



CORNVILLE COURIER

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Fall Membership Drive Underway

Notices are going out this month to all members and possible new ones. It's that time of year to renew existing memberships or to consider becoming a new member of the Cornville Historical Society.

The Society's current membership includes 35 families, sixteen individuals and three contributing memberships, along with six businesses, and nine honorary members (*those who have lived in Cornville for 50 years or more*) — for a total of 69 memberships. We'd like to make that number grow! Even if dues are paid now, they will cover the entire Calendar Year 2025. So, there's no reason to wait.

This year, the Society raised over \$10,000 from membership dues, donations, one grant, publications sales, and our annual fundraiser. Tax-deductible donations to the “Old Post Office Restoration Fund” or our newly established “Facility Fund” are welcomed. We are actively seeking rental space to house our growing volume of supplies, records, and historic materials.

The Society's 20th Anniversary is coming up, along with the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of the historic Cornville Post Office. Volunteer help is often needed for the Society's work activities. If you like history, consider helping out with research, signs and publications, planning, projects, fundraising, events, record-keeping, writing & editing. There's much to be done! For information, go to www.cornville-historical-society.org.

Please Join Us! Sign Up Now!

Annual Holiday Fundraiser December 8 at Windmill Ranch



The Cornville Historical Society is pleased to announce its Holiday Fundraiser Event, to be held this year at Windmill Ranch, 6625 N. Sycamore Pass Road, Sedona (north of State Route 89A between Cottonwood and Sedona). The event will be from 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, December 8, 2024.

“The Story of Windmill Ranch” will be introduced by Don Godard, a well-known Cornville old-timer who has a wealth of knowledge about area ranching. Speakers will be ranch owners Becki & Dustin Ross who will explain current operations, and Clancy Sage, Historian from the Sedona Historical Society, who will cover the history of the ranch. The family ranch was established five generations ago on 85 acres of deeded land and runs cattle on National Forest and State lands that span much of the Cornville area. The event is a great opportunity to take a Sunday afternoon drive and learn about another historic ranch!

The program will be followed by the Society's popular raffle of holiday gift baskets that feature gift certificates and themed items. Refreshments will be served. The event will be indoors in a spacious arena. Seating may be limited, so bring a lawn chair if you can. There will be no smoking allowed on the property.

Reserve tickets by contacting Karen Wilkens at 920-650-1702 or kewilkens500@gmail.com. Tickets reserved in advance will be \$10 each and held for pickup at the event. Send payment to Cornville Historical Society, PO Box 1200, Cornville 86325. Tickets sold at the door will be \$15 each. All ticket-holders will also receive ten free raffle tickets. More raffle tickets will be sold during the event for \$1 each or six for \$5. See you there!





Oak Creek Valley Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Oak Creek Valley Residential Area of Cornville was developed in the early 1970's, with a grand opening celebration in August 1974. The gated community includes about 160 homes, utility systems, clubhouse, pool, a community park, and trails on 40+ acres of open space situated at the junction of two perennial springs. It is surrounded by Coconino National Forest on the north, intersected by Spring Creek, and bordered by Oak Creek on the south. Over the years, a Property Owner's Association has watched over the community, which has about 300 residents and many amenities.

The neighborhood is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in several ways. T-Shirts, hats, walking sticks, and souvenir decals feature the community logo; and a "Fiesta" theme has been adopted. On June 30, a picnic was held in the park on Oak Creek to celebrate both the anniversary and the Fourth of July. During September, a Butterfly Scavenger Hunt invited residents to search for fourteen hand-painted butterflies hidden in public areas.

On October 5, a full day of activities included a Rubber Duck Race in Spring Creek, Butterfly Auction, and Pinatas for Kids. A catered Fiesta Supper was served, along with two showings of a power point presentation, "The History of Oak Creek Valley", given by resident Judy Miller in behalf of the Cornville Historical Society. The presentation traced area history from geologic and pre-historic times through pioneer settlement in the late 1800's and ranch years, until the planned development came along. A "History of Oak Creek Valley" brochure can be seen on the Society's website; and copies are available at events or upon request.

Oak Creek Valley's many attributes, managed by an effective homeowners association, make it a special place to live. Community pride is certainly evident, especially during this golden anniversary celebration.



News Tidbits

A Cornville History Facility is Needed ... The Society continues to watch for an affordable place to house records, conduct research & interviews, host meetings, and carry out the Society's business. Since our beginnings in 2004, records and supplies have been stored in private homes or commercial storage units, making our work slow and awkward. CHS has established a special tax-deductible "Facility Fund" which now totals \$11,200, to lease suitable space within the community. Grant opportunities are also pursued. If you would like to contribute, send your tax-deductible donation to CHS Facility Fund, P.O. Box 1200, Cornville 86325.

... and Volunteer Help is Always Welcome: Society board member Pat Nomm has moved and resigned, so we now have two Board vacancies to fill. If you are interested in history, have related background experiences or skills to share, or would just like to learn more about your Cornville community, please let us know. The Society is especially interested in hearing from anyone who has knowledge of local history and information to offer, or likes to do research and gather data. Contact any board member (*see below*) or go to www.cornville-historical-society.org for information.

Cornville Historical Society 2024-25 Board of Directors

Cheryl Chamberlain (President), 928-639-0865 or wormworm@earthlink.net; **Judy Miller** (Vice-President) 928-649-1916 or jdymrlraz@gmail.com; **Ginny Rench** (Secretary), 928-300-4899 or rench8@gmail.com;
Cindy Snyder (Treasurer), 928-649-9628 or CindySnyder9550@gmail.com;
Cindy Traverso, 623-337-6332 or femtazme@aol.com; **Muffy Valley**, 928-639-9558 or valleyllc@gmail.com;
Karen Wilkens (Membership), 920-650-1702 or kewilkens500@gmail.com; and Two Vacancies