



Welcome

Kimberly Mudge

Thomas and Julie Shepard

William Rack

William Krauss

Sheira Harris

James Castaldo

Isaac Horner

Fredric and Gail Birkeland

Kurt Griffin and Susan Hoover

Walter and Karen Piegorsch

Richard and Michele Carroll

Howard and Adrienne Polster

Carlos Fuentes

Karl and Diane Hekimian

Do we have your correct telephone number and e-mail address. If not, please contact us by phone (323-9299) or e-mail (jhoffmannj@hotmail.com) to update your information.

Tips for Selecting and Working With a Contractor

Our Architecture Committee has noticed a dramatic increase in the number of problems that residents are having with contractors, before, during and after the project is completed. Horror stories are becoming all too familiar to many Tucsonians. Here are a few tips that were in a publication furnished by Mulcahy Law Firm from their publication to HOA's. These tips were extracted from the website information given by the AZ Registrar of Contractors Office. We hope it will help in the selection and working with a contractor.

- 1-Define your project, set parameters and scope of work to be done and decide on who will interface with the contractor.
- 2-Develop a list of potential contractors to complete the project. Use reliable referrals and rely on a contractor's reputation.
- 3-Use a licensed and bonded contractor. (All contractors who perform residential or commercial construction, remodeling or repair must be licensed. An exception to this is for work performed where the labor and materials total less than \$750, there is no building permit required and work is not part of a larger project.)
- 4-Interview potential contractors and obtain bids from at least three. (obtain the contractors name, correct spelling of the company name, physical address and telephone number of the contractor and their 5-6 digit license number or identification number from contractors license).
- 5-Check the status of the contractor's license and bond with Arizona Registrar of Contractors Office. If a contractor has had a complaint filed or disciplinary action in the past three years, it is not a good sign. (www.rc.stat.az.us, or 602-542-1525)
- 6-Check with the Arizona Better Business Bureau to determine if the contractor is in good standing. (www.tucson.bbb.org, or 520-888-5353)
- 7-Ask the contractor how long they have been in business. (Five yrs or more shows stability)
- 8-Ask the contractor if the type of work required for the project is the contractor's primary business or if the contractor specializes in the type of work you want performed.
- 9-Ask for and check the contractor's references. (request local references for the same type of work.) Ask the *references*: if the contractor was on schedule and abided by the contract terms, did the contractor listen when there was a problem, did the contractor willingly make necessary corrections. In addition, physically inspect the projects the contractor has in progress and projects that have been completed.
- 10-Obtain proof that the contractor has adequate insurance (ask for current proof of insurance certificates for workers compensation insurance and general liability insurance).
- 11-Ask the contractor if their work force is capable of completing the project in a specified time frame (get specified start and completion times in writing). Ask for the name, contact information and qualifications of the person supervising the project.
- 12-Agree on a scope of work for the contractor (The scope should define the work to be done, including prep work, protection of surrounding areas and daily clean-up).
- 13-Require that the contractor place all verbal representations in writing-including but not limited to warranties, completion date, quality, quantity of materials, price, etc).

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From Your Board

Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 7:00p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Jan. 4th, Feb. 1st, Mar. 1st, Apr. 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July/Aug. *no meetings*, Sept. 6th, Oct 4th, Nov. 1st, Dec. 6th)

Holidays and vacation schedules sometimes result in the rescheduling or cancellation of a particular meeting, so please check with the secretary, 323-9299, to confirm a meeting time.

At the beginning of our meetings, we allow a ten minute period for "Resident Related Issues" – these must be scheduled with the secretary two weeks before the meeting.

Articles for the newsletter are welcomed and should be mailed to Catalina Foothills Estates #7 Association, P.O. Box 64173, Tucson, AZ, 85728-4173 or e-mail to cfe7news@msn.com. Deadline for March publication is Feb 17th and Octobers is Sept. 25th.

CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President	Warren Edminster	887-5997
Vice-President	Mike Simons	742-7737
Treasurer	Jerry Boyle	888-8279
Secretary to the Board	Jane Hoffmann	323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson	Dan Smith	888-3167
	Mike Simons	742-7737
	Jill Schneider	232-1273

Covenants Committee

Chairperson	Robert Parks	529-3673
	Linda Grossman	299-4718
	Richard Martell	529-8401
	June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989

Welcome Committee

Chairperson	Linda Grossman	299-4718
	Richard Martell	529-8401

Nominating Committee

Mike Simons	742-7737
Jerry Boyle	888-8279

Media Committee

June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
Mike Simons	742-7737

Our news is your news!

Please share with us any articles, photos, stories old and new.

*e-mail to cfe7news@msn.com
or mail to CFE 7 mailing address*

President's Message

One of the vital services for the homeowner is the removal of solid waste, and part of this service is to recycle some materials. I'll bet you always wondered why only certain plastics were recycled and you ask, "What in the world do they do with them?" My intent is to answer these questions.... to some extent.

I recently came across an article taken from "E Magazine" published in January 6, 2002 issue of the Coast News, that had all the answers.

Let's start by noting that there are well over 100 types of plastic, but these are generally reduced to seven types for recycling purposes. The different types of plastic require different processes in order to be reformulated and reused as raw material. The symbol code we are familiar with is a "1" to "7" surrounded by a triangle generally stamped on the bottom.

The easiest and most common plastic to recycle is polyethylene terephthalate, or PETE, and is assigned a "1". Examples of its use include soda and water bottles, medicine containers and many other common consumer product containers. Once it has been processed, the raw material can become fiberfill for winter coats, sleeping bags and life jackets. It also can be used to make bean bags, rope, car bumpers, tennis ball felt, combs, sails for boats, etc., and of course, other bottles.

Number "2" is reserved for high density polyethylene plastic. These include those heavier containers that hold laundry detergents and bleaches as well as milk, shampoo and motor oil. Plastic "2" is often recycled into toys, pipe, plastic lumber and rope. Polyvinyl chloride, "3" is used in plastic pipes, #4, wrapping film and sandwich bags, etc.

Waste Management and probably several other firms, deliver their pickup to the City of Tucson for processing.

Only #1 and #2 plastic are actually recycled by the city at this time. All others are redirected to the Land Fill with all other trash, according to Don Gibson, Recycling Coordinator for the City of Tucson.

More complete information may be found at www.tucsonrecycle.org and the Society of the Plastic Industry at www.socplas.org.

I hope this will give you the information you need to separate your discards in Cat 7.

Warren Edminster



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Tips for Selecting and Working With a Contractor

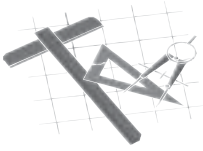
- 14-DO NOT PAY more than 25-33% of the contract price up front- final payment should not be required until the work is satisfactorily completed.
- 15-Ask for lien releases (if applicable) from the contractor for each subcontractor working on the project before you make a progress payment (verify the lien releases with the subcontractors).
- 16-Never sign anything that you do not understand and do not let a contractor pressure you into signing anything that is unclear. If need be, have an attorney review the contract.

I suggest that you review the AZ Registrar of Contractors website- the site has valuable information and many ideas. Working with or hiring a contractor is not an easy job. Hopefully, these tips will minimize the horror story!

(The above is taken from Mulachy Law Firm, P.C. publication *Mulcahy Answers for Community Associations*)

Committee Reports

Architectural Committee



All residents *must* obtain approval from the Architectural Committee prior to *any construction, modifications, or building alterations*.

Forms and/or any information can be obtained from the Architectural Committee or Office Secretary, or our web site (www.CFE7.org).

The committee works diligently to review your request and enable you to complete your work project in a reasonable, timely fashion.

Architectural Review 2006 March to October

	Approved	Pending	Completed
Addition	7	5	2
Driveway Work	4		4
Garage Additions	3	2	1
Landscape	3	3	
Painting	5	3	2
Patio	3	3	1
Replace Door/Windows	7	2	5
Roof Work	5	3	2
Swimming Pool	1	1	
Wall/Fence	4	3	1

Covenant Review 2006 March to October

	Review	Rectified	Pending
A/C	2	1	1
Debris	1	1	
Equipment	1	1	
Fencing	1	1	
Home Business	1	1	
RV's	4	4	
Signs	4	4	
Structural Violation	3	2	1
Trash Containers	6	5	1
White Roof	2	1	1
Vehicles/Trailers	4	3	1
Vegetation	2	1	1

Angies List (Contractors)

The Board has received a number of requests from residents for recommendations of good contractors, landscapers and handymen over the summer. The Board is reluctant to give out recommendations because of liability concerns. However, there is a new "chapter" of Angie's List in Tucson and they are offering a free first year's membership. Angie's List is a nationwide listing of contractors about whom their clients have submitted reports on their work and prices. I just tried the service and immediately found a painter with high ratings from all four of the clients that rated him. When he gave an estimate it seemed quite reasonable. The lack of ratings is because the service just started here in Tucson in the last couple of months.

For more information about Angie's List call 888 944 5478 or e-mail Tucson@angieslist.com. Their website is at www.angieslist.com.

The Changes to the Declaration of Protective Covenants

At the Annual Meeting this past May the question was raised regarding making changes to the Declaration of Protective Covenants. Following the meeting, Board members reviewed the documents in an effort to clarify this matter since there was some uncertainty expressed by the membership. The review resulted in finding that there was some ambiguity evident in our governing documents. For this reason, the Board felt it prudent to have a real estate attorney give an interpretation of the procedure required to make changes. Upon the completion of a review of our By-Laws and Protective Covenants, the attorney presented the following information.

1-An amendment to the Declaration of Protective Covenants must be approved by owners of 51% of the front feet of the lots covered by the Declaration.

2-Any approved amendment must be recorded at least one year prior to the expiration of each ten year renewal period. The next renewal period begins on January 1, 2015. Therefore any amendment would not become effective until January 1, 2016

3-The Bylaws may be amended either by the members or the Board at any time (Article VII, Section 1 & 2).

4-From time-to-time the Board may adopt Architectural and /or Land Use Guidelines as long as the Board deems the proposed guideline beneficial to the owners of the majority of lots in the subdivision.

5-In the event of a conflict between the Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws the Declaration governs. In the event of a conflict between the Articles and the Bylaws the Articles would govern. Should the Architectural and Land Use Guidelines, which were adopted by the Board in 2005, conflict with the three governing documents the governing documents prevail.



CC&R's Review

In the News

I have been doing the newsletter now for the past three years. I hope you all are finding it beneficial as well as entertaining. Sometimes, I'm baffled if I'm making an impact at all. We restarted our news in 2003 as an aid to get information out to our residents about our community and what issues our board is confronting. I'm still surprised when we have incidents of clear cutting, trash cans at the curb and architectural changes not submitted to the committee. We have even gone so far as to update our web site to include our CC&R's, architectural guidelines, additional covenant infractions and adding all the news publications from 1999.

I appreciate the few articles and the suggestions I have gotten from residents... Keep them coming! Our publication comes out twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. I have wondered if we need to publish more frequently? Only you can tell us that!

Every time we get ready to do the next newsletter, I'm given topics that we have already covered in past publications. Not wanting to rehash the same subject matter, I thought I'd list our past publications with their topics. This way, you can visit our web site www.CFE7.org and read or review any of them from the newsletter page. (For those residents that do not use the web contact our office and we will send you a copy of any of the articles.) I hope to continue to bring you new information and hope you don't forget the old.

All our newsletters have the current Board for that year, Architectural review, and Covenant review, and a Welcome for our new residents. The following is a list of articles specific to that years newsletter.

1999

Apartment Complex
Mosquitoes in the Desert
Nature Walks
Improvements
Water Pressure
Fire Protection
Speeders
Dog Owners
Javelina
Home Leasing

2002

River View Estates
Improving Home Security
Neighborhood Security
Garbage Collection
Native Vegetation
Taking Care of the Desert
Bursage the Giver of Life
Trash Pick Up

2003 Fall

Footnotes " First issue"
One Day in Cat 7
Every Little Bit Helps
Fall Cleanup
Requiem for a Boojum

2004 Spring

Footnotes
State Laws and HOA's
Lighting
How Secure is Your Home?
Pack Rats
Pack Rat Prevention Tips
What CC&R's
Cat 7 Architectural Note
Trash
HOA's
West Nile Disease
One Scarlet Penstemon.

2004 Fall

Symposium
Legislation HOA's
Security Report
Mailbox Security

CC&R's on Plants
The Need of Bursage
Mistletoe
Javelina
Little Miss Muffet- Tarantula
Rock Upon Rock
Private Property Signs
Speeders

2005 Spring

Shall We Form a Fire District?
Volunteers
Architectural Guidelines
CC&R's excerpts- White Roof,
Trash, Debris, Home Sales,
Dog Debris, Trees
Re-Cap Symposium
Don't Feed the Beast Campaign
Urban Coyotes
Invasive Exotic Species
Fountain Grass
Native Vegetation
Reference Websites
Desert Tower

2005 Fall

Trash & Cat 7
Honor Past Board Members
Visit Our Website
Cat 7 & CC&R's
Trailers
A/C Units & Coolers
Rentals
Security
Home Burglary
A Case for a Cat 7 Fire District
Venomous Neighbors
Poisonous Plants
Fall Planting
Road Safety
The Nature of Things
Pima County Building Violations
Pima County Zoning Violations

2006 Spring

Proxy Voting
Volunteers

Paul Smith
Handy Numbers
Water Pressure
Planning to Have Work Done....
Green Approach on Mailbox Light
CC&R Review
CFA
Pedestrian vs. Vehicles
Neighborhood Watch
Home Security
Make Your Home a Hard Target
Backyard Bird Deaths
Drought Stress
Grass Invasion
Pet Poison Prevention Tips
Tucson Garden Calendar
Xeriscape
People in the Neighborhood
2006 Report to the Foothills
To See the World.....
Art in Cat 7

2006 Fall (to be posted)

Tips for Selecting a Contractor
In the News
Annual Meeting
Protective Covenants
Dark Sky
Fire District
Neighborhood Watch
Crime Report
Wild Flowers
Hikers
Bees
Wildlife all Around
Living with Bats
Bobcats
The Helper
Vote



Annual Meeting

So where were you? Our Annual Meeting had took place this past May. The board allotted time for a social hour prior to the meeting with food and beverage. It gave the opportunity for residents to get acquainted, as well as allowing the residents to meet the Board and the Board meet our residents.

Even though many of our residents attended we hope we see more of you at our next Annual Meeting come Spring 2007. Watch for the date in our spring newsletter and bring a neighbor! *See ya there!*

For the past few years our current Board has made an effort to honor those past Board members who volunteered not just their time but who were very active in giving to our community. This past meeting we honored Jerry Bishop, Jay Kittle, Barbara Dantzler, and Jane Hoffmann.

Thanks again for your service.



Jerry Bishop



Jane Hoffmann and James Kittle



Barbara Dantzler

Dark Sky

This past summer, I encountered a group that was attending the Saturday evening at the Desert Museum. They were the IDA of Tucson who are advocates on light pollution. I obtained some of their information which I'd like to share with you. As you know, we have restrictions in our CC&R's on outdoor lighting. Pima County also has restrictions which you can review at www.dsd.pima.gov. I always thought these restrictions were implemented so your neighbor would not be disturbed, but I believe it goes a little bit further.

Advocates for light pollution just doesn't want total darkness but makes an effort to educate the use of good lighting vs. bad lighting. You might want to visit their website at www.darksky.org and look at their power point presentation. Good lighting is when lighting is cost effective, minimizes glare & excessive brightness, eliminates sky glow, eliminates light trespass, and conforms to local light ordinances.

Light just doesn't effect humans, but also animal and plant life. It has been shown that wildlife, including insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals need daylight and darkness for normal functioning. If their darkness is disturbed by artificial light, wildlife may experience:

- Attraction, fixation and repulsion-
- Improvement in orientation or disorientation
- Disruption of biological rhythms
- Change in habitat quality.

While light may help some animals move during darkness it causes disorientation in others. This results in higher energy consumption, or a more reckless behavior, increasing the animal's likelihood of being preyed upon or run over. Lighting can disrupt the movement of some animals and may reinforce the barrier effect of roads and road traffic.

I would like to go into detail on the above point, but its content is enormous, I suggest you visit their website under resources. There is a section in which you can get detailed information.

I would like to emphasize the use of good vs. bad lighting. In an article dated spring 2004 of our newsletter (on our website) you'll find examples of what your lighting should look like per our CC&R's. Here are a few good tips from the IDA. When shopping for lighting:

- Select outdoor lighting which will be energy effective having a higher lumens and lower wattage. Watts refer to how much electricity the lamp will consume. And lumens refer to how much light is output. Most lamps will have these ratings. They often cost more initially but last longer and save lots of operating money. A typical 100 watt incandescent light bulb puts out 1800 lumens, a 25 watt compact florescent bulb has the same lumens but uses 75% less energy and the bulb will last 5-10 times longer.
- Select appropriate fixtures. Purchase fixtures that are "fully shielded" This means they control the light to shine downward, none above the horizontal or above a 45 degrees. Possibly obtain a fixture that is motion sensitive, if the use is for security.
- Select the appropriate lamps- Florescent being the most efficient, and incandescent the least efficient. Mercury Vapor and Quartz unshielded lamps are prohibited in Southern AZ.

For more extensive information, I encourage you to visit the IDA website and verify what restrictions Pima County has from their site. Dark skies is not just for star gazing, but it is essential in keeping a balance environmentally for all life.

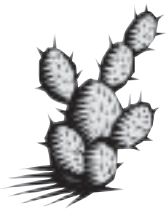
CC&R's on lighting- Clause II para. 8 also in the Newsletter Spring 2004

All exterior lights must be so located as not to be directed toward surrounding properties or public rights-of-way.

Plant Trimming

What great rains we had this summer, but it has made many plants in our yards have added new growth. If that growth protrudes into the streets, particularly the main thoroughfares, it is a danger to pedestrians and bikers. Please monitor the front of your yards and remove overhanging plant materials. The many walkers, joggers and bicyclists in the neighborhood will be most appreciative. None of them like to be hit in the face with a prickly branch or forced into the often speeding automobile traffic.

Pima County will be coming soon to trim the medians once again, They don't usually address private premises unless it's a hazard or asked to do so. It is the responsibility of our lot owners to keep their properties trimmed and in neat order as well as safe for road traffic.



Saguaro Destroyed by a lightning strike during monsoon.



Catalina Foothills Estate No. 7 Fire District

The volunteer committee which was formed to investigate the creation of a fire district to serve Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7 has looked into the process and talked with representatives from neighboring fire districts, the County Clerk's office, Rural/Metro and others involved, both at the County and State level. Based on information gleaned from these meetings and interviews, the Committee is pleased to present the following outline of the formation process.

The first step is to prepare a "District Impact Statement". This document includes a description of the boundaries of the proposed district, an estimate of the assessed valuation within the proposed district, an estimated change in property tax liability for a typical resident of the proposed district, a list of benefits resulting from the district formation, as well as, a list of "injuries" and the identity of the three individuals who will serve as the Board for the proposed fire district.

Once the impact statement has been prepared, it is submitted, along with a \$500 processing fee, to the clerk of the board of supervisors for review. Next, the clerk will set a date for a public hearing on the application. Notice will be sent to all residents and they will have a chance to make comments at the hearing. Upon approval of the district impact statement by the board, a petition may be circulated to the residents for approval of the district formation. Approval by more than one-half of the property owners and more than one-half of the assessed valuation of the property in the area of the proposed district is required. There is a one year period for the completed petitions to be returned to the board of supervisors. The board shall determine the validity of the petitions and then, at a final hearing, shall order the creation of the district.

The CAT 7 fire district would, next, enter into a negotiated, long-term contract with a service provider. Presently, Rural/Metro is the most likely entity to deal with since they already serve the neighborhood on an individual subscription basis. Rural/Metro has indicated that they would calculate the tax rate so that the cost would be the same as what we now pay for their service, an amount which is based on the square footage of your home. In making this calculation, a tax rate of approximately \$1.25 is required to equal what we now are paying. Under a fire district, however, we would receive state funds from the State Fire District Assistance Tax, thus reducing this amount by approximately 25 cents. The fee for fire service would be paid by the district from funds collected as a part of our property taxes. As such, these fees would be a deductible expense for those who itemize deductions on their income tax returns. At the present time, under the subscription for service, the fee is not a deductible expense.

Based on the information which the committee has collected it appears as if the formation of the fire district is advantageous for the following reasons:

1. The Fire District will provide for local control and oversight of fire and emergency medical services through a three member board of directors elected from the membership of the Catalina Foothills Association No. 7.
2. Fire and emergency medical services will be provided to the fire district through a negotiated, long-term contract with a local service provider, thus insuring cost containment and a commitment for service to the neighborhood over time.
3. The fire district will receive the Fire District Assistance Tax funds from the state resulting in a lower overall cost to the individual property owners. NOTE: Presently, as part of our property taxes, we are paying approximately 4-1/2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for the fire district assistance tax and receive no benefit from this tax.
4. Since the cost for fire protection is paid as a part of the property tax, it becomes a deductible expense for those who use itemized deductions on their income tax.

Before investing more time and expense to pursue the formation of a fire district, the committee feels that it is imperative to poll the membership and determine if there is a consensus that we should move ahead. For this reason, you will find a post card enclosed within this newsletter asking whether you favor or oppose the fire district formation. Also, there is a place on the card for your comments. Should you have any questions regarding the fire district, please call Jane Hoffmann at 323-9299 and she, in turn, will have a member of the committee get in touch with you.

Neighborhood Watch

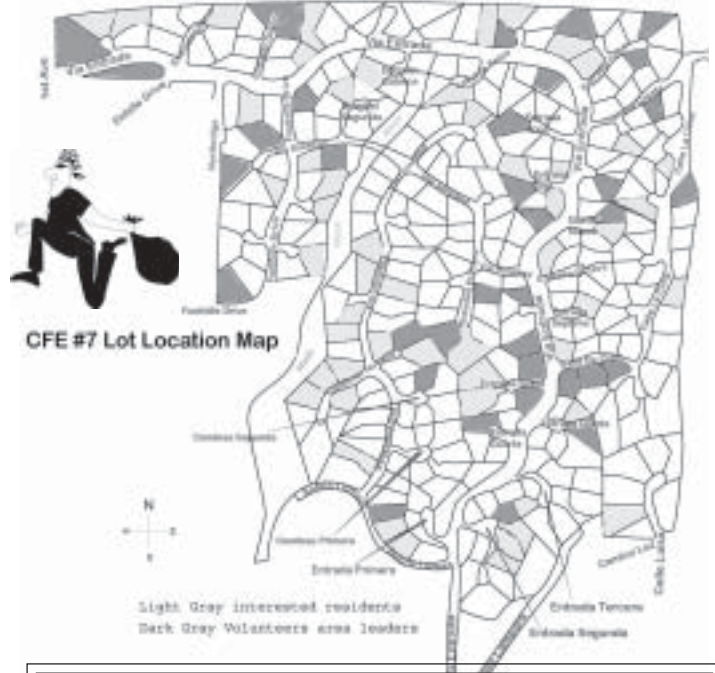
In a past issue of our newsletter, Spring of 2006, we surveyed our residents on the creation of a Neighborhood Watch. As you know, Neighborhood Watches are a deterrent to crime. Neighborhoods find a 15 – 70% reduction in crime, such as burglaries. It has a history of being the most successful deterrent with little cost to residents. Cat 7 has had its ups and downs with crime. We reported in our last newsletter that many of the incidents we had in the past year were not reported because residents thought it wasn't important or they took care of the incident themselves. It was unfortunate, because when we spoke to the Sheriff's Department they were unaware that so many incidents had taken place in our community. When speaking to the Sheriff's Department, who, again I reiterate, had very few reports, we discussed the information we had gathered on 14 incidents in a 6-month time frame. The Sheriff's Department, as well as, our residents asked if a Neighborhood Watch could be established and signs be posted. We have started the initial process to establish the Neighborhood Watch. We surveyed our residents and asked also for those who would volunteer to be involved.

There are 317 homes in Cat 7, a fairly large neighborhood. The Sheriff's Auxiliary suggests an interest of 35% (110 residents) is needed to be successful. We would have an Area Leader who will have the assistance of Block Leaders in the neighborhood. Signs can be placed at all the entrances to the neighborhood. It would be effective to have block leaders distributed throughout the neighborhood. The map shows those who said yes (91 residents) to a Neighborhood Watch in light gray, and those who would be active volunteers (33 residents) and possible Block Leaders in dark gray. If you are not designated, I did have a few cards without a name or lot number.

The Sheriff's Auxiliary suggested, that the Area Leader would coordinate meetings which will be *twice a year*, once at our Annual Meeting (for a report and handouts to the residents); the other in the fall (Block and Area Leaders to keep current on issues). The Area Leader would also be the liaison with the Sheriff's office and the coordinator for the Block Leaders. The Block Leaders will be the eyes and ears for a designated area. The more residents we have as block leaders the more effective we can be. The Sheriff's Department requires information on the Area and Block Leaders so they may do a routine background check on the volunteers.

Once organized residents will be informed who the Area and Block Leaders are. Block Leaders will have a designated area and a residential list. They are the gatherers of information, but *not a replacement for calls to the police*. If it's an incident which was just suspicious by nature, the Leaders should know about it, as well as any crime. Knowing what is going on in the designated area and the neighborhood as a whole, will assist all the Leaders in getting the Sheriff's Department more involved. Being a volunteer does not promote intervention with the crime or vigilantism but an active role in awareness. This awareness is a partnership with the Sheriff's Department as a deterrent to crime and serves as a surveillance tool within the neighborhood.

It is up to the residents to make this work. There seems to be a need and a desire to follow through with a Neighborhood Watch. Our first meeting for the volunteers will be Thursday, November 2nd. Those that have already signed up will be notified of time and place within the next two weeks. Those residents who *have not responded* and wish to participate can contact the Secretary to the Board, Jane Hoffmann, at 323-9299. Give a call and volunteer for your street, cul-de-sac, and neighborhood. It requires such minimal amount of time and effort to reap its rewards.



Crime Report

I have been reporting the crime reports for Cat 7 and its surrounding area for the past four years. I thought I would this year reflect all those years together. I designated them by year even though there is some error in doing so. For instance; the year of '03 is from February '03 to Feb. 04, '04 is Mar 04 to Sept '04, '05 is October of '04 to Sept.05, and '06 is Oct 05 to Oct 06.

Some of the categories are lumped together, the Sheriff's report separates them into more specific categories. I hope this encourages people to take precautions and to help each other out in the prevention of crime.

We can't stress enough to all our residents, be aware of your surroundings. Report any unusual behavior to the police (Call 911). Record license plate number, make and model of the vehicle, and a description of the person(s) you suspect. You should also notify the Board so we may keep our residents informed.

This report covers the geographical area from First Ave. to Campbell Ave., River Road to Orange Grove Road.

	'03	'04	'05	'06
Arson.....	3	2	0	0
Assault.....	2	0	0	0
Attempt Rape.....	0	0	0	1
Auto Theft.....	2	2	4	4
Attempt Auto Theft.....	1	0	1	1
Burglary Force.....	9	4	4	9
Buglary No Force.....	10	5	7	13
Burglary Attempt.....	5	1	0	4
Cont. Substance.....	3	1	2	2
Domestic Violence.....	4	2	3	2
Frauds.....	16	4	16	12
Larceny.....	39	14	44	47
Malicious Mischief.....	28	17	10	15
Robbery.....	1	0	0	0
Vandalism.....	19	9	6	8

For definitions of the above catagories go to www.pimasheriff.org, then click on crime statistics on the menu, click on the crime and a definition will appear.

Plant & Wildlife

Wild Flowers

Plant your wildflower seeds, hope for winter rains, and watch out for a colorful Spring! Here is a list of native wildflowers listed by colors.

Purple & Blue ~ Flowers —

Coulter's Lupine/Desert Lupine - *Lupinus sparsiflorus*
Sand Verbena - *Abronia villosa*
Mojave Aster - *Xylorhiza tortifolia*
Desert Willow - *Chilopsis linearis*
Blue Phacelia - *Phacelia distans*
Desert Lavender - *Hyptis emoryi*
Indigo Bush - *Psoralea fremontii*
Smoke Tree - *Psoralea spinosa*
Spanish Needles - *Palafoxia arida*
Chia - *Salvia columbariae*
Filaree Storksbill - *Erodium cicutarium*
Bigelow's Monkey Flower - *Mimulus bigelovii*



Pink, Red, & Orange ~ Flowers

Ocotillo - *Fouquieria splendens*
Englemann Hedgehog / Strawberry Cactus - *Echinocereus engelmannii*
Beavertail Cactus - *Opuntia basilaris*
Fairy Duster - *Calliandra eriophylla*
Desert Globemallow - *Sphaeralcea ambigua*
Desert Paintbrush - *Castilleja chromosa*
Chuparosa - *Beloperone californica*
Desert Five-Spot - *Malvastrum rotundifolium*
Pincushion Cactus / Fishhook Cactus - *Mammillaria microcarpa*
Desert Mariposa Lily - *Calochortus kennedyi*
Winged Dock - *Rumex venosus*

Yellow & Gold ~ Flowers

Creosote Bush - *Larrea tridentata*
Brittlebush - *Encelia farinosa*
Cinchweed - *Pectis papposa*
Desert Sunflower - *Gerea canescens*
Dune Sunflower - *Helianthus niveus*
Mexican Gold Poppy - *Eschscholtzia mexicana*
Desert Primrose / Yellow Cups - *Camissonia brevipes*
Woolly Daisy - *Eriophyllum wallacei*
Barrel Cactus - *Ferocactus acanthodes*
Englemann's Prickly Pear - *Opuntia phaeacantha*
Desert Dandelion - *Malacothrix glabrata*
Parry's Century Plant - *Agave parryi*
Golden Prince's Plume - *Stanleya pinnata*



White ~ Flowers

Saguaro Cactus - *Carnegiea gigantea*
Sacred Datura - *Datura meteloides*
Spectacle Pod - *Dithyrea wislizenii*
Desert Lily - *Hesperocallis undulata*
Dune Evening Primrose - *Oenothera deltoides*
Desert Chicory - *Rafinesquia neomexicana*
Desert Star - *Monoptilon bellioides*
Prickly Poppy / Thistle Poppy - *Argemone pleicantha*
Joshua Tree - *Yucca brevifolia*
Banana Yucca - *Yucca baccata*
Blazing Star - *Mentzelia involucrata*
Brown-eyed Evening Primrose - *Camissonia claviformis*
Narrow-leaved Popcorn Flower - *Cryptantha angustifolia*
Ghost Flower - *Mohavea confertiflora*
Mohave Yucca - *Yucca schidigera*
Soaptree Yucca - *Yucca elati*
Apache Plume - *Fallugia paradoxa*



Plant Life Balance

At our annual meeting, a discussion on plant life took place as well as a mailing was sent to all residents about clear cutting. We also have asked, on occasion, for the removal of mistletoe.



I was sent an article on the use of mistletoe by some of our wildlife. It, in fact, has a purpose and is beneficial to the "black cardinal" (*Phainopepla*). This bird, who isn't a cardinal at all, but rather is from the fly catching tropical group of birds. The *Phainopepla* feeds on insects but relies mainly on the berries of the mistletoe plant during the winter months. It's a delicate balance between plant and animal life. We do ask our residents to minimize the effects of the mistletoe so as to minimize the death of our Palo Verde and Acacia trees. So be conscious of how much mistletoe you have and is there enough mistletoe in the area so that the birds can still have a food source.

Hikers Beware

As summer comes to an end baby **Rattlesnakes** are born so be **careful**. The young are born between August and October. The newborn Rattlesnake is about 10 inches long and has a small horny button on the tip of its tail. Rattler babies have venom and short fangs and are dangerous from birth.

(See fall issue of 2005 Footnotes, Venomous Neighbors on our website.)



Bees

For those of you interested in wildlife around CFE#7, the bee's nest in the west bank on the southern part of Via Entrada is still there and active. It is a fairly small nest and the bees are not causing any harm. The County is aware of the nest as it is probably on their property.

The bees are part of our environment here and help pollinate our plants. They will stay to themselves as long as they are left alone. The thing they like least is loud, thumping noises. If bees ever do come after you the best thing is to run away and go inside your home or a car. On the advice of a beekeeper, there is no fighting them off. Just get away from them and the nest.

The state of Arizona has information regarding bees on the following website-www.sb.state.az.us.

Wild Life

In our publication in the spring of 2005, we wrote about the "Don't Feed the Beast Campaign" in which the county was actively asking residents not to feed the wildlife. Once again, we would like to inform our residents that there is a new law that has taken effect which prohibits intentional feeding of wildlife. The law describes violators as those who feed or attract wildlife, intentionally, knowingly or recklessly. The law exempts the feeding of birds and tree squirrels, as well as normal livestock or agricultural operations.

If you feed Mountain Lions, Deer, Javelina, Bobcats, Rabbits, Foxes, Coyotes, Ground and Rock Squirrels, Raccoons, and Skunks, expect a \$300 Fine. The intent of the fine is to stop people who have been warned, from continuing to feed the wildlife. These people have created an environment that may be harmful to a neighborhood or to other people. We have stated before that animals who are fed are known to approach other people who are not necessarily the feeders. You can review "The Don't Feed the Beast Campaign" and how to avoid animal encounters from our article dated spring 2005 on the newsletter page on our website. Violators can be reported to the Arizona Game and Fish Department at www.azgfd.com or 628-5376.

Wildlife all around us

By Mike Simons

Residents of Cat 7 enjoy lots of natural beauty and wildlife. Here are just two examples of wildlife my wife and I've enjoyed seeing in the last few months.

I heard a scraping sound in my garage one morning in early July. Upon inspection I discovered an eight-inch long desert tortoise partially stuck under a gate. He (she?) was like the eighteen-wheel truck that gets stuck under an overpass due to not reading the maximum clearance signs. I picked him up, admired him and set him back down in the yard. He shunned the lettuce I offered. The last I saw of our home's special visitor, he was heading north by northwest, into the vast yonder of prickly pear and bursage.



Have you seen the bats come out from their roost under the Rillito bridge on Campbell Avenue? That is an amazing, exciting sight to behold! My wife and I watched the bats one evening in mid-June. We arrived at the parking lot on the north side of the Rillito (north of Trader Joe's) just before sunset. There were several dozen other people awaiting the spectacle. Just two or three minutes after the sun dipped below the horizon the bats started to come out. First there was just one, heading west into the sunset. Looking back at the bridge, we could see a dark mass of wings and bodies starting to come out. Each seemed to circle once under the bridge and then fly west after the first one. Thousands (tens of thousands?) came out, for what seemed like ten minutes. They mostly flew together into the sky for a few hundred yards, then headed out in all directions. From what we saw, it appears that many of the bats that fly over Cat 7 at dusk come from that bridge. Now I wonder...what did those bats do when the river waters rose up to the bottom of the bridge because of monsoon rains??

Living with Bats

Arizona has 28 species of bats, more than almost any other state. Bats are the only true flying mammal and are valuable human allies. They are predators of vast numbers of insect pest. Although bats play a key role in keeping insect populations in balance, they are the most rapidly declining land mammal. These declines are often caused by human fear and persecution.



Bats eat 1,000 insects, including mosquitoes, in an hour while in flight. Some species drink nectar and can drain a hummingbird feeder overnight. Bats hang upside down to rest in dark secluded "roosts" during the daytime they leave their roost to forage for food at night and may temporarily roost to digest food and groom. Some bats hibernate during the winter (Oct thru April) and some stay active year-round. Bats maternity period is May to Sept and should not be disturbed in that time period.

The conflicts with humans and pets are when bats inhabit the space where humans live. The bat guano (feces) can present disease and odor problems, but it is a good fertilizer. However, bats are harmless and are not just beneficial for keeping insect populations down but are pollinators for some plants. If bats inhabit an area, it is because they found food, water, or shelter. Food can include a congregation of insects due to lighting, water ponds, and nectar from flowering agave or feeders. Water sources can be any pool, and shelter can include rough surface for hanging. A bump of only 1/16 of an inch is enough. They can squeeze in any tiny hole and are attracted to spaces inside building attics, culverts, behind siding, palm trees, eaves, porch, and patios awnings or under bridges.

Bats should not be allowed to remain in human living areas. If a person or pet is bitten, wash the wound immediately. Attempt to capture the animal while wearing leather gloves, and contact the county health department right away. Testing the captured bat will determine if rabies shots are needed. If the bat is contained and cannot leave an indoor space on its own or let out easily call the AZ fish & Game Dept. 623-5376.

All bats in Arizona are protected and cannot be collected or killed. Proper exclusion may be preformed where necessary. It is unlawful to use pesticides or other chemicals directly on bats. Exclusion should be done only with the advice of the AZ Game and Fish Dept. or a wildlife control business, and should not be attempted during the maternity season (generally May thru September) to avoid separating mothers from their young.

Just Bobbing Along.....

By Bob Spittler

Photos By Bob Spittler

We had a visitor this afternoon. He drank from the pool, ate some of Connie's tulips, kissed our sacred vase and retired on the wall in my barn. The first four pictures were taken through the window from my room. For the last one, I dared outside to the driveway and shot over the wall by the gate as he sat on the wall inside my shop. Needless to say, I didn't open the gate.

This past summer, golfers were attack by a wildcat at Skyline Country Club. One golfer was scratched and bitten by the cat before they 'done it in' with their 7 irons. The cat was found to be rabid.

It was high noon.

A tense stare-down ensued. Finally the kitty could see in my steely eyes it was no match and departed into the unforgiving desert. I scampered inside and didn't venture out again for several hours. When I later went out to cook salmon I took along my trusty 7 Ping iron...and two shotguns, and my fathers sword cane. Upon hearing a menacing rustle in nearby bushes I assumed a crouching position, drew the sword out of the cane, shouted "Hoo-Hah" and..... an umbrella opened up. I had the wrong cane. Fortunately, the disturbance in the bushes was a just a Danaus Plexippus.

'nuff

The salmon was great as we ate in our safe and secure kitchen.



Bobcats

Bobcats are common throughout Arizona. They are generally seen alone but can be in a group consisting of mother, mating pairs, and siblings. Bobcats are most active around sunset and sunrise; it is not uncommon to find one napping under a shrub in the back yard. Individual bobcats will defend a territory of one to 12 square miles.

Their mating seasons is Feb thru March and has an average litter of two to three kittens. The young kittens will stay with the adult cat for 12 months. They will feed on small mammals and birds. They have been known to eat lizards, snakes, and small pets, including house cats.

Bobcats rarely get rabies, and rarely attack people; however, if a bobcat does attack, it generally will have rabies symptoms; foaming mouth, erratic behavior, hyperactive or fearful paralyzed lethargic in behavior. Stay away and call 911 or your closest AZ Game & Fish Dept. or wildlife control business.

Bobcats would be attracted to a yard that has abundant wildlife. Feeding birds or spreading bird seed attracts other wildlife, which in turn attracts their predators.

To prevent an unwelcome guest, feed your pet indoors, keep shrubs and grass trimmed.

To discourage the animal, scare it off with loud noises or spray with a garden hose. If the animal is in a confined area, let it leave on its own. If there are kittens and you are able to tolerate them for a few weeks, let them leave on their own when they are large enough to leave the area. Bobcats will only keep visiting the same area if attractants of food, water and shelter aren't removed.

Community Board

The Helpers

Connie Spittler

Riding the crest of a desert arroyo, our property becomes a passageway for wildlife. We keep our eyes open for the animals and birds that come to visit. One season, a mother quail nested on the ground of our open atrium, where we could eavesdrop on her developing brood through the windowpanes.

When our Mid-western grandchildren came to visit, it was seven-year-old Hannah who pressed her nose against the glass and became resident companion to the mother quail. Hannah sat on the tile floor, guarding the nest from inside the house for long stretches of time. Whenever we wanted to find Hannah, we knew just where to look. I sat there a fair amount, finding the tranquil time often not available when grandkids' visits are brief and energy rides high. Sitting together and watching the quail family cast a special aura around us. We were inches away from the birds, yet we didn't frighten them because of the glass that separated us. If we were still, if we were quiet, we could see the chicks bob and scratch around their mother as they learned the ways of nature.

Hannah and I were watching together on the day the mother quail began to lead the chicks over the four-inch ledge that lead out into the desert. Hop. Skip. Up and over. Hop. Skip. Up and over. Each little bird did the calisthenics required to leave the protected nest and proceeded to conquering the unknown. The mother called to each one softly, offering encouragement. All went according to the designated plan until the turn of the tiniest chick. The little bird hopped again and again but couldn't make it over the concrete ledge to reach the rest of the family. The height was too great. The mother coaxed and cajoled then finally abandoned the last bird in the window well to care for the rest of the youngsters who foraged for seeds nearby. Hannah and I listened to the heartbreaking cheeping sounds of the forlorn, feathered babe. We were upset, too. I'd been told that once quail leave the nest, they do not come back, but I didn't want to share this information with Hannah. I knew she expected me to solve the problem. Her eyes held mine, searching for my answer.

Then I did have an idea. I grabbed a sturdy piece of heavy cardboard and explained the plan to Hannah. We hurried outside with the makeshift material. I let Hannah slip the ramp into place for the last chick, angling it to present an easy slope to the top of the ledge. We quickly retreated back to the inner window.

When the little bird scabbled up the cardboard and scooted out to join the others, we sighed in relief. It was a matter of cardboard and common knowledge, sympathy and simple wisdom.

The words of a poem by Emily Dickinson came to mind, and we went to the bookshelf and found her words.

*Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

For Hannah and me, the lines could be understood in a new light, because we had helped a bird, not into the nest, but out of it. But truly, on that sunny desert morning, my granddaughter Hannah and I had not lived in vain.

Reprinted from *Chicken Soup for the Grandparent's Soul*, Health Communications, Inc., 2002



Vote
Nov. 7th

Let Your Voice Be Heard..... *Vote Nov. 7th*

The following positions are on the ballot, as well as 19 propositions.
To review the candidates and propositions visit www.azsos.gov

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Slow Down!
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Bikers, and
Runners.