THE NEIGHBORHOOD

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

Working to keep our Fountain Hills neighborhoods beautiful!

"BUZZ"

SUMMER 2025

Our Mission

- ✓ Protecting our members' property value and their investment in their Fountain Hills home
- ✓ Maintaining quality architectural standards in NPOA neighborhoods
- ✓ Serving all Fountain Hills residents through community-betterment activities
- ✓ Supporting Fountain Hills schools through volunteer efforts that benefit children and teenagers

Greetings! Thank you for visiting the NPOA's website and seeking out the Summer edition of the Associations' newsletter, "the Buzz". The newsletter got its named based on Fountain Hills master developer, Robert McCulloch, a wealthy entrepreneur , notably known for his chain-saws. Hence , "The Buzz".

Mr. McCulloch, together with famous Disneyland designer, Charles Woods, envisioned a community which capitalized on the area's natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Together they created many neighborhoods that reflected custom home designs while preserving open spaces. The key draw to what used to be a cattle ranch was the creation of Fountain Park complete with at the time of its construction, the tallest fountain in the world. As an aside, Mr. McCulloch also began developing Lake Havasu City in 1968, with the draw there being the London Bridge, which he purchased, dismantled, and re-erected over the Bridgewater Channel.

The key difference between the two developments is that in Fountain Hills a group of neighbors formed the NPOA which continued to oversee the Development Design Guidelines, that McCulloch used to ensure that plats were developed with quality architecture and pleasing open spaces. Lake Havasu City, on the other hand, had no design oversight once the City was developed and over the years design guidelines lapsed and in some neighborhoods properties declined.

The NPOA is now in its 33rd year and it shows in our community's desirability and property values. Our volunteers continue to work hard to fulfill the NPOA's mission as highlighted in the orange text box. We're the best "free" insurance a homeowner could have.

Have a great and safe summer. Next, articles on everything from a real sci-fi local insect and how to stay safe during our extreme weather events.

NPOA MOVES

SAME BUILDING—DIFFERENT SUITE

On April 30, the NPOA administrative offices moved from suite 119 in the Executive Suite Office Building to Suite 103.

The new suite provides a more efficient floorplan, much improved lighting and control of the HVAC, and best of all, better visibility to our members. The new space also has a separate storage and break area with an additional entry/exit ac- cess, improved organization and solved safety concerns by separating direct access to the staff from the public and offering an additional access to the outside of the building in case of emergency.

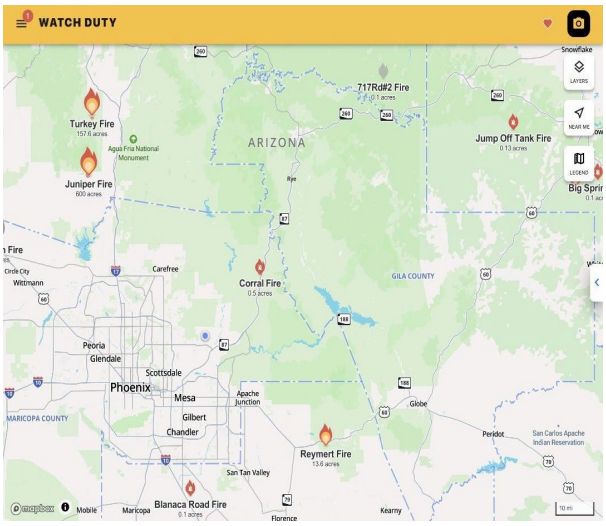
Since the move was only steps away, it was easy to make happen by using our volunteer "workforce!!" Gently used cubicles and file cabinets were installed in mid-April and the computer equipment was moved over shortly thereafter. An upgrade to a wireless network has improved efficiency, eliminated "crashes", and simplified cabling. The employees are thrilled with their new surroundings and members have had nothing but positive comments upon seeing the "new" space. Stop in and check it out!

THE TARANTULA HAWK WASP

You never know what new discoveries await you out in your backyard. This beautiful orange and blue black winged insect flew into mine last year. Little did I know that it's the Darth Vader of the insect world! The Tarantula Hawk Wasp delivers one of the most painful stings in the world, rated #4 - highest level - on the Schmidt Sting Pain Index and described by entomologist Schmidt as "blinding, fierce shockingly electric" with the only response is to "lay down and scream".

These wasps are native to the southwestern United States and parts of South America but prefer deserts. They can reach up to two inches in length and some species can grow twice that big! They nest underground in either existing burrows or in cracks in rocks.

Perhaps the most horrifying fact about the wasp is its gruesome incubation processes, especially from the tarantulas perspective! The female wasp utilizes the tarantula as an incubator for its young. First the wasp will sting the tarantula, not killing it but permanently paralyzing the spider. After dragging the spider into the burrow, the wasp will lay a single egg inside the (still alive) tarantulas abdomen. Once the egg hatches, it begins feeding on the living spiders blood and then it's tissue. Eventually, a mature tarantula hawk wasp emerges and changes its diet to pollen instead of the bodies of tarantulas! Out of this world unbelievable - but it's happening in your backyard!



WATCH DUTY APP

Real-time Information of Wildfires

A great free app everyone should have on your phone and other devices is the Watch Duty app. This app provides live updates about existing wildfires, new fires, and safety measures including evacuation status notices from professionals who monitor fires.

Especially useful for those of us with homes or families in other fire-prone areas of the country. It also useful for travelers who may be unfamiliar with the area they are visiting. Its easy to use and even provides data of air quality and shelter locations. Go to : https:www.watchduty.org

The following articles appeared in the Summer 2024 newsletter and have been updated.

EXTREMES: "FIRE AND RAIN"

The Phoenix metro area experiences some of the most extreme weather conditions during its summer season. As we enter summer, winds from the south/southeast begin bringing moisture from the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico. Combine that with increasing temperatures and humidity (yes, it's not always a "dry" heat) and the monsoon season is officially underway.

Monsoons, unlike a single thunderstorm, are large-scale weather events that bring wide-spread torrential rainfall, high winds, frequent lightening and often are preceded by huge dust storms known as "haboobs". While this type of thunderstorm brings nearly half of the annual precipitation to the metro area, they often leave in their wake flash floods, wildfires caused by lightening and dust storms that can cause pileups.

How to stay safe during monsoon season? Keep an eye on the weather forecast. Severe thunderstorm and/or Red Flag warnings are good indicators that a monsoon may be brewing. Since most storms occur in mid to late afternoon, try to schedule outdoor activities like hiking and golfing for earlier in the day. It's cooler and the humidity will be lower.

If you must be out, track the storm using your phones weather app. Avoid driving through flooded areas and pay attention to dips and washes. Never let children outdoors to "play in the rain". Since wind gusts for a severe thunderstorm can exceed 60 mph, stay indoors and avoid windows. On a personal note, we lost a 30' four-armed Saguaro during a 2021 monsoon. Thankfully, it fell away from the house and didn't cause any damage but the lesson was learned - stay away from trees and large Saguaros!

In June 2020, a wildfire began just outside Fountain Hills near the Bush Highway and SR87. That's a little too close for comfort! It ended up being the fifth largest fire in Arizona history burning over 193,000 acres. Arizona's emergency management offices urge residents to follow the Ready-Set-Go! — a nationwide program developed here in AZ. It applies to all types of hazardous situations, not just fires!

READY

Plan for evacuation and communication with family and friends.

Register for Emergency Notifications with the Town of Fountain Hills through CodeRed. Visit: www.fountainhillsaz.gov/codered

Prepare a "go kit" (or at least make a list!) with supplies for the following P's: people, pets, prescriptions, papers and/or personal needs, and priceless items.

SET

Arrange to move to a safe location. This can be with a family member, friend, motel or shelter outside of the affected area.

Grab your assembled "go kit!!"

GO - EVACUATE!!!!

BEAT THE HEAT

The Valley area routinely sees temperatures 100 during the summer season. In 2024, 143 days were above 100 with 70 days were above 110! We had a record-breaking streak of 113 days above 100 last summer. Whew! That's hot! And can be deadly, if you don't follow some very simple common-sense rules to avoid heat illnesses, like heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

The major culprit behind most heat-related illnesses is dehydration — when your body loses more fluid than you consume. So number one rule: **Stay Hydrated** by drinking plenty of (non-alcoholic) fluids. If you're thirsty, you need to drink fluids and eat foods with a high water content.

Stay Indoors in air conditioned buildings during peak heat hours. Do your outdoor chores and exercises early in the morning, if possible. If your budget is tight, turn your air up, dress in lightweight clothes and take frequent cool showers or sponge baths.

Avoid Strenuous Activity. Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash can occur at outdoor temperatures above 82 degrees with prolonged exposure! Imagine how dangerous it is above 100! Please take care of yourself, your neighbors and your pets by understanding how insidious dehydration is and by following these simple rules. If you or your pets exhibit any signs identified in the highlighted box , get medical attention immediately!

SIGNS OF HEATED-RELATED ILLNESSES

EXHAUSTION (may include the following)

- Heavy Sweating
- Headache, Dizziness, or Both
- Thirst
- Irritability
- Weakness
- Elevated body temperature
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fainting

STROKE

- Confusion, slurred speech, altered mental status
- Hot, dry skin; profuse sweating
- Very high body temperature
- Loss of Consciousness

THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS HEAT RELATED ILLNESS. CALL 911 AS THIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY