



Drawing by Wolf Forest

## **Panorama Estates Neighborhood Newsletter**

**A Publication of the Panorama Estates Association**

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### **60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PANORAMA ESTATES ASSOCIATION MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2017**

It was a beautiful Tucson October afternoon for our 60th Annual Panorama Estates Association meeting, October 14th, 2018. Neighbors chatted and munched pizza until PEA President Mary Jo Ghory began the meeting by confirming a quorum, with 28 members attending the meeting either in person or by proxy. Neighbors introduced themselves, and we then moved into a presentation from the Tucson Police Department.

TPD Community Service Officer Monica Van Norman reported that the rash of burglaries in our neighborhood during early 2017 ended when the criminals involved were apprehended. The statistics on phone calls from our neighborhood to TPD reflected this, with 24 calls from PEA in early 2017, followed by zero calls later in the year.

Officer's reports were presented:

--President Mary Jo Ghory reminded neighbors that Board meetings are open, and encouraged participation. She reviewed 2017, including our March neighborhood special meeting on the break-ins; buffelgrass control efforts, and the PEA Board's review of our Bylaws and proposal of a code of ethics for Board members, a donation policy, and a buffelgrass control master plan.

--Treasurer Ellen Paige reported a balance of \$7741.22 in the treasury, with 41% of homeowners current on their dues; major expenses included mailing of the newsletter and postcards, buffelgrass control, and the commissioning of a floodwater master plan by Watershed Management Group.

--Plans Review Committee Representative Larry Chavez stated that he had received no plans for construction, but had reviewed neighborhood requirements with homeowners considering extensive renovations of their property.

Election of new Board of Directors was held; those elected were Mary Jo Ghory, Jill Hofer, Ellen Paige, Brian Warde, and Curtis Yingling.

Guy Shovlin gave an interesting talk and demonstration on gabion construction techniques.

Ellen Paige gave an update on the flood of July 2017 and subsequent efforts at flood control planning

### **Annual Meeting (Con't)**

including commission of a neighborhood flood plan from Watershed Management Group, and submission of a grant proposal to Tucson Clean and Beautiful for funding for storm water management on public areas of our neighborhood. Joseph Astier presented his concerns about the grant proposal as it affected his property.

Mary Jo Ghory presented three policies for members' approval: a buffelgrass master plan, a donation policy, and a code of ethics for PEA Board members. Each item was discussed, motions were made and seconded for approval, and each policy was passed by a majority vote by a show of hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.



### **SAVE OUR SAGUAROS (AND HOMES): BASH BUFFELGRASS SATURDAY MARCH 3RD!**

Grab your pick-axe and join your neighbors to bash buffelgrass in our Panorama Estates Neighborhood on Saturday, March 3rd from 9am to noon. Panorama Estates is sponsoring this event for Beat Back Buffelgrass, held annually during the first weeks of March. We are listed on the buffelgrass volunteer website, [www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org); as of this date, 5 volunteers had registered of 30 possible. Shovels and picks will be provided; bring your own gloves, hat and water.

Did you know: buffelgrass is a dangerous 600 degree fire hazard that burns uphill FAST, killing all native desert plants, and potentially igniting anything in its path? Look downhill from your property: if you see buffelgrass, your home could be in harm's way. The grass burns while green or dry, and can be ignited by lightening, a spark, or a carelessly thrown cigarette. It must be dug out by the roots because it sprouts back even stronger after a fire.

Digging buffelgrass is not only a great workout, but really helps to insure the safety of our neighborhood, our native plants and desert critters.



### **DO YOU HAVE BUFFELGRASS ON YOUR PROPERTY?**

PEA neighbors voted to adopt a Buffelgrass Control Master Plan at our Annual meeting in October 2017. That plan states that Panorama Estates homeowners with buffelgrass infestations on their property will be reported to City of Tucson Environmental Services, if the buffelgrass is not cleared by April first. So if you do have buffelgrass, consider taking advantage of the Brush and Bulky pick-up March 12, and please get the buffelgrass out of your yard!

## **FLOOD CONTROL GRANT PROPOSAL UNSUCCESSFUL**

By Ellen Paige

The joint Panorama Estates/Menlo Park grant proposal submitted in October 2017 for a grant from Tucson Clean and Beautiful/Tucson Water was not selected for an award.

The grant program's intent is to provide funds for neighborhood-scale storm water harvesting installations within public rights-of-way, consisting mainly of landscaped water calming areas that also can contain footpaths.

In his letter to Gigi Aldrich and Ellen Paige, co-authors of the grant proposal, Tom Ellis, the Executive Director of Tucson Clean and Beautiful, encouraged resubmission of the proposal, focusing more on the public right of way along Silverbell Road, with closer attention paid to obtaining signatures of approval from all adjoining property owners.

Mr. Ellis felt that Bella Vista and Panorama had rights-of-way of insufficient size for installations of this kind.

The authors of the grant proposal are grateful for the opportunity, and will rework the grant proposal and resubmit in the future.

### **2018 BRUSH AND BULKY PICKUP DATES**

Brush and Bulky pickup dates for 2018 are:

--Week of March 12 and

--Week of September 10th

Be sure and mark your calendars for this free city service



### **2018 PEA BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary Jo Ghory, President 622-6419

Curtis Yingling, Vice President 480-235-1159

Jill Hofer, Secretary 270-3293

Ellen Paige, Treasurer 623-6689

Brian Warde – Member-at-Large 329-9301

Larry Chavez, Plans Review Liaison 791-0780

### **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!

### **PANORAMA ESTATES ASSOCIATION DUES ARE DUE!**

Did you know that only 32 of the 95 lots in Panorama Estates have paid their dues for 2018?

In the near future, Panorama Estates Association will send dues payment reminder letters to those households which have not paid their \$20.00 annual dues.

Our last dues letter was sent in May of 2016.

Why pay dues? See the article in this newsletter "What does PEA do for you?" for dues paying inspiration!

### **PHONE APPS OF INTEREST AVAILABLE**

Several smart phone apps useful for homeowners are available for free:

--FOR GRAFFITI REPORTING---Graffiti Protective Coatings and the City of Tucson have created this free app for reporting graffiti

--MY WASTE---Keep track of your trash collection days with a pick-up schedule customized for your location. 'my-waste' can remind you in advance of all collections days, and find out the proper recycling/disposal procedure for hundreds of items.

--SEE. CLICK. FIX.---Use your cell phone to photograph and report potholes, abandoned cars, illegal dumping, water waste and more. Download from the See Click Fix website.

### **WHAT DOES PEA DO FOR YOU?**

Continuously operating since 1958, the Panorama Estates Association works to improve and support our unique and very special neighborhood.

Here is a sample of some of the services that PEA provides:

- Organizes annual meetings, elects officers and holds regular open board meetings in accordance with our Bylaws
- Maintains a website on Department of Neighborhood Resources, our own Facebook page, and monitors NextDoor
- Maintains our non-profit status with the Arizona Corporation Commission
- Works with Ward 1 and Tucson Police Department on issues affecting our neighborhood, such as improvements to Sentinel Peak Park, pedestrian safety, crime, illegal parking, and 4th of July traffic.
- Promotes beautification of our neighborhood with buffelgrass removal, graffiti abatement, and scheduling of roll-offs for removal of larger trash items.
- Publishes a semi-annual newsletter, and maintains an archive of records from the earliest days of the Association.
- Provides data and fills out forms needed to complete escrow transactions for sales of homes in our neighborhood.
- Responds to neighborhood complaints and questions, and promotes neighborhood cohesion and harmony.
- Provides expert guidance for those building or remodeling in the neighborhood, to assure compliance with CC&Rs, and to prevent misunderstandings between neighbors.
- Organizes social events such as home tours and neighborhood parties, and welcomes new neighbors with a welcome packet.
- Holds neighborhood emergency meetings as needed to discuss urgent/emergent issues as they arise.
- Represents our neighborhood's interests in City, County and State planning meetings and public forums.

Our \$20 mandatory annual dues break down to 5 cents per day. All of our board members are unpaid volunteers, most with full-time jobs.

Your dues payments are one part of keeping Panorama Estates strong and vibrant.

The other---and biggest part---is the participation, pride and commitment of ALL of our great neighbors.