

*President's Note —*

**W**elcome to winter! Seasonal update:

- Nomination Season: Please consider serving on the CFE7 Board. Your efforts will have major impact upon our unique community. For information, contact John Milbauer (nominating@cfe7.org), chair of the nominating committee or the Board Secretary, Jane Hoffmann (secretary@cfe7.org). (Or, speak with me). The Board meetings (Zoom) are open to our community members.

- Pedestrian Safety: We have many regular walkers. Please walk safely, particularly at dawn and dusk. Walk on the left, facing traffic. Don't walk, or have your dog walk, in the middle. Consider reflective outerwear. See <https://www.azleg.gov/ars/28/00796.htm>

- Post-Monsoon Season: We had great rain this summer. Please share your input to guide the Board in prioritizing our (limited) landscaping funds for common areas and medians.

- Procedural changes: The Board implemented several operational changes this year to improve timeliness and transparency: Committee responsibilities have been more clearly defined to permit rapid approval at the committee level for landscaping/construction clearly within specified guidelines. Urgent requests requiring Board action can be reviewed and voted upon electronically. Cloud storage/access for documents now complements the traditional paper-based systems. Community members are strongly encouraged to submit written materials prior to discussions at the monthly board meetings. Community members may conveniently attend Board meetings by Zoom teleconferencing (initiated due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic). We are experimenting with periodic email updates to facilitate rapid communication (notify secretary@CFE7Board.org if you wish to be removed from the list or are not receiving them). These do not represent formal policy of the organization. Finally, the Association staff, officers, and board members work hard to respond quickly.

- Check First: Approval is needed before starting significant landscaping or construction projects. We endeavor

*continued on page two*

**Please welcome our  
New Neighbors!**

*Daniel/Penny Kautz  
Vacant Lot Camino del Cielo*

*Dale Bish  
Micaela Gomez  
1322 E Condesa Primera*

*Kathleen Cheevers  
5352 N Via Entrada*

*Michael/Marlena Denney  
1650 E Entrada Octava*

*Russ Carden  
5210 N Via Condesa*

*David/Marti Hoag  
5345 N Foothills Dr.*

*Valeri Walker/Lauren Walker  
1331 E Sobre Lomas*

*Matthew/Katherine Skjerpig  
1815 E Camino Cresta*

*Eli Collier/Patricia Valdez  
1501 E Via Soledad*

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**T**he CFE7 Annual Meeting will be held over Zoom on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Please mark your calendars to attend. More info and the Zoom link will be sent in January.

to do these reviews quickly. If you are uncertain about whether a change requires review, please call the Board Secretary or the appropriate committee chair. Emergency changes can, of course, be implemented with subsequent retroactive Board review. (A small number of non-urgent actions this year required remediation for compliance after the work was completed. Please inquire in advance to avoid such situations). We also encourage sellers and realtors to alert purchasers to avail themselves of the assistance of the Association's staff and volunteers.

- Road Work: Pima County has initiated major road work in our community, anticipated to be completed by March 27. This work may create temporary driving and parking restrictions. As we learn more, we will share information.

*Philip Harber, Pres.*  
president@cfe7board.org

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

**P**reservation of our exceptional community is a recent focus of the Landscape Committee. The Board will reach out to all new residents in their first days in residence to remind them about the Landscape Guidelines.

CFE7's three zones of landscaping include the Private Zone (enclosed courtyards, pool areas, patios), the Transition Zone (15 feet from structure, not to encroach upon a required setback), and the Native Desert Zone (the balance of the lot). The Native Desert Zone cannot be disturbed; decorative rock and gravel may not be incorporated into this zone.

Landscape plans require a Project Review Application (PRA) and review prior to commencement of work. We hope that our efforts will enhance conservation of our neighborhood and keeping it the treasure it has always been.

Some residents suggest possibly expanding the CFE7 Plant List. The Board recognizes the need for care and professional advice regarding this initiative. If you have interest in joining committee to explore, please contact our Board Secretary or the Landscape Committee Chair. The Landscape Committee will continue contact with Pima County in 2022 and appreciates their assistance in keeping our roads clear of sand and debris after storms, and also recognizes their attention to overgrowth of foliage that affects visibility in roadways. We have some dead trees close to the road that we anticipate Pima County will soon address.

## PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

**I**n spite of the material and labor challenges that we have experienced over the last months, the Project Review Committee is on a path to a new record! As of early November this year, eighty-four Project Review Applications have been submitted by homeowners, greatly exceeding the total for 2020, with still time to go before the end of the year. The projects cover the whole spectrum of home improvements, from simple re-coating of roofs (remember to use a tan color sealer!) to new construction and home additions. Accordingly, the complexity of the application submittals and required documentation varies. The members of the Project Review Committee are here to help all our neighbors throughout the application process. Contact us before you start your project, ideally during the planning phase, in order to discuss how the Architectural Guidelines could affect your planned projects.

## 2022 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

**T**he CFE7 2022 Annual Assessment is fast approaching. An assessment of \$100 per lot will be billed in January 2022. The main organization Catalina Foothills Association also sends their request for voluntary dues around the same time. Because both envelopes and information appear similar, it can be confusing. CFE 7 dues are mandatory and are applied directly to our neighborhood.

### How will you receive the bill?

**US Mail:** Check your mailbox mid-January for the Catalina Foothills Estate No. 7 (CFE 7) envelope.

**Email:** Those owners who requested email delivery will receive the emailed statements about the same time.

### What are the payment methods?

The preferred method is via Zelle, or you may pay with a personal check. Your annual statement will provide detailed payment information.

### What if I want my bill delivered electronically?

You may elect electronic billing by providing a written request (letter or email) to the CFE7 Treasurer. The request must include the email address you wish your bill to be sent. (treasurer@cfe7.org or CFE7 Treasurer, PO Box 64173, Tucson, AZ 85728)

### Whom do I contact with questions?

Members are encouraged to contact the treasurer (treasurer@cfe7.org) or secretary (323-9299) with any questions.

## LOCAL NATIVE NURSERY PROFILE

### First in a series: DESERT SURVIVORS

*“When a nursery is more than a nursery.”*

A favorite among some CFE7 homeowners, Desert Survivors is worth considering for your landscaping needs. More than a native plant nursery, Desert Survivors is a 501(c)3 employment program for adults with intellectual developmental disabilities, providing training opportunities and “creating an integrated work environment where every employee is treated equally with respect and dignity.” At time of print, Desert Survivors’ inventory includes nearly every plant listed in the CFE7 Native Plant List: <http://www.cfe7.org/guidelines/AppendixE.pdf>, including naturally ubiquitous but sometimes hard-to-purchase plants such as Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), Creosote, and Limberbush (*Jatropha cinerea*). If you have a west- or southwest-facing slope in need of native xeriscape fill, Brittlebush is a winner!



“Desert Survivors was founded in 1981 by Dr. Joseph Patterson, a Tucson psychologist who worked with adults with disabilities living in institutions during the 1970’s. He recognized their need for meaningful activities and occupations to provide dignity and purpose in their lives. In the late 1970’s, Tucson residents became interested in native plants that were both attractive and low water use. Originally starting with just five employees with disabilities, seeds were collected from the desert and grown out and sold from the original Grant Road storefront. The new work program at Desert Survivors combined providing jobs for adults with disabilities and offering locally native plants to the community... The program also provided an opportunity for these individuals to build relationships, self-esteem and a sense of self-worth that comes with having a job or purpose.”

You can learn more about Desert Survivors on their website: <https://desertsurvivors.org/> or in person on Starr Pass Road just west of I-10

## TUCSON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society (TCSS) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 educational organization whose mission is “to function continuously in the study and protection of cacti and other succulents.” TCSS has many events that might be of interest to CFE7 residents, including monthly expert cactus/succulent presentations and—especially useful to the gardeners among us—cactus rescue sales. TCSS and its crew of volunteers work with local developers to remove mature fishhook barrels, saguaros, chollas, ocotillos, and mammillaria from lots slated for new construction, and then sell those cacti at member sales near 1st Avenue and Wetmore.



For more information on TCSS, to become a member, and to check the schedule of sales, please visit their website: <https://tcss.wildapricot.org/About-Us> (They also sell steelworker gloves for cactus handling!)

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAY

Coming soon: Our annual Neighborhood Clean-up Day on February 19th! If you join in each year, we look forward to seeing you. If this would be the first time, please consider joining! Great time to meet neighbors and join in a wonderful CFE7 tradition.

## CFE7 — A SHORT HISTORY

CFE7 has a unique natural appearance despite being conveniently close to an urban center.

A short history of the first 50 years, which includes oral tradition from our early residents, is available on the website.

<http://www.cfe7.org/CFE7-written-history.pdf>

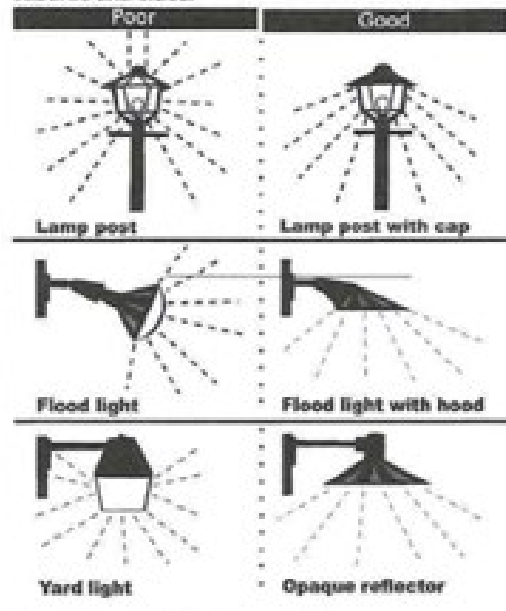
## International Dark-Sky Association

Did you know that Tucson is the home to the International Dark-Sky Association, the recognized authority on light pollution and the leading organization combating light pollution worldwide? The guest speaker at the 2019 CFE7 Annual Meeting from IDSA spoke about the negative impact of improper artificial lighting on wildlife and ecosystems as well as on human health (due to suppression of melatonin production). With this in mind, please be compliant with CFE7 guidelines that exterior lights be directed straight down—not at a neighbor’s property—and hooded. Flora, fauna, and your neighbors thank you! More information on the impact of improper exterior lighting, including a discussion of impacts of blue light (LED, in particular) can be found here: <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/human-health/>



### Directing the light

Simple reflectors and caps can help focus light downward and cut back on light pollution above suburbs and cities.



## WHAT IS YOUR WATER PRESSURE?

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.”

Thanks to Dennis Lichtenberger

## FIRE PROTECTION IN CFE 7

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 at least \$900 an hour per vehicle, plus at least \$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.