



## NEWSLETTER

Number 7 Association

P.O. Box 64173

Tucson, Arizona 85728-4173

NOVEMBER 2002

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### **SPECIAL CFE #7 MEETING—4 DECEMBER 2002 EAST MURPHEY GALLERY—ST PHILIP'S IN THE HILLS RIVER VIEW ESTATES UPDATE**

**A special meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. to update residents about River View Estates and to decide whether the residents would like us to continue to monitor the situation and in what form this monitoring should take place or should closure be brought to this issue. Discussion will be held and a vote taken by the membership that paid into the legal fund regarding retaining monies until the project is completed or dispersing remainder back to legal fund payees.**

### **AN OPEN LETTER BY DOUG HALL**

**(The views expressed in this letter are strictly my own and are not endorsed by the Board)**

As the new President of CAT 7's HOA, I'd like to extend my welcome to all new #7 residents and my regards to all longer-term residents. By way of a short introduction, my name is Doug Hall and I am a consulting geologist specializing in erosional processes (which is what landed me smack in the middle of the River View Estates affair, more on that later!). I am an avid desert rat since baby-rat-hood and consider the natural desert vegetation and vistas that bless our area to be well worth fighting to protect. Well, on that note I may as well fill you all in on the biggest HOA news currently. Unfortunately, it's not too pleasant. I am, of course, referring to the River View Estates bomb that D.R. Horton and their allies in City Planning have dropped on us. The very latest news is that full-scale grading has commenced. Our pleas for design modification have finally been stymied as had been any further plant salvage efforts. You may notice orange flagged single-wire fencing around the property which indicate the limits of clearing by Horton. It's pretty

shocking to see how close they will come to our property boundaries. The good news, if there is any, is that the Board was able to extract certain concessions from Horton and the City on the following points:

- 1) Mostly single story homes along Foothills Dr. and the east side of Northridge Villas.
- 2) Salvage of desert plants from property by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. The problem here was that the Northridge Villas HOA will not allow the already-harvested cacti to be loaded from their property due to "liability" and "privacy" concerns. Therefore, numerous specimens were lost over a minor legal point. All other access had washed out in a monsoon storm.
- 3) Horton has indicated that they have abandoned the idea of dumping storm water in #7's portion of Racetrack Wash. This is good for us. It is not good for the folks they will sell homes to since that water will flow down their streets, unchanneled. Caveat emptor!

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- 4) The City has required Horton to use some fraction of the salvaged saguaros (but not any other species) for revegetation of the property. This minimalistic salvage requirement was obtained by Horton not clearing about 1/3 of the 80 acre parcel as "natural areas". The bulk of the uncleared land will be in their portion of Racetrack Wash, which is land they couldn't use anyway and is poorly populated with respect to saguaros, barrels, and other larger species.
- 5) The County is "monitoring" heavy equipment use of Foothills Dr. I have no idea how diligent they will be. Please direct complaints to the Traffic Systems Division.

Note, however that all these requirements are pretty easy for them to fudge or forget about. Only time will tell. As you use the wash for hiking, please call the Board if you observe any grading outside of clearance fences or any dirt dumped into our part of

the wash (basically that portion north of the west end of Sobre Lomas). Finally, I want to extend the appreciation of all of CAT 7 residents to the individuals who have worked so hard to rein in Horton and call the City to task on enforcement. In particular, I would like to thank Jim Riley who has, as the former President, invested, literally, years on this project. When the issue of incorporation of the Foothills by the City is raised in years to come, please keep your memories clear as to the cavalier and non-civic minded way the City of Tucson has handled River View Estates. Remember, their future sweet talk about free garbage is just that—FREE GARBAGE!

On other business, you will probably have noticed a line of boulders and "No Trespassing" signs along Via Soledad and Via Entrada at the Racetrack Wash crossings. While these may look a little harsh, the Board felt they needed to prevent vehicle traffic in the wash. This was in reaction to vehicle sightings and tracks along the wash length. Please do not be put off by the signage. Responsible hikers, horses and bicycles are always welcome in our wash. Four-by-fours are not. If you see such vehicles, please note the make and license and call the County Sheriff. The signs permit them to evict/fine the drivers. Thank you all!

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**RUTH SMITH.** It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ruth Smith. As many of you are aware, she, and her husband, Paul, devoted countless hours to this association and it is in no small part due to their efforts that we live in one of the finest foothill areas. Our condolences to Paul in these difficult times.

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## **TIPS FROM TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPROVING YOUR HOME'S SECURITY**

Recent burglaries in CAT #1 prompted us to provide this information—The Tucson Police Department reports that most burglaries in Tucson are committed by low to medium skilled burglars, who use unsophisticated tools and methods to gain entry to a home. They generally select targets randomly and due to inadequate security in many homes they are able to gain entry quickly and easily. TPD offers some tips to homeowners to help secure their homes against burglaries:

**CHECK YOUR DOORS:** Make certain that all exterior doors are solid core construction. Secure the door frames to the wall studs with 2 1/2-3 inch screws. Replace deadbolt strike plates with security strike plates, which are 4 inches long and secured to the door frame with 4 three inch screws. Make certain that deadbolts are not accessible to glass areas—the glass can be broken and the deadbolt reached from outside. Secure sliding doors with "charlie bars" or sticks to prevent them from being moved. Make certain sliding doors fit well, with no excess space above to allow them to be lifted out of the track. Double doors should be secured with a flush bolt that goes up into the door frame at the top of the door or down into the floor at the bottom of the door. Secure garage doors with track pins which prevent the door from being opened from the outside.

**CHECK YOUR WINDOWS:** Double hung windows can be secured with pins placed in holes drilled through in-

ner frame and into outer frame, or with auxiliary latches. Adjust or replace any bent or otherwise non-working latch. On crank windows, remove the crank handle. Install "clevis pins" from the outside, to prevent access from outside without risking being locked in. On sliding windows, use similar security methods as you would on sliding doors—a dowel in the track works well.

**CHECK THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME:** Make certain that foliage around doors and windows is kept trimmed to prevent anyone hiding behind them, and to ensure that neighbors can see your doors and windows. Plant cacti, acacia, or other thorny trees and shrubs around windows. Make sure your house numbers are visible on the house and near the street. Check your lighting—motion detector lights are excellent as they turn on only when movement is sensed, then turn off so they don't shine in your neighbors' windows all night. Lock your gates. Make certain tools and other property are stored. Property left accessible is sometimes the only invitation a burglar needs to enter the property.

**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS:** Make sure your neighbors know you. Let neighbors know if you will be away for any length of time. This is the single most effective method of preventing neighborhood thefts.

This information was summarized from "Home Security Tips," a booklet available from Tucson Police Dept. For more information on installing security locks, request the booklet from TPD, or visit a home/hardware store for equipment / installation instructions.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY

In light of recent burglaries in the neighborhood, Board Members have been in touch with Pima County Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers about the process of establishing a Neighborhood Watch. According to PCSAV, "Neighborhood Watch is our country's most successful crime prevention program, with various agencies reporting from 18 to 70% reduction in crime, such as burglary."

The definitions of Neighborhood Watch are as follows:

- Encourages neighbors to join together to detect and deter crime by being the "eyes and ears" for the Sheriff.
- Helps neighbors to become better acquainted so they can work together to solve problems in the neighborhood while acting as a support group.
- Educates individuals on the principles of "Deter, Delay, Detect, and Deny" and on how to work together to improve the overall quality of life in the neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch also encourages citizens to participate in prevention through installing good locks on doors and windows, making sure secure lighting is in place, and informing neighbors of potential problem areas in the neighborhood.

- Assists the community and Sheriff's Deputies in working more closely together with a common purpose.

In order for the CFE#7 to establish a Neighborhood Watch, we need a minimum of 35% of the residents to participate. We need residents to act as Block Leaders (one Block Leader for approximately every ten houses), and one volunteer to act as Area Leader, who is the neighborhood liaison to the Sheriff's Office. Once we have residents committed to participate in the program, we will schedule an initial meeting to be conducted by the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers to establish our Neighborhood Watch.

If you are interested in helping us establish a Neighborhood Watch, please respond via telephone or email to Jane Hoffmann (jhoffmannj@hotmail.com or phone 323-9299). If you need more information regarding the duties of the Block Leader or Area Leader, contact Tracy Handley (jchandley@earthlink.net or phone 232-9820).

This is an effective program which, once established in CFE#7, will benefit each and every one of us.

## POSSIBLE REDUCED RATE FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION

We are exploring the opportunity to provide CAT 7 residents a reduced cost for garbage and recycling collection services. It is possible to "contract" with either Waste Management or Saguaro for a group rate. The companies will bill homeowners directly, typically three times a year. Back door service would be included, one trash pickup and one recycling pickup per week.

In addition to the saved costs on service, contracting with a single carrier has the added benefit of reducing truck traffic through the neighborhood.

We would like to know how many residents are interested in this. Please check your preference below and return your answer by mail. We have included some prices and information:

**Saguaro:**

\$35.00/month, with no set percentage of resident required (residents may choose to continue with present carrier rather than switch to Saguaro). Saguaro also offers a special deal to part-time residents or to residents who summer out of town, where no start-up/end service fees are charged.

**Waste Management:**

\$32.00/month, full participation required (residents may handle their refuse themselves, but may not use another large carrier).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in receiving a group rate negotiated by the CAT 7 Board

Check One: Saguaro  Waste Management

No, I prefer to keep my present arrangements

**PLEASE RESPOND BY DECEMBER 18, 2002**

Mail to: Catalina Foothills Estates #7  
 ATTN: REFUSE COLLECTION SURVEY  
 P.O. Box 64173 Tucson AZ 85728

## OUR NATIVE VEGETATION

Please remember that the covenants state that "No native growth, including cacti, trees and ground cover (including triangle-leafed bursage, range ratany and zinnia) may be removed.

The Tucson Botanical Gardens recently published a list of "Totally Tucson" plants for landscaping:

### Trees:

Acacia greggii "Catclaw acacia"  
 Celtis reticulata "Netleaf hackberry"  
 Cercidium floridum "Blue palo verde"  
 Chilopsis linearis "Desert willow"  
 Eysenhardtia orthocarpa "Kidneywood"  
 Lysiloma watsoni "Desert fern tree"  
 Cercidium microphyllum "Foothills palo verde"  
 Morus microphylla "Texas mulberry"  
 Olpeva tesota "Ironwood"  
 Prosopis velutina "Velvet mesquite"  
 Sapindus drummondii "Soapberry"

### Shrubs:

Acacia angustissima "Fern acacia"  
 Acacia constricta "Whitehorn acacia"  
 Aloysia wrightii "Oregonillo"  
 Ambrosia deltoidea "Triangle-leaf bursage"  
 Anisacanthus thurberi "Desert honeysuckle"  
 Artemisia ludoviciana "Western mugwort"  
 Asclepias linaria "Pineleaf milkweed"  
 Atriplex canescens "Fourwing saltbush"  
 Atriplex lentiformis "Quail brush"  
 Calliandra eriophylla "Fairy duster"  
 Celtis pallida "Desert hackberry"  
 Coursetia glandulosa "Baby bonnets"  
 Crossosoma bigelovii "Rhyolite bush"  
 Dalea pulchra "Bush dalea"  
 Dicliptera resupinata "Dicliptera"  
 Dodonea angustifolia "Hopbush"  
 Encelia farinosa "Brittlebush"  
 Ephedra nevadensis "Mormon tea"  
 Ericameria laricifolia "Turpentine bush"  
 Eriogonum fasciculatum "Flattop buckwheat"  
 Gossypium thurberi "Desert cotton"  
 Hibiscus bisepatus "Rose mallow"  
 Hyptis emoryi "Desert lavender"  
 Jatropha cardiophylla "Lamberbush"  
 Justicia californica "Chuparosa"  
 Larrea divaricata (tridentata) "Creosotebush"



Lotus rigidus "Deer vetch"  
 Lycium fremontii "Wolfberry"  
 Plumbago scandens "Plumbago"  
 Simmondsia chinensis "Jojoba"  
 Sphaeralcea ambigua "Globe mallow"  
 Tecoma stans v. angustata "Yellow bells"  
 Trixis californica "Trixis"  
 Vauquelinia californica "Arizona rosewood"  
 Zizyphus obtusifolia "Graythorn"

### Vines:

Cissus trifoliata "Grape ivy"  
 Janusia gracilis "Slender janusia"  
 Maurandya antirrhiniflora "Snapdragon vine"

### Cacti:

Carnegiea gigantea "Saguaro"  
 Echinocereus rigidissimus "Arizona rainbow cactus"  
 Ferocactus wislizeni "Fishhook barrel"  
 Mammillaria grahamii "Pincushion cactus"  
 Opuntia arbuscula "Pencil cholla"  
 Op. engelmannii "Engelmann prickly pear"  
 Opuntia versicolor "Staghorn cholla"  
 Opuntia santa rita "Purple prickly pear"  
 Peniocereus greggii "Queen of the night"

### Accent Plants:

Agave chrysantha "Golden-flowered agave"  
 Agave schottii "Shindagger"  
 Dasylirion wheeleri "Desert spoon"  
 Erythrina flabelliformis "Coral bean"  
 Fouquieria splendens "Ocotillo"  
 Nolana microcarpa "Beargrass"  
 Yucca beccata "Banana yucca"  
 Yucca elata "Soaptree yucca"

### Perennial Wildflowers:

Bahia absinthifolia "Bahia"  
 Baileya multiradiata "Desert marigold"  
 Datura wrightii "Sacred datura"  
 Dysodia pentachaeta "Dogweed"  
 Penstemon parryi "Parry penstemon"  
 Psilostrophe cooperi "Paperflowers"  
 Ruellia nudiflora "Ruellia"  
 Senna covesii "Desert senna"  
 Verbena gooddingii "Goodding verbena"  
 Oenothera caespitosa "Tufted evening primrose"  
 Zinnia acerosa "Desert zinnia"



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### Annual Wildflowers:

Eschscholtzia mexicana "Mexican poppy"  
Gaillardia pulchella "Blanket flower"  
Kallstroemia grandiflora "Arizona caltrop"  
Orthocarpus purpurascens "Owl's clover"  
Proboscidea althaeifolia "Devil's claw"

### Grasses:

Aristida purpurea "Purple threeawn"  
Bouteloua curtipendula "Sidecoats gama"  
Heteropogon contortus "Tangelhead"  
Muhlenbergia rigens "Deer grass"  
Sporobolus airoides "Alkali sacaton"



Greg Corman,  
Horticultural Information Specialist,  
Tucson Botanical Garden

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## TAKING CARE OF THE DESERT IN THE TIME OF DROUGHT

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As residents of the Catalina Foothills, we are devoted to preserving the desert flora and fauna. When CAT #7 was started in 1985, utilities were buried and houses were placed to insure that desert vegetation was protected and terrain was unspoiled. It continues to this day; as residents and the covenants are committed to preserving the desert.

Many of you may have noticed that our recent drought conditions have stressed the desert plants on your property. This year's monsoon has delivered a near normal amount of rain, but we are still in drought conditions, as recently reported in the Arizona Daily Star (Sat., Sept. 21, 2002, pages A1 and A12). A deficit in the yearly amount of rain still exists, and there are three years of severely limited rain to rectify. It is hoped that during this winter, the El Nino pattern will be strong to produce above normal precipitation, but still several years of good rain are needed.

So what can we do to help preserve our desert? We talked with Bruce Evans at Tohono Chul for advice and here are his suggestions to our questions.

### **SHOULD DESERT PLANTS BE WATERED?**

Yes, if they are dying. An established tree should be left alone. If a desert plant has recently been planted, then it will need water. Desert plants will go into a dormant phase, starting the end of October. Once dormant, watering will not help the plants. Hence, if there is little or no rain in this month, it would be good to water your desert property once before the end of October, up to the beginning of November.

### **HOW DO YOU TELL IF DESERT PLANTS NEED WATER?**

Leaves of Palo Verde trees will turn brown. Mesquite trees will lose many leaves. Prickly pear cacti will wrinkle badly and turn brown.

### **SHOULD SAGUARO CACTI BE WATERED?**

Usually not. It is very important not to over water Saguaro cacti because too much water makes their arms too heavy, and they break and/or fall over. If a Saguaro wrinkles and becomes extremely pleated or looks like an accordion in its trunk, it may be good to water it.

### **HOW SHOULD DESERT PLANTS BE WATERED?**

A good way to water the desert is to use a sprinkler that sprays over a good distance (a rainbow type sprinkler). Watering once a month is sufficient and the amount should be up to two inches deep per month. This is the best way to water both low-level desert plants (prickly pear, cholla, etc.) and saguaro cacti.

### **SHOULD TREES/CACTI BE PRUNED?**

Only prune dead branches or pads that are obstructing passageways. Removing viable branches and pads eliminates food resources from the plant. At this time of the year, not more than 10% of a plant should be pruned.

### **SHOULD GROUND COVER BE REMOVED?**

It is okay to remove true weeds (e.g., buffalo grass, layman's toe grass) but not desert plants that hold in moisture and prevent soil from being washed away (e.g., bursage or also called rag weed). Be sure to oversee your gardeners so that they don't remove important vital plants in an effort to make your property look neat!!

### **WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE THAT PEOPLE MAKE IN TAKING CARE OF THEIR DESERT PROPERTY?**

People tend to over water

## BURSAGE, THE GIVER OF LIFE

Among those of us fortunate enough to live in this picture postcard setting, few have not at one time or another stared in awe at a giant saguaro silhouetted before the red glow of the evening sun setting behind the majestic mountains, or, on a hot summer day sought refuge beneath the extended limbs of a hardy paloverde tree.

Is there any one of us so selfish that we don't want to pass along this magnificence. It isn't just greedy developers who destroy the natural habitat we take for granted. Many times it is much closer to home—it is us, the residents, and our gardeners. It isn't done intentionally, but due to a lack of knowledge of what makes up this fragile eco-system in which we live.



In our desire for neatness and to achieve a manicured look, we are destroying the very plant that is literally the giver of life for the paloverde and saguaro we love so dearly. That plant is the pesky, weed-like bursage we so diligently purge from our landscape.

As Board member Martin Karpiscak wrote in his outstanding piece in the October, 2000 Newsletter, the bursage provides the shelter necessary for the paloverde and saguaro seedlings to germinate and thrive. It provides shade and moisture and protection from predation from animals.

The next time you gaze at the grandeur of a giant saguaro as it lifts its arms toward the heavens, look down at the little bursage at its feet and say, "thank you" for making this possible. Then, when you get back home, treat it with a little more respect.

## 7 DECEMBER 2002 — ROADWAY TRASH PICKUP

Won't you join the CAT 7 Board on Saturday morning, 7 December 2002, at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Via Entrada and Via Soledad to pickup litter along CAT 7 streets. Please wear a hat, gloves and bring water. Trash bags will be furnished. This will be a good chance for the residents to meet all the Board Members and perhaps discuss some issues of concern while sprucing up our wonderful neighborhood. We hope we'll have a big turn out so that we can attend to all the streets/areas. Thanks for your participation.

### CATALINA FOOTHILLS ESTATES #7

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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