

VERRADO PORCH LIGHT®

HOW TO LIVE BEFORE YOU DIE – SAGE ADVICE FROM STEVE JOBS

Todd Hornback, Director of Community Life,
Verrado Assembly & Verrado Community Association, Inc.



"If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you will be right. Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything – all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure – these things just fall away in the face of death. Leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart."

~ STEVE JOBS

CEO and Co-Founder of Apple and Pixar, How to Live Before You Die

http://www.ted.com/talks/steve_jobs_how_to_live_before_you_die.html

Steve Jobs had a bold vision. An icon of our era, he produced not only transforming products, but also a lasting company that is filled with creative and cutting-edge people. But more importantly, Jobs knew that in order to truly live, he had to take care of himself.

Verrado also has a bold vision. And it is this bold vision that drove each and every one of us living and working in Verrado to choose to be a part of this special community. In these tough times, each of us has become keenly aware of our personal responsibility to ensure that our values take lead and that our priorities are clear. This includes doing our own small but significant part to ensure that our community remains committed to our unique and shared values.

But we must heed Jobs' advice to put caring for ourselves at the top of our "to do" list, ever mindful that our community will only be as strong as its individual members. For better or worse, things continue to be tough for all of us. So while it is difficult for each of us who are stretching to serve our family, friends, and co-workers, we must remember to also serve ourselves.

"Sometimes life's going to hit you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for work, as it is for your lovers."

~ STEVE JOBS

Fortunately, Verrado provides lots of opportunity for self care. We all have meaningful relationships with friends and neighbors that we can call on for support. We all have indoor and outdoor as well as formally organized and organic opportunities to physically, mentally, and spiritually refresh.

So while these times are challenging, it is important for each of us to take a moment each day to nurture and to care for ourselves. Breathe deep, and be thankful for you. According to Jobs, it's the only way to live.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinion drown out your own inner voice. And most important: have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

~ STEVE JOBS



IN THIS ISSUE

1
Sage Advice from Steve Jobs

2
Business Spotlight:
Anderson Institute of Music

3
Verrado Online

4
Designing and Building
in Verrado

5
Philanthropic Youth

6
Little Arrivals and
Celebrations

7
Meet Your Neighbor

8
Hometown Holidays



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



ANDERSON INSTITUTE OF MUSIC (AIM): VERRADO AND THE PERFORMING ARTS

Ed Anderson, Owner, AIM

We are so proud of our new Anderson Institute of Music and Performing Arts (AIM) studio on Main Street. My wife, Angela, and I founded AIM in 2005 while living in Pasadena, CA. After three years of successful business growth and numerous visits to Verrado, we decided to make the move. There were two major reasons that Verrado made sense to us – Firstly, my brother and his family already lived here and having our daughter grow up with her cousins was important to us. Secondly, we knew there was a tremendous demand for performing arts training in the West Valley.

Angela and I began teaching out of our Verrado home and we were fortunate enough to enroll Verrado children and adults immediately. As our business continued to grow, we needed more space and opened our Main Street studio. We currently have students that travel from as far away as Anthem and Laveen. Students are drawn to AIM because we are a veteran music couple with accomplished careers in both New York and Southern California – the real deal.

The West Valley Children's Choir came to us to oversee and direct their program, which was a remarkable opportunity. We work closely with the West Valley Arts Council and the Arizona Broadway Theater, believing that other arts organizations in the Valley are partners. These collaborations open many doors for our students and increase our exposure with additional performances beyond our community.

So far, we are off to a great start with the Main Street studio. All the teachers have a great passion for teaching our students as individuals, with a focus on each student's specific needs and also the best way to develop their skills. We have private studios for one-on-one lessons in piano, guitar, voice, drums, strings and woodwind classes; we also have one large rehearsal space for dance, theater, choir, strings orchestra and group classes. As the AIM founders, our objective is to grow and foster the arts. With our new location, we are better equipped to achieve those goals. Verrado couldn't be a better fit for us as both residents and arts educators. We feel blessed.

VERRADO ASSEMBLY – PAGE 2
Creating unique opportunities for Verrado
neighbors to engage and connect.

MAIN STREET'S GROUND CONTROL EXPANDS; GASTROPUB NOW OPEN

Tara Rassas, Owner, Ground Control



Ground Control – our “hot spot” in Goodyear that was just awarded the 2011 Best Coffee Bar by *Phoenix Magazine* - recently opened a second location smack dab in the middle of Verrado's Main Street. Already a cool place to get caffeinated, Ground Control opened approximately four months ago and since then has been a popular hangout for residents and visitors alike.



And now the popularity has been heightened. Our long-awaited expansion has tripled the square footage and added a unique concept – the gastropub. Ground Control is leading the trendy gastropub movement as the first of its kind in the West Valley. The focus is on an upscale bar menu that complements our offering of fine draught beers – craft and microbrews.

In addition to our current breakfast items, we will be adding from-scratch buttermilk pancakes, omelets and other morning fare. The lunch menu is now rounded out with salads, burgers and gourmet sandwiches, and we step it up a notch with the dinner menu's seared ahi lettuce wraps, turkey chipotle panini and unbelievable Shepherd's pie. There is also a tasty kids' menu to boot.

Check out our live music, beer/wine pairings, large screen televisions and a community-friendly vibe. And, of course, the coffee.

VILLAGE SPORT & HEALTH CLUB BOO BASH

Leslie Bentley, Assistant General Manager,
Village Sport & Health Club



The Verrado Village Sport & Health Club hosted the seventh annual Boo Bash in celebration of Halloween. Always a popular event in the community, members and their guests of all ages enjoy the festivities in costume. Pirates, witches, and characters from Sesame Street – it was a fun and entertaining night for everyone, including Halloween crafts, games, prizes, and a hayride to the Pumpkin Patch at The Goddard School® where children got to choose their very own pumpkin and also enjoy face painting and other fun activities. In addition to the games, everyone had the opportunity to take home a keepsake picture from the night's event, making another memorable holiday for both adults and children alike.

VERRADO.NET" & "ACTIVE.COM/VERRADO" YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Verrado Assembly & Verrado Community Association, Inc.

Navigating life in Verrado online just got more engaging... and we hope that soon it will be easier too. The transition to the new verrado.net (aka, our content site) and its sister site active.com/verrado (aka, our transaction site) has been a bit bumpy, we admit.

Change is challenging...even when the change is best for our community today and in the future for a more inviting and dependable online experience. We are proud of our new websites. And we certainly appreciate your patience as we continue to work through the kinks, getting more comfortable with these new online tools.

If you have feedback to share to help improve our online presence for serving you, please send those comments to: communications@verrado.net. In the meantime, we wanted to try and address some of the significant and repeated questions and concerns we have received about the new sites.

TWO WEBSITES – CONTENT & TRANSACTION:

Verrado residents now have access to two distinct websites to navigate life online in our community – our community content site (<http://www.verrado.net>) and its sister site, our community transaction site (<http://active18active.com/verrado>). Currently, these two sites are distinct, and each requires one-time registration for a password-protected account that must be approved. Note, you can use the same credentials to register for both sites, but you still need to register for both sites.

1) Content Site (<http://www.verrado.net>): verrado.net continues to be the go-to website for community news and information. Information about Main Street partners; details about Community Governance, including Board Meeting agendas and minutes and also Budgets, Fee Schedules, and Financial Statements; community information, including volunteer and club/group engagement opportunities, community events and activities, and landscape articles; and also information to manage your home, including paying assessments, community guidelines, and landscape tips.

2) Transaction Site (<http://active18active.com/verrado>): This secure transaction site allows residents the convenience of registering for community events and also for requesting a park and/or VIP Trailer reservation in one integrated online transaction process.

Please Note: Our community website partner, ActiveNet, is in development for the integration of these two distinct sites.

RESIDENT-TO-RESIDENT COMMUNICATION:

There are lots of opportunities for residents to engage and connect with each other online, including:

Resident Directory

Directory ([verrado.net/InVerrado/Resident Directory](http://verrado.net/InVerrado/ResidentDirectory)): Join the Resident Directory, allowing neighbors and friends to contact you directly.

Community Bulletin Board

([verrado.net/InVerrado/Community Bulletin Board](http://verrado.net/InVerrado/CommunityBulletinBoard)): A resident-controlled space to share information with other neighbors to

notify, promote, refer, buy, sell, rent, trade, or giveaway services or goods.

Facebook

(<http://www.facebook.com/verrado>; you can also select the Facebook icon on verrado.net): Share good news and interesting information with the larger Verrado community directly on our Facebook wall.

Neighborhood Groups

([verrado.net/Clubs and Groups](http://verrado.net/ClubsandGroups)): Facilitating neighbor-to-neighbor connections, Neighborhood Groups provide an online forum to communicate with residents living in your neighborhood park.

Clubs & Groups

([verrado.net/Clubs and Groups](http://verrado.net/ClubsandGroups)): Facilitating resident connections, Clubs and Groups provide an online forum for neighbors with shared interests and passions to engage with each other.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE RESERVATION:

Verrado residents can secure advance, exclusive use of eight of our community's unique parks: Founders Park, Grand Lawn, Hamilton's Run, Hillcrest Park, King's Green, Village Commons, Walton Park, and the Welcome Center Lawn through the facility reservation module on Verrado's new transaction portal.

Residents can also secure advance, exclusive use of the Verrado Instant Party (VIP) Trailer. Use of a bounce house/inflatable unit is ONLY permitted in Verrado's reservable parks and requires pre-approval in order to protect the residents and assets of the Verrado community.

Additional reception sites and event services are available at The Village Sport & Health Club at Verrado (623.215.6500) and the Raven Golf Club at Verrado (623.388.3002).

PARK & VIP TRAILER AVAILABILITY:

Park and VIP Trailer availability can be viewed at your convenience on the Facility Availability Calendar on Verrado's transaction site. From the verrado.net homepage select the "Park/VIP Trailer Availability & Reservations" Quick Link and then the "Reserve a Facility" button and then the "Facility Availability Calendar" button.

Please Note: Facility Reservations are no longer posted to the Verrado Events Calendar.

TRANSACTION SITE SECURITY:

The registration and payment pages of the Verrado transaction site are secure. These are https encrypted pages and the security is at the highest level - comparable to the online security that banks use. You can confirm the security of this or any other web page by right clicking on the page in question and selecting properties.

If for some reason users are seeing an http url, it is very likely that the browser is "caching" the browsing history. To clean your browsing history, select the "delete browsing history" option under the tools menu for internet explorer.

DESIGNING AND BUILDING IN VERRADO



DESIGN REVIEW PROTECTING VERRADO'S VISION

Tabatha Rook, Assistant Operations Manager,
Verrado Community Association, Inc.

To ensure that the character of Verrado remains true to its vision, and to maintain consistency in the quality of improvements within Verrado, Design Review is a mandatory and free-of-charge approval process for Verrado homeowners that want to change or modify the exterior of their home.

Design Review requires prior approval of the Design Review Committee, as outlined in the Community Charter, before any exterior changes or modifications are made. This includes the addition of structure(s), modification of front-yard landscaping (and back-yard landscaping for lots with view fencing); for example, sunscreens, painting, security and screen doors, and solar systems

Design Review in Verrado is detailed in a document, Residential Design Guidelines. Custom home/homesite owners should also refer to the Custom Home Design Guidelines and Custom Home Design Guidelines – Regent Hills. All of these Guidelines are available on verrado.net by selecting the "Community Guidelines" menu option from the "In My Home" or "Community Governance" drop-down navigation tabs.

It is the goal of the Community Association to work in partnership with residents to protect Verrado's unique community design. The Design Review Committee is committed to ensuring all exterior home modifications meet Community Standards. In that spirit, effective January 1, 2012, homeowners who don't adhere to the Community Association's Design Review process for exterior home modifications are subject to a \$250.00 Retroactive Design Review Application Fee that may be removed if the approved modifications are made within 30 days to meet our community standards.

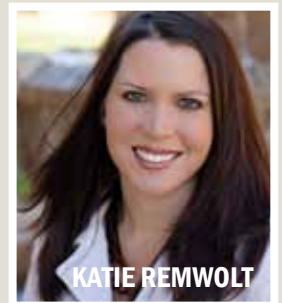
To submit a Design Review Application in advance of exterior home modifications, visit verrado.net and select the "Apply to Modify Your Home Exterior" Quick Link.

VERRADO ASSEMBLY – PAGE 4
Creating unique opportunities for Verrado
neighbors to engage and connect.

OPERATIONS NEWS

Chadwick Reed, Community Operations Manager,
Verrado Community Association, Inc.

It's been another exciting year for the Operations Team in Verrado, a year full of transition, reorganization, and the welcoming and bidding farewell of great talent. After many years of dedicated leadership handling landscaping in Verrado, Randy Dillman retired, leaving behind a legacy of careful and concise management of the maturing landscapes in Verrado. With a solid depth of experience, Scott Rowan shifted from the Assistant Community Operations Manager to Facilities & Landscape Operations Manager, and now oversees all maintenance and landscape in our community. After earning her MBA and also the community management designations of CMCA (Community Manager of Community Associations) and AMS (Association Management Specialist), we're pleased to announce the promotion of Tabatha Rook to Assistant Community Operations Manager. In addition, our team enthusiastically welcomed the talents of: Al Semmler, Senior Accountant, joining Christie Benninger, Accounting Manager to form our Accounting Team; and also Katie Remwolt as our new Community Operations Coordinator. With five years in the community association industry, Katie is a Certified Arizona Association Manager (CAAM). She joins the Verrado Community Association/DMB from AAM, LLC. A Michigan native, Katie is happily married to Chris Remwolt, and is the proud parent of two daughters: Kendra, 4 ½-years-old and Brielle, 14 months old.



KATIE REMWOLT

TWO RATE CASES IMPACT VERRADO; YOUR COMMENTS ENCOURAGED

Melinda Gulick, President, Board of Directors
Verrado Community Association, Inc.

Two cases that will result in water rate and sewer rate increases for residents of Verrado and also for the Verrado Community Association, Inc. are currently pending at the Arizona Corporation Commission. While an increase in water and sewer rates is likely, the Verrado Community Association has intervened in both cases to oppose the proposed significant rate increases.

The hearing for the waste water case began November 14. The hearing for the water rate case is scheduled for December 5.

At the close of these hearings – anticipated to last up to one week for each rate case – the judge could take several months to issue a ruling. This ruling will be forwarded to the Corporation Commission for a final decision. The Corporation Commission will hold an open meeting, expected in the first quarter of 2012, to issue their final decision.

Given that the Corporation Commission will make final decisions in both of these rate cases, public comments to the Commissioners are encouraged as they may have an impact on their upcoming decisions. To submit public comments to the Commissioners, please visit verrado.net. A summary of the rate cases and our primary arguments, and also ongoing updates on the status of the cases can also be found on verrado.net.

BUCKEYE FIRE STATION IN VERRADO – GALLERY 37 ART INSTALLATION

Cristen Crujido, Director of Marketing and
Public Relations, West Valley Arts Council



Last summer, ten aspiring West Valley art students embarked on one unforgettable summer of creativity and one monumental task. Their mission: to create a piece of public art for the new Buckeye Fire Station #703 located in Verrado, and to do it in just five weeks! Sounds daunting, but these teens masterfully rose

to the challenge with passion, designing a beautiful work of art that connects the residents of Verrado with the firefighters who selflessly serve their community.

Students of the West Valley Arts Council's award-winning Gallery 37 arts apprenticeship program converged on the campus of Estrella Mountain Community College to plan and fabricate this one-of-a-kind piece. Research included discussions with town planners, building architects, and Buckeye Fire Chief Bob Costello. Students also took a special field trip to the Hall of Flame Fire Museum to learn about the history and traditions of firefighting.

Once research was complete, the teens were ready to get to work. Led by a team of master artists, Gallery 37 apprentices created a 2D and 3D sculpture inspired by the classic and symbolic form of the Maltese Cross and its eight cardinal points.

Entitled "Fractured Flames," the project consists of a bench and nine intricately designed mosaic pavers, forming a walkway to the entrance of the firehouse. Eight of these tiles illustrate the points of the cross through words and images. The ninth tile, placed at the front entrance, depicts the station number of the firehouse set against flames and the White Tank Mountains. "Fractured Flames" will be installed in Spring 2012.

TEACHING STANDARDS

Pete Kovats, National Board for Professional
Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Candidate



Verrado Elementary School is proud to announce that seventeen of its teachers from both this year and last, are nearing the end of their journey toward NBPTS certification. Our community applauds these educators in their commitment to teaching excellence!

Kim Wass, Kristi Abramson, Pete Kovats, Sharon Davis, Michelle Steik, Kara Estes, Katie Burton, Allison Pentti, Lori Vinas, Scott Emery, Heidi Witt, Anne Clanin

Not pictured: Jennifer Kazmar, Julie Brownsberger, Jennifer Silvester, April Gosselink and Christy Fisher.

PHILANTHROPIC YOUTH



SHORTY'S BIKE FOUNDATION

Anthony Totri, Neighbor (Age 14), Founders

Shorty's Bike Foundation (SBF) has been one of my greatest achievements so far in my life. I cannot tell you how much this Foundation has changed the lives of others who are not as fortunate as those of us who live in Verrado. Through this Foundation, I am constantly reminded how lucky I am.

SBF is an organization that donates bikes to less fortunate children in the remote areas of Mexico (called the "Barrio" by the locals). SBF is a family affair. My mom, Amy, is the one that picks up the bikes and works on getting the parts from Estrella Mountain Cyclery, a bike shop that has been generous in selling me parts at a discounted price. Rawy, my dad, is the SBF mechanic, always making sure the bikes are 100 percent safe before being sent down. My Grandma and Grandpa, Jackie and Jerry VanDyke, either take them down to Mexico or make arrangements to get them delivered.

I have donated over 15 bikes and my goal is to donate 100 bikes by the end of 2012. All I want from this Foundation is to just keep giving! I started this organization after volunteering during a Christmas break trip to Mexico helping to fill stockings with basic necessities for hundreds of children. Realizing this was all they would receive for Christmas, I knew I wanted to do more – something special. I started SBF by giving my bike to a boy named Jose, a nine year-old who now teaches others down in the Barrio how to ride their bikes. I'm so proud of him and the others who have earned their bikes. The children who receive bikes must earn them by continuing to go to church and do well in school.

If you would like to donate to SBF please let me know by emailing me at atakashorty@hotmail.com or sending me a message on Facebook through the SBF page (<http://www.facebook.com/ShortysBikeFoundation#!/pages/Shortys-Bike-Foundation>) – the SBF page has pictures of children who have earned their bikes, so go check it out and please help Shorty's Bike Foundation reach our 100-bike donation goal!

LITTLE ARRIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

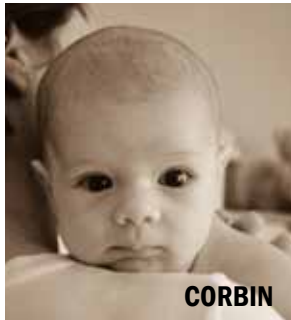
VERRADO ASSEMBLY – PAGE 6
Creating unique opportunities for Verrado neighbors to engage and connect.



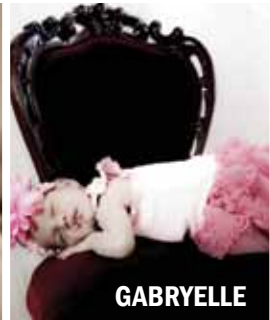
DESTINY



ASHER



CORBIN



GABRYELLE



AUTUMN



LINCOLN



LYNCOLN

DESTINY KHARRENTON DRAPER

Born into a large and loving family, Destiny joined siblings Danny, Daisjion, Devin, Dannyelle, Dohnovan and Dohrien, and parents Karen and Danny, on September 20. Destiny weighed 6 lbs 5 oz and was 19.5 inches long.

ASHER RICHARD ELLINGSON

The Verrado Assembly's very own Kate Ellingson, along with husband Mitchell and older son Carsten, welcomed Asher on October 19. He weighed 7 lbs and was 20.75 inches long.

CORBIN RYAN EVANS

VES Principal Molly Evans gave birth to Corbin on July 17, weighing in at 8 lbs 8 oz. He is welcomed by mom, dad Ryan and sisters Aly and Kiley.

GABRYELLE MARIE GAMBOA

Nuria and Danny Gamboa welcomed Gabryelle on August 19. She weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 19 inches long. Her proud big brother is Bryan.

AUTUMN ROSE HEVNER

Parents Melissa and Bryson Hevner and their oldest daughter Addison, welcomed Autumn into their family on August 2. She weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and was 21 inches long.

LINCOLN JAMES MILHOUSE

Lincoln was born on July 10, weighing 4 lbs 15 oz and measuring 18 inches in length. This little but very healthy boy's parents are Sharon and Ken Milhouse; his sister is Layla.

LYNCOLN GRACE TALLMAN

The Tallman family - Priscilla, Rich and Joaquin welcomed little girl, Lyncoln, on March 29, weighing in at 9 lbs 15.8 oz and measuring 21.5 inches.

VERRADO HIGH SCHOOL'S HAUNTED HOMECOMING

Sam Roybal, Student, Verrado High School



On September 19, 2011, Verrado High School (VHS) launched our not-so-ordinary week with a Haunted Homecoming. As students piled into VHS before the morning bell, they were shocked to see their school covered in spider webs, ghosts, and posters. Return of the Mummy Monday kicked off our Homecoming Spirit Week with students ambling through the halls as tattered mummies.



That evening, the Verrado community got into the spirit and joined VHS for the nightmare on Main Street parade. Our Grand Marshall was Victoria Mendoza, Verrado resident, VHS student and current Miss Junior Teen Arizona United States. She led the procession of themed floats filled with this season's sports teams, clubs, Homecoming Court, as well as our marching band, The Viper Vanguard. Year after year, the Homecoming parade is one of those "very Verrado" events - a nostalgic, warm fuzzy charged with community pride and support of its young people.

Following a week of creatively themed spirit days, Blackout Friday had two incredible events. In the morning, the pep rally was a complete success with Varsity Zone Channel 3 News televising directly from our gym. It really got the crowd pumped up and the students were more than excited to show their Black and Gold Homecoming spirit with the rest of Arizona.

Friday night was the big game as the Varsity Football team took on Youngker High School. At halftime, the Homecoming Royalty was crowned with an unusual twist: King Jacob Noble was crowned and then it was announced that there were two Homecoming Queens due to a student body voting tie. VHS student body president Angela Espinoza and I, Sam Roybal, now share that crown, which makes it easier for both of us to lightheartedly hold the title. It was definitely a memorable moment for the two of us.

Our Homecoming week wrapped up Saturday as we danced the night away at the Haunted Homecoming Masquerade Ball. Like the entire homecoming week, the dance was a spirited success. As a senior, I recognize that these memories are forever. And I'm already looking forward to next year when I get to "come home" to my beloved Verrado High School.

CLUB CORNER: ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Gary Ames, Neighbor, Jackson Green

Certainly one of Verrado's "Oldies but Goodies," the Flag Football Club is still going strong after six plus years. The group was put together by one of the original community residents who felt that getting out on the field a couple nights a week would be a great way to get some exercise and have a little fun. But something more significant happened – the players began to recognize one another as neighbors and friends. That club founder moved out of state a few years ago, and I happily grabbed the torch. Many of the players felt that the Flag Football Club was too good to flame out and the commitment to keep it going has resulted in a robust group of approximately thirty-five men who get out there and have a ball. Teams are determined by a lottery system and volunteers step up to be captains.

Historically, we have met one night a week with each team playing two games. The season starts in January, so if you are at least 21 years old (oldest participant is 46) and interested in playing a little football, please visit the Clubs and Groups section of verrado.net to join. Keep in mind that game nights are not just for players; many residents hang out and watch. So if you are looking for a nice neighborly activity on a weekday night, look for the lights, and come cheer for the old guys!

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL

Jim Steg, Neighbor, Lost Creek

The newly founded Youth Volleyball Club is in its infancy, but it has already grabbed the attention of many of the girls in our community who play the sport. After many years volunteering for volleyball organizations, including Verrado Middle School, my wife Theresa and I decided to launch this non-profit competitive club. It provides athletes a place to work on their technical skills, and also their teamwork and leadership skills, and their confidence and self-esteem.

This club also provides an opportunity to spend quality time with my volleyball playing daughters, Rylie and Kayla. With the help of fellow Verrado residents, Cathy Saleh and Mike Luciere, the club will get up and running just as the USA Volleyball season kicks off. As our team forms and schedules become available, more information will be posted on verrado.net.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



WAYNE AND PEGGY CARPENTER , POINT RIDGE

Ashley Lax, Neighbor, Lost Creek

October 2004, my family (husband Josh, children Lathon and Shelby and I) boarded a plane to Phoenix. Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, I was always surrounded by a supportive, loving extended family, and I was nervous about moving 1,500 miles across country.

Shortly after our move to Arizona, we found our Utopian community here in Verrado. Our kids have now lived half their lives here and they have developed long-lasting bonds with some special classmates and neighbors.

Over the years, family and friends have repeatedly visited us and the "resort-style experience" that they encounter during their stay in Verrado. Finally, in May 2011, one of the most important set of visitors decided to stay and become a permanent part of this community, my in-laws Peggy and Wayne Carpenter.

Their decision to move here gave us back our extended family, a big part of what we had been missing. Peggy and Wayne are thrilled to now be included in birthdays, athletic events, school activities, and parties without having to hop on a plane.

Both of them have quickly made themselves at home in Verrado. Sunset cocktails at the Grill, wood-fired pizzas at Grazier, daily coffee at Ground Control, and impromptu backyard get-togethers have become their staple social activities. Knowing that Lathon can hop on a bike and ride a few blocks away to hang out with his grandparents is amazing. Watching Shelby get up at 6 AM every morning just so she can ride to school with her Nana, who works at Verrado Elementary School, is truly priceless.

They love being here. We love having them here. Thank you, Peggy and Wayne, for taking a leap of faith and joining us on our Verrado journey. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that my mother also runs for the sunshine and joins us in the near future!



VERRADO ASSEMBLY
 VERRADO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
 4236 North Verrado Way, Suite A200
 Buckeye, AZ 85396

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTORS:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Todd Hornback | Cristen Crujido |
| Ed Anderson | Pete Kovats |
| Tara Rassas | Anthony Totri |
| Leslie Bentley | Sam Roybal |
| Tabatha Rook | Gary Ames |
| Chadwick Reed | Jim Steg |
| Melinda Gulick | Ashley Lax |

VERRADO® PORCH LIGHT®

Additional information about Verrado events and activities can be found on verrado.net. To set up an account, log on to verrado.net and complete the online registration process. For more information or to contribute please contact the Verrado Assembly at (623) 466-7000 or communications@verrado.net.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

VERRADO ASSEMBLY – PAGE 8
 Creating unique opportunities for Verrado neighbors to engage and connect.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS!

Verrado Assembly

December 3 | Holiday Gift Fair and Pancake Breakfast | 9 AM – 12 NOON | Village Sport & Health Club

Fill up on pancakes and visit with Santa. Advanced tickets required; contact the Village Sport & Health Club at (623) 466-6500. Start your holiday shopping early with a collection of vendors showcasing gifts to suit everyone on your list.

December 3 | Donate Blood, Save a Life | 9 AM – 2 PM | Main Street

Help save 3 lives with 1 donation! Go to www.bloodhero.com to make an appointment (search event: Verrado or zip code).



December 3 | 8th Annual Tree Lighting Celebration | 5 – 9 PM | Village Green & Main Street

Watch in awe as we light the community tree for the first time this season. Holiday entertainment, horse-drawn wagon rides, marshmallow roasting, gift fair, and tons of real snow to play in! Santa will be there too, so bring your camera. Warm and yummy holiday treats available for purchase.

December 4 | Joy of Giving Celebration | 5 – 8 PM | Raven Golf Club at Verrado™

Help support Buckeye families in need this holiday season - donate toys, food, clothing, diapers, and baby formula. Visit Santa, enjoy musical performances and cherish the Joy of Giving.

December 31 | New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance Party | Raven Golf Club at Verrado

Ring in the New Year with neighbors and friends. Advanced tickets required; contact The Raven at (623) 388-3013.

For more information regarding these events, visit verrado.net.