



Panorama Estates Neighborhood Newsletter

A Publication of the Panorama Estates Association

Volume 21 Issue 2

February 2020



PEA ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2019

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon October 12th, over 32 PEA neighbors gathered on Lazy Place for our 62nd Annual Panorama Estates Association Meeting. Following a few minutes for socializing, PEA President Mary Jo Ghory called the meeting to order shortly after 3pm.

After a quorum was verified and previous meeting minutes approved, TPD Liaison Erin Peters gave tips for prevention of mail theft, and Ms. Najarin, Representative for City Manager Richard Elias, introduced herself.

PEA Board Members were elected and included Mary Jo Ghory, Nathan Hall, Jill Hofer, Amit Pande and Ellen Paige.

PEA neighbor, Guy Shovlin, presented his research on the history of Panorama Estates, and the life and times of its founder, Enos Schaeffer. (see Guy's synopsis of his talk in a related article in this issue).

The President and Treasurer's Officer reports were given.

Ellen reviewed Friends of Sentinel Gateway's progress on traffic mitigation, including grant award for installation of the new traffic circle at Cuesta and Cedar, as well as changes in the hours of Sentinel Peak Park.

During call to the audience, over 14 neighbors expressed concern about light pollution from the new U-Haul facility at St. Mary's and I-10. A petition was signed, and Fred Elling agreed to discuss the issue with Dark Skies Alliance and COT Development Services (see related article, this issue).

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.



BRUSH AND BULKY'S COMING TO TOWN....

The 2020 dates for Brush and Bulky in Panorama Estates are the week of March 23, 2020 and week of September 21 2020. Please have your materials at the curb on Monday morning of that week, as pick-up can happen any time during the week.

Take advantage of this great City service to clean up your house and yard----and please don't forget to remove buffelgrass!

HISTORY OF PANORAMA ESTATES by Guy Shovlin

At our Annual Meeting last October, Guy Shovlin gave a presentation of his research on the history of Panorama Estates. A .pdf file of this talk is available. Here is a synopsis of the rather colorful history of our neighborhood.

Panorama Estates was founded by Enos Schaffer and his wife, Pauline Wright, who were married in Dallas, Texas before moving to Tucson in 1942. They purchased an entire quarter section (1/2 by 1/2 mile) of land that included what became Panorama Estates. The Schaffer quarter section excluded a parcel for the Tumamoc research station, and a quarter-acre containing the concrete Steinfeld & Co. dynamite storage building. Hence, the name of our ridge: Powder House Hill.

In 1946, Enos subdivided Panorama "A" (Bella Vista) while he was a student at the University of Arizona and his wife, Pauline, was ending her enlistment as a WAVE in the United States Navy. The Schaffers began selling lots in their Panorama "B" (Panorama Circle and Clausen Circle) subdivision in 1951. Enos became a lawyer that same year and later posed as a vagabond in El Paso, Texas where he was arrested, in order to experience the plight of a vagrant.

After selling all of his Panorama Estates subdivision, Enos wanted to build a resort hotel on the top of Powder House Hill; Panorama Circle would have indeed circled up to the resort. However, in 1980, the City of Tucson rescinded its approval of the project. In 1987, Enos sold his mountaintop land to a development company that then went bankrupt, and the property was taken over by the bank. In 1990, the City of Tucson acquired the property and added it to the adjacent Sentinel Peak Park.

After 1990, the only privately held property on the ridge (besides our neighborhood) was the dynamite storage building, which was now located inside Sentinel Peak Park. Fearing liability, the City of Tucson ordered the building razed in late September, 2019; and the nearby open mineshaft was closed with a heavy slatted steel gate (that still allows bats to enter and exit).

For more information go to our website

http://docs.neighborhoodlink.com/resources/529255285/20191023_The_Chronology_of_Panorama_Estates_and_Powder_Keg_Ridge_after_the_Gadsden_Purchase_1.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJODKKJAWTTFD34BQ&Expires=1579206681&Signature=fwOcR4IdpgG5yxJLVeGF9nSxjYk%3D



PEA NEIGHBORS CONCERNED ABOUT U-HAUL LIGHT POLLUTION

by Ellen Paige

At our Annual Meeting last October, 14 neighbors signed a letter of concern regarding the extremely bright light shining up from the U-Haul facility at 450 N. Freeway (corner of St. Mary's and east I-10 frontage road).

Neighbor Fred Elling, and amateur astronomer, has taken the lead on the problem. On January 8th, Fred spoke with Pete Strasser, technical director for the International Dark Sky Association, who noted that the Dark Skies Ordinance applies only to EXTERIOR lighting. Per Pete, many businesses, while compliant with exterior light shielding, are skating under the Ordinance by having very bright INTERIOR lighting shining through windows. He said first to do this were car dealerships, but the loophole is now being exploited by businesses like U-Haul.

Pete's frustrated contacts at the U of A Astronomy Department are well aware of the situation. When contacted, the manager of the U-Haul at 450 N. Freeway stated that its lighting is in code compliance, and unless the law changes, U-Haul will continue with its brightly lit windows.

On January 7th, the PEA Board discussed the problem with Ward 1 Councilperson Lane Santa Cruz, and Ward 1 Staff Teresa Britt, who were able to look out of the window from our meeting and see the U-Haul building glowing brightly. They were very receptive to our concerns, and we look forward to working with them on this problem.

It seems to us that bright light, whether interior or exterior, that shines up into the sky is still light pollution....Stay tuned....



IN MEMORIAM

Panorama Estates extends deepest sympathy to the Harter family of 220 S. Clausen Circle, who lost two of their family members in 2019.

Kirby Harter passed from rapidly progressing cancer in May, 2019 at the age of 63.

Soon afterward, his mother, Betty Harter, passed in August, 2019 at the age of 95. Kirby and Betty are survived by Kirby's sister, Elaine, and by Kirby's twin brother, Kelly, who cared for their brother and mother prior to their deaths. Betty Harter and her late husband lived in the Panorama home since 1968 with sons Kirby and Kelly. Sister Elaine lives nearby in Tucson.

The house was sold in October, 2019. Built in 1964, the house is being renovated for later sale.



UPDATE ON FRIENDS OF SENTINEL GATEWAY PROJECT

by Ellen Paige

Last November, using a grant award from Tucson Water, and with the help of Tucson Clean and Beautiful and Tucson Department of Transportation, FOSG oversaw the installation of a small, landscaped traffic circle at the intersection of Cuesta/Sentinel Peak Road and Cedar. The existing bump-outs on the east side of the intersection were cleaned of debris and refreshed with new native plants. The intersection was made a 4-way stop with installation of new stop signs on the north and south sides of the circle. The new traffic circle and bump-out plantings will be maintained and watered by Panorama Estates neighbors.

In a related story, in November, 2019, Tucson Mayor and Council approved a six month trial Sentinel Peak Park Road Safety Pilot Program.

The new program expands pedestrian and bicycle access to the Park, while still maintaining vehicular access for the driving community. Under the plan, the Park is open to cars from 11am until 8pm Tuesday through Sunday; and is closed to cars all day Monday. City officials will actively monitor the pilot through its completion and reevaluation in July, 2020.

Additionally, improvements to the upper parking lot and construction of a new trailhead ramada there began in December 2019, using funds designated for Parks improvements in a previous City election.

2020 PEA BOARD MEMBERS

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PLANNING TO BUILD IN PANORAMA ESTATES?

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