



## FREE Annual RBNA Ice Cream Social

Sunday, November 3, 2019

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Gentleman's Acres

3930 N. Tucson Blvd.

Gentleman's Acres, The Home of Fine Horses and Good People, will host RillitoBend's third annual Ice Cream Social.

The Social is an informal opportunity to greet and chat with neighbors and enjoy ice cream, root beer floats and goodies. Rarity Rock Radio DJs and neighbors, Mike and Cass Peel, will provide some soft playlist tones - easy listening. Noted RBNA artists will have a few raffle pieces available at the event. All neighbors, especially those new to RillitoBend, are warmly invited to attend. Project team leaders will be available to offer information about neighborhood activities and other upcoming events

Thank you, Bob and Jean, Rich and Sandy, for hosting this event.

## Annual Meeting RillitoBend Neighborhood Association (RBNA)

Saturday, December 7, 2019

10:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

Northminster Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Hall  
Fort Lowell & Tucson Blvd.

The business agenda will include:

- ▶ Welcome – John Kovacik, President
- ▶ Board Members, Officers and Group leaders will be introduced
- ▶ Neighborhood Groups and Projects will be presented
- ▶ New Business from the floor
- ▶ Light refreshments will be served.

## RBNA Vision Plan & Website

RillitoBend Neighborhood (RBNA) is fortunate to have a Vision Plan that summarizes key defining characteristics of the neighborhood to help guide the continuing enhancement of the neighborhood. The neighborhood has been refining the plan over the past two years. Posted on NextDoor it has been used as a reference for several of our grant proposals. The document has helped set priorities for the neighborhood and continues to be refined as new feedback is provided.

RBNA has long wished for a website where we can present frequent newsletters, presentations by members and contact information that is timely, including a full update on all the "teasers" in this newsletter.

We now have that website which includes links to the Vision Plan and to this newsletter. The website address is provided in the Communications section on page 3 of this newsletter.

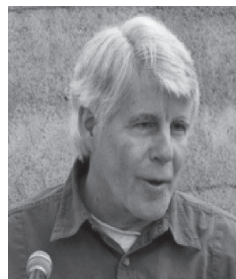


### VISION THEMES

These interconnected themes are intended to help prioritize neighborhood projects.

1. Enhance the Livability of our streets
2. Manage our precious watershed resources
3. Restore our riparian tall tree environment
4. Showcase our unique artistic heritage and spirit
5. Support our Recreational and cultural destinations

## President John Kovacik



All of us owe our most heartfelt thanks to Jean & Bob Tremethick for their dedication in preserving one of RBN's most enduring treasures, Gentleman's Acres. Last April Jean and Bob retired from the management of the property. We are so fortunate to welcome Rich and Sandy Young who purchased the property and have taken over its active management. The neighborhood is indeed blessed that they (and Jean) found each other!

As noted above, RBNA has made considerable progress over the last couple years compiling our vision, options and priorities for the future of RillitoBend. Now is the time to put plans into action via project teams in partnership with the City and various funding sources.

## President John Kovacik, (continued from front page)

From the Conservation Plan being developed and implemented for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park by a project team, to the integration of enhanced water management techniques with the creation of safer, more livable streets, to the tile mural project, I believe RBNA must take ownership of the outcomes we most wish to see. Neighbors effectively working in partnership with City officials and operating departments is THE model for building a stronger, enduring RillitoBend.

As one of our primary commitments is to create and enhance Livable streets, I'm quite encouraged by the re-vitalized, engaged and effective management of the various City departments that interact with RBNA. However, as the pie can only be cut in so many pieces, I strongly believe our focus by necessity must be on maintenance and doable improvements—whether for Livable Streets, our Natural Resource Park or anything else we value that makes our neighborhood special. Large-scale, and inherently expensive, capital improvement projects sound wonderful, but without significant commitments and funding for upkeep and maintenance of existing infrastructure and new projects, both old and new will be doomed to fail.



Lindy Andersen Brigham and Stephen Brigham

## Gardens and Artists

Last March, the RillitoBend Neighborhood held a social event in conjunction with the Winterhaven Village Townhomes Association to celebrate many of the artists in our neighborhood and to dedicate one of our street gardens to Lucile Mary Wallbaum Andersen, a resident of Winterhaven Village Townhomes with her daughters Lindy Andersen Brigham and Susan Lee Andersen.

Both the social event and the garden dedication were held in the Winterhaven Village Townhomes alley adjacent to the Cactus Boulevard neighborhood street garden. It was a wonderful celebration that showcased many of the neighborhood artists including music from Rarity Rock Radio featuring our local neighborhood DJs, Mike & Cass Peel.

The garden was the next phase in the neighborhood's efforts to improve the streetscape of Cactus Boulevard while also trying to capture some storm water as was so well done in the smaller-scope first phase.

It also served many purposes including as an example of the strength of the RillitoBend volunteer program which helped us get support and grant funding for other neighborhood road landscape improvements on Cactus Boulevard and Prince Road.

## Valley of the Moon

Rillito Bend Neighborhood is home to a historical landmark gem, the Valley of the Moon, where kindness is the real magic. As a not-for-profit entity, this remarkable attraction relies on the support of its friends and neighbors for donations, memberships, and volunteers to help with events such as historical tours, preservation activities, and performances.

In October, travel back in time to journey through the enchanted land of Valley of the Moon through a play that was first performed in 1976. A band of mortal pilgrims will embark on an adventure touring the Haunted Ruins. Join the search for the Golden Key to Happiness and learn the true value of kindness. You will enter an area formerly closed to the public for decades. Fun for all!

See the Calendar, page 4 for dates and details.

For more information on activities, schedules and to help, go to [www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com](http://www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com)

## Neighborhood Environment Enhancement

Enhancement of the natural environment of RBNA is also continuing thanks to Estelle Stern-Eilers and her volunteers. Weeding in and around Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, helping neighbors learn to distinguish invasive plants and remove them safely, and encouraging the planting of native plants to support our wildlife are all moving ahead. The Traffic Circle at Allen and Cactus, as well as the linear garden along Cactus near Prince are now self-sustaining, requiring little or no supplemental water.

All of these projects are on-going and volunteers are always needed. Contact [estellestern@gmail.com](mailto:estellestern@gmail.com)



## Mural Project

Sue Ann Breems and her tile crew is finishing up the RillitoBend Tile Mural Project which will be installed at the corner of Cactus Blvd. and Prince Road on the angled wall belonging to Winterhaven Village Townhomes. All of the major components are completed and the projected installation date is February 2020. A neighborhood celebration is planned for this dedication of the mural so stay tuned.



## RBNA Review Team

RBNA has a review team to help the neighborhood effectively interact with anyone proposing neighborhood changes or specific proposals. Its primary focus is to share RBN's Vision Plan & goals, and be part of the front-end planning & discussion of how any project can be an enhancement to the neighborhood, and a success. And with the goal of agreement upon what is "sensible" for RBN and all parties involved, rather than after-the-fact presentations digressing into "all or nothing" (and often interpreted as NIMBY vs. "no holds barred").

The review team is co-chaired by Stephen Brigham, a retired architect and planner formerly with the UofA and UMC, and Murray DeArmond, a long-time neighborhood leader and also retired from a senior admin position at UA. The review team reports to the President and Vice-President of RBNA, and adds other neighborhood members with needed skills and experience as needed for specific reviews.

## Communication

We now have several forms of communication going forward, thanks in no small part to Stephen and Lindy Brigham. NextDoor will remain as our "bulletin board" with lost cats and causes, notices from the City of Tucson, and queries about wildlife sightings. We also have our own website that Stephen and Lindy created, at: <http://rillitobendna.org/index.html>. Our RillitoBend Neighborhood website has six pages of information about our neighborhood.



## Rio Vista Conservation Project

**A collaboration with**  
City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department  
RillitoBend Neighborhood Association



**Dedicated to**  
The protection and restoration of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

**Share and Enrich a Vision of the Park:**

- A midtown gateway for all Tucsonans to learn about and experience the city's riparian heritage
- A showcase for restoration of a mesquite bosque, a vegetation type that historically was prevalent along a flowing Rillito
- A haven for wildlife and native plants
- A safe, inviting place where visitors make an active connection to nature in an urban environment
- A nurtured, flourishing natural landscape with an established trail network and ecologically sound maintenance practices
- A demonstration site for investment and management aligned with a comprehensive conservation plan

### Some Goals of the Rio Vista Conservation Project

**1. Foster the development of a collaborative working relationship among**

- city and county agencies
- neighbors
- other stakeholders

**2. Address immediate needs related to**

- ecosystem viability
- visitor safety

**3. Develop a comprehensive plan to guide management and compatible uses; elements of the plan could include the following:**

- Identify and map the park's existing natural assets and threats to these assets
- Assess restoration potential and identify opportunities for action
- Develop goals and strategies to protect and restore natural assets
- Implement these strategies
- Measure and sustain success



**The Rio Vista Conservation Project** is a **mechanism for communication and exchange** among the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, the RillitoBend Neighborhood and other stakeholders. We look forward to working with the park's many supporters to ensure that the distinctive natural character of Rio Vista persists.

**Questions?** Email [ProRioVista@gmail.com](mailto:ProRioVista@gmail.com)

## The Rio Vista Conservation Project

A collaboration of the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department and the RillitoBend Neighborhood Association, the Rio Vista Conservation Project is dedicated to the protection and restoration of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, at the north end of Tucson Boulevard.

The project's initial effort is to involve stakeholders in creating a shared vision for the park that showcases our mesquite riparian forest heritage. The next step is to translate that vision into a long-term conservation plan—a benchmark for determining compatible uses. The project also is a mechanism for communication among Parks and Recreation, the neighborhood, and other stakeholders. One important outcome: Our park has been chosen as the pilot site for Parks and Recreation's Organic First initiative, integrated weed management. (Also see "Neighborhood Environment Enhancement").

We look forward to working with the park's many supporters to ensure that the distinctive natural character of Rio Vista persists. Join us for a workday in late September to close "rogue" trails! Watch for details on our new website.

**Jennifer Shopland, Project Manager, [proriovista@gmail.com](mailto:proriovista@gmail.com)**



Planning and Development Services Dept.  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

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## Dated Material

### Haunted Ruins Rising: A Retro Experience

**When:** October 4-27, 2019  
Fridays: 6:00 - 8:20 pm  
Saturdays and Sundays: 5 - 8:20 pm  
**Where:** Valley of the Moon  
Allen Road, east of Tucson Boulevard

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2:00 - 4:00 pm  
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Gentleman's Acres, 3930 N. Tucson Blvd.

### RBNA Annual Business Meeting

**When:** Saturday, December 7, 2019  
10:00 -12 noon  
**Where:** Northminster Presbyterian  
Church in the Fellowship Hall  
Fort Lowell & Tucson Blvd.

## Who To Call

- City of Tucson [www.tucsonaz.gov](http://www.tucsonaz.gov) —  
everything you need to know is on the website
- Graffiti Removal Hotline ..... (520) 792-2489
  - Garbage Cans Left At The Curb ..... (520) 791-3171  
(Environmental Services)
  - Junk Vehicles, Excessive Yard Sales, Weeds ..... (520) 791-5843  
(Code Compliance)
  - Potholes ..... (520) 791-3154  
(Street Maintenance Improvement Requests)
  - Pima Animal Care Center (outreach) ..... (520) 724-5976
  - Shopping Cart Pick-Up ..... (520) 791-3171
  - Suspicious Activity, Police Emergency ..... **911**
  - Police Non-Emergency ..... (520) 791-4444
  - Ward 3 Council Office (Paul Durham) ..... (520) 791-4711

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This issue of the newsletter has been paid for by the City of Tucson. Thank you!

Contact the RBNA at [RBNA@cox.net](mailto:RBNA@cox.net)