



# Flowing Wells Neighborhood News

*Strong families living in a safe community*

July 2020

## Upcoming Events

**August 6 . . . . . Board Meeting  
6:00**

The meeting will be held via Internet. To receive an invitation, email [john.fleming@videolistings.biz](mailto:john.fleming@videolistings.biz). There will be no General Meeting this month.

## 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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## Help in Developing Our Local Neighborhoods



How can we make sure development is good for local residents? How can we create a place where people want to stay, return, and contribute? One idea is “incremental development,” small-scale real estate projects by local builders that strengthen their neighborhood, one step at a time.

## Association Officers

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Years ago someone who built a triplex or an independent shop often lived upstairs. But now new development rarely seems to fill in or fix up existing neighborhoods? The local, small-scale developer is a rare breed.

At the **Small Scale Development Workshop on October 6**, one of the topics discussed will be the elements of a great neighborhood, including walkability, city services, safety, and Smart Growth. We will also consider the types of housing and density needed to provide housing affordability and accessibility in Tucson, and ways to mitigate gentrification and displacement.

For more information about this event, visit the Tucson Small Scale Development Coalition's [Facebook page](#) or contact Ryan Stephenson at [ryan.stephenson@pima.gov](mailto:ryan.stephenson@pima.gov)

## Victory for Flowing Wells

We had an interesting interview recently with Ryan Burbank, Pastor of the Victory Assembly of God's Ruthrauff campus. With over 4,000 members, it is the largest church in Flowing Wells. He told us that since the Covid-19 Pandemic, on-line membership has increased substantially, as might be expected, but then, when churches got permission to re-open, it stayed the same while the in-person membership also increased.



The church has two programs that benefit neighborhood residents, whether they are church members or not. The first is a food program. From 7:00 to 10:00 on Saturday mornings, anyone can drive up and receive a bag of food with enough to feed a family

of four for three days. The church has given out 3,000 of these bags in the last ten weeks.



The second program is a home repair and maintenance service that targets mainly the elderly, widows, and parents of children. People who need help can call the church, fill out a form, and someone from a team of handymen will assist them. Ryan estimates that only about 5% of those helped have been Victory members.

Ryan himself is a very likable person, full of energy and zeal. He explained that his campus is one of five in Tucson. The head pastor preaches the Sunday sermons which are transmitted to all the locations. The campus pastors are in charge of everything else at their own sites.

Ryan obviously has the right outgoing personality for this position. He joined our Neighborhood Association because he saw what it was doing to benefit the community and felt that he and the church should be part of it. What they are doing is a fitting expression of “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

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## A Flowing Wells Hero

Bennett Bernal, who holds the position of Pima County Constable, has been a significant force behind many improvements in the Flowing Wells area, according to Kevin Daily, president of our association.

Bennett told us his involvement in our area started in 2001, soon after he was first elected. There was a lot of drug gang activity near Walter Douglas School. Bennett promised to get rid of it, and by cooperating closely with the Tucson Police Department, Ward 3, and our Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association, was actually able to close it down. Collaboration was the key, he says.

Another accomplishment of Bennett’s was to promote improvements to Jacobs Park--handicap facilities, a baseball field,



## A New Road

Here is a photo of Chester Way, the new road between Davis Ave. and Maryvale, which is now open,

complete with curbs and sidewalks on both sides. Construction at the interchange has continued during the pandemic, hopefully with not too much risk, since workers are outdoors and usually not close to each other.

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## An Idea

How about a community garden on vacant land (at least an acre) surrounded by a farmers market? Then include a small

bike paths, and cleanup of drug trafficking there.

And, speaking of parks, he was a project manager for the development of Flowing Wells Park in 2007. If you've seen the baseball stadiums, snack bar, soccer fields, play structures, restrooms, and other amenities of this neighborhood treasure, you can thank Bennett for his part in creating it.



Bennett carries a spray can of paint in his car, and uses it to cover up graffiti whenever he sees it. He's been doing this for at least ten years. If more of us followed his example, we could improve the appearance of our neighborhoods.

Bennett says our association meetings are something he's always enjoyed, especially the potlucks, and he's looking forward to the time when we can resume them.

Bennett's diverse and wide-ranging career is profiled in an excellent article in the *Tucson Weekly*. It's a long and fascinating account, which we encourage you to read.

[See the article about Bennett](#)

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## Carter's Court Update

bandstand . Music, business, growing things. Not a bad idea.

Interested gardeners, farmers, musicians, and land owners: contact John Fleming. 520-369-5878.

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## Moving, Shaking, and Planting with WMG

Over the course of the last few years, Watershed Management Group has worked with members of the Flowing Wells community to develop earthwork projects that enhance the neighborhood's outdoor spaces. The current planned project includes the installation of rain gardens in front of several residences along Emerald Ave. Rain gardens are magnificent spaces that work to mitigate flooding by redirecting rainwater into harvesting basins. Native plantings in these basins create a shady, cool oasis while also contributing to a more beautiful neighborhood! The first phase of this exciting project, excavation and grading, is projected to begin the 2nd week of July.

However, it takes a village to grow a rain garden! WMG would like to invite you and your family to participate in the planting portion of this project. We will be hosting educational planting workshops on Saturday mornings each week, beginning the last week of July. Time is TBD. To ensure the safety of our staff and community members, these workshops will adhere to all CDC safety guidelines, including: mask requirements, social distancing of 6 feet, and vigilant sanitation. To better help meet these standards, workshops will be in small groups of 5 to 10 people. For more information or to RSVP for a workshop,

Carter's Court, Habitat for Humanity's project off North Davis Avenue, has been able to continue some of its construction activities during the pandemic. We expect to have a full update in next month's issue.



please contact Nichole Casebeer at 520-396-3266 x 5 or [ncasebeer@watershedmg.com](mailto:ncasebeer@watershedmg.com)

As always, WMG hopes the members of the Flowing Wells community are staying safe and healthy during these trying times. Although life looks very different these days, we are excited to find new ways of connecting and sharing with you all these next few weeks. See you soon!

Kindly,  
*Kayla Purigraski-Nardozzi* | WMG  
Community Green Infrastructure Design  
Intern

[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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov)  
County: click [here](#) or call (520) 724-6410

