



Flowing Wells Neighborhood News

Strong families living in a safe community

September 2020

Upcoming Events

September 3 Board Meeting 6:00

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

September 17 . . . General Meeting 6:00

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Meeting **will be held remotely** this month. See directions below.

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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WMG Planting Party



The Watershed Management Group recently held two planting parties on Emerald Avenue just south of Sahara St. Since this is on one of the routes I often take for my daily walk, I went over and met Nichole and eight other workers who were ready to participate. Three or four of them were volunteers, but not just any volunteers. They have been participating in these projects regularly for quite a while, and we have to admire their dedication.

I was happy to see that everyone was wearing a mask and keeping social distance from the others. But these are scientific types, so of course they would be conscientious about that.

Nichole explained that the project is a collaboration with Pima County Community and Workforce Development. Its aim is to

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help vulnerable neighborhoods lessen the effects of flooding and at the same time beautify the neighborhood. A lot of preliminary work had already been done. A series of small basins rimmed with rocks stretched along the street between the homesites and the roadway. Nichole and her assistants had brought with them a miniature nursery of native desert plants--trees, shrubs, and grasses, and the workers were urged to choose plants and work together to arrange them attractively in the basins.

(Continued below)

Neighborhood Revitalization

In the past Flowing Wells has partnered with Pima County in the preparation of two HUD-sponsored Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) Plans. NRSA helps Pima County and other government agencies, as well as non-profits, understand how to serve the needs of the Flowing Wells community with services and improvements. The original Plan was completed in 2001, followed by an update in 2007. Those two plans have guided our Neighborhood Association and Community Coalition in developing numerous projects.



The 2020 Plan, developed by Poster Mirto McDonald (project planner, Corky Poster), builds on the successes of the previous two plans and lays out a set of Goals and Strategies/Projects to carry Flowing Wells forward into the future. Attached is the much-advanced-but-not-final **Draft 4 of the Flowing Wells NRSA Update 2020**. It will be the basis for the September 3 Board meeting and the September 17 on-line Community Meeting. It is intended to be a basis for additional comments from all interested parties.

As a reminder, here are the agreed-upon next steps for the Plan.

1. Additional comments from FWNACC Steering Committee.
2. Link to final draft in FWNACC newsletter, August 28, 2020.
3. FWNACC Board meeting on September 3, 2020, to review draft.
4. Slide presentation preparation, summarizing major plan items.
5. On-line slide presentation to Flowing Wells community on September 17, 2020.
6. Physical draft available September 18-30, 2020 at the library or the Ellie Towne Community Center.
7. Additional community/Steering Committee comments by September 30, 2020.
8. Publication of final document by October 15, 2020.

We will meet with the Steering Committee again on September 3. Of course comments between now and then are always welcome. Send them to cposter@pmm.design

To see the complete report by Corky, which is impressive and well worth a careful reading--or even a casual reading if you are pressed for time--click [here](#) and go down on the page to **FWells Neighborhood Revitalization** under **Documents**.

Our First Remote Meeting

Because we can't meet in person on September 17 due to the pandemic, we're going to try having a remote on-line meeting. This is a first, so we hope it goes well. We've been doing it very successfully for the last few Board meetings, using Google Meet software, so it shouldn't be that difficult.

Some of you are already familiar with remote meetings via Zoom, Meet, or other conferencing software. But if you're not, here's the procedure.

You will receive a reminder via email a couple of days before the meeting, then another one ten minutes in advance. When you're ready, click on the button that says JOIN NOW, and you will be admitted. That's all there is to it.

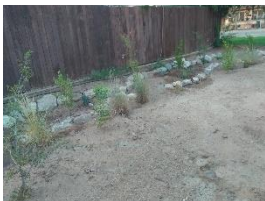
Then you'll be able to see a mosaic of everyone else's faces as they join. If the person doesn't have a camera, you will see a circle with an initial of his or her name in it.

When a speaker makes a written report, you will be able to see text on your screen.

Be sure you have your microphone muted unless you are speaking (There's an icon of a mike with a slash across it). That will avoid feedback noise.

We'll all miss the potluck, of course. When will technology be able to bring us that?

WMG Planting Party (continued)



Residents of the area will recall WMG's previous project along Shannon Rd. north of Curtis. It consists of a series of large rain basins that are

now home to desert plants.

Nichole told me that some of the neighbors there were concerned about mosquitoes breeding in the basins after a rain. She reassured us that this is unlikely since the hatching period for mosquitoes is from 48 to 72

Be Sure to Vote



We've heard a lot of talk lately about voting, particularly early voting and voting by mail. Since this election will undoubtedly see many more mail-in ballots than usual, it is

recommended that you vote early to make it easier on the workers who do the processing and counting. Here are some important dates.

October 5Deadline to Register

- To register for the first time, download the **State Registration** form and mail to your county recorder's office (address is on form)
- To update your registration, go to **Servicearizona.com**
- To check the status of your voter registration, or to confirm if you are on the Permanent Early Voting List, please utilize **this link**.

October 7 Early voting begins

To automatically receive a ballot by mail for every election you are eligible to vote in, sign up for PEVL (permanent early voting list) at **Servicearizona.com**

October 23 Last day to request a ballot by mail

October 27 Walk-in early voting ends

October 30 Early voting ends

November 3 ELECTION DAY

- In-person voting
- November 3** Deadline to return ballots by mail
 - Mail to Pima County Recorder, P.O. Box 3145, Tucson AZ 85702-3145
- November 3** Deadline to return ballots in person
 - Deliver in person to 240 N. Stone Ave. or drop off at any Pima County polling place on election day.



hours, and the basins are designed to infiltrate all water into the ground within 24 hours. It's not there long enough for the insects to reproduce because it quickly sinks down to help replenish our local aquifers.

Other neighbors are concerned about "weeds" growing on the Shannon site. Nichole assured us that all bad weeds are being routinely removed, and only beneficial native plants are being encouraged to grow. "It's important to remember that a weed is simply a plant growing where it's not wanted," she said. "Taking a closer look, we can see that they are really resilient, tough, beautiful life-forms. They are almost as hardworking as some of the locals I've met."

Having seen her crews working on several occasions, I have to agree.

I learned that WMG's next project is in front of the Tree of Life Baptist Church at the corner of Curtis and Shannon, and I had already observed similar basins bordered with rocks in front of it as I passed by on my way to the planting site. Nichole said they were also trying to persuade the church to put up a Little Free Library on its property. I really liked that idea since I had seen one in California when visiting our daughter, and had thought of putting one up here.

Nichole says WMG would also support John's idea of a community garden. Since he started one at our church years ago, he knows how to do it, and how it works. Maybe it could incorporate a farmer's market, with vegetables, fruits, and flowers supplied by the participants. Anyone who's interested in pursuing such a project can contact him at john.fleming@videolistings.biz.

[Visit WMG website](#)

Free Covid-19 Testing

The Pima County Health Department is offering free COVID-19 saliva testing at Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center. The testing, **which requires pre-registration**, is offered every

What Is Incremental Development?

It's an approach to development that builds stronger main streets, local entrepreneurship, and economic security from the bottom up.



Here are two chances to learn more about it.

Making Small Scale Development Possible

A free lecture by Monte Johnson, President of Options Real Estate, a multi-service real estate company specializing in creating sustainable neighborhoods.

- Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., online. [Register here.](#)
- Thursday, September 3, 2020, Noon to 2 p.m., online. [Register here.](#)

One-day Online Workshop on small scale real estate development produced by the Tucson Small Scale Development Coalition.

- October 6, 2020. [Register here.](#)

A Neighborhood Hero



Walter Douglas School was named for a man who served on the Flowing Wells school board for forty-one years and was influential in shaping the community. But there's another Douglas who has also been very influential:

Jeretta, who married Walter's son and served on the school board for almost thirty years. That's seventy-one years of Douglas contributions to the district. The school's name has now been changed to Douglas School to honor Jeretta as well as Walter.

Jeretta has lived in Flowing Wells since she was in 8th grade. She joined the school board in 1987 and stayed on it until she retired in 2017. During those years she participated in many school and community activities.

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To register for a test, go

to pima.gov/covid19testing, then:

1. Click the link to "Schedule my test"
2. Click the "Pre-register" button for the Ellie Towne Community Center
3. Use Agency code: **FvCmy1fGe**
4. Create a username (email address) and password.

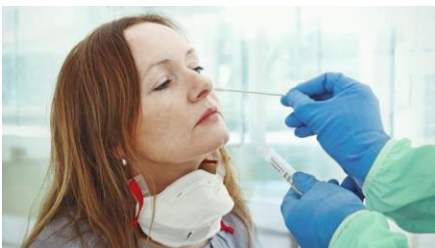
Staff located at the Ellie Towne Center will provide assistance for anyone who has trouble registering ahead of time.

Other important reminders:

- You must bring a photo ID and the QR code shown in your confirmation email.
- Make sure you are well hydrated at least 30 minutes ahead of your appointment time.
- At 30 minutes prior to your appointment, rinse your mouth with plain water for 20-30 seconds and then spit out the water.
- Please do not eat, drink (even water), smoke, vape, or chew gum for at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment.
- When you arrive at the site, wear a protective face covering - either cloth or surgical mask
- To cancel or reschedule your appointment, log in to your account at <https://asubioempportal.pointnclick.com>



Testing will continue until it is no longer needed to control the pandemic.



Jeretta, her husband, their two daughters and a granddaughter all graduated from Flowing Wells High School; other grandchildren and now one great-grandchild are also in school here. "This is home," she said. "I can't imagine wanting to live anywhere else." Her family obviously feels the same way. Now that's neighborhood loyalty.



I once served on a school board for three years, and the idea of doing it for thirty is pretty overwhelming. Obviously Jeretta had ten times the stamina and dedication that I did. Superintendent David Baker says, "Mrs. Douglas has always demonstrated a continual excitement about the future and eternal optimism about young people improving the conditions in which they live. Her commitment to public education is unparalleled in the Flowing Wells community."

Since her list of accomplishments and awards is much too long to include here, I asked Jeretta to tell me about one she was particularly proud of. She recalled how during the 1990's she had worked with Tucson Mayor George Miller and the Amphi, TUSD, and Sunnyside School districts to create Family Resource Centers.

The Flowing Wells Family Resource Center currently operates out of Flowing Wells Junior High, providing assistance with food, clothing, medical problems, and much more. This is an enormously important service to the community, and now that we are in the midst of a pandemic and an economic downturn, it is more so than ever.

Jeretta Douglas is a Flowing Wells hero.

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 graffiti:

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

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 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