



## **TRIBUTE TO JANE**

**W**e are still reeling from the news that our beloved Secretary, Jane Hoffmann recently passed away after a brief illness. How do we begin to pay tribute to the service and contributions that Jane brought to CFE7 for nearly twenty-five years? Her untimely death has left a hole in the heart of our community.

As Secretary she was the first contact new property owners had with the neighborhood. She cheerfully and meticulously provided information about the neighborhood and quickly became the go-to person for questions on how to navigate HOA issues. She was the face and voice of our neighborhood and in so many ways, she was the continuity that kept our Association viable all these years.

Jane's institutional knowledge of CFE7 was like an encyclopedia; she could always be counted on to guide residents and board members in the right

direction when questions arose. Her thoughts and insights were sought after and highly respected. She was able to work through all issues while navigating diverse personalities and attitudes.

Working with her was a joy and her contributions to our community were invaluable. She cared about our neighborhood on a personal level and was actively involved in making it a great place to live. Her work with the Neighborhood Watch program was instrumental to the success of the program. Her work with the plant committee is yet another example of her selfless service to the community that goes beyond the duties of the Secretary. Jane was the Secretary, the logistician, the adviser, the sounding board, and most of all, a truly generous human being.

CFE7 has been beyond fortunate to have Jane for all these years. She was tireless, gracious, and invaluable to CFE7. Truly a great loss and a sad time for our community.

## President's Message —

Spring is upon us again and with the Winter rains we should have a banner blooming season this year. I can't wait to see it. We had our first in-person annual meeting this year after a two-year interlude due to Covid. The annual meeting was preceded by the Neighborhood Watch annual meeting. It was great to see participants in person and be able to talk to so many residents. Thanks to those who were able to attend, and I encourage everyone to take the time to attend the 2024 meeting.

Representatives from the Pima County Sheriff's Department attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting and provided information on the roles and responsibilities of the Neighborhood Program. If you aren't already a participant in the program, I encourage you to become involved. You may contact the Board secretary for information on the program.

Immediately following the Neighborhood Watch meeting the annual meeting was opened. Our guest speaker from the Pima County Master Gardener Program provided insights on planting and maintaining native vegetation with an emphasis on watering techniques. He was followed by the annual reports from the Treasurer and the committee annual reports from the Project Review, Covenants, and Landscape Committees. The open discussion topics centered around African Sumac remediation, excessive lights on mailboxes and the Quail Canyon development project.

We have two new Board members that came on board this year. Eli Collier was elected to the Board by the general membership and Hamid Badghisi was appointed by the Board to complete the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Dave Rufner. We have a full slate of Directors and a full plate of initiatives that we are pursuing this year. In addition to our routine committee activities the Board is pursuing African Sumac remediation, street sign refurbishment, a revised plant list, a model desert palette with an interactive website, and an electronic project review application process.

We have received numerous positive comments about the African Sumac remediation plan. Several

residents have requested assistance to identify and eliminate it from their property. If you suspect that you have an infestation on your property, please reach out to the Landscape Committee for assistance.

Finally, we are still working through the loss of our dear colleague, Jane Hoffman. As we work to get up to speed, phone calls may take longer to be returned and emails may be more slowly responded to. We ask your forbearance in this time of our profound loss.

*Ken Ellis*  
*president@cfe7.org*

## LANDSCAPING: Invasive Species

You probably noticed major work being conducted in our medians. For some time our community has been inundated with a non-native invasive species commonly called Africa Sumac (*Searsia Lancea* formally *Rhus Lancea*). At our annual meeting our Master Gardener guest speaker reminded us of the danger of this species. Many of the residents present spoke up and echoed the feeling that something must be done. We consulted with our resident botanists and they agreed; The trees had to go. The African Sumacs were out competing and crowding out our native trees. There are communities in the foothills that have lost most of their mesquites, palo verdes and acacia trees as an African Sumac mono-culture has taken over.

We could not allow that to happen.

Our HOA guidelines state "Preservation of our native landscape and terrain is one of the primary goals of the Association. In general, it is desirable to enhance the presence of native plants and remove invasive and non-native species." It is the beauty of the natural Sonoran

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Desert vegetation in our area that has attracted most of us to CFE 7.

We contracted with the Tucson Audubon Society's Invasive Plant Control Division to address the African Sumac infestation in our medians. They brought their conservation credentials to the work of eradicating the Sumacs. Won't they just come back? Left to themselves, yes. This is the beginning of a multi year project. The solution the Audubon Society used to treat the stumps will be reapplied next year and any shoots that sprout in the meantime will be removed. There are areas that now appear bare, even unsightly. We will begin a revegetation program of native plants. recognize it will take time for these newly planted natives to become established and grow. The HOA is offering interested homeowners a discounted fee to rid themselves of any Sumacs on their property. If you are interested, and for an estimate, contact [landscape@cfe7.org](mailto:landscape@cfe7.org)

## ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

Everyone has paid their \$100 assessment. The Board offers much appreciation to all of you for being timely in your \$100 assessment payment.

## ANIMAL POISONINGS

There have been reports that local animals have been dying from no known cause — some of you may have seen the healthy coyote carcass in one of our washes, while others are reporting the deaths of small-sized wildlife. This has led to the dual conclusion that some local plants may be poisonous and that neighbors may be leaving rodent poison outside. If you're worried about your pet being poisoned by natural or other causes, perhaps see the ASPCA page here "[aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control](http://aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control)."

**As well, check your surroundings and perhaps follow this advice from the Arizona Department of Agriculture:**

- Only use anticoagulant baits (many rodenticides) sparingly to target the pest and avoid poisoning nontarget wildlife.
- Place bait indoors or very close to structures, and in approved bait stations to avoid the potential of wildlife consuming contaminated pests.
- Have a plan for the safe, prompt collection and disposal of contaminated pest carcasses. Daily monitoring of the treated area to remove and safely dispose of dead animals will reduce the likelihood of secondary poisoning.

## A MODEL DESERT PALETTE FOR CFE#7

### *Project Review Committee*

The current guidelines direct homeowners who wish to paint, to choose from a "Desert Palette". We are finding this is too vague, and subject to interpretation resulting in choices that are less appropriate.

The Board has commissioned Dunn Edwards to develop a model desert palette. These colors are not mandated to the exclusion of all others. But when taken together, they provide a helpful sense of the range of colors that are acceptable to the HOA under the rubric of "Desert Palette." Even if you like a particular color in the palette, you are not required to use Dunn Edwards. Every paint brand and supply store has color matching technology. Upon its completion, there will be a CFE#7 specif-

ic website within the Dunn Edwards system that you can access through a link in our guidelines. This website would have suggested combinations of base and trim colors and a feature whereby you could upload a picture of our house and see it rendered in any of the colors or color combinations in the palette. Homeowners of burnt adobe brick homes may mortar wash them, but if you want to paint over the burnt adobe (frankly not recommended) you should reference the desert palette.

As part of this project, the guidelines will be expanded to include how to use base and trim colors, describe the use of special finishes and other helpful tips. As a reminder, whenever you repaint, even if you are not changing the color, you must submit Project Review Application Form and have it approved before the work begins.

## LANDSCAPING: Proposed Additions to CFE 7 Plant List

*Angie Stingelin and Martin Karpiscak  
committee co-chairs*

In Spring 2022, the CFE 7 Board proposed to add more species to the existing list, especially for the 15' "Transition Zone" areas surrounding our homes. A committee was created under the leadership of the CFE 7 Landscape Committee Chair with several community residents including two individuals with experience in desert plant ecology.

Beginning with the Pima County Species Distribution List for our location and the Desert Survivors Native Plant Nursery database, a spreadsheet was compiled in Summer 2022 of over 400 species. Selection criteria required that plants must be native, be low water use, occur at elevations below 3,000 ft, and be locally available. These criteria reduced the 400+ species to 196.

In Fall 2022, the committee applied an additional criterium: plants must be locally native according to the published Flora of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Reviewers were also concerned about toxicity and spreading beyond the "Transition Zone", presenting an increased fire risk. Following additional evaluation and an external committee review by professionals with botanical expertise, the number of plants was reduced to 120. When added to the 42 on our current list, this represents a four-fold increase.

By June 2023, the team will complete the final list of proposed species to be presented to the CFE 7 Board for approval. This list will consist of two groupings: Transition Zone (all approved species) and Native Desert Zone (only species found locally in CFE 7 natural areas).

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board meets the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00pm — 8:30pm. Currently meetings are held in person, with Zoom capabilities. Neighbors are welcome to attend, though some meetings reserve time for closed sessions to accommodate special needs. For more information, Ken Ellis (president@cfe7.org).

## REMINDER OF ROAD SAFETY

Our beautiful neighborhood is a wonderful place for a stroll, a jog, or a bike ride. Unfortunately, some of our curves are pretty dangerous, especially with the luscious vegetation lining the roadways and blocking lines of site. To help ensure a safe summer of outdoor activity, here's yet another reminder of road safety.

### **If you're driving a motor vehicle:**

Don't hug the corners.

Go slow enough to be safe, especially going around blind curves.

Keep an aware eye for pedestrians.

Come to a full stop before leaving a cul-de-sac.

Use turn signals to help those behind you understand your intent.

### **If you're a pedestrian:**

Walk on the left facing traffic.

Hug the corners and be prepared to step to the side.

If you must walk with traffic, be strategic about the line you take and hug the sides.

Avoid clustering — when in pairs or small groups don't take over the roadway and do go single file around corners.

Keep dogs on a tight leash so they don't jump towards oncoming traffic.

Don't wear headphones and don't read your phone while walking.

Wear bright clothing at dusk and dawn.

### **If you're riding a bicycle on the streets:**

Please go slow enough to be safe for pedestrians and vehicles.

When appropriate, use the wide portions of the road to allow vehicles to pass.

Don't hug the corners when speeding downhill. Avoid clustering and ride single file, especially along curves.

For more information on road safety, visit the appropriate pages here: <https://webcms.pima.gov/>. For additional conversations about road safety, contact the Newsletter Editor at [randy@runtucson.net](mailto:randy@runtucson.net)