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At the Bend in the River

Semiannual Newsletter November 2024

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.

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

And don't forget to vote.



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

Pat Mulrow Vicky Strome
John O'Hare Linda Turner
Cassandra Peel Rich Young
Estelle Stern-Eilers

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	
SeeClickFix – Service Portal	311
www.tucsonaz.gov/Residents/311-Service-Request-Portal	
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

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

President's Message

If you are new to the neighborhood, welcome! If you have been around for a while, here is our latest update on what's going on in the 'hood. This issue gives a brief recap of all that is special about our neighborhood and how we all contribute to its success.

I encourage you all to attend our Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 16th, 1–3 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church. It's a great time to reconnect with people and meet newcomers! Also, check out our 2025 Spring Festival announcement. If you are an artist, we would love to see your work!

This newsletter goes out to all the residents in the neighborhood twice a year thanks to the City of Tucson Planning and Development Services Department (PDSD). A wonderful color version of this newsletter is posted on our website, so check it out.

To get more timely information of concern to the neighborhood, please sign up for our email service. Scan the QR code or go to our website (www.rillitobendna.org).



Lindy Brigham, President
RillitoBend Neighborhood Association
(RBNA)

RillitoBend Spring Festival 2025

Get ready and have some fun at our 2nd RillitoBend Spring Festival! RillitoBend neighbors are ready to gather, greet each other, picnic, and play music at Valley of the Moon. This past spring's event was such a success that we are coming back for more!

This celebration is for all ages. There will be kids' activities, an art show, and music. Email social@RillitoBendNA.org if you are interested in helping and/or showing your art!



Neighbors contra dancing at the Spring Festival 2024 at Valley of the Moon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual RillitoBend Meeting

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 1–3 p.m.
Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2450 E. Ft. Lowell

Come listen to current and future plans. All are invited.

RillitoBend Spring Festival 2025

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 11 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Valley of the Moon, 2544 E Allen Road

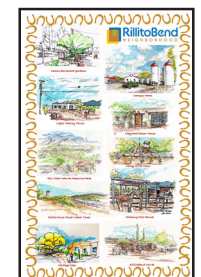
In the event of rain, the festival will be cancelled.

Future Neighborhood Meetings

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

February 15	(Board)
May 17	(Neighborhood, Board)
August 16	(Board)
November 15	(Annual Meeting)

*Be sure you are on the RBNA mailing list to receive agendas and any changes. Go to www.rillitobendna.org for more information.



Notecards and Tea Towels Available at the Annual Meeting

The tea towel features neighborhood sights drawn by Stephen Brigham. The set of 13 notecards are photos by Vicki Strome and highlight details of the Neighborhood Mural, a creation of Sue Ann Breems.

Each cost \$20 (cash or check). Proceeds help defray RBNA costs. Since we do not have dues, RBNA expenses (such as the website and neighborhood enhancements) are funded from donations and the sale of our notecards and towels.

Welcome to Our Neighborhood

Our shared vision and collaboration have made our neighborhood what it is today—a great place to live!

Through collaboration, commitment and some sweat, we've blended art, community, and native plant habitat beauty. Our recent endeavors and successes for all to enjoy include:

1. Advocating and partnering with Parks and Rec to invest in restoring Rio Vista Natural Resource Park to benefit both our natural and human communities (story below);
2. Creating a RillitoBend Neighborhood Gateway Mural at Cactus and Prince;
3. Growing and caring for our linear native habitat gardens along Cactus and Allen roads; and
4. Hosting a lovely Spring Festival to bring neighbors together.

We have plans for more: adding a linear garden along Shannon Park Apartments and Allen Rd; continuing to advocate for Rio Vista Natural Resource Park; and continuing to care for our neighbors. Our vision and plans can be found on our website at www.rillitobendna.org/our-vision. We welcome you to get involved and add your sparkle. Please contact rbna@RillitoBendNA.org.

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park

Enhancements to benefit our human and natural communities!

We are overjoyed to realize the ongoing investments being made by the City of Tucson Parks and Rec to enhance wildlife habitat and improve trails and signage! Add monsoon rains and the park has been transformed. The rock edging helps define where to walk, and we look forward to the growth of the new native plants!

Thank you, Parks and Rec and all who have helped realize this transformation of a special place!

More volunteer planting days are scheduled for Nov 2 and Nov 30. Let us know if you want to help by contacting rbna@RillitoBendNA.org or registering at Watershed Management Group's website at www.watershedmg.org/event.



Parks and Rec hired Watershed Management Group (WMG) as a consultant who, in turn, brought in contractors to make water-harvesting features; clear out invasive species; lay rocks at trail nodes; and design landscaping. Above, at the planting event in September, over 25 neighbors, friends, and staff came out to help.



Community Events Improving Our Neighborhood



A group gathers at Rio Vista Park in 2021 in an effort to fight invasive species in the park, one of many such gatherings. Since then, Parks and Rec has implemented their Master Plan to restore this precious gem of a park. See story below.



The RillitoBend Spring Festival was the work of a team of many volunteers, led by Sue DeArmond and Connie Warren. Musicians came together to dance and play. To be repeated in 2025!

This summer's monsoon rains turned Rio Vista into a luscious landscape. Basins created in May captured the precious water. Photo by Jim Altenstadter



The RillitoBend Neighborhood Mural is the vision of Sue Ann Breems. Neighbors helped with cutting and painting tiles, installing the panels and mosaics, and enjoying the camaraderie.



The Meadowview Garden on Allen, seen here in 2020, is an example of taking a barren stretch of road and turning it into a green space. Catlow Shipek designed, selected the plants, and managed the project. Neighbors helped install and Meadowview residents have maintained this now vibrant stretch of road.

Below: The gardens along Cactus Blvd — the Rain Garden, the plants at the traffic circle and the Linear Garden grew out of the desire to soften the hardscape and capture stormwater. Estelle Stern-Eilers has led the efforts. In 2022, neighbors created rock dams from rocks donated by Tucson's Dept of Transportation, transforming the garden into a "rain garden."



Communications

Besides our newsletters, there are many ways to communicate with RBNA and/or each other throughout the year.

Visit our website, www.rillitobendna.org, where a lot of information about our neighborhood including upcoming events is posted.

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, www.nextdoor.com, to communicate with neighbors and receive information from others and the City. TIP: when setting up your profile, select only our neighborhood to avoid many extraneous emails.

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



RBNA website



RBNA sign-up



RillitoBend Rambles

RillitoBend Rambles 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.

Any Ideas?

We are always looking...

For creative neighbors to help with all the fun projects and events throughout the year. Please consider joining the board, being on a committee, helping with the website. Email us at rbna@RillitoBendNA.org.

For our next newsletter we shall be featuring HOAs and Apartment Complexes of RillitoBend. People considering moving to Tucson contact us and ask what it's like to live here. So we would like to hear from people who live in an apartment or HOA about what they like about their place. Email us at rbna@RillitoBendNA.org. Thank you.