

Desert Ridge HOA

News and Updates – December, 2020

Greetings Neighbors and Happy New Year! It's probably getting to be cliché because we all hear it often, but Cindy and I are looking forward to a new and hopefully better year. I know this has certainly been the quietest Holiday season ever for us and likely you as well.

Once again, the Desert Ridge Board was able to meet in person because of Fred and Shelby Bivins opening their home for us to meet on the back patio. As winter closes in on us, we've had to move the meeting time to later morning as its quite cold at 8:00am, the usual time.

Board News

Meetings update

In the November Newsletter, I reported to you that monthly Board meetings and the Annual Homeowners meeting would resume at Desert Hills Social Center. Because of the continuing rise in COVID cases, rising hospitalization numbers and the urging of everyone to isolate, there is strong indication that the Social Centers will, once again, shut down January 1st. If that is the reality, we can continue to meet for our monthly Board meetings on our back patios and practice safe social distancing. The Annual Homeowners Meeting is a different scenario. The Board discussed several options including "Zoom" or "Go to Meeting" options but decided that it would be difficult for many to coordinate and clumsy to connect everyone up. Another HOA close by, Canoa Ridge has elected to mail out the pertinent Annual Meeting information as a substitute for their Annual Meeting. After discussion, **the Board voted to email the pertinent and required Annual Meeting info to homeowners and it would serve as this year's Annual Homeowners Meeting.** The usual reports from officers along with all financial info and the Audit report would all be included along with any announcements for our HOA. **To document a quorum of attendees, we will need 10 people to respond by saying they have reviewed the information and approve the reports, financials and audit. In the event the Social Centers elect not to close January 1st, we would meet in limited numbers for the Annual Meeting on February 23rd.**

Speeding Survey – Stop, Look and Listen

You'll recall that we just completed a speeding survey to determine if homeowners thought speeding is a perceived issue in our HOA, especially Desert Hills Drive. We had

64 respondents to the survey and close to 27% of those said speeding is an issue, especially on Desert Hills Drive. Even though this number is not a majority of folks responding, most of the Board thought it a high enough number to address in some manner. After discussion on various solutions, **a vote passed to put stop signs in both the East and West direction of Desert Hills Drive at the intersection of Desert Canyon.** These will be going up soon along with white stripes on the road to indicate a "STOP" as a reminder. The stripes will be completed when the road is re-sealed, likely this spring.

Architecture and Beautification

I would invite everyone to go to our website and preview Recommended Plantings under the new "Plant Tab". This a collaboration between Architecture and Beautification, having developed a list of trees and shrubs and recommended "ground cover" plants. Beautification developed this list along with pictures from a broad array of plantings that are very suitable for our area pertaining to heat, sun, and water. This new listing resulted in a **change to our Rules and Regulations** pertaining to new plantings. Previously, any new plantings within your property but outside the perimeter wall needed a request and "OK" from the Architectural Committee. With this change and comprehensive list of trees, shrubs and plants to choose from, you can do that planting (as long as it's from the approved list) without approval. Check it out! Thanks Beautification and Architecture for your work on this change!

More on Architecture.....

Recently, if you have a south facing garage door, you may have received a picture of your garage door with a color swatch showing the amount of fading taking place. I got one too! We as a collective group (Architecture and the Board) thought a reminder of what sun does to our properties would be a good idea! **These were not "Violations" or property deficiencies – just a reminder.** We received a lot of negative feedback by doing this and quit sending any more to homeowners. **I had given Lynn the final "go ahead" to proceed with this project and just want to say sorry, it was bad timing, close to the Holidays during a not so good year!.....**however, you may ask, as an HOA, why do we spend so much time and hear so much about the proper color for garage doors, roofs, or furnace systems that happen to be the original manufacturers color? Why do we worry so much about what we can plant, trees, yard decorations, on and on and on.....that being said:

I'm pretty proud of Desert Ridge and I'll bet you are too! The design of our community plus these consistent standards (for the most part) makes Desert Ridge one of the Premiere HOA Communities in Green Valley! I have heard that very comment from people I know. Without naming communities, there is one not too

far from here on the other side of the Presbyterian Church that has allowed these standards to "get out of hand" (in my mind). As you walk down the streets, there are garage doors of every color, much varied house colors, Palm trees badly in need of trimming, areas of overgrown vegetation, all giving a feel of neglect and non-consistency. We don't have that look here – we're not perfect but pretty darned good! One last thought – **If you receive a "deficiency notice" and most of us have if we've lived in an HOA long enough, by complying, I'm not only helping my community look the best it can, but I'm also preserving my top dollar home value by meeting all community standards and appearances.** Thanks Lynn and committee for all you do, it is not an easy job!

Social Committee

It seems the only time we hear the word "**social**" anymore is with the word "**distancing**". I miss all our neighbors and having the chance to be Social with one another. 2020 has been a "bust" for getting together and likely the first part of 2021 will be too. I miss Thirsty Thursday's, Holiday Parties, and good times together. Hopefully, we'll be able to get vaccinated soon and things will return to a.....new normal? Not sure what it will look like but bring it on! In the meantime, stay healthy, stay safe!

HOA Dues

Just a reminder that the due date for the annual Desert Ridge dues payment is January 1st, 2021. A delinquent fee is assessed if not received by January 31st.

Neighbors that are moving

Two homes are for sale and regretfully we say "Good-bye" to a couple of our good neighbors. John McCarty and Chris Wallace at 1036 Desert Hills Drive will be moving out of our neighborhood. Also, Jack Butler at 1000 Desert Hills Drive will be moving to the Phoenix area where he can be closer to his Daughter.

We'll miss you folks! Take care!

Toy's for Tots Toy Drive

As you may recall, because of the cancellation of the Holiday Party, Ruth Moen had the idea to do a neighborhood toy drive for Toy's for Tots. Ruth enlisted Karen Lueck to help her, the neighborhood embraced the idea and two carloads of wonderful toys were delivered! What a success! Thanks Ruth and Karen!

That's all for now – see you on the Ridge, Mike Hubbard

