



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The big issue at this Board meeting was the erosion problems created by our “heavy” monsoon rains this year. As many of you know, several roadways, driveways, and washes between homes were overflowing with water and debris. Culverts were clogged, rocks and gravel filled some roads making them impassable, and flowing water along some roads began to erode the road bed under the asphalt. Of course the biggest question on everyone’s mind is: “Who is responsible for the clean-up and repair work? Is it the HOA, the developer, homeowner or, in some cases, the builder? Tom Andrews has formed an Erosion Task Force to assess the situation and develop a plan of action. Some important things to remember:

1. The Sycamore Springs and Sycamore Creek road system was approved by the appropriate agencies prior to building, so the likelihood of the developer rebuilding roads is probably remote. It would take several thousand dollars. In addition, many homeowners signed a disclaimer regarding the road system and natural wear and tear;
2. Neither Pima County nor the State of AZ are responsible-these are private roads;
3. Anything you do to improve drainage on your property could affect drainage on homeowner’s property around you.
4. Washes are not dump sites. This can cause big problems for homeowners downstream during heavy rains;
5. We have probably seen the last of the heavy rains for this year—famous last words;

Anyone who would like to be a part of this task force, please contact Tom Andrews.

Treasurer’s Report

Mario Vassallo is ready to begin drafting the 2006 HOA Budget. The Board of Directors has formed a Finance Committee. The committee will review each line item of the 2005 budget and make recommendations to the Board for changes, additions, or deletions.

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Mario reviewed the current financial standing of the HOA and says all is well and on track up to this point.

Al Johnson reported that the **ACC Committee** has received several design modifications requests. There is nothing else new to report at this time.

Landscape Committee

Chairman, Sam Santistevan, reported the benches for the front gates are in place and the bike racks are ready to install. More trees have been planted at the Sycamore Springs gate and the Sycamore Creek gate. He is currently looking at options for solar lighting.

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to SAM, who voluntarily cleared the sand and rocks from the roads after a heavy monsoon rain with his own equipment.

Nominating Committee

The HOA Board is seeking two individuals who will be part of the nominating committee. The role of the committee is to find people willing to run for HOA Board positions and also to count ballots. Two HOA Board positions are up for election in 2006. If you are interested and want more information, the CC&R's give a description of duties and length of term.

Community Forum

One homeowner mentioned concern for vehicles tailgating residents through the gates to gain access to the community. Are these vehicles authorized and do they have legitimate business in the community? It's hard to say. And, what, if anything, could or should be done?

Again, a homeowner asked if road signs could be installed making motorists aware there is no outlet, and that these are private roads. A suggestion was made to put up a "No Trespassing" sign at the front gate.

Another homeowner expressed frustration that no action is being taken regarding several items that had been brought up over the past few months, and why can't the Association spend the money to fix these things.

If you have suggestions or answers to these important questions please come to the next **HOA Board Meeting**, scheduled for **September 19, 7:00 pm** at the American Legion.





Book Club

September 7th Book Club is meeting at Christine Leach's house:
9310 E. Sycamore Crossing Place at **Noon**.
Newcomers welcome!

Star Gazing

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate during the Perseid Meteor event, but another night of stargazing is being planned. The date has not been set, so please check the website for news.



Community-Wide Garage Sale

The garage sale is planned for October 15 and the gates will open at 7:00 am. We are asking for a \$5 donation from each house that participates to help off-set the cost of advertising. We have ten families signed up so far. Contact Linda Elling for more information, linda-elling@cox.net.



Halloween-October 31st

Are you handing out Treats for Halloween?? Let Community Affairs know and we will give you a balloon for your mailbox so Trick or Treaters will be sure to stop by your house.

Hiking Group

This group will meet once each month (probably on a Saturday) beginning in October and going through March. Watch the newsletter for dates, time, and a description of hikes.

Holiday Progressive Dinner- December 3

Plan now to attend this festive Holiday gathering, with lots of great food and Holiday cheer. Watch for details in up-coming newsletters.



SS-Hoa e-Newsletter

If you are reading this online---WELCOME---you have found the e-newsletter! Hope this format appeals to you and that you will visit the web site often. Bob will send an email reminder when the newsletter is updated. He says he has approximately 40 email addresses. If you would like a reminder, please let Bob know via the web sit. Bob continues to upgrade and improve the site, and hopes to make this site a weekly internet destination for everyone!

BEWARE

The global access code to the front gates is going to be changed. Everyone is encouraged **not** to give out personal access codes to delivery people or anyone else. It is always much safer to have them call on the intercom and then the gate can be opened.

NEW REFERENCE GUIDE coming soon

Homeowner, Joyce Thomas has created a handy reference guide to the CC&R's and the Design Modification Guidelines (DMG's). She says, "It is everything you need to know quickly." The guide will not replace either of these documents, but will provide quick, basic information. The guide will be available soon. Tom Andrews would like to form a committee that would review/revise the CC&R's and The DMG's. If you would like to help in this effort, contact Tom Andrews.

Anyone wondering what happened to the Sycamore Springs gate??? Apparently a truck hit the gate as it was opening and bent it. The company owning the truck has been contacted and they will cover the cost of repairs.

Community Reminders

Seal coating of our streets is still scheduled for October. If you would like to have your driveway done at the same time, let Jeff Summers know at jsummers@cadden1.com or 520-648-6730.

Holiday House Decorating Contest

Gather your ideas and make plans now for your Holiday decorations. Homes participating in the contest should have their decorations up by December 3. We will have "official judges" and prizes!

Common Neighborly Courtesies and Community Comments



*We would like
to introduce
Mr. & Mrs. Kowalski*

Light Pollution-Some homeowners are asking that neighbors consider using/installing "Night Sky Friendly" lighting. Stargazers in the community would greatly appreciate it. Sconces and light fixtures that direct lighting down to walkways are examples of 'friendly' lighting.



Veda and William (Bill) Kowalski moved to Sycamore Springs in July 2004, from Silverado Hills in Southeast Tucson. Veda received her PhD in 2001 from the University of Arizona, specializing in Educational Psychology. Veda works at the University of Arizona as Associate Dean of Students. She is responsible for handling student disciplinary issues and crises. Veda likes to read, karaoke, travel, and watch reality TV.

Bill is a Senior Consultant with Integrity Systems. He works with senior executives of companies to help them improve their organization's effectiveness in acquiring and retaining customers. He has been working with the company since January 2005. Bill has also been an executive of a Fortune 500 company, and a business consultant over the past 20 years. Bill is an avid golfer, enjoys music, physical fitness, and the Chicago Bears. Both Veda and Bill enjoy walks with their dog "Cholla", and the magnificent sunsets here in Sycamore Springs.

Veda and Bill's most memorable events since moving into Sycamore Springs have been sharing their first Christmas in their new home, making new friends, and adjusting to our most recent monsoon winds and rains. They love being a part of this neighborhood and have met some really good people. Veda, especially, likes living in a community where people care about their neighborhood, and she looks forward to the community cleanup event (we don't believe she has missed even one).

The Kowalski's are extremely pleased with their home and our area, and are looking forward to many years of tranquility; even as other developments sprout up around us. The Kowalski's specifically chose this community because it is gated, the mountain views are fabulous, and the houses are not on top of each other. They also find the desert landscape simply gorgeous.

NEWSLETTER

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Steamore
Springs

A very good idea

Paramedics and other emergency response personnel will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity and their emergency contacts.

You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: **ICE**

ICE stands for "**In case of emergency**". If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately.

ICE your cell phone NOW!