

MAY 2021

PALO VERDE PARK POST

The official newsletter of the Palo Verde Park Neighborhood Association



THE HISTORY HUB

In 1955, year-round air conditioning in homes wasn't yet common. The Oct. 8, 1955 edition of the Tucson Citizen shared some news that was to change all of that. "For the first time in Tucson, it's possible to get a medium-priced home with built-in year-round air conditioning," the reporter wrote.

"The Hillcrest home in the Old Pueblo Estates, scheduled to open tomorrow, is the first home in the Tucson area to offer an air conditioning unit built in and included in the sales price."

The model, located at 6732 E. Broadway, which is still standing today, offered another innovation in home building, concrete terraces leading out from French doors in the dining room.

www.paloverdeparkneighborhood.com



Palo Verde Park Neighborhood



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Yeah, man!! They're all up!



Congratulations all around to everyone who supported our sign drive to mark all of our street entrances.

And a high five to the City of Tucson transportation team who finished installation this week of the last 14 signs.

This officially wraps up a process that launched our neighborhood association and that was funded donation by donation to our gofundme account and then through an online art auction this fall.

Now, no matter whether you're coming or going, we can give you an official welcome to our neighborhood!

Note: The Murphy-Wilmot Library reopened today after a temporary closure. Health precautions are still in effect, including masks and temperatures taken upon entry.

Four Ways to Get Involved

Every time you pick up litter at the park, pick up after your pup, build a connection with a neighbor or drive safely through neighborhood streets, you're supporting the neighborhood.

But if you want to get involved more formally, here are a few opportunities to get involved:

- **Goat head patrol:** These weeds hurt paws and little feet, ruin yoga mats and even puncture bicycle tires. Ridding of the park of them keeps our park welcoming.
- **Watering the labyrinth plants:** We're watering twice a week through the summer to nurture these native trees.
- **Be on the lookout for a neighbor in need:** If you



know a neighbor who could use help with tidying up their yard, let us know. We might be able to help!

- **Join our volunteer corps:** At some point, we'll have events again or may need help with future service projects!

Interested?

Drop us a line at

paloverdepark@gmail.com

Elections and Sock Drive Conclude



Have a suggestion for future neighborhood projects? Our focus remains on infrastructure improvements, but we'd love to hear your ideas!

Drop us a line at paloverdepark@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who cast a ballot, shared an idea or dropped off some socks for those in need! We dropped off a large box of socks at the Ward 2 Council Office at the end of April.

Here's the 2021 Council:

Michael Southworth, President

Erinn Peters, Vice President

Andy Weiss, Treasurer

Rhonda Bodfield, Secretary

Torey Crandell, delegate

Matt Russell/Cathy Cromwell, delegates

Dianne Bustamante, delegate

Patty Bowers, delegate

We've Got Your Number!



Volunteers refreshed curb addresses across the neighborhood as part of our focus on service in 2021. Huge thanks to neighbor Kenny Chick for sponsoring this year's curb painting effort.

If you have ideas for a neighborhood improvement project, please share!

A Wall Awash with Color



It all began when a simple pink hollyhock volunteered to take root in Norma Coffman's backyard. She loved it so much, she and her hubby tilled up the alley for new seedlings, built a berm and ran irrigation.

She reports that they're pretty hardy and come back each year as perennials. They also attract bees.

Norma has shared seeds with dozens of neighbors, so thank you, Norma, for making our area that much prettier!

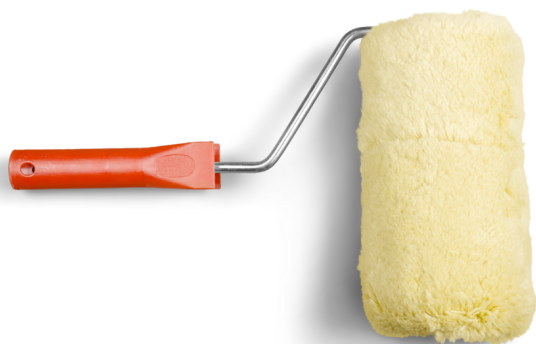
Pollinator Garden, Mural in Children's Playground Top Priorities

While we await more public health guidance on reopening events, we're continuing to put our focus on park improvements. We are currently exploring two priorities:

- a pollinator garden at the labyrinth: We are building relationships with organizations that may help us design a more welcoming area that will also support pollinators.
- a mural at the children's playground on the pony wall. The existing wall has deteriorated badly, so we are working with a local artist and the city to identify solutions.

The Parks Department has also supplied us with paint for the picnic tables, while the Environmental Services Department is providing paint to spruce up the faded concrete area by the children's playground.

A healthy, safe park supports a healthy, safe neighborhood. We'll keep you posted on our progress and will let you know when events might allow us to gather once again!



Yoga in the Park Starting Up Again for Summer

Yoga Instructor Ariel is starting up class again for the summer. The class, which is not a park-sponsored event but facilitated by an independent instructor, starts at 6 p.m. in May at the playground area. Suggested donation \$5.



Splash Pad Open!

Palo Verde Park Splash Pad is open, with hours running from 8 a.m. - sunset. Stay posted on more information about the pool reopening, with the season running June to August.



Palo Verde Park Has Gone to the Birds



Lisa Hise was sharing with other neighbors that the tree line south of the park was good for spotting raptors, when, as if on cue, a red-tailed hawk swooped into a nearby tree to collect sticks for nest building.

A recent hour-long bird watching walk yielded other finds, including Western Kingbirds on the top of the light towers, a brilliantly-colored vermilion flycatcher on the fences around the ball field, and some house finches enjoying dandelion flowers in the soccer fields.

Just getting started? Lisa recommends the Audubon and Merlin apps to help with identification. Watch the Tucson Audubon Society for occasional seminars as well.

New Coloring Page Series Celebrates Our Neighborhood



Nature is one of the values we celebrate in Palo Verde Park neighborhood, whether you catch its beauty in our park, or like this flower, in our yards.

If you've taken a photo that reflects how we live, drop us a line at paloverdepark@gmail.com



A note of thanks to our sponsors

Applause to Tread Lightly Carpet Care! Owner Matt Russell, a Palo Verde Park Neighborhood resident, was our first sign sponsor! He and his wife, Cathy, support all of our events and have been critical to our events.

Other donors and stalwart friends include:

- Arizona Beer House
- Little Anthony's
- Stewart Title & Trust of Tucson, Inc.
- Community Medical Services
- Bookmans
- Brian and Kelly's Pumpkins

Palo Verde Park has numerous independent and small businesses. Please support them.

Other event and sign sponsors include:

Andy and Diane Weiss

Vonnie Baldwin

Jeremy and Rachael Blackketter

Mike Southworth and Giuliano De Santis

Mike and Toni Krause

Mia Ford

Norma and Dave Coffman

Rhonda Bodfield and Fred Araiza

Christine Cerda

Brett Lange

Connie Sadler-Nelson

And everyone who contributed to our Go Fund Me page!
Thanks to Fred Araiza, too, for hand-etching and building the labyrinth sign. Go check it out!