

# VERRADO PORCH LIGHT®

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERRADO ASSEMBLY - FOURTH QUARTER 2009

## Verrado® – Where Good Things Keep Happening

Verrado Assembly

No doubt, times are challenging right now for all of us. It feels like life is a bit out of balance as we all struggle to prioritize our limited time and resources. Our time with our families and friends feels like it's getting increasingly pinched against our growing responsibilities at the office and beyond...and it's overwhelming to put it mildly.

But it is during these challenging times that the neighborly spirit in Verrado shines, making many of us proud – and quite frankly, relieved – that we call this community home. From small but significant gestures that result in meaningful relationships and enhanced quality of life, Verrado neighbors take care of each other, especially in challenging times.



From making meals for friends who are exhausted from caring for a sick parent, to providing childcare to a nearby parent in a pinch, to helping a neighbor with a home repair project that needs an extra set of hands, these acts of kindness that we have come to accept as commonplace in Verrado are actually quite unique.

Not surprisingly, many of our residents are also giving on a larger scale to our community, impacting the lives of others locally and beyond during these challenging times. A few of these hometown hero stories are highlighted in this issue. The Soeby family who recently launched a new non-profit, Hope for Hypothalamic

Hamartomas. The Bender family who recently drove across country to support Water is Life. Brian O'Neal who teaches sport, character, and health to our community's youth through Excel Youth Sports. Mike DuBois, a retired firefighter who is committed to saving lives and helping others. Cub Scouts Pack 263 picking trash up on our community trails; and Verrado Youth Leadership® members who raised money for Relay For Life. And of course Relay For Life® of Buckeye – our community came together again this year in an extraordinary way to fight against cancer, raising significant spirits and dollars to support the American Cancer Society.

So while these times are challenging, it is important to take a moment and breathe a sigh of relief that we are living through these challenging times together in Verrado. Let's celebrate each other and our life in Verrado... good things keep happening here.



PAGE 4



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Brian O'Neal Teaches Youth and their Families the Gift of Sport
- 3 Coast to Coast Journey for Water Is Life
- 3 Firefighter of the Year Retires in Verrado
- 4 Relay For Life of Buckeye Works Toward Turning Hope Into a Cure
- 4 Cub Scout Pack 263 Family Hike and Trail Clean Up
- 5 Verrado Youth Leadership
- 5 Soeby Family Launches New Non-Profit
- 5 Put Your Money Where Your House is
- 6 Volleyball Club
- 6 What's Happening at the Club
- 7 Celebrations & Announcements
- 7 Buckeye Bookmobile
- 7 verrado.net tips
- 7 Welcome Verrado's First Hometown Doctor on Main Street



Check out [verrado.net](http://verrado.net) for more news.

**VERRADO ASSEMBLY:**

**CREATING UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VERRADO® NEIGHBORS TO ENGAGE AND CONNECT.**

# Brian O'Neal Teaches Youth and their Families the Gift of Sport

Brian O'Connor, Summit



Brian O'Neal has single-handedly changed the lives of hundreds of families in Verrado. He's done this by starting Excel Youth Sports – creating more time for families to be together, teaching hundreds of lessons to our youth about character, and improving the health of many through exercise!

It's not too often that you are around someone who constantly brings positive energy to life. But when I think of Brian O'Neal, I think of someone who lives life with a consistent smile on his face, always ready to share positive encouragement. From organizing a basketball team to chartering Excel Youth Sports, he is a man of passion, demonstrated with how he has grown youth sports in Verrado and the West Valley. Brian's ambition is to share the joys that sports can bring to children, as well as the life lessons it can provide and the character it can help build in adolescence. He is a man who loves with undeniable sincerity and generosity, and I am proud to have him as a friend and a neighbor.

Brian started Excel Youth Sports three years ago, even though his children weren't old enough to participate yet. It has grown from 64 to over 770 families participating. By saving families hours of commute time to other neighborhood leagues, he's allowed our youth to learn the valuable lessons sports can teach with their local peers. In addition, he's allowed the parents an opportunity to take an active part in their child's life by coaching or helping out. On any given Saturday, you'll see various sports being played at Walton Park with lots of cheering, high fives, and teaching going on – truly a community effort! Through his selfless work and initiative to create his dream, his legacy has benefited our community's most precious asset: our children.

Brian lives in Verrado with his wonderful wife Megan, daughters Alexis and Charlotte, and newest addition, Luke (see Celebrations & Announcements). Check out [www.excelyouthsports.com](http://www.excelyouthsports.com) for more information

## What is your vision for Excel Youth Sports? And how do you envision it helping the children of this community?

My vision is that every young athlete who enters our program will not only learn the correct fundamentals of the sport each season, but develop character and discipline each season so these young men and women will become positive influences in our community and the lessons learned through teamwork and athletics will also make them successful individuals off the field and court.

**"Brian's been a good friend for years, and I'm proud of the work he's doing through Excel Youth Sports. Brian and his team have provided a great opportunity for kids in our community to experience team sports in a setting that's competitive, yet fun and encouraging. I've been a coach with Excel since their first season, and I've enjoyed seeing the difference this is making in kids lives!" – Greg Rohlinger, Verrado Neighbor.**

## How have sports influenced your life? What is your sports background?

I grew up in a single parent family so sports were my security blanket. My self-esteem was not that big, but sports were my outlet and gave me confidence to set goals and see them through. I had the privilege of playing Division 1 basketball for Arizona State University and I want to

pass the lessons I've learned through basketball to my children and future young athletes.

## What are some great lessons you wish to teach our community through sports?

Losing is necessary and it doesn't humiliate a child if the parent reacts properly. The relationships you build on the field and court could last a lifetime. We've seen families become closer through Excel Youth Sports. It is also proven that sports brings the crime rate down by giving kids an outlet that they might not have otherwise. Sports help local businesses too. Kids get hungry after a big game and families don't want to let the fun experience end. We have had some local businesses support us and these have been a great partnerships; sponsorship has helped us put the money back into our league.

## What can parents do to help their child succeed in sports?

Encourage them to try them all and don't push them too hard into one. But once that young athlete catches the sport or sports he or she likes, find the right coaches and challenge them to give it their all. This is one thing we love about Excel Youth Sports; our coaches!

**"I know when my son Quinten looks back on his life 40 years from now, the time he spent playing ball in the Excel programs will be among his favorite memories in Verrado. The growth in his confidence and the team camaraderie have had a major influence on our whole family." – Chris Wass, Verrado Neighbor.**

## What is your family's favorite thing to do in Verrado? What do you like about Verrado?

My family and I love to go the parks when the weather is cool and the Village Sport & Health Club pool when it's warm. I really enjoy coaching my little daughter in soccer and seeing families come together on Saturdays; I also like playing basketball in the downtown Y league which we've won twice!

## Who is your favorite sports hero and why?

Magic Johnson. He always played with a smile on his face and just loved the game. I never saw him lose his temper, but just played with an unselfish, relentless attitude.

## Name your favorite attribute in a teammate.

Unselfish attitude. He or she doesn't complain about playing time or how many points he or she scored, but just gives it 100 percent and gets just as excited about their teammate's successes as their own.

## What neat/positive things have you experienced at Excel Youth Sports events/games?

I personally have built good relationships with the coaches and I love seeing parents sit together and go home together with their kids. I have seen a young athlete come into our program with a quality of shyness and leave the program with confidence and some friends. We have great parents who have been so supportive of Excel Youth Sports and that always makes my partners and I feel so humbled.



# Coast to Coast Journey for Water Is Life

Kristine Bender, Thayer Hill

9,605 miles. It is common for families to take road trips to see our spectacular country. But for our family, to drive this many miles on a trip with a purpose was an opportunity of a life-time. Our purpose was to share the WaterIsLife.com story with as many people as we could. The trip was designed as grass roots outreach to inspire others with the message that no matter what their passion, they can make a difference in the lives of others.



On August 3, we embarked on our cross-country journey from San Francisco passing thru Maine and into New Brunswick, Canada. Through friend and family connections we were able to present WaterIsLife.com's goal to provide a solution to the global pure water crisis. Our presentation venues and audiences were quite diverse. From Quaker Meetings and inner-city African American churches, to preschool, middle and high school students including a university stop.

We had the opportunity to present at Senator Inhofe (OK) and Senator Edward Kennedy's (MA) African Senate Meeting, and we were warmly welcomed by State Senator Thomas Kennedy in Boston. We arranged meetings at Rotary International Global Headquarters, Harpo Studios, as well as with a variety of news media.

Our daughters Picabo and Olivia were road-schooled during the journey and participated in a variety of the presentations. Of course with any journey across the United States, they absorbed a great deal of historical and current events and showed such a leap in confidence and concern for others.

We were on this journey for 7 weeks. We shared the story with thousands, and are confident that our lives will never be the same. Highlights of the trip include our meetings in Washington DC, New York and Boston. Picabo, who is 14-years-old is sure that the low-light was spending the night in Wal-Mart parking lot; I think it should be on the one-thousand-and-one "Things to Do Before You Die" list.

There are many ways we can and are helping each other. As you think about how you can do good in the world, remember sometimes we have to give up something so others can be served. 7 weeks in an 18ft travel trailer for a family of four and shared with two large dogs and two guinea pigs presented challenges, especially when preparing oneself in an RV mirror to meet a Congressman, no guarantee for daily showers, and eating the basics – PB&J sandwiches with my favorite, wine in a box.

We concluded our journey on September 13. All of us are happy to be back home in Verrado. Each day we had to make a choice not to give up, keep on keeping on, and complete our mission. Was it worth it? Every minute!

You can read more on the Bender's Coast 2 Coast Journey on [www.waterislife.com/blog/](http://www.waterislife.com/blog/)

# Firefighter of the Year Retires in Verrado

Shelly Smith Hornback, Thayer Hill

At first glance, one might not suspect that a few moments with Mike DuBois of the Keeler's Garden neighborhood could include passionate and harrowing stories of adventure, tragedy, and heroism. Based solely on his congenial smile and unassuming lifestyle, it would be hard to know that he is anything other than a friendly guy enjoying his much-deserved retirement.



Probe a bit, though, and Mike will humbly admit that he is the Professional Firefighters of Arizona's 2008 Firefighter of the Year, an honor he was reluctant to accept, were it not for the unique opportunity to honor his proud parents. Mike is also modest to share that as a Mesa Fire Department Captain, he was honored in the same year with the City's prestigious Pat Tillman Award. In fact, peek into Mike's home office and it will feel like a personal tour through the Hall of Flame History Museum, complete with fiery photos, melted helmets, and memorabilia documenting a family devoted to public service.

In the case of Christina and Mike DuBois, it seems that heroism runs in the family. Christina's father, Dario Travaini, was a retired Battalion Chief with the Phoenix Fire Department; and Mike's son, Shaun, is currently a Paramedic Firefighter with the Phoenix Fire Department. Christina and Mike's son-in-law, Marco, is also a firefighter in Phoenix. Mike's brother, David, a Battalion Chief with the Buckeye Fire Department, was also once honored for a heroic incident. In fact, at the age of 11, Mike's youngest son

Tanner even landed a guest spot on The Rosie O'Donnell Show for rescuing a five-year-old boy from drowning in a canal on his way home from school.

Perhaps the most perilous experience of Mike's 24-year career, and the one that earned him the honor of Firefighter of the Year, arrived on a routine run. An ordinary call came in; Mike and his crew raced to what they thought was a single vehicle car accident. Upon arrival, however, the firefighters were surprised to learn there was someone trapped in a car that was on fire. With the rest of his team assigned to other critical duties, Mike immediately made the risky decision; to risk a lot to save a life.

Christina says, "An extra minute in a burning car is a really long time if you are the one baring in that car." With no time to spare, Mike donned only his gloves and sheer will to reach through the open window and pull the trapped driver over the jammed door. Numerous failed attempts to release the driver from the smoke-filled cab space left Mike exhausted and concerned whether he could successfully free the victim. His own safety was becoming increasingly endangered, yet Mike aggressively tried one last time to save the driver. On his final attempt, as his eyebrows began to singe, Mike managed to pull the unconscious driver out of the window and they collapsed into a pile on the ground.

Today, despite his tender age of 52, Mike enjoys retired life in Verrado. He and Christina love their view of the White Tanks, front porches, and the neighborliness of our community. They were even married at The Raven. They frequently spend time playing with Mike's grandchildren and want to volunteer at Summit Church. They are especially excited about taking an African safari trip next spring. Mike proudly insists that second only to professional football, he enjoyed "the best job in the world!"

# Relay For Life of Buckeye Works Toward Turning Hope Into a Cure

Jennifer Jackson, History



Solemn darkness encased the Verrado High School track and all eyes at the Relay For Life of Buckeye moved toward 500 softly glowing luminarias, which lined the track and boldly spelled out "HOPE" in the bleachers. Nearly 100 cancer survivors walked in silent reflection around the track as the luminarias glowed in memory of those who have been touched by cancer.

"Let each step be in remembrance of our experiences and those special people we've shared them with, a celebration of today and those with us on the track and in our hearts, and a step forward in our fight back towards a brighter tomorrow," said Joanne Harroun, the Relay For Life's luminaria chairwoman.

As the survivors concluded their lap around the track, the luminarias in the bleachers changed from "HOPE" to "CURE," epitomizing Relay For Life's goal of turning hope into a cure for cancer.

In support of this important mission to eliminate cancer, a record crowd of about 1,500 people attended the third annual Relay For Life of Buckeye on October 16 and supported its fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society. The event raised more than \$175,000.



"People from all walks of life came together to help find a cure," said Steve Sussman, a Verrado resident and Relay For Life committee member.

"In these economic times it is truly remarkable how caring and giving people can be."

This community-wide effort included ceremonies celebrating cancer survivors, as well as family-friendly games, fundraisers, contests and

entertainment, contributing to the event's spirit of hope and optimism.

"This was the first time I had attended a Relay For Life event, and as a recent cancer survivor I was very impressed," Harroun said. "The survivor dinner was very special to me, and the luminarias lit around the track made me feel warm inside."

The event closed to the public at midnight, but more than 1,000 people on Relay teams spent the night in tents until the closing ceremony at 6:00 AM. Participants logged many miles of walking or running laps around the track throughout the night.

"The Relay night was memorable to all those that participated while honoring those individuals that have been lost to this deadly disease," Sussman said.



Although this is only the third Relay For Life held in Buckeye, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the event, which Dr. Gordy Klatt launched in Tacoma, Washington in 1985. Now, more than 3.5 million people in the United States and 20 other countries participate in Relay For Life each year to fight back against cancer.

Relay For Life Event Chairwoman Jackie Van Dyke said that she was impressed with the outpouring of support for the event from the community of Buckeye, as well as the surrounding areas of Arlington, Tonopah, Waddell and Goodyear.

"Everyone who participated in the Relay For Life of Buckeye – from volunteering to donating to spending the night as part of a Relay team – was an integral part of this event's success in celebrating, remembering and fighting back," Van Dyke said. "As a community, we truly set a new level of expectation for Relays throughout the Phoenix area."

The Relay For Life of Buckeye can continue to accept contributions until December 31. To learn more, visit the Relay For Life of Buckeye website at [www.relayforlife.org/buckeyeaz](http://www.relayforlife.org/buckeyeaz).

# Verrado Youth Leadership (VYL) Kicks Off Year; Raises Money for Relay

Victoria Cannon, Thayer Hill, VYL, and the Verrado Assembly



Along with Arizona State University's Partnership for Community Development, the Verrado Assembly is proud to bring to the community the 2009/2010 Verrado Youth Leadership program. Verrado youth will have access to university resources and will be EMPOWERED to make DECISIONS and be LEADERS in their own community. From guest speakers to entrepreneurial practices and from field trips to fundraising, they will creatively explore what influential, young leaders across the globe are doing to make their communities a better place to live, as well as gather information that forms unique initiatives to serve their own community here in Verrado.

As part of the summer program, VYL learned about the business and creative skills needed to run a restaurant. They partnered with Grazie on Main Street, and worked closely with managing Partner Franco to create their own pizzas and promote them (as well as the entire menu) to fundraise for the Relay For Life of Buckeye event. Here is what one of our youth leaders Victoria had to say about the experience:

"Verrado's Youth Leadership team members recently met at Grazie for our last weekly meeting before the ASU program starts. When we were there, the very generous manager, Franco, taught us how to run a business, and what his job is like. Then, in groups of three, we made our own creations that were on the menu for a limited time. We also kicked off our fundraising partnership with Grazie for Relay For Life. Thank you again Franco!"



The Verrado Assembly thanks Grazie for their support of Verrado Youth Leadership and Relay For Life of Buckeye.

# Soeby Family Launches New Non-Profit

Lisa Soeby, Summit

What would you do if you found out that your 3-month-old child had a rare brain tumor? What if seizures, cognitive decline, and behavior issues associated with that tumor would most likely mean putting him in a group home by the time he was 5-years-old? For me, the choice was obvious. My husband, Jon, and I would have to find a way to change that outcome for our son, CJ.

The last 12 years have been about courage, knowledge, and hope. Working with major medical centers here and in Australia, my family has helped change the course of treatment for this tumor. Many families now travel from around the world to Phoenix for treatment at Barrow Neurological Institute.



And this month I will launch a nonprofit organization, Hope for Hypothalamic Hamartomas - an organization for parents with kids who have this rare tumor, seeking to help one another improve the quality of life for their kids. It will offer up-to-date medical information and family and individual support forums to encourage the exchange of personal experiences; it will also raise funds to increase the limited amount of research being done to find a cure for this complex disorder.

Living in Verrado has been a huge source of inspiration and encouragement for me and my family. Starting this nonprofit has been a dream of mine for a long time. Moving here and meeting so many people who are passionate about making a difference in this world gave me the courage to make my dream a reality. Without the daily support, encouragement and technical expertise from my friends and neighbors, I'm not sure when or if I could have seen this through.

I'm proud that CJ is now a sixth grader at Verrado Middle School. He is tumor-free and inspires others to be the best they can be no matter what challenges they may be facing today.

# Cub Scout Pack 263 Family Hike and Trail Clean Up

Angelo and Kathy Rossetti, Vickery

On Saturday September 19 Cub Scout Pack 263 of Buckeye held its Family Hike and Picnic here at Verrado. The day's activities included a hike on the Verrado Temporary Trails and a picnic lunch at Walton Park. Over 25 Cub Scouts and their families, about 75 people in total, met in the parking area at the West Lost Creek Trailhead. After some instructions on proper trail etiquette and hiking safety, and a warm up, the group headed out to the petroglyphs site. During the hike Cubmaster Don Tramp led a discussion on the history of the area and petroglyphs. Along the trail the cub scouts performed a community service activity picking up any trash they came across.

The group headed over the Ramada at Walton Park for a picnic lunch and desert table after the hike. The scouts continued the days' activities by organizing a game of kick ball and play-time in the playground area. Adults had an opportunity to make new friends and discuss the upcoming Family Camping Weekend near Payson.

Cub Scout Pack 263 Buckeye is part of the Grand Canyon Council and meets on Mondays throughout the school year. All boys from grades 1 to 5 are welcome to join. Members participate in traditional scouting activities including community service, camping, hiking, Pine Wood Derby, and advancement activities. Several residents of the Verrado community are

members of Cub Scout Pack 263 including our sons Nicholas and Michael. If anyone is interested in knowing more about the Cub Scouting activities our boys participate in feel free to contact us at 623-505-1632 or [angelo.rossetti@cox.net](mailto:angelo.rossetti@cox.net).



# Put Your Money Where Your House is



Move to Verrado and it quickly becomes clear just how much Main Street contributes to our unique quality of life. Providing convenient services and important social opportunities that enrich our lives, Main Street is the heart of our community.

During these extraordinarily difficult economic times, our Main Street business partners need our support to keep their doors open. As founding members of our community these businesses supported Verrado from its earliest days.

Now is the time to return the favor by spending your money where your home is. If you haven't already, shift your habits to buy local, supporting our community business partners and protecting Main Street:

1. Do the majority of your grocery shopping at Bashas' on Main Street. Go outside only for those things they don't carry. If it's something you use regularly, ask the staff to order those items to make everyday shopping at Bashas' work for you.
2. Purchase all of your prescriptions at CVS Pharmacy. Send your dry cleaning to Main Street Cleaners.

3. Join the Village Sport and Health Club and meet your fitness needs close to home.
4. Dine out or grab take-out from Grazie Pizzeria, Verrado Grille, and Park FiftyOne Café once a week.
5. Refer your friends and family to Verrado Realty for any real estate needs. And remember Fidelity Title for title and closing services.; and Vineyard Homes for designing and building your semi-custom home.
6. Invite a few friends out for a round of golf at the Raven.
7. Manage your banking needs at Bank of America and your investment needs at William Morris Investment Services.
8. Enroll your children in The Goddard School.
9. Get all your family dentistry needs met at Main Street Dental (see Welcome Verrado's First Hometown Doctor on Main Street).

## Club Corner

### Volleyball Club

Hugo Caceres, Keeler's Garden

Verrado's Volleyball Club meets on the Walton Park sand courts...and four years after its inception, it continues to be successful.

I can't claim to be the creator of the Volleyball Club, and I'm not sure what transpired that I'm now co-admin of the club with Hector Medina, but I do know that it wouldn't have been nearly as successful without the support from the Verrado Assembly and some dedicated members.



Rob May stands out as he took the time, effort, and sacrifice to make the Volleyball Club what it is today. There are many other members who have contributed over the years, and I dare not attempt to list them, knowing I'll forget a name or two. You know who you are – those that used to set up and take down the lighting rigs, those

that threw in a few bucks to cover gas for the generator for the field lights, etc. For those residents that don't know, before the courts were transformed into a quality facility with 30 foot light posts, pristine sand, and local restrooms, we started by hauling floodlights and extension cords to play into the night.

For the past few years, many of our Volleyball members have taken their

commitment off the court too. From supervising the snowball fight area for the kids during Verrado's tree lighting ceremony in December to helping out with the semi-annual Buckeye Clean-up, Verrado is well-represented in our community because of the efforts our club players make to give back and to help our less fortunate neighbors.

Oh, and have I mentioned that the Volleyball members are also a blast to be around every week? There are times that I have to wipe tears from my eyes because I'm laughing so hard. The club has gone through various improvements over the years, but the general principles have not wavered. We are a group of adults that enjoy playing volleyball. We run the gamut in player skills and encourage people who are just starting out or people who need to knock a little rust off their game to come out and play. You'll get a pat on the back for a missed play, just as you will for a successful play. We're all looking to have fun, hang out with friends, and hone our "game" just a bit.

We meet in Walton Park on Wednesdays, and we've just added Friday play as well, around 6:30 PM. We make efforts to be a year-round club, so the venues might periodically change to accommodate this, for example we try to play indoors in the cooler temps. Stop by, take in the friendly atmosphere and you may find yourself clearing your Wednesday evening schedules to take part in the fun.

## What's Happening at the Club – New Services and New Activities

Leslie Bentley, Village Sport & Health Club

Verrado's Village Sport & Health Club is excited to add manicures and pedicures to its many other amenities. The newly decorated Spa Room will offer a complete nail service menu including a polish change, or a full set of acrylic nails, or even a luxurious spa pedicure with a lavender scented sea salt scrub foot massage. These services are available to members and non members alike; executive members receive a discount and free childcare during regular Kids Club hours. Call the club for scheduled hours and availability.

If you've always wanted to learn how to dance or just want to throw a little rhumba in your workout then try the "Zumba" class at the Village. Fun and easy to learn, Zumba offers a total body workout while dancing the Salsa, Cha Cha, and Raggaeton to lively Latin music. Offered on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings.

Drop in for adult coed tennis at the Verrado High School Tennis Courts on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. All levels welcomed. Junior tennis lessons are also available just call the Club to schedule lessons.

Explore the White Tanks and beyond with the Village Hiking Club. Beginning in November this club will expand its horizons by taking day trips to other summits around the Phoenix area. If interested, please email Leslie Bentley at lbentley@dmclubs.com and watch for further announcements.

Give the gift of health. A member referral earns you one month of waived dues. Thinking about joining the Village – join now and it costs you just \$100 to enroll and your dues will be waived until December. Don't forget – Village Club gift cards make the perfect holiday gift for loved ones.

**Remember: This year's Turkey's on the Run event will begin at 8 AM on Thanksgiving morning at the Village Club. It's a great way to start the holiday season.**



## Celebrations & Announcements:



Brian and Megan O'Neal, and older sisters Alexis and Charlotte welcomed Luke Duncan O'Neal on August 26, 2009 weighing 8 lbs 15 oz.

Ken and Shari Milhous welcomed Layla Jane Milhous on August 18, 2009 at 6:21 a.m. Layla weighed 6 lbs. 3 ozs. and was 19.5 inches long.

Special thanks to those residents that donated to the Buckeye Rough Riders 4-H Club's Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat efforts. Through your generosity, the 4-H Club collected enough cans and non-perishable items to fill the bed of a pick-up truck for the Buckeye Food Bank.



If you haven't already, check out the November issue of Raising AZ Kids magazine – the cover photo features Verrado residents, the Ellingson family.

Check out Cox Channel 7's Step Outside November 25, 28 & 29 and December 23, 26, & 27 – this segment features the Verrado community and Assistant Operations Manger, Scott Rowan, as well as Verrado's irrigation partner Horizon.

## Buckeye Bookmobile in Verrado

Cathie Pitts, Lost Creek

Did you know that the Buckeye Public Library Bookmobile makes a visit to Verrado every other Saturday and parks right next to Basha's? Did you know that it carries over 2,000 books for ALL ages? Did you know that you can get a library card instantly with just a photo ID?

It's all true and it's all so convenient. Kristie and Thomas, the Bookmobile's friendly and helpful staff, can help you locate the latest best seller or your favorite author, and if they don't have it on-board, they'll order it for you and bring it at their next visit to Verrado.

You can also renew books on-line. Categories include fiction and non-fiction adult titles, young adult (13 years and up), juvenile (6 - 13 years), and easy reading (youngest to 6 years). The Bookmobile even carries about 35 books on CD and provides Wi-Fi access. And starting November 7, when the Bookmobile visits Verrado, you and your children can enjoy Storytime in the Village Green at 11 a.m. Sponsored by Target, Storytime invites families to join library staff for songs, stories, and fun. Children of all ages are welcome with an adult family member.

So check verrado.net for the Bookmobile schedule, and stop by and see Kristie and Thomas from 10 - 5 (closed 12 - 1 for lunch) every other Saturday right next to Basha's.



## verrado.net tips:

Looking for a referral or to sell that extra TV you don't need anymore? Remember the online Verradoslist Classifieds. We've added a few new categories, including Freecycle for any items you want to give (and get) for free and Resident Referrals for recommendations for everything from local doctors to plumbers.

Want to reserve a park for a wedding, party, or celebration? ALL park reservation requests must be made on verrado.net – under Quick Links, select Forms, and then select the Park Reservation Form. There are 8 beautiful reservable parks to consider with unique amenities and rental fees – Founders Park, Grand Lawn, Hamilton's Run, Hillcrest Park, King's Green, Village Commons, Walton Park, and the Welcome Center Lawn.

## Welcome Verrado's First Hometown Doctor on Main Street

Tracy Simmons, Grandview, DMB Associates, Inc.

Verrado's first hometown doctor plans to hang his shingle for Main Street Dental this November. Dr. Matthew Kennedy will be opening his family-owned practice in the Davis Building, located on the northwest corner of Verrado Way and Main Street.

This full-service practice is set in a warm, friendly environment complete with special features that make any visit more enjoyable, including massaging dental chairs, movie players at each station and a video game room for kids. It also has state of the art digital x-rays and paperless technology. Main Street Dental will offer a wide-range of services provided by Dr. Kennedy, general and cosmetic dentistry, Dr. John Graham, orthodontist, and Dr. Dirk Donovan, periodontist, who will be on-site to deliver specialties like braces and implants. Office hours are planned to accommodate early and late appointments as well as Saturdays, to cater to the community's needs.

Dr. Kennedy graduated from Arizona State University in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in biology and went on to earn his doctor of dental surgery degree from the prestigious University of California San Francisco in 2003. He has been practicing in the greater Phoenix area for last six years.

He grew up in the West Valley and attended Apollo High School where he met his wife Sara. They now have four children and plan to make their home in Verrado. "I fell in love with Verrado at the grand opening and knew that this was where I wanted to raise my family. I worked diligently to bring my practice here to become a part of this community," Kennedy said. "I am extremely honored to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I want to get to know people as individuals, interact with them as a neighbor and be there for families for many years to come. And hopefully, I can pass my practice on to one of my children some day."

Main Street Dental officially opened November 16 and will be offering free introductory x-rays and exams to give everyone the chance to come in and meet the team.



## Volunteer Contributors:

- ◆ Kristine Bender, Thayer Hill
- ◆ Leslie Bentley, Village Sport & Health Club
- ◆ Hugo Caceres, Keeler's Garden
- ◆ Shelly Smith Hornback, Thayer Hill
- ◆ Jennifer Jackson, History
- ◆ Brian O'Connor, Summit
- ◆ Cathie Pitts, Lost Creek
- ◆ Angelo and Kathy Rossetti, Vickery
- ◆ Tracy Simmons, Grandview, DMB Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Lisa Soeby, Summit

For more information or to contribute to *Verrado Porch Light*, please contact the Verrado Assembly at [assembly@verrado.net](mailto:assembly@verrado.net).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hometown Holidays 2009



#### Saturday, December 5:

Kick off the holiday season in Verrado with the Village Sport & Health Club's **Holiday Gift Fair and Pancake Breakfast**. Start your holiday shopping early with a collection of vendors showcasing gifts

to suit everyone on your list right here in our community from 9 AM – 12 NOON. Your kids won't want to miss filling up on pancakes and seeing Santa to start the fun-filled day off on the right foot. Advanced tickets required for the breakfast; contact the Village Club to reserve yours before they run out.

After filling up on pancakes, help save 3 lives – donate blood at the United Blood Services Bloodmobile on Main Street. To learn more, visit [verrado.net](http://verrado.net).

Enjoy the evening at the **Tree Lighting Celebration** from 5 – 8 PM, in the festive Village Green. Watch in awe as we light our Christmas tree for the first time this season. The evening will include holiday entertainment by our local schools' talented students, horse-drawn wagon rides, decorating gingerbread people, marshmallow roasting, and tons of real snow to play in! Santa will be there too – bring your camera to capture the moment and whisper your holiday wishes in his ear. Holiday treats like hot chocolate, kettle corn and other goodies will be available for purchase to keep you warm and cheery throughout the night.

**New Year's Eve Spectacular** – Rock in the New Year at the Raven's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Advanced ticket purchase required – contact the Raven to purchase yours today.

From everyone at the Verrado Assembly, Happy Holidays!



#### SAVE THE DATE

#### Verrado's 5th Anniversary Founder's Day Celebration February 26-28, 2010

Don't miss the magic of Founder's Day 2010, hosted by the Verrado Assembly. Visit [verrado.net](http://verrado.net) for event details - it's also your ticket to find out who will be Saturday night's entertainment.

Additional information about Verrado events and activities can be found on [verrado.net](http://verrado.net). To set up an account, log on to [verrado.net](http://verrado.net) and complete the online registration process.