

VERRADO PORCH LIGHT®

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERRADO ASSEMBLY - SPRING 2010

Verrado® Celebrates Our Volunteers

Verrado Assembly

From around the community to around the globe, many of you – our Verrado residents – generously spend your time helping others through volunteer service.

In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Verrado Assembly celebrated our community's outstanding volunteers for their 2009 service at the Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Wednesday, April 21.

In this issue of Verrado Porch Light, the Assembly is excited to share detailed accounts about each of the amazing nominees. Read the heartwarming stories regarding the various ways your neighbors are sharing their gifts of time and energy, helping shape the legacy of Verrado and beyond.

2009 Outstanding Volunteers

Community Pride Committee

Katryna Eastwood

Rudy Marquez

Steve Sussman

2009 Volunteer Service Hours Award

Individual: Steve Sussman

Group: Summit Community Church

2009 Volunteers of the Year

Community Group: Relay For Life of Buckeye Committee

Family: The Buckleys

Youth: Paloma Marolf

Adult: Doreen Wass

The Volunteer Appreciation Celebration was an incredible success due to some amazing individuals in our community! In particular, the Verrado Assembly wants to thank the Broadcast Technology students from Verrado High School and Shelly Hornback who worked her "behind the scenes" magic helping coordinate many facets of the event.



PAGE 3



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Outstanding Volunteers of 2009
- 2 President's Volunteer Service Award
- 3 Volunteer Service Hours Award
- 3 Volunteers of the Year, Group
- 4 Volunteers of the Year, Youth
- 4 Volunteers of the Year, Family
- 5 Volunteers of the Year, Adult
- 5 Verrado Schools Give Back
- 6 Hillcrest Horseshoe Club
- 6 New Builders in Verrado
- 6 Neighborhood Block Watch Program
- 7 Celebrations & Announcements
- 7 Mompreneurs
- 7 Swimming Success in Verrado



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VERRADO ASSEMBLY:

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

Outstanding Volunteers of 2009

Verrado Assembly

When the Verrado Assembly asked its neighbors and partners to nominate volunteers for outstanding service, the response was fantastic! Heartwarming stories flooded in of how our residents are changing lives and their appreciation for the opportunity to recognize friends and neighbors who devote their time to others. The Assembly applauds the commitment shown by each of this year's honorees and all of the volunteers that serve in and around the Verrado community.

The Verrado Assembly is proud to announce the following Outstanding Volunteers who deserve special accolades for their generosity and hard work in 2009 and beyond:



Community Pride Committee

The Community Pride Committee (CPC), an organization of the Verrado Community Association is a dedicated group of volunteers serving their time, energy and ideas to promote "community pride" among our friends and neighbors in Verrado. The CPC organizes a variety of outreach efforts to communicate

community-wide standards and host educational events. Their bi-annual garage sales are well known throughout the west valley and don't end simply with neighbors reminiscing about how successful they were in selling their treasures; the CPC goes one step further and organizes un-sold items from the day to be collected and donated to a local charity. In 2009, the CPC envisioned a community Safety & Wellness Expo bringing together local organizations and community partners to share the importance of community wellness and health in a fun-filled afternoon in the park. CPC also helps raise awareness of the Verrado Community Association's important role in the community.



Steve Sussman

For those that know Steve Sussman well, it is obvious he spends much of his free time in three core areas (in no particular order) – with his lovely wife, Mickey; playing golf and serving others. Steve was dedicated to one mission – to put an end to cancer – and showed his spirit unwaveringly throughout the year. Among the countless hours Steve contributed to Relay For Life in 2009, he organized the first ever Relay For Life of Buckeye Golf Tournament. This fun-filled day of friends, sponsors, golf, food, prizes and gifts came together to make an incredible mark in the fight against cancer, netting over \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society. Being a team leader, Steve's peers are always ready and willing to follow his lead helping to contribute. Steve's tenacious spirit was a perfect match for his role as the committee's Sponsorship Chair, as he gracefully managed to finesse donations from businesses that originally said, "Not this year." Steve pitches in wherever he can, even wearing a Santa Suit in September to play the role of Santa Paws at the Bark For Life event.



Katryna Eastwood

Embracing a leadership role is something that comes easily for 12 year old, Katryna Eastwood. Katryna took it upon herself to serve as the Youth Volunteer Chairperson for Relay For Life of Buckeye in 2009. Knowledgeable way beyond her years, she always came prepared for meetings and participated actively in the conversations. Her viewpoint and spark provided a wealth of productive ideas and feedback for the success

of the event. Volunteering at many of the events associated with Relay For Life, Katryna dedicated many hours of her personal time helping fight cancer, while forgoing opportunities to "hang with her friends." This incredible dedication and passion of someone of her age is an inspiration to everyone who meets Katryna.



Rudy Marquez

Rudy Marquez is an outstanding citizen of Verrado and has dedicated himself to many baseball activities showing an amazing passion for the sport he loves. He volunteers with the Sonoran Youth Baseball Association; is the manager and coach for the Venom Baseball Club and also serves in a variety of roles, including Communications Officer for the Litchfield Park Little League Board of Directors. It's not too often that you are around someone who

constantly brings positive energy to life, but Rudy is definitely one of those people. Through this passion, he ignites Verrado's youth to maintain an active lifestyle while promoting team dynamics and fundamentals of the sport. He supports other coaches, teams and clubs when in need, even loaning equipment without hesitation. Showing true appreciation for all of the players and their families, he arrives early to ensure the Verrado Middle School fields and dugouts are as clean as possible. Rudy demonstrates dedication and class for the organizations he volunteers, and supports the youth 100%, win or lose, on the field and off.

Volunteer Service Hours Award

Verrado Assembly

The Assembly has always known this community and our residents are generous with their time. You're working hard every day to create a wonderful community! Nonetheless, when the quantifying began for our community's volunteer service, the sheer numbers of hours were staggering and a few were jumping off the page. Based on the total number of hours devoted in 2009, these honorees have demonstrated a significant contribution to our community, local and national organizations and even internationally. We are in awe of their commitment to service as an overall lifestyle.



Individual: Steve Sussman

What could you do in about 1,825 hours? Well, for Steve Sussman, a retired business executive, he decided to personally donate his time. Steve spent 1,825 hours during 2009 participating in a variety of activities. As an active member of Verrado Leadership®, he serves as Founders Park's neighborhood leader making sure his neighbors are engaged and up to date on the latest community news. Steve is definitely a "doer" and ready to help by showing an eagerness and commitment even beyond Verrado's borders

too. It seems every month, Steve is the first to sign up to serve hot meals at the Phoenix Rescue Mission leading a group of volunteers into Central Phoenix. He was heavily involved in Relay For Life of Buckeye in which he spent countless hours serving as their Golf Tournament Chair and Sponsorship Chair and dressed as "Santa Paws" for Bark For Life. The Assembly thanks him for lending a hand at every event, and volunteering with a smile on his face.



Group: Summit Community Church

Summit Community Church has an incredible giving spirit – volunteering both within their church and in and around the community. In 2009, Summit volunteers served 21,293 volunteer hours! For the second year in a row, they are honored as the Group Volunteer Service Hours award recipient.

The Summit congregation serves in many philanthropic ways, along with some simple sweat equity in their contributions.

Starting with a small number of members in 2003, this group of believers keeps growing. In 2009 they were involved in efforts for Relay For Life of Buckeye, All Faith Community Services, and Water Is Life. Additionally, they supported the Vietnam Memorial Wall that was on display at Verrado High School, Verrado's Independence Day Celebration by organizing efforts and collecting funds to benefit Fighter Country Partnership and supporting local troops serving overseas. They held an impactful and successful Christmas toy and clothing drive to support local refugees through the International Rescue Committee. Summit Community Church also hosts several community movies in Walton Park in addition to organizing a team to travel to Mexico to build a house with Amor Ministries.

The Summit congregation currently offers services at Verrado High School which includes enjoyable music, organized services, and child classroom instruction oriented around the Bible according to age.

Verrado Schools Give Back

Verrado Assembly



The need to give back is being felt more today than ever, and the resounding message of "It's time to get involved" is heard daily. The youth of Verrado are certainly standing up and taking notice. Through two separate organizations, Verrado schools recently gave back both locally to the Phoenix Children's Hospital, and nationally to the people of Haiti.

Inspired by a wonderful cause, Verrado Middle School seventh-graders raised \$1,755.13 for Riah's Rainbow, a Wisconsin-based organization that donates books and toys to children's hospitals

The 319 Buckeye students collected money through a "penny war," which split the children into 10 homeroom classes competing to collect the most pennies in a week. The winning class received a pizza party. The money the students raised paid for craft items, coloring books, crayons, reading books, movie and store gift cards, Lego sets, a Lego table and some DVDs.

Buckeye mother Susi Henry, founded an Arizona chapter of Riah's Rainbow. Henry created the chapter after learning about Riah's struggle with brain cancer. Riah's Rainbow strives to bring smiles to the faces of children who spend time in the hospital. For more information visit: www.riahsrainbow.org

After viewing the destruction of Haiti following the massive earthquake, students of Verrado High School participated in the Umbrella Project hoping to help. Founded by Verrado resident, Hilda Brown, the Umbrella Project is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that uses the common language of art to empower young people.

Embracing the concept of wanting to teach children what happens in one part of the world affects us all, Verrado High School art teacher Travis Waldron contacted Brown on getting the students involved.

Using the "One World, One Heart: Help for Haiti" theme, students utilized fabric markers to create art on white nylon umbrellas that carry the Umbrella Project name and logo. Because fabric markers are used on nylon, rain will not wash off the artwork.

The umbrellas were up for donation earlier this year, with all the money going to the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti. The Arizona-based Baptist Hospitals and Health Systems' Legacy Foundation agreed to make a matching contribution up to \$30,000.

Brown, who is an artist herself, just moved to Verrado about a year ago after living the previous 13 years in Scottsdale. Back in 1989, Brown painted on umbrellas and gave them out as Christmas gifts. The next year, after losing her favorite umbrella, she thought about having children paint on them and then sell them for donations to a charity or place in need. To learn more on this organization visit: www.umbrellaproject.org

President's Volunteer Service Award

Verrado Assembly

Mayor Jackie Meck took time out of his busy schedule to help the Verrado Assembly unveil some very exciting news at our Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. From the hours submitted to the Assembly from 2009, the Verrado community donated over 35,538 service hours!

The President's Volunteer Service Award has several categories, with Gold Level being the highest achievement at 1,000 hours of service in a year. Verrado's efforts certainly deserve the gold and then some! Independent Sector, a leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs, estimates the dollar value of a volunteer hour in 2009 as \$20.85. This means that our contributions in and around the community tallies to a value of \$740,967. We understand we are only recognizing a small handful, and appreciate other volunteers in our community who have served thousands of hours in 2009.



Volunteers of the Year

Youth: Paloma Marolf
Verrado Assembly



Today's young people are engaged like never before. Many kids in our community embrace community service as a meaningful and valuable part of their everyday lives. This year's Youth Volunteer of the Year is certainly no exception. Paloma Marolf is a leader at every turn and gives us tremendous hope about the next generation.

A fellow third grader wrote this about Paloma –

"Paloma donated her hair at Relay For Life to make wigs for people with cancer. She used to have really long hair but now she has pretty short hair. Everyone loved her new hair. I bet she loved it, too. She also walked all night with her family's team at Relay For Life. They raised over \$3,000. We were all very sad when her Nana died of cancer last year."

Paloma bravely sat on stage allowing the stylists at Relay For Life of Buckeye last fall to cut off long lengths of her hair in front of hundreds of attendees. As this would be upsetting to most kids her age, Paloma did not miss a beat and joined her family's team in the walk. Her hair was donated to the American Cancer Society's program that supplies free wigs to women losing their hair from chemotherapy.

As a friendly and confident youth, Paloma pitches in more than most adults. As Student Council Historian at Verrado Elementary School she captures the year's events for the yearbook which keeps her very busy. Paloma also helps the student council by selling candy grams and waking up early to attend student council meetings and hang posters around the school.

"She's incredibly hard working and giving and she is always willing to go that extra mile so I am sure that's what she does both at school and outside of school as well." –Mr. Emery, Paloma's Student Council Advisor.

The number of people who wished to recognize Paloma for her service to the community was overwhelming. Contributors from Relay For Life, her swim team, school and student council all raved about this extraordinary young woman. Paloma's wonderful reputation certainly precedes her.



Volunteers of the Year

Family: The Buckley Family
Verrado Assembly



Volunteerism for the Buckley family is definitely a family affair. Described as "the quintessential Verrado household," they love the parks, the events, and the people of Verrado. The Buckley family is a vibrant family of five, constantly working together to enhance our community for the last five years.

As a homeschooling mother of three, Shannon leads the family in all kinds of volunteer roles around town. She is a member of Verrado Leadership and serves as the Wood's Run neighborhood leader. She loves delivering warm apple pies with a smile to new residents and sharing her love of Verrado with all she encounters. She helps everyone feel welcome and informed and is known by many as the "networking queen."

One neighbor wrote, "Shannon is a very special person. Whether she is wearing the mother, neighbor, friend, or activity leader hat -- her kind, caring, and fun nature shines through. She is the face of Verrado, the kind of person the founders had in mind when creating our model. Shan makes me proud to say I live in Verrado!"

Dave Buckley is the next door neighbor everyone wishes they had. If there's a block party, he'll cook the burgers. If there's a tree to trim, he'll show up with his saw. If there's a squabble to settle, he'll sit with the kids in the park and talk it out. As one neighbor can attest to, "if there's a backyard submerged in a major thunderstorm, he'll bring his broom and buckets and entire family to pump water out of the pool." Dave's a handy guy with a gracious heart. He shares his witty jokes and warm smiles with everyone he meets.

The Buckley children are following in their parents' footsteps, embracing the Verrado spirit and learning to help others at every turn. Connor is turning out to be a fantastic pet sitter, helping many neighbors in a pinch. Quinn is an energetic baseball player and little Sloane is her mother's daughter – and is the mini-ambassador of Wood's Run. The Buckley children are leaders amongst their peers, often helping young people remember to keep our parks safe and clean. They welcome newcomers and always pitch in at block parties, porch parties, neighborhood clean-up parties, and club activities.

"Together, as a family unit, they plan a ton of fantastic parties for all of our neighbors. They are some of the people who are first to jump in and help out with anything we need. The Buckley family is so warm and caring." –Shelly Hornback, neighbor

The Buckylys definitely know a bit about clubs in Verrado too. As the co-founders of Mosaic Mania, Shannon Buckley and Shawna Lavin helped friends and neighbors mosaic the beautiful bench that sits near Park FiftyOne. Of course the Buckley children were on hand to help the youngest mosaic artists hone their skills. Shannon also founded Krazy Krafters and Life is Good Homeschool Play Group.

Together, the Buckley family reminds us all how precious life and love can be. They cherish their time as a family and open their hearts to the world around them. They are thoughtful and energetic ambassadors of Verrado and our community is a significantly better place because of their talent, passion, and generosity.



Volunteers of the Year

Adult: Doreen Wass
Verrado Assembly



Doreen Wass has a love and a passion that carries her to new heights. Having a huge heart and strong leadership skills, she is dedicated to caring about kids and public education. Doreen is a retired grandma who moved to Verrado three years ago to live near her son, Chris, and his family. Doreen immediately immersed herself in Verrado Elementary School and is a vital and valuable part of our school community. A consistent and dedicated volunteer, she especially enjoys direct service roles. As a former

school teacher, Doreen loves working one-on-one with kids and spends ten hours per week at the school – reading to students, listening to them read to her, cooking with 4th and 5th graders, chaperoning field trips, and providing general support to the teachers.

"She is a very dedicated person. She saw the need in the school system, she acted on it, and for that I think she did a great job!" - Bette MacLeod, Fishes Volunteer

Also remarkably is Doreen's commitment to her own family. In support of her son, Chris, and his wife, Kim, Doreen provides before and after school care to her grandchildren, Quinten and Willo. Doreen can often be found buzzing around in her golf cart - shuttling her grandkids to school, or a play date. She hustles around with a patience and graciousness that is the envy of all the stay-at-home moms.

Doreen's devotion to her family directly benefits the school because her daughter-in-law, Kim Wass, is one of Verrado Elementary's finest teachers. Students in Mrs. Wass' 4th grade class get all the benefits of a teacher who can confidently focus on her classroom, knowing that her own children are being well-cared for by Grandma Wass.

Perhaps most notably, Doreen is the sole visionary and co-founder of a Verrado Assembly club called FISHERS (Friends in School Helping Engage Students). This year, FISHERS has 14 volunteers serving 22 students. Each volunteer acts as a Reading Buddy to a kid who needs extra social and academic support. Thanks to Doreen's goal of engaging more retired residents in the school, the FISHERS club will give over 350 volunteer hours to Verrado Elementary School this year alone.



Volunteers of the Year

Group: Relay For Life of Buckeye Committee
Verrado Assembly



Imagine a world without cancer. For the Relay For Life of Buckeye Committee, they think about a world without cancer daily. They are a diverse and impressive team that is united under one specific goal – they want to eliminate cancer. The Relay For

Life of Buckeye committee rallied last year and dedicated themselves doing whatever they could to find a cure for cancer. They began branching out to anyone and everyone they could, creating partnerships, securing sponsorships, and recruiting volunteers . . . and before we knew it, the Relay For Life Committee was a serious force to be reckoned with. It was obvious from the start that they were not messing around!

Ultimately, a record crowd of 1,500 people attended the third annual Relay For Life of Buckeye on October 16. And, here's the remarkable part, they raised over \$175,000!

"The Relay for Life Committee worked innumerable hours, they, as a team, have an inordinate amount of dedication, compassion, and skills to get the job done." –Shelly Briggs, Relay For Life Team Captain

We know there were many people who served on the Relay Committee as this was a large team effort to pull off such an enormous feat. Jackie VanDyke led this successful team as the chairperson of the committee. Her job was to manage it all – to handle the media, the finances, the volunteers, the logistics, the partners and stay in constant contact with the American Cancer Society. Jackie devoted over a year of her retired

life, almost entirely, to this event, ensuring its success and to do her outstanding part to help end cancer.

The entire Relay For Life of Buckeye Committee is a group of caring, ambitious, and totally dedicated volunteers who outdid themselves in the effort to find a cure for cancer. They never lost sight of their goal, nor were sidetracked or distracted. They simply hunkered down and raised an incredible amount of money while spreading the word and mission of the American Cancer Society and making significant contributions so that no one hears the words, "You have cancer."



Club Corner

Hillcrest Horseshoe Club

Rick Sawyer, Redmond Field; Verrado Assembly



The beauty of our community is the blending of people from different places. Each person's experience adds amazing life to the various clubs we have in Verrado. Rick and Claudette Sawyer typify how life experience adds to the fabric of our community clubs. The Sawyers hail from Massachusetts and moved to Verrado two years ago after deciding it was time for warmer weather. Rick Sawyer fondly remembers time in

Massachusetts with his father in law, Wilfred Couture, who introduced him to the wonderful world of horseshoes. In Rick's words: "My father-in-law was an excellent and devoted (2 or 3 times a week) player. I did on occasion attend his games, his award dinners and play with his team." Through much admiration and respect, Rick became enveloped in a world of the horseshoe club, and quickly realized the love of the game too.

While researching all the clubs and groups Verrado had to offer, Rick felt the community was missing an important niche. After speaking with friends and neighbors, Rick understood he was not alone in his appreciation of the game. "A number of our residents were looking for a less physical option to basketball or volleyball, and the game of horseshoes is an excellent alternative," said Rick.

With the excitement of his brainchild, The Hillcrest Horseshoe Club, Rick approached the Verrado Community Association with his thoughts of building a regulation horseshoe court. Working with Landscape Manager, Randy Dillman they were able to gather Trex decking material given as donation by DMB Associates, Inc. While design submittals were approved, the fabrication process progressed and the establishment of the Hillcrest Horseshoe Club was born. To honor Rick's father-in-law, a dedication plaque for Wilfred Couture was memorialized on one of the pit boxes.

The Hillcrest Horseshoe Club currently meets on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. at Hillcrest Park. For more information on Hillcrest Park, or to join the Hillcrest Horseshoe Club visit verrado.net and sign up under the Clubs and Groups page.

New Builders in Verrado

Tracy Simmons, Grandview, DMB Associates, Inc

A surge in activity has been afoot in the Heritage District as several new builders joined Verrado with more on their way. In difficult times, businesses and consumers experience a "flight to quality" in which they seek out places or products that rise above the rest. Verrado is such a place.

Since January, two new homebuilders, Trend Homes and K Hovnanian Homes, and one current homebuilder, Ashton Woods Homes, have introduced 15 beautiful new home plans combined. These homes range in size from approximately 1300 sq. ft. to 3528 sq. ft. and offer from two bedrooms to six bedrooms. Prices range from the mid \$100s to the mid \$200s. Later this year, Meritage Homes and Richmond American Homes will also introduce new home neighborhoods.

Meritage Homes will offer products sized from approximately 2500 sq. ft. to 3300 sq. ft. and Richmond American Homes will have products from approximately 1700 sq. ft. to 2500 sq.ft. priced from the upper \$100s. The addition of new builders brings new neighbors to meet at the parks, to engage in our clubs and activities, and to support the businesses along Main Street. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be in a community that is growing and becoming ever more vibrant for us to live in. Most importantly it brings the opportunity for new friendships to be born.

Community Pride Committee Joins Buckeye's Neighborhood Crime Watch Program

Tabatha Rook, Community Operations Coordinator

Community engagement and leadership continues to thrive in Verrado with the support and dedication of our residents. Due to the encouragement and commitment of one key resident, Rick Sawyer, the Community Pride Committee (CPC) collaborated with the Town of Buckeye Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Watch program.

In April, the Community Pride Committee in partnership with the Verrado Community Association and Town of Buckeye Police Department hosted an open information session for Verrado residents about the Town of Buckeye's Neighborhood Crime Watch program. Officer Catherine Edmisten and Interim Chief Mann presented an overview of the program, explaining ways residents could become involved. With more than 20 Verrado residents in attendance, several participants signed up to become block watch captains.

The Town of Buckeye Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Watch program encourages resident participation through becoming block watch

captains and organizing block watches within park neighborhoods. Block watch captains participate in meetings with Town of Buckeye police officers to discuss neighborhood concerns and learn crime prevention tips.

The collaboration between the Town of Buckeye Police Department and Community Pride Committee is a testament to another way in which the CPC is fostering "Community Pride" and encouraging adherence to community-wide standards. For more information on the Town of Buckeye Police Department's Neighborhood Crime Watch program, please contact Officer Catherine Edmisten at 623-349-6413 or cedmisten@buckeyeaz.gov. Learn more on Verrado's Neighborhood Block Watch under the Clubs and Groups page on verrado.net

The CPC is a leadership program of the Verrado Community Association and its membership is open to any resident interested in the program's purpose and goals. Please visit the CPC club page on verrado.net for more information.

Celebrations & Announcements:

Compiled by Kelly O'Connor, Summit



Rob, Danielle and big sister Shaye welcomed Brady Nolan Conway into the world on December 18, 2009 after an unexpected ambulance ride starting on Verrado Way! He made his entrance early and fast, weighing 6 lbs 3 oz and 18.5 inches long.



Ed and Angela Anderson welcomed Cadence Leolani on December 20, 2009. Cadence weighed 7lbs 3 oz and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Piper Elaine Bellingrodt was born on April 15, 2010 welcomed by parents Mark and Jennifer and big brother Jett. She weighed 8 lbs 3 oz and 21 inches long.



Doug and Tarah Woods, and older sisters Lula and Sophie welcomed Remi Michelle Woods on February 10, 2010 weighing 5 lbs 11 oz and 18.5 inches long.



Shannon and Dan Francetic welcomed their first child Sophia Elizabeth Francetic on October 14, 2009. Sophia weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 19 inches long.



Eric, Amy, big-brother Jex and crazy dog Smokey welcomed another member to their family. Tylee Rose Herrmann was born on November 20, 2009 and weighed 6 lbs, 9oz and 19 3/4 inches long.



A group of Verrado youth triathletes participated in the Verrado Village Sport and Health Club Triathlon/Dualathlon & Youth Race benefitting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Arizona Chapter.

The participants included: Paloma Marolf, Taylor Mellon, Trey Marolf, Cayman Webber. Ava Martin and Trevin Hornback.

The Verrado Assembly and Community Association are on Facebook and we want to connect with neighbors. Join our page and like us on Facebook.

Mompreneurs

Kelly O'Connor, Summit



Verrado is home to many amazing business owners and many amazing mothers. It's no wonder some of them have chosen to combine the two: Mompreneurs. Yes, Verrado houses two women with successful business careers and wonderful products.

Elizabeth Lyons is a mother of five, yes five, and her third book came out May 28. The book, *You Cannot Be Serious: and 32 Other Rules that Sustain a (Mostly) Balanced Mom* is a "contemporary and humorous

roadmap for 'doing it all' that any woman can relate to for untying her own 'knots.' The Clubhouse Grill hosted Elizabeth's book signing on June 6. You can also pick up her latest bestseller on amazon.com. Elizabeth doesn't stop there. She is also "mother" to the Hold It Baby On-the-Go Toy Organizer. In Liz's words: "The Hold It Baby On-the-Go Toy Organizer came about after I'd heard one too many kids proclaim "Uh oh" from the backseat of the car or their stroller." You can find out more about "Sanity on a String" at www.holditbaby.com or elizabethlyons.com

Stephanie Lang is another Verrado Mompreneur. She is "mother" to Kensey Lu designs and two kids. Create-a-clip by Kensey Lu is the perfect Party-in-a-Box, letting you and your girls create fabulously fashionable hair clips and wonderful memories—together! Stephanie was recently asked to attend the GBK Productions Oscar gifting suite where celebrities pick up fabulous gift bags. Kensey Lu was a hit for celebrities and their daughters. "Attending the gifting suite was a great experience and it was a fabulous way to get our product more exposure! However, the most recent highlight was seeing so many Kensey Lu clips at the Verrado Father Daughter dance," said Stephanie. Learn more on Kensey Lu at www.kenseylu.com



Verrado's Youth Make a Splash

Trisha Madrid Marolf, Grandview Court



Verrado has an impressive pool (pun intended) of aquatic talent, and in the world of USA Swimming, the state of Arizona is somewhat of a big fish. Because of this feat, it is exceptionally remarkable that Verrado has seven youth swimmer standouts. As a group, these seven young women excel at both long-distance and sprinting events that encompass all four strokes: freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke.

A trio of girls from the Letz family, Marianna (12), Krista (14) and Marissa (18) all started competing before they were in kindergarten. Krista is a freestyle distance and relay swimmer and has enjoyed great success in both the pool and in open water. Marianna lights it up in the butterfly, breaststroke and individual medley and hopes to qualify for the Junior National Championship this season. Heading off to Grand Canyon University next year, Marissa has accomplished a great deal throughout her swim career and is sharing her love for the sport by teaching many of Verrado's youth how to swim.

One of Verrado's longest-term families, the Benders, spend a lot of time at the pool with their daughters Picabo (14) and Olivia (11). Picabo is sleek, graceful and fast in the water, particularly in the backstroke and distance freestyle events. Olivia's favorite and fastest strokes are the breaststroke and freestyle, at which she has excelled since the age of four. Both the Letz and Bender families are proud to call themselves Westside Silverfins, which is one of the largest swim clubs in the west valley.

The two littlest fish in the Verrado pond are Makenna Crawford (10) and Paloma Marolf(9). Makenna hopped in the pool and quickly excelled at the breaststroke, which of course is her favorite! Paloma has proven to be a fly girl since she was taught the stroke at age six. Together, they dove into the world of competitive swimming three years ago and are affiliated with the Swim Neptune organization.

These seven girls are joined by numerous teammates in the community. We are very proud of all of the Verrado swim athletes and thank them for their inspiration!





Volunteer Contributors:

- ◆ Patricia Redfield, Village Commons
- ◆ Bette MacLeod, Hamilton's Run
- ◆ Shelly Smith Hornback, Thayer Hill
- ◆ Linda Gantverg, Wood's Run
- ◆ Shawna Lavin, Wood's Run
- ◆ Flo Meers, Thayer Hill
- ◆ Dan and Shannon Francetic, Hamilton Commons
- ◆ April Marquez, Grandview Court
- ◆ Trisha Madrid Marolf, Grandview Court
- ◆ Kelly O'Connor, Summit
- ◆ Rick Sawyer, Redmond Field
- ◆ Tracy Simmons, Grandview, DMB Associates, Inc.

For more information or to contribute to *Verrado Porch Light*, please contact the Verrado Assembly at assembly@verrado.net.

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Looking Back at Verrado's Fifth Annual Founder's Day

February 26-28, 2010

Jaime Sargent, Community Engagement Manager

Building another year of tradition, The Raven Golf Club at Verrado™ kicked off its one-of-a-kind weekend with the "Bite of the Bayou" Cocktail Party. The Friday evening event included southern-Creole inspired hors d'oeuvres, themed libations, live music, dancing, and fond moments with friends.

Saturday morning, the Village Sport & Health Club got Verrado up and active with the first annual Founders Family Rock N Walk. Whether you ran, walked, biked or skated your way around the three mile course, there were fun challenges and entertainment.

The rain held out just long enough Saturday night allowing Verrado a swinging good time on Main Street! The crowd enjoyed warm up acts by local talent in our annual Variety Show and then danced the night away with the hip-swinging sounds of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

After two days of celebrating, the weekend still wasn't over! Even though the rains came, the fun wasn't washed away with festivities moving indoors to the Verrado Elementary School. Safe from the weather and full from the brunch buffet, hundreds appeared in their commemorative Neighborhood T-Shirts, bringing a sea of colors and contagious spirit into the gym. The weather broke long enough to sneak outside capturing the annual Community Photo – get your copy now on sale at Park FiftyOne!

Whew...what a weekend! The Verrado Assembly can't wait to celebrate with you again next year and keep the tradition alive!



SAVE THE DATE

Come Celebrate Verrado's Spirit of Independence™ on Sunday, July 4 hosted by the Verrado Assembly. Paint the town red, white and blue with family and friends as we honor our proud heritage with Verrado's annual traditions. Visit verrado.net for event details.