J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 03

April 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Electronic Newsletter and Community Web-site	1
New Fire Truck Ordered	2
Supervisor Searle Visits Community	2
Fire Prevention Class	3
Future Travel into Happy Valley	5

BE INFORMED!

BE INVOLVED!

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Call 586-1233 to volunteer for the production team!!!

For email notifications, contact us at our new email address:

CDO@Tri-Newsletter.com

STATS INDICATE WEB LAUNCH IS SUCCESSFUL!!

After one month of being on the web, Tri-News Central stats are being reviewed for helpful indicators to improve this community-based service to residents and visitors in the J-6, Mescal, and Skyline areas.

From the Feb. 24 launch to April 5th, there have been 1,169 requests to view pages within **www.Tri-newsletter.com**. One of the most significant features accessed was this newsletter under the "Current Issue" tab. Many visitors also checked out the classifieds, photo gallery, business directory and went as far as to access community links provided by local businesses.

Marketing software also allowed publishing staff to monitor stats on the success of the twice-a-month emailed quick links to the Tri-News web site. Stats from the two E-Notes indicated the majority of the extensive distribution list not only opened the notice for news briefs but also clicked into the web-site!!!!

Publishing staff is pleased with the initial stats that indicate Tri-News Central will be an effective method to inform the area of community events and important late-breaking news. Remind your neighbor to register their email so they don't miss out!

Staff always welcomes input and suggestions at **CDO@Tri-Newsletter.com.**

TRI-NEWS CENTRAL

SAME GREAT NEWS PLUS...

- Free Classifieds
- Free Posting of Yard Sales
- 2-month free ads for local business owners
- Business Directory
- Photo Gallery
- Places to See
- Things to Do
- Who's Who

APRIL - WATER AWARENESS MONTH

……..more details inside!

NEW FIRE TRUCK IS ORDERED!

On March 16th, the Mescal-J6 Fire District held a public meeting to discuss truck specifics and loan details as required by the USDA Rural Development Funding Assistance Program.

A request for assistance was timely in that a June 26th deadline was looming to correct the ISO deficiency of not having the capacity to haul 4,000 gallons of water to a structure fire without relying on mutual aid responses. If the deadline was not met, the change in rating would mean higher home insurance.

Deputy Fire Chief Chris Bernal explained that the truck ordered from Truck Works will carry 3500 gallons of water with a 1250 GPM pump allowing the truck to answer calls independent of other vehicles as well as providing support to structural engines. The 10" quick dump on the rear will also be an important feature if the District has to provide water support to helicopter operations as was the case with the Cumero & Distillery Fires.

The Fire District Vehicle Committee ruled out other alternatives such as purchasing a 500 gallon truck or a 500 gallon tank on a truck due to safety issues and the importance of cutting down on the number of trips back to water sources to refill.

Tender cost and Financial Layout specifics include:

- Cost before taxes: $149,939.00
- Tax on truck: $12,444.94
- FET Tax waved because of District status
- Expected Cost: $164,384.00
- Pre-approved loan amount: $165,000 representing 100% financing
- Fire District will get $10,000 deposit back from Truck Works for reserve fund
- 4.5% fixed interest rate
- No extra payment or pre-payment penalty
- Semi-annual payments due 45 days after tax revenue is released by Cochise County

NEW TENDER EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN MID-JUNE 2009 AND IS EXPECTED TO SERVICE THIS AREA FOR APPROX. 15 YEARS.

SUPERVISOR SEARLE VISITS WITH COMMUNITY

Supervisor Searle casually conversed with area residents at the recent CDO Quarterly Meeting held in March at the J-6 Community Bible Church.

Searle explained that the County was in a sound financial position thanks to his predecessors' planning.

Decreasing revenues have left the county with a $3.1 million deficit but the County will use contingency funds rather than look at any layoffs.

A 10 % reduction in salaries will not be due to layoffs, but rather employees losing a few hours of pay in a few paychecks on a volunteer basis. In addition, the county has a hiring freeze on non-essential personnel with the Sheriff's Department being exempt.

Services have not been cut, although several satellite offices in Wilcox and Benson have been closed except thru appointments.

County roads will continue to be maintained but perhaps not as frequently.

Searle did suggest that residents review their 2010 Residential Notice of Value that will be arriving shortly. If there is any concern that one's property has been improperly valued, then begin the appeal process immediately. Waiting for the tax bill puts a property owner past the 60-day deadline for starting the appeal process.

The Envisioning Report was briefly discussed with Supervisor Searle confirming the Board's direction to Planning & Zoning to explore how the results can be implemented in upcoming revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and to consider if results warrant another look at the Comp Plan vision statement.

In the future, Searle foresees a need to increase the state tax on gasoline in order to keep up with the repairs and construction of road systems. The current rate is 18 cents per gallon and has not increased since the 1980's although the costs have gone up significantly.

Lastly, the audience was pleased to hear that recycling is finally coming to the Benson area in April!

Planning & Zoning Offices in Benson: Building permits need to be submitted by appointment only
Call (520) 432-9240 to schedule .
Benson appointments will be on Tuesdays.

IS YOUR HOME SAFE?

Wildland fire season is here!

Learn how to protect your home and neighborhood.

The Mescal -J6 Fire District is offering a free fire prevention class Saturday May 2nd at 10:00 am at Fire Station 1.
This class will teach you about:

- Survivable space
- Defensive techniques
- Preventing home ignition
- How to help firefighters in event of fire

There will also be activities and Fire Prevention materials for the kids.

For questions or concerns, contact:

Mescal Station 1	586-7007
Levi Garner Firefighter/EMT	586-3450
Captain Oren Patchell	586-3939

NEWS BRIEFS

REVISIONS TO HAZARD ABATEMENT ORDINANCE BEING CONSIDERED BY P & Z:

The existing ordinance identifies a process whereby rubbish, trash, filth, debris or damaged and dilapidated buildings which constitute a hazard to public health and safety may be removed within the unincorporated area of Cochise County.

Revisions to this 1987 Ordinance was initiated by the County Administration at the request of the Board of Supervisors. P & Z Staff has been working with the County Attorney's Office to incorporate additional language in the Ordinance to address the appeal processes and the rules to be followed by the appeal hearing officer.

This docket was advertised for the April 8th Commission meeting, but staff requested a continuance to May 13 or June 10 to allow for more time to complete amendments to the draft.

CDO is currently tracking changes and will keep the community informed of those which are significant. See Hot Links at Tri-newsletter.com.

ATVS DAMAGING AREA:

Removing No Trespassing Signs is considered Criminal Damage/ Vandalism.

Property owners along Tequila Trail are advocating for RESPONSIBLE ATV riding and are requesting parents to inform their children that removing No Trespassing Signs is a crime.

No Trespassing Signs have recently been posted on vacant land that has had vegetative ground cover destroyed by youthful ATV riders. The denuded land is becoming a dust bowl and soils are no longer protected from erosion.

Riders are continuing to remove the signs which warrants continued calls to the Sheriff's Department. Since vacant land owners have provided written permission for neighbors to report trespassing and the destruction of their property, the Sheriff is taking these reports seriously.

CONSTRUCTION TO I-10 AND SR 90 TO BEGIN IN FALL 2009:

According to Bill Harmon, ADOT Safford District Engineer, Right of Way purchases will be completed by May and construction is slated in early fall to realign I-10 curves west of SR90 starting near Mile Post 301.

The $44-million dollar project is funded and is anticipated to last 18 to 24 months.

Removing the dangerous curves will impact properties north of I-10, most prominently the Calvary Baptist Church.

After condemnation, the church will receive $ 874, 900 for the 8-acre property and a 30' strip from their new property where the Livery Stable was previously located.

Dark Sky Road, known as the frontage road, will be moved to the north approximately 3/4 mile providing new access to residential properties. Right of way costs were significantly reduced with the donation of land by two property owners.

Harman commented that any future plans to connect SR 90 north of the freeway to Mescal Road is not in the plan. If deemed appropriate in the future, ADOT would most likely not be involved since they are backing away from developing local circulation systems.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT WILL INCLUDE:

- Removing curves along a stretch of I-10 with the highest accident rates in the area
- Incorporating climbing lane from Exit 304 west bound to Exit 301
- Providing signalized on and off ramps at Interchange.
- Extending bridge to allow for future I-10 expansion to three lanes in each direction when growth warrants.
- Constructing additional lanes to SR 90 at the underpass.
- Utilizing rubberized surface for greater endurance

HOW TRAVEL WILL BE IMPACTED DURING CONSTRUCTION:

- Two lanes of traffic on I-10 will be kept open in each direction.
- One lane in each direction will be open on SR 90.
- Night closures might occur for 30-minute periods.

MANAGING USE OF ROADS IN HAPPY VALLEY-
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST PROPOSAL

Coronado National Forest is developing management plans for roads within the Santa Catalina and Rincon Mountain Ranges and have released their initial proposal for public review

Once the proposal completes the NEPA process and an additional public comment period is held, the official decision is signed. A Motor Vehicle Use Map will then be created that will define which roads in the forest will be opened for public travel and where camping with vehicles will be allowed.

The draft proposal known as the Scoping Notice can be viewed at Tri-newsletter.com under Hot Links.

The current comment period ends April 15th. Written comments may be sent by U.S. Mail to Ms. Laura White, Travel Management Program Manager, Coronado National Forest, 300 W. Congress Street, Tucson, Az 85701 or by email to comments-southwestern-Coronado@fs.fed.us with "Travel Management NEPA" in the subject line.

PROPOSED HIGHLIGHTS

Forest Service roads begin approximately 7 miles north on Happy Valley Road. The main road is FSR 35 that transitions into FSR 4410, 4411 near the Clopton Ranch.

- Along the main road, cars may park up to one car width along side the road where they can do so without destroying resources.
- Camping with vehicles along the main road will only be allowed at 19 specified areas that will be accessed with designated entrances. (The areas identified appear to be the familiar areas that have been historically used for camping.)
- Other roads will have vehicle supported camping within 300' from each side of the road - referred to as a 300' camping corridor.
- Roads currently closed or having restricted travel will remain as such.
- The ridge road along Turkey Creek will remain opened to the loop turn around as will the roads to Surprise Pasture, Redrock Tank, etc.
- The road thru Clopton Ranch to Bear Creek will remain for administrative purposes only.

Two existing guidelines will not change:

- Cross-country motorized vehicle use beyond existing roads in the District is prohibited (except for travel within a 300-ft corridor for motorized dispersed camping where allowed).
- Hunters are limited to non-motorized means to retrieve tagged game, preventing damage to delicate ecosystems and avoiding creation of unauthorized routes.

The process currently underway in Happy Valley and the Santa Catalina Ranger District is similar to what will occur for the other mountain ranges throughout this summer.

The Proposals for each range and corresponding maps will be posted on the Forest's public website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado and at the District Office in Sierra Vista.

If you wish to participate in study sessions held locally, contact Cochise Trails Association (CTA), a non-profit organization working toward establishing, protecting, and preserving access to trails. This county-based organization will review each proposal and provide comments/ questions to the Forest Service. CTA will continue to meet with NFS Travel Management to clarify the fine detail of the maps so any changes to current use is clearly understood.

Proposals are also being reviewed by the Arizona Public Lands Advisory Coalition so that participating entities have the latest information to advocate for access to public lands. For further information regarding either organization, please call 520-609-2738.

HELP THE ARIZONA TRAIL RECEIVE GRANT FUNDING

Arizona Trail users are asking for community support to help the Arizona Trail receive a winner take-all $ 50,000 grant to build the Saguaro National Park Connector Trail.

This winner take-all grant would build five difficult miles of the Arizona Trail into the Saguaro National Park east of Tucson. Due to the remote location in a rugged wilderness area, these miles must be constructed by hand. Not only will this project help complete the trail, it allows for access into backcountry and protects a sensitive riparian area.

From April 1, 2009, through midnight on May 31, 2009, readers can vote everyday for the Arizona Trail Project - once ONLINE DAILY and also once via TEXT MESSAGE DAILY during this period (yes twice a day, "just like in Chicago").

Vote online at www.greateroutdoorsproject.com

SEE LOCAL PAPER FOR FULL INSERT

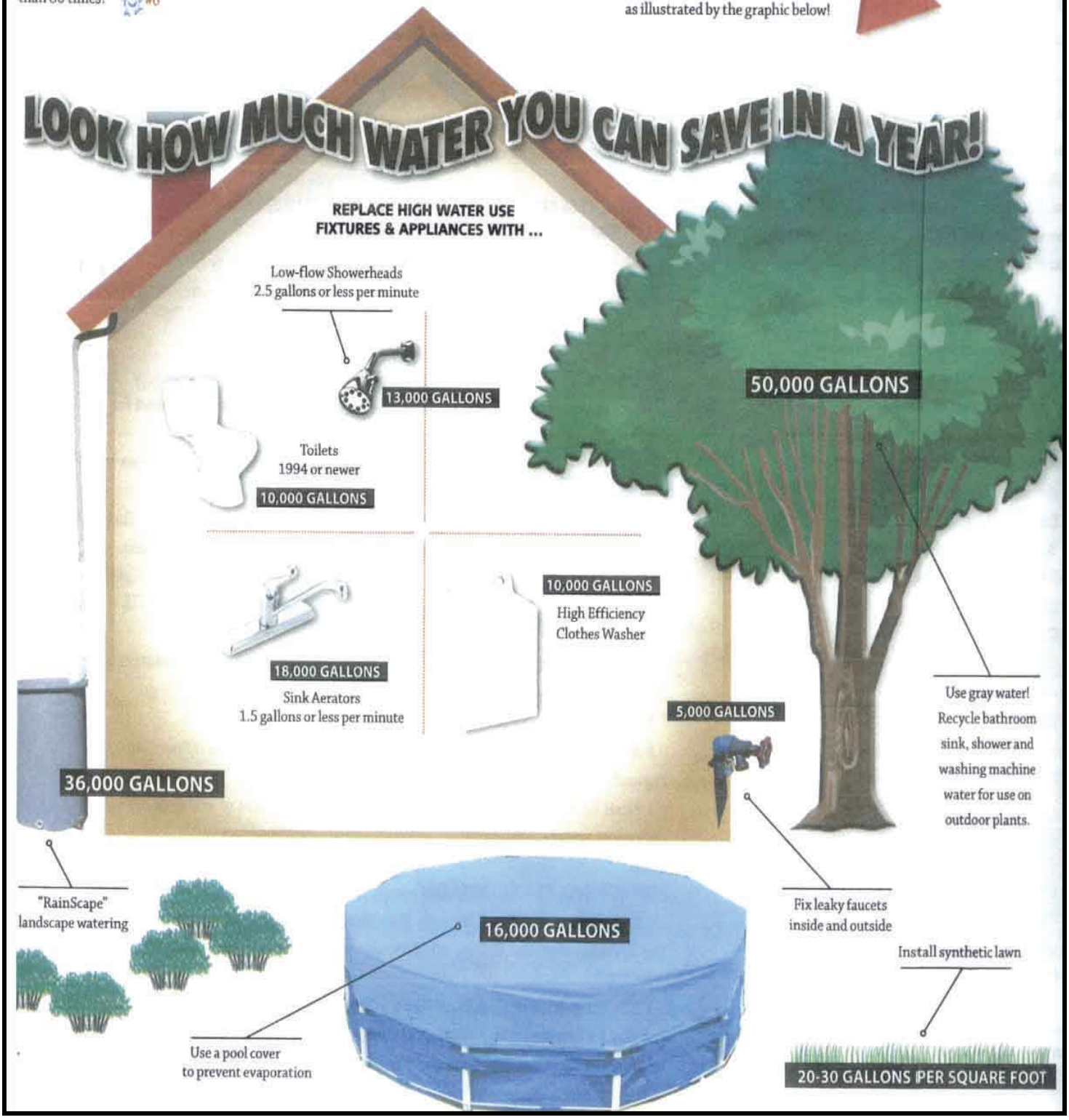
SAVE JUST ONE GALLON A DAY...

WATER WISE WATER CONSERVATION 2009

If everyone in Cochise County saved just one gallon of water a day – the average Sierra Vista resident uses 144 gallons a day — we could conserve 46 million gallons of water a year ... that's enough water to fill the Sierra Vista swimming pool at "The Cove" more than 80 times! #6

You can make a difference! Save thousands of gallons of water a year by reducing the amount of water used in and around your house, as illustrated by the graphic below!

LOOK HOW MUCH WATER YOU CAN SAVE IN A YEAR!



WATER FOOTPRINTS

SEE LOCAL PAPER FOR FULL INSERT

WATERWISE WATER CONSERVATION 2009

It is surprising how much water touches almost every aspect of our lives. We read about carbon footprints, i.e., the amount of green house gases caused directly and indirectly by individuals, organizations, events or by the products we use. And now we are learning about our water footprint.

According to The Water Footprint Network, "The water footprint of an individual is defined as the total amount of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual."

How do we measure up? The average American consumes 1,190 gallons of water a day. How about you? There is an easy calculator on H2OConserve.org for computing the amount of water you consume. The categories are quite extensive: country, dietary habits, driving habits, indoor water use and outdoor water use. It seems there isn't any place in our lives that doesn't involve water.

Because of these interconnections, it can be overwhelming to try and reduce our carbon and water footprints. To make it easier to reduce your water footprint, this publication will give you suggestions on how to be more efficient with the water used in your home, on your property and at your business.

HOW MANY GALLONS OF WATER DOES IT TAKE TO PRODUCE THINGS THAT YOU EAT EVERY DAY? YOU'LL BE SURPRISED!

It takes 1,400 gallons of water to make a meal containing a hamburger, french fries and a soft drink!

It takes 3 gallons of water to grow / produce a tomato.

It takes 14 gallons of water to grow / produce a single orange.

It takes 150 gallons of water to grow / produce one loaf of bread.

A dairy cow must drink 4 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.

It takes 120 gallons of water to produce one egg.

It takes 16½ gallons of water to manufacture a 12-ounce can of soft drink

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency

WANT TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE A LEAK? READ YOUR METER!

Knowing how to read your meter is the best way to discover hidden leaks. Your meter is probably located at your property line near the street. Look for a rectangular box lid. Inside of that is your meter. If your meter and your neighbors' meter are side by side, yours is the closest to your home. The meter can be read like an odometer. On it you will notice numbers 1-10 with each number representing a gallon. For the meter to register 10 gallons the red hand must do a completer rotation. If water isn't being used on the property and the meter is turning – you have a leak! — *Courtesy of Pueblo Del Sol Water Company*

"The water footprint of an individual is defined as the total amount of freshwater that is used to produce the goods and services consumed by the individual."

The Water Footprint Network

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

- **OWN A BUSINESS/ OR PROVIDE A SERVICE WITHIN J-6, MESCAL OR SKYLINE?**
- **RESIDE IN AREA BUT BUSINESS IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE AREA ?**

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List your business or service free in the Business Directory with contact info, hours. If room permits, we will provide a link to your own website.

Business Cards are posted for free within the Current Issue on the web as space allows thru May.

Nov. - Dec. 2008 and Jan. 2009 Newsletter Advertisers receive a 3-month free advertising bonus for helping launch the new service.

ATTENTION TRI-COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

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FROM BARBARA'S COOKING CORNER

QUESADILLA PIE

1 (4 1/2 oz) can chopped mild green chilies, well drained

2 cups shredded Cheddar Cheese

1 Tbl chopped fresh Cilantro

3/4 cup all purpose baking mix (Bisquick)

1 1/2 cups milk

3 eggs, beaten

Yields 6 servings:

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a 9 inch pie pan.

Sprinkle chilies, cheese, and cilantro in pan.

Stir together baking mix, milk and eggs until blended.

Pour gently over chilies and cheese.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Serve with salsa if desired.

Also see Ranch House BBQ Muffins - on the web

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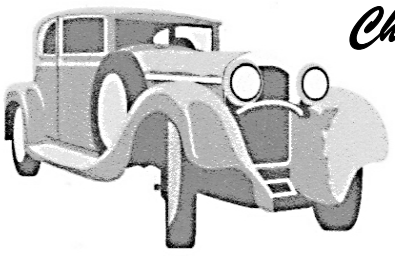

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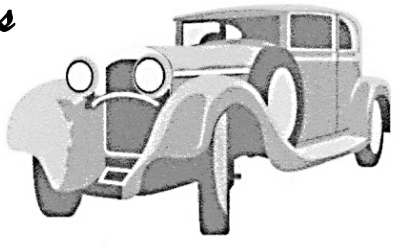

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FUELeconomy

Ensuring the best fuel mileage from your car will ease the burden on your wallet!

THERE ARE FOUR IMPORTANT WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLE GETS THE BEST FUEL MILEAGE POSSIBLE

TIRE PRESSURE
Proper tire inflation allows your vehicle to move down the road with less friction. Under-inflated tires create more drag, using more gas. Improper tire pressure is the #1 cause of tire blow-outs and uneven tire wear.

AIR FILTER
A clean air filter stops dirt particles before they reach your engine. Our desert dirt shortens the life of air filters. Dirty air filter = dirty engine = poor fuel mileage. Clean air filters every oil change and replace as necessary.

FUEL SYSTEM
Most vehicles call for a new fuel filter every 15k-30k miles. A clogged filter can restrict fuel pressure and cause the premature demise of your fuel pump. I also recommend a Wynn's fuel injection treatment at least once a year.

wynn's

ENGINE LIGHT
If your check engine/service engine light comes on, find out if the problem is with one of your engine control sensors. A defective sensor can affect the air/fuel mixture, causing unburned gas to pass through the engine.

Not only will these simple service items improve your fuel mileage, they will also help extend the life of your vehicle.
—Bob Baker, owner

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Free Pool Thurs.Night
Free Darts Everyday
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Free Internet Jukebox
Fri & Sat. Night

Pool Tournaments
Every Fri.@7:00
$5 Entry Fee/Bar Matches

Swap Meet
Bring Your Stuff~Buy Some Stuff
Sat. April 25th~Vender Set-Up @ 10:00 $3.00 spot
Open To The Public @ 11:00

No Food or Beverages Allowed
Contact Connie 586-3905

BULLETIN BOARD

CALL TO POST YOUR FREE AD - 586-1233

FOR SALE

FREE: Old 19' sailboat hull with small cabin. No motor or trailer. Would make good drift fishing boat or use to make pond in your yard. Call George, 586-1233

FOR SALE: 1986 Honda Outboard Motor, 4 stroke, 7 1/2 HP. Has only about 20 hours of use but not used for at all for about 12 years. Comes complete with spare parts and owner's manual. Asking $ 250. Call George, 586-1233

USED COMPUTER SALES AND SERVICE. Software and hardware issues. Upgrades and training. Laptops and desktops. Call Gary at 586-9335

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NEEDED: Pen Cleaner at horse stable. Sunday mornings only. J-Six Equestrian Center 586-7551

CHECK THE WEB FOR FREQUENT UPDATES

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SWAP MEET

Bring Your Stuff - Buy Some Stuff

Sat. April 25th - Vender Set-up at 10:00 for $3.00/spot

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC @ 11:00

No Food or Beverages Allowed

Contact Connie 586-3905

Mescal Bar and Grill

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

J6/Mescal CDO
3111 Clark Road
Benson, Arizona 85602

Mail to a Friend:

Volume 5 Issue 03
APRIL ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE:

PACKED WITH NEWS!

MAIL TODAY!

J-6 / Mescal Community Development Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM - CALENDAR YEAR 2009

All residents and property owners within the J-6, Mescal, Skyline and surrounding areas are eligible to join.

Households may have more than one member. Each member must be at least 18 years old.

Each membership is $ 10.00

Each member is entitled to cast one vote for meeting action items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAY FOR:

- Operating expenses such as copies, postage, printing, phone bills, and office supplies
- Production costs for the Tri-Community Newsletter and web-site.

Name of members for given address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Physical Address:

_____

_____ZIP_____

Email Address:

_____

Phone: _____

Bring to next meeting or mail to : Nancy Upp, 412 S. Many Winds Rd., Benson, Az