

2023-12-19 Letter from Ruth Krawczyk, President, Desert Ridge HOA

Dear DR Neighbors!

The year 2023 is drawing to a close but there are a few things I'd like to draw to your attention.

First off: Two of our neighbors are presenting lectures at GVR's Forum Club. The first is this Wednesday (tomorrow!) morning 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Desert Hills Social Center, entitled:

Share the Road - 3 Perspectives

Wednesday, December 20·9:00 – 10:00am

Perspectives from cyclists, (e-biker), golf cart drivers, and automobile drivers about sharing the road, their perspectives will be presented. We'll touch on safety, awareness of each other, and rules of the road. We'll explore concerns and successes with road sharing. The presenter, Dr Karen Rainford is a former college professor, so there may be a quiz.

The second is two weeks later, same time, same place, entitled:

The US Constitution from a British Perspective

Wednesday, January 3 · 9:00 – 10:00am

Carl-Michal Krawczyk will give a talk, from a non-political viewpoint, on the origins of the US Constitution. He is a retired history professor, currently teaching as an adjunct faculty member at Pima Community College. He has a fascination for the US Constitution and believes it to be one of the most important and significant political documents in world history.

Support our neighbors as they get involved in the community and bring us topics of interest!

Speaking of getting involved, at our December board meeting it was noted that many of our HOA committees could use some new blood in the form of volunteers! Many of our committees have tasks that do not require all that much time, but are still very necessary for the smooth running of our HOA. Consider the Audit Committee (John Hadley, Chair), whose work is completed in the month of January every year. We will be looking for a new Audit Chairperson for 2025. So if you have some accounting experience, maybe you could help out here? The Budget Committee (Mike Hubbard, Chair) is another one that meets only for one, at most two meetings a year in the fall, but so critical for the work of our Board! The Nominating Committee (currently no chair) will be busy this coming fall when we will be replacing 3 members of our Board of Directors. If you enjoy talking to people and getting to know your neighbors, then this might be the task for you. We need at least three members for that committee. The Beautification (Carol Claton, Chair) and the Maintenance Committees (Mike Cochran, Co-Chair) can both use some younger members who enjoy working outside. The Social Committee (Lorna Backman, Chair) could also use some new younger members. They have the fun of planning our social events in the spring, fall and at holiday time. Many of the committee members have served for many years, so some new faces would be very welcome, and I can attest (as the Board rep) they're a fun group! Meetings always include refreshments! Sign Lighting and Decorations (Michael Robben/Patrick Onorato, Chairs) also only meet once or twice a year, mostly to put up the decorations at our entrances and to take them down again. They also make sure our signs are well lit and solar batteries are still working. Two committee members have just agreed to move up to be chairpersons, so they're looking for some helpers. The Streets Committee (David Ward, Chair) is another committee that keeps tabs on the

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condition of the streets in our HOA, and does the research for when we might need to do some repair or repaving. This is a very important (i.e. expensive) aspect of our HOA, so if you would like to be involved in that, please let David Ward know.

And don't forget one of the easiest and most fun ways to get involved: Host a Thirsty Thursday! Three months are still available for 2024, July, August and September. Usually the crowds are smaller this time of year, so don't be worried your place is too small. Contact Cindy Hubbard if you'd like to volunteer. In January we will be meeting at my house! 1037 W. Desert Hills Drive starting at 4:30 pm. My husband and I hope many of you will join us!

Now for more board news: Annual dues deadline is January 1st! You're doing a good job so far, but of course there's still quite a few of us who need to get on the ball and send them in. Don't forget to sign the form in the appropriate places as well.

All the sidewalks have been completed! If you walk our HOA, I'm sure you've already noticed how nice and even they all are now. All the rock work (watch out for those piles of rocks still blocking some of our roads!!) should be done by mid-January. Due to the trading of labor days to keep the costs of all the erosion control work to a minimum, regular maintenance will not begin again until May 7. Not much grows in the winter anyway, but we wanted you all to know. At that time the regular rotation for common area maintenance will resume. Our volunteers will still be around, trying to keep any unsightly areas to a minimum. But should you be unhappy with the common area behind your home, please get in touch with one of our maintenance committee volunteers, and they will explain what our options are until then.

If you are planning some planting on your own lot, don't forget our Beautification Committee has put together a list of trees and bushes (available on our website [www.desertridgehoagv.org](http://www.desertridgehoagv.org)) that do not require prior approval for planting. You can also contact anyone on the committee for advice as to your specific situation and location. They would be more than happy to discuss your options with you. However, if you plan to remove any trees, you do need to get permission from the board prior to the work being done, even on your own property. This is in our CC&Rs as well as our Rules & Regulations. I'm in the process of re-reading those documents, and I can only recommend that everyone do the same every couple of years. It's amazing what all they include, and all the questions you may have that they answer!

Our Meet 'N Greet committee (Mary and Veral Heller) will be welcoming our new neighbors on Thursday, January 18, at 10:30 a.m. with the help of the board and committee chairs. We will be introducing them formally to the whole HOA at our Annual Meeting on February 13 at 9:00 a.m. We have a total of 8 new residents who joined us in 2023.

The Board also approved the removal of six trees in the common areas. Some of the trees will be removed and replaced at the expense of neighboring homeowners. They will also choose the types of trees to be planted with the advice of the Beautification Committee.

I think that about wraps up all the news!

Allow me to wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday and New Year!

With best regards,  
Ruth