



DECEMBER 2023

Ranchers' **RoundUp**

The Official Publication of the Dobson Ranch Homeowners Association

Dobson Ranch Club News

Pages 13 & 14

Fall Festival 50th Anniversary Celebration

Pages 15 & 16

& More to Read

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DOBSON RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

**THE DOBSON ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**
2719 S. Reyes, Mesa, AZ 85202
480-831-8314

Monday through Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

LA CASITA RECREATION CENTER
2719 S. Reyes, Mesa, AZ 85202
Monday through Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday through Sunday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

SARATOGA RECREATION CENTER POOL
2345 S Saratoga, Mesa, AZ 85202
Monday through Sunday: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Holidays: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm

LOS ALTOS LEISURE POOL
2524 W. Campo Alegre
Monday through Sunday: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Holidays: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm

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EMERGENCIES, VANDALISM, SUSPICIOUS
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CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE DIRECTLY WITH CONCERNS,
COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS. OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES ARE STRICTLY FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.**

ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE

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Marc Diaz, Facilities Supervisor

Sheila Cleary, Community Manager

Akina Trimmer, Accounting Manager

Jonathan Lefler, Code Compliance Specialist

Ronnika Giles, Administrative Assistant

RECREATION & LIFESTYLE

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Jackie Hutton, Recreation Facilities Supervisor

Jessi Feltmann, Preschool Teacher

Bari Warnick, Preschool Assistant

Ranchers' Roundup: The articles and comments in this monthly publication are intended to inform, illustrate or provide explanation to members of the Association, and do not necessarily serve as official opinions of the Board of Directors, staff, nor its members. As such, we do not make any representation as to the validity or qualifications of any advertiser or contributor.



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@dobsonassociation

For the most accurate and up to date info, please visit one of the platforms below:

- Weekly Update: To receive this valuable resource, visit DobsonRanchHOA.com, click on the "Communications" pulldown, click "Sign Up for our Weekly E-Blast".
- Website: DobsonRanchHOA.com



All events are subject to change. Visit the Events Calendar at dobsonranchhoa.com for updated info.

Check out the NEW Clubs in GREEN!

Join the Club

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CLUB & MOM'S CLUB

Christa Tropin, Chairperson at ctropin@dobsonranch.com.

DOBSON RANCH COMMUNITY CLUB

Kate O'Hara, Chairperson at azkateo@gmail.com.

WRITERS CLUB

Chad Turner, Chairperson at ctproductionz@gmail.com.

LINE DANCING CLUB & HIKING CLUB

Barbara Stout, Chairperson at stoutgeo@gmail.com.

RETIREES' CLUB & BRIDGE CLUB

Jean Brown, President at jeansponderbrown@gmail.com

RETIREES' CYCLING CLUB

Arnie Chase, Chairperson by phone at 480-838-4124.

PICKLEBALL CLUB

Rich Bitner at rebitner@cs.com

WOMEN'S CLUB

Patty Smith, President at smiths1975@cox.net.

SMALL BUSINESS CLUB

Nikki Ausdemore by phone at 480-628-6730 email at nikki@orangeblossombookkeepingaz.com.

YACHT CLUB

Wes Ver Woert, Chairman at WesV56@gmail.com.

DEMOCRATS & FRIENDS CLUB

George Tihanyi at 480-792-6746 or Kerry Lengel at kerrylengel@gmail.com.

REPUBLICANS CLUB

Michelle Masters, Chairperson at DobsonRanchGOP@gmail.com.

INDEPENDENTS CLUB

Jack Wagner, Chairman at golfingjack@msn.com.

YOYO CLUB

Chad Robinson, Chairman at dryoyoclub@gmail.com. Instagram @dryoyoclub.

THINKING ABOUT STARTING YOUR OWN CLUB?

Email: dobsonranchhoa.com/join-the-club/

Committees & Sub-Associations

CC&R COMMITTEE (Ad-Hoc)

Nicole Lynam, Chairperson at nlynam@dobsonranch.com.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Spencer Jarvis, Chairperson at jarvis.spencer@gmail.com.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Nicole Lynam, Chairperson at nlynam@dobsonranch.com.

MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tim McElrath, Chairperson at tim@mcelrath.me.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Rich Bitner, Chairperson at rebitner@cs.com.

WATER & LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ed Ricci, Chairperson at edricci@oxybel.com

Dobson Bay Club • Ogden Mgmt. • 480-622-3445

Dobson Ranch Condos • United HOA • 480-567-9791

Dobson Glen • Trestle Mgmt. • 480-422-0888

Dobson Greens • Self Managed • 480-839-9079

Dobson Villas • Peterson Company • 480-513-6846

Laguna Village • Brown Community Mgmt. • 480-839-8013

Lake Park Village • Tri-City Property Mgmt. • 480-844-2224

The Landings • Brown Community Mgmt. • 480-339-8806

Legante Paseo • Trestle Mgmt. • 480-422-0888

Water Works • Associated Property Mgmt. • 480-941-1077

Wood Creek Townhomes • City Property • 602-437-4777

City Contacts

Vice Mayor Francisco Heredia – District 3

District3@mesaaz.gov - 480-644-3003

Animal Control (Cruelty, Barking) - 480-644-2268

Code Compliance - 480-644-2061

Utilities, Solid Waste & Water - 480-644-2221

Graffiti Hotline - 480-644-3083

Housing, Community Development - 480-644-3536

Mesa Public Library - 480-644-3100

Mesa Fire & Medical, Non-Emergency - 480-644-2400

Mesa Parks & Recreation - 480-644-2211

Mesa Police Department, Non-Emergency - 480-644-2211

Mesa Police Headquarters/Info - 480-644-2324

Fiesta Patrol Division - 480-644-2614

Neighborhood Outreach - 480-644-5700

Household Hazardous Materials Center - 480-644-4463

Green Pool Issue - 602-506-6616

Streetlight Hotline - 480-644-3191

Transportation (Street Lights, Potholes) - 480-644-2160

Transit - 480-644-5541

Volunteer - 480-644-5432

Utility Emergency (Water) - 480-644-2262

Crime Prevention/Neighborhood Watch - 480-644-2539

AZ Blue Stake - 602-263-1100

Salt River Project - 602-236-8888

Homeless Liaison Officer Cook - 480-228-1449



@ Vice Mayor Francisco Heredia
www.mesaaz.gov/home



@MesaDistrict3



Download on the App Store or the Google Play Store!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

All events are subject to change. Visit the Events Calendar at dobsonranchhoa.com for updated info.



STARTING NOVEMBER 24th!

Celebrate the holidays at the AT&T Fiber Merry Main Street, Mesa's spectacular celebration of the season! Merry Main Street is open through January 6. For more info, visit merrymainst.com.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY/SUNDAY
				Table Tennis 2:30 pm Chica Rm.	2023 Community Lighted Boat Parade 6:00 pm Laguna Park SUNDAY 3
Retirees' General Mtg. 4 9:30 am Grande Rm. Bridge 12:30 pm Chica Rm. Water & Lake Management Mtg. 5:30 pm Grande Rm.	Line Dancing 5 9:00 am Grande Rm. Recreation Comm. Mtg. 5:30 pm Grande Rm. Dance Sampler 5:30 pm La Casita CC&R Comm. Mtg. 5:30 pm Grande Rm.	YoYo Club! 6:00 pm Grande Rm.	Retirees' Game Day 7 1:00 pm Chica Rm. Fairytale Dancers 4:30 pm Chica Rm. Intro to Ballet & Jazz 5:30 pm Chica Rm. Master Planning Mtg. 7:00 pm Grande Rm.	Table Tennis 8 2:30 pm Chica Rm.	Yacht Club Boat Parade 9 6:00 pm Lake 7 SUNDAY 10
Bridge 11 12:30 pm Chica Rm. Budget & Finance Mtg. 6:30 pm Grande Rm.	Line Dancing 12 9:00 am Grande Rm. Dance Sampler 5:30 pm La Casita DRAC Mtg. 5:30 pm Grande Rm.	Democrat and Friends 13 6:30 pm Grande Rm.	Fairytale Dancers 14 4:30 pm Chica Rm. Intro to Ballet & Jazz 5:30 pm Chica Rm. BOD Executive Session (Closed) 5:30 pm Grande Rm. BOD Meeting (Open) 7:00 pm Grande Rm.	Retirees' Game Day 15 1:00 pm Chica Rm. Table Tennis 2:30 pm Grande Rm. Bunco 6:30 pm Chica Rm.	SUNDAY 16 SUNDAY 17
Retirees' Board Mtg. 18 9:00 am Grande Rm. Bridge 12:30 pm Chica Rm.	Line Dancing 19 9:00 am Grande Rm. Laguna Village BOD Mtg. 5:00 pm Grande Rm. CC&R Mtg. 5:30 pm Chica Rm. Dance Sample 5:30 pm La Casita		Fairytale Dancers 21 4:30 pm Chica Rm. Intro to Ballet & Jazz 5:30 pm Chica Rm.	Table Tennis 22 2:30 pm Chica Rm. Poker 6:30 pm Grande Rm.	SUNDAY 23 ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED LA CASITA REC. CENTER CLOSED SUNDAY 24 LA CASITA REC. CENTER CLOSED
HAPPY HOLIDAYS 25 ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED LA CASITA REC. CENTER CLOSED			Fairytale Dancers 28 4:30 pm Chica Rm. Intro to Ballet & Jazz 5:30 pm Chica Rm. Legante Paseo BOD Mtg. 7:00 pm Chica Rm.	Table Tennis 29 2:30 pm Chica Rm.	SUNDAY 30 SUNDAY 31 ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED



January Calendar Coming Soon!

We are working hard on the January 2024 calendar and it will be available soon.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



From all of us at Dobson Ranch!



We would like to thank you for your support and generosity volunteering your time during our 50th Anniversary year. Things are changing in Dobson Ranch for the better and we need to continue to move our Community forward, for the next generation of Ranch families.

Enjoy the holidays!

PROTECT YOUR PACKAGES!

ONLINE HOLIDAY PURCHASES MEAN PACKAGES ON THE PORCH!

Don't Let Porch Pirates Ruin Your Holiday!

Follow These Easy Tips to Protect Your Purchases:

- ~ Request deliveries be made on a day you will be home
- ~ Request signature only deliveries—the driver must have you sign for the package
- ~ Sign up for text alerts, so you know when your package will be delivered
- ~ Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your package and keep it until you get home
- ~ Have packages delivered to your office

In Addition, Be a Good Neighbor and Call Mesa Police to:

- ~ Report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood
- ~ Report any vehicles following delivery trucks
- ~ Report any person getting out of a vehicle to take a package off of a porch
- ~ Report any unknown people walking or biking down your street with packages



Mesa Police Department
www.mesaazpolice.gov

Non-Emergency: (480) 844-2211
Emergency: 9 1 1

SEE IT ~ SAY IT ~ SOLVE IT!



Board of Directors Meeting Report – October 26, 2023 Summary of Board Action Items and Motions

2023-10-100 A motion was unanimously approved to ladder Reserve Investments totaling \$1,316,517 as presented by Stephanie Fee, Treasurer.

2023-10-101 A motion was unanimously carried to discontinue the Winter Carnival and Pancake Breakfast in 2023.

2023-10-102 A motion was unanimously carried to approve the new Ad Hoc Preschool Committee Charter.

2023-10-103 A motion was unanimously carried to budget up to \$25,000 in additional funding towards the staffing and operation of the La Casita Preschool to honor our commitment and remain compliant through May of 2024 - the preschool is required to be self-sufficient starting June 1, 2024.

2023-10-104 A motion was unanimously carried to hire temporary personnel, if necessary, not to exceed \$47.00 per hour to expedite the collection and processing of records request documents.

Dobson Ranch Board of Directors



Nicole Lynam
Association President
nlynam@dobsonranch.com



Kathleen Tolar
Vice President
ktolar@dobsonranch.com



Stephanie Fee
Treasurer
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Secretary
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Sandy Murray
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Richard Bitner
Director
rebitner@cs.com



Randy Harvey
Director
rharvey@dobsonranch.com



Christa Tropin
Director
ctropin@dobsonranch.com

Call for Board of Director Candidates

Now is the perfect opportunity to serve your community! Three seats are open on the Board of Directors and each position is for a 3-year term starting April 2024. The Board of Directors is responsible for making sound decisions and setting policy. It is an endeavor that requires a time commitment of monthly board meetings, and executive sessions.

To apply, please visit dobsonranchhoa.com/call-for-candidates, complete the application and email to hoa.admin@dobsonranch.com, by February 10, 2024. Please include a bio and photo of yourself to be included in the March 2024 issue of the Ranchers' RoundUp.

2024 FINAL Budget Summary

The Dobson Association
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 13, 2023

	Sep YTD Actual	2023 Annual Budget	YTD Sep Actual + Oct-Dec Budget	2024 + 5% Dues
Assessments	\$ 2,290,702	\$ 3,055,104	\$ 3,054,478	\$ 3,217,763
Reserve Fund Contribution	(299,500)	(599,000)	(599,000)	(500,000)
AZWRD Water Contribution	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
Other Revenue	339,698	524,750	455,408	311,795
Total Revenue	\$ 2,330,900	\$ 2,960,854	\$ 2,890,886	\$ 3,009,558
Administration	\$ 559,175	\$ 503,443	\$ 669,000	\$ 567,400
Building	\$ 90,514	\$ 115,300	\$ 119,539	\$ 216,417
Grounds	\$ 87,827	\$ 217,187	\$ 133,234	\$ 205,443
Insurance	\$ 114,647	\$ 149,100	\$ 151,397	\$ 156,995
Lakes	\$ 62,475	\$ 92,540	\$ 80,610	\$ 123,800
Legal	\$ 61,001	\$ 67,400	\$ 80,701	\$ 50,000
Personnel	\$ 1,009,942	\$ 1,827,970	\$ 1,463,524	\$ 1,316,704
Pools	\$ 48,570	\$ 50,100	\$ 57,170	\$ 57,000
Preschool	\$ 4,873	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,923	\$ 8,500
Recreation	\$ 31,833	\$ 101,200	\$ 61,538	\$ 5,500
Utilities	\$ 214,366	\$ 273,208	\$ 279,168	\$ 301,799
Total Expenses	\$ 2,285,221	\$ 3,406,448	\$ 3,101,802	\$ 3,009,558
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	\$ 45,679	\$ (445,594)	\$ (210,917)	\$ 0
			2,563,088 83%	2,342,898 78%

Upcoming Board of Director's Meeting

Room Executive Session • **Thursday, December 14** • 5:30 pm - Grande Room
General Board Mtg. • **Thursday, December 14** • 7:00 pm - Grande Room



Message From the Association President



By Nicole Lynam, Association President

Thank you to everyone who attended the HOA Town Hall last month. There were some good questions posed by residents. I hope that the Board presentation and answers helped to sufficiently answer those questions. I am grateful for the hard work and thoroughness put in by the HOA staff, financial consultants, Board members, and Committee members who helped find those answers.

Our work is far from done. The Board is shifting focus to put all efforts into looking forward and creating the best future for Dobson Ranch. The Board of Directors, upon recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee, approved the budget for 2024. We are reviewing the Policy Document to assess what needs to be updated, both for changing times and to safeguard our Community. We are assessing options for an ongoing training program for the Board of Directors and the Committees.

Several new committees and clubs have been created recently to help improve Community engagement. Make sure to join the e-mail list for the latest updates on Community news and how to get involved.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and look forward to what 2024 brings us.



Executive Director's Message



*By Fran Pawlak, CMCA®, AMS®, PCAM®
Executive Director*

Hello and Happy Holidays!

On behalf of our fantastic staff, I warmly greet all Dobson Ranch residents and families and our many vendors, advertisers, sponsors, and supporters as we approach this magical holiday season. In addition to celebrating the 50th Anniversary, 2023 was a year of unexpected discovery, challenges, and transition that allowed us to reorganize and restructure to strengthen trust and effectively build community as we move robustly into 2024. Only, we're not done yet and have much work to do!

We sincerely appreciate and thank you for the accolades and expressed gratitude for our work! As we fiscally reposition the community for continued success, please remember that some staffing and service levels, due to budget and staffing cutbacks, will take longer to rebuild than others. Please see the 2024 Summary Budget on page 4, also posted on the website under the Members tab. As we continue to improve our community, we will do so with fiscal discipline and responsibility toward building a solid future. We worked diligently this past year to eradicate budget deficiencies and will continue to spend responsibly in 2024.

We aim to maintain the high level of transparency you are accustomed to through the Executive Director's Weekly Email Blast and the newly revised and streamlined Ranchers' RoundUp – coming to an email inbox near you in January! Please only look to these communication platforms as a reliable and consistent source of information. To register for these critical communications, visit the website and click Sign Up for the Weekly Eblast under the Communications tab. I am pleased to announce that we have added over 1000 new subscribers to our online platform this year!!

We plan to focus on and prioritize several outstanding operational, reserve, and maintenance items throughout 2024. These items include but are not limited to, the new website, modified Ranchers' RoundUp, 2024 Reserve Study, La Casita rental program, recreational classes, satellite bathroom, tree mapping, court lighting, fiber installation at the rec centers, Los Altos Ramada, Saratoga Rec Center, boat docks, and pathway lights.

The Annual Meeting of the Members is Tuesday, April 9, 2024, and the Board of Directors is currently accepting Candidate Applications for volunteer homeowners to serve on the Board. The deadline to apply is February 10, 2024. You can easily find the two-page application with instructions on the website under the Members tab.

Thank you for believing in us! Let's look forward to an even better new year! Have a joyful, warm, and safe holiday season from our family to yours! And remember, you can always find us at hoa.admin@dobsonranch.com.

All the best,
Fran



2024 Assessment

The Board of Directors voted at the August 24, 2023 meeting to increase the annual assessment by 5%.

Annual assessment is **\$639.00**

Quarterly assessment is **\$159.75**

Monthly assessment is **\$53.25**

January 1, 2024 statements will be mailed by the second week of November 2023 in time for you to make adjustments to your scheduled payments.

Please do not send payments to the office! Payments must be mailed to P.O. Box 98148 Phoenix, AZ 85038, or make your payment online. Payments sent to the office may not be credited to your account in a timely manner.





Code Compliance Specialist's Message



By Jonathan Lefler, Code Compliance Specialist

It's crazy to think we have already reached the Christmas season. And it will be 2024 before we know it.

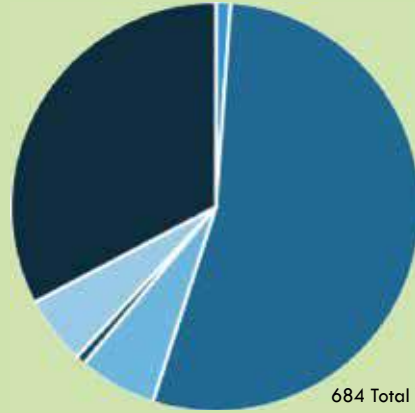
As we get closer to the end of the year, I want to share with you my TOP 8 Reminders for 2023!

1. Please take the time to address any old violations or contact us if you need more time. We are more than happy to work with you – but you need to let us know if you need more time!
2. Make sure all holiday decorations are taken down and stored away for next year by mid-January. This includes all holiday lights. Once this deadline passes, we will start to issue **Friendly Reminders**. Thank you for bringing so much joy to the Community with your lively yard creations!
3. When you have untrimmed your tree, please do not toss it on the street corner, alleyways, front or side yard, the neighbor's yard or on the golf course. The City of Mesa has multiple drop off locations for your tree to be recycled – like the Dobson Ranch Library -- or the Boy Scouts will pick it up.
4. Please make sure you check your trees and bushes to make sure they are not hanging over the lakes, neighbors' wall, or the streets. If they are, please trim, especially if you are on a lake – but please do not allow the trimmings to fall into the lake!
5. It's a great time to start thinking about those big exterior home improvement projects for the spring! Submit your Architectural Application for approval now so you are not waiting for your approval at the last minute.
6. For your safety and that of the animals, please do not feed the ducks, stray cats, or any other animal that isn't your pet. Feeding the ducks is also a serious health hazard for our lakes and waterfowl!
7. Please also make sure your trash bins are closed and put away. We have seen many complaints about the raccoons getting into them.
8. Also, a reminder please have dogs on a leash at all times when walking them and please pick up after them. This includes public areas and your yard. We have received multiple complaints recently regarding this safety issue.

Thank you again to all those that continue to make this a great place to live. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call, email me or stop me when I'm out.

From my family to yours, I want to wish your family a very Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy your time together with loved ones and celebrating the year. See you in 2024.

CC&R Notices for October 2023



- Section 1.3 Architectural Alterations (3)
- Section 2.4 Exterior Colors (140)
- Section 2.7 Fences and Gates (16)
- Section 2.7.2 Uniform Painting (2)
- Section 2.14 Care of Properties (14)
- Other (85)

Other violations include Architectural Alterations and Improvements, Security Cameras, Uniform Painting, Grass and Landscaping, Trash Bin Storage, Roof Maintenance, Garages and Carports, Storing of Vehicles, and Watercraft.



The heat map above indicates where the most violations were given in the month of October 2023.





The Lakes



Lakes & Fish Report

By Zach Hache, Water Resource Manager

Insect and plant invaders are common in Arizona urban lakes. The organisms reduce water quality and the aesthetic pleasure of the lake. These invaders include midge flies, submerged plants (called macrophytes), and floating mats of filamentous algae. In an attempt to minimize the use of insecticides and herbicides, several species of fish have been stocked in the lake. Other fish species have been stocked in the lake to provide game fish for a catch-and-release fishing program.

Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*):

Goldfish are members of the minnow family. They are an extremely adaptable animal, capable of tolerating a wide variety of chemical conditions, temperatures, foods, and spawning conditions. They tend to plow along the bottom of a pond to dislodge food. This is advantageous because the larva (immature form) of the midge fly lives in the upper layer of sediment at the lake bottom. Thus, goldfish are an important natural predator of the midge. If the midge larvae are consumed, the adult swarms along the lake will be reduced.

Grass Carp or White Amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*):

The grass carp or White Amur is a hardy species that originated

in the rivers of Asia (The Amur River). It was first introduced into the United States in 1963. Because the fish are considered exotic, only sterile fish can be stocked. The grass carp is very tolerant of temperature extremes that are common in Arizona lakes. This fish is a voracious eater of aquatic weeds. It can become very large; weighing up to 40 pounds when adequate food is available. The fish will serve as a mechanism of controlling submerged macrophytes and algae mats in the lake.

Fathead Minnow (*Pimephales promelas*): Fathead minnows feed on detritus and algae that feed on the soft bottom of lakes. They will also consume insects and larvae, including those of mosquitoes and midges, near the water surface. They are food for most predatory fish. Nesting habits of the fish involve the eggs being attached to an object that is situated somewhere above the lake bottom, and typically to the underside. The open tubes of the artificial habitat should provide ideal sites for egg laying.

Redear Sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*): These sunfish tend to feed, breed and generally remain in deeper waters. As biological control agents they feed on microcrustaceans, chironomid (midge fly) larvae and clams.



Real Estate

Mesa Market Trends

Homes Sold in Dobson Ranch

October 2023:	43 Homes Sold
October 2022:	47 Homes Sold
September 2023:	22 Homes Sold
September 2022:	53 Homes Sold

Median Home Sale Price in Dobson Ranch

October 2023:	\$445,000
October 2022:	\$455,000
(-2.2% Growth Year-Over-Year)	

Median Home Sale Price in 85202

October 2023:	\$413,889
October 2022:	\$400,000
(3.5% Growth Year-Over-Year)	

What is the housing market like in Dobson Ranch?

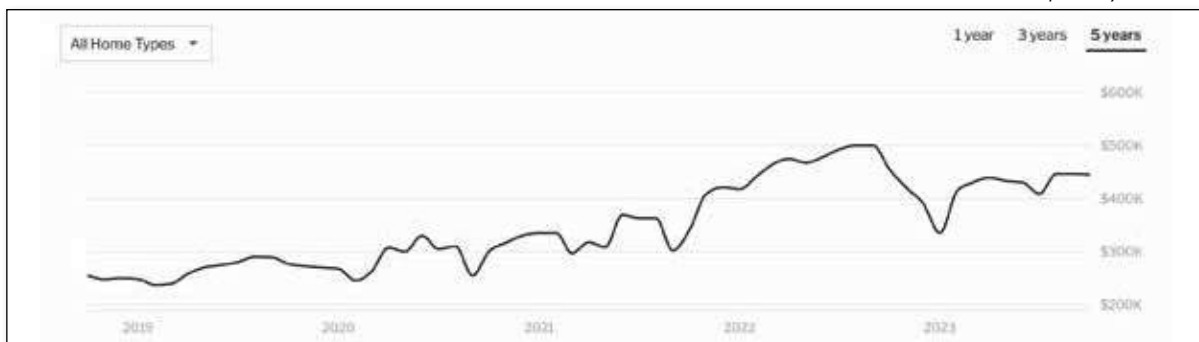
In October 2023, Dobson Ranch home prices were down 2.2% compared to last year, selling for a median price of \$445K. On average, homes in Dobson Ranch sell after 26 days on the market compared to 46 days last year. There were 43 homes sold in October this year, down from 47 last year.

How hot is the Dobson Ranch housing market?

Dobson Ranch is somewhat competitive. Homes sell in 24.5 days.

Some homes get multiple offers. The average homes sell for about 1% below list price and go pending in around 25 days. Hot homes can sell for about 1% above list price and go pending in around 6 days.

Data as reported by Redfin.com.





Monthly Update from Vice Mayor Heredia



Join in the Festivities at Merry Main Street in Downtown Mesa



Mesa's Merry Main Street is a great way to celebrate the season! The spectacular east valley holiday tradition returns to downtown Mesa for the ninth consecutive year with several new attractions. Merry Main Street started on Nov. 24 and continues through Jan. 6, offering an exciting variety of holiday activities:

- The Winter Wonderland Ice Rink in Downtown Mesa features a 6,005 square-foot ice skating rink at the Plaza at Mesa City Center, 56 E. Main St. The Winter Wonderland Ice Rink will open daily for thousands to enjoy our amazing winter weather while gliding on the ice under the stars.
- More Visits with Santa at a new location! This year, Santa will be taking gift requests from all the good boys and girls at The Post, the new City-owned community and event space, located at 26 N. Macdonald.

- New this year, the Holiday Sunset Market brings original and tasty gifts to Merry Main Street. Join us for an afternoon of local shopping. More than 30 local vendors will be selling fresh grocery products, tasty hot food, artisan goods and more. There will also be demonstrations and live music.

These are just a glimpse of the numerous activities and events taking place. For a comprehensive list of Merry Main Street activities, complete with dates and times, please visit merrymainst.com. If you haven't already, I encourage you to dive into the festive spirit and take a trip to Merry Main Street!

As always, please contact my office if you have any questions or comments. We are happy to help! [480-644-3003](tel:480-644-3003) or District3@MesaAZ.gov. ~Vice Mayor Heredia





MEALY BUGS

By Sue Hakala, Certified Volunteer Master Gardener

The allure of succulent juices brings mealy bugs from miles around for a feast on plants. They especially love the junctures of the stems and roots, hiding in the tiny creases and crevices. Inserting their mouthpiece, they suck out the luxuriant juices. And the plant's life.

START AT THE BEGINNING

After experiencing what I call The Great Death—when years ago mealybugs destroyed 35 plants—I've learned how to avoid them. When I bring any plant home, no matter where it comes from, it goes into isolation for at least a week while I search for bugs or anything else. Every plant is treated with an insect killer. Then the plant gets a week to rest in isolation before I think about re-potting or planting.

IF YOU HAVE MEALYBUGS NOW

Mealybugs gather to feast and reproduce. When discovered, immediately put your plant in isolation. The plants near the one you discovered the mealybugs on are probably infected too. Mealybugs love to deposit eggs far and wide. Change the soil and throw it away, not in a compost heap as there will be eggs laid in the soil. Sterilize the pot and start over.

I've found the first line of defense is diligence. Check weekly for withered plants, spying carefully below the soil level for the white sticky substance that indicates their presence. Once discovered, get out the alcohol. Dip a Q-tip in some alcohol and dab each one you find. It's instant death by burning. Hasta luego, baby! In hard to reach places, alcohol in a sprayer does the trick. Spray roots too.

Some gardeners prefer a blast of soapy water, especially when a block party is found under plant leaves and along stems. But remember, the spray knocks off the old and feeble, leaving the macho males and Amazonian females who then produce super-tough kids.

When I've felt outnumbered and overpowered, I continue the battle with poison. Products that contain acephate (O2s-dimethyl)acetylphosphoramidothioate as the main ingredient is the only thing I've found that works on mealybugs. Know that some species of mealybugs do not respond to insecticidal systemics. Experiment as some plants may not like the treatment.



ACCENT PLANTS... AND HOW THEY ARE USED IN THE LANDSCAPE

The great variety of plants available today makes it possible to find the right plant for almost any landscape need. One of the most important uses of plants is as accents.

The word 'accent' is a design term for a plant that contrasts with its neighbors and so catches the eye; it has features or characteristics that make it more noticeable than the average plant. Some plants may serve as accents during a particular season with showy flowers, fruit or fall color, while other plants serve as year-round accents with distinctive leaf shapes and colors, stem colors, plant shapes or growth habits and bark characteristics. Smaller accents are more effective when planted in clumps or groups in odd numbers such as three, five, etc. Medium and large accent plants need enough space so the form can be displayed to best advantage. Plant these in groups or as a single specimen.

When selecting accent plants, do not mix non-complementary plants in the same area. For example, do not place an ocotillo beside a citrus tree. Ocotillos are commonly found in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts while citrus are native to Asia, Melanesia and Australia. Not only do they require different amounts of water, which will make them difficult to irrigate correctly, but they visually do not belong together. Plants should work together to create a mood instead of clashing with one another.

Specimen or focal point plants are a sub group of accent plants that are used singly to show off some special feature of the plant such as a unique shape, foliage or color. They are often the largest plants in a landscape. They can be used to draw attention to a feature like an entry door, or can be used as a focal point all on their own.

There are many benefits to incorporating accent plants into your design. Accent plants are a great way to define and enhance your property and do a wonderful job at creating first impressions that are sure to last. There are many types of accent plants to choose from and any landscape will be enhanced by their unique features.

Accent plant choices: Agaves, Aloes, Grasses, Desert Milkweed, Yellow Bells, Ocotillo, Red Bird-of-Paradise, Hesperaloe, Yuccas, Lady Slipper, Saguaro, Texas Ebony, Weeping Bottlebrush

Brought to you by:





Cheers to 50 years - and to Water Conservation!

By Kathrine Blomquist, Water and Lake Management Committee Member

Thanks to all the residents that stopped by the Water and Lake Management Committee table at the Fall Festival last month. The festival was such a great way to come together as a community and celebrate Dobson Ranch's 50th Anniversary. What great weather, too! I'd like to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the event. (Don't forget to use your new water bottles at our refillable water stations.)

At the Water and Lake Management table, young residents (and a few young-at-heart) made bracelets representing the water cycle using "evaporation/sun," "condensation/clouds," and "precipitation/rain" beads. Adults had a harder challenge - they took the "Our Water - Our Home" quiz, which tested residents' knowledge on our lakes and local water sources. Congratulations to 10-year resident, Heath R., whose name was selected from all the entries. Heath won a gift bag full of fun SWAG and water saving devices from our friends at SRP.

If you didn't make it to the Fall Festival, now is your chance to give the quiz a try. Don't worry, it won't be graded; just try and see what you know about the community's water (answers below/to the left/right).

Why is it important to know about our water? Have you heard the saying "knowledge is power?" It's true! Research indicates that the more we know about environmental issues, the more we'll be inspired and motivated to act in favor of the environment. Here at home, the Dobson Association has been a leader in water conservation over the years through the use of smart irrigation controllers and reverse irrigation, to name a few practices. Drought, groundwater levels, and water storage credits are all hot topics, and rest assured that Dobson Ranch takes water conservation seriously at our community level. To learn more about Arizona water and stay informed, check out SRPnet.com and AZWater.gov.

It's also up to us, new residents, original owners, or somewhere in-between like my family, to take care of the desert's all too precious resource. If you see a leak in any common area, please report it to Dobson Ranch's main Administration/Maintenance contact - 480-831-8314 or hoa.admin@dobsonranch.com. The City of Mesa has a great app, MesaNow, where you can report

City property water leaks, such as street median irrigation, under "CityLink Report Issue." Once I used the app to report a water fountain at the library park that was stuck on and running constantly.

So whether its turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, running the dishwasher and washing machines only when full, or

converting to desert-adapted landscape (Dobson Ranch residents know that up to 60% of household water use goes to outdoor irrigation), you can be an agent of change by conserving water. As the Dalai Lama said "Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects." It's up to us to do our part.

Happy Holidays, Dear Readers! Wishing each of you a healthy and peaceful season as we flow into 2024. Changes are in store for the Ranchers' RoundUp next year so until we meet again, remember to always Keep Calm and Conserve Water.

#DobsonConservation

Answers:

- c
- b
- b
- b
- b

BONUS: c

Our Water - Our Home

Water and Lake Management Committee

How many lakes are a part of Dobson Ranch's system?
a. 4 b. 6 c. 8

Where do we draw our water for the lakes?
a. City of Mesa
b. SRP (Salt River Project)
c. CAP (Central Arizona Project)

How many acres are covered by the lakes?
a. 55 b. 84 c. 96

What Active Management Area (AMA) are we in?
a. Prescott b. Phoenix c. Tucson

What organization provides water to our homes?
a. SRP b. City of Mesa c. APS

BONUS: On average in AZ, how much household water is used for outdoor landscaping?
a. 20% b. 40% c. 60%





Help Your Children Maintain a Love of Learning During the Holidays

By Laurie Struna, Media Communications Specialist, Communications and Engagement/MPS

Amidst the holiday hustle, finding balance between relaxation and keeping young minds active can be challenging. Lise Bullock-Grotting, director of Early Learning at Mesa Public Schools, shares that there are a variety of ways to keep young learners' brains active and alert so they are ready to return to school after the holiday break.

Bullock-Grotting shares that learning is ongoing and never stops. It's especially important during the holidays to keep students' minds engaged in activities that make them think.

"Children have a great capacity to learn when they are little; they absorb everything," Bullock-Grotting shares. "Their young minds are like sponges, which is the reason it's important to make learning fun, during the holidays and all year long." Children's brains grow the fastest during the first five years of their lives, and they are built to learn new things. Research shows that every time we learn something new, our brains make new physical connections between the brain cells, or neurons, in our brains.

Looking for ways to engage your young learner? Here are a few tips from Bullock-Grotting.

- Read aloud to your child every day. Reading and talking to your child creates a bond, models the love of reading and stimulates and strengthens their language and literacy skills.
- Get out and explore. Whether going to the park, taking a day trip for a family hike, or going to the zoo, there are many things to explore in nature and a variety of ways to keep busy and engaged.
- Go on a scavenger hunt. Children love to find things and having a list with pictures and words will keep them interested and busy for hours.
- Start a collection. Little ones enjoy looking for rocks, leaves, pebbles and flowers.
- Bake sugar cookies. Use a variety of cookie cutters and decorate them using fun-colored glitter and icing.
- Narrate your adventures in the store or car, and talk about what your child is doing.
- Assign age-appropriate responsibilities such as watering the plants, picking up toys, making their bed and pulling weeds.
- Do arts and crafts. Construct holiday decorations or cards using a variety of tools like chalk, pens and crayons.

For more information regarding early learning programs, please visit mpsaz.org/earlylearning.





For the complete list of clubs, please see **Page 1** in this issue or visit dobsonranchhoa.com/join-the-club/

DOBSON RANCH RETIREES' CLUB

By *Jean Brown, Retirees' Club President*



*Season's Greeting
from the Retirees Club!*

Stay tuned for details in the New Year.



Retirees' Hiking Club - 2023-2024 Hiking Fall Schedule

By *Barbara Stout, Retirees' Hiking Club Chairperson*

Please join our hiking group each Wednesday. We meet at La Casita parking lot at 8AM sharp each week. Please send your email address to me at stoutgeo@gmail.com, so I can add you to the email list. I send out the hiking information the weekend before each hike. I also provide a history of most hikes in my emails. The Friday hikes are more difficult and long for experienced hikers.

Clippers hikes are in Blue on Fridays and are in Blue on Wednesdays. February 10th, 2024 is turn in mileage day for the 100 mi.

December 6

McDowell Regional Park

North Trail - Pacers (2.9 miles)

North Trail to Verde trail back to Pemberton to Cinch to North trail

December 8

San Tan Mountains

Goldmine to San Tan to Dynamite to San Tan 7.4 miles

December 13

Usery Park

Blevins Moon Rock Pacers

Blevins to Meridian to Ruidoso to County Line to Meridian to Blevins to Chain Fruit to Lost Sheep. 6.5 miles

December 15

Usery Park

Pass mountain 8 miles

December 20

McDowell Mountains/Fountain Hills

Shallomo Dr. staging area

Pemberton to Escondido Trail in and out Pacers

Escondido trail to Shallomo Wash to Pemberton to Escondido 9.5 miles Separate cars

December 22

Usery Park

Pass Mountain to Cats Peak to Blevins Pacers

Blevins to Cats Peak to

Blevins to Moon Rock to Blevins. 5.5 miles

December 27

Gateway trailhead McDowell Mountains

Gateway trail Loop Pacers

Clippers Gateway trail loop to Paradise to Quartz trail in and out 9 miles

December 29

Gateway trailhead McDowell Mountains

Gateway trail to Windgate Pass 5.4 Miles

DOBSON RANCH WOMEN'S CLUB

By **Patty Smith**, Women's Club President

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays!

Bunco was hosted by Pauline and Truffles. We had lots of laughs and Buncos. Barb had her first Bunco too. Thank you for a delicious dinner.

We decided to skip December's Bunco and have it in January. Pauline and Truffles offered to host again. We appreciate you offering again. It will be a Pot Luck. We will request everyone bring a bag of non perishable items for MCC's Student Pantry. This helps the students that live in their cars or apartments that need assistance with food and other essentials.

Out to lunch will be at Wildberries. Jan. 5, 2024. Time...11:30.

Thoughts and prayers for Sameera and Chris during their health and healing challenges.

Blessings for a Happy New Year.

May 2024 be joyful and healthy for all. ~ Patty



JOIN A NEW CLUB IN THE NEW YEAR!

FREE LINE DANCING

Are you interested in Line Dancing? We meet every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the Grande Room at La Casita. We dance to various music. It is mostly an exercise class. Bring your own water for our break. It is open to everyone not just the ladies. Please email Barbara Stout (stoutgeo@gmail.com) to get on the email list!

WRITERS CLUB

The Writers Club hopes to create and build a community of like-minded people who enjoy the act of writing in any style or any type, with all genres welcome. The Writers Club can guide and instruct anyone within all aspects of the writing process. The club will also act as a bouncing board to writers who are looking for feedback. Please email Chad Turner (ctproductionz@gmail.com) for club meeting details.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CLUB

Our DR community has a rich history of wonderful family events. The Family Engagement Club is to provide a monthly time and space for all homeowners of all ages to come together to discuss and plan events that bring our diverse families together. Please email Christa Tropin (christa.tropin@gmail.com) for club meeting details.

DOBSON RANCH COMMUNITY CLUB

The idea of a DR Community Club is to create supportive & positive neighbor-to-neighbor engagement opportunities for DR Residents. This would be accomplished through social events, volunteer activities, education and projects for the common good of our community - sharing ideas, resources and expertise.

Please email Kate O'Hara (azkateo@gmail.com) for club meeting details.

PICKLEBALL CLUB

By **Rich Bitner**, Recreation Committee Pickleball Rep.



Happy Holidays and
PICKLE-🍷 in the New Year!!





Fall Festival 50th Anniversary





Anniversary Celebration





RECREATION CLASSES

The following classes are tentatively on the schedule and are subject to change. Please visit the events calendar for the most up-to-date information at www.dobsonranchhoa.com/events-calendar/

DANCE SAMPLER (AGES 5-8)

When: Tuesdays, December 19, January 9, February 13

Where: La Casita Recreation Center 2023 and Saratoga Recreation Center starting in 2024

Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Cost: **Contractor fee due to instructor the first day of program: \$35.**

This upbeat and fun class is perfect to sample different dance styles such as jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, and other styles. Get moving with this upbeat, fun class and discover dance!



Contact Jana Moore at 480-363-9997.

FAIRYTALE DANCERS (AGES 3-5)

When: Thursdays, December 21, January 11, February 15

Where: La Casita Recreation Center 2023 and Saratoga Recreation Center starting in 2024

Time: 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Cost: **Contractor fee due to the instructor the first day of program: \$35.**

Children will be introduced to dance through their favorite fairytales during this positive and encouraging class. Dance can build self-esteem and improve motor skills. Watch your prince and princesses shine in this fun and creative program. Children need soft soled shoes and comfortable clothes. Ballet shoes, leotard and tights recommended. There will be a performance last day of class. Children must be able to work in a group setting and follow directions. For more information on this program, contact Jana Moore at 480-363-9997.



INTRO INTO BALLET AND JAZZ (AGES 4-6)

When: Thursdays, December 21, January 11, February 15

Where: La Casita Recreation Center 2023 and Saratoga Recreation Center starting in 2024

Time: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Cost: **Contractor fee due to instructor the first day of program: \$35.**

In a fun, encouraging and high energy atmosphere, your child will be shown the fundamentals of ballet and jazz, which can help to improve motor skills and creative expression. Soft-soled shoes or bare feet are recommended. Children must be able to work in a group setting. There will be a recital at the end of the session. For more information on this program, contact Jana Moore at 480-363-9997.



Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Style Poker

(Must be 18 or older)

When: November 17 & December 22

Where: La Casita Recreation Center Time: 6:30 pm (arrive by 6:15 pm)

Cost: Free to residents, \$5 non-residents.



To join the group, please email Frank Mizner at planner1948@gmail.com.

Bunco

When: November 17 & December 15

Where: La Casita Recreation Center

Time: 6:30 pm (arrive by 6:15 pm)

Cost: Free to residents, \$5 non-residents



To join the group, please email Carolyn Sedlak at fpsedlak@yahoo.com.

Bridge

When: Mondays

Where: La Casita Recreation Center

Time: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$1.00 per player



To join the group, please email Susan Toevs at suzila@aol.com.

TABLE TENNIS DROP IN

When: Fridays

Where: La Casita Recreation Center Time: 2:30 pm



Table tennis is available for Dobson Ranch residents only. Tables are available on a first come, first served basis. Players must be ages 13 or older to participate or if younger, accompanied by an adult. Paddles and balls are Free to

rent with a driver's license or school ID. To join the group, please email Frank Mizner at planner1948@gmail.com.

The La Casita Recreation Center ONLY takes credit/debit cards as forms of payment!

To clarify, this is not in reference to the CIT portal for assessment payments. **ONLY** recreation activities, programs and rentals!

Thank you!



GOING TO THE MOVIES? Get your **Harkins Theatres** discounted tickets at the La Casita Recreation Center and **SAVE!** Credit/debit payments accepted only. Enjoy!

NOTICE ABOUT INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS & CLASS ACTIVITIES

Effective November 1, 2023 the transition of class instructors from full-time employees to Independent Contractors (IC) has led to a noticeable decline in the number of classes offered at Dobson Ranch. Each instructor was allowed to become an Independent Contractor; accepting to do so and meet all legal and insurance requirements was a personal decision made exclusively by each instructor.

The decision on the part of the Association to make this change was simple. Each class, except for Dance Classes with Jana Moore (already an IC), was operating at a loss to the Association. Furthermore, many of the class attendees are non-residents. In other words, the Association paid out more than it brought in.

Reducing costs and liability are the primary reasons to hire Independent Contractors. This includes employee benefits, taxes, workers comp, and other associated expenses, such as low-class/no-class attendance, but the Association is still obligated to pay the employee. This financial benefit to the Association has been a motivating factor for making this transition.

It's important to note that while teaching recreation classes as an Independent Contractor offers many advantages, it also comes with responsibilities that instructors must be diligent in managing these aspects of their business to ensure success.

Classes will be advertised through RecDesk, the Dobson Ranch website, and the Ranchers' RoundUp. All class registrations are through RecDesk, following the IC Class Policy, but payments will be managed and received by the Independent Contractor only. The IC Class Policy is posted on the website under dobsonranchhoa.com/classes-and-sports.

So, where does this leave us? At an exciting crossroads! As we rebuild and reorganize Dobson Ranch for the future, we want to establish new programs, encourage new-class IC's who are very comfortable with this business model, and develop new activities.

Finally, we would like to thank our past instructors for the years of fun activities for our homeowners and our current instructors for choosing to continue teaching at Dobson Ranch as Independent Contractors! If you have any questions, please email hoa.admin@dobsonranch.com. Thank you!



Ranchers' RoundUp

The Official Publication of the Dobson Ranch Homeowners Association

2024 Advertising Agreement

The Dobson Association

2719 S. Reyes, Mesa, AZ 85202 • 480-831-8314 • communications@dobsonranch.com

DobsonRanchHOA.com

Date: _____ Name: _____

Company Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Size of Ad: _____ Contract Length: (6 mo. or 12 mo. only) _____ ROC# _____

Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Total Cost to be paid in advance of first ad placement: \$ _____

Please submit this agreement along with your ad graphic or classified copy for processing. Once full payment is received through RecDesk (see instructions below) your ad will be processed for the next issue(s) of Ranchers' RoundUp.

Payment Method: Please register for an account within 24 hours of submitting this agreement. Go to DobsonRanchhoa.com and click on the **RecDesk tab at the top – then click on Create Account to complete the registration form. You will receive a Welcome to RecDesk email. Your fee will be added to your account, then you will be notified via email to pay online. We no longer accept check or cash payments. Thank you!**

I hereby authorize the advertisement agreement based on the terms contained herein. With the acceptance of this agreement, I acknowledge that I am an authorized Agent of said company and am acting in a position of authority and responsibility of said company.

All pricing includes the current tax rate. Magazine is a 20-page color publication posted to dobsonranchhoa.com and distributed via email to homeowners each month.

CURRENT PRICING

CURRENT PRICING				
DISPLAY ADS			CLASSIFIED ADS	
DISPLAY AD SIZE	WIDTH/HEIGHT	6-MO. CONTRACT	12-MO. CONTRACT	
1/16 PAGE	1.75"W x 2.375"H	\$315	\$585	Up to 25 words \$25.00
1/8 PAGE	3.5"W x 2.375"H	\$630	\$1170	
1/4 PAGE	3.5"W x 4.75"H	\$945	\$1755	Up to 50 words \$50.00
1/2 PAGE	7"W x 4.75"H	\$1,417	\$2,362	



This contract contains the entire agreement between the Advertiser identified here and The Dobson Association. The provisions of this contract cannot be altered or waived except by written agreement signed by all parties. Neither party shall be bound by any oral agreements, representations, or special arrangements contrary to or in addition to the terms and conditions as stated herein or written herein. No agent, representative or employee of the Association has the authority to vary any of the terms of this agreement. The Association reserves the right to cancel the agreement for any reason at any time upon providing written notice of cancellation to the Advertiser. Except in the case of a cancellation due to a breach by the Advertiser, upon cancellation the Advertiser shall be entitled to a pro rata refund for any ads not published. The Association reserves the right to insert the word "advertisement" above or below any ad copy.

The Association reserves the right to cancel this contract upon breach hereof by the Advertiser, including without limitation, failure by the Advertiser to make payment when due, or for other failure to comply with the terms and conditions as stated forth herein. In such cases, the Advertiser will not receive any refund of fees paid.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY: The Advertiser agrees that the Association shall not be liable for errors or omissions in the content of any ad or lost profits, direct or indirect, special, consequential, or contingent damages arising out of such omissions or errors. Advertiser's sole remedy in the case of any errors or omissions, regardless of their origin, shall be for the Association to adjust in the ad the next time it is published.

Furthermore, the Advertiser shall be solely responsible for the content of its ad(s) and any website(s) featured in such ad(s) and shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Association for any claims, losses, costs, and damages in connection with the publication of such ad(s) in Ranchers' RoundUp. Advertiser represents, warrants and covenants to the Association that at all times, (a) it is fully authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter of all ad(s) (including, without limitation, all text, graphics, URLs, and websites to which URLs are linked); (b) all such materials and websites comply with all applicable laws and regulations and do not violate the rights (including, but not limited to, intellectual property rights) of any third party; and (c) Advertiser shall have a privacy policy in place governing Advertiser's use of end users' personal information that meets or exceeds any applicable laws, rules and regulations governing the use of such information.

UNENFORCEABILITY: The invalidity or enforceability of any provision of this contract shall not affect the validity or enforcement of the remaining provisions of this contract, which remaining provisions shall be construed so that the agreement shall remain in full force and effect. This agreement is binding upon the enduring to the benefits of the parties hereto, their successors, assigns, legal representatives, heir or devisees, as the case may be. It is mutually agreed that regardless of where executed, this agreement shall be conclusively deemed to have been executed under the pursuant to the laws of the State of Arizona and the laws of said state, shall be applied hereunder, and that any causes of action between the parties hereto shall only have jurisdiction and venue in the courts of Maricopa County.

ADVERTISER AUTHORIZATION: This agreement has been signed by an individual authorized to legally bind and obligate the Advertiser to participate and pay for the terms and conditions of this agreement as set forth herein.

DEADLINE DATES WILL BE FIRM: All graphics and copy are due on the 10th of the month prior to publication.

AD DESIGN ASSISTANCE: If help is needed in creating an ad, please contact communications@dobsonranch.com. Additional fees apply.

AD SPECS:

- Display ads must be submitted in a color, camera-ready .pdf or .jpg file, maximum size 10MB. Scanned or photographed ads are not acceptable.
- Graphics obtained from websites are not acceptable. The resolution is too low for reproduction.
- Save all images at 200 dpi. (NOTE: Higher resolution does not enhance quality for reproduction. It only makes files larger.)
- Precision of color cannot be guaranteed. The Publisher uses four-color-creation (CMYK) while many programs utilize a three-color-creation (RGB).
- Be aware of font sizing so that your text is readable before submitting.

ALL ADVERTISING: Per Arizona law, all unlicensed persons advertising that they perform contracted services must include "not a licensed contractor" in their ads, and all licensed contractors must place their license number in any advertising, preceded by the acronym "ROC".




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- Park in areas with plenty of light and visibility.
- Secure vehicles in garages or buildings whenever possible.
- Park so that no one can crawl under the back or sides of any vehicle—Especially Pickups and SUV's.
- Consider having catalytic converters etched with the VIN number of the vehicle.
- Talk to your mechanic about installing a preventive theft device (cage, straps, etc.) for your catalytic converter.
- Be proactive—when you hear tool sounds (saw/grinder, power wrench) at or near vehicles, especially at night, please call Mesa Police!



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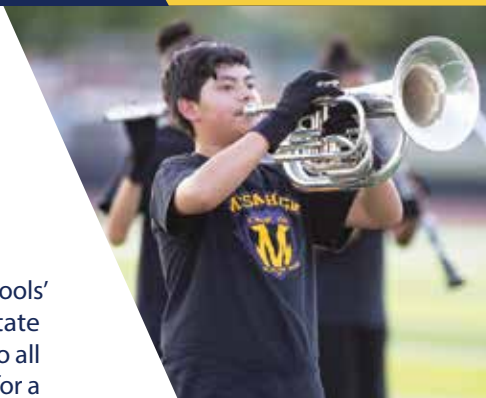
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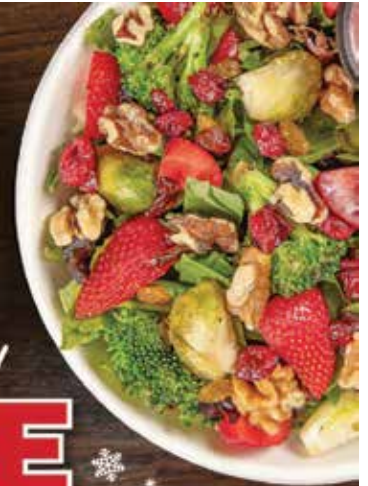
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- Email blasts are sent out on Monday each week to keep you informed!

VISIT THE DOBSON RANCH WEBSITE -

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- The website is also a primary source for valuable information such as governing documents, minutes, financials, the events calendar, recreation activities, FOB forms, clubs and committees, to name a few!

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HOW TO MAKE YOUR ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS

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CITY OF MESA

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Thank You!

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For more information, visit merrymainst.com.



City of Mesa and AARP Foundation Experience Corps Seek Volunteers to Help K-3 Students Become Better Readers

(Mesa, Arizona) —The City of Mesa is seeking volunteers for AARP Foundation Experience Corps, an intergenerational, community-based program that engages volunteers ages 50 and older as tutors and mentors to help K-3 students become proficient readers by the end of third grade.

Children who are not able to read at grade level by the end of third grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school or attend and complete college. They are also likely to earn lower incomes throughout their lives. Experience Corps makes a lasting difference in the lives of America's most vulnerable children in high-need elementary schools while offering mental and physical health benefits to volunteers.

"Reading skills are a key building block for success, and I'm thrilled that Mesa is launching the Experience Corps program to give our 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders extra support," said Mesa Mayor John Giles. "Helping children with their literacy skills is both rewarding and a meaningful opportunity to have a lasting impact. I encourage every retiree in Mesa to consider getting involved."

Experience Corps has established active programs in over twenty cities across the country, including Phoenix, Tempe, and Pinal County. With the support of Experience Corps and Read On Arizona, a statewide collaboration focused on childhood literacy, Mesa is proud to join in efforts to bring in high quality literacy tutoring to Mesa Public Schools.

Beginning in January 2024, the program and its volunteers will provide a total average of 180 hours of support each week at six Mesa Public Schools tutoring and mentoring children who are not yet reading at grade level. Tutoring will continue through May 2024, with plans for continuation of the program in the 2024-2025 school year.

"In Mesa Public Schools we know literacy is a currency that is needed for a healthy and successful life," said Dr. Andi Fourlis, Superintendent of Mesa Public Schools. "We are excited to welcome Experience Corp reading tutors into our elementary schools. Our students have so much to gain from working with trained tutors who will help them strengthen their reading skills and become confident readers."

To qualify, volunteers must be at least 50 years of age, have earned a high school diploma or GED and must undergo a screening process. All Experience Corps volunteers receive extensive training and on-site support.

AARP Foundation Experience Corps Mesa is currently holding informational sessions to learn about the program, fill out an application, and complete an interview with City of Mesa staff members. If interested in volunteering, sign-up today.

To learn more about Experience Corps Mesa, visit www.mesaaz.gov/residents/education-workforce-office/aarp-experience-corps-mesa.





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