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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.

RBNA Board

Board President: Lindy Brigham
President@RillitoBendNA.org
Vice-President: Mary Bird
Vice-President@RillitoBendNA.org
Treasurer: Terry DeCarolis
Treasurer@RillitoBendNA.org
Secretary: Stephen Brigham
Secretary@RillitoBendNA.org
Pat Mulrow
John O'Hare
Catlow Shippek
Estelle Stern-Eilers
Vicky Stromee
Linda Turner
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	
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!



At the Bend in the River

Semiannual Newsletter

October 2025

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,
Our newsletter recaps some of our highlights and gets us thinking about what we want to accomplish going forward.

We had a spectacular Arts and Music Festival in March thanks to our superb Social Committee! To see more photos go to our website at www.rillitobendna.org. Several artists from the Festival have donated work to support our neighborhood association. We will have these items available at our social events and our annual meeting.

Our Annual Meeting is Nov 15th, so please email us at RBNA@RillitoBendNA.org if you have concerns or issues you would like discussed, a presentation you would like to share, or a subject you want to know more about. We will be electing new members to the RBNA Board so your attendance is important. And your input is critical for a well functioning neighborhood.

See you in November!

Lindy Brigham, President

We are always looking...

For volunteers to join the fun with our projects and events throughout the year, so please consider

- joining the board
- being on a committee
- helping with the website

Email us at
rbna@RillitoBendNA.org

Thank you.

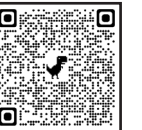
Neighborhood Meetings

RBNA Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 15th at 1:00 p.m.
Northminster Presbyterian Church
2450 E Fort Lowell Rd

Merchandise Mart at Annual Meeting
Our talented neighbors will be donating their works at the Annual Meeting to benefit RBNA. The RBNA tea towel and notecards along with select artworks will be for sale.

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

Be sure you are on the RBNA mailing list to receive agendas and any changes. Go to www.rillitobendna.org or scan the QR code to sign up.



Valley of the Moon (VOM)

Did you know that Valley of the Moon, tucked away right here in our neighborhood (on Allen Road), is nationally recognized by the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) for its unique whimsical design and historic significance?

It is an important part of our urban wildlife, located near Rio Vista Natural Resource Park and neighbors with desert-adapted plants. Come stroll through the grounds and learn about native plants: there is a Moon Garden with many night-blooming cacti, a Butterfly Garden and a designated Monarch Way Station which attract many butterflies and hummingbirds.

VOM has programs and events for all ages. Every first Saturday is free, and docent-led tours about VOM are held every third Saturday. The spring and autumn plays are fun, too, so come check us out!

Inquire about volunteer opportunities at
www.tucsonvalleyofthemoon.com



Ice Cream Social is Back!

Saturday, March 7, 2026
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Valley of the Moon

Come mingle with and meet your neighbors. Free ice cream!

This issue is dedicated to Mary Alice Keller (Malice) who passed away this year.

We remember Malice for many things she did for the neighborhood, including designing our logo and the graphics for this newsletter.

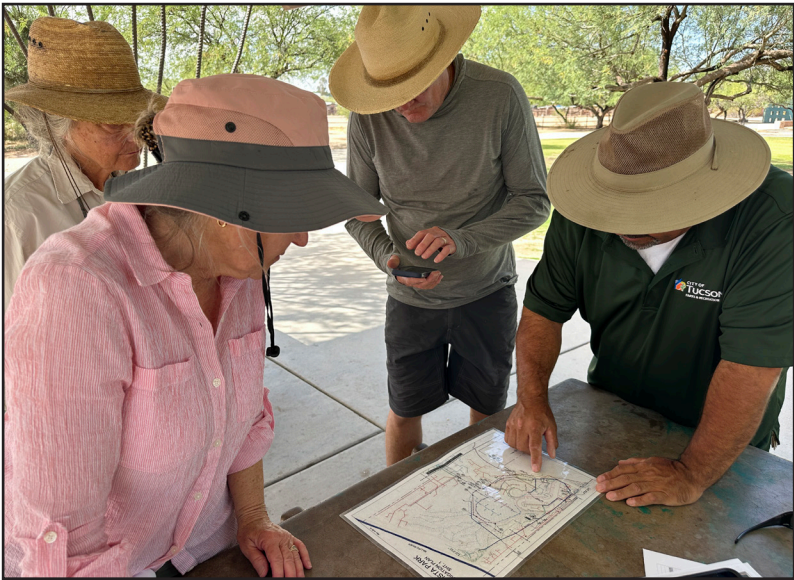
We miss you.

Rio Vista Natural Resource Park: The Work Continues...

On January 25th, we celebrated the restoration of Rio Vista Natural Resource Park, thanks to voters’ approving Prop 407 that designated over \$300K to our park. Upgrades to the irrigation and much needed attention were given to our well-loved park.

Neighbors continue to support the park. We have created a task force called Rio Vista Stewards in response to Parks & Rec’s need for surveillance of the park. The Stewards, a group of dedicated volunteers, monitor the irrigation and alert Parks & Rec to problems. Linda Turner heads the group, having created an organized sytem, and reports to Parks & Rec.

Under the direction of Strategic Habitats Enhancements (SHE), three planting and weeding events have occurred since the opening celebra-tion. It’s been a battle against climate, invasives and hungry critters...



Above: Rio Vista Stewards review irrigation plans with Parks & Rec, July 2025
Below: volunteers with SHE taking a break during one of the planting events, August 2025; volunteers watering, September 2025



Plan Tucson 2025

Plan Tucson is a roadmap for our city, a visionary document that will guide Tucson’s investments, programs, policies, and land-use decisions for the next twenty years. Every twenty years the Plan is updated, and this November it will be on the ballot.



Several RillitoBend neighbors participated in many of the community working groups. Residents Stephen Brigham and John Schwartz were instrumental in developing policy recommendations to address general aesthetics with a focus on transportation and infrastructure collaborative planning to avoid further destructive utility planning. The poles at Prince Road and Tucson Blvd intersection, for example, are massive and block pedestrian paths and visibility for drivers. After testifying at several public hearings, Mayor & Council and the Plan Tucson team agreed to add Land Use Policy 16 under Goal 13: “Protect and enhance the aesthetic attractiveness of Tucson’s streetscapes along the arterials, collectors, and within our neighborhoods.” Thank you, Stephen and John!!

We encourage everyone to read the Plan and vote in November. The Plan Tucson 2025 documents and executive summary are available online at www.plantucson.org.

RBNA has adopted Rio Vista Park!

We have partnered with Tucson Clean & Beautiful (TCB) and Parks & Rec to be official stewards of the Park. This will enhance our work with the city, showing how communities can support each other to make Tucson a better place. Thank you, everyone!



RillitoBend Spring Festival 2025

Happy times were had by all who attended the Spring Festival at Valley of the Moon last March.

This neighborhood has a long tradition of artists living by the River bend, and we are upholding that tradition. Artists from across the neighborhood joined together to share their talents and music at Valley of the Moon (VOM). Some shared and sold their work including paintings, jewelry, clothing.

The RillitoBend Band, made up of neighbors and led by Shanti Foster, played music throughout the whole event. They were a huge hit!

Children joined the neighborly fun. They made sun prints and bracelets, painted rocks and listened to stories about VOM.



Above: the RillitoBend Band played oldies but goodies

Left: Karen Stromberg in front of Melanie Campbell-Carter’s art

Right and below: Stephen Brigham and his art; story telling; art and activities on the lawn

