



Flowing Wells Neighborhood News

Strong families living in a safe community

December 2020

Upcoming Events

December 3 Board Meeting 6:00

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

December 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.

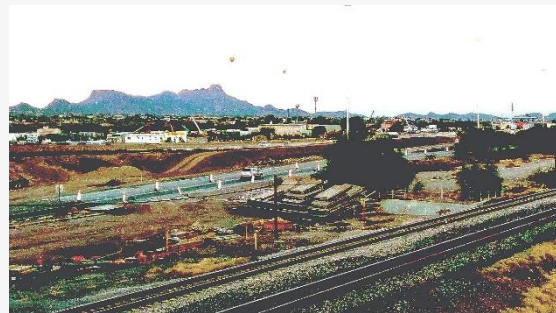
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[Visit our website](#)

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A View from the Overpass



On November 19 we had another remote general meeting, and it went really well. About 35 persons attended. We're getting more participants each time, so I guess we're adapting to the new way of doing things.

The agenda was very interesting and relevant: six brief reports, all extremely well-presented with clear explanations and visual aids.

The Ruthrauff Interchange is about 45% complete now, and on schedule to be finished



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Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.



by this time next year. I often take my morning walk that way, and the other day I was excited to see a huge span in place over the railroad, a concrete sign of progress.

Habitat for Humanity, in partnership with Pima College, plans to build an Opportunity Center, a 15,000 sq. ft. facility to store materials and train workers in different construction trades. The project requires a zoning change, which will take several months.

Other encouraging reports: The **Slow Streets** project has just installed a number of speed humps and other devices on a street that had a traffic problem. Click on the link above to see more. A Tucson Police officer explained the difference between robbery and embezzlement, using an amusing scenario, and gave us some tips on preventing crime.

A projected series of improvements on a stretch of Roger Road will make it into an attractive boulevard--a great upgrade to the neighborhood. The Regional Transportation Authority (**RTA**), is responsible for the Ruthrauff project mentioned above, but also many others in the communities it serves. Citizen participation is an important component. Click on the RTA link above to see more.

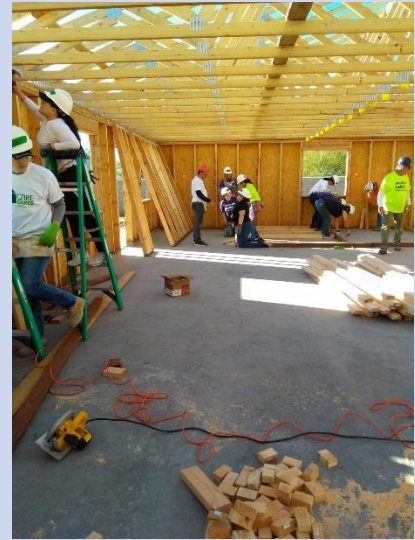
Takeaway: in spite of the pandemic, community improvements are continuing to make life better here in Flowing Wells.

MF

Small-Scale Development

What is small-scale development? It's a concept that has been growing across the country since 2015, and now it's here in Tucson. Its object is to support small projects that can satisfy needs in a community, needs that large developers don't want to be involved with. Some examples are:

- remodeling a fix-up house
- building a second unit on a lot with an existing home (if zoning allows it)
- building a duplex
- installing infrastructure for a small mobile home park
- buying an office building to rent



Ryan Stephenson, one of our members, is a Pima County urban developer. He recently organized a small-scale development workshop to be held here in Tucson. Originally it was to be an in-person event, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it had to be held virtually.

One advantage of the virtual format was that people from all over could easily attend. Participants were from other states--Maryland, Colorado, Texas, California, Georgia, Oregon--as well as Arizona. There was even one from Australia. Altogether about 90 persons attended--builders, artisans, construction companies, land trust officials, architects, community planners, university professors, Habitat for Humanity representatives.

Ryan described the workshop as a crash course in development, and said it was very successful, even though participants missed the in-person socializing and networking that usually take place at such an event.



We were able to get hold of a booklet from the workshop that contained specific, concrete tips on how to create a small-scale development project, such as checking on zoning, neighborhood assessment, how to get financing, building codes, regulations to be aware of, and so on. The booklet was actually constructed using an ancient technique--it was printed on paper and could be held in the hand.

Another outgrowth of the workshop was a Talent Showcase, a series of brief slide presentations on local small-scale projects--in virtual format, of course. Of the seven presented, six were by women. One is located in Flowing Wells. Ryan is planning another showcase for January with five more presentations. The workshop seems to have stimulated a lot of activity in Tucson.

The project that's in Flowing Wells is being developed by two women, Glenda Edwards and Angelica Ortega. They are currently managing a large mobile home park, and since many of its residents are elderly, living on fixed incomes, they are acutely aware of the need for affordable housing. So when a property across the street from them became available, they

decided to buy it and develop it into a small park with both mobile home spaces and buildings. It's still in the planning stage, but they hope to see action on it soon. Congratulations to them for their contributions to the community, and congratulations to Ryan for all he has done to support such enterprises.

Trap-Neuter-Return

Trap-Neuter-Return is a program offered by the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. At their clinic, along with many other services, they offer free spaying or neutering of feral (or community) cats. Although the clinic isn't actually in Flowing Wells, it's only a couple of blocks outside the boundary, on Roger Road east of Fairview. I have had such good experiences there that I wanted to let everyone know. And, as I seem to recall, our association was instrumental in helping the society build a facility in this area.



There are a large number of cats that hang around our property. They let me feed them, but not touch them. Formerly known as feral, they are now (I am told) called community cats because feral sounds too negative--vicious and predatory, maybe. Actually they are just timid. They run at the smallest sign of anything perceived as dangerous, maybe just a sudden movement of a nearby human.

Our own cat population numbers about ten now. I was waiting till the pandemic was over to start getting them spayed or neutered. But that wasn't happening, so finally I got out the trap I bought a year or so ago and made an appointment at the clinic.



FWNACC

Accomplishments

John and I have lived in Flowing Wells since 1980, and seen a lot of changes, but only within the last couple of years have we gotten actively involved with the Neighborhood Association. When we started attending meetings regularly, we could feel the energy of the group and its dedication to community improvement. And we wanted to participate. We offered to do a newsletter since the group didn't have one, and we had experience in that field. Also, John's a computer techie, so he's found himself in charge of that aspect of the remote meetings we've been holding during the pandemic.

From reading the group's history on our website, I've learned about many things the Association has done to make our lives better and our neighborhoods safer. You can check it out for yourself [here](#) (scroll down to **History**). I know that such projects require effort and dedication by members, and we're lucky to have volunteers who have made things happen.



When I caught my first cat and brought it in, I was impressed by the clinic. It was clean and spacious, and

the people working there were so kind and thoughtful I could tell they really love animals. I left my cat in their compassionate hands and returned later to pick it up, neutered. I made another appointment and repeated the procedure with a second cat. I still have a few more to go.

I learned that there are two vets there, and they perform from 20 to 40 surgeries on any given day. That's a lot. But the program is based on the belief that to keep the stray cat population down, it's better to neuter the ones already present than to put down new ones each time. This is a really valuable service to the community. I urge my neighbors who have unwanted cats around to take advantage of the service. Learn more [here](#).

MF

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 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.

Here are some of the most visible accomplishments of the Association.

Flowing Wells District Park was officially opened and dedicated on December 5, 2003. The second phase was completed in 2007. It has the following amenities:

- ramadas and picnic tables
- two baseball stadiums with bleachers
- a soccer field
- a horseshoe pitch
- basketball and volleyball courts
- two children's play areas
- two dog parks
- two restroom buildings
- lights

I've probably left something out, but if you haven't been to the park, I urge you to go and see it for yourself. I often go through it on my morning walks, and it's always inspiring.

The Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center

celebrated its grand opening in September 2007. This complex also houses the **Flowing Wells Health Center**. It's been a place to hold meetings and potlucks, find out what's going on, take part in clubs and recreation, and vote. Before the pandemic, the association had monthly potlucks there for our general meetings, and I'm sure most of us can't wait till we can get back to having them again.



The Flowing Wells Library was built directly across the street from the community

center in 2008 and the **WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Center** at another of the three points of the Y-intersection. The library was extended

- 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.



and remodeled in 2018. Besides all the books, it has an up-to-date media center, a kitchen, meeting rooms, and children's activity areas.

The Curtis Neighborhood Park opened in 2007, conveniently located next to the sports center at Curtis and La Cholla. A place to have a picnic after your kids' events or just to wait while they're at practice.

The Kory Laos Freestyle Memorial BMX Park at Flowing Wells Park opened July 7, 2009. Neighborhood bike riders know all about this. They've been riding there since long before it was official. Some day maybe we can have a concrete BMX bowl for them.

The Rillito River Park Disc Golf Course opened in 2017. I'm not a golfer, so I haven't explored this, but for those who are, it's right here in our own neighborhood and handy to get to. Disc golf, for those who don't know, is a sport in which players throw a disc at a target; it is played using rules similar to golf. Maybe I can get John to take some photos.

These are only a few of many accomplishments. In future issues, I'll explore others--programs, street improvements, cleanup, help for families--so many things that have made Flowing Wells a better place to live. MF

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



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