



FOOTNOTES Newsletter

CATALINA FOOTHILLS ESTATES No. 7 ASSOCIATION

www.CFE7.org

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

520-323-9299

April 2008



We welcome all our new neighbors

Welcome

Dennis & Judith Hefand
1241 E. Sombre Lomas

Nancy Key
5352 N Via Entrada

Leya & Christopher Byrne
1741 Entrada Doce

Charles Hester &
Katherine Dieffenbach
5425 N Soledad Segunda

Kraig & Leah Mau-Beeman
1021 E. Via Soledad

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.



Our Annual Meeting will be Thursday May 8th St Philip's in the Hills Church

East Murphey Gallery

@ 6:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch

6:30 pm

Social Time

Refreshments

Meeting starts at 7pm



On-Line

Often the job of the Board entails educating the resident of our CC&R's. I'm always surprised that more residents don't utilize our website. (www.cfe7.org) Some years ago we updated the site to include the present governing board, some history of Cat 7, maps, **the CC&R's**, the forms to submit for construction or remodeling, information on covenant issues, links to native plant and wildlife, past newsletters which have a vast amount of information on our community, and links to often used resources.

When we welcome new residents we always hear how wonderful it is and they are looking forward to enjoying the area. Unfortunately, our next visit is to warn them about a violation due to a lack of familiarity regarding the CC&R's. Even long term residents are at fault of not reviewing the CC&R's before they begin their project. It is all at your finger tips on the internet or we are always a phone call away.

Community

Our board is a volunteer board who is one of the most active in the Foothills. We have sustained by volunteers to be an active member of the community instead of using a HOA management company who don't take as much interest as our residents. Some of our homeowners are not able to give the time that is needed to serve on the board, but there are many ways in which you can give back to your community.

Pick up garbage on your walk

Send in an article for the news

Drive slower

Plant responsibly

Don't feed the animals

Paint your mailbox

Put in a solar light for your mailbox

Don't remove natural vegetation

Clean up a median in your cul-de sac

Be a responsible pet owner

Report suspicious activity

Submit your plans on any construction

Trim your trees

Clear debris from your property

Be respectful to your neighbors

Be a NW Block Leader

Join a committee

Have an expertise, offer assistance

Attend an Annual Meeting

It is your community. Every little bit you do helps maintain or enhance its quality.

Open Board Meetings

The Board generally meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Jan. 9th, Feb. 6th, Mar. 5th, Apr. 2nd, May 7th, June 4th, July/Aug. *no meetings*, Sept. 3rd, Oct 1st, Nov.5th, Dec.3rd, 2008)

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 board meetings, there is a ten minute period for "Resident Related Issues". These must be scheduled two weeks in advance with the secretary.

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 April publication is March 30th and October's is Sept. 28th.

CFE # 7 Board of Directors

President	Mike Simons	742-7737
Vice-president	Gary Sax	232-1273
Treasurer	Jerry Boyle	888-8279
Secretary to the Board	Jane Hoffmann	323-9299

Architectural Review Committee

Chairperson	Gary Sax	232-1273
	Warren Edminster	887-5997
	Phil Matthews	299-8886

Covenants Committee

Chairperson	Joanne Robinson	615-1938
	Linda Grossman	299-4718
	June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989

Welcome Committee

Chairperson	Linda Grossman	299-4718
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Nominating Committee

June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
Gary Sax	232-1273
Linda Grossman	299-4718

Media Committee

June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
Mike Simons	742-7737
Joanne Robinson	615-1938

Neighborhood Watch Committee

June LeClair-Bucko	577-0989
<i>CFE7NW@msn.com</i>	

Do you have a story or a photo you would like to share? We would love any stories about Cat 7 old and new or any suggestions for either our web site or newsletter.

*We would love to hear from you.
cfe7news@msn.com*

President's Message

Ah, it is Spring, 2008. The ides of March are here and we have...snow on the Catalinas! It is such a pleasure to take in the wonderful views provided by our unique neighborhood, to enjoy this year's especially verdant hills, the twists and turns of our roads, and to listen to the sounds of nature all around us!

Alas, the snow lasted for only a day or so, but thankfully the views, the nature, the special kind of community that we love and in which choose to live remains. These things remain much as they were envisioned by John Murphey when our protective covenants were created in the mid-1960's.

In my twelve short years in Tucson, I have visited many unique and wonderful neighborhoods and housing developments, but I choose to live in CFE7 above all the others. What is it that makes CFE7 so special, even now, some 40 years after inception?

As former resident and HOA President Larry Cox wrote in 1997, "...Much care was taken when the lots were drawn and sold. Utilities were buried and houses were placed in such a way to ensure quality of life. Desert vegetation was protected to make certain terrain was unspoiled. The protective covenants and the commitment of the people who have moved here make Catalina Foothills Estates #7 one of Tucson's best places to live."

I am grateful to those homeowners and Board members before me who invested so much of their time and energy in our HOA. I am committed to serving our HOA in a way that keeps and protects this special place. A great way to help is to volunteer and join one of the various committees, such as the Neighborhood Watch. I and the Board welcome your support and assistance, and we look forward to meeting you at the Annual Meeting in May!

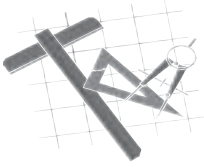
-Mike Simons



"Top 10 Ways To Keep Your Neighbors Happy"

- #10 Respect others' views
- #9 Clean up any stray litter
- #8 Adhere to speed limits, and instruct contractors to do the same
- #7 Share knowledge of good contractors and services
- #6 Ensure spotlights are shielded from others' windows
- #5 Help keep noise levels down
- #4 Always get approval of construction prior to commencement
- #3 Pick up after your dog
- #2 Watch out for and be considerate of each other
- #1 Play an active role by attending the monthly and annual meetings

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

Architectural Review Oct. 2007 to Apr. 2008

	Apr.	Pending	Comp.	Disa.
Addition	10	3	8	
Driveway Work	4		3	
Entry Ways	2	1	1	
Gate				
Garage/ carport	6	2	4	1
Guest House	1	1	1	
Landscape	5	1	4	1
Painting	1	2		
Replace Door/Windows	5	1	4	
Ramada	2		2	
Remodel	2	2	1	1
Roof Work	7	2	4	
Solar	2	1	1	
Swimming Pool	2	1	2	
Walkways	2		2	
Wall/Fence	8	1	5	3



Covenant Review Oct. 2007 to Apr. 2008

	Review	Rectified	Pending
A/C	2	1	1
Debris	2	2	
Lights	1	1	
Stagnant Pool	1		1
Trash Containers	5	5	
Mailbox	1		1
Home Bus.	1	1	
Signs	2	2	
Vegetation	2	1	
Unapproved Const.	2		2
Mech. Equip	1	1	
Non-resident completed & pending issues:			
Wash debris	1	1	

You might have seen this article in the CFA news, It is being repeated here in our news. Why you ask, we have speeding issues. We need to all slow down. We need to tell those who come to our homes that we care about our community and respectfully ask them to obey our speed limits. So please cut out the below article or print it from our web-site and send it to those providers that come to your home. If **we** don't collectively make an effort to reduce our speeding, measures to insure the safety of our community will have to be taken



I don't know where your going.

I ask you at what cost do you want to get there?

Our community has bicyclist, runners, skate boarders, roller bladders, walkers with their dog, walkers with their kids or grandchildren, and even some wildlife using our roads. Our roads were **not** designed for drivers to go 40 mph or more. The speed limit is **25 mph** unless posted differently. Our roads are windy, they have hidden driveways, there are blind spots. So what will it take for you to slow it down? *More signs, speed bumps, traffic tickets, or a horrible accident?*

I'm sure many of you will say it's not you, OK but it's your pool service, it's your contractor, it's the roofer, it's your maid, it's a delivery person or any of the service providers that come to your home.

Please SLOW DOWN, and ask your service providers to respect our speed limits in our community. It's for everyones well being.



Results of the Fire Service Protection Options Poll



Many thanks to all of you who responded to the recent poll regarding the fire protection service options available to CAT 7 residents. Based on the information provided in the last issue of the newsletter, 89 replies were received, representing 28.5% of the membership. The majority of the respondents (60%) favor maintaining the existing voluntary subscription service with Rural/Metro where the annual fee is based on the square footage of the residence.

The next highest number of replies were from those who favor annexation to the City of Tucson in order to receive fire protection service. There were 19 replies in this category, representing 20% of the total responses. In the poll, no other option received more than 10% of the vote.

It was most helpful to receive your individual comments relating to fire service issues. The comments will remain on file for further reference and, we shall continue to monitor the situation to see if any changes are instituted to justify future action on our part.

Neighborhood Clean-Up Day



Road Pick Up

We all know that residents of Cat 7 would never discard any trash on the streets, but there are workmen and others who pass through and have little respect for our environment. With this in mind, we invited all residents to participate in a Saturday morning "Road Clean Up" on January 12th.

Fourteen people met at the corner of Via Entrada and Foothills Drive on that date. Everyone was issued an orange vest, a blue trash bag and marching orders. On a map, folks selected the streets that they wished to walk and the map was so marked.

It is satisfying to note that almost all of the streets were picked up in about 2 hours. My heart-felt thanks to all those who spent a part of their Saturday morning to make our streets in Cat 7 pristine.

Neighborhood Watch

It is a little over a year since we organized the Neighborhood Watch in Cat 7. We have over 30 block leaders who have organized over 190 residents to participate in the program. We still have a few areas which have not organized and we welcome them to get involved. We have approximately 300 residents who reside in Cat 7. If you're interested in organizing your cul-de-sac, street or just a few homes in your area, please contact us and we will get you on board. If you are new to the neighborhood, give a call or e-mail me at www.cfe7nw@msn.com.

Since organizing, our crime statistics have dropped dramatically. There are three areas of crime which afflict the community. 1st- Larceny which is theft from your property or vehicle, 2nd is Auto theft, the 3rd is Burglary which is the theft from a building or home. (see chart below)

Burglaries have caused a concern to our residents since we seem to remain at a steady number of burglaries. With our properties so large in area, we are not always able to know if our neighbors are being targeted. It is important to practice home security measures, using home security systems, planting vegetation as a deterrent to windows, having newspapers picked up or stopped, leaving lights and radios on timers when away, etc. You might want to do a role play as if you were a burglar coming into your home. What would they find and take? What would you do or how would it affect you? The Sheriff's Volunteer Auxiliary has a security inspection and video ID programs for free.

One other crime that is not reflected on the Sheriff's website is mail theft. This is a federal offense and is not shown on their statistics. Mail theft is on the increase, so please take measures to insure your personal information can not be taken. Since my tracking of all occurrences in Cat 7 from the fall of 2006, we have had 4 mail thefts in 2006, Thefts in 2007 were 6, and we have had none in 2008.

I thank all those who are participating and all the block leaders for their hard work in organizing and making our neighborhood watch a success.

Keep up the great work and **Be Aware, Be Safe.**

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Larceny	6	4	4	1
Larceny Veh.	4	14	2	0
Auto Theft	2	2	0	2
Attempted	0	5	0	0
Burglary	6	6	4	2
Attempted			2	





Our homes are one of our most valuable possessions and typically one of our largest investments. This is largely why homeowners

feel great stress when a disaster strikes. Burst pipes, leaky appliances and weathered roofs are common problems that lead to damage to a home as well as unplanned financial responsibility.

Insurers are canceling policies, curtailing coverage and raising rates to reduce the growing number of claims paid for water damage events. A water damage claim can be a red flag to insurers as well as to future homebuyers, signaling a likelihood of repeat water claims. **This is especially true of older homes with aging plumbing parts.** The result is increased insurance costs and reduced home marketability.

The good news is that there are many ways to prevent water related issues. If homeowners take a few minutes each year to inspect their household water fittings and water pressure, millions of dollars in water damage could be saved every year. Just as you change the batteries in your household smoke detectors each year, you should inspect your water pipes and fittings annually.

Some Precautionary Measures:

1. Know the location of your water shut-off valve. Be sure that the entire family knows how to shut-off household water supplies in the event of a sudden pipe or hose break.

2. Keep angle stops working as they were designed. Angle stops are valves located under your kitchen and bathroom sinks, at your washing machine, at the toilet, and refrigerator icemaker. There are angle stops for both hot and cold water. Angle stops need to be “exercised” regularly to make sure they are not frozen in the open position. Every six or so months simply turn the angle stops off and on a few times. Never force a valve that is frozen in position. This means they can’t be turned one way or the other. Most angle stops are of the gate variety and are made of materials that may fail over time. Replacement of these valves with new ball variety valves is recommended when they are showing signs of leaking or if they have “frozen” in the open position. Consult a plumbing professional as soon as possible.

3. Inspect water supply lines around your house. These lines are connected from the angle stop to appliances. If hoses indicate wear, replace them. Consider replacing hoses to major appliances every two to five years.

Water heater- Periodically, check for water damage in the flooring around your hot water heater.

Washer- Metal mesh hoses are recommended for washing machines because they leak when they wear rather than burst. Rubber hoses give little warning before they burst at the end of their life cycle. You can also prevent a 500 gallons per hour flood with a safety valve that automatically closes your hot and cold water supplies.

Dishwasher and ice maker- These lines are often overlooked because they are hidden. Replace plastic tubing with either soft copper or steel braided supply lines.

Faucets and toilets- Experts prefer stainless steel braided hoses with threaded couplings on both ends for sink and toilet lines.

4. Check the water pressure regulator. Water pressure regulators take the water that is delivered by your water provider and regulate it to between 50 and 70 psi (pounds per square inch). The pieces in the water pressure regulator that reduce the water pressure are made of rubber and metal. Over a period of time, they can fail. When the water pressure regulator fails, water pressure to the home is allowed to increase. This puts a strain on valves, hoses and appliances that they were not designed to withstand high pressure. Unchecked, excessive water pressure may cause a rupture in the supply lines or valves.

A water pressure test gauge can help determine if water pressure is excessive. Simply connect the gauge to an outdoor faucet, and turn on the water to determine the water pressure. Make sure the faucet used is “regulated”. Some outdoor faucets are unregulated. If the pipe connected to the faucet comes out of the wall, there is a fairly good chance that faucet is regulated.

A working water pressure regulator reduces the strain on plumbing fixtures and increases their service life. Replacing an old water pressure regulator, including parts and labor, will cost much less than a homeowner’s standard \$500 insurance deductible.

5. Turn off the main valve to the house when you are gone out of town. Many homeowners have returned from vacation to find their washer or toilet hoses have burst, flooding their homes.

6. Never leave the house with appliances still operating. This includes washers, dryers and dishwashers.

Some Maintenance Tips::

1. Repair window and door cracks with caulk. Replace old or dried-out caulk. This helps to prevent water from seeping into the house from outside.

2. Check the seal and caulking around the showers and tubs. Make sure they have a watertight seal.

3. Inspect roofs regularly. Remove accumulated debris in downspouts and rain gutters. Maintain an apron of sloped ground around your home and direct water away from your home.

4. Service your water heater. To keep your water heater operating correctly, you need to carry out regular maintenance to minimize build up rust and calcium carbonate. Another item to check when conducting annual maintenance is the pressure relief valve. This is a valve on the side of the tank near the top. It should be connected to a pipe that directs the water down and away from the tank so that scalding water does not spray a person if the valve releases due to excessive pressure. The valves should be opened at least once a year to make sure they work and do not become clogged with calcium carbonate.

5. Take another look at your water bill. By comparing monthly usage figures, you may get tipped off to a small leak before it becomes a big problem. Major, unexplained fluctuations in your water bill are often a sign of water leaks.

If you do end up with a problem, there are a number of steps you can take.

1. Turn off water to the house.
2. Remove as much water as possible with mopping and blotting. Remove items that are not colorfast, such as books and magazines, from wet flooring and carpet.
3. Remove all photos, art and small fixtures to a safe, dry place. Remove damp books from shelves and spread out to dry.
4. Open drawers, cabinets and closets for faster drying. Put aluminum foil, saucers or wood blocks between furniture legs and wet carpeting. Wipe wooden furniture dry.
5. Remove rugs from on top of wet carpet to prevent color saturation.
6. Immediately use fans to circulate air and encourage drying.
7. Try to stabilize the indoor air temperature to about 70 degrees and use dehumidifiers, if possible.
8. Call a water restoration company in the event of a major damage.

Some of the same steps used to avoid water-related insurance claims are the same techniques that can help conserve water — an important issue in our community. With everything working properly and efficiently, homeowners can enjoy lowered insurance and utility bills and peace of mind.



Top 10 Costliest Homeowners Insurance Claims

Simple Ways You Can Avoid Costly Problems

What can you do?

Insurance adjusters have ranked the most common, yet preventable, homeowners claims. Five of them are plumbing related. This is a busy time for everyone and the last thing you need is an unexpected plumbing breakdown. Unless you enjoy the excitement of a flooded laundry room or having a toilet take a one-way trip through the floor, the answer lies in smart preventative maintenance.

Top Ten Homeowners Claims to Avoid

1. Burst washing machine hose – Plastic or rubber washing machine hoses eventually leak and even burst. Three bad combinations here: The machine jars and jumps; the lines get hot and cold repeatedly; laundry rooms are typically located in low-traffic areas, meaning it may go unnoticed for awhile. Damage is often extensive and expensive, which is why it's ranked #1.

2. Slow leaks around tub/shower grout and edges – Grout and caulking decay over time, and cracks can develop. Water seeps into walls and floors little by little causing tub and shower pans to corrode or to actually sink due to softening wood supports. The problem *greatly accelerates* as more water intrudes, leading to major repairs in plumbing, carpentry, tile work and more. Insurance *rarely* covers these expenses.

3. Toilet seal leaks – If your toilet wobbles it could mean that the seal is worn, or that it was improperly installed. Since the seal prevents sewage gases and other waste from leaking into your home, this is not just a costly repair—it's a health issue. We're not talking "maybe here; sewer gases are a health risk and not to be taken lightly. Fix it.

4. Refrigerator water-supply line leaks – The small water line that goes from your refrigerator—called a capillary line—can easily become kinked. Plastic lines also become brittle from use, which leads to leaks. These rarely noticed leaks can cause extensive damage to your walls, floor, and cabinets near the refrigerator.

5. Roof leaks – Weather, age, wear and tear—these conditions adversely affect your roof's condition. Signs of a leaking roof include spots or stains that appear on the ceiling, or curled, upturned shingles around the edges of your home.

6. Chimney/fireplace fires – It's easy to think that starting a fire in the fireplace is as simple as throwing a few logs and matches together and watching it burn. Before your next family weenie roast, you should know that dirty or plugged chimneys regularly cause home fires.

7. Hot water tank leaks – When was the last time you thought about your hot water tank? Probably not any time in the recent past unless you had a problem or repair. Since hot water tanks develop leaks and rust as they age, this "out of sight, out of mind" mentality can lead to major home damage. Sometimes, you begin to notice that you run out of hot water more quickly, indicating poor performance or maybe sediment in the tank. Both indicate a service or replacement need.

8. Electrical cord fires – Do you have a lot of "gadgets" and appliances plugged in your home? Hiding those unseemly cords with throw rugs? Bad idea. Electrical cord fires result primarily from overloaded circuits, cords under throw rugs, and baseboard heaters.

Precaution: Minimize the number of appliances in use or plugged in at the same time. This will keep your circuits operating within their safe capacity. Also, route cords *around* throw rugs to reduce the likelihood of fire. Make sure all furniture is a safe distance from baseboard heaters, and that they are properly ventilated.

9. Unattended cooking or candle fires – Candlelight flickering shadows on the wall is relaxing, beautiful, soothing. Standing on the curb watching the flames flicker throughout your home is, um, something less than calming. *Contained fires can become 'uncontained' quickly and violently due to lack of attention.*

10. Garage door opener theft – You want your home to be comfortable, safe, and secure. You may lock your doors, but sly criminals often snatch garage door openers, gaining access to garages *and* homes.

DID YOU KNOW!

The average monthly cost for operating:

Space heater (8 hours/day)	\$ 64.80
Refrigerator/Freezer (8 hours/day)	\$ 25.92
New energy saving Refrigerator/Freezer (8 hours/day)	\$ 10.80
Electric oven (1 hour/day)	\$ 18.90
Clothes dryer (8 loads/week)	\$ 18.72
Dishwasher (5 loads/week)	\$ 8.64
Treadmill (30 minutes/day)	\$ 4.05
Microwave oven (30 minutes/day)	\$ 2.16
Toaster oven (15 minutes/day)	\$ 2.03
Answering machine/phone charger (continuous)	\$ 0.78
DVD player (1 hour/day)	\$ 0.19

Orange Water?

Tucson Water may have worked on your water meter. It seems they replace meters approximately every 10 - 15 years. When changing the meters they do not always notify the home owner. Run water from your faucets until you see the water runs clear.

Verifying your workmen

Want to verify if a workman or someone you are employing has a record? Go to www.supreme.state.az.us/publicaccess/notification/search.asp and check!

Waste Management:

There have been a number of inquiries about the price of garbage pick up from waste management. It seems their cost has increased. Waste management has negotiated a price of \$37.50 for back door service for residents of a HOA for trash and recyclables. *This has not changed.* You should be billed every fourth month. The recent increase was due to fuel cost. The cost is broken down on your bill separately. The fuel cost is listed as fuel/environmental charge. The fuel charge is calculated using the national average price of diesel from the US Dept. of Energy. There was a drastic jump the last billing cycle for many of us. WM has a website (www.WM.com) where you may further research how their fees are calculated.

How About Recycling Your Packrats!

Mr. Pack Rat traps pack rats when clearing property. He euthanizes the rats which are then taken to the wildlife people who use them to feed rehabilitating hawks and snakes, etc.

Habitat Gardening

Habitat gardening is to attract and sustain wildlife.
Five Habitat Plants

Fremont Wolfberry (*Lycium fremontii*) provides cover, nesting and perching sites for birds as well as shelter for animals. The small reddish-orange berries attract fruit eating birds and small mammals.

Jumping Cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*) makes a wonderful nesting site for many birds, such as doves, finches, cactus wren, verdins, and curve-billed thrashers.

Pineleaf milkweed (*Asclepias linaria*) flower nectar attracts butterflies and other insects. The foliage also provides larval food for Queen and Monarch butterfly caterpillars.

Engelmann's prickly pear (*Opuntia engelmannii*) produces sweet, purplish pulpy fruits that attract all types of wildlife- including humans.

Visit www.desertconnections.org for more information on Habitat gardening



Invasive Plants to Stay Away From

- Fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)
- Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*)
- Feather Top (*Pennisetum villosum*)
- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)
- Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- African sumac (*Rhus lancea*)
- Salt cedar or tamarisk (*Tamarix sp.*)
- Vinca or periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

Aquatic Plants

Parrot-feather

(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Giant salvinia (*Salvia molesta*)

Water thyme (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Mosquito fern (*Azolla pinnata*)

All these plants are listed with the AZ Native Plant Society. These plants are fuel for fires, displace natural vegetation, degrade wildlife habitat, deplete soil nutrients, increase allergens, and alter natural water flows.

Please visit their website at www.aznps.org for more information on what native alternatives that can be used in the place of these plant pest.

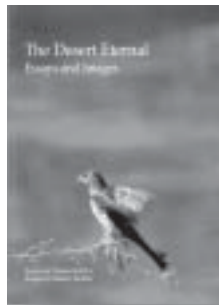


Lee Karpiscak, former Curator and Assistant Director (retired) of the University of Arizona Museum of Art, and a resident of Cat 7, received a Fulbright research fellowship in 2004. Her recently published book *Dreams Intersect Reality: Slovak Visual Artists in their Own Words (Sny na priese níku s Realitou: Slovenskí výtvarníci slovami)* is based on that research.

During the four months that she resided in Bratislava, Slovakia, she interviewed a number of Slovak visual artists. These artists discussed their personal and professional lives before and after the November 1989 "Velvet Revolution" (to indicate little violence and no known deaths) which led to the fall of Communism in the former Czechoslovakia. The book features these dialogues and places them in the social and political contexts of the time.

The book was published by the Galéria mesta Bratislavy, Bratislava City Gallery, where the book was launched September 2007. In addition, an exhibition of works by each of the artists involved in the study was opened. The American Ambassador to Slovakia at the time, Rodolphe Vallee, and his wife, attended the opening on September 19th and, according to The Slovak Spectator (the country's weekly English news publication), "he praised Karpiscak and participated in the christening of her book with a sprinkle of salt—a reference to the Slovak custom for welcoming a new guest." Ms. Karpiscak has been a frequent visitor to Czechoslovakia since 1992. In 2002, she was honored by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for her contribution to the promotion of Slovak art in the U.S.

The illustrated book (110 pgs.) is available at the Tucson Museum of Art Shop for \$20.



After writer, Connie Spittler, and photographer, Robert Spittler, moved from the Midwest to Cat 7, she wrote nature essays and he took pictures. The result: *The Desert Eternal, Essays and Images*, a book on life in the Sonoran Desert. Surrounded by the natural beauty intrinsic to Cat 7, the two professionals created a book filled with 13 nature essays and 120 color photos. The book was inspired by the daily surprises of javelina, bobcats, cactus, butterflies, wildflowers, desert and mountain scenery. Most of the photos were shot on/near the Spittler property on Via Entrada or other Cat 7 locations. The book is now available and the first 15 of 80 pages, can be previewed on the Internet at www.blurb.com To peek or purchase, go to Bookstore, use the upper right hand Search box and type: Desert Eternal, then click on book cover. The preview uses computer down arrow.

To see the entire book, contact Connie at Conspittler@comcast.net or call 520 299-2404.

Connie's writing appears in *What Wildness Is This, Women Write the Southwest*, U of Texas Press, an anthology that features Barbara Kingsolver and Terry Tempest Williams. Connie also has work in the books: *Sowing the Seeds, Chicken Soup and Healthy Aging*. One of her essays will be featured in the fall, 2008, book entitled *The Art of Living*, published by UNESCO, which will print pieces by HH The Dalai Lama and Deepak Chopra. The upcoming *Cup of Comfort for Cat Lovers*, pub date, summer 2008, will have one of Connie's stories. Her *Wise Women Video Series* is archived in Harvard University's Library on the History of Women in America.

Robert Spittler's giclee photography is shown in Southwest and Midwest galleries. One of his five panel pieces was exhibited in the 2007 Tucson Art Museum Biennial. He has won national awards for his cinematography/videography and editing, among them, a Clio, gold, silver and bronze recognition at the New York International Film Festival and the Houston International Film Festival. In the past, he's been awarded a NAAMA gold medal and numerous ADDY's.

CATALINA
FOOTHILLS
ESTATES No.7
ASSOCIATION

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



Our Annual Meeting
will be **Thursday May 8th**
St Philips in the Hills Church

East Murphey Gallery

6:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch

6:30 pm

Social Time

Refreshments

7:00 pm

Annual Meeting

