



RBNA Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Valley of the Moon



Welcome!

The neighborhood with a NATURAL RESOURCE PARK!

Meeting Agenda – Saturday, May 13, 2023

4 – 6 p.m.

- **Greetings** – Lindy
- **Treasurer’s Report** – Terry
- **Brief History of Neighborhood** – Murray
- **Reports** – allow discussion by neighbors
 - **Stormwater and Roads** – Catlow
 - **Enhancements** – Estelle
 - **Rio Vista Natural Resource Park Master Plan Implementation** – Mary/Linda
 - **Rillito Flood Control Mural** – Stephen
 - **Zocalet #1** – Sue Ann
 - **RillitoBend Rambles** – Lindy
 - **Social Committee** – Sue
 - Report on Ice Cream Social
 - N2N
- **Wrap up**
 - **Questions**
 - **Closing**
 - Solicitation to join advisors and/or board
 - How we communicate
 - **Next Meetings**
 - August 19: Board Meeting
 - November 18: Annual Meeting



Current Board Members & Advisors

President:	Lindy Brigham – <i>Communications</i>
Vice-President:	Mary Bird – <i>Communications, RNAG</i>
Treasurer:	Terry DeCarolis – <i>Social</i>
Secretary:	Catlow Shipek – <i>Special Projects</i>
Members:	John Kovacik – <i>Streets & Traffic Safety, History</i> Estelle Stern-Eilers – <i>Enhancements & Maintenance, Blog</i> John O’Hare – <i>Neighborhood Security</i> Cassandra Peel – <i>NextDoor</i> Vicky Strome - <i>RillitoRambles Blog</i> Rich Young
Advisors:	Larry Bird – <i>Prince Road</i> Stephen Brigham – <i>Project Review</i> Murray DeArmond – <i>Nominating and Project Review</i> Sue DeArmond – <i>Nominating and Social</i> Matthew Vasquez – <i>Allen Road</i> Linda Turner – <i>RNAG</i> Leslie Eldenburg - <i>History</i> Mike Shaw - <i>Wildlife</i> Melanie Campbell Carter - <i>Nominations, RillitoRambles Blog</i>



Treasurer's Report

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Terry
DeCarolis, Treasurer

Balance reported at 2/18/23 Board Meeting: \$2151.10

Income:

\$120.00

Expenses:

\$238.68

CURRENT BALANCE:

\$2032.42



Brief History of Neighborhood

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Murray
DeArmond

Challenges Through the Years

Major Accomplishments

Future Opportunities



Stormwater and Roads

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Catlow

Work with COT

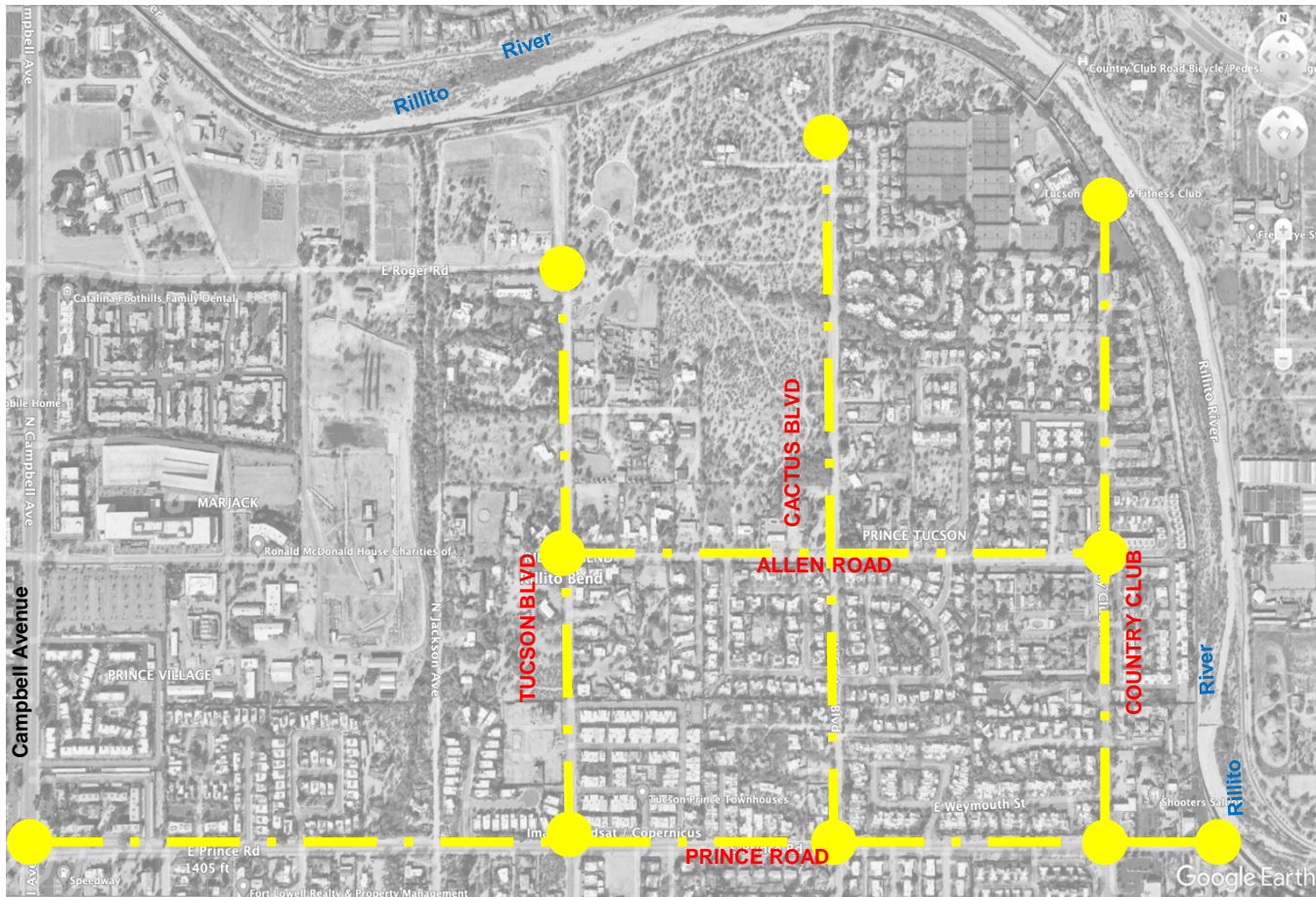
- FEMA Feasibility Study with Elizabeth Leiphold
- Cactus Blvd: results of rock dams, etc
- Neighborhood Training potential

Other Resources



Road Issues

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Catlow



Road Issues, cont'd

Neighborhood
Project Leader: Catlow

PRINCE ROAD

- Request a timeline for a major right-of-way improvement to solve drainage, pedestrian safety/access, landscaping, aesthetic upgrades, bicycle safety, transit stops upgrades, and reduced traffic speeds.
- Request signage to identify Christmas Wash and to relocate the Tucson Clean/Beautiful Adopt a Road sign to the south side of the street facing traffic.
- RBNA to develop short-term pedestrian paths from the Rillito to Campbell Ave on both sides of the road using existing right-of-way and landscape areas.
- Request commercial properties such as Tree House Apartments construct sidewalks.

CACTUS BLVD

- RBNA to continue supporting the RBNA “Linear Zocalo” concept as the neighborhood’s “main street” with volunteer implementation of landscape and plazas (“zocalets”) along the road such as the Mural Plaza (Zocalet #1) at the NE corner of Prince and Cactus.
- Request speed reduction strategies.
- Request an integrated green infrastructure plan to address stormwater flows from Prince Rd and other developments which contribute to stormwater flooding.
- Request improvements to the Rio Vista Park west access parking area(s).

ALLEN ROAD

- Request new pavement for failing street surface.
- Request an integrated green infrastructure plan to address stormwater flows from developments which contribute to stormwater flooding.
- Request Shannon Park Apartments restore parking area screening.

COUNTRY CLUB

- Request speed reduction strategies.
- Request an improvement plan for a safe and accessible pedestrian path.
- Request a designated pedestrian crossing at Allen Rd and Country Club with pavement striping and a illuminated crosswalk signs with solar blinking lights.
- RBNA to develop a short-term pedestrian path on the east side of the road in existing right-of-way and HOA landscaping and parking areas.

TUCSON AVE

- Request speed reduction strategies.

* **NOTE:** Unless noted otherwise, “requests” are to be directed to Ward 3 Council Office and/or a COT department.



Neighborhood Enhancement

Neighborhood Project
Leader: Estelle Stern-Eilers

Winter showers bring April/May flowers...

Rain Gardens at Cactus Blvd
at Allen Road
Linear Garden, Cactus

BUT...

They also bring invasives to our neighborhood!

Maltese Starflower (*top photo*)

Stinknet (*bottom photo*)

Buffelgrass

Fountain Grass



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WEED

Volunteer@RillitoBendNA.org



Rio Vista Natural Resource Park: Implementation

Neighborhood
Project Leaders:
Linda Turner/Mary Bird,
RNAG*

Timeline to Date

April 20, 2022:	Kick Off Meeting
May 23, 2022:	Walk through with RBNA reps
Sept 7, 2022:	Draft Master Plan
Fall 2022:	Feedback on Draft; Efforts to remove Dog Park
Nov 2, 2022:	Meeting with Ward 3 re: Dog Park
Nov 2022:	Updated Master Plan w/Dog Park removed
Nov 30, 2022:	Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission (TPRC) Approval
March 21, 2023:	Mayor and Council Approval
April 25, 2023:	Mtg with Tom Fisher
Next Steps:	Trails, Revegetation, Signage

at right:

Next Steps Document from Parks & Rec

*RNAG = Rillito Bend Neighborhood
Advocacy Group

**Approved by Mayor and Council
March 21st, 2023**

Park Improvements

PARK IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS


HIGH PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS

1. Consolidate Trail Network
 - Close unwanted trails/ provide temporary barriers
 - Upgrade primary trails
 - Revegetate disturbed areas
2. Revegetate Disturbed Open Spaces
 - Repair & expand irrigation system
3. Upgrade Trail Network Signage
4. Enhance Riparian Area
5. Stormwater Harvesting
6. Enhance Interpretive Garden
7. Preserve Bird Nesting Area
8. Repair and Upgrade Perimeter Fencing
9. Upgrade Main Gate Access at Equestrian Area
10. Install New Benches

MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Routine maintenance and repair of site amenities
- Restroom cleaning
- Trash collection
- Mowing large lawn areas
- Seasonal pruning of landscape shrubs and trees
- Irrigation repair

Additional maintenance for newly developed/ restored passive trail systems to the east will require a more frequent maintenance schedule during establishment period of (approximately 12-24 months) then reduce in frequency and become part of routine maintenance program. These efforts will need volunteer support.



November 2022



Rillito Wash Flood Control Mural

Neighborhood Project
Leader: Stephen Brigham

Artists Jessica Gonzales and Rock Martinez worked for over three months.
Completed April 19th.

Resident Stephen Brigham was a juror on the selection committee.



Photo by Jim Altenstadter



Zoccalet #1

Neighborhood
Project Leader:
Sue Ann Breems

City Feedback

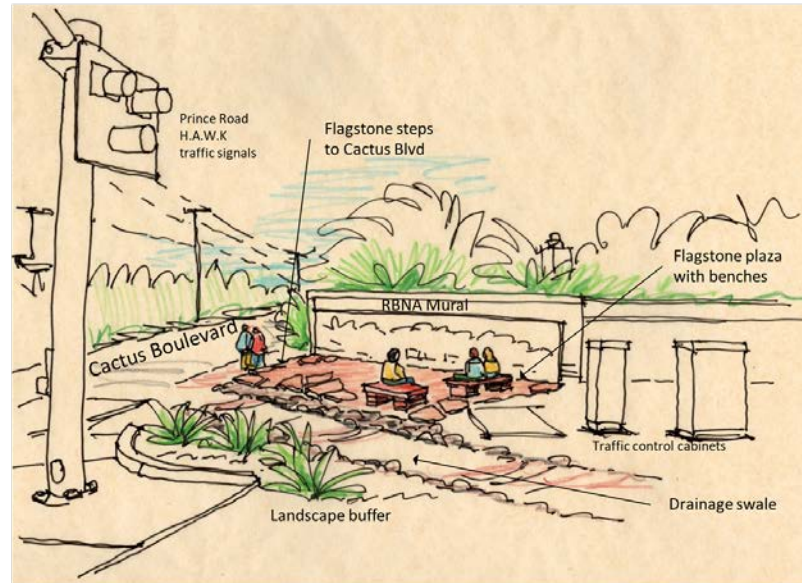
What We Can Do

Rillito Bend Mural Plaza “Zoccalet”

Part of the Cactus Boulevard “Linear Zócalo”



EXISTING



Proposed RBNA Mural Plaza Zoccalet

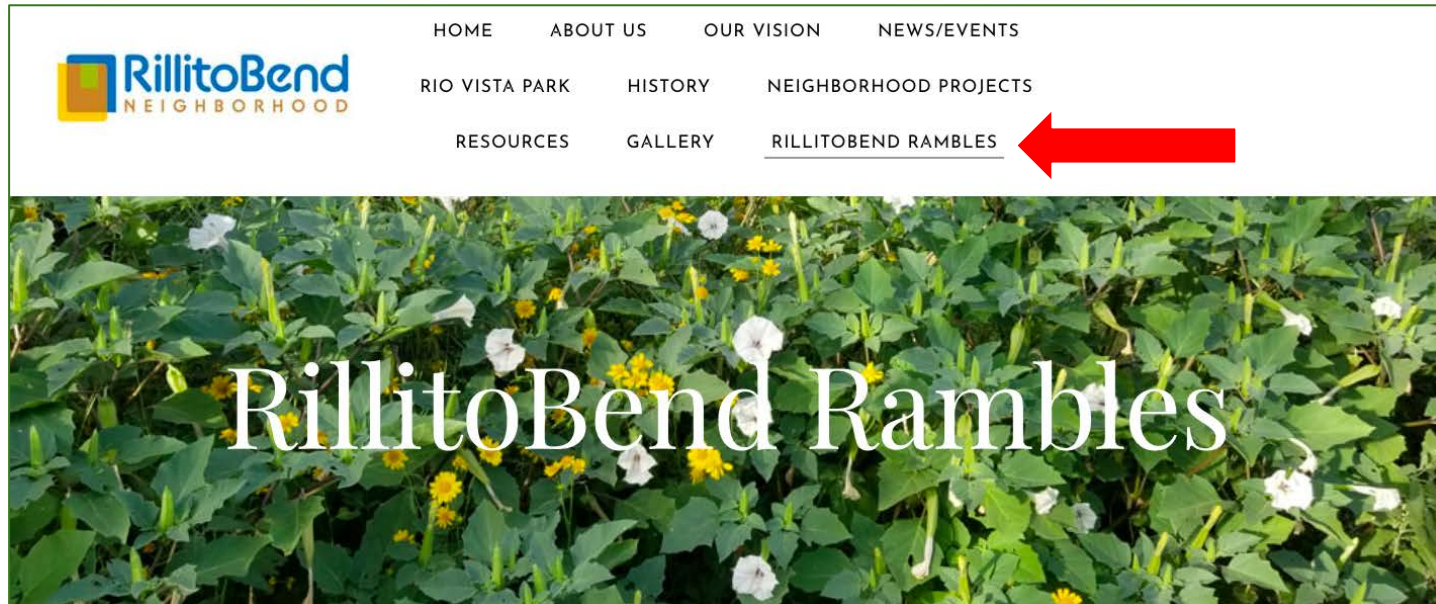
Total recommended budget:

- Flagstone material and delivery = \$1,000
- Flagstone installation = \$1,500
- Contingency = \$500
- Total recommended budget = \$3,000



RillitoBend Rambles

Neighborhood
Project Leaders: Lindy,
Melanie, Vicky, Estelle, Mary



- A place to share our observations of the natural world around us
- Articles will be posted on the website and distributed via our RBNA Mailing List.
- Anyone can contribute pictures, information, and stories.

Contact us at: Rambles@RillitoBendNA.org.



Social Committee Report

Neighborhood
Project Leaders: Sue
DeArmond & Terry DeCarolis



Over 50 people came to our Ice Cream Social—the first in a very long time!!

Ice Cream Social, Sunday, April 30, 2023

Hitching Post Ranch at Gentleman's Acres

N2N (Neighbor to Neighbor)



Questions

???

Please provide feedback via our website comment section,
<https://rillitobendna.org/index.html>

What would you like to see discussed in future meetings?



Meeting Notes, 5/13/23 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Attendance: See sign in sheet (about 40 people)

Welcome, introductions – Lindy Brigham, Board President

- a. Round of introductions
- b. Ask to help with board member recruitment for Fall 2023 neighborhood meeting

Reports**1. Treasurer's Report**

- i. Starting Balance (2/18/2023): \$2151.10
- ii. Income: \$120, Ice Cream social donations
- iii. Expenses:
 1. \$2 monthly fees
 2. \$21.73 Google storage fee
 3. \$15.95 Ice Cream Social cake
 4. \$195 for assisting with Allen/Cactus corner tree pruning
- iv. Balance: \$2032.42

2. Neighborhood history – Stephen Brigham

- i. Reviewed RBNA boundary, jurisdictions, and historical highlights
- ii. [Website link](#)

3. Website – Lindy Brigham

- i. Graphical assistance with website updates requested if anyone has experience and time, please contact Mary Bird or Lindy Brigham

4. Roads & Drainage – Catlow Shipek

- i. Provided an overview of developing package (see meeting presentation materials on RBNA website) of RBNA road and drainage concerns and proposed strategies to present to Ward 3 and Tucson Dept of Transportation. Includes Prince Road pedestrian improvements, Tucson and Country Club Blvd traffic calming needs, Allen Road surfacing, traffic calming, and drainage issues, and Cactus Blvd zocalo continued development
- ii. Discussion from neighbors included:
 1. Christmas Wash improvements being planned to help with flooding; updates provided included:
 - a. FEMA feasibility grant due Jan 2024 by City and will mainly focus on A) Ft Lowell/Country Club area improvements to address flooding and B) green infrastructure improvements within RBNA



5. Roads & Drainage – Catlow Shipek (cont'd)

- b. June 2025 - 2028 projected implementation period based on outcomes of feasibility study
- c. Suggested to contact Tuc. Dept. of Transportation and Mobility and/or Ward 3 to advocate for project implementation in a timely manner
2. Prince Road - concerns with near-term pedestrian improvement needs; RBNA is working to advocate for application of decomposed granite and clear space to help pedestrians travel along Prince Road safely until Move Tucson formal ped/bike improvements are made
3. Tucson and Country Club Blvd pedestrian safety improvements are needed
 - a. Drainage issues complicate potential options
 - b. May be able to implement rumble strips before improved crossings with lighting and signage to help peds cross

6. Plant and Rain Garden Enhancements – Estelle Stern-Eilers

- i. Cactus linear garden plantings are nearly established
- ii. Cactus rain garden along Rancho Morado needs continued volunteers assistance to help with weeding when advertised; a great opportunity to learn about native and invasive species such as the invasive Malta Star Thistle
- iii. Rio Vista Natural Resource Park volunteer workdays will resume following implementation of major improvements later this year

7. Rio Vista Natural Resource Park ([website link](#)) – Linda Turner

- i. Meeting occurred on April 25th with City Parks Project Manager, Tom Fisher and contracted restoration planners
- ii. Neighborhood priorities to provide feedback include
 1. Trails: currently reviewing which trails are primary, secondary, and planned to be closed; and irrigation improvements to support new plantings
 2. Revegetation: will be reviewing soon
 3. Signage: provided initial feedback to City

8. Zocalets – Sue Anne Breems

- i. Cactus zocalet at RBNA mural at Cactus/Prince HAWK crossing is being planned
 1. Received initial feedback from City on cans/can nots
 2. Developing plan to rake and improve surface area, apply surface cover with a few placed boulders and hopefully a bench or two
 3. Suggestions included adding a tree that can be tied into existing irrigation of trees along Prince Rd



9. RillitoBend Rambles ([website blog](#)) – Lindy Brigham

- i. Request to have neighbors help contribute photos, short bit o’ text, or more as interested; Mary Bird can help edit as needed
- ii. Please share with neighbors

10. Social Committee - Sue DeArmond

- i. Successful Ice Cream Social on Sat, April 30th @ Hitching Post Ranch
 1. Many thanks to Rich Young
 2. Over 60 participants
- ii. Open to other ideas for events such as art walks/shows, etc
- iii. Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) – New effort to help connect neighbors
 1. Let Social committee know if interested in hosting and/or sharing expertise on some topic
 2. Can be informal and conversational, a few ideas: Hawks, Plants, Astronomy, History, Arts, Water Harvesting, and more!

11. Other Items

- a. Janice - shared information on Lend A Hand Senior Assistance
 - i. A free service with currently 11 clients helped within RBNA
 - ii. Provides food, transport, home repair, and more
 - iii. Request for volunteers to help and donations to support efforts
- b. Kirsten - shared information on Valley of the Moon celebrating 100 years!
 - i. Renovations underway to help with aging infrastructure
 - ii. Requests from RBNA a letter of support on grants, seeking volunteers to help with projects and more
 - iii. Docent led tours available on 3rd Saturday of month

Next RBNA meeting: Saturday, August 19th
Annual Meeting Saturday, November 18th



N2N

Huh??

Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) is a fresh opportunity for RBNA residents—newcomers and old timers—to join, in small informal gatherings, to learn about and/or gain a deeper understanding of our neighborhood.

The N2N get-togethers will be brief. Set at convenient times and located in homes, backyards, our Park and at other nearby venues, they will be led by fellow residents.

Topics may include the vision for our Neighborhood Mural at Prince and Cactus; the backstory of Valley of the Moon; a discussion about hawks in our 'hood; how to best capture stormwater; the equestrian tradition; the artistic history of RBNA; and more.

Are you interested or or have questions?
Contact the Social Committee at Social@RillitoBendNA.org



RBNA Neighborhood Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 2023

AGENDA:

- **Greetings**
- **Treasurer’s Report**
- **Brief History of Neighborhood**
- **Reports**
- **Wrap up**
 - o Questions
 - o Next Meetings
 - Aug 19, 2023: Board Meeting
 - Nov 18, 2023: Annual Meeting

The RillitoBend Neighborhood Association (RBNA) is committed to protecting and enhancing this special place with its rich artistic heritage and unique riparian environment.

We are advocates for all residents. Through our representatives at Ward 3, we work with the City on issues that impact us, from stormwater management, safety, security, traffic, land use and more.

We are a conduit for neighbors to communicate news and stories that impact us. We write and design an annual newsletter and we send emails of importance to those who have signed up to our list serve.

RBNA Board and Advisors

President:	Lindy Brigham	Communications
Vice-Pres:	Mary Bird	Communications, RNAG
Treasurer:	Terry DeCarolis	Social
Secretary:	Catlow Shipek	Special Projects
Members:	John Kovacic	Streets & Traffic Safety, History
	Estelle Stern-Eilers	Enhancements, Blog
	John O’Hare	Neighborhood Security
	Cassandra Peel	NextDoor
	Vicky Strome	Blog
Advisors:	Larry Bird	Prince Road
Review	Stephen Brigham	Project
Review	Murray DeArmond	Project
	Sue DeArmond	Social
	Matthew Vasquez	Allen Road
	Linda Turner	RNAG
	Leslie Eldersburg	History
	Mike Snow	Wildfire
	Marlene Campbell	Arter

We are a volunteer organization serving our community. Please consider joining our board or advisors group to share your knowledge and expertise to the betterment of the neighborhood.

RBNA@RillitoBendNA.org

How We Reach You

- **RBNA Neighborhood Mailing List** – make sure you are signed up! Go to website to sign up.
- **RBNA Website:** <https://RillitoBendNA.org>
- **Annual Newsletter** – the City mails once/year to every resident
- **Nextdoor** - sign up with nextdoor.com
- **General Email:** RBNA@RillitoBendNA.org
- **City of Tucson Neighborhood Resources:** <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/pdsd/neighborhood-resources>



Website



SignUp Form

How to Reach Us

- **RBNA Website:** <https://RillitoBendNA.org> - Questions & Comments, HOME page
- **General Email:** RBNA@RillitoBendNA.org
- **Specific Emails:** President@RillitoBendNA.org; Vice-President@RillitoBendNA.org;
Treasurer@RillitoBendNA.org; Secretary@RillitoBendNA.org; Volunteer@RillitoBendNA.org;
Social@RillitoBendNA.org
- **In person**