

Tucson Mountains ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1934

Spring 2012

Alan Tonelson, Editor

PO BOX 86117, TUCSON, AZ 85754-6117 • www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org • TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

News Alert! ***Painted Hills and Water Policy***

TMA has scheduled meetings on behalf of the Community Water Coalition with the Mayor and Council members related to recommendations to amend the adopted water policy. The recommendations were made by the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC). We are suggesting some modifications to CWAC's proposals to ensure a solid ongoing water policy. We expect the Council will decide on any changes to the water policy by the middle of March. Of significant concern, however, is that the State legislature is trying to direct the City of Tucson to modify its policy to provide water to Painted Hills. The legislation also would apply to other developments outside the water service area boundary. The legislation, sponsored by Representative David Stevens (District 25--Sierra Vista), was created specifically for the owners of Painted Hills--the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System. If you object to the State of Arizona directing the City to provide water service against its wishes to Painted Hills, please share your concerns with the appropriate State representatives, including:

- David Stevens: dstevens@azleg.gov
(602) 926-4321
- Sally Ann Gonzales
(our District 27 Representative):
sgonzales@azleg.gov (602) 926-3278
- Marcario Saldate
(our District 27 Representative):
msaldate@azleg.gov (602) 926-4171

Contacts for other State representatives and senators may be found under "members" at www.azleg.gov. Olivia Cajero Bedford, our State Senator, is supportive of our concerns, but feel free to let her know you support her efforts to keep this legislation from being enacted.

President's Column ***Ivy Schwartz***



A belated Happy New Year and welcome to the first Newsletter of 2012! As your new President, I would like to thank Tucson Mountains Association for the opportunity to provide service to our community. It is a pleasure and a privilege to do this work.

Perhaps the most important issue facing us is water. In the past few years, TMA has become a vocal advocate for a sane water policy in our region. We are a founding member of the Community Water Coalition.

Tucson passed a ground-breaking water policy about a year and a half ago, which, for the first time, defined the boundary for water service provision. The policy stated that water must be managed to provide for people, commercial use, *and for the environment*.

Currently a review of the water policy is in process, with a number of amendments proposed. It is vital that these amendments not be used to circumvent the new policy. Mayor and Council will take up these proposals in March. Please visit the TMA website for further information, including Mayor and Council meeting dates. Visit: www.tucsonmountainassoc.org. Please make your views known to our elected officials: Please call them, email them, go to council meetings! *Ask them to hold a public hearing on the city's water policy so that all views are heard.*

Help us to expand and sustain our membership! If you have not already done so, please send in your dues for 2012. And consider talking up TMA with friends and neighbors, and sharing the newsletter. The larger our membership, the more influence we can have with city and county officials in advocating for your concerns.

Finally, I would like to welcome the new members of the Board of Directors, Bob Gilby and Barbara Whitaker. Both have a long history of service to our community and bring advocacy skills which will advance our work. A big thank you to those members leaving the Board —

President's Column, Continued...

Lissa Gibbs, Victoria Falcone–Camey, Kurt Luscombe, and previous president, Judith Meyer — for their hard work and commitment. Lastly, our immediate past president, Ed Verburg, deserves huge accolades for his leadership these past two years. His vision, impressive organizing skills, and unflagging energy have made TMA into a strong and prominent voice in Tucson and Pima County.

We Board members stand on the shoulders of over 77 years of TMA history. We all appreciate the support of our membership!

Editor's Note: Since we have been advised that hard copy letters are more likely get attention from our officials, rather than emails, I have included street addresses for all listed below.

MAYOR JONATHAN ROTHSCHILD (520) 791-4201
255 W. Alameda St. Tucson, AZ 85701
City Hall, 10th Floor
mayor1@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 1: REGINA ROMERO (Westside) (520) 791-4040
940 W. Alameda St. Tucson, AZ 85745
ward1@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 2: PAUL CUNNINGHAM (Eastside)
(520) 791-4687
7575 E. Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85710
ward2@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 3: KARIN UHLICH (Northside) (520) 791-4711
1510 E. Grant Rd. Tucson, AZ 85719
ward3@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 4: SHIRLEY C. SCOTT (Eastside) (520) 791-3199
8123 E. Poinciana Dr. Tucson, AZ 85730
ward4@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 5: RICHARD G. FIMBRES (Southside)
(520) 791-4231
4300 S. Park Ave. Tucson, AZ 85714
ward5@tucsonaz.gov

WARD 6: STEVE KOZACHIK (Midtown) (520) 791-4601
3202 E. 1st St. Tucson, AZ 85716
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Don't forget that your TMA yearly membership fee is due at the beginning of the calendar year. Please use the membership form on the back to submit!

Council Considers Amendments to Water Policy

When the water policy was adopted by the City Council a little over a year ago, they set up an annual review to ensure the policy works smoothly for the community. The first cycle of this review has been completed by the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee. They identified nine amendments to the water policy and held three public hearings. TMA, and other community groups, attended these sessions and shared their views. Examples of revisions include: 1) defining infill for residential and commercial development, 2) grandfathering previously approved developments, 3) modifying the Review Committee's process for approving water service, and 4) changing the guideline of "clear and substantial benefit" for infill to a more narrow definition. Now the Mayor and Council must decide whether to approve these changes. The Commu-

nity Water Coalition (TMA is a member) is now meeting with the Mayor and Council to share our views, including approval, approval with revision, or do not approve as drafted. We will notify interested members related to the upcoming Study Session and Council meeting on the water policy when these sessions are scheduled in late February and March.

Hillside Development Zone ► *Halili Project*

You may recall related to the Halili matter, TMA played a role in bringing serious violations of the Hillside Development Zone Ordinance to the attention of the County, and ensuring compliance with our zoning code. In November, Mrs. Halili filed an action for a restraining order, requesting an injunction against two neighbors and the former President of TMA. The Court found no factual basis and no legal justification for the issuance of a restraining



Tucson Bicycle Classic

The Tucson Bicycle Classic will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2012. The course is the same as last year: clockwise on Greasewood Road, West on Anklam Road and West Speedway Boulevard. Greasewood will be closed to traffic from 6am until 2pm. There will be hundreds of cyclists participating, so please be careful approaching and passing these bicycle riders. For more information, go to www.tucsonbicycleclassic.com, or send an email to david.waldhokins@gmail.com, or call 631-2570.



order and denied all of the Halilis' requests. He indicated that the neighbors and TMA have every right to observe activity on the site, and report to the County any zoning issues.

Redistricting in Tucson Mountains

The Independent Redistricting Commission changed the boundaries for Legislative District 3 (for the AZ State legislature). Starting at Star Pass Boulevard and heading north, residents west of Camino de Oeste will be in the new District as well as those residing northwest of Sweetwater Drive and Silverbell Road. The total is about 1,600 residents who will be voting in the new District. It includes Marana, Oro Valley, and portions of Maricopa County. TMA sent its concerns to the IRC and some residents shared their views; but they ultimately decided to leave it as previously proposed.

Hunting Public Hearing Hosted by Parks and Recreation

During the recent hunting season, there were a number of concerns voiced by neighbors related to hunting violations. Hunters were parking along El Camino Del Cerro and going into washes. Additionally, hunters were going onto the Sweetwater Preserve, which has posted signs indicating "No Hunting". As a result, Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a hearing with the hunting community and neighbors living in the area. Guidelines for hunting will be reviewed and discussed. The hearing is scheduled for March 14 at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation conference room (3500 West River Road, Tucson, AZ).

F-35 Debate — Public Comment to Begin by Staff

As many of you are already aware, the City of Tucson is still being considered as a training base for the new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Various view points have been expressed on the issue, some in favor and some against. With the release of the draft environmental impact statement, the U.S. Air Force has held public hearings on this issue and we will keep you advised on the TMA website of the outcome.

Oracle Road/State Route 77 Wildlife Crossing public hearing

There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2012, from 5:30pm until 7:30pm at the Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church, 3001 E. Miravista Lane. A presentation will be made at 5:45pm. For details visit the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection website at: admin@sonorandesert.org.

Gates Pass Cleanup

On Saturday, April 21, 2012, the Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association will host its semi-annual cleanup of Camino de Oeste from Ironwood Hills Road south to Speedway, under the Adopt-A-Roadway program. Participants will meet at 8:00am, sign in, get vests and trash bags, and listen to a short talk on safety. For more information, contact Judy Constantine at: gpanasec@gmail.com.

Tucson Mountains Association Board of Directors

Ivy Schwartz	President	Ischwartz3211@cox.net	743-4251
Ed Verburg	Vice President	eaverburg@yahoo.com	743-7728
Debbie Hicks	Treasurer	debhicks@mindspring.com	743-3906
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*Sponsorship Levels: \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, and \$750+ Anything over the annual membership fee is now tax-deductible!

Save Trees & Postage: Receive TMA newsletters via email? Yes ___ No ___

___ Renewal ___ New

Dues: \$20 for one year \$40 for two years Other \$ ___ *

TMA Address: P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM



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