

CONSTRUCTION

Award-winning homebuilder has plans for Ahwatukee neighborhood

By Allison Hurtado
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

A Valley homebuilder with plans to build a development in Ahwatukee Foothills has just received its fourth consecutive "Homeowners' Choice Award" from Eliant.

The California-based customer experience management company, Eliant, has been surveying buyers of new homes for 29 years. Eliant named Rosewood Homes as winner of the 2013 "Homebuyers' Choice Award" for "Best Purchase and Ownership Experience." Rosewood was also recognized as having the highest first year quality rating. According to a statement from Rosewood Homes, this is the first time a homebuilder has been honored four consecutive years and Rosewood Homes is the only company in Arizona to have received the award.

"There is no better honor than to have actual homeowners vote based on their personal experience with their builder," said David Kitnick, president of Rosewood Homes. "At Rosewood, there's only one way to do things: the right way... Everyone affiliated with Rosewood is committed to providing industry leading customer satisfaction, quality and design with each new Rosewood home."

Kitnick has been building homes for more than 27 years. His background includes starting the Arizona division of Greystone Homes, which ultimately merged with Lennar Homes. Kitnick took a corporate position with Lennar overseeing Arizona, Nevada and Northern California, but eventually left the company in order to spend more time closer to home. He started with Rosewood Homes in 2005.

The awards from Eliant are not the only ones the company has been presented. They were given the "Grand Award" as "Builder of the Year" by the Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona (HBACA) and have twice been recognized as "Small Volume Builder of the Year" by the homebuilding industry. They've also received regional and national awards, including providing the "Best Affordable Single Family Detached Home" by the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB).

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Community

News, ideas and opinions on what's important to Ahwatukee



CAUSES



The annual 5K for Healthy Kidneys walk will take place on Sunday at Kiwanis Community Park to benefit the Alport Syndrome Foundation. [AFN file]

Ahwatukee resident's 6th annual walk for kidney disease this weekend

By Diana Martinez
AHWATUKEE FOOTHILLS NEWS

Sharon Lagas still remembers the "tragedy" that shook her family more than a decade ago.

At ages 5 and 6, her two sons were diagnosed with kidney disease in the same month her brother passed away from the same affliction.

"It's affected three generations of our family, that's what happens with Alport's," said Lagas, who started the Alport Syndrome Foundation. "You relive this generation after generation."

Alport Syndrome is a genetic kidney disease that is believed to affect 1 in 5,000 people.

Lagas' sons are now 16 and 17, attending Desert Vista High School, and have full kidney function with medication.

"We've come a long way,"

IF YOU GO

What: 5K for Healthy Kidneys
When: Sunday, March 24 from 8 to 11 a.m.
Where: Tempe Kiwanis Park, near the Baseline Road entrance
Cost: \$35 for registration
Information: alportsyndrome.org

Lagas said.

Since then, Lagas started the foundation about five years ago, aiming to help families affected by the disease, and create a much-needed community around the cause to fund research and find a cure.

Continuing in its sixth year, the foundation is hosting a 5K walk for kidney disease this weekend in Tempe. Everyone from walkers, strollers, and runners are encouraged to attend.

Hosted in March in honor of National Kidney Month, all proceeds of the event will go to education and community outreach for families affected

by the disease. The foundation also works with medical professionals in nephrology, co-hosting symposiums and other events for residents.

Lagas said when her sons were diagnosed, resources for support or information was scarce.

"By forming this, we've formed a community where you go from feeling like a victim to being an advocate," she said. "It's here so that no one is ever alone again."

The walk will be hosted at Tempe Kiwanis Park on Sunday, March 24 from 8 to 11 a.m. Registration tables and the starting point will be near the Baseline Road entrance. Cost is \$35 to register the day of the walk.

For more information, visit alportsyndrome.org.

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Daddy/daughter ritual turns into important life lessons

About once a month my daughter and I have a very sweet daddy/daughter ritual that we have followed for the last six years. Typically on a lazy weekend afternoon, we drive over to the Ahwatukee Foothills Car Wash off Ray Road and when we get the car washed we grab a delicious, all natural fruit Popsicle.



Jason Kolber
LIFE COACHING

I tend to go with the piña colada flavor, especially in the hot Arizona summers when I like to imagine being in a tropical environment. My daughter tends to go with good-old natural strawberry and the little seeds are actually in the Popsicle. My daughter reminds me of this fact every time we go and I respond with enthusiasm and amazement as though this is new information.

I enjoy this sweet ritual and this time, our trip was made sweeter by a man named Victor. Victor is a quiet man who works at the car wash. I always enjoy saying hello to him and he has a very kind demeanor. This past Friday, Victor went above and beyond for us. The other day when my daughter and I were enjoying our cool, fruity snacks at the car wash, Victor came sprinting up to me in a bit of a panic. He felt concerned and stressed as he felt as though my car was not complete to his satisfaction, and he insisted that he run my car through the wash as well as vacuum the interior again.

I explained to Victor that I had not paid for a special detail and I am sure the

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Diabetic Drugs May Be Dangerous To Your Health

New guide sheds light on the dangers of diabetic drugs and why doctors prescribe them anyway. You could be at risk!

A free guide has just been released that reveals why current therapy may make your condition worse. If you are frustrated that your blood sugars don't budge and continue to rise despite your drugs this guide is a must have. To receive your free guide entitled "Diabetic Ignorance: How Drug Companies, The Food Industry, and some Drs. set you up for Failure" call toll free 1-800-825-2242 or go to www.ChandlerDiabetesReport.com.

- Dr. Rick Shand, D.C.

Kolber

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wash was adequate. He then said something that really caught my attention. Victor shared, "Just OK is not OK."

I smiled and before I knew it, Victor disappeared with my car into the VIP area where they do specialty waxing and detailing work. He insisted on taking an extra 20 minutes to thoroughly review my car, and even though there was a part of me that felt as though 20 more minutes was excessive, I knew in that moment that Victor was giving love through service, and he was taking pride in his work.

I used this moment to share with my daughter some of the many lessons that transpired in that experience:

- We always acknowledged Victor as a special person without any goal of receiving anything in return. We simply enjoyed him.

- Victor took pride in the service that was being provided and he did not even own the car wash. He easily could have said that ad-

equate was good enough. Instead he rose above.

- The gift of receiving. I showed my daughter how sometimes it is important to receive someone's efforts just as it is important to give one's best.

- Victor has massive amounts of energy, I believe this is partially because he does not avoid work, but rather welcomes it.

- I had to surrender my "supposed" schedule and just let go of time and be in the moment.

- Sometimes there is just magic in enjoying some quality time together and this is possible because my daughter and I have created simple rituals that matter.

Oh yeah, the last lesson, we choose healthy natural Popsicles. Come on, did you think I could resist throwing in a little tid-bit about health!

Wishing you a week filled with the energy to make a difference and the presence to experience the joy it brings.

• Dr. Jason Kolber is a licensed doctor of chiropractic and a certified life coach. Reach him at (480) 704-2787 or www.livinginline.com.



Homes in the Rosewood Estrella community, Stone Gate, have signs out front that read, "I Heart Rosewood Homes." [Submitted photo]

Rosewood

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Kitnick has plans for a 59-home neighborhood in Ahwatukee Foothills southeast of the corner of Desert Foothills Parkway and Chandler Boulevard.

He said he expects land development to begin in the winter of 2013 and model construction to begin in the spring of 2014.

"I've always loved Ahwatukee," Kitnick said. "It's tucked next to a gorgeous mountain range and has wonderful curvilinear streets, beautiful landscaping, and an abundance of neighborhood parks. I also like the sense of community and the fabulous schools. In fact, my wife and I loved Ahwatukee so much that our first home was in Ahwatukee and our kids celebrated their first birthdays

at the park across the street from our new Rosewood neighborhood."

Rosewood Village will offer 59 super energy efficient homes in a gated community. Kitnick said there are plans for a pool, barbecue area, fire pit and event lawn.

"Our goal is to create one of Arizona's most memorable neighborhoods," he said. "A truly special place that people will enjoy living in, and one that we can all look back fondly on."

Rosewood Homes has neighborhoods in DC Ranch, Vistancia and Estrella and is in various stages of planning and development on four new neighborhoods opening in 2013 and 2014.

For more information about Rosewood Homes, visit www.rosewoodhomes.com.

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