

SUN VALLEY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME CV JANUARY 2020

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Pam Buhr **Proofing & Publishing:** Carol Bates, Diane Coulter, Betty Stevens

Distribution:

Palm Tree Drive – Dawn Moore

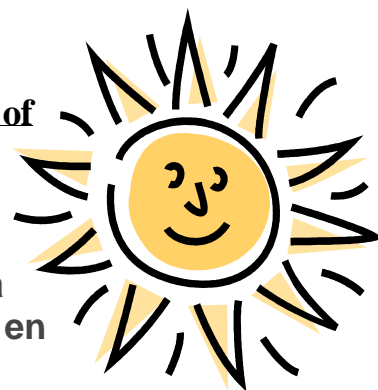
Orange Drive – Rosie Culhane

Goldenrod Lane – Betty Bean, Pat Kingma Altas Palmas Drive/Primrose Lane – Val Clark

HAPPY NEW YEAR

For your reference, you will find this season's **SVV Calendar of Events** attached to the **December newsletter**. Copies can be found in the Hall.

If you want a copy of the December newsletter and this January newsletter in Spanish, they are available in the Office. **Si desea una copia del boletín de diciembre y este boletín de enero en español, están disponibles en la Oficina.**



IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to:

Monty Hopkins on the passing of his wife, **Lynn Hopkins**, this summer;
and

Tom McCuaig on the sudden passing of his wife, **Marilyn McCuaig**, last month.

We send you thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Although saddened at these losses, fond memories remain to comfort.

SVVPOA BOARD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Correction - **Highlights of Board Meetings will be available in the Office**, not posted in the Hall and the Post Office as stated in December's newsletter.

Reminder: SVV Annual General Meeting – Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:30 PM.

SVV MEN'S CLUB

Our weekly Fundraisers include **Pancake Breakfasts** every Saturday morning, **except on Rummage Sale dates**. Come down anytime from 7:30-9:00 AM to enjoy pancakes, bacon, breakfast sausages, and coffee at the hall, all for \$4! **Bingo** is held every Thursday at 7:00 PM. Both Bingo and Pancake Breakfasts are open to the public. Feel free to invite friends from other parks.



Our first Ice Cream Social was a great success. Ninety-five people attended and enjoyed ice cream, snacks and friendship.



Note that the Men's meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM. Please attend so that you can have input in planning projects.

Note: The next meeting was postponed to January 14.



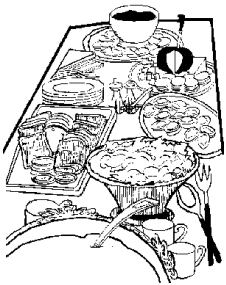
SVV LADIES' CLUB

The SVV Ladies' Group is a social club. We meet every Tuesday at 1:00 PM at the hall to play cards and socialize over refreshments and a light snack. There is a business meeting and a birthday celebration the first Tuesday of the month. The meeting starts at approximately 3:15 PM. All Ladies, including renters and guests are welcome to join in the fun.

SVV LADIES' CLUB REPORT

A new year with a new Ladies' Club Executive:

Past President: Pat Wyer
President: Lovey Netrval
Vice President: Bev Howard
Secretary: Linda Guyer
Treasurer: Betty Clark



Since the last report we have held the Fall Rummage Sale with net proceeds of \$1203.52. The Party Basket was won by Cheryl Matthews, the Computer Bag by Kevin Frederick and the Artwork by Louise Reed. Thank you to all for the donations.

Our Christmas Supper was enjoyed by 42 people. A 50/50 draw was held and \$90 was won by Pam Buhr.

The annual pizza party was held January 7, at 11:00 at Mr. Gatti's. It featured a spaghetti and pizza buffet, salad bar and prizes for a few quick Bingo games – a fun way to spend the midmorning socializing and getting to know your SVV neighbors. Thank you to the Clarks and Besselles for arranging this fun luncheon.

Our Activity Director, Diane Coulter, has planned many fun events that are coming up. Please check the attached monthly calendar.

'Change for Charity' and 'Loaves and Fishes' donations continue all season. Thank you for your generosity.
Lovey Netrval, President, Ladies' Club



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

The following activities are those that have begun. New activities will be announced on the Post Office Bulletin Board and added to next month's newsletter. Interested in starting up a new activity? You are quite welcome to do so. Just post a notice and get it into the next Newsletter.

SVV LADIES' GOLF



Women of the Village AND friends play nine holes at Tony Butler Golf Course Monday mornings at 9:00 AM. There is no signup sheet. Just drop in at the course. We are always happy to welcome more to our numbers. For more information contact DEBBIE BATES (956-577-6290).

SUN VALLEY MONDAY GOLF GROUP – 18 HOLES

(AKA Palm Vista Golf Group) We have started our new season at the Tony Butler Golf Course with tee off times starting at 9:00 AM. Teams of couples and single golfers will be selected randomly each week so you can meet new friends or “old” friends for an enjoyable game of golf. If you require additional information or wish to join the Sun Valley Golf Group, please contact ART STEVENS (956-364-0834).



SVV FRIDAY MIXED GOLF SCRAMBLE – 9 HOLES

Who – pairs or singles of all abilities and gender



What – 9-hole, best ball scramble, prizes (low score, closest to the hole, lost ball guess, 50/50 draw), refreshments after, good times...

Where – Stuart Place Golf Course, followed by an awards ceremony at SVV Rec. Hall with cash bar, beverages, snacks...

When – Every Friday (weather permitting) - **shotgun start at 9:00 AM...**

How – Sign up at the Post Office **by 3:00 PM Tuesday** and we post team lists Wednesday. For more information, call PAM BUHR (204-807-8389).

SHUFFLEBOARD

We play Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 AM. The signup sheet is at the Post Office. The cost is 50 cents. Questions? Call BETTY CLARK (956-230-0457).



EXERCISE



There are currently no scheduled workout times but feel free to drop in on your own to use the available DVD workout sessions when the hall is free. If you would like to organize a group let us know and we will publish the information in the next newsletter.

CHAIR YOGA



Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 PM come to participate in this gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using a chair for support. No equipment is needed. Flexibility is optional! Questions? Call LORRAINE WILSON (956-536-0075).

WATER WALKING

We will have classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:30 PM, WEATHER PERMITTING. All are welcome. You don't need to know how to swim. **Note that there will be no Water Walking on January 20, February 3, and February 5.** For further information, contact DIANE COULTER (956-230-1476).



'65'/BRIDGE/'500'

On Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 PM, the Ladies in the Park enjoy coffee, company, and card playing. Some play Bridge and some play '65', and some play '500'. So, you have lots of choices. Each week the ladies take turns and we are treated to a light snack and coffee afterwards. Come and join us.



'GAMES OF CHANCE' NIGHT

All are **invited** to play *Pokeno* and *Texas Hold 'Em* Fridays at 7:00 PM at the Rec. Hall. Don't be shy. Lessons are free! For more information, contact JERRY BATES (303-475-0631).



SATURDAY NIGHT BRIDGE



We haven't officially started yet – just talking about getting started! Anyone interested in joining us at 7:00 PM on Saturdays, let VIRGINIA SKEIM know (956-428-5070).

EUCHRE

This card game is played Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. New players welcome! Training available!



POOL HALL



Our pool hall is available to all. No formal programs are ongoing. Just drop in and shoot a few. If you would like to organize a group let us know and we will publish the information in the next newsletter.

WORK OUT ROOM

Did you know that SVV has a workout gym? Mike Soto has begun to organize the pool room to become a combo pool hall/workout area. Some machines and weights are already in there ready to use. There is even a TV with local channels. Please feel free to try it out.



ART GROUP

We have just started to meet and there is always room for one more. If you like to draw or paint, come to the hall at 9:30 on Tuesday or Saturday morning. You'll find a group of friends working on their own art projects. Bring your own supplies and something to work on. Lots of people will gladly share information, ideas, and methods, even though we say this is a "self-directed" art group. For information, call SUE FISHER (956-423-7314)





EVENTS

MR. GATTI'S PIZZA PARTY

Fifty-four people attended this annual event! Bingo winners were Betty Bean, Jackie Beauregard, Craig Harkness, Jerry Bean, Lovey Netrval, Judy Berezowski, Linda Guyer, and Elvira Canales. Our thanks to Gatti's for donating eight lunch tickets for our winners.

DUNKING DONUTS

This Sunday, January 12, come and try DUNKING for DONUTS, at the carport by the clubhouse. Dunking happens at 2:00 PM, followed by donuts, lemonade, and prizes in the Clubhouse.



HEB WINE & CHEESE TASTING

Thursday, January 16 HEB will come to our Clubhouse for wine and cheese sampling. Come at 3:30 PM for Happy Hour!!!



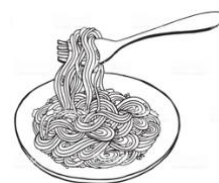
HAWAIIAN POTLUCK DINNER



Find those flowery shirts! Saturday, January 18 – 4:00 PM - Happy Hour, 5:00 PM dinner (Bring a dish to share.) There will be a 50/50 draw, photo opportunities, a hula hoop contest, and a flamingo tossing contest. Fun for all!

ANNUAL MEN'S CLUB SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, January 25... Come and enjoy Caesar salad, garlic bread, and all-you-can-eat spaghetti anytime between 3:00 and 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$8 presold by Men's Club members coming to your door or at the door on January 25. Ladies watch for the sign-up sheet in the post office to help out with this fundraising event.



ANNUAL STUART PLACE NOVELTY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 8:30 AM

Everyone is welcome to come out for this Mixed 9 Hole Best Ball Novelty Tournament. You never know until the last minute what surprises are in store! A signup sheet will be posted soon. For more information, call PAM BUHR (204-807-8389).



GAMES NIGHT

First and Third Mondays 6:30-9:00 PM – Many board and card games are available. **January 21 (a Tuesday because of Monday's Annual General Meeting)**, February 3, and February 17 are the next three dates. On January 21 ice cream will be on sale for \$1 during the break!



A weasel walks into a bar.

The bartender says, "Wow I've never served a weasel before. What can I get you?"

"Pop," goes the weasel.

& Coming up next month...

BLOCK PARTIES

The Annual Block Parties are coming up SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 (time to be determined by hosts). The hosts will be providing more detailed information in a few weeks.

HOWARD, COULTER, DANELL, HERMISTON, and MATTHEWS are the hosts for the WEST SIDE.

PLAHITKO and MERRIMAN are the hosts for PALM TREE DRIVE.

GARRETT, GUYER, DEVRIES, and KETCHEN are the hosts for ORANGE DRIVE.

VISITORS



For Pam Buhr and Gord Park: Their daughter and son in law, Andrea and Keith, from chilly OAKBANK, Manitoba took in a Cowboys game in Arlington and then flew down to the Valley for a visit. They enjoyed cool temperatures that were warmer than home, took a trip to Corpus to visit friends, and travelled to Progreso for a margarita or 2! They even dipped their toes in the pool one day.

For Jack and Pat Devries: Their daughter, Kristi Niehof, drove down with them from Indiana and stayed two weeks. She was a great help in getting the house ready. Jack and Pat are also expecting friends from Indiana to stay for a few days next week.

THE VILLAGE GREETERS!

They are the Welcome Wagon for SVV! The current greeters are Lorraine Wilson for the West side, and Pat Devries for the East side. New owners and seasonal renters will enjoy a visit from one of them. They can help you get oriented with the life of the Village. Thanks for being our ambassadors, Lorraine and Pat! Please help them by keeping them informed of new people arriving. Following are our latest new people. Help to make them feel welcome if you see them around!

NEW RENTERS

A big welcome to newly arrived seasonal renters!

Don & Brenda Vanalstine	the Apartment	(Ontario)	B519-923-3110 D519-378-4762
Glenn & Karen Gildenheimer	25330 Altas Palmas Drive	(Ohio)	
Doug & Marilyn Hermiston	25420 Altas Palmas Drive	(Manitoba)	956-230-2581
Lyle & Patti Keillor	25324 Goldenrod Lane	(Manitoba)	267-902-2309
Jim & Barb Herbert	25488 Goldenrod Lane	(Kansas)	J620-2459-8835 B620-249-2595
Dean & Mara Sandelli	25379 Goldenrod Lane	(Ontario)	956-230-2802
Craig & Susan Harkness	15799 Orange Drive	(Ontario)	956-230-4958
David & Marie Aradine	15748 Palm Tree Drive	(New York)	M607-738-0445
Curtis & Susie Johnson	15796 Palm Tree Drive	(Manitoba)	C204-803-7494 S201-803-7411
Lorne & Judy Berezowski	15804 Palm Tree Drive	(Ontario)	956-230-1625 J807-620-1911

If we have missed you, please let us know: PAM - pambuhr@gmail.com 204-807-8389.

SVV OFFICE

Hope everyone's Holidays were filled with joy. We are glad to see more of our SVV family returning for the Winter Season. There are just a few things I need to bring to your attention.

DIRECTORY: The 2020 directory is ready for your review. Please come into the office on Tuesday or Thursdays between 9:00 AM and noon to check for errors, additions or omissions. The last day to review will be Thursday, January 16.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS: Stop in or call me (989-426-0645) to update your information to include emergency contact numbers. This will be for office use only and will not be in the directory.

COVENANTS AND BY-LAWS: It is important that all residents/renters have a copy of Sun Valley Village Property Owners Association Covenants and By-Laws. If you need a copy you can download and print them from our website svvpoa.com or a replacement copy can be purchased from the office at a cost of \$3.00. We can be proud of our community and need to keep it in good standing. Rules and regulations are needed to accomplish this.

METER BOX LIDS: Lids have arrived and are available in the office for a cost of \$8.

BILLIARD ROOM: The Board is considering selling one of the billiard tables to make room for some exercise equipment. If you would be interested in purchasing it, contact the office. We have an offer of \$250 from outside SVV, but residents can have first 'dibs'.

SECURITY LIGHTS: If you have a faulty county/city security light on or near your property (not coming on or staying on), let me know and I will call AEP to have it fixed.

MAILBOXES: Help our postal person get mail in the correct box. Make sure your information is on the bottom of your box by the door. You can use a return label with your name and address.

SPA & POOL USERS: There has been a continued problem regarding the pollution of the spa. After speaking to Pool Services there are two main causes for this problem:

- 1) -Suntan oils not completely removed from user's skin. If someone with oil on them gets into the hot spa, the oil will come off causing an oily residue to float on the surface of the water. This residue will then collect creating a film on the tiles, it also causes the filter to become plugged and not function properly.
- 2) -Wearing of street clothes in the spa/pool. Most fabrics, i.e. cotton, denim etc., will not be completely soap free after a normal rinse cycle. It takes at least three rinse cycles to remove all soap from most fabrics. Whereas, Nylon, used in most swim attire, is soap free after a normal rinse cycle. As a result, when wearing street clothes that soap is released into the water causing the chemicals to be off balance and creating a soap scum on the tiles. This is why we have the rule – no street clothes in spa/pool.

SOLUTION:

- 1) Remove all oils from skin by taking a 30 to 45 second shower, rubbing applied areas with hands to completely remove oils. Just stepping into the shower and a quick rinse is not sufficient to remove oils.
- 2) Do not wear street clothes.

EVERYONE'S COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER WILL BE APPRECIATED.

POOL BANKET: Remember it takes two people to use the pool blanket roller.

I have lots of projects in the works and would like to thank everyone for all the help.
Sincerely, Cheryl Matthews, Park Manager

Doug Danell, our 'webmaster', welcomes content to post on the website. If you have a photo you would like published there, you may send it to him via email (ddanell1@gmail.com). Include captions if you wish. Properties for sale/rent could be posted with accompanying photos as well.

TRASH & POOL PROCEDURES

(reprinted in each newsletter as a reminder, and for new people)

HOUSEHOLD TRASH

EAST SIDE DUMPSTER: -For residents of Orange Drive and Palm Tree Drive ONLY, who are being charged a fee by the City for this service:

All garbage placed inside the dumpster **must be in sealed or tied garbage bags of any size. Nothing is to be placed outside the bin;** the City will not pick up anything outside the bin. Pick up days are MONDAY and FRIDAY throughout the year. There will be a third pick up added on WEDNESDAY during January, February, and March.

The City has provided the following rules regarding what is **NOT ALLOWED** in the bin:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| -Propane tanks or cylinders | - automobile tires |
| -Lead-acid batteries (e.g. car batteries) | - paints, solvents, or any liquids |
| -Hazardous materials (e.g. pesticides) | - gypsum (drywall) |
| - Brush or tree trimmings | - animal carcasses |
| -Used oil or oil filters | - TVs or computer monitors |
| -Medical waste (e.g. syringes) | - hot ashes |



WEST SIDE PICKUP: Thursdays – The trash must be placed in front of your house in the brown Waste Management Bags which can be purchased by calling 800-383-0519 and paying online or arranging to leave a check (telephone number found on the first page of your directory). The bags will be delivered to your home. **West Side households do NOT use the dumpster.**

COMMON AREA TRASH and SWIMMING POOL COVERING DUTY

These duties are provided by resident volunteers. The signup sheet is in the Hall, as is a copy of these instructions. If you are able and have not already done so, consider taking a week.

Each week starts on a Thursday and includes putting out the trash. **By 4:00 PM Thursday** evening, the trash should be emptied from the **hall, including both bathrooms, the barn, and the Pool Room;** and along with the trash from the bins behind the office building, placed on the right side of the curb in front of the office building. Only six bags of trash can be placed out at one time. Clean 45-gallon garbage bags need to be put into the emptied garbage cans in the bin. Bags are kept in the narrow cupboard by the kitchen trashcan. **None of this trash is to be placed in the dumpster.**

During your week you are also responsible for uncovering and covering the pool. Remember **two people** must do this and **if the outside temperature is 70 or below, the pool is NOT to be uncovered.**

There are no set times to uncover the pool, so if you wish to use it, you are welcome to take the cover off if it has not been done, **provided the temperature is not 70 or below and there are two of you. PLEASE TAKE CARE AND WIND UP SLOWLY WHEN TAKING OFF THE COVER SO THAT IT WILL LAST.**



REMINDERS: - To all who use suntan lotion while on the lounge chairs – please cover the chair with a towel or pad as the oils and lotions deteriorate the vinyl. Be sure to shower before using the pool, and please do not use soap or shampoo in the shower as the shower drain is not going to a septic tank. As per Article II, Section 2.2, in the Covenants and Bylaws **The use of the pool is restricted to owners, their tenants, their overnight guests, or contract purchasers who reside on the property. – no exceptions, please.**

RECYCLING Taking Care of our Environment!

Please recycle **aluminum cans and their tabs** in the containers provided in the **barn**. This is a fundraiser for SVV. We have had problems with trash being discarded in there instead of cans. These are for **CLEAN** aluminum cans only.



Other recyclables can be taken to the **Harlingen Recycling Depot on Commerce Street**. The workers are very helpful there and will even unload what you bring. Here are the Harlingen recycling guidelines: **Materials We Accept for Recycling:**

Cardboard: Brown corrugated boxes, shoe and food boxes that are either brown or gray on the inside. No boxes that are white on the inside or coated with a wax or plastic. No cardboard (the paper mache type) egg cartons.

Newspaper: Entire paper. Please remove any plastic bags from the papers.

Paper: Letters, junk mail, school papers, forms, computer paper. No tissues, paper towels or napkins.

Aluminum: Cans only. No aluminum foil or single-use pans. *(Note aluminum cans are a fundraiser for SVV so please bring those to the barn.)*

Steel: Tin cans, wire hangers, miscellaneous small pieces of steel, refrigerators, AC units, and washers.

Plastic # 1: This type of plastic has a triangle made of 3 arrows with a number 1 in the middle on the bottom of the bottle. These bottles include: soda bottles, sport drink bottles, juice bottles and water bottles.

Plastic # 2: This type of plastic has a triangle made of 3 arrows with a number 2 in the middle on the bottom of the bottle. These bottles include: milk bottles and soap bottles.

Plastic Bags: Only grocery type bags and newspaper bags are recyclable. The bags need to be clean. Be sure you remove everything from the bag including the cash register receipt. Please throw all other plastic bags into your trash.

Plastic Foam Packing Peanuts: Remove any contamination from the peanuts.

Automotive Batteries: Lead-acid batteries only.

Used Automotive Oil: Household do it yourself oil changers only, no commercial oil. No oil filters! Oil filters may be taken to most auto parts stores for recycling at no cost.

Styrofoam: White Styrofoam only, nothing with color or wording on it (like egg cartons).

Electronic Equipment: Computers, TV's.

PLEASE NOTE! Remove all bottle caps and throw into the trash. Crush the soft plastic bottles. **Cleanliness is essential. One container with waste still in it can contaminate an entire bale, containing thousands of pounds of recycled material. This can cause thousands of recyclable items to go to a landfill instead of being recycled.**

Note that we have a recycling bin in the Hall.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR RENT

FOR SALE:

25464 Altas Palmas Drive	Jerry & Debbie Bates	956-577-6290
15498 Altas Palmas Drive	Ed & Pat Kingma	219-964-1533
25324 Goldenrod Lane	Jerry & Debbie Bates	956-577-6290
15799 Orange Drive	Larry & Donna Morningstar	306-528-4531
15729 Palm Tree Drive	Ram & Annie Martinez	956-357-6155

FOR RENT:

25327 Goldenrod Lane	Sam Korkiakoski	705-522-7995
25341 Goldenrod Lane	Albert Breukelman	807-628-5644

If you wish to advertise sale or rental property in the newsletter, let us know:

PAM - pambuhr@gmail.com 204-807-8389.

THE WAY WE WERE (Excerpts from Past Newsletters)

From January 1995, Volume XV – *The Williams, Wilsons and the Boardmans went on a five-day gambling junket to New Orleans, Biloxi and Gulf Port. They must have done OK, because they aren't crying.* Remember that, Lorraine?

We have been asked to inform the owners of golf carts to refrain from using them on easements. The individual who brought this to our attention informed us that you could be faced with a two hundred dollar fine and a visit from the Sheriff. Only if you get caught that is! I wonder if that is still an offence...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(or maybe not always a letter – just a quick conversation in passing – “maybe you should put this in the newsletter?” LOL)

We wish our SVV friends and neighbours a very Happy New Year! Due to Larry having some health issues we have decided to put our winter home at 15799 Orange Drive up for sale although it saddens us greatly! You can contact us at 306-528-4531 or Craig and Susan Harkness have kindly offered to show it or answer questions. Larry is doing OK but as all Canadians know our health insurance is an issue! We hope to be able to return and rent a place if necessary. Best wishes to all, Larry and Donna Morningstar.

Often, we find ourselves in need of a tradesperson for repair or renovation. Who should we call? At the suggestion of a resident we will have a recommendation list posted in the hall for reference purposes. If you have discovered an exceptional contractor, please add them to the list.

It might be a good idea to pick up your parcels in a timely manner. Although theft has not yet been a problem, sometimes packages are there for a while and are tempting fate.

Some of our full-time residents took on the huge undertaking of cleaning up after the flooding this summer – in common areas and winter Texan properties. We are very grateful to them. They went above and beyond the call of duty! Thank you so much! ❤️

TNR comes to SVV!

Not really a new concept for us – just a continuation of Karen Clement’s legacy.

TNR stands for Trap Neuter Release –*a method for attempting to humanely and effectively manage free-roaming domestic cats. The process involves live-trapping the cats, having them neutered, ear-tipped for identification, and, if possible, vaccinated; then releasing them back into their territory. If the location is deemed unsafe or otherwise inappropriate, the cats may be relocated to other appropriate areas such as sanctuaries, farmyards, etc. Ideally, friendly adults and kittens young enough to be easily socialized are retained and placed for adoption.* TNR programs can be found in many countries, not only in North America.

Some research has shown that TNR has been successful in reducing feral cat populations.

Why it works

- *Unsterilized females can produce three to four litters per year. The TNR protocol immediately halts this cycle.*
- *It is less expensive, more effective, and more humane than extermination.*
- *Returning cats to their home colony prevents other (unsterilized) feral cats from moving into the area and starting the cycle all over again.*

Why extermination doesn't work

- *The Vacuum Effect: Unsterilized feral cats move into now-available territory and begin the reproduction cycle all over again, creating an ongoing, ineffective and expensive process.*
- *Areas that have eliminated cat populations (albeit temporarily) for various reasons often find themselves facing a rodent problem.*

Kitties of the Valley is our local TNR organization whose founder, Pat, told me that Karen is her hero. The following is from their Facebook page. *We are in the process of building the Kitties of the Valley sanctuary. Kitties of the Valley is a non-profit that strives to protect and improve cats’ lives in the Rio Grande Valley through our TNR and adoption programs. We are working toward the humane treatment of all cats where every cat is valued and protected. We currently do not have our sanctuary open and are not taking in cats, but we are helping to trap, neuter/spay, and return (TNR). Continue to follow our progress as we work toward building a place to help the unwanted, abandoned, neglected kitties of the Rio Grande Valley.*

What’s all this have to do with SVV? Karen Clement, a long-time resident who is sadly no longer with us, was instrumental in making sure that our SVV cats did not reproduce in order to keep their numbers more or less fixed. She also fed all these cats daily. Dale Garrett, her brother, has followed in her footsteps. This summer we lost three of the four cats on the west side of the park. The Vacuum Effect seemed to happen here as seven cats, mostly kittens moved into this available territory. We managed to trap four of them, plus one out of town and they were taken to Kitties of the Valley for neutering and vaccination. Two of the kittens who are too young yet will be taken at the end of the month. We also have a couple of new cats on the east side which we will take once we can get them. Others and I have seen at least two of these cats catch mice and one a rat – so they are earning their keep! If you see stranger cats hanging around, please inform Dale (956-423-1391) or myself, Pam Buhr (204-807-8389), and we will deal with them if we can. PS – if you catch an unfamiliar cat in your possum trap, don’t let it go! Let us transfer it to a carrier for TNR! Let’s be proactive in keeping our cat population in check. 🐱