



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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON AZ
PERMIT #541

Dated Material



RillitoBend Neighborhood Association (RBNA)

As a City of Tucson recognized neighborhood association, we are committed to protecting and enhancing this special place with its rich artistic heritage and unique riparian environment.

RBNA Board

Board President: Lindy Brigham
President@RillitoBendNA.org
Vice-President: Mary Bird
Vice-President@RillitoBendNA.org
Treasurer: Terry DeCarolis
Treasurer@RillitoBendNA.org
Secretary: Catlow Shipek
Secretary@RillitoBendNA.org

John Kovacic
John O'Hare
Cassandra Peel
Estelle Stern-Eilers
Vicky Strome
Rich Young

Who To Call

Important Contacts for the City of Tucson

Suspicious activity, police emergency	911
Police non-emergency	520-791-4444
www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Police	
Community Service Officer (CSO)	520-837-7428
Ramon Silvas: Ramon.Silvas@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	520-791-2489
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
Water main break	520-791-4133
Ward 3 Office, 1510 E. Grant Road, Tucson, AZ	520-791-4711
Ward3@tucsonaz.gov	
www.tucsonaz.gov/Government/Mayor-Council-and-City-Manager/City-Council-Wards/Ward-3	

Glass recycling now at Rio Vista Park

An interactive color version of this newsletter can be found on our website, www.rillitobendna.org.

"The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Planning and Development Services Department and all other offices neither agrees nor disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requester is solely responsible."

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



At the Bend in the River

Annual Newsletter

September 2023

President's Message

Dear RillitoBend Neighbors,

It was good to see so many of you at our Ice Cream Social in April after a very long stretch of isolation and canceled activities. We are back to in-person gatherings—what a relief—so stay tuned for upcoming announcements including the Annual Meeting on November 18th.

For those of you who are new to the neighborhood, WELCOME! RillitoBend is a special place, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do. Feel free to reach out to us with questions, suggestions, concerns, etc.

Please take time to check out our website. And sign up for our newsletter at the bottom of the home page which hosts a ton of information: history of the area, current and past news, resources, Rio Vista park and more. This QR code is where one can sign up to our email mailing list to receive announcements throughout the year.



We work closely with our Ward 3 representative Kevin Dahl and aide CJ Boyd to improve the safety of our streets and enhance the livability of our 'hood. They have been very supportive.

We thank the City of Tucson for printing and mailing this newsletter to you—for free! It is the only communication that reaches every resident of the neighborhood. To receive updates on our issues and activities throughout the year, please sign up to our mailing list.



Lindy Brigham
President
RillitoBend Neighborhood Association (RBNA)

Neighborhood Meetings

Our meetings are scheduled quarterly on the 3rd Saturday of the month unless there are necessary changes to date and time.*

Dates are as follows:

- November 18, 2023 - Annual Meeting
- February 17, 2024
- May 18, 2024
- August 17, 2024
- November 16, 2024 - Annual Meeting

*Be sure you are on the RBNA mailing list to receive agendas and any changes.

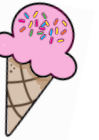
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual RBNA Meeting

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 1–3 p.m.

Hitching Post Ranch at Gentleman's Acres
3922 N Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ

- Vote on new slate of Board members and Advisors.
- Learn about your neighborhood.
- Be a neighbor; bring a neighbor.
- Buy a set of our popular notecard.

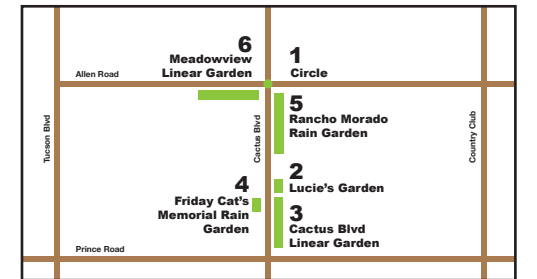


Annual Ice Cream Social

We are planning to have our popular ice cream social in 2024 (yet to be scheduled). Sign up to our mailing list so you get the announcement. It's a great time to meet new friends!

Neighborhood Enhancement

We continue to pursue ways to enhance our neighborhood: improve safety, manage stormwater, create habitats and beautify our neighborhood.



Brief descriptions of the gardens in the above map can be seen on our website: www.rillitobendna.org/rillitobend-rambles/archives/10-2022.

It takes a village to make these projects happen, so if you are interested let us know! Please email us at volunteer@rillitobendna.org.

Mural Notecards Available

We are offering our popular notecards of our Neighborhood Mural again.

\$20 cash or check for a set of 13 different cards with envelopes. They will be for sale at our Annual Meeting on November 18th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Though our annual newsletter reaches everyone, there are other ways to communicate with RBNA and/or each other throughout the year.

Visit our website, www.rillitobendna.org, where lots of information about our neighborhood including upcoming events and updates on neighborhood projects is posted. One can sign up to our mailing list here, can read all about Rio Vista's implementation of the new Master Plan, and more.

Sign up to get our emails. Go to www.rillitobendna.org. 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.

RillitoBend Rambles

We have launched 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 welcome everyone to send stories and photos to share. If you have not signed up or did not receive an invitation to sign up, please go to www.rillitobendna.org/rillitobend-rambles.

Questions? Email us at rambles@rillitobendna.org.

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: Melanie Campbell-Carter and Mike Shaw

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

Valley of the Moon Turns 100!

First order of business has been preparing for the next 100 years. The Enchanted Garden is being restored through a generous grant in memory of Linda Yalkowsky, allowing us to complete one third of the urgent preservation work needed. In-person programming is back in full swing. First Saturdays are free family days. Docent Tours are on third Sundays. Select upcoming events include:

* The Haunted Ruins presents Legler's Legacy, an outdoor interactive theatrical production: October weekend evenings and Mischief Night (October 30)

* Our 100th Birthday Celebration: November 11-12

* Queen Astar's Fairy Lights: December 15, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

* Re-opening of the Rabbit Hole and presentation of Enchanted Garden Preservation: December, date tbd



Consider volunteering. Become a docent; help in the art gallery or office; work on preservation projects; tend to our landscaping or help with our website—there's much to get done! Details and other events can be found at www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com.

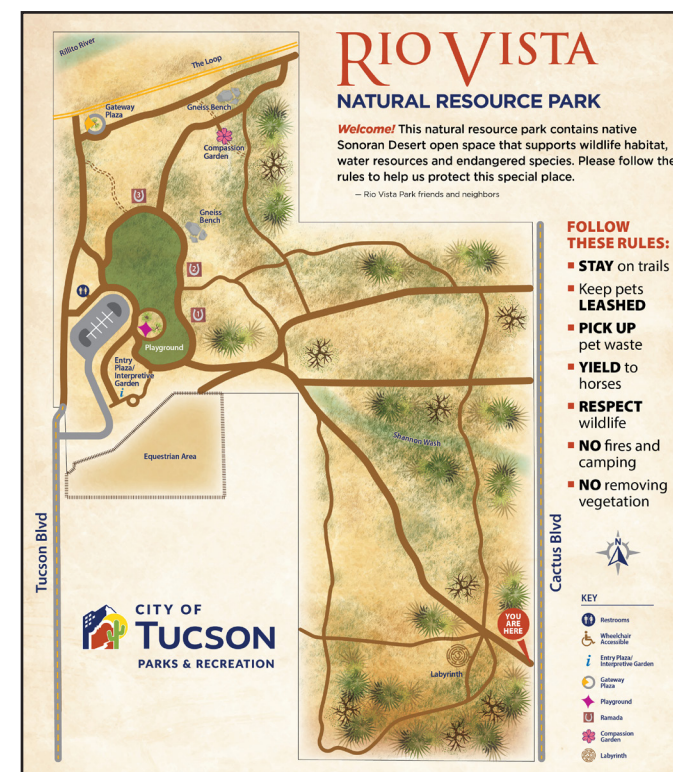
Lend A Hand (LAH)

LAH is a volunteer non-profit organization serving central Tucson that provides free services for their senior neighbors—eleven live here—helping them to say 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.

Our Changing Landscape

Six designated washes and other land features once carried rainwater from higher elevations in the southeast (Prince/Country Club area) toward the northwest (the vicinity of Campus Farm and northern reaches of Christmas Wash). Rillito-Bend is situated in the middle of this watershed.

Following the destructive flood of 1983, Pima County Flood Control District built a soil cement embankment along the Rillito to contain the water. The development of RillitoBend changed the natural terraced landscape. Several large properties where once crops grew were replaced with built amenities—our houses, asphalt roads and businesses. For example, the Wanamaker family (yes, think department store in Philadelphia) had a large dwelling what is now in Rio Vista park, exactly where the labyrinth now resides. We value what remains: the unique riparian environment, open space and rich artistic heritage.



Rio Vista: Master Planning Update

On April 20, 2022, the City's Park and Recreation Department, under the direction of project manager Tom Fisher kicked off the project. After feedback from their survey and meetings with the neighborhood and other stakeholders, they presented a Draft Master Plan on September 7th. Both Friends of Rio Vista and RBNA focused on the issue of a dog park (which is counter to the notion of a "natural resource park"). An updated—and final/ approved plan—was submitted in November, and on March 21, 2023, the plan was approved by Mayor and Council.

The Master Plan, survey results, Mayor and Council's March meeting can be found at: <https://tucsondelivers.tucsonaz.gov/pages/riovista>.

We are now working with Parks and Rec on implementing the plan. Here is the latest design of the map panel at the time of this printing. To track the progress of the plan or to read about all the efforts, visit our website under the tab called "Rio Vista Park," www.rillitobendna.org/rio-vista-park.

In Search of Kestrels and Other Raptors

Three years ago, Mike Shaw showed up in our neighborhood looking for raptors, American kestrels in particular, but really any cavity-nesting raptor. Mike is from HawkWatch International (HWI). HWI's Kestrel Project is in its tenth year with over 800 nest boxes and natural nest cavities being monitored in three geographic areas: northern Idaho, northern Utah and southern Arizona. The Arizona portion of the study is currently about 75 boxes spread between Tucson, Sonoita and Amado. Over 50 nesting boxes are in Tucson, 20 of which are in our neighborhood and along the Rillito.

The wooden nesting box is approximately 20" h x 9" w x 9" d with a 3" entrance hole. Mounted about 15' from the ground, it is a safe haven for kestrels and other birds like the western screech-owl. Most of the boxes in our neighborhood have been inhabited by screech-owls while a few have yet to be used. There is one box, however, along the Rillito, that has fledged five young kestrels each spring for the last three years.

The American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*, (L ~10" / WS ~22") is the smallest North American falcon. Both male and females are colorful, have a distinctive hover-hunting ability and appear restless (bobbing its head and tail while perched). They are in decline, and theories abound as to why. The HWI study aims to learn more about the population, longevity, breeding and migration habits of kestrels and other cavity-nesting raptors. We are grateful to Mike and HWI for their conservation efforts and we recognize how the Rillito-Bend neighborhood plays a role in fostering projects like this one.

Work includes monitoring the boxes throughout the nesting cycle, weighing and measuring the birds, taking genetic samples, and "banding" the birds with a uniquely numbered leg band. The nesting data is gathered by HWI community scientists, shared with the American Kestrel Partnership and ultimately reported to the US Government's Bird Banding Lab. To learn more about kestrels or to become a community scientist and volunteer to help in the effort, go to www.hawkwatch.org/our-work/kestrels.

photos, top to bottom: Female kestrel inside a Tucson nesting box; male kestrel chick on a scale, weighing in at 92 grams; Western screech-owl and owlets (along with mourning dove feathers)

