleaned of trash and debris and everybody returned to the Tobia house for lunch.



Remember to mark your calendars for the **December Holiday Social** at the Gidden's on **Saturday December 13th**. **Toys for Tots** will be collected.

The **Crossroads Ranch Cookbook** is still available for sale from any of the Social Committee members. They make wonderful Christmas presents!! ☀



Crossroads Ranch Cookbook

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Crossroads Ranch KUDOS

BIG Kudos to **Vince Tobia** for his diligence and hard work at making the Crossroads Ranch II roadway islands beautiful and well maintained. Vince also cut down & cleared the dead tree near the mailboxes which was an eyesore. Thank you Vince! ☀



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Join Crossroads Ranch in the annual holiday tradition of providing nonperishable food items to the **Yavapai Food Bank**

Please bring your items to:
8300 W. Rambling Road
or call me and
I'll be happy to pick them up.
I'll deliver the items

Monday November 24th

Beth Worthington
worthylizard@commspeed.net
(928) 899-1259

Yavapai Food Bank and More!

By Beth Worthington

Crossroads Ranch has often collected items for Yavapai Food Bank but what is this place exactly? First, it's a Food Distribution Center with an On-site Pantry. Second, it's a Food Support Center for other service agencies. Third, it's a non-government funded 501(c)3 Non-Sectarian Charitable Organization and lastly, it is all managed by volunteers, community service workers, and contract staff.

The Yavapai Food Bank's goal for the last 15 years has been to end hunger and malnutrition in Yavapai County. Their location is at 8866 E. Long Mesa Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 (928) 775-5255 and their hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They do have a website – www.yavapaifoodbank.org to let you know all the special events, food drop-off locations and items they need.

The food items that are always in need:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| * Canned Vegetables | * Canned Fruit |
| * Fruit Juice | * Soups & Stews |
| * Dried Pasta | * Spaghetti & Sauce |
| * Rice | * Beans |
| * Cold Cereals | * Graham Crackers |
| * Saltine or Ritz Crackers | * Canned Tuna |
| * Canned Meat | * Peanut Butter |

Special Holiday Items needed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| * Stuffing | * Pickles |
| * Potatoes (boxed or fresh) | * Jell-O |
| * Yams or Sweet Potatoes | * Brown Sugar |
| * Cranberries | * White Sugar |
| * Black Olives | * Eggs |
| * Canned Pie Fillings | * Margarine |
| * Fresh Pies | |

Yavapai Food Bank is much more than just food though and also has a Needful Things distribution center which is also at the same address on Long Mesa Drive. Clothing and personal hygiene products are always welcome. These items then are free to anyone with a Yavapai Food Bank approved application and card. Call the YFB office at (928) 775-2555 for the best time to drop off donations.

The Long Mesa Drive location is 6,000 square feet so it is consolidating the Food Bank, Needful Things and their Computer Training Center. Items such as cabinets, warehouse shelving, evaporative coolers, a delivery vehicle, and an electric forklift are all needed. The Computer Training Center provides community education classes free to anyone with a YFB approved application and card.

Due to the economy, the Yavapai Food Bank has had a 60% drop in support this year. One way in which they're trying to generate more funds is that they have

their location on Spouse Drive in Prescott Valley up for sale. They're hoping this will sell soon to provide the funds necessary to finish renovation of their new building. With real estate in the doldrums though, the outlook is dismal so monetary donations are also needed. If you'd wish to donate money instead of food, you may send it to:

Yavapai Food Bank
P.O. Box 4151
Prescott, AZ 86302

You may also make credit card donations by calling (928) 775-5255 or going online to their website.

They are having a variety of fundraisers with the *Letter Carriers' Food Drive* coming up on Saturday November 22nd and the *Flying High Turkey Drive* Monday November 24th. November 1st to December 23rd, they have *Be An Angel – Create a Christmas* in which you help needy children and families. For more information on these events please check their website or call.

Another fundraising event is a CD that's available to purchase online. The band, Natural High (popular in the 1970s), has provided 3 original recordings that you may purchase for \$3 with 100% profit from the proceeds going to the Yavapai Food Bank. You may also purchase the CD at the Food Bank for \$5.

Food for thought, so please join me in the Crossroads Ranch November Food Drive. Just drop non-perishable food items off at my home, 8300 W. Rambling Road by Monday November 24th and I'll deliver it to the Yavapai Food Bank. You're also welcome to call or email and I'll be happy to come pick them up. ☀

Starting January 2009,
The Crossroads Ranch II
Newsletter
will only be offered
online at:

www.crossroadranch.org .

If you do not have
internet access & wish to
receive a hard copy
version
in the mail, please
contact:

Mick Supina
(928) 999-5228

Ten Life Lessons from Phineas Grosbeak

by Margaret Cottrell

I was refilling the bird feeders when I saw him. Wedged among the rocks, he was a casualty of our living room window, his subtle orange breast and black and white flecked wings a silent testimony to the frailty of nature. With heavy heart I bent to pick him up, but as my fingers gently wrapped his silky feathers he let out a deafening squawk that told me exactly what he thought of my burial plans. Out of my grasp, he scrambled across the rocks, managed to catch a bit of air, but clearly was not up to the task of flying. Neither was he able to stand, and when he made the attempt, his little legs stuck out stiffly behind him and he just sort of fell over like a defective toy. What had begun as a burial mission turned into a rescue mission and when I finally enclosed him in my hands, his beak clamped onto one of my fingers with the intensity of a vise, tearing my eyes. This was one bird who would not go gently into that good night.

Over the next week I nursed this little bird and each day it seemed, I learned something new from this valiant fellow. As a wise Pooh once told Piglet, "My very favorite things are small things..." But the lessons they teach us are very big, indeed.

#10 Never give up; Never surrender!

I felt sympathy for this little guy who had lost some of his faculties and was now about to lose his freedom as well. But into my bucket he went, propped up by a soft towel so he didn't fall over. If he thought he was in dire straits, he didn't let on. He had a feisty, indomitable spirit that never faltered and he took every opportunity to attack my fingers with his beak!

*Blackheaded
Grosbeak
similar to
Phineas*



#9 Experts can be wrong.

I had the bird, now what? My first call was to Louisa, a vet tech at the Animal Care Clinic on Sheldon. She's a bird rescue person and I had consulted her a few months back when I had a baby bird without a nest. Unfortunately, Louisa was already gone for the day. My next call was to Heritage Park Animal Sanctuary. They were, as usual, friendly and helpful, but their prognosis for my little patient was grim. If he wasn't recovered by now, he probably wouldn't recover, and he might be sick, rather than stunned. It would be best to...you know. I was in no rush to...you know, so we settled in for the night. Besides, he was happily eating rice bran from my tweezers and drinking water from my syringe so I figured he wasn't sick and we would just wait on...you know.

#8 Get another opinion.

(One that agrees with yours!)

The next morning, I took my handsome guy into see Louisa. He didn't take Louisa's examination lying down! He squawked and attacked her fingers with the vigor of a hawk (See life lesson #1). "Concussion" was her diagnosis, when no discernable injury could be found. His little brain was swollen and was on vacation. It could take days, even weeks, for a full recovery. "But he WILL recover?" I asked. She hedged, "Hopefully."

#7 Know who you're dealing with.

Back home I consulted my bird book. I knew I had a bird a feisty, orange-ish bird with a strong beak but that was the extent of it. Surprisingly, my book didn't categorize birds by any of those attributes. I thumbed through the pages and finally found the picture I sought on page 400. Turns out, my bird was a black-headed Grosbeak, 8 inches from beak to tail, and, based on his coloring, not yet fully grown. The book termed him an "immature male" which seems redundant to me, but I knew what it meant. When my little guy reached his manly potential he would be a brilliant tangerine orange and breaking little girl Grosbeaks' hearts. I just hoped he would make it.

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Paul Glinski (928) 999-8427

Continued on page 7

#6 Bananas are yummy and good for you, too!

The book said Grosbeaks eat seeds, nuts, and fruit. I surveyed what I had on hand appropriate for a toothless diner. Apples too hard. Nectarines too stringy. Bananas soft and mushy. I don't know if Grosbeaks ever stumble onto bananas in the wild, but since they're called "brain food," I figured we'd give it a go. My grosbeak loved, loved, LOVED bananas. And he did not "eat like a bird." He devoured bananas with the appetite of a gorilla. And for once, he stopped attacking my fingers.

#5 Names are important. Choose wisely.

After three days of no noticeable improvement, I feared my bird's rehab may take weeks and not days. And since I was getting tired of referring to him as "the bird," I decided it was time for a name. I considered my ancestry. My great grandfather was an Irishman who migrated to Texas from Ireland, married a southern lass, built a nest and raised his clutch. He was a teacher who made his fiddle sing and was, by all accounts, feisty and proud, (as the Irish usually are), although there is no record of him ever biting fingers. His name was Phineas.

#4 Focus on CAN, not can't.

By day 4, Phineas was finally showing improvement. He was starting to tuck his legs beneath him and he could maintain his balance for several seconds at a time. And his little feet had a grip like Velcro on wool. Periodically he would stretch and flap his wings. He ate enthusiastically and was less inclined to attack my fingers when I would set him upright. Phineas was becoming a bird once again. It was time to move him out of his bucket.

#3 If you fall off your perch, get back on.

The closest thing I have to a cage is a cat carrier, but with a few modifications, it worked fine. I put a sheet of foam on the bottom and covered that with a towel and then put a small branch inside for a perch. And in went Phineas. He was a quick learner and soon he was on the perch and falling off just like clockwork. But he never gave up. (See Life Lesson #1) Slowly, but surely, his time on the perch stretched into minutes before he would start to fall backward, as if a weight dragged his tail, and then, *plop* onto the towel. My heart sank with each failure, but Phineas would have none of my pity. Back on the branch he went. He was determined to be a bird again.

#2 If your attitude is 100%, the rest of you doesn't have to be.

By day 6, Phin was on the perch more than he was on the towel, but his balance still wasn't perfect. He compensated by being excellent at wing flapping. I put him on the back deck in the sun and in his quieter moments he would sit on his perch basking in the warmth...until he fell off. Other times, he would beat his wings madly and fling himself at the mesh of the carrier door totally baffled as to why he couldn't have his freedom when he could so clearly see it. I felt like I

was between the proverbial rock and a hard place. When I tucked Phin into bed that night, I told him *just one more day*. When day 7 came and went with his balance still not 100%, but his wing flapping more determined, I told him again, *one more day*. But Phineas was running out of patience and I was running out of days.

#1 Sometimes all you have is a wing and a prayer.

Or, in this case, 2 wings. And they were beating violently. I feared Phin would hurt himself for want of his freedom. By day 8, I had no choice. I took Phineas out back, near the bird feeders, and opened the carrier door. He took flight immediately and headed toward the nearest juniper. His landing was a bit rough and he teetered on the branch, stopping my heart, but he didn't tumble. Then, after a few fortifying breaths, he flitted to another branch and to another until he was at the top of the juniper, surveying the world before him.

And then I heard it, the single sweet note of his flight call. He'd been mute while in captivity, but now he sang like a bird. He sailed to the next juniper and repeated his awkward landing; made his way to the top and took flight again. I watched him for an hour, following in his wake until he was gone from my sight.

I like to think Phineas is winging his way to Mexico and that he's found a nice girl Grosbeak to share his journey and maybe prop him up if he needs it. I like to think that Phineas will spend the winter in a posh resort where the tourists feed the birds in spite of the signs asking them not to. And maybe he'll find a bit of banana off a breakfast plate. I like to think he'll avoid windows. And maybe, next spring he'll even make it home again. I like to think that because, the thing is, Grosbeaks don't come with guarantees and sometimes all you have is a wing and a prayer. But that's enough for a little feathered miracle. I think Phineas would agree. ☀



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Vice President: John Schneider
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Director: Dick Parks
Director: Bill Worthington

Please address all correspondence to Board Members via:
Crossroads Ranch II Property Owners Association
15407 N. Crossroads Ranch Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86305
Phone: 928-899-1524

Administrator/Secretary/Treasurer: Sandy Stamper

Committees & Chairpersons

Architectural Control — Paul Glinski
Communications — Beth Worthington
Entrance Landscaping — Vera Leonard
Finance — Sandy Stamper
Neighborhood Watch — John Zienter
Roads — Bob Brandt
Social — Connie Tobia

Communications Committee

Newsletter Editor - Beth Worthington
Bulletin Board – Beth Worthington
Web Master - Bill Ooms

Crossroads Ranch II Property Owners Association Notes

Newsletter Contributions:

This Newsletter accepts advertising, letters, and articles. Contact Beth Worthington (928) 899-1259 or email at worthylizard@commspeed.net for advertising which is 3 months for \$45, 6 months for \$80 and 12 months at \$120. Send pictures, letters and articles to Beth Worthington at 8300 W. Rambling Road, Prescott, AZ 86305. All material sent will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for publication.

See www.crossroadranch.org for more information & a color version of this newsletter.

Address Changes:

Please remember that it is the property owner's responsibility to notify the Association Administrator Sandy Stamper of any address changes. All changes should be mailed to the Association address or emailed to: sandystamper@commspeed.net.

Board of Directors Meeting Notice:

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors is the third Friday of every month. The meeting time is 6:30 PM at the WVFD Fire Station, 15450 N. Williamson Valley Road, Prescott, AZ (928) 717-2304. The Agenda will be posted on the Bulletin Board at least 24-hours prior to the meeting.

Emergency Calls:

When placing a call to 911 from a cellular phone at the ranch, state that you are in the Prescott area and then state what type of emergency you have. For non-emergency Fire or Medical help call the **Williamson Valley Fire Department at (928) 717-2304** or for Law Enforcement/Police help call the **Yavapai Sheriff's Department at (92) 771-3260**.

Split and Improvement Plan Approval:

All splits and improvements must be pre-approved by the Architectural Control Committee. Contact Paul Glinski at (928) 999-8427 or email him at pglinski@commspeed.net or drop-off plans at 8201 West Rambling Road. Consult the Architectural Guidelines for requirements.

Mailbox Assignments:

Contact the Association Administrator at the Association address above or email to sandystamper@commspeed.net. Requirements of property owner's are to have a Yavapai County assigned address for the specific lot and a building permit. A charge of \$5 is required for keys.