

Sunrise Mountain Ridge Newsletter

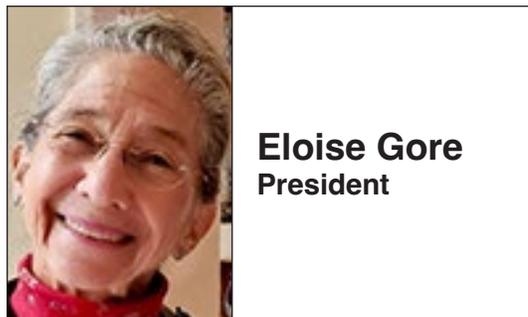
Fax 520-203-0223
Hotline hotline@smrhoa.com
Website www.smrhoa.com
Database updates
database@smrhoa.com

Classes
Yoga Nancy Bower
Spanish Cynthia Clark
Water aerobics Joy Jensen
*For instructors' contact info,
see the SMR HOA Directory and
Homeowners Guide*

Clubhouse reservations
Kathie Flaherty
facilitiesreservations@smrhoa.com
Newsletter editor/pubs chair
Susan Broaddus pubs@smrhoa.com

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message p.1	Nominating Committee p.5	Database p.9
Landscape p.2	Hospitality Committee p.6	Advertising by residents p.9
Recreation p.3	Architecture p.6	Advertising p.10
Book Nook p.4	Neighborhood Watch p.7	Photo gallery p.12
Roads p.5	Volunteer Liaison p.8	



President's Message

The February Board meeting was a bit of a marathon, but we spent the time wisely in my opinion. I want to describe some of the highlights here, and after the minutes are approved at the next meeting, you will be able to read about it for yourself.

First and foremost, we experimented with an in-person meeting outside the Clubhouse. Unfortunately, our efforts to make Zoom participation also available did not succeed. This was a hardware problem which will be corrected once we are inside the Clubhouse

with the proper equipment. My apologies to those who tried to Zoom in. However, I am pleased to report that a small group of Board members have worked on the necessary procedures to reopen the Clubhouse, which has been closed for nearly two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They have outlined cleaning protocols and an approach to improve air flow, which will facilitate the reopening. We reviewed these procedures, and I am hoping that they will be completed in time for the next Board meeting on March 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. You will read more about this in the Recreation and Hospitality articles in this Newsletter.

As you will read in the Hospitality article, the Volunteer Appreciation event is coming up. I have mentioned before that we have about 100 residents in SMR who volunteer. We have had two more step up, and they haven't even moved in yet. It is so gratifying to see new neighbors joining the long-term residents to pitch in to benefit the community. There are so many opportunities no matter what experience you have or what skill you want to learn or share. Limited time available? Part-time resident? No problem, we have a spot for you. (More on this topic in the Volunteer Liaison article.)

At the end of the meeting, a new topic was raised: Privacy and Security on our SMRHOA website. I expect most if not all of us have experienced some kind of internet intrusion from a stranger pretending to be a friend or family member or have heard from our own friends that they received an odd email or text from you. But it wasn't you. It was someone using your name. I and my fellow Board members experience the same thing. We

want to try to reduce our exposure by removing our real email addresses and our telephone numbers from the website. You will notice that this information is no longer going to be in the Newsletter or listed in our sections of the website. But you can still reach us through what we call our “alias” email addresses: e.g., president@smrhoa.com. And you will be able to find our telephone contact information on the inside cover of the hard-copy Directory, which will be delivered to you soon. We want everyone, especially volunteers, to feel as safe as possible from hacking, phishing, etc.

I will close with a big thank you to the members of the Board, the Committees’ Chairs, and all the Volunteers for working diligently to make SMR a better place. Ok, I said “working,” but it’s fun, too, and a positive experience that keeps our dues down. I also want to compliment Bob Shaff and the Neighborhood Watch Committee for creating the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” recognition, as mentioned in his Newsletter article elsewhere in this issue.

Please join us for the next Board Meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The inside or outside location will be announced as we get closer to the date, and we hope to have Zoom available for anyone who prefers Zoom.

Eloise Gore

president@smrhoa.com



Landscape

Trees are always a topic of discussion for Landscape. Several times a year we receive homeowner requests to remove or to trim trees due to view obstructions. These requests are carefully considered from both the requesting homeowner’s perspective and from our common area and community impact perspective. I have often heard from residents that when they bought their homes there were no trees impacting their views and now there are. I get it, views are important

to all of us. It is important to remember, however, that our landscapes (both natural and planned) grow. Small trees turn into big trees. Plants multiply, spread, and grow. As our landscapes mature, the impact of trees is forever changing and, sometimes, this evolution can impact what used to be clear, unobstructed views. But trees also impact us in many other ways. Trees provide improved erosion control, character, color, and majesty to our landscapes. They provide shade for plant and animal life; they are important for the wonderful ambiance of our community. Trees also contribute in keeping Tucson’s climate cooler.

Over the years the SMR Landscape Committee has approached tree management in different ways. At one point the Committee took an aggressive posture to remove trees on most managed common area hillsides. The results were barren hillsides/streetscapes and an increase in erosion control issues. Consequently, subsequent Landscape Committees took on an aggressive tree planting strategy. This strategy was well intentioned but not necessarily well planned. As a result, we now have mature trees that are, at least to some extent, interfering with views of some homeowners. However, these same trees also provide great benefit to our community as a whole. For the most part, residents enjoy the presence of mature trees in our landscape. They provide structure, color, shade, wildlife habitat, etc., for all of us to enjoy.

It’s also important to know that requests to remove a tree, if approved, require more than a chain saw. Our larger trees in SMR have become landmarks of sorts. They have prominent presence in our landscapes. Simply removing these trees can leave significant holes in our common areas. As such, planning is required for tree removal and a strategy for filling in the void left by a tree removal. The larger the tree, the more time and planning is needed for the ultimate removal to occur.

Of course, not all requests are for tree removal. Many requesters simply want us to trim a tree to relieve any

view obstruction. Trimming may seem like a simple solution for many. However, trimming a tree can alter its future growth patterns, and excessive trimming can be detrimental to the health of a tree. Even trimming requests can involve consideration of multiple factors other than view impairment.

So, how do we balance all resident interests and perspectives? How do we balance a view impairment issue with the impact of removing a tree on all other residents that may not have a view issue? I would challenge anyone who might think these are easily managed issues, as they are not.

This year we established a subcommittee, the Tree Management Committee (TMC), that is charged with developing policy and procedural recommendations to improve overall tree management in SMR. It's a complicated and challenging task and I applaud our volunteers that are taking this on. The TMC mission will include recommendations for 1) how we can improve the process and evaluation of tree removal/trimming requests; 2) how we can best apprise and educate our residents of tree management issues; and 3) how we can best manage our tree landscape to meet the needs of our community as a whole.

I am always open to suggestions from residents. Some suggestions are embraced, some are not. However, if you have suggestions you would like the Landscape Committee to consider, I invite you to send those suggestions to me at landscape@smrhoa.com.

Greg Adams



Kathleen Flaherty
Recreation Chair

Recreation

Pools & Spas

February has been a fairly stable month for the pools and spas. Heat for the West Pool has been off since November, but will resume in March. The East Pool is open and heated, and both the East and West Spas are open and heated. We did not have any major issues with either pool area in February, which is good.

A reminder that if your pool key is not working reliably, you can contact reckeys@smrhoa.com and ask to exchange your old key for a brand-new one. Over time, these keys can wear down just enough in one spot to make it harder to open the pool locks.

Clubhouse

As you read earlier in this newsletter, after two years of being closed, we are thrilled that the SMR Clubhouse will soon be open again! The Board adopted protocols and criteria for safely reopening the Clubhouse. Stay tuned for the specifics and the timing, which will be announced by E-Blast as well as information on the website and on the Bulletin Boards.

We had a great open house on February 5 to show off the remodel work, which includes new flooring, an updated ceiling with flush-mount LED lights, and many other improvements. The day started out windy but fortunately, the wind died down and we had a lovely afternoon. About 75 residents stopped by and all were impressed with the changes made in the clubhouse. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with this event.

Courts

The Recreation Committee is investigating changing out the lights in the courts to LED lights to improve court lighting in the evenings. The current lights make it hard to see the ends of the courts.

Starting March 1, 2022, a **new schedule** will go into effect for the tennis and pickleball courts. The new schedule (above) has been established

October through April	Pickleball	Tennis
Tuesdays	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Thursdays	10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
May through September	Pickleball	Tennis
Tuesdays	6:30 – 8:30 a.m.	8:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Thursdays	8:45 – 10:45 a.m.	6:30 – 8:30 a.m.

to support both tennis and pickleball players and allow as many opportunities as possible for SMR residents to reserve their preferred times to play.

Courts are open from 5:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and can be reserved by registering your time slot on www.reservemycourt.com. You can reserve a time up to 14 days in advance, for not more than two days/week and in time blocks of no more than two hours. Need help registering? Contact Joy Greenberg, the Reserve My Court manager, at reserve_court@smrhoa.com. *Residents are encouraged to use the courts throughout the day when possible, sharing those preferred early play times. When we all exercise some flexibility with our scheduling, everyone gains access to the courts.*

◆ **Court reminders:** The courts are for tennis and pickleball only. To maintain the court surfaces, no pets, sport balls, scooters, skateboards, bikes or other rolling toys or buggies are allowed on the court. Only shoes with non-marking soles should be worn. When guests are invited to play, at least one SMR player must be on the court. All children under 14 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Rules such as no glass or brittle containers, no loud electronic music or other overly loud noises are common-sense regulations that ensure safety and take others into consideration. *Just remember to be a good neighbor while enjoying the courts.*



Steve Rissler, at reckeys@smrhoa.com, for the Recreation Committee

Questions? Contact Kathleen Flaherty, Recreation Chair, at recreation@smrhoa.com

Book Nook seeking donations

Keeping the Book Nook open during most of the pandemic kept a lot of us sane for the last two years. It's time for one of our periodical changeovers! **We will be accepting book donations for the Book Nook until March 21.**

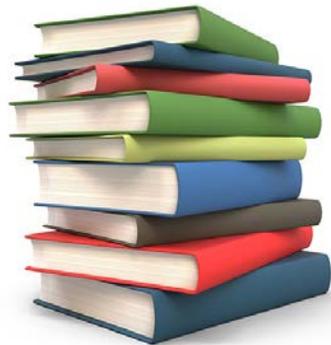
Please bring no more than 10 books per household. Books should be in good condition. Remember, too, to bring only good reading books you think your neighbors would enjoy.

Please put any donations in the large plastic boxes in the bottom of the Book Nook cabinets located in the East Pool area at the Clubhouse.

Please **do not donate the following:**

- ◆ Cookbooks
- ◆ Textbooks
- ◆ Travel guides
- ◆ Jigsaw puzzles
- ◆ Magazines
- ◆ Children's books
- ◆ Reference books

Overused, tattered and/or torn books are particularly unwanted and unwelcome.



If you are clearing out books from your home, be aware you can drop ALL reading material at:

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

2230 N Country Club Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85716

Phone: 520-795-3763

(This is where we take our recycled books; it is just south of Grant, across from ACE Hardware.)

If you have any questions, feel free to send Jill Ballesteros an email (listed in the SMR resident directory). Include your phone number, and she'll get back to you.

For newcomers to SMR, please come by the East Pool and enjoy our lending library located in the outdoor pool area!

Many thanks for keeping the quality and variety of reading material at such a high level!

Jill Ballesteros

Diane Sahler

Nancy Bower

("The Book Nookers")



John Mitchell
Roads Chair

Roads

Our roads, along with many Tucson roads, are asphalt. However, there are a number of concrete roads in the area too. One might wonder why we have selected asphalt instead of concrete.

One major reason is that cost of a concrete road is significantly higher than that of asphalt. Concrete roads also take longer to build as concrete requires up to a week to set. However, concrete roads are more durable than asphalt and last longer.

Although concrete roads need repairs less often than asphalt, the repairs are more difficult and costly. Holes or cracks can't be simply patched – instead, entire slabs must be replaced. In contrast, an asphalt road can usually be repaired by patching and re-coating, which is much faster and less costly than replacing a concrete slab.

An asphalt road is quieter than a concrete one. Many of us are familiar with the rhythmic “ka-tunk, ka-tunk, ka-tunk” sound when driving on an older concrete road in which the slabs have settled. Additionally, the quieter asphalt road produces better traction and skid resistance naturally, while texture must be brushed into the surface of a concrete road in order to create enough grip for the tires, which also contributes to road noise.

Perhaps surprisingly, both concrete and asphalt are recyclable. The concrete can be crushed into gravel and reused as roadbed material and in other applications. When an asphalt road is repaved, up to 25% of the asphalt can be incorporated into the new asphalt surface, and the rest recycled.

After consideration of all of these factors, asphalt became the developer's choice for our SMR roads.

John Mitchell
Roads Chair
roads@smrhoa.com



Colleen McAuliffe
Nominating Chair

Nominating Committee

SMR is unique in many ways, one of which is that we are run by a volunteer Board. The Nominating Committee is always looking for potential candidates to fill Board and Committee Chair positions.

We are currently looking for candidates to fill the Board Secretary position, currently held by Barbara Carbajal, whose term is expiring in December of 2022.

Our Architecture Committee Chair, Janet Pearce Foster, has let us know that she will be leaving her position in June of this year. We are looking for candidates to complete her term, which runs through the end of 2023.

If you have an interest in serving on the board, either now or in the future, or know someone who you think would be a good addition, please let me know.

Colleen McAuliffe
Nominations Chair
nominations@smrhoa.com



**Colleen McAuliffe
& Ron Flynn
Hospitality Co-Chairs**

Hospitality Committee

Our February 5th open house was well attended. Thank you to the approximately 75 neighbors who stopped by to see the newly renovated clubhouse and enjoy some refreshments. Many of you commented on the wonderful display of photographs. These were all taken by residents, and were all taken in our SMR neighborhood, which makes them even more

special. Thank you again to Kathie Flaherty, Cheryl Adams, and Leslie Adams for all of the work you put into this project.

A reminder of our Volunteer Appreciation Event

The Hospitality Committee has partnered with our Volunteer Liaison, Allen Hile, to put on an event that will honor all of our SMR volunteers. Please join us for a **Happy Hour and Dessert Potluck on Wednesday, March 9th, at 5:15 p.m.** at the east pool. Hospitality will provide drinks and appetizers, and we ask that **residents bring a favorite dessert to share.**

Please join us to meet, celebrate and recognize the many volunteers who work hard to make SMR such a great community to live in, as well as to learn about volunteer opportunities.

In other news, as Eloise mentioned in her remarks, we were part of a small group of board members that put together protocols for reopening the clubhouse. We are working with Recreation, and our goal is to have all of those protocols in place by the March 10th Board meeting.

Colleen and Ron
Hospitality Co-Chairs

You can reach us at hospitality@smrhoa.com



**Janet Pearce
Foster
Architecture Chair**

Architecture

Hopefully, most of you have given the new Architectural Design Reference (ADR) at least a cursory view to appreciate the changed format and updated information. As written in a previous news column, the most pertinent information is now easily accessed using two charts and includes, for reference and copying, the three forms most used in communication with the committee: 1) Project Application, 2) Contractors' Checklist, and 3) Annual Survey/RSI

Inspection Checklist.

The next Architecture Committee meeting is Monday, March 7th, 3-5 p.m. via Zoom. If you wish attend, please contact architecture@smrhoa.com at least two days prior and a link will be emailed to you on or about 2:30 p.m. that day.

A new hot topic is solar panels. With the increase in energy costs coupled with the plentitude of Arizona sun, many are opting to upgrade their options with the installation of solar panels. An earlier newsletter outlined straightforward guidelines: 1) the solar array must not be visible from the street, and 2) panels are not to be installed on roof tiles. A variety of companies have successfully designed photo-voltaic (PV) arrays for our community within these guidelines. A more troubling issue is that two cases were reported to me where a solar company may have solicited business and, in one case, was forceful in their dealings with a resident. **Please, if you are on the fence with any vendor, be it solar or otherwise, check the company out carefully and ask for references before hiring.** *No one should feel pressured to hire a particular vendor.* Ask your neighbors for information, advice, suggestions and references before signing a contract you do not feel comfortable honoring. It is not within this committee's scope to recommend vendors; however, the committee can provide a list of

SMR residents who have recently had PV arrays installed.

On the wider subject of vendors, the committee is hoping to undertake an update of the Homeowners' Helper Handbook. Stay tuned for a community-wide request of suggestions, and please participate. It is to everyone's benefit to take the time in sharing perspective, experience and outcome. The next time, you may be the one hoping to find a trustworthy and competent vendor.

A personal note here: Notice has been given to the Nominating Committee that I will relinquish my role as Architecture chair by the SMR summer break in June. If you are interested, or know of anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to contact Colleen McAuliffe at nominations@smrhoa.com.

Last, but certainly not least, **please plan on attending the Volunteer Appreciation event on Wednesday, March 9th to be held outside at the Clubhouse from 5:15-7 p.m.** There will not only be festivities, but you will meet committee members, and your presence acknowledges the work of all volunteers who run our association so smoothly and well. I am told that SMR is the envy of the Fairfield HOAs, and it is the volunteers we have to thank for this stellar reputation.

Janet Pearce Foster, Chair
architecture@smrhoa.com

REMINDER #1: If you plan to sell your home, please **contact** resale@smrhoa.com before the house goes on market, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

REMINDER #2: If you are contemplating any exterior project work, please check the Architectural Design Reference (ADR) or contact architecture@smrhoa.com BEFOREHAND regarding the SMR Project Application requirement. Failure to do this may result in fines, unnecessary delays and/or expensive revisions.



Bob Shaff
Neighborhood
Watch Chair

Neighborhood Watch

2022 SMR Directory Distribution

It's SMR DIRECTORY TIME!!

This year, the SMR Neighborhood Watch Block Captains will help distribute the 2022 SMR Directory. Please welcome your Block Captain to your door as they deliver your personal copy of the SMR Directory during early March. For those residents who will be out of town, on vacation, or just not available during early March ... not to

worry ... your directory will be mailed to you.

SMR Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Camino Ferreo residents Jeff and Angie Bartell are the first recipients of the SMR "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" recognition! This recognition is to identify examples of SMR "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" and to inspire others to do something similar. Here's the story:

A few days before New Years, Jeff and Angie found a neighbor couple in dire circumstances – incapacitated and malnourished. Jeff and Angie got them to the hospital, called their family who lived in other states to inform them, and began serving as the couple's caregivers. For more than three weeks, Jeff and Angie provided daily meals, shopping assistance, personal care, and preparation for a move as they awaited a vacancy at a local assisted



Angie and Jeff Bartell

living facility. With no family in Tucson, and a pandemic-related shortage of in-home care staff, Jeff and Angie felt they had to provide for the couple's safety and well-being until they could be moved to assisted living. Caregiving can be simultaneously rewarding, stressful, and exhausting. Jeff and Angie saw a need and acted to fill it.

Congratulations and many thanks from the couple, their family, and from SMR to the Bartells for their exemplary volunteer service and life-saving help they provided to their neighbors!! Your example is one of the things that makes SMR a special place for us all.

Bob Shaff

neighborhood@smrhoa.com



Volunteer Liaison

**Come to the Volunteer Appreciation X-Travaganza (VAX)
Happy Hour/Dessert Potluck!!**

It's happening March 9 outside at the East Pool/Clubhouse from 5:15-7:00 p.m. The Hospitality Committee is providing drinks and appetizers, and residents are encouraged to bring a favorite dessert to share. Volunteers will receive a gift of appreciation, which I hope will meet with everyone's approval. Every Volunteer should attend to

bask in the glow of the Association's adulation, and everyone else should attend to help generate the glow!

SMR volunteers deserve our appreciation and recognition every day because it is they who make SMR such a distinctively excellent place to live. We have well over a hundred capable volunteers, many fulfilling several positions, who manage all aspects of the Association's operation. SMR volunteers do it all without involvement by a management company. I think that one major reason amity and good feeling prevail in SMR is that all decisions are made by the owners, not a management company, and are implemented directly by the owners, not a management company, according to the priorities and tastes of the owners. In addition to greater hands-on homeowner control over the affairs of the Association, the added benefit is lower homeowner fees for everyone than would otherwise be possible, because there are no hefty management company fees to pay.

So, this gathering gives us all a proper platform to express our appreciation for the vast contributions of SMR volunteers. Please plan to attend.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Several volunteers have stepped forward to assist the Recreation Committee by performing simple walk-throughs of the recreation premises – the pools, the spas, the clubhouse, and the courts – and eyeing for any new or potential problems. It would be great if a few more residents would sign up for this activity, as it is a really easy way to get involved. Please step up and lend a hand to Recreation Committee Chair Kathleen Flaherty in this simple non-demanding task. Contact me at volunteer@smrhoa.com, or Recreation Chair Kathleen Flaherty at recreation@smrhoa.com.

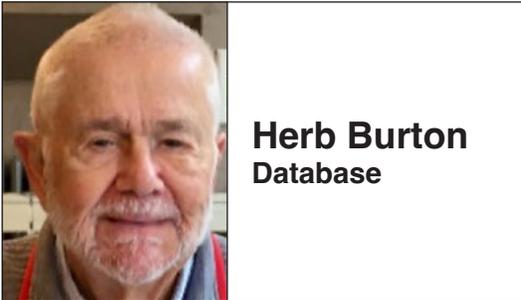
The **Neighborhood Watch Committee** is still recruiting for a few more volunteers for ARLO duty – i.e., monitoring the ARLO security camera recordings made at the West Pool, East Pool, and Tennis Courts to detect any unauthorized intrusions or vandalism. Neighborhood Watch Chairman Bob Shaff's article in the October 2021 Newsletter described this volunteer opportunity in detail, and you can contact him for more information at neighborhood@smrhoa.com.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome two new residents who have volunteered for the **Information Technology Committee**, Bob and Cindy Owens, who are returning to Tucson after a sojourn in California. They have

offered their expertise and experience to help with the ever-growing number of IT related functions that help to keep SMR running smoothly. Welcome, Bob and Cindy, and thank you so much!

If you also happen to possess computer expertise or experience and would be willing to share it with the Association in any way, small or large, there is more room at the party for others. We would love to hear from you. Contact me at volunteer@smrhoa.com, and I will connect you with the volunteers that speak computerese.

Allen Hile



Database

The 2022 Directory and Homeowners Guide will be distributed in early March. Thank you to the many of you who updated your listings by the deadline.

Please submit any updates, changes, corrections and new information to: database@smrhoa.com.

Herb Burton
Database Manager

Advertising by Residents

SMR residents may place ads by submitting copy and a photo (if any) by the 15th of the the month preceding the newsletter issue date (the first of the month, except for a combined mid-summer issue on July 15). Ads are limited to 50 words and should include a phone number and/or email address. The ad is good for one issue; for a repeat, a new request is required. Ads should be submitted by email to pubs@smrhoa.com.



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❖ SMR Photo Gallery ❖



Snow on the Santa Catalina Mountains (the “Catalinas”), morning of February 24, 2022.

We want your photos! Please send us photos of scenes that you think make SMR special. With photo credit (if desired) and a brief description, send by email to pubs@smrhoa.com.