

WORKING TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS BEAUTIFUL!!!

“BUZZ” “BONUS”



Thank you for visiting our website and checking out the Bonus content of the Spring newsletter! We thought you might enjoy some “light” reading on topics meant to be informative and helpful to new and existing members! We welcome your feedback!

TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

The NPOA supports numerous community-based initiatives and always looks for ways to encourage its members to help others as well. Through the Arizona Tax Credit Program donations to a Qualified Charitable Organization (QCOs) can reduce or eliminate up to \$400 for individuals or \$800 for a couple from your taxes. It’s a dollar -for-dollar tax reduction credit program on your AZ income tax obligation. What a deal!

Fountain Hills has five different QCOs that will accept your monetary donations: *The Fountain Hills Community Tax Credit Foundation* which supports citizens in need in FHs; *Hope for Homes* supporting low income vets, seniors and the disabled in crisis situations; *Foster Your Future* supports homeless and young adults transitioning to independent living; *Extended Hands* a food bank supporting individuals and families in need of nutritious meals; Junior Achievement supporting and inspiring young people for success.

Please reach out to these wonderful organizations. It’s not too late! Donations made during 2022 or donations made before April 18, 2023 may be claimed on your 2022 AZ income tax return.

ENTER TO WIN

A FABULOUS GIFT BASKET !



Be sure to attend the Annual General Meeting of the NPOA scheduled for Monday , March 20th at 6:00 pm at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

A drawing, for a "gift basket" valued at over \$500, will be held as part of the meetings activities. Refreshments will be served, too!

The NPOA would like to thank the generous donations and support from local businesses and individuals. Their commitment to assisting the NPOA in gifting these amazing items is truly appreciated!

Here are just a few of the wonderful donors:

- ◆ Aesthetic Elegance and Wellness
◆ Automotive Research, LLC
◆ Bone Haus
◆ Casa Balche, Pampered Chef
◆ Fountain Hills Food Cart
◆ Ladyslipper Wine
◆ Russo Salon Masseur, Lawrence Scott
◆ Russo Salon Stylist, Ken Maddox

Entry forms are available at the NPOA offices and on the back of the Spring Newsletter. Forms will be available at the Annual General Meeting too. Only one entry per household.

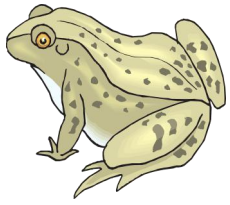
Good luck!



Ever worry about falling or some other accident and unable to unlock the door for first responders? Worry no more! The Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors offers a lockbox program that allows emergency personnel to gain entry into a

senior’s home by using a key inside the lockbox. Only emergency personnel know the code. Call 1-877-229-5042 or contact :Koryn@ScottsdaleREALTORS.org. A small donation is requested!

## UNIQUELY SOUTHWESTERN



### THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT!!!

Most of us are aware that the Sonoran Desert holds a variety of creepy, crawly creatures that may sting and bite sometimes with serious health consequences. But many of us are unaware of a creature that may be sleeping in your backyard just waiting for a summer monsoon to wake them up. That creature is the Colorado River toad, formerly called the Sonoran Desert toad.

At about 7.5" long, it is the largest native toad in the United States. It is found mostly in southern AZ and is a nocturnal forager feeding on lizards, amphibians and small mammals. They are most active from May-September. They breed in ponds, streams, and in any shallow man-made water structures.

What makes them dangerous, especially to dogs, is they secrete a poison that is potent enough to cause serious illness and even death. They emit the poison when they are stressed and even if your dog doesn't directly come in contact with the toad, licking their secretions from the ground could have serious consequences. The best way to ensure that you and your dog are safe from a Colorado River toad encounter is avoidance training. The Humane Society of Southern AZ offers training classes conducted by area professionals during June-September. Call 520-327-6088 for more information.



## FIND & FIX WATER LEAKS

Do you know that according to the EPA the average household loses more than 10,000 gallons of water each year through leaks! If you suspect you might have a leak, here are a few places to check.

First check your irrigation controller programming. Make sure it is running correctly and does not run too often or long. Once you have determined its not the problem, you can move on towards an outdoor visual inspection. Start with your water meter, usually located near the curb. Lift cover and check for leaks. Finding none, walk towards your homes main shut-off valve. Visually inspect along the way for any wet spots, holes or depressions that may indicate an underground leak. Check the valve for any dampness or leaks. Do the same for all other outdoor faucets or hose bibbs.

Next check your irrigation system, again looking for wet spots, small holes or depressions. Turn on the system and relook at your system to see if any emitters are missing or irrigation heads are cracked or broken.

If you have a pool or fountain and notice an abnormal drop in water level, you may have a leak. An autofill system can mask a leak, so if you notice an increase in your water bill consider calling in a professional for help.

Lastly, check all indoor faucets, toilets, showerheads and bathtubs. One drip every second amounts to five gallons per day of water wasted. Visit the AZ Municipal Water Users Association for more tips at [www.amwua.org](http://www.amwua.org)

## GARDENING IN THE SOUTHWEST

Many of us are 'transplants' (no pun intended) to the Sonoran Desert - use to rich soils, predictable seasonal temperatures and abundant rainfall. Never heard of "caliche"? If you've tried to plant a shrub in your AZ yard, chances are you quickly found out a shovel won't do. Maybe a pick or a jackhammer? Arizona gardening *is* challenging but the rewards can be a beautiful, well-designed low-water landscape.

There are a number of outstanding plants from trees to groundcovers that are great choices for our urban landscape and meet a number of common-sense desert planting principles (low water, low maintenance, heat and cold tolerant, soil appropriate, javelina -resistant ) and also provide color, texture and attract native birds and butterflies.

While it's tempting to visit your local big box store and bring home those showy, beautiful, fully in bloom plants, a little research could save you money, time and effort. Most important is understanding your environment. What is your property's orientation? Where do you want to plant—near a pool? patio? entry? Why? For color, shade, low water? What type of soil do you have? Once you have determined the above, it's time to think about the type of plant: a tree, foundation planting, accent, wildlife attractive, etc. Your local Nurseries can help you select plants once you've determined the above.

Also, if you are a seasonal resident you might want to focus on plants that bloom primarily in the cooler months, like emus or penstemons. And if you love vegetable gardening don't despair! There are many types of vegetables, herbs and fruits that grow in the both winter and summer here in the "low desert".

The Town of Fountain Hills has a plant list in their **Subdivision Ordinance (Article 6)**. Another great resource is the **Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert** guide found also at your local nurseries. A copy is available for checkout at the NPOA offices. Be sure to check with the NPOA if you plan to do a large-scale landscape redesign.

