

Drawing by Wolf Forest

Panorama Estates Neighborhood Newsletter

A Publication of the Panorama Estates Association

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OCTOBER 13, 2012

PANORAMA ESTATES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Neighbors gathered on Lazy Place on a beautiful Saturday afternoon last October 13th, 2012 for the 55th Annual meeting of the Panorama Estates Association. Neighbors shared pizza, paid their dues, and then got down to business. New Board members were elected (see list of members and their contact numbers, this issue), and officer reports were made by President Mary Jo Ghory, Treasurer Ellen Paige, and Plans Review committee member Larry Chavez. Outgoing officer Hal Bardach reported on public art projects planned for the local area. Our new welcome packet is available. A presentation was given about the new Neighborhood Code Enforcement (see related article this issue). In new business, we voted to donate \$200 to Menlo Park Elementary School, to express our support of our local schools. Another report noted that the neighborhood also organized a bufflegrass removal on October 1d--7, 2012, which removed a great deal of that weed from the Panorama Circle roadside.

Our next Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 12 2013 from 3--5 pm. Mark your calendars!

Unpaid PEA Annual Dues Payment

WHO: All Panorama Estates property owners

WHEN: Now

WHERE: Ellen Paige, treasurer

Lazy Place

Tucson, AZ 85745

Each owner of a lot is responsible for paying the annual dues as written in our bylaws. The dues are \$20.00/lot/year.

Please use the form below and mail your check, made out to PEA to the address above.

Dues:

Name _____

Lot # (s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Years Paid# _____



NEW CITY OF TUCSON NEIGHBORHOOD CODE ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

At our Annual meeting last October, Teresa Williams, COT Code Enforcement Administrator, brought us up to speed with the Citywide Neighborhood Codes designed to preserve neighborhood integrity. Some highlights of the talk:

- Weeds must be kept less than 6" and the property owner must control them all the way to the road edge.
- Junk cars must be stored under cover in a carport, or must be screened from view from any public road or alleyway. Stored cars and other items may not cover more than 25% of the yard area.
- Commercial vehicles cannot be stored on residential property.
- Home maintenance: owners are responsible for keeping structures in good repair. Peeling paint, crumbling stucco, collapsing outbuildings and leaning fences must be repaired or removed.
- Vacant or unsecured buildings must be maintained, or enforcement by court order may require the owner to demolish the building.
- Neighborhood businesses are allowed but must be low profile small businesses with no more than 1 employee, less than 8 customers per day and one small sign (an example would be a small tax preparation business).
- Building permits----any building done without a permit can be reported.
- Mosquito issues are handled by the Pima County Health Dept, who will come and place a Mosquito "dunk" in areas infested with larvae.

You may report code infractions by calling 791-5843, and you may do so anonymously. Or go online to [CMS3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/violation](https://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/violation). A notice of violation will be issued to the homeowners, who then have 30 days to comply. After that time, code Enforcement can reinspect. The homeowner will be charged a \$75 reinspection fee and may be issued a citation. If after all this, the homeowner has still not fixed the problem, a judge will issue a warrant for COT to do abatement (haul away cars, cut weeds, etc) and the owner is then billed for these services. Code Enforcement is also now working with local police in order to keep neighborhoods looking good, as a means of discouraging crime.



PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY: HOW ANCIENT TUCSONANS MODIFIED THEIR ENVIRONMENT

by Ellen Paige

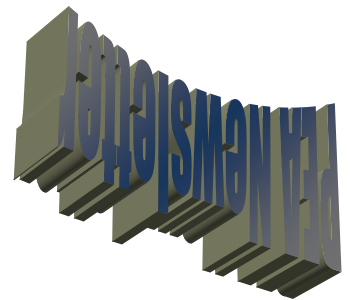
This was the title of a talk given for the Tumamoc Lecture series September 12, 2012 by Dr. Suzanne K. Fish. This fascinating lecture explained the ingenious ways that ancient peoples here fed themselves.

In **FLOOD PLAIN** (flat areas) along the Santa Cruz built brush walls which directed water via ditches to their fields. Soil and organic matter built up along these brush fences, which were very large and located in contiguous chains. Sketches of 1852 Tucson show this floodplain irrigation using hedgerows. Fruit trees and edible amaranth grew along these hedgerow buildups, which supported the edges of the unlined canals and allowed water to seep into the fields. The hedgerows also supported hackberry and wolfberry habitat for rabbits and birds, which also served as food for early peoples. This floodplain technique is still used in some parts of Mexico, and here in the US was seen as late as the 1980's on the O'odham reservation; Gary Nabhan has worked to bring these farming methods back into use among the O'odham.

MIDVALLEY SLOPES such as the flanks of Tumamoc were farmed using terraces which captured water like check dams. Agave is still grown in Mexico on terraces like these. On Tumamoc, agave was grown and roasted in pits at the base of the terrace. The agave (primarily *Agave murphyi*) was roasted when the sugar content was highest, just before the stalk goes up. These communal roasting areas on Tumamoc were huge, the largest on the North central area was over 30 meters in diameter. Agave was used for food, fiber and alcohol (today, roasted agave heart is still sold as a sweet in Mexico, and of course Bacanora is an alcoholic beverage made of agave). Upslope from the agave, the fruits of the saguaro were harvested also.

Huge **ROCKPILE/DRAINAGE CULTIVATION** areas are found all over Southern Arizona. Rocks were piled in washes and drainages along the base of hills, and were used to grow agave, corn, devil's claw (for baskets) and prickly pear fruit. Rockpiles in the washes acted as mulch to trap and hold water and organic material. Studies on Tumamoc show that root biomass is 80% greater under the rockpiles than in the open wash. The rockpiles also inhibited rodents. These rockpile fields were huge engineering feats and required the cooperation of many individuals to achieve such a degree of water management; arguments have been made that such rockpile cultivation techniques may have allowed the ancient population of S. Arizona to rise to as high as 100,000 people!





A-MOUNTAIN IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Work on the Cuesta/Congress Entry Feature to Sentinel Peak Park were delayed briefly in late 2012 due to negotiations with a contractor. Improvements are now underway on Sentinel Peak, with the entry feature at Cuesta and Congress scheduled last among the projects. Howard Dutt of Parks and Recreation has informed PEA that the entry feature will include a grate to evacuate water. The Road bumpouts are now staggered, to allow for three cars on Cuesta at the same time. More money may be available from other projects which have come in under budget. There is no fixed timeline for the entry feature.

Calendar of Events

Annual meeting: Sat Oct 12, 2013
Neighborhood cleanup, November 2013 exact date TBA.

PEA BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Jo Ghory, President -- 622-6419
Jane Shovlin, Vice President--- 820-5840
Robin West, Secretary -- 882-8635
Ellen Paige, Treasurer -- 623-6689
Larry Chavez, Plans Review Committee Liaison - 791-0780
Hal Bardach, Member at Large – 624-2679



PLANNING TO BUILD IN PANORAMA ESTATES?

Please contact the Panorama Estates Association Board for review well BEFORE you begin grading or construction. Cooperation of builders is crucial in this process, and greatly appreciated!