



CATALINA FOOTHILLS ESTATES No.7

FOOTNOTES

www.CFE7.org • P.O. Box 64173 • Tucson, AZ 85728 • 520-323-9299 • FALL/WINTER 2023

President's Message —

As we wind down the year, we want to welcome the five new families who have joined our community so far this year. We are lucky to be a part of this great community in such a convenient location. A functional Board of Directors is vital for the preservation of our community as we know it. I want to thank all the volunteers who have served on the Board over the years. There will be five vacancies to be filled at the upcoming election in February 2024. So far, we have only one volunteer who will be on the ballot to fill a 3-year term. We need at least four more volunteers to step up and agree to serve. Two of the remaining vacancies will be filled for 3-year terms and two will be filled for 2-year terms. I encourage you to consider putting your name on the ballot. If you are willing to take part in serving your community or would like more information on becoming a board member, please contact the Nominating Committee (nominating@cfe7.org).

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 2024 CFE ANNUAL MEETING

Date:

Saturday — February 3, 2024

Location:

East Murphy Gallery
St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 N. Campbell Ave.

Time:

9:00 — Meet & Greet
9:30 — Neighborhood Watch Meeting
10:00 — Annual Meeting

Please Welcome Our New Neighbors

David/Gretchen Riley
5220 N Calle La Cima

Eric Foran
5530 N Entrada Ultima

Rena Nuccio
1601 E Entrada Octava

Roger Cloud
1001 E Via Soledad

Ray Vesty/Sarah Rulnick
4961 N Calle Luisa

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello All! Randy Accetta here, your new newsletter editor. I've stepped off the Board as a voting member, but will continue to help with this occasional newsletter. Our hope is to provide a mixture of needed information and social updates. If you have any article ideas for future editions, please send 'em along to me at randy@runtucson.net.

BOARD UPDATES: Your CFE7 Board of Directors

President — Ken Ellis

Vice President — Phil Harber

Treasurer — Robert Levaro

Project Review — Cesar Melendez

Robert Levaro

Joel Henness

Eli Collier

Landscape — Robert Levaro

Covenants — Dale Pugh

Communication/Welcome — Tom Hicks

Jan Catt (Resident)

Julie Kelly (Resident)

Nominating — Cesar Melendez

Joel Henness

Newsletter — Randy Accetta (Resident)

Webmaster — Tom Hicks.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BOARD?

Wanna' see what all the fuss is about? Stop by the next two meetings:
7:00 p.m, Wednesday, December 6 and
7:00 p.m, Wednesday, January 3
La Paz Conference Room
St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church
4440 North Campbell Avenue

This year has brought some challenges with Searsia Lansea removal, sign painting, and homeless camp removal. Perhaps the greatest challenge has been the aftermath of the sudden loss of our long time Secretary, Jane Hoffman. We have been muddling through, but the vacuum created by her loss is substantial. In filling that void the Board is exploring the idea of contracting with an HOA management firm to perform the administrative and financial functions of the Association. We think it is important for Board members to continue performing project review, covenants, and landscape functions. These functions entail greater face to face contact with our residents. We are sensitive to the fact that such a venture will be a major departure from the way the Board traditionally fulfills its responsibilities. The impact on the membership would be minimal and would mainly center around the billing and payment of the annual assessments. The bigger impact would be on the Board as we figure out the details of a new working environment.

We have reached out to about a half dozen firms and received some encouraging feedback. Having heard of some dreadful experiences that some HOAs encountered with management firms, we are moving cautiously.

Please mark your calendars and join us at the annual meeting this coming February. It will be a time to learn about what your Association has accomplished this past year and an opportunity to meet some of your neighbors.

As the holidays approach, we wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!

Ken Ellis
President
president@cfe7.org

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REMINDER

As a reminder, the New Year will bring the new neighborhood assessment invoice. You can help us by being timely with this annual payment. The preferred method is via Zelle, or you may pay with a personal check. Your annual statement will provide detailed payment information, so please keep an eye out for the mailing in the coming weeks. Questions?

Contact the treasurer at treasurer@cfe7.org.

THE HUMBLE (but Indispensable) BURSAGE

The humble Triangleleaf bursage (*Ambrosia deltoidea*) doesn't garner the respect that it deserves. They are so ordinary in appearance that they are rarely noticed despite their abundance. But on closer inspection, these plants reveal themselves to be an essential and crucial species of CFE 7. Their small blue grey leaves hovering near the ground are the source of the visual character of our landscape. Bursages are vitally important to the community as nurse plants. The seedlings of most desert plants cannot survive the extreme environmental conditions in exposed ground; they must start life in the shelter of another (nurse) plant. All our saguaros, Palo Verde trees, barrel cactus and much else are only here because the ground cover of Bursage provided the incubator for them. Bursage survival adaptation is to lose leaves during dry periods whether it's hot or cold. At that time, they may appear dead. They are not dead so please do not remove them.

Your HOA fiercely defends all native vegetation. Your landscape committee members are available to help you identify and protecting this vital plant. We can also suggest plants that will thrive as infill between and among your bursage. Help us protect our natural desert look and don't remove healthy vegetation. Homeowners that remove vegetation without approval may be subject to fines and the cost of revegetation.

For further reading check out: [http://southwestdesertflora.com/WebsiteFolders/All_Species/Asteraceae/Ambrosia deltoidea, Triangle Leaf Bursage.html](http://southwestdesertflora.com/WebsiteFolders/All_Species/Asteraceae/Ambrosia_deltoidea_Triangle_Leaf_Bursage.html)



LANDSCAPING UPDATED: Approved and Prohibited Plantings in CFE 7

By Robert Levaro

The Plant evaluation subcommittee has completed their work on the new approved plant list. It represents a three-fold increase in the plants available to be incorporated into your landscape plans. This expanded list is available now on the Website. We are also expanding the list of plants that are not to be planted in CFE 7, regardless of where on the lot or whether behind a yard wall or not.

These tree categories include: All Conifers (Cupressus and Pinus) that reach a mature height in excess of 10 feet. This includes all “living Christmas trees,” all Palm Trees (Arecaceae), and all Eucalyptus trees. Because of the great height of these non-native trees (40 feet plus) They mar the desert skyline, grow invasive roots, are prone to wind damage and pose fire hazards if hit by lightning. While trees in the ground are grandfathered, upon their death they must be promptly removed and cannot be replaced with another prohibited species.

The Landscape Committee is available to offer you suggest desert native trees that meet your landscape objectives without your having to resort to these non-natives. Details about these prohibited trees can be found at http://cfe7.org/guidelines/proposed/AppendixDAdditions_230920.pdf

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Robert Levaro

Yard Maintenance Not requiring Landscape Committee Pre-Approval

The Board has recently approved changes to the landscape guidelines with regard to what constitutes routine landscape maintenance not requiring Landscape Committee pre-approval. This will allow for the removal of living native tree materials that are encroaching on driveways, rooftops and walkways (including the public right-of-way)that pose a legitimate risk of damage to persons or property. This is in addition to the existing rules that allow for the removal of mistletoe and dead material.

As always , when it comes to pruning native trees, when in doubt, DON'T. And under no circumstances can the tree be pruned up so that the canopy is less than 50% of the tree's overall height. As a reminder, planted trees must be pruned to a height as to not interfere with neighborhood views. As always, your landscape committee stands available to you and your yard contractor to consult on native tree pruning best practices.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

By Cesar Melendez

As of late October, forty-six Project Review Applications have been submitted to the Project Review Committee by homeowners. The projects cover a wide range of home improvements, from simple re-coating of roofs (please remember to use a tan color sealer) to new construction and home additions. Accordingly, the complexity of the application submittals and required documentation varies. Throughout the year, the Committee continued to expand the implementation of an electronic submittal process

for all but the more complicated, large type of home projects. This not only simplifies the submission of applications, but supports our goal provide timely responses to all the applications and questions submitted by our neighbors. Please reach out to any of the Committee members if you have questions about electronic submittals, or to address any questions as to how the Architectural Guidelines could affect your planned projects. Our contact information is available at our website (cfe7.org).

FIRE PROTECTION

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, which is why we recommend subscribing.

WINTER THINGS TO DO: WALK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS

Join other Catalina 7 neighbors and others at the free weekly walk, Beyond's "Meet Me Wednesday" event. For over 14 years now, there has been a free fitness and community social event at St. Phillip's Plaza. Named "Meet Me Wednesdays," the mission of this free walk is to gather adults and families for healthy exercise in a social setting to enjoy Tucson's beautiful outdoors and to appreciate and patronize area businesses.

Beyond's Executive Director, Daniela Diamente, says, "This is the perfect way to meet up with old friends and make new ones while getting a little exercise in at the same time!"

DETAILS:

EVERY WEDNESDAY — Rain or Shine!

WHERE: 4310 N. Campbell @ the courtyard of St. Philip's Plaza near Reforma

COST: Free, including discounts to participating restaurants, such as Reforma, Union, and others.

TIME: In person check-in opens at 5:15pm, with a weekly closing ceremony at 6:30 with awards and recognitions. Check in online or in person and receive your "MMW" hand stamp. You can always start anytime you like, but a group led walk begins at 5:30.

HOW FAR? 1.2 miles, 2.2 miles or a 5K route on The Loop with leaders. Walk or run at your own pace. The route is easy to follow if you fall behind or race ahead. "Everyone is welcome — kids, friends, dogs!" Diamente adds, "As we like to say at Beyond's Meet Me events, "Get OUT & Get Moving!"

MORE INFO: <https://www.beyond-tucson.org/programs/meet-me-wednesday>

REMINDER OF ROAD SAFETY

As the Tucson winter settles in, it may be time to provide a few public safety tips to ensure that vehicles, pedestrians, and bike riders are safe. Bad things can certainly happen on our blind corners and at intersections. Indeed, you may have heard of the bicycle rider recently hit by a car and killed at the bottom of Via Entrada. Here are a few suggestions to keep all of us safe:

If you're a pedestrian:

Wear bright colored clothing, especially at dawn and dusk.

- In the dark, use a flashlight, a headlamp, or your phone's flashlight.
- Avoid wearing headphones so that you can hear oncoming vehicle traffic.
- Avoid reading your phone while walking.
- Don't walk in the middle of the street ...and definitely don't walk in groups in the middle of the street.
- Walk on the left facing traffic, but if you must walk with traffic, be strategic about the line you take and avoid being in the middle of the road on blind curves.
- Hug the corners and be prepared to step to the side.

If you're driving a motor vehicle:

- Please go slow enough to be safe and don't go above the posted speed limit.
- Don't hug the corners.
- Use turn signals.
- Come to a full stop before leaving a cul-de-sac.

If you're riding a bicycle:

- On the downhills, go slow enough to be safe for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Do not ride in the middle of the street.
- Avoid clustering, and ride single file, especially along curves.
- Ride to the side to allow vehicles to pass.

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.