



Flowing Wells Neighborhood News

Strong families living in a safe community

May 2020

Upcoming Events

May 7 Board Meeting 6:00

The meeting will be held via Internet. To attend, email john.fleming@videolistings.biz
May 21

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Meeting will not be held this month.

[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.

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Seasonal Thoughts

This is a season of contrasts and ironies. In Rome, Pope Francis, in gorgeous papal regalia, celebrates mass

before an empty cathedral but a virtual audience of millions. Christians, Muslims, and Jews the world over take part at a distance in ceremonies that emphasize togetherness. Contact with others is risky, yet thousands of caretakers need daily contact to do their jobs.

We find hope and comfort in various places. Religious people depend on their faith to sustain them. Non-religious people are inspired by the heroism of their fellow citizens and the creativity shown by so many in dealing with this crisis.



Visit our website

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One of my favorite poems, “Riders” by Robert Frost, expresses hope in an original and telling way.

The surest thing there is is we are riders,
And though none too successful at it, guiders,
Through everything presented, land and tide
And now the very air, of what we ride.

What is this talked-of mystery of birth
But being mounted bareback on the earth?
We can just see the infant up astride,
His small fist buried in the bushy hide.

There is our wildest mount--a headless horse.
But though it runs unbridled off its course,
And all our blandishments would seem defied,
We have ideas yet that we haven't tried.

When I was a first-year high school English teacher, and all my “blandishments would seem defied” by my students, this poem touched and inspired me, helped me get through that challenging first year. It kept reminding me that as humans we're infinitely creative. We always “have ideas yet that we haven't tried.”

School Closings and Remote Learning

The forced closing of all our schools till the end of the current semester has affected teachers, students, and parents. Being a retired teacher myself, I've been naturally curious about how they all are managing and what it's like for them. I was able to interview a few people from each group and get a sampling of answers.

Teachers

Teachers make up packets for the students with assignments in the various subjects. They are picked up and returned by parents every week. Juniors and seniors in high school do



many of their assignments on line, using a computer application called Google Classroom. It's very user-friendly for them and also has features that teachers can use for evaluation and record-keeping.

Elementary students depend less on computers; some of them don't even have access. This must be frustrating for the teachers, who are trying to keep their classes together. And obviously those kids without computers are at a disadvantage. The teachers do use the Internet to read stories to their classes, and they schedule chats on Google Hangouts with those who have computers; otherwise they depend on phone calls. One says she sometimes spends a whole day on the phone with students and parents.

An elementary teacher told me that she and the others at her grade level collaborate on planning the lessons each week. These include activities like a check-in, answering a question of the day, an activity log, and various readings and worksheets. One teacher plans the reading assignments, one the math, and so on. This has the obvious advantage of sharing the work load and also makes sure that learning is coordinated; the curriculum stays balanced, and nobody misses out.

I was a high school English teacher, and I can see how remote learning can work really well for subjects like English, history, science, and math. There are so many technologies and resources available on the Internet that can enhance the curriculum. But what about classes and extra-curricular activities in music, drama, and P.E.? It's hard to imagine wrestling remotely. Or basketball at a distance. Or a virtual concert or play.



Students

One of the things I most enjoyed about teaching was class discussions--of the literature we read or the writing we did, and I can see that this would be difficult to do remotely. Not impossible, though. Some of the students told me they occasionally have sessions with the entire class in real time, but more often the assignments are for individuals to do on their own.

I talked to a high school senior named Abigail and a junior high student named Nick, who both told me that they were doing OK with the remote learning but missed the interaction with their friends. Abigail said learning at home feels like being halfway between a vacation and a study session. Since she plays cello in the school orchestra, she is quite concerned about the annual concert and wonders how or if they will be able to hold it. Perhaps technology will make it possible, but what a challenge it will be for the conductor and the student musicians.

Parents

Abigail is one of five children in her family. The oldest is a college freshman, and the youngest is in first grade. Her mother has charge of the four who are still in school here in

Flowing Wells. She told me that the two in high school and junior high can manage their assignments on their own, and so she leaves them to it, but she has to oversee her first- and third-graders closely, especially since one is a special needs student.

Obviously it's challenging for parents with no background in education to be suddenly faced with being a home school teacher. Just scheduling study times if the kids have to share a computer is probably difficult. One mother of two elementary students said she has to go back and forth between her son in one room and her daughter in another to make sure they are both staying on target. She is a stay-at-home mom and has flexibility, but what about the parents who are trying to do their own work at home and manage their kids' learning as well?

Conclusion

Everyone I talked to seemed to think that in spite of difficulties, things are going as well as can be expected. Thanks to good preparation by the administration and the teachers and cooperation by the parents and students, morale is high here in Flowing Wells, and learning continues.

Don't Go Stir Crazy

Many of us are now quarantined because of Covid-19 and have extra time on our hands. If that's true for you and you are getting bored, how about doing something you've always put off till you had time to do it. Here are some suggestions.



Nature

Take a walk (keeping at least 6 feet away from others) or just sit outside, and while doing it pay more attention to nature. Even in the city you can hear birds chirping, see cloud formations, and--if you are lucky enough to be near citrus trees or honeysuckle bushes--smell their exquisite fragrance.

Cooking

Respond to the 2020 Census On-line

You can respond 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.

For more information, visit 2020CENSUS.GOV

Now you can make something you've always wanted to, maybe something labor-intensive. For example, I recently made some ravioli, which were so much more delicious than those that come in a can or package. If you've never made bread, it's really fun and tastes so good right out of the oven. Or you could try a new cuisine, like Thai or Greek or Chinese

Maintenance

This is a good time to do repairs and upgrades to your property--put new handles on the cabinets or paint the bedrooms. Clearing out and reorganizing closets and drawers is another possibility. You'll be amazed at how much stuff you have that can be thrown away.

Brewing

You might want to try your hand at making beer or wine. And if anyone wants to make Kombucha, I can supply you with a starter and instructions.

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Gardening

This is a perfect time to start a garden. Even if you don't have a lot of space, you can do container gardening. Having little pots of herbs on your kitchen windowsill is a plus for whoever does the cooking. This is a good activity for both kids and adults.



Writing

Yellow Rock Community Projects



A few days ago we found a little flyer taped to our mailbox that said Yellow Rock Community was

offering free meals to those in need. We were intrigued and wanted to find out more.

When we interviewed Robert Keelin, the pastor of the group, and his wife Kat, they told us they were a missional community, based on the Bible. The group members had been part of a church in Gilbert but moved to Tucson about four years ago. They recently bought a property on North Shannon Road, close to Laguna School, with the idea that they could offer after-school programs to students. Then when the Corona virus hit, they realized there might be a need for meals and organized the current program. They plan to deliver the food every Saturday. So far they have quite a few families who have signed up and think they can accommodate about twenty.

Another program that they have in mind is one they've worked with before--a lice-killing treatment for kids in the foster care system. They said it was amazing how the children's attitudes improved when they got clean and free of infestation. This is something I would never have thought of, but obviously they are responsive to needs they observe and feel a need to help others however they can.

As for the after-school program, they explained that their members have different talents. One is a certified teacher; a couple are scientists; others are artists, so they can

Now that you have time, try writing some family history. Your children and grandchildren will appreciate it. Or you might want to do some poetry or a short story. If that sounds like too much, maybe a brief letter to the editor or a Facebook post on a timely subject would be good to try.

Painting Rocks

Speaking of children and grandchildren, an activity that they like is painting rocks. They can write positive messages on them and then leave them in various places around the neighborhood to give people a lift.

Reading

Of course you can always read--maybe that birthday gift that you haven't got around to yet. You can even start a book discussion group on line.

Family Activities

If you get tired of TV, play some old-fashioned games like charades or Twenty Questions or Scrabble or Monopoly. Other traditional family activities are reading aloud, doing jigsaw puzzles, and singing together. We've gotten so used to TV, we may have forgotten how much fun some of these things are.

Rereading

When you clear out those closets, if you find any old letters, cards, or diaries, take the time to reread them. It's really fascinating. A friend of mine just did that and sent me several letters I had written to her years ago so I could reread and enjoy them also.

Exercise

Get those unused muscles into shape. Develop a routine for exercise. And for mental as well as physical sustenance, you might want to do some yoga and meditation.

Learn to Do Something New

offer the children a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.

I asked how they came to choose the name Yellow Rock, and they laughed and said that in Gilbert they had held group services in a building with a yellow rock in front of it that someone had painted and left there. So when giving directions to newcomers they had always mentioned it as a landmark. It seemed like a memorable name, and they brought the rock with them to Tucson, where it can be seen in their yard. I remembered that I had often noticed it on my morning walks and wondered about it.

So far the group is small, but it obviously has passion and energy and will no doubt thrive here in Flowing Wells. Welcome, Yellow Rock.

WMG Encourages Flowing Wells Neighbors to Steward in Place

During this time of COVID-19, people across the U.S. and the globe



are sheltering in place. Imagine if during these months we all "steward in place" and make changes at home and in our neighborhood that have a positive impact on our planet!

Watershed Management Group is here to support you as you work through your backyard bucket list! We have DIY backyard improvement how-to videos, free online classes, virtual meet-ups and more. No trips

Have you always had a secret desire to become a violinist? Maybe you'd like to learn to knit or crochet. Or you want to paint watercolors. Well, you can do it now. For instance, my daughter and 10-year-old granddaughter have decided to learn French and have ordered a program on the Internet to teach them. And there are programs on line for whatever you want to learn.

Virtual Museums

These are also available on line. Visit the Louvre in Paris or the Prado in Madrid. What a great opportunity to see the world's famous works of art. And get guidance from a virtual docent as well.

I hope this list of suggestions has encouraged you to think of other possibilities. Turn this time of crisis into an opportunity and find enjoyment in whatever exciting new project you choose.

to the store needed! Check out our online resources [here](#).

WMG is also working in the community to create low-tech handwashing stations, called tippy taps, for homeless shelters across Tucson. Read our story [here](#). You can learn how to build your own tippy tap for your home or neighborhood in our [free online resource library](#).

WMG wishes all Flowing Wells neighbors the best during this difficult time. Stay strong, safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Best,
Nichole Casebeer | WMG Project Manager

[Visit our website](#)

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

Visit our website at

flowingwellsnacc.org

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

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

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

