



Mesquite Ranch Community Crier

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the second edition of the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association's quarterly newsletter. Much has happened in and around our community in the last several months that has affected each resident in one way or another. From our first community yard sale to our Spring cleanup to planning for a new elementary school, more and more residents are beginning to realize the benefits of having an active and supportive registered neighborhood association.

As the Houghton corridor development begins to ramp up, we will see increased development close to home. MRNA will be actively involved with the City of Tucson and local developers to ensure their plans are consistent with the desires of Mesquite Ranch residents. All residents have input into the development process through active participation in monthly MRNA meetings.

I encourage all residents to attend MRNA meetings, whenever possible, so they can be made aware of community happenings and so that their ideas and concerns can be heard. Please be aware that monthly meetings will shift from the first Wednesday of the month to the first Tuesday of the month. Visit the MRNA website at www.mesquiteranch.org often to learn of meeting times and locations, and don't forget to read those mailers that are mailed to each resident at no cost!

This quarter we have designated a student recognition segment in the newsletter which highlights Mesquite Ranch students that have excelled in learning and achievement in academics and the arts. We have some awesome kids in our community and it is our hope that by recognizing our achievers, it will cause others to take notice and motivate them to excel as well.

One of the most significant activities of the quarter was the introduction of initial planning for the new Senita Valley Elementary School which will be located east of the Mesquite Ranch U.S. Homes section. Although the Vail School District planning committee was formed in late January 2006, it was not until April that many MRNA residents became aware of the school planning committee and learned of the impact the school would have on the local community.

Residents immediately became active in the process, some joining the school planning committee, some attending planning meetings, and most began attending MRNA meetings, checking the MRNA website, and establishing an email notification system that keep residents aware of hot issues that surface on a daily basis.

Our MRNA community remains one of the safest and quietest communities in Tucson. Please support your community to keep it among the best in the city. From picking up loose trash to participating in a neighborhood watch program it's resident action that makes the community. Get on-board!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Would you like to establish a Neighborhood Watch (NW) program on your street? If so, contact me, Sam Hagadorn, at 247-7522, or by e-mail, mrnavicepresident@mesquiteranch.org. I have information that explains the program and will help you get started. You can also call our Tucson Police Department NW representative, Officer Bob Greenwood, at 791-5735, ext. 141.

PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT



NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - The new elementary school being planned adjacent to Mesquite Ranch now has a name! The Vail school district planning committee recently decided to name the school after the Senita cactus, which is native to Arizona and Sonora. The official name of the new school will be Senita Valley Elementary School.

The school will be located just east of Mesquite Ranch and south of Bilby Road. Those of you entering on Bilby will have noticed the construction activity for the new Pulte development. To accommodate the new development and the new school, Pulte will be extending Bilby Road to the east, almost to the Melpomene Way alignment. School construction will begin this summer, to be completed in-time for the July, 2007 school year.

Vail School District representatives have involved various members of our community in the planning process since the planning committee was formed in January, 2006. Mr. John Carruth, Vail School District (VSD) Assistant Superintendent, has noted that VSD had an agreement with Diamond Ventures (who developed Mesquite Ranch) to allow Marquette Street to be extended into the school property, therefore providing an alternate access to the property.

At the May and June MRNA monthly meetings, the topic of how Marquette Street will connect with the new school was discussed and votes were recorded. By a vote of 53 to 6, Mesquite Ranch residents decided that the extension of Marquette Street should be used only for emergency purposes. Under normal conditions, the east end of Marquette Street will be gated and will not be available for vehicular traffic to the school.

It has been discussed at the planning meetings that pedestrian and bicycle traffic to and from the new school will still be allowed via Marquette Street, and most likely also from Bridgeport Street. The details of how these accesses will be designed will be the subject of future planning meetings, and will also involve the Mesquite Ranch Homeowners' Association, as the MRHOA is responsible for common areas within our community.

As of the last VSD planning meeting, the general layout of the new school has been decided. The elementary school has been designed for about 600 students, and will be located on a 42 acre site that will eventually also house a 650 student middle school to the south. The elementary school has been designed as a single story facility with two major buildings to house the classrooms (K – 5) and the common areas (media center, multipurpose room, administration offices, etc.). The school will be built on the flatter section of land to the east of Mesquite Ranch, and the 30' drop from Mesquite Ranch down to the school will be maintained as a natural desert separator. There will be athletic fields, but no field lights will be installed (the school operates on a dawn to dusk schedule). Vehicular access to the school will be via Bilby Road, with a student drop-off area inside the school grounds.

Connie Erickson, the current principal of the Mesquite Elementary School in Rita Ranch, has been named as the principal of the new Senita Valley school. Connie was honored as the 2005 Arizona Elementary Principal of the Year, and has been actively involved in the planning for the new school. For VSD contacts and more information about the school, please see the MRNA web site.

WAL-MART OUT, HOME DEPOT IN? - For those of you who remember discussions about a Wal-Mart going in just south of Rita Ranch ... the Wal-Mart has been replaced with plans for a new Home Depot at the same location. The development will encompass a total of 61 acres of retail stores including 102,000 square feet for the main building and 35,000 square feet for the garden center. A small portion of the parcel will most likely be zoned for small retail stores and restaurants. If you would like to have your say on what kind of restaurants you would like to see at this location, please email your ideas to info@mesquiteranch.org. Visit the MRNA website for updated information concerning public hearings scheduled for this development.

Thank you

Thank you for working together to make Mesquite Ranch a quality place to LIVE!



**NUFF
SAID**

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HOW ABOUT THEM KIDS!

This is a new segment in the community newsletter designed to recognize students who have been successful in their endeavors to participate in academics and the arts, and is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance. If you know of a student K-12 that you would like to have recognized in future newsletters, please forward an appropriate description of the student achievement to info@mesquiteranch.org for newsletter consideration. Congratulations to those students highlighted below for their exemplary personal achievement and character.

Ben Montemayor, son of Roger and Cathy Montemayor of Marquette Street, was a winner at the recent Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SARSEF). Ben's science fair entry tested the effects of household and commercial barriers (brick, sheetrock, wood, etc.) on wireless Internet signals. His project earned him a first place in the SARSEF Math & Computer Science category, the Science Fair Director's Award, and an award from the Office of Naval Research. In addition, Ben was chosen as one of the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge nominees, which enables him to participate in the national science fair competition starting in June, 2006.

Joel Pierce, son of Randall and Wendy Pierce of Woodland Hills Drive, was a sophomore in the Cienega High School music program and a member of the school's top "Unlimited Voices" choral group. At the end of year awards banquet, Joel received a student choral rating with Highest Honors for his accomplishments in the Cienega choral and music programs. His accomplishments included his selection as lead piano accompanist for the school choir and drama departments, selection to sing with the Tucson Southeast Regional Choir, and performed with "Unlimited Voices" at a Southern California choral competition taking First Place honors. Joel regularly sings with the Tucson Arizona Boy's Chorus High School Choir and also plays violin performing with the Tucson Philharmonia, the top orchestral organization for youth in Tucson. Joel plays piano and organ for two churches in Tucson, plays for special events, and aspires to enroll in the U of A music program.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

PARKING - Blocking sidewalks and parking on the street in either direction or next to a cul-de-sac island is a violation of City Ordinance 9196, Section 20-277 and may result in a traffic violation or fines imposed by City ordinance inspectors or the Tucson Police Department (\$25 - \$150 per violation). During the month of May, 2006, 11 citations were written for parking violations in Mesquite Ranch. Please help keep our kids safe by properly following civil traffic rules. Thank you!!

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE TRAFFIC on POORMAN RD - Based on a poll of residents that live along Poorman Road, it appears that MRNA efforts to reduce commercial traffic and the high number of vehicle road violations have been successful. Please report commercial traffic violations including day/time, truck company and license # to info@mesquiteranch.org.

COMMUNITY STOP/YIELD SIGNS - During the month of June, MRNA will engage the City of Tucson to request replacement of missing road signs and request the posting of several new signs including a STOP sign on Metropolitan at Bilby and a YIELD sign at the intersection of Bach and Malta. Please check the MRNA website for updates on community signage.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WATCH YOUR PETS LIKE A HAWK - One community resident wrote ... I have now seen several postings for missing pets (mostly small ones). The story goes like this: Several months ago when I came home in the afternoon there was a dog at my front door which was obviously very injured, including cuts on the upper part of its body. We called the number on the tag and found it belonged to a neighbor across the street. They said it was in their backyard and there was no way it could have gotten out on its own. They took it to the vet who said the injuries were consistent with the dog being picked up (and dropped) by a hawk. The dog weighed about 12 lbs or more, so this was no tiny puppy. We now have a new puppy (about 3 lbs) who is never left alone in the yard. The other day my wife was letting it roam the backyard and noticed a hawk circling rather close. She immediately picked up the pup, and within a few seconds she saw the hawk swoop over our back yard, only about 3 ft above the top of the fence. He definitely appeared to be looking to grab the dog, and didn't care that my wife was also out there. Pet owners beware that birds of prey such as hawks and very large owls do exist in our neighborhood!

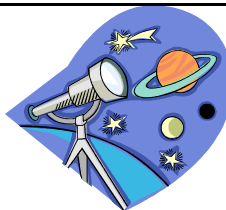
NIGHT SKY ADVENTURE

Coming this Summer to Mesquite Ranch

A night observing the heavens with some AWESOME telescopes!

Look for specific times and dates in future Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association postcards and newsletters.

For more information, please contact David Jones at mrnasecretary@mesquiteranch.org.



GOT SNAKES? - The MRNA Board of Directors are providing a snake removal response service in the event Animal Control cannot respond in a timely manner. If you find a snake in your yard, particularly a rattlesnake, and it won't leave when you tell it to, first call Animal Control. If the snake is an immediate threat to people or pets, please do not hesitate to call MRNA at 444-2024 and request assistance.

CRIME STATS - Interested in what's going on in our quiet community? It may not be so quiet ... check the MRNA website for the latest crime statistics in Community Activity.



MESQUITE RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Regular Meeting

Next meeting will be held on **Aug 1, 2006** at **Desert Sky Middle School**, 9850 E. RANKIN LOOP, **6:30p.m.** in the multipurpose room (next to the gymnasium). MRNA meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. All Mesquite Ranch residents are encouraged to come and participate in meeting activities. Check the MRNA website (www.mesquiteranch.org) frequently for the latest news and updates. **DON'T MISS OUT!**

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Neighborhood Association	Homeowners' Association
Created and run by Community residents Have own Board of Directors Recognized and Supported by City government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor and Council • Ward IV (Council Member Shirley Scott) • Many funded services available Supported by resident volunteers (no dues)	Viewed as a club by the City of Tucson Have own Board of Directors Not recognized by City government Assisted by Property Manager and homeowners Supported by homeowner "mandatory donations"
Responsible to the community for addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City/County safety and ordinance issues • Vandalism • Graffiti abatement • Certain legal benefits • Zoning and development within or adjacent to association boundaries 	Responsible to the community to manage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC&Rs (Big Black Book) • Parking in cut-outs • Architectural Change Maintain common areas Recreational areas Entrances and park areas

