

President's Message

This second year of the pandemic has been almost as challenging as the first. Most meetings were via Zoom except for one in March in the Rain Garden. We have sorely missed our community get-togethers and are looking forward to more gatherings!!

So, mark November 13th on your calendars for our next Ice Cream Social!

Much of our focus these last two years has been on the Rio Vista Natural Resource Park master planning and beautifying the neighborhood. Some of the projects are highlighted herein so read on!

Make sure you are signed up for our mailing list so you can stay abreast of all the activities in the neighborhood! And we are always looking for volunteers to work on projects or get involved with the Board. Thank you, all, for making RillitoBend special.



Lindy Brigham, President,
RillitoBend Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Meetings

Our meetings are scheduled quarterly, 3 p.m., on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Dates are as follows:

November 19, 2022*

February 18, 2023

May 20, 2023

August 19, 2023

November 18, 2023*

*Annual RBNA Meeting

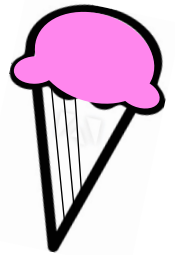
Meeting will be posted on our website and sent by email to our mailing list. Make sure you are signed up. Go to <http://rillitobendna.org>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Ice Cream Social

Please join us for an in-person party, replete with root beer floats, cake and ice cream. It seems like it's been forever since we met, and it's a great time to meet new friends!

**Sunday, November 13, 2022, 2-4 p.m.,
The Hitching Post Ranch
at Gentleman's Acres**



Annual RBNA Meeting

**Saturday, November 19, 2022, 3 p.m.,
at the lawn at Valley of the Moon**

Neighborhood Enhancement

We continue to pursue ways we can increase safety, manage stormwater, create habitats and beautify our neighborhood. Here are a few projects that we have been working on.

Prince Road

Larry Bird is leading a neighborhood coalition with representatives from Winterhaven, Richland Heights East and RillitoBend to improve our section of Prince Road—Country Club to Campbell Avenue—for pedestrian access, transit/bus shelters, landscaping and drainage. The City's MOVETucson has in its transportation plan requested RTA [Regional Transportation Authority] to move our project into Tier 1. Currently RTA has our section of Prince Road as Tier 2, but the City is on our side. Note: Tier 1 projects have higher priority and need to be completed before starting Tier 2 projects.

Cactus Blvd: Rain Garden at Rancho Morado

After two good summer monsoon seasons, the rain garden at Rancho Morado has been established. The boulders (purchased and delivered thanks to Ward 3 Office) have protected the area from vehicles, and the rock dams and swales built by the volunteer team, under the guidance from Catlow Shipek of Watershed Management Group, have captured

and created robust vegetation and habitats. Neighbors weed and mow the area as it's a work in progress.

We have started a list of the plants identified at the rain garden: <https://www.plantsmap.com/organizations/25668/collections/36184>. If you see a plant mis-identified or know the name of one that is listed as unknown, please email us at rbna@rillitobendna.org.

Allen Road: Rain Garden at Meadow View

In November 2020, neighborhood volunteers planted native trees and pollinators along the north wall of Meadow View on Allen Road. Now the once-barren stretch has been replaced with over 60 native plants including velvet mesquite and ironwood trees. The soaking monsoon rains have helped to establish these plants and many native wildflowers and grasses have begun to take root and expand the plantings. Thank you, Paula Dasko of Meadow View and neighbor Catlow Shipek, and all the volunteers who water and maintain the garden.

Green Water Infrastructure (GSI)

Earlier this year, Elizabeth Leibold, COT engineer, reached out to us about the opportunity to submit a proposal about improving our neighborhood through GSI, as part of their grant proposal to FEMA. Our neighborhood is in the Christmas Wash watershed, and the City is focused on managing storm-water in the Christmas Wash. Matthew Vasquez headed up the efforts. Our report highlighted four areas of the neighborhood that would benefit from GSI: Christmas Wash "Green Spine", East Prince Road, East Allen Road and North Cactus Blvd. We should be hearing from Elizabeth soon, so stay tuned!



Rio Vista: Master Planning Update

A crowd gathered September 7th at the unveiling of Tucson's Park & Recreation Department and SmithGroup's Draft Master Plan for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

We are working with Friends of Rio Vista in responding to the draft master plan. See plan here: <http://tucsondelivers.tucsonas.gov/>

RillitoBend Rambles

We are launching a blog!

Many of us enjoy the plants (especially the flowers) and animals we encounter in this unique Tucson neighborhood in the bend of the Rillito. We will be sharing pictures and stories that will be available on the website. We welcome everyone to send stories to share.

Watch for an invitation which will be sent to you by email. (This means you need to sign up for our mailing list in order to receive the invitation. Go to <https://rillitobendna.org/index.html>).

If you have any questions, email us at rbna@rillitobendna.org.

COMMUNICATIONS

Though our annual newsletter reaches everyone, there are other ways to communicate:

Visit our website, <https://rillitobendna.org>, for lots of information about our neighborhood including upcoming events and updates on projects in the neighborhood.

Sign up to get our emails, by going to <https://rillitobendna.org> landing page. We don't share your information to anyone outside the Board. Email us at rbna@rillitobendna.org.

Sign up to Nextdoor, a private online network in Tucson, as a way to communicate with neighbors and receive information from others as well as from the City. Go to: www.nextdoor.com. TIP: when setting up your profile, select only our neighborhood if you want to avoid many extraneous emails.

Attend our meetings. Announcements are posted on our website and sent to our mailing list.

Coordinating Groups and Their Leads / Project Advisors:

Communications: Mary Bird and Lindy Brigham

Streets & Traffic Safety: John Kovacik

Enhancement & Project Maintenance: Estelle Stern-Eilers

Neighborhood Security: John O'Hare

Nextdoor: Cassandra Peel

Nominating: *need volunteer*

Social: Sue DeArmond and Terry DeCarolis

Project review: Murray DeArmond and Stephen Brigham

• **Cactus Blvd:** John Kovacik, Murray DeArmond, Justin Turner, and Linda Agen

• **Prince Road:** Larry Bird and Wallace Kinkade

• **Allen Road:** Catlow Shipek and Matthew Vasquez

• **Country Club Road:** Catlow Shipek and John Kovacik

RNAG: Linda Turner and Mary Bird

Please consider volunteering. Contact rbna@rillitobendna.org.



Photography by Melanie Campbell-Carter

Our Queen

By Murray DeArmond

When we moved here, nearly 50 years ago, we were surprised to see a skeletal plant full of white flowers hidden behind an ancestral mesquite tree, located in the back parts of our property near our chicken coop. Even though the sweet-smelling flowers were spent after just one day, the plant was so unusual and spectacular, we decided to move it to a more visible location in order to better keep track of the bloom cycle the following year. When our younger son and I dug around the base of the plant to initiate the transplantation, we soon learned an important lesson. We began to uncover an enormous tuber, the likes of which we had never seen before. Fortunately, we replaced the soil and abandoned the job. It was good decision as we later learned that these tubers, like huge turnips, can be enormous and weigh up to 100 pounds! Through all these years, the above-ground plant hasn't changed a lot. All but one day of the year, the plant looks

like dead, burnt sticks coming out of the ground. Our Queen has faithfully bloomed one night each year since we've lived here.

One evening we were driving home and heard on AZPM that Tohono Chul was initiating a public celebration of the Queen's appearance in their gardens. We had been following the progress of ours, and didn't think it close to blooming. After we returned home, we checked and, to our surprise, it was also in full bloom. How these plants can bloom on the same, single night out of the year remained a mystery to us. Our neighbor suggested a phenomenon called quantum entanglement might help to answer the question.

For a number of years, we had a small ritual celebration of the annual bloom. Neighbors and friends get together; sometimes we read the legend; sometimes we toast the Queen; and always we are amazed at this desert miracle.

History Corner

By Leslie Eldenburg and John Kovacik

Many are aware of the significant artistic heritage of our neighborhood, but fewer are aware of the people behind the equestrian heritage. Most notable is the original owner of Gentleman's Acres, Colonel Cedric Errol Fauntleroy. Born in Mississippi in 1891, he was an ace pilot in World War I, serving with Eddie Rickenbacker's 94th fighter squadron. In addition to earning the Cross of Valor four times, Fauntleroy volunteered later in the war to serve in Poland, earning the rank of Colonel and receiving Poland's highest military decoration.

Upon returning to the states, he was a quite successful businessman, first living in Chicago and later New York. Sadly his wife and the eldest of his two daughters were killed in plane crashes.

Colonel Fauntleroy retired and moved to Tucson in 1951 where he lived until his death in 1963. It was here in our neighborhood he established Gentleman's Acres as a family farm for breeding and raising thoroughbreds and quarter horses for racing. The farm consisted mostly of pasture land, about 25 acres. It included a race (and practice) track which was located in the mostly "open" area of the western part of what is now Rio Vista Natural Resource Park.

Charles and Jean Bagley bought Fauntleroy's farm in 1965 and continued to call it "Gentleman's Acres." They built permanent stalls and runs, and they soon began to board and train horses, caring for up to 60 horses. In 1987, the City bought several pieces of land (making up what would be designated as Rio Vista Natural Resource Park), including 13 acres from the Bagleys.

Rich and Sandy Young bought the property in 2019 from Jean and renamed it the Hitching Post Ranch at Gentlemen's Acres. They continue to operate it as a boarding facility, as well as upgrading and maintaining the southern portion of Rio Vista for equestrian exercise and training use.



Valley of the Moon (VOM) Historic Fantasy Park

2544 E. Allen Rd.

Tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com

Did you know that the first Saturday of every month is free? And stay tuned: VOM turns 100 in 2023!

Lend A Hand (LAH)

LAH is a volunteer non-profit organization serving central Tucson that provides free services for their senior neighbors—eleven live here—helping them to stay in their homes and remain independent. Services include transportation to medical appointments and errands, food box and produce home deliveries and minor home repairs. Please consider donating or volunteering. Contact lahseniorhelp.org.



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RBNA Board

Board President: Stephen Brigham

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Vice-President: Mary Bird

Vice-President@RillitoBendNA.org

Treasurer: Terry DeCarolis

Treasurer@RillitoBendNA.org

Secretary: Catlow Shipek

Secretary@RillitoBendNA.org

Members:

Linda Agen

Lisa Fabrizio

Wallace Kinkade

John Kovacik

Cass Peel

Estelle Stern-Eilers

John O'Hare

Shirley Foerster

Who To Call

Important Contacts for the City of Tucson

Suspicious activity, police emergency	911
Police non-emergency	520-791-4444
tucsonaz.gov/police	
Community Service Officer (CSO) Renet Martin	520-837-7428
Renet.Martin@Tucsonaz.gov	
Cars parked in City's right-of-way	520-791-5071
Garbage cans left out at the curb	520-791-3171
Graffiti removal hotline	520-792-2489
Junk vehicles, excessive yard sales, weeds	520-791-5843
Mosquitoes	520-724-7908
Pima Animal Care Center	520-243-5900
Potholes	520-791-3154
Shopping cart pick-up	1-800-THE-CART
Ward 3 Office	520-791-4711
Water main break	520-791-4133

Pima County Covid Information:

<https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=541069>

Glass recycling now at Rio Vista Park

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The City of Tucson has paid for the printing and distribution of this newsletter. Thank you, Tucson!
