

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

WORKING TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS BEAUTIFUL!!!

“BUZZ”



SUMMER 2023

WANT TO SEE US IN ACTION?
The Committee of Architecture
meets every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Our Mission

- ✓ Protecting our members' property values 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

Welcome to the online Summer edition of the Neighborhood Property Owners' Association (NPOA) newsletter - The Neighborhood "Buzz"! A couple of reasons for no printed edition this time. The biggest is trying to be more cost effective. We simply can't afford to send out close to 4,400 printed versions to households where many owners have either left for the entire summer or have taken extended vacations to cooler destinations. We use a bulk mailing service to keep costs low but the disadvantage to that is that the Post Office does not forward this type of mailing. So we're reaching out through our website!

In this issue, rather than focusing on the history and mission of the NPOA, (although we'll throw a few things in here about those, too) we're bringing you articles about summering in one of the hottest places on earth. In fact, the Phoenix area ranks as number one for the most days a year with temperatures over 90 and 100. Quite a distinction! And perfectly survivable for you and your pets if you know a few things about the Sonoran desert, monsoons, wildfires and of course, some of the creatures that share this amazing part of the world.

But before you turn (oops, scroll) to the next page, we would like to stress, once again, how important and valuable the NPOA should be to you as a property owner. Much like a Town, City or County protects your health and safety by enforcing building, environmental, and other codes, we protect the value of your property by applying quality architectural and aesthetic standards to all exterior aspects of your home.

You bought here in Fountain Hills for a good reason. Because you liked what you saw. And we're here to make sure you will always want to live here for that very reason.

To see a map of the location of the 44 plats within the NPOA visit our website: www.npoafh.org



The NPOA had a busy Spring with an overall number of permits issued up over previous years. Word must be getting out about getting your permit before starting a project. Not sure if you need one? Call the office at 480-837-5317 for help.

On March 20th, 2023 the Annual General Meeting was held at the Community Center. Over 60 people attended - the largest crowd in over 15 years! After a brief presentation and review of the previous year's work, financials and accomplishments, the raffle was held for the "gift basket." Not a basket at all but a beautiful acrylic wine cooler complete with lighted reusable ice cubes, a bottle of Brunello and gift certificates for items ranging from oil changes to massages. The lucky winner wasn't present but was so appreciative when they picked up their prize. Next raffle will be held in November. All previous entries were kept, so be sure to enter if you haven't already.

On May 18, the Association hosted a Realtor Social as a means of reaching out to local Realtors and Title companies as they are responsible for disclosing that NPOA properties have Deed Restrictions that run with the land. We appreciate their efforts to inform and educate the homebuyers on this very important aspect of purchasing a home in the areas of Fountain Hills under the associations jurisdiction.

The Association also acknowledged that they need to step up efforts to enlist more delegates to fill vacancies for plats that are underrepresented or have no representation at all! First task is to hold an informal delegate get-together to understand how delegates help inform and interact with neighbors in their assigned plats. The hope is to provide a better means of communication with the delegates and therefore the property owners. Look for more information in mid-June.

Lastly, this past year has seen an increasing number of challenges brought before the Board, some ultimately ending up in litigation. It's not how we want to spend our volunteer's time much less the associations money, but it's become a huge drain on our resources. We'd much rather try to find common ground while still upholding our guidelines. We all share a common goal ... keeping our home, neighborhood and community beautiful.

WHO TO CALL

EMERGENCY - CALL 911

NON - EMERGENCY FIRE

Snake Removal 480-945-6311

Fire Station #1 480-837-9820

Fire Station #2 480-837-0804

MARICOPA COUNTY

Sheriff's Dispatch 602-876-1011

Animal Control 602-506-7387

NPOA 480-837-5317

TOWN HALL 480-816-5100

COMMUNITY CNTR 480-816-5200

PUBLIC LIBRARY 602-652-3000

FH SCHOOLS 480-664-5000

NO DELEGATE = NO REPRESENTATION

If you live in a Plat with no delegates or a fewer number than allowed you have no one who will speak on your behalf nor cast a vote for the Board members at the Annual General Meeting!

The following Plats have NO delegates: Plats 107, 403-B, 422, 506-A, 511, 601-C, 602-B, 701-A, & 704.

These Plats are underrepresented: 303 (-1), 411 (-1), 412 (1), 428 (2), 505-A (2), 505-D (1), 601-A (1),

602-C (1) 603-A (1), 603-C (1), 604-D (1), 605-C (1),

Stoneridge South (1), & Stoneridge North (1).

There are 29 openings! Call Kim at 480-837-5317 to apply!!!

NUISANCE ?

The NPOA has a Nuisance Complaint process wherein upon receipt of presented evidence or witnesses, and corroborated by an official Police report, fines after the first complaint will be assessed to the property owner of record.

Also, the Town of Fountain Hills enacted new fees and regulations on Short Term Rentals, often times the source of nuisance complaints. As of February 1, 2023 all rentals must be licensed and adhere to regulations described in the Town Code. For more information visit: www.fountainhillsaz.gov/rental-property

Lastly, the Town of Fountain Hills has a new on-line problem reporting app called **Fountain Hills Connect** powered by **SeeClickFix**. Residents and Businesses can submit from a list of common problems (See), take a picture with their smartphone (Click) and send it to the Town for resolution (Fix). The problem list covers a wide range of concerns from RV parking, noise complaints to neglected landscapes and code violations. Check it out!



PAINTING?

Two paint stores offer great discounts to NPOA members!

Sherwin Williams will give a 40% discount on both exterior and interior paint and 25% discount on supplies. **Dunn Edwards** offers up to a 37% discount on paint when purchased at 8686 Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale 85260.

Each store has a map of the properties that qualify for these discounts. For more information contact us at www.npoafh.org or (480) 837-5317. Don't forget to get your NPOA permit before starting your project!



EXTREMES: "FIRE AND RAIN"



The Phoenix metro area experiences some of the most extreme weather conditions during it's summer season. As we move towards 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

- Make a 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 five P's: people, pets, prescriptions, papers and 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!!!!

Have a safe and fun summer!



BEAT THE HEAT

The Valley area routinely sees temperatures 100 during the summer season. In 2022, 126 were above 100 with 22 above 110!

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.

Next :**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! See the next page on how to keep your fur babies safe this summer!

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

ARIZONA SUMMER PET CARE SAFETY TIPS

Summertime activities provide time to get out and have fun with our pets.
A few pre-cautions should keep them safe.

Many people that visit our state actually enjoy the heat because of our very low humidity. However, it is very important to realize that our pets, with their fur coats, must also learn to cope. Here are some tips to help your pets deal with the Arizona heat:

- ◆ Use non-metal water dishes: Metal dishes will allow the water to heat up, and discourage your pet from adequate water intake. This, could lead to dehydration. Always remember to take plenty of cool water for your dogs if you are out hiking with them! We discourage hiking with pets in the heat.
- ◆ Shade: Always allow your dog access to some form of shade. Very few animals can survive direct Arizona sun exposure for hours at a time. Keep in mind that the available shade will change as the day progresses, and make sure your pet can always stay cool.
- ◆ Sunburn and Pad burns: The Arizona heat can cause asphalt and concrete to reach temperatures capable of cooking an egg, If the surface is uncomfortable when you touch it, consider walking your pet on grass or another surface. Also, if your pet has short hair or has recently been groomed and the hair is short, excessive exposure to the sun an burn their skin.
- ◆ Swimming pools: If your dog is prone to swim, remember to introduce them to the pool while you are there. Show them where the steps are and how to get out of the pool. If they cannot get out of the pool on their own, be sure they do not have access when you are not there.
- ◆ Hazards: Always keep your dog leashed when on trails, and at home get in the habit of looking in their exercise area before releasing them. Rattlesnakes, scorpions and cacti are just a few of the hazards that vigilance (and a Leash) can minimize.
- ◆ Heatstroke: Even the most dedicated owners will sometimes find their pets have over –exerted themselves. This is the most common during times of greater temperature variation. That is when we start a morning hike at 85 degrees only to have the temperature in triple digits before we return. If you think your dog is suffering from heat stroke/exhaustion, it is important to remain calm, and transport the pet to a veterinary emergency facility. Use the air conditioner in the car, but do not blow it directly on the dog. If an additional person is helping, then pouring cold (not iced) water on the paws, belly and head can help provide evaporative cooling while you drive.

SUMMER FUN CALENDAR



JUNE

SPLASH PAD SUMMER SERIES: Tuesdays through July 25th, 6-8:00 pm at Fountain Park Splash Pad

12 WACKY WET WEDNESDAYS: 11am—12:30 pm at Four Peaks Park

17 PARTY IN THE PARK: 6-9:00 pm at Four Peaks Park

JULY

FOURTH AT THE FOUNTAIN: Fountain Park, Date TBD 9:00 pm

12 WACKY WET WEDNESDAYS: 11am—12:30 pm at Four Peaks Park

21 FAMILY FUN NIGHT: Fountain Hills Community Center, 6-8:00 pm

AUGUST

26 BACK TO SCHOOL BASH: Four Peaks Park, 6-8:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

28 BALLET UNDER THE STARS: Fountain Park, 7:00 pm

