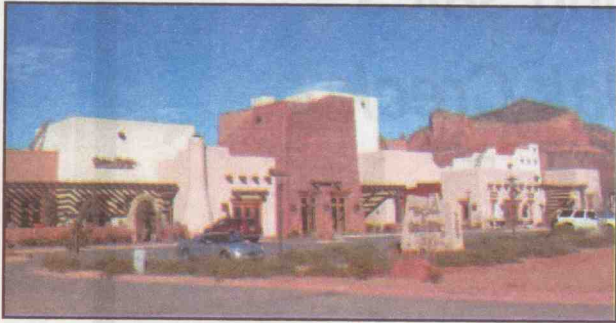


Three Big Park Projects Win 2004 Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. Awards



Tequa Plaza, winner of a KSB Award of Excellence for its exceptional architecture (Photo by Zona Fink)

We Village/Big Park folks can feel very proud of three recent honorees bestowed on projects in our community by *Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. (KSB)*, Sedona's oldest conservation-oriented organization. For more than 30 years, their Annual Awards of Excellence have been presented to individuals, organizations and businesses for exceptional achievements in architecture, signage and landscape design, as well as exemplary community services, all of which contribute to the goal of "keeping Sedona beautiful."

(1) In September, many of us attended the Grand Opening of the renovation of *Kiwanis Community Park*, located at the corner of Bell Rock Blvd. and Cathedral Rock Drive, adjacent to the VOCA Community Center. It is an outstanding example of the success coming together of many segments of the community for a wonderful cause.

Those contributing enormous effort, funds, labor and expertise were first and foremost, Yavapai County, and most particularly, Supervisor Chip Davis, who made it all pos-



New play equipment at the KSB Award Winning Kiwanis Community Park (Photo by Gail Shaw)

sible; the Sedona Kiwanis Club, whose recent donations and others over the years have been vital; the Village of Oakcreek Association who leased the land, approved the park and now maintains it; the Big Park Regional Coordinating Council whose Park and Recreation Committee oversaw the efforts; and a huge fund raising project on the part of local moms, Kim Kohlan and Wende Turner. Lots of other Village people like Jake Weber, Ron Pucchi of ACE Hardware and John Sarna of JMS Construction were invaluable in their contributions, as well. The "new" park is a happy, safe place for family gatherings, birthday parties, dog walkers, tennis players and park appreciators of all ages and cultures that live in the Big Park/Village of Oak Creek.

(2) The old Oakcreek Country Club Building was notorious for many reasons, including its dark, windowless restaurant and a generally inefficient and unfriendly atmosphere, rarely welcoming as a gathering place for the wider community.

A long string of unsuccessful efforts to rebuild or remodel the structure became a Village plague for years. Finally, in the spring of 2003, a commitment was made by the VOCA Board to proceed with their revised concept of an extensive remodel, designed to be much more than a golf clubhouse. The beautifully remodeled *VOCA Community Center* now provides an exceptional facility for the happy golfers, AND also reaches out to the broader Big Park/Village community (even greater Sedona) with diverse meeting rooms, activity centers and especially with Mulligan's, its attractive new restaurant.

(3) The exceptional architecture of *Tequa Plaza* was also presented the KSB Award



The newly renovated VOCA Community Center, recipient of a Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. annual award for exemplary architecture (Photo by Gail Shaw)

of Excellence. The new complex's fine Southwestern style building design provides a handsome introduction to the Big Park/Village at the southern approach from I-17, in character with the concept recently developed by the community. In addition, Tequa has a good program of original and tasteful signage and has demonstrated cooperation with the community in bringing its night lighting into compliance with local "dark skies" standards.

Congratulations and thank you to all who have worked to make these excellent projects happen, and therefore, our community a more pleasant and beautiful place to live!