

Drawing by Wolf Forest

Panorama Estates Neighborhood Newsletter

A Publication of the Panorama Estates Association

Volume 14 Issue 2

September 2012



PEA ANNUAL MEETING: 55th PANORAMA ESTATES ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012

Please mark your calendar for the 55th annual meeting of the Panorama Estates Association, to be held Saturday October 13th from 3 to 5 pm on Lazy Place. All homeowners are asked to attend starting at 2:30 pm with pizza, soft drinks and socializing at our one annual get together.

The business meeting will be called to order at 3 pm and will include officer's report, election of new Board meetings, and discussion of neighborhood business. Our guest speaker this year will be Teresa Williams from City of Tucson Code Enforcement who will address the scintillating array of City Codes designed to improve the appearance of our neighborhoods, from junk cars to weeds to abandoned lots.



Most of our Panorama home and property owners pay their annual \$20 dues at the meeting---its tax deductible---by simply making out a check to Panorama Estates Association. Cash is welcome too, but we don't have the ability to take credit or debit cards.

All neighborhood homeowners are asked to attend; or you can send a proxy to the meeting by filling out the enclosed proxy form to name someone you trust to vote for you at the meeting. If you have an agenda item you wish to include, please call PEA president Dr. Mary Jo Ghory to place your request or proposal on the agenda. If you would like to serve on the Board, please let Mary Jo know so your name can be put on the ballot.

Bring a folding chair, and come out for an enjoyable couple of hours, chat with your neighbors, and have some pizza and Italian ice. We'll be hoping for some beautiful October weather.

"The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Housing and Community Development Department and all other offices neither agrees nor disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requester is solely responsible"

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF PANORAMA ESTATES ASSOCIATION

WHO: All Panorama Estates property owners
WHEN: Saturday October 13, 2012, 3 to 5 pm.
WHERE: Lazy Place cul-de-sac

PROXY INSTRUCTIONS: If you are a current member and cannot attend the meeting, you may send someone to vote in your place by filling out the form below and sending it with your proxy to the meeting on October 13th.

PROXY FORM:

I,------(name) assign------(name) as my representative for the October 13, 2012 meeting to vote on all legal matters that may come before the membership.

SIGNATURE-----

ADDRESS-----

DATE-----



IMPROVEMENTS TO A-MOUNTAIN/SENTINEL PEAK PARK UNDERWAY by Ellen Paige

At the June 6, 2012 PEA Board Meeting, Ward I's Mac Hudson and Howard Dutt of Parks and Recreation updated Panorama Estates on planned improvements to Sentinel Peak Park. Construction got underway shortly after the July 4th firework festivities, at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Funded by \$250,000 from the sale of a little-used park along with additional HURF funds, the work is Phase one of the A-Mountain Master Plan, with the major goal of making A-Mountain safer and more attractive to visit. Plans include a handicap accessible trail and improvements of the parking lot. Previous work by Youth Volunteers and Ward I funding had restored trails to the top of the "A", with old stacked-stone rock walls uncovered, probably from the WPA--CCC era. New signage is being installed marking trailheads and distances. A new trail from the parking lot to the overlook is made of handicap accessible rubber polymer-stabilized decomposed granite, a surface safe for wheelchairs and less agile walkers. The overlook faces the Santa Cruz river valley, with a new wall featuring graphics and historic photographs, a history of Sentinel Peak, as well as park rules. Plans include a remada shade structure there.

This initial \$250,000 is about 10% of the total funds expected to be spent improving the Park, with the remainder coming from the \$2.5 million Pima County Bond Proposal which goes to vote at a future as yet undetermined date. The phase I improvement will be a showcase of further improvements to the mountain.

\$56,000 of HURF funds are specifically for road improvements, and will pay for an entry feature on the corner of Cuesta and Congress Street, marking the entrance to Sentinel Peak park, as well as a display noting whether the Park is open or closed (this to hopefully decrease after-hours traffic on our streets). After several revisions, the entry feature will consist of scoria walls on both the east and west edges of Cuesta at the Congress intersection. (Scoria is an adobe-like building material consisting of an amalgam of concrete and adobe.) Landscaping with native trees as well as passive water harvesting along Cuesta and Sentinel Peak Road leading up the Park entrance are also to be installed using the HURF funds; all road improvements and entry sign will be started after the work on the top of the mountain is finished.



A TUMAMOC SAMPLER by Ellen Paige

If you like history, archeology, biology or if you just love learning, the Tumamoc lecture series is a must-see, free treat. The series begins again this fall (see www.tumamoc.org). The lecture series never fails to drop my jaw: I still can't believe that we are living in the longest continuously occupied spot in the entire USA!

In 2011, 3 of the lectures really piqued my interest: Dr. Homer Thiel of Desert Archeology spoke on the archeology of the San Agustin Mission; Dr. Diana Hadley of the Arizona Historical Museum spoke on Menlo Park, the birthplace of Tucson; and Dr. John Madson of the University of Arizona spoke on Tumamoc as a Historic Landmark in an urban setting.

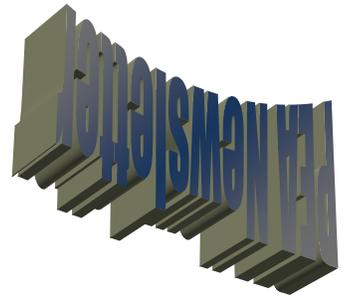
Rather than try to serve up the lectures whole, I offer here a candy box of tasty tidbits that might delight and surprise you, and increase your appreciation of this rich area we call home. Enjoy!

DR. DIANA HADLEY

---With 4,000 years of agriculture here, Tucson is the longest continuously-cultivated area in the United States
---Father Kino died 300 years ago, but the O'odham communities here were actively trading non-native plants and animals before the Spaniards arrived..
---Old World livestock (horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats and chickens) came with Columbus; New World livestock (llamas, alpacas, turkeys and guinea pigs) were here.
---the devastating European diseases of syphilis and typhus arrived in the Tucson area long before Father Kino.
---The Mission San Agustin was not a church, but rather a reorganization of the Native community living here. The Convento was not a convent, but rather a "casa conventual" or administrative building for the missionaries.
---When Father Kino established the San Agustin de Chukson Mission in 1701, he found groups of Piman people living in villages of reed houses with reed roofs. A big cienaga (marsh) north of 22nd street provided water for their acequias (irrigation canals) to fields where they grew an abundance of corn, beans and squash. The Pimans wore woven cotton and deerhide clothing.
---Father Kino brought wheat, barley, grapes, and olives to this area; and took maize, tomatoes, potatoes, chocolate, cotton and tobacco back to Europe.
---The Mission had two large gardens; you can see the restored adobe wall of the largest now along Mission/Grande road, where pomegranates, figs, grapevines, quince and peach once grew and are now blooming again (descendants of the original peach trees have been found growing on the Hopi Reservation and are now available at Desert Survivors).
---Although the Mission Gardens were spared, from 1890 until the 1940's, a brickyard was operated near the site by the Flin family (of El Charro Restaurant fame), and the area was used as a trash dump which actually preserved the archeological remains below by preventing building on the site. (To this day, sinkholes are found all over the rest of heavily-built upon Menlo Park, where old outhouses and wells existed!). Menlo Park was a truck-farming area from 1880--1910, and mining of the "A Mountain Stone" went on in the quarry during that time.
---In 1999, Proposition 400 approved TIF funding for restoration of the Mission Gardens/Convento site. Because Mission Gardens were never built upon, the archeology there was rich, with 4000 years of artifacts intact (see Dr. Thiel's lecture). Although the Burns-Wall-Hopkins proposal was never carried out, the archeological excavation is completed. Three years ago, TIF funding ended, and the private non-profit "Friends of Tucson's Birthplace" took up the work of restoring the Mission Gardens.

.DR HOMER THIEL--

---Archeological excavation of the San Agustin Mission site was carried out by Desert Archeology in 2007 and 2008. Some of the findings:
---4000 years ago, the pre-pottery people living there grew corn, and cooked it in baskets covered with pine pitch. The food was covered with water, then rocks heated in the fire dropped into the baskets to cook the food.
---from 800 BC to 50 AD, two villages existed there. One village flooded, the other burned. Village buildings were round pit-houses with reed roofs, and unique ceremonial structures with large stone pillars existed here---nothing like this has been found anywhere else. Mortar and pestles were carved into bedrock; stone bowls were found; red hematite pigment was used to decorate cotton clothing; leather, baskets and spear points were found.---the remains of a pet baby bear, buried after death, were discovered. Also, signs of violence: remains of six persons bearing marks of spear wounds were found buried together.
---50 AD to 500 AD marked the early Ceramic period, which saw a much greater use of pottery for storage and cooking. Houses were square rather than round during this period.



A TUMAMOC SAMPLER (cont)

DR. JOHN MADSON--

---The Tumamoc Desert Laboratory (established 1903) is an historic landmark as well as an archeological site. A surprisingly large percentage of the pioneering research on North American desert ecology was done on Tumamoc. University of Arizona took over management of the site from the Forest Service in 1960. 2010 marked the founding of the Tumamoc Hill Archeological District, funded by the Heritage Fund.

---The man-made trincheras (terraces) seen especially on the west and east sides of Tumamoc mountain had ceremonial importance, with over 400 rock art panels and solstice markers found all over the hill.

---Agave were roasted for food; a huge agave plantation and roasting pits were located near the corner of modern Anklam and St. Mary's roads.

---Below St. Mary's Hospital lie the remains of a huge O'odham village (c. 1000 AD).

---During the Historic period (1400-1903) the O'odham buried their dead in the dark volcanic rock talus slope on the west side of Tumamoc. Newspaper articles from the 1880's recount O'odham burials taking place there.

---On the south side of Tumamoc, near 22nd St. and Greasewood, the University of Arizona allowed a clay quarry, which was then filled with garbage and scraped to cover. This will be remediated, as Pima County has purchased the SW quadrant of Tumamoc, taking it out of the State land area.

---Modern Tumamoc granted leases for the microwave and communication towers on top of the hill, as well as for natural gas and jet fuel pipelines. The old observatory on top is being removed.

---The University of Arizona may establish a visitor's center in the small houses at the base of the mountain, such as the "Shrine house". The University now owns two of the three houses near the gate, with the third willed to the

PEA BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Jo Ghory, President -- 622-6419
Jane Shovlin, Vice President--- 820-5840
Robin West, Secretary -- 882-8635
Ellen Paige, Treasurer -- 623-6689
Larry Chavez, Plans Review Committee Liaison -
791-0780
Hal Bardach, Member at Large – 624-2679



PLANNING TO BUILD IN PANORAMA ESTATES?

Please contact the Panorama Estates Association Board for review well BEFORE you begin grading or construction. Cooperation of builders is crucial in this process, and greatly appreciated!