



Mar. 2005

P.O.Box 64173, Tucson, AZ 85728-4173

520-323-9299

CFE #7

**Annual Meeting
May 11, 2005
Wed. @ 7p.m.
East Murphey
Gallery
St. Philips' in the
Hills Church**



Welcome

We welcome all our new neighbors

Ann Bregman
1305 E Via Entrada

Barbara and Winton Wood
5121 N Via Soledad

Misty Navarro / Nicholas Greenson
1551 E Via Soledad

Diane and Keith Figgins
1512 E Via Soledad

Marcena and Kurt May
1321 E Condesa Segunda

Roberta and Richard Hay
5121 N Soledad Primera

Joanne and Edward Robinson
1550 E Via Soledad

Lisa and Ronald LaFaye
5515 N Entrada Quince

SHALL WE FORM A FIRE DISTRICT ?

By James Snedden

As residents are well aware, the foothills, including CAT 7, are served by Rural Metro, although Northridge has merged into the Northwest Fire District. Subscribing for fire protection is the choice of each individual homeowner; however, Rural Metro will respond to calls from non-subscribers. If it is a legitimate fire emergency, the homeowner is billed. Charges can be as high as \$20,000.00, which is not covered by insurance.

Last year, the Catalina Foothills Association board surveyed the areas regarding services provided to residents. Forty-five percent of the CFE #7 residents responded, so statistically the findings are quite accurate. We found that 4% of the residents don't subscribe to Rural Metro for fire protection. The average dues are \$311.00 per year. Eighty-six percent of the call-outs were for snake removal.

Preliminary findings indicate that forming a fire district in Cat 7 is a cost neutral proposition, as opposed to what we do now. If Northwest Fire District annexed us, we would probably pay a little more. Our only other viable option is to form our own fire district and contract the service to Rural Metro under a negotiated rate. Several fire districts in the county have that arrangement. The county would collect taxes for the district, so they would be deductible, which isn't the case now. Also, each homeowner in our area already pays a "fire district assistance tax" with their property tax. This tax is regulated by state statute so the county must collect it and then refund it to the local fire district; however, in the absence of a local fire district it is apportioned out to others in the county.

Unlike municipal fire districts, such as Tucson or Northwest, Rural Metro does not have any independent regulatory oversight. The only regulations imposed on them are a business license and a permit to ignore red lights and stop signs and drive on the wrong side of the road. The operation of a paramedic unit is regulated.

Since Municipal Fire Districts are required to have an elected Fire District Board to set

performance standards, the main advantage of forming a fire district is that of oversight. Under the current situation, Rural Metro will not provide any performance statistics, so we have no idea of response times or anything else. It's a take-it-or-leave-it scenario.

To further confuse matters, the City of Tucson is building a fire station on First and River. It is no secret that the city covets the Foothills for annexation. In fact, two areas west of First Avenue have requested that the city annex them so the new fire station and the Tucson Police Department can service them.

Since the city is restricted from annexing non-contiguous territory, CAT 7 is one of their "gateways to the foothills," as is CAT 4. During the symposium on the Future of the Foothills, a question posed to Albert Elias, Tucson's Director of Planning, was "what's in it for foothills residents to be annexed by the city?" The answer was Fire and Police protection.

It takes a lot of effort to form a fire district, so unless there is some positive sentiment expressed by the residents, the proposal is probably dead right here. Please call Jane Hoffmann at 323-9299 to make your wishes known. The lack of comment will be taken as an indication that you don't wish to pursue the formation of a fire district in CAT 7 any further.

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Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 7:00p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Oct 6th, Nov. 3rd, Dec. 1st, Jan. 5th, Feb. 2nd, Mar. 2nd, Apr. 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July/Aug. *no meetings.*)

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 Mslec51@aol.com noting subject as Cat 7 News. Deadline for March publication is Feb 14th and Octobers is Sept. 14th.

Do you have a story or a photo you would like to share? We would love any stories about Cat 7 old and new. Give us a call. We would love to hear from you.



CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President Warren Edminster 887-5997
Vice-president Jerry Bishop 615-5402
Treasurer Jerry Boyle 888-8279
Secretary to the Board
Jane Hoffmann 323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson Jerry Bishop 615-5402
Robert Parks 529-3673
Dan Smith 888-3167

Covenants Committee

Chairperson June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989
John Stephenson 529-4907
Jill Schneider 232-1273

Welcome Committee

Chairperson John Stephenson
Robert Parks

Nominating Committee

June LeClair-Bucko 577-0989
Jerry Boyle 888-8279

President's Message

Your board has been very busy this year, riding herd on a number of proposed remodeling and general construction projects. The numbers of each type of action will be found in tables entitled, "Architectural Review Committee 2004" and "Covenants Enforcement Committee 2004", in this issue.

Most of the issues that have come before the board are resolved by a reminder of the Covenants. However, there are those issues generally relating to Architectural Review Committee deliberation and enforcement that sometimes are of greater difficulty. Our actions of not granting a 'variance' may cause a perceived hardship for a particular homeowner. For this we are truly sorry. It is generally the consensus of the board, and we are often so reminded by the homeowners, that there is a reason for the CC & R's and that they are, and should be, strictly adhered to. Sometimes it is difficult to interpret them because of the language.

To preclude this language difficulty, an "Architectural Guidelines Committee" has followed the recommendations of our attorney in forming guidelines. The Architectural Guidelines (AGL) as developed, purely simplify the language of the existing CC & R's. They are not intended to change them in anyway. You will learn more about the AGL's at the Annual Meeting.

There are some sections of the existing CC & R's that should be addressed for updating. The original document has fairly and honestly framed an area in time. But times do change. An example of just one area that needs be addressed is found in Clause II, Para. 18, which states ".....no business of any nature nor any so-called home occupation, shall be conducted thereon." In this time of "Cyber Space", it is possible for any number of enterprises to be developed within ones' home without disturbing ones' neighbors in any way. Is this not a "....so called home occupation"? This is only one area to consider. There are several others.

The time to review and make corrections, if any, to the CC & R's is approaching rapidly. These documents are self-perpetuating on a ten-year cycle. January 1, 2006 will be the beginning of a new ten-year period and would be the ideal time to reformat or amend the CC & R's to be the guide for the next cycle.

A committee of Board Members and interested Homeowners must be formed in the near future to take over this task. Will you be one of those concerned homeowners? Please offer your services to the board.

Warren G. Edminster,
President, Catalina No. 7



Volunteers

The survival of your Board is dependant on the participation of the members of its community. Our future is only as strong and vital as the commitment of our residents. The Board is always looking for volunteers who wish to serve their community. Positions on the Board are three- year terms and can be held for two consecutive terms. There are two standing committees, Architectural and Covenants, beside the officer positions which are the President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary. Meetings are once a month, except for the months of July and August. If you think you would like to take part in serving your community at some time or would like more information on becoming a Board member, please call the Secretary (323-9299) who will pass your name onto the nominating committee. Also, if being on the Board is not possible, but you have an expertise which can help the Board, give us a call.



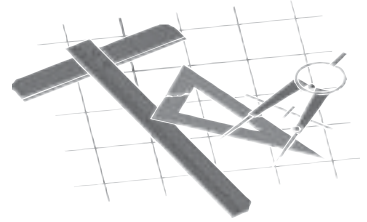
Committee Reports

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.

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



Architectural Guidelines for Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7

During the past year the Board has been developing a set of Architectural Guidelines, the use of which will facilitate your review of the requirements necessary for obtaining Architectural Review Committee approval to improve your home in Catalina Foothills Estates Number 7.

In creating this new document, we have taken paragraphs from the Protective Covenants which address building issues and attempted to add clarity to certain items which have caused confusion in the past. Furthermore, we have added new material which we felt was necessary to fill gaps in the Covenants. A further addition has been paragraphs to meet the provisions of recently adopted legislation.

The major new element introduced in the guidelines is a definitive height restriction. The Bylaws give the Architectural Review Committee authority to approve (or deny) the height of structures, yet there is no definition of a height restriction contained within the Protective Covenants. Members of the Board strongly endorse the idea of preserving the single story character of the neighborhood and, for this reason, felt it was imperative to establish a well-defined height restriction.

It is the hope of the Board that the guidelines are adopted no later than when the Board meets on June 1st. Prior to adoption, however, the Board would like to receive feedback from residents to establish a consensus regarding the new guidelines. If you would like to receive a draft copy to review, please call Jane Hoffmann at 323-9299 and she will see that you have one. Your comments need to be received by the Board no later than May 4, 2005 in order for us to include them into our presentation at the Annual Meeting on May 11.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Jerry Bishop Vice-president CAT 7

Architectural Review Sept 2004 to Feb 2005

	Inquiries	Approved	Active	Final Review
Additions	8	8	4	4
Ext. Painting	2	2	1	1
Driveways	3	2		2
Landscaping	2	1		1
New Entry	1			
Patio	2	2		2
Pool	4	3	2	1
Ramada	2	2	1	1
Screening	1	1		1
Skylights	1	1	1	
Solar Panels	1	1		1
Stucco	1	1	1	
Walls	1			
Windows	4	4	3	1

Covenant Review Sept 2004 – Feb. 2005

	Inquiries	Reviews	Rectified	Pending
Clothesline	1	1	1	
Debris	3	3	2	1
Fencing	3	3	2	1
Home Business	1	1	1	
Noise	1	1	1	
Signs	2	2	1	1
Trash Containers	13	13	11	2
Trimming Trees	1	1	1	
White-roof	1	1		1
Vegetation	2	2	2	
Vehicles	1	1	1	

Sign Post

We are having our sign posts re-painted. Please use caution while driving, some of our signs are in precarious places.

Also note: Since the painter is in the neighborhood and there are some mailboxes that need a new coat of paint. You may contract the painter for a fee of \$30. to do your mailbox. To contract this work with the painter please call 903-2499.

If you contract the painter to do your mailbox, this work is between you and the painter. Cat 7 is not in any way responsible for this contract.



Excerpts from our CC&R's Bi- Yearly Review

The Board has decided to have a section in our newsletter, which addresses reoccurring violations of our CC&R's. We hope to refresh our residents' knowledge of our Covenants which we agreed upon when we moved into the Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7.

All of the below items are in the Restatement of Declarations of Protective Covenants for Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7, Clause II.

WHITE ROOFS: With ongoing maintenance of our homes, it should be noted that in CAT 7, white roofs or off- white roofs are not permitted. An Architectural form should be filled out and submitted for review when recoating work is going to be done.

Paragraph 4

D. That the roof is either of a material, style, or color different from that specified by the approving agent. No white or off white, or reflective roofs shall be permitted.



TRASH CONTAINERS: We have deterred many new residents from putting out trash containers, by visiting them when they move here with a welcome packet, and informing them of our most common violations to the CC&R's. (Our most violated agreement is trash containers not being concealed). Even though the packet has helped minimize trash container violations, we still have residents that violate this agreement. It is not the intention of the Covenant Committee to become the "Trash Container Police." When a violation is reoccurring or is brought to the awareness of the Board, it is the Covenant Committee's obligation through the Bylaws to enforce the CC&R's. A postcard is sent to violators as a reminder when this violation occurs, if it is re-occurring, a visit by the Covenant Committee will occur. *Please comply, as it is an agreement made by all our residents.*

Paragraph 17

Trash or rubbish containers shall remain concealed at all times from view of other lots and roads, and shall not at any time be placed along street right-of-way.



DEBRIS: With spring right around the corner, many of us will be tiding up our yards. As a reminder, there is no dumping allowed on your property or in the washes. Also, as an extra note, in our last publication we reviewed what is permissible in regards to our natural vegetation. Please make sure you review our covenants before clearing any vegetation.

Paragraph 5

No lot or portion thereof shall be used in whole or in part for the storage or dumping of rubbish of any character whatsoever, nor for the storage of any property or thing that will cause such lot to appear in an unclean or untidy condition or that will be obnoxious to the eye; nor shall any substance, thing or material be kept upon any lot that will emit foul or obnoxious odors, or will cause any noise that will or might unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet, comfort or serenity of the occupant of surrounding property.

HOME SALES: It has been an ongoing struggle with realtors and the Board. *Please make note that if you are selling your home, Open House signs are only permitted at the entrances of Via Entrada (Via Entrada & River Rd. and Via Entrada & 1st Ave.) and the home site. We suggest you tell your realtor to put the address on the signs at the entrances.*

Paragraph 6

No billboards or advertising signs of any character shall be erected, placed, permitted or maintained on any lot or on any building erected thereon, other than name plate of the occupant of any residence upon which his/her professional title may also be added, and provided so such sign or name plate shall exceed a size of one square foot. Such sign must be of a uniform shape as designated by the approving agent. Provided however that permission is hereby granted for the erection and maintenance of not more than one signboard on each building site during the course of construction of a new single-family dwelling and upon its completion, during the course of its initial sale, which signboard shall not exceed five square feet. Said sign shall not include and name other than the contractor's and/or lenders names. An Open house signboard may be placed on any property which is then open for inspection by prospective buyers. Such open house signboard must be removed at the end of each day the house is open for inspection. No other signboards, including "for sale" signs are allowed at any time.

Dog Debris: Recently the Board has received several complaints about dog debris in the washes and along some of our streets where dogs are walked. The Board has followed up by doing an informal survey of the washes and streets. Certainly some of the problem in the washes is due to our wild dog cousins - the coyotes; some is definitely not. While CFE #7 appears to be relatively rural and that nature will take care of natural things, it isn't so rural that the problem can be ignored. The Board reminds pet owners to respect their neighbors and clean up after their pets.



TREES: Trees can be an asset to our landscape design. When choosing a tree, please take into consideration its height and growth pattern. In CAT 7 there are no restrictions on what type of tree that can be planted, but consideration should be taken on how it will impact the environment. The fruit, seeds, and flowers can attract certain animal life. Also what impact will it have to your property when it matures, or the impact to your neighbors? Some trees that have been planted 30 years ago in our back yards are a problem with our "principal views". According to our CC&R's, you may be requested to have these trees trimmed at your expense. Planting is a conscious effort to enhance our properties without causing harm or imbalance to our area.

RE/MAX Hot Air Balloon Visits Cat 7



Re-cap of the Symposium

The symposium on February 19th was a great opportunity, thanks to the Catalina Foothills Association, for all residents from the foothills area to hear the different points-of-view from the distinguished panel. The panel consisted of: Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry; Director of Planning, City of Tucson, Albert Elias; Business leaders Ken Abrahams, Vice-president of Diamond Ventures and Brian Johnson, Managing Director for Loews Ventana Canyon Resort; and Moderator, Dr Barbara Becker. A few of the subjects brought up by the panelists were water, transportation, taxes (county vs. city), annexation, growth, and the preservation of our area.

The majority of the panel viewed the area as being built-out; there would always be change, but it would be subtle change. Ken Abrahams stated, even subtle changes aren't so subtle when they are close to you. Both Ken and Chuck Huckelberry agreed that the growth of the area in the past thirty years was based on agreements that took place in the 50's. This consisted of a density plan and bulls-eye development plan for the major intersections. Brian Johnson said the next change came when resort developments were marketed in the area. Ken referred to the foothills area as the "beach front property of Tucson", and it is in demand.

Government, the market, and the change in demographics will all govern what will evolve. The foothills are unique for its location and environment. With the market demand, the values have changed dramatically and will continue to change. Brian Johnson said that there is always the fear of change and growth. We need the private and public sector to work together to ensure the health of our community because without change you get stagnant. It is a concern not just for business, but all who are in the area in general; to stop economic growth is damaging to the communities' health.

Change can be a concern for local neighborhoods. Ken Abrahams felt that with property values continually going up, there will be an out-valuing of the existing structures on these properties with the result showing in subdivisions and teardowns. It was felt that the foothills area will see more re-development. To ensure how you want your neighborhood to evolve/redevelop, it is important that residents and government cooperate on managing that change. Chuck Huckelberry expressed concern that government cannot govern each individual neighborhoods' desires; but there must be an effort to protect and not extinguish the envi-

ronment that we have. Ken Abrahams stressed that on a neighborhood level it is vital that CC&R's and Architectural Guidelines continue to be enforced. These constitute the only vital way for residents to control what happens in their neighborhoods.

The panelists agreed that issues that everyone will need to address on a larger scale are water and transportation. The issue of water will be an ongoing effort at all governmental levels to work cohesively with the growth and demand. The same is true with transportation. Both, Albert Elias and Chuck Huckelberry, expressed concerns that transportation needs are a factor for both county and city government. Planning on all governmental levels is essential to meet the rapid growth in the area and the need to move cars. Ken Abrahams stated you cannot simply put a band aid on this hemorrhaging problem. The decisions made about transportation will have an impact in the foothills. Planning for immediate problems and the need to develop foresight of future needs is essential, and the involvement at all levels, private and public, is necessary for success.

There were a number of questions from the floor about density, growth, parks, environmental issues, competition between Pima County and the City of Tucson, taxes and annexation. One of the biggest concerns in the foothills is annexation. Even though Albert Elias expressed that the city is not looking to swallow up the foothills area and that their efforts have recently been to annex areas south and south-east of Tucson, money is still the driving force. He stated that the process is a very democratic one, in which each individual homeowner is solicited. He stated that on the city's web site you can find the process and information on annexation. (www.ci.tucson.az.us/ on the web page go to the title "Future Outlook" you'll find annexation). An area is only solicited if it is adjacent to an already annexed area. This is a real concern to Cat 7 homeowners as we are adjacent to Riverview Estates, which was annexed by the city. Albert Elias felt that the individual homeowners would gain through better police and fire service, and it would also allow for a voice in the election and function of City government. Chuck Huckelberry felt there is not much gain, even if the sell is to combine like services, and the trade-off financially for the individual would be minimal. Brian Johnson said he felt that the fear of annexation is not knowing the long-term outcome. Ken Abrahams voiced that each area should weigh the trade-offs very seriously prior to making any decision on annexation.

The symposium gave residents of the foothills an opportunity to hear the commentaries on the Future of the Foothills and to voice our concerns. Thanks again to the Catalina Foothills Association for its hard work. If one thing was clear from what the panelists said, it was that you should be involved with the process. What happens in the future is a conscious decision that we all should take part in.



Subdivisions on Campbell Ave.



*Subdivision in our back-yard, literally.
Camino Miraval*



*Bulls-eye development allowed at major intersections
Campbell & Sunrise*

“Don’t Feed the Beast Campaign”



If you remember, last summer we had a number of mountain lions in the Sabino Canyon area, as well as, other incidents in the southwest between humans and wildlife. The “Don’t Feed the Beast Campaign” is an effort by the AZ Game and Fish to educate residents who live in wildlife areas how to coexist with wildlife.

In CAT No. 7, many residents enjoy the wildlife, but there are those who insist on “helping the wildlife by feeding them”. It cannot be stressed enough that feeding wildlife does not help them. Wildlife become desensitized to humans and cause dependency on feeding and it is the source of the human and wildlife confrontations.

CAT No. 7, with the many washes that run thru our community, has had the opportunity to observe many different species of wildlife. There have been sightings of roadrunners, various snakes, Gila monsters, ground squirrels, rabbits, hawks, bats, owls, javelina, mountain lions, bobcats and almost always a visit from coyotes to name just a few.

You are sharing the land with native wildlife and you should understand the patterns of wildlife. Open spaces are disappearing, greenways and washes are often the corridors of travel for much of the wildlife. It is important that you live responsibly, not just to your human neighbors, but also to your wildlife neighbors.

There are four basic attractants to wildlife: Food, Water, Shelter and Space.

FOOD AND WATER: Food is the main cause of wildlife confrontations. Deliberate feeding hurts the wildlife. It creates a dependency for a food source, but it also is very unhealthy for the wildlife. By eating furnished food, they do not get the proper nutrients they really need to stay healthy. Wildlife will become desensitized to humans by the constant feeding, which creates confrontation. Wildlife does not know the difference if Sally is feeding them or Joe. They just know that humans are a food source!

You might not intentionally be feeding wildlife. Are you feeding domestic animals outside? Do you have lush non-native plants? Non-native plants are like candy to wildlife. Don’t leave small domestic animals unattended, also small children can fall prey to larger wildlife species.

SHELTER AND SPACE: Crawl spaces, low shrubs, piles of rocks, or wood are inviting places for many different wildlife species. You might not mind the few you know that are inhabiting these areas, but remember you cannot always just invite the ones you want. The cute little ground squirrel might have a lurking snake awaiting him or you!

To minimize the attraction of wildlife here are a few suggestion for discouragement.

DO NOT FEED THEM

- Do not feed your pet outdoors,
- Keep garbage well sealed,
- Keep your outdoor grill clean,
- Bird feeders should have spill pans,
- Trim low ground cover and keep it clean.
- Plant native vegetation,
- Do not create piles of debris,

If you encounter wildlife such as bears, bobcats, mountain lions, javalina, and/or coyotes they can be frightened off by loud noise such as using an aluminum can with some rocks or anything that will cause noise by shaking it.

At our CFE 7 Annual Meeting we will show a video, furnished by the AZ Game and Fish Dept, about the topic of the co-habitation of humans and wildlife.

Urban Coyotes



Coyotes are the most adaptive wildlife in the area. They are seen frequently in the CAT No. 7 area and can be intimidating, especially if you encounter a pack. It is rare to be bitten by a coyote. Rabies has an extremely low occurrence in coyotes in the state of Arizona. The risk is when the coyote become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding. When the coyote loses its fear and learns to see humans, their yards, and their pets as food sources and safe havens, trouble

starts. Although they are generally curious, coyotes are timid animals and normally run away if challenged. It is not their norm to attack or pursue humans. Children over the age of five generally play in large groups, too large, to attract a coyote’s interest. Children under five should be supervised at all times, especially when near a pool, around streets, with domestic dogs, or where wildlife is a concern. Teach them to remain calm, not to shriek or scream (it might sound like a wounded prey item to the coyote) and move toward an adult. The most successful way to frighten a coyote away is to appear as large and threatening as possible. Maintaining eye contact, making aggressive gestures toward the animal (waving of arms or walking stick, handkerchief), shouting in a deep voice, all are proven techniques for either making the coyote flee or ending the encounter.

Dogs most likely come into conflict with coyotes or are endangered by them if they are a size of a cat or smaller. To ensure your pet is safe, the best action is to supervise your pet at all times when outside. If you notice a coyote when you are walking your small dog, let the coyote know you are there and gather your dog in your arms, or keep it as close to you as possible while using one of the deterrents described previously. If your pet is a cat, the best defense is to keep your cat indoors permanently. Cats are not just prey for coyotes but also for owls and hawks.

Fenced yards are good deterrents, but coyotes can easily get over a 6-foot fence, some even higher. Again, the coyotes attempt to be in your yard as a comfort factor. You must aggressively discourage coyotes feeling comfortable around your yard. Eliminate food sources and do not make a safe haven for their visit. It is crucial to understand the importance of a unified neighborhood effort not to have a regular food source in the neighborhood which will keep the coyotes from setting up residence in your area.



Plant Life

Invasive Exotic Species

Recently there have been a few articles discussing and educating the public about the invasion of non-native exotic plants. It is important you understand what you are planting and how it affects the area in which we live. Our CC&R's do protect our vegetation outside our walled areas (Clause II paragraph 3 & 12) but inside our yards we do have the ability to plant other plants not native to our area. We should plant with caution because even though these plants are contained within our walls their seeds are not. Seeds travel by animals, clothing, wind, etc. Many of these invasive species are exotic grasses which are fast growing quick seeding and a fire hazard. Even though they can be effective in a landscape design, we very well can be adding to the loss of our desert environment.

Saguaro National Park has started a plan to fight these non-native species, which have taken a strong hold in 600 of its 91,000 acres of park land. If not controlled, these plants can increase their invasion to 12,000 acres in a short amount of time. These exotic grasses have the ability to take advantage of the spaces available between native perennials, threatening desert scrub communities. These grasses change the density of the landscape and are fuel for hot and fast burning fires. Such grasses will re-sprout after a fire, which is not the case for most of the natural vegetation in a desert scrub community. These plants are not just a fire hazard but also rob the natural vegetations chances to re-seed.

Our attempt to make our residents aware of the hazards in having such plants will help preserve our environment and control invasion by these exotic plants. It is best not to have these plants. To eliminate them, it is best to remove them by hand or by the use of herbicides. REMEMBER to place debris in trash bags – otherwise the dried plants/seeds will be spread by the wind and your work will be for nothing. We treasure our environment. It is up to us to take part in preserving it.



Target exotic species:

Buffelgrass : is aggressive and reproduces quickly. It can fuel hot, fast burning fires and is now popping up in alleyways and back yards.



Fountain grass and buffelgrass share the same genus. Fountain grass is aggressive and like buffelgrass it is used for landscaping especially in the cities, because of its aesthetic appeal.

Oleander is becoming invasive, it is starting to escape cultivation when no one thought it could.



Saharan mustard and Malta star thistle are annual plants. Saharan mustard is in the same genus as the turnip. It looks like a mustard plant with a flower. One plant makes about 1,000 seeds. Saharan mustard has almost completely taken over in the dune areas. Malta star thistle is a yellow-flowered plant that easily wipes out native vegetation as it spreads.

For more information on this topic please visit the following web sites:

- www.usgs.gov
- www.aznps.org
- www.co.pima.az.us
- www.uapress.arizona.edu/online.bks/weeds/species.htm

Native vegetation to Catalina Foothills Estates No.7

The paloverde-saguaro-bursage community consist mostly of small leaved trees and shrubs as well as numerous species of cacti. Much of the Sonoran Desert is covered by plants that are less than 5 feet tall. In the Santa Catalina's, there are *more than* 30 plant species. Below you will find a list of

some of the Perennial Plants of the Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7.

- Barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*)
- Beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*)
- Blue Paloverde (*Cercidium floridum*)
- Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*)
- Cane Cholla (*Opuntia spinosior*)
- Canyon ragweed (*Ambrosia ambrosioides*)
- Christmas cactus (*Opuntia leptocaulis*)
- Condalia (*Condalia sp*)
- Creosote bush (*Larrea tridentate*)
- Desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*)
- Desert hackberry (*Celtis pallida*)
- Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)
- Fishhook cactus (*Mammillaria microphyllum*)
- Foothills paloverde (*Cercidium microphyllum*)
- Hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus sp.*)
- Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*)
- Jumping cholla (*Opuntia fulgida*)
- Limber bush (*Jatropha cardiophylla*)
- Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*)
- Mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*)
- Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)
- Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia engelmannii*)
- Purple prickly pear (*Opuntia violacea*)
- Range ratany (*Krameria parvifolia*)
- Triangle-leaf bursage (*Ambrosia deltoidea*)
- White bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*)
- Whithorn arcia (*Acacia constricta*)
- Wolfberry (*Lycium sp*)
- Yellow paper flower (*Psilostrophe cooperi*)
- Zinnia (*Zinnia pumila*)

The interplay between moisture, soil texture, depth and surface are vital to the establishment and survival of desert plants. Small washes provide somewhat greater moisture availability than the adjoining level area, and the broad sand filled washes create ideal conditions for the rapid infiltration of moisture into bed of the wash. These create improved conditions for the growth of many of the larger shrubs and trees found in the bajadas.

Parts of this article are taken from *Plants of the Bajada*, written by Martin Kirpiscak. Oct 2000

It's a Blooming Season!

Wildflower Websites

- www.aznps.org
- www.azreporter.com
- www.desertusa.com
- www.tohonochoyulpark.org
- www.desertmuseum.org
- www.tucsonbotanical.org
- www.arizoensis.org

Stop and smell the flowers



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DESERT TOWER

by Jane Hoffmann

The "Desert Tower" that is at the entrance of Via Entrada and River Road was commissioned by John Murphey in 1964/65. AnneVia, whose husband Tom worked closely with Mr. Murphey and this particular project, shared with the Board that the original entrance tower was to be made out of huge boulders mined outside of the City of Oracle on the back road to Mt. Lemmon. The largest crane in Tucson was used to lift the boulders and the crane snapped in half from the weight of one of the boulders. It took six months to repair the crane and the company was not willing to work any further on this project.

At this point, Mr. Murphey contacted Juan Worner Baz, a famous architect from Mexico City, to design a revised "Desert Tower." In a letter dated 21 April, 1966, John Payson wrote Mr. Baz, that "Water has been installed to flow off the top of each of the tiers of block, however, it is not working satisfactorily because when we get enough volume of water to be visible, it drops straight to the bottom without cascading down the sides. Also, our experiments with antiquing have not been successful. Unless you have some suggestions, we probably will wait until

your next trip to solve these problems."

Water did flow for several years, but when the winds blew it was a constant problem of cars getting soaked by the spray. It was finally decided to disconnect the water feature.

For you engineering buffs, we quote from an 8 February 1996 letter from Rod Gomez (of Rod Gomez and Associates, Consulting Engineers, Tucson) to John Payson: "This project was designed in accordance with the provisions of the "Uniform Building Code – 1964 Ed. It was found that seismic rather than wind forces governed the tower design. However, the seismic forces would be equivalent to a wind velocity of approximately 120 miles per hour. The bearing value of the soil was assumed to be 1500 pounds per square foot. With an allowable one-third increase when seismic or wind forces are exerted



its value would be 2000 pounds per square foot. The actual bearing value at maximum loading – vertical and horizontal – was found to be only 1125 pounds per square foot due to physical requirements of the footing."

Juan Worner Baz designed the Murphey home and also the "new" addition to the Broadway Village. Mr. Baz is the individual responsible for bringing up the statues from Mexico that adorn the Broadway Village. He designed homes in El Encanto and also a home on Vista Valverde.

Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7 was the first development in which Mr Murphey introduced the new concept of the "pod development." The county agreed to try the concept partially because of the terrain. The pod development is distinguished by the use of small cul-de-sacs off of main roads for clusters of homes and large open areas in between. This is one of the main features that make our Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7 so very unique and special even today.

Thanks to Anne Via, Area 5, and Valla Merriman of the Murphey Investment Trusts, Catalina Foothills Estates Partnerships, for sharing this information with us.