



Flowing Wells Neighborhood News

Strong families living in a safe community

April 2020

Upcoming Events

There will be no Board meeting in April.
April 16General Meeting 6:00
At the Ellie Towne Community Center
Bring a potluck dish to share.
(Note: the April general meeting is tentative,
based on guidance.)
May 7Board Meeting
May 21, , General Meeting
See the calendar for more events.

[Community Center Calendar](#)

Mission Statement

Our purpose is to promote pride by bringing people together to improve the safety and quality of life of the Flowing Wells community.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association and Community Coalition.

EditorsJohn & Margaret Fleming

Respond to the 2020 Census

You can respond on-line to the 2020 census from anywhere, at any time, using a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. You just need to be connected to the internet. It's as easy as 1-2-3

1. You should have received a form in the mail. If you haven't filled it out yet, go to 2020census.gov
2. Access and complete the census questionnaire.
3. You're done!

It's totally secure. All responses submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy. Once responses are received, they are no longer online.

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[Visit our website](#)

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Women Build at Carter's Court

Women--and men--were out in full force on Saturday, March 7, for the annual Women Build event sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. My morning walk takes me past Carter's Court, named for former president Jimmy Carter, who has strongly supported Habitat since his retirement from office.

That morning the nineteen lots along appropriately-named Rosalynn Place were buzzing with energy. At least half of them have buildings in various stages of construction, and seventy or so workers were busy sawing, nailing, carrying, and installing . And that was only the first shift. At least as many more were expected for the second. A successful build for a worthy project.

[Visit Habitat website](#)

FOCUS ON FLOWING WELLS



As we write, the Covid-19 Pandemic is changing our lives. More cases are being identified, and more resources devoted to prevention and containment. Our schools are closed, now holding school via internet and take home packets; our stores have limited hours and stock, and our meetings are canceled. Responsible citizens are staying home and practicing social distancing. People are hurting; businesses are hurting; the national economy is hurting. We are all waiting to see what comes next, but we will get through this together.

There is good news in the midst of all this pain and uncertainty. Here are some things going on in our neighborhood. Flowing Wells seems to be on everyone's radar these days.

Neighborhood Improvements

- The Watershed Management Group has focused on Flowing Wells and developed Shannon Gardens retention basins, as well as installing rain gardens and water-saving devices for local residents. It has also offered educational sessions for the public.
- WMG is also bringing its School Yard Program to Flowing Wells to install rain gardens at up to three schools, and more rain gardens are coming to other areas.
- Habitat for Humanity has focused its current efforts on Flowing Wells and is developing a residential subdivision called Carter's Court.
- Our association has engaged architect Corky Poster through a grant from Pima County Community Development to help us update our Neighborhood Revitalization Area plan, which we hope will lead to future major infrastructure funding and services for Flowing Wells.
- Corky Poster and his assistants have researched the area's demographics and provided many interesting and relevant statistics, some of which are shared below.
- Provided by the Incremental Development Alliance and a local organizing host committee, a workshop on small-scale projects is coming October 6th for builders, real estate developers, architects, and others interested in small scale housing development for our Flowing Wells community, addressing the need for affordable housing to make it more family friendly, more a place we love to call home. Ryan Stephenson, a community developer with Pima County, is promoting the workshop.

Much of this involvement is due, of course, to the continuing efforts of our association's president and vice president, Kevin Daily and Ellie Towne Neal, the FWNACC board, and community members who attend our regular monthly potluck meetings on the third Thursday of every month (Sept-May). For years they have been making contacts and forming networks with government agencies, local organizations, non-profits, churches, schools, law enforcement, our political leaders, and residents of the area. Some of the major accomplishments of 2019 are:

- A \$35,000 grant to our association to update our Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area plan, which will be submitted to U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development. This plan is aligned with the Pima County Master Plan and will help Flowing Wells to be a HUD target area.
- Collaboration with Watershed Management and Habitat for Humanity in their community projects
- Speed humps on McMillan--10 years in the making. Persistence pays off.



Corky's Statistics

The median income in Flowing Wells, as projected in 2017, is \$36,189, as compared to \$41,613 for Tucson and \$56,213 for Arizona. Although our area is less affluent than many others, the good news is that we are steadily improving. The poverty rate is now 18.9%, down from 23% in 1990. We are also increasing our ethnic diversity. The Latino population is 46%, up from 12% in 1990. And there is representation from Native American, Asian American, and African American populations as well.

Flowing Wells is attracting both older citizens who are scaling down and younger ones who want to establish homes and start families. Both groups are in the moderate income category, and Flowing Wells is one of the few urban areas in greater Tucson that has affordable real estate. The median property value here is \$62,800, as compared to \$137,600 for Tucson and \$215,000 for Arizona.

Ryan's Workshop

The workshop that Ryan is promoting is offered by the Incremental Development Alliance, an organization based in Minnesota, a non-profit whose stated mission is to help locals strengthen their neighborhoods through small-scale real estate projects. To see some inspiring real-life stories, click [here](#).

The workshop's aim is to bring together real estate developers, small builders, investors, neighborhood activists, and anyone interested in making their communities more friendly and livable. It teaches ordinary people how to create and manage small-scale projects, giving them help with zoning regulations, permits, financing, and construction. We were immediately attracted to this concept, having done several similar projects ourselves in the past. These are exactly the kinds of projects needed in Flowing Wells. You'll be hearing more about the workshop in the months to come.

Conclusion

Flowing Wells is fortunate to be the beneficiary of all these projects. We can truly be proud of our neighborhood and its leaders.



I-10/Ruthrauff Update

Work goes on at the I-10/Ruthrauff Interchange site. Sundt Construction, which is in charge of the project, has made this statement on its website.

"As of now, most of our projects are continuing. We will continue to support them in every possible way. We have various systems in place to continue work on projects to prevent any stoppage in critical functions that would disrupt payments and the overall administration of projects."

The company has instituted deep cleaning practices in all of its job sites and offices. It's also cancelled or postponed large meetings and events.

What a Citizen Can Do

For some time now neighbors on Royal Palm Drive have had a traffic problem. Drivers are using their street as a shortcut from Shannon to La Cholla to avoid the roundabout, two stop signs, and two speed tables. They must be in a hurry too because many of them are creating not only an annoyance but a safety hazard by speeding down the street.

However they have met their match in Ellie Towne Neal. Ellie, who has accomplished more for the Flowing Wells community than any other

Community Yarn

Recently I bought a huge bin of yarn at a yard sale. Although I am a knitter, I didn't think I could live long enough to use it all up. But I knew that there's a knitters group that meets at the community center, and I hoped they would be able to use it for their charitable projects. Sure enough, they were glad to have it and wanted me to let readers know that they can always use more yarn and they welcome donations.

When I visited, I found a group of about ten women sitting around a table knitting and was told that they are the core members who meet every Monday from 1:00 to 3:00. A few others drop in from time to time, and new members are always welcome.



I asked if there was a president or chairperson, and everyone looked at a woman named Bernadette, who's apparently not elected, just a natural leader. Another woman named Beverly is apparently the natural group historian. From her and others I learned that the group has been in existence since about 2010. It was started in the library and used to meet there. But it's been meeting at the community center since 2018--they said it was because they got too noisy for the library and were asked to move.

single person, volunteered to go door-to-door and recruit her neighbors to the cause. She got a large number of them to come to the general meeting last November, and invited a representative from the county to listen to them. After explaining the situation and voicing their grievances, they agreed to pay \$30 per family to help cover the cost of putting in speed tables, the rest to be borne by a block grant for community development.

At the next meeting the county planner presented three possible plans, which were voted on, and one was selected, which had five speed tables strategically located on Royal Palm. The tables are scheduled to be installed in October. Problem solved. Thank you again, Ellie.



Currently the knitters are working on lap robes for veterans in wheelchairs. They've also made little caps for preemie babies, scrubbies for women in shelters, and baby sacks for newborns. Sometimes they are asked for specific items, which they are glad to make.

John took photos of Bernadette's crocheted dolls and stuffed animals, which I'm sure children in hospitals and shelters will be happy to receive.

It's good to know that these dedicated people are turning something they enjoy into a positive benefit for the community.

Reporting Tips

To report homeless camps:

City: Call 911 / Ward 3 Office,
Paul Durham: (520) 791-4711
County: Call 911 / District 3,
Sharon Bronson's office: (520) 724-8051

To report garbage dumps or abandoned shopping carts:

City: click [here](#) or call (520) 791-3171
County: click [here](#) or call (520) 724-7400 or
Email eshelp@tucsonaz.gov and provide your contact information

Visit our website at

flowingwellsnacc.org

for more information about our association,
its history, and its accomplishments.

To report graffiti:

City: click [here](#) or call (520) 792-2489
County: click [here](#) or call (520) 792-8224

To report potholes//road maintenance issues:

City: click [here](#) or call (520) 791-3154
or email tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov
County: click [here](#) or call (520) 724-6410

