



NEWSLETTER

Number 7 Association

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1999 ASSESSMENT. In September the Board of Directors declared an assessment of \$60.00 per lot for 1999 to finance the functions of the Homeowners' Association. We thank the many homeowners in the Association who promptly responded with their payment. If you have not received notice of the assessment, please contact the Secretary to the Board.

APARTMENT COMPLEX ADJACENT TO RACETRACK WASH

On or about June 25, 1999 Catalina Foothills Estates #7 was notified of the above mentioned project. The proposed development would border Cat #7 to the north, Racetrack Wash to the east, River Road to the south, and Northridge Villas to the west. The project was initially named Solano Ridge. This 49.7 acre site, plus Racetrack Wash, were annexed by the City of Tucson in October, 1996. This undeveloped land is owned by Catalina Foothills Estates Partnership No. 2 while Cat #7 Homeowners Association owns Racetrack Wash. The Spanos Company of Las Vegas proposed a plan that would blade grade the land to construct a two-story, 448 unit apartment complex on the site.

Our major concerns were the following project proposals: use of Foothills Drive as an entrance, direct runoff storm sewer excess into Racetrack Wash, the inconsistency of the buildings versus the current single-story, flat roof style of the area.

The concerns of increased traffic in the neighborhood and water run-off in the Wash were expressed to the County and City. They concurred and would not support the developer's proposals.

On September 14, 1999 we were informed by the City's Third Ward Council Member, Jerry Anderson, that the Solano Ridge Project had been canceled. Specific reasons for the cancellation are unknown. Cat #7 worked with two other associations: Northridge Villas to our west and Via Serenidad to the south.

We appreciate the cooperation and support by everyone that helped us communicate our concerns.

Jim Riley

MOSQUITOES IN THE DESERT

Introduction. The relatively low population of mosquitoes in Arizona compared to states such as New Jersey or Florida have given many people the false impression that mosquitoes are not an issue in the arid and semi-arid southwest. Mosquitoes have been and always will be abundant at certain times of the year in the Sonoran Desert.

As rivers and streams in Arizona were driven underground by pumping surface and groundwater, many wetland and riparian areas that once provided habitats for some species of mosquitoes were eliminated. More recently, however, the rapid population growth has resulted in the creation of many homes, ponds, lakes and other suitable mosquito habitats.

These insects are important not only because they are very abundant and are considered to be a nuisance, but also because they are potential vectors for diseases. Malaria was once a major problem for early settlers in and around Tucson and the Santa Cruz River and incidents of encephalitis-carrying mosquitoes have been reported over many years from Pima, Maricopa, and other Arizona counties.

Mosquito species of Arizona occupy many types of habitats and require different environmental conditions. Habitats for larval mosquitoes include: ditches, lake edges, ponds, marshes, springs, swamps, snowmelt pools, rock pools, slow reaches of streams, floodwater or overflow depressions, tree holes, and artificial containers (e.g., chimenias, birdbaths, dog dishes, flower pots, rain barrels, discarded cans and tires). The most important requirements for mosquito breeding is the presence of water and preferably shallow standing water. Water only has to be present for as little as one week to provide adequate breeding conditions. An abundant food source and protective cover from predators are also critical to the reproduction of mosquitoes.

There are 27 species of mosquitoes that have been reported from Pima County. The genera *Psorophora* and *Aedes* breed in areas where the ground is periodically flooded and re-flooded. Even though most of these mosquitoes are not disease vectors, they can be an annoyance by virtue of their large numbers. *Culex* mosquitoes, typically breed in shallow permanent water. *Culex tarsalis* is a known vector for mosquito-borne encephalitis viruses, including St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and western equine encephalitis (WEE). Both of these viruses may be pathogenic to humans and WEE is also pathogenic to horses. Both of these viruses have been isolated in mosquitoes collected in Arizona in past years.

Beginning in the mid-nineties a troublesome resident was seen in some Tucson neighborhoods, the mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. *Aedes aegypti*, once primarily a tree hole breeding mosquito, is well adapted to the urban environment, capable of breeding in very little water and residing in the cool shade of plants or inside homes. Based on field data and neighborhood complaints, *Aedes* is established in and around Tucson as well as other areas in Arizona.

A recent survey by UA graduate student Jason Botz found mosquito eggs in 8 of 11 Sam Hughes homes. Five of these homes had eggs outside the home and 3 homes had eggs both inside and outside. One residence had eggs only inside the home. On a broader scale, the potential lifestyle impacts on urban residents such as those in Sam Hughes or CAT 7 as a consequence of *Aedes* are great. In a survey sent to 2000 Sam Hughes homes, 79 percent of respondents felt their outdoor activities have been restricted because of mosquitoes. (Thirteen percent of neighbors returned the survey [260/2000]).

Health Risks Associated with *Aedes aegypti*. *Aedes aegypti* is not only a nuisance mosquito but also an important disease vector capable of transmitting dengue fever. Dengue is a disease of global proportions and is endemic in 100 countries. Some 2.5 billion people are at risk and 50 million cases are estimated to occur annually.

Dengue is a viral disease that causes a high fever, severe headache, muscle and joint pains and rash. Symptoms last about a week. Because of the complexity of the disease, a vaccine is not available. There are four related but distinct dengue viruses. When a person is infected with one of the viruses they become immune to it; however, they remain susceptible to other types. A second exposure to the dengue virus can lead to dengue hemorrhagic fever. Hemorrhagic fever is a much more severe form of the

disease characterized by high fever, internal bleeding, and in severe cases, circulatory failure. Without treatment the fatality rate is 15 percent.

The presence of *Aedes* is certainly a nuisance, but it is the danger of the introduction of dengue that makes the situation a clear health threat to the people of Tucson and Arizona. Although no cases of dengue from local mosquitoes have been reported in southern Arizona, the potentiality exists. In 1996 Hermisillo, Mexico had 3,000 confirmed cases of dengue fever.

Identify *Aedes aegypti*. *Aedes* is relatively easy to identify. The body of the insect is dark black with white bars on its legs. If you have a magnifying glass you may also be able to see a white lyre pattern on its back.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito preferentially feeds on humans, biting primarily around the ankles. Only the female mosquito bites and she uses your blood to nourish her eggs just before she lays them. The male mosquito feeds on nectar and plant juices. *Aedes aegypti* prefers to feed at dusk or the early morning hours spending the hotter hours in the cool shade of plants, grass or in your house.

In urban areas, *Aedes aegypti* lays its eggs just above the water line of containers holding water. The eggs can withstand drying and will hatch after a few days in water. Once hatched, the light colored larvae (called "wrigglers") can be seen just below the surface of the water. The larvae develop into mosquito dark colored pupa (called tumblers). When disturbed by shadows, they roll and tumble in the water, hence the name. After a few days the tumblers emerge from the water as adults. The larvae and pupae must have water to survive. They feed on bacteria and microscopic algae that grow in the water. Adults live between 3 weeks and several months. A female *Aedes aegypti* can lay between 120-140 eggs at one time spreading small batches of 1-12 eggs in a range of approximately half a mile.

Controlling *Aedes aegypti*. Research in Florida has shown that in ideal environments *Aedes* will not travel more than a few residential blocks. Consequently, mosquito populations tend to be somewhat isolated and concentrated. Controlling *Aedes* can be done most effectively by eliminating standing water in and around the home and the homes of your neighbors.

The most common places where mosquito eggs have been seen in Tucson are:

- 1) in watering cans - BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR;
- 2) in the plant pot saucers (especially those under plants requiring frequent watering) again, BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR;
- 3) in pets' water bowls--you guessed it, BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR.

Change pet water every other day, empty plant saucers and make sure to scrub the dishes that have standing water to remove mosquito eggs that have been laid just above the water's edge.

Chemical insecticides are generally ineffective at reducing *Aedes aegypti* populations because the spray fails to reach the undersides of plant leaves where many adult mosquitoes reside. Fortunately, biologically and environmentally safe methods are available to reduce *Aedes* populations.

In places with standing water such as infrequently used fountains, you can add a bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis*, or BTI. This bacteria is a specific larvicide that kills the mosquito larva when added to standing water or perpetually moist areas. BTI is available in a granular form or large pellets called doughnuts from many pest control stores. The granules are bits of corn on which the BTI has been sprayed. The BTI bacteria itself is sensitive to ultraviolet light and dies fairly rapidly and is effective for only 3 to 5 days. Fortunately only a small amount of granule or a time release doughnut is needed to kill mosquito larvae. Typically it takes around 24 hours after application for mortality of the larvae. BTI is deadly only to mosquito larvae while some other macroinvertebrates even find it nutritious.

Contrary to popular belief, bats eat relatively few mosquitoes and therefore make a small impact on the mosquito population. To the bat, mosquitoes are simply one of several potential foods and not nearly as an efficient food source in comparison to the many species of moths in Tucson.

If you own a fish pond, consider adding *Larvivore Fish* to introduce natural controls into the habitat. Guppies generally do not survive winters in Tucson so ponds must be restocked each spring. The

mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis* is not only an aggressive predator of mosquito larvae but also juvenile fish including many native fish species. If you use *Gambusia*, it must not be released as it will eliminate the few remaining populations of native fish in southern Arizona.

The best method of control of *Aedes aegypti* or the breeding of other mosquito species in and around your residence is to patrol your home for standing water. Water left in plant saucers, pet dishes and any open container are potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Change pet water every other day, empty plant saucers and make sure to scrub the dishes that have standing water to remove mosquito eggs that have been laid just above the water's edge.

The text of this article was prepared by Martin Karpiscak based on an article published by Sarah Palmer in the Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association Newsletter and other sources. Ms Palmer is currently organizing a Mosquito Control District for the Sam Hughes Neighborhood of Tucson.

NEIGHBORHOOD NATURE WALKS

Our neighborhood is fortunate to have a wonderful natural resource - the Race Track Wash - and even more fortunate to have two residents willing to share their expertise of the flora and fauna!

Every four to six weeks John Aronson and Bill Calder, both University professors, lead group walks identifying plants, birds, and wildlife, and also throwing in some history and geology as well.

We meet at 7:30 am at the barrier on Sobre Lomas on a Saturday morning, and walk for one to one and a half hours. The next walk will be after Thanksgiving and a message will be left on the Association's answering machine, (323-9299) during the preceding week.

The previous walks have been fun and educational, and a great way to meet your neighbors. Come join us. *Jan Catt-Santiago*

IMPROVEMENTS

It is said that a new neighborhood of homes has only a life of twenty to thirty years. Our neighborhood is beyond that span of time. We can extend the period by taking a few steps to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood and useful life of our homes. In the majority of cases, there are several things that require immediate attention:

- The driveway. You may need to repair blacktop areas that have washed away - or to simply spread a yard or so of pea gravel to the surface.
 - Inspect your mailbox. It probably could use a paint job and new address numerals. Also check to see if the light comes on. It may require a new light bulb.
 - Mistletoe is a parasite killer of trees and other plants. Don't let it propagate.
 - Landscaping. Bushes and trees may require trimming. Dead limbs and underbrush should be cut and hauled away. Waste Management will carry away a can each week as a part of the two cans they allow.
 - When you walk, carry a trash bag. There is most usually a can, bottle or paper available to pick up and dispose of.
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- Organize a neighborhood work force, adopt a median or an area nearby, and beautify it. If the area is barren, plant it with natural vegetation; if it is littered, pick up the litter, etc. Contact the Covenants Committee before cutting any foliage.
- Offer the board suggestions for improving conditions in CAT 7 and methods by which the project may be achieved. If funds are required, recommend the project be included in the CAT 7 Operating Budget. *Wallace 'Bob' Johnston*

WHAT IS YOUR WATER PRESSURE?

Speaking of improvements, do you know the water pressure in your house? Many of the pressure regulators originally installed for our homes are now decades old and beginning to fail to regulate the pressure. From checking different sources, recommended pressures in the home vary from 50 to 65 p.s.i. Two homes have recently had plumbing damage from excess pressure. The pressure in one home was off-scale above 100 p.s.i as measured by a simple pressure gauge that can be purchased at a hardware store. The city measured the pressure at the other home at over 150 p.s.i.! A third home reported pressure over 90 p.s.i. Early symptoms of excess pressure may be frequently leaking toilet valves or faucets in the home. Pipes and seals may also break, as for the two homes mentioned above. The pressure regulator is typically installed on the home side of the water meter to regulate the high pressure supply from Tucson Water. Yours may be buried in the soil. Tucson Water reports that there have been a number of problems in this neighborhood, but a failed regulator and any damages that it causes to the home is the homeowner's responsibility. If you are concerned about a problem, have your water pressure and the regulator checked. *Dennis Lichtenberger*

FIRE PROTECTION IN CFE 7

A recent review of the State Fire Marshall procedures has raised concerns over the adequacy oversight for fire protection in CFE #7. Contrary to what many people assume, the Fire Marshall's office does not regulate private fire protection services.

As most residents know, Rural/Metro provides the only fire protection for the area; however, there is no obligation to subscribe to that service. Should a non subscriber need fire assistance and call 911, Rural/Metro is called, and the non subscriber is billed for services at the rate of \$900 an hour per vehicle, plus \$100 an hour per firefighter, including their travel time. Also, the homeowner need not be the one who calls in the alarm. A neighbor, for example, could activate the service, and the homeowner would still be responsible for payment.

Under the present system, the only regulations imposed on a private service, such as Rural/Metro are:

·A business license: This is the same type of license that is required if you are operating a retail store.

·A permit to operate Code 3 equipment on public streets: A permit is required to ignore red lights and stop signs and drive on the wrong side of the road.

·A permit from the State Health Services Department for medical: The operation of paramedic units is regulated.

The only other regulations result from negotiated contracts with local fire districts or municipalities, neither of which applies to CFE #7.

Oversight is a major concern of the Board because fires double in intensity every two minutes. Therefore rapid response time with adequate personnel is critical. The generally accepted standard of the Fire Marshall's office is: "What counts is to always check response time in the context that fire fighting equipment will arrive in numbers and time to be able to intervene in the outcome."

In a municipal fire district the standard is a matter of public record and is monitored by the citizens of the fire district. Arizona statutes governing fire districts provide that they have an elected Fire District Board, comprised of citizens of the district to set performing standards and provide public oversight. Private companies have no such restraints.

The Board is continuing to assess alternatives and will keep you informed. *James Snedden*

FOR HOMEOWNERS NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SLOW DOWN AND ENJOY! We have received many concerns about the speed of traffic in the neighborhood. We have mentioned the danger of cars moving too fast past the nearly blind intersections which are common along Via Entrada. There have been repeated reports of a person in a blue truck driving at excessive speeds on Via Entrada. Keep your speed slow and be alert for cars exiting from the driveways and cul-de-sacs, for children walking to or from the school bus stop, and for other pedestrians and cyclists. **Please keep your speed to 25 miles per hour** (or less, depending on the conditions) and always be alert and considerate. We are continuing to consider means to reduce traffic and encourage safe driving speeds in the neighborhood. Our winding roads, which are so attractive, reduce visibility and children, walkers, and runners are frequently vulnerable.

DOG OWNERS. We all love our dogs, but we must be considerate of our neighbors. There have been complaints regarding dog droppings along the roadways. Covering the droppings with dirt is not the solution. Please pick up after your pets and especially never let your pet leave a calling card in someone's driveway.

There have also been some problems of barking dogs which have been left in patios while owners are away. Pima County Ordinance 6.04.160 *Excessive noise caused by animals or birds* states:
Prohibited Activity.

1. *The following activities are prohibited if they produce clearly audible sound beyond the property line of the property on which they are conducted and they disturb the public peace, quiet or comfort of the neighboring inhabitants.*

a. *Owning, possessing, harboring, or controlling any animal or bird, which frequently or for continuous duration howls, barks, meows, squawks or makes other sounds.*

If after you have requested the owner of an offending animal to control the situation, and the situation does not improve, you may call Pima Animal Control Center at 743-7550. The Center will advise the neighbor of the noise ordinance and send you a letter of confirmation. The letter also outlines what your next steps are if the excessive barking persists. *It is most important that you keep an accurate log of the barking.*

JAVELINA. We are delighted to report that the javelina continue to visit our neighborhood. There was some concern after not seeing the javelina for some time that they had been removed, but they have been spotted again in recent weeks. Although we wish to protect the natural wildlife, remember that feeding the javelina can cause big problems. As the wildlife learn to associate humans with food, they approach us with less fear. We lose because there is less wildlife and balance in the neighborhood. PLEASE enjoy the wildlife from a distance in peaceful coexistence, but DO NOT feed them.

COVENANTS ENFORCEMENT. Selected excerpts from the covenants of the Catalina Foothills Estates #7 have been included with this newsletter. These excerpts are provided as a short reminder of some of the common issues, but please review your covenants package for the complete statements of the covenants. Some of the most common problems are trash cans or rubbish that are in view (or even

placed at the street), white roofs, and removal of natural vegetation from property or the roadway medians.

While most homeowners cooperate in obeying the covenants, there always seem to be a few who refuse to accept the fact that the covenants must be enforced. Violations and disputes are subject to submission to final and binding arbitration by the American Arbitration Association, which has ruled for violation correction in all instances in this neighborhood. It is unfortunate that the Association is forced to spend considerable sums for what is totally unnecessary if the homeowner would but obey the covenants that were agreed to when purchasing the home. In addition to the money involved, your Board members spend hours of volunteer time trying to resolve conflicts whenever possible, and then more time when legal steps are necessary. All of this is needlessly costly to the neighborhood and the homeowner.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW. Please remember that any new structure or external change, including colors, on a property must be pre-approved by the Architectural Review Committee. The Committee meets twice a month and must visit the sites before the work begins and after completion of the work, so give them plenty of advance notice before committing to any work. Major projects and/or variances to the covenants require approval by the full Board, which meets once a month. For your convenience, an application form is included with this newsletter. Construction and alterations that fail to abide by the covenants are subject to removal at the owner's expense.

BOARD MEETINGS. The Board generally meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Holidays and vacation schedules sometimes result in the rescheduling or cancellation of a particular meeting, so check with the secretary to confirm a meeting time.

Meetings are held in the Hobby Room on the second floor of Campana del Rio Retirement Community's central building, at 1550 East River Road. Just go south on Via Entrada across River Road, then take the first left, and it's the large building on the right. While members of the Association may attend Board meetings and listen to general discussions, they may not participate in any deliberations or discussions unless a majority of the Board votes to allow them to do so. In addition, the Board will exclude members when it is considering any of the following:

1. Employment or personnel matters;
2. Legal advice from an attorney;
3. Pending or contemplated litigation; or
4. Pending or contemplated matters relating to enforcement of the Covenants or the Association's Articles or Bylaws.

NEWSLETTER PARTICIPATION. We welcome your comments and invite your contributions to the newsletter.

IF YOU LEASE YOUR HOME. Be sure the Secretary of the Board has your correct mailing address if you lease your home. The Post Office forwards mail only for six months, and if you fail to receive notices from the Association, you may find that you have missed an assessment bill or that the tenants have not abided by the covenants, which can result in a lien being placed on your property.