

Tucson Mountains Association

Fall 2018

NEWSLETTER

Annual Meeting & Potluck

October 7, 2018, 5:00 pm

Registration and Tours at 4:30 pm
Milagro Co-Housing p. 3

**Member Appreciation Special
2 Years for \$55**

Exp. 10/7/18
See registration on back.

Join TMA.

Help continue our work.

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Via Elegante Phase II rental housing

▶ TMA and residents prepare to resist development 150 homes on 24 acres west of Silverbell.

The Tucson Mountains foothills are rich in wildlife, both plants and animals. The limited preserved open spaces in the Tucson Mountains provide unique habitats and connects the mountains with the Santa Cruz River.

TMA has long advocated preserving key elements of this area, with important examples being the Sweetwater Preserve and the Painted Hills. The vitality of the Tucson Mountains relies on private owner preservation, as government resources are limited. Recognizing its rural values, much of this foothills area is zoned as suburban ranch (SR) in Pima County and the City of Tucson. This zoning is intended to keep the density from going above one house per three acres.

Many of us have settled here precisely because we value this zoning so that where we live can remain untouched and biologically rich.

Unfortunately, developers may have different ideas, and value something else, such as economic return or another presumed social good above wildlife and natural beauty. This is the case with the proposed development on Cerrado de Beto.

The Via Elegante Phase II development would place 150 rental units on 24 acres adjacent to the 100-bed assisted living facility nearing completion. Under the current zoning, at most, 7 homes are allowed on this 24-acre parcel. The developer is asking for rezoning for an extraordinary increase in density quite out of keeping with the surrounding area.

The developer also states an intention that the complex have a commercial kitchen, separate from the Phase I assisted living home, to make and sell meals in the community as take-out or delivery.

The developer argues that low rent housing and a commercial kitchen make this a great addition to the Tucson Mountains.

The issues that need to be determined are that the flood plain issues have not been fully vetted, scrutinized in detail and disclosed by the City of Tucson. The flood issues not only the development itself. Further assessment is needed as to: whether there is an actual community need, appropriateness of all ingress/egress roads, lack of sidewalks to/from public transportation, and the damage the development would inflict upon the natural habitat, the rural values of this area, and the wildlife corridors that cross it. The development would create a huge increase in local traffic on a narrow two-lane road ill-suited to support it. *(Please see Page 4)*

I care to live only to entice people to look at Nature's loveliness.

John Muir

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Pam Erickson

TMA recognizes Pam for her passion for TMA and the Tucson Mountains.

Pam is passionate about her love for the Tucson Mountains. She spreads the spirit of stewardship and appreciation of the grandeur of plants, animals and people in our area. She humbly accepts the gifts that the Tucson Mountains offers a sense peace, grounding and healing on even the most challenging of days.

TMA is grateful for Pam and all Members.

What is your passion in the Tucson Mountains?



Be a TMA Member.

The Endangered Species

Proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) threaten biodiversity in the Tucson Mountains.

The Endangered Species Act has been vital to the protection of nature and recovery of threatened and endangered species. It was enacted during the Nixon administration, back in the day when protection of the environment had bipartisan support. It has had a key role in the Tucson Mountains leading to the creation of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and the Multispecies Conservation Plan, which guide development towards environmentally friendly outcomes in our Tucson Mountains region. The current proposal would substantially weaken it.

CALL TO ACTION

You can comment on proposed regulatory changes until September 24, 2018. It's important to tell our federal politicians that you oppose any changes to the Act.

CALL TO ACTION

Please go to the websites below and tell each:

- 1 - The ESA has worked,**
- 2 - You oppose changes to the ESA,**
- 3 - You want the government to fully achieve the goals of the current ESA.**

To comment on regulatory revisions:

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html

To contact your federal representatives:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/AZ#representatives>

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/AZ#senators>

Deadline: September 24, 2018

SUBMIT YOUR PICTURES

Do you have Tucson Mountains pictures to share?



Spread your passion of the Tucson Mountains.

We can't wait to see your pictures!

Email: denise2b@cox.net

Photos may be used by TMA to represent the Tucson Mountains.



Loggerhead Shrike
Tucson Mountains ESA Species of Concern

What you do today can improve all your tomorrows.
Ralph Marston

The tomorrows of the Tucson Mountains are better because of your support.

Thank you.



TUCSON MOUNTAINS ADVOCATES IN ACTION

Cerrado de Beto, Phase II Neighborhood Meeting

The well-attended August 21, 2018 information meeting was attended by TMA, neighborhood groups and residents. Residents and neighborhood associations and HOAs made it clear, they are strongly opposed to this proposal.

TMA Annual Meeting & Potluck

4:30 pm Registration &
Tour of Milagro
5:00 pm Potluck & Meeting

Music by Robyn Landis
and Li Schmidt

October 7, 2018
Milagro Co-Housing
3057 N. Gaia Pl., 85745

Annual Meeting
Annual Report
Vote for Board Members

Member Potluck
- Please bring side dish or dessert
- Water and soda will be provided
- You may bring an alternate beverage of choice.

Thank you!

Let's have some fun!

Border wall: Scientific report

TMA has opposed the border wall based on its adverse impact on the biodiversity, resulting environmental damage, failure to achieve the wall's goals and the outrageous cost. On June 6, 2017, TMA was present and advocated for desert biodiversity when both the Pima County Board

of Supervisors and Tucson City Council voted to oppose the border wall project.

Now, a scientific report condemns the border wall by identifying the adverse impacts and asks scientists and supporters to sign in support. The report found:

Animals Impacted by Wall: 1077
Disconnected from their range: 346
Of these, the % that won't survive: 17%

Plants Impacted by Wall: 346
Critically endangered/
Endangered/vulnerable: 62

The report notes that daily living, mating, migration and dispersal routes would impact the bighorn sheep, Mexican gray wolf and the sonoran pronghorn. Animals at risk of not surviving the wall are the jaguar, and the ocelot.

CALL TO ACTION:

1. Read the report at:
<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biy063/5057517>
2. Sign your name in support of the report at: <https://defenders.org/border-wall-report/sign>

Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.

Gary Snyder

Via Elegante, Phase II

(Continued from page 1) The proposed development is traversed by three washes. The largest of these, the West Speedway Wash, is an important wash leading from the Painted Hills to city-owned open space lands along the west side of Silverbell Road, ultimately connecting to the Santa Cruz River. The West Speedway Wash retains enough habitat on each side to continue to function as an important wildlife corridor between the mountains and the river. In the proposed development, the washes themselves would be left intact, but dense developments abutting them would seriously impair their ability to function as habitat and wildlife corridors.

TMA opposes this development given unknown flood plain issues and risks to safety, damage to the natural qualities of the area, significant change in character to a high-density rental property, and the inability of surrounding roads to handle the increased traffic and pedestrians. About one-third of the habitat on the property has already been disturbed, and in our view, a cluster development on this one-third of the property with seven living units is the best option, assuming further development takes place at all.

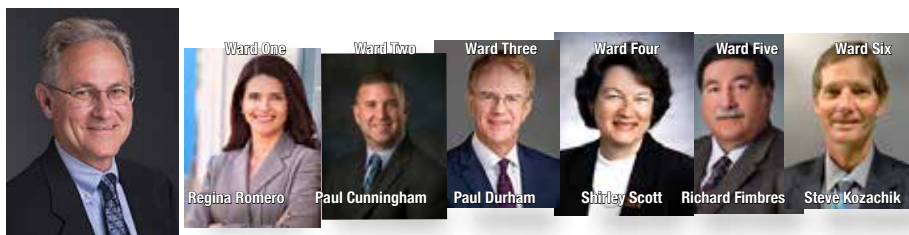
The developer has held one neighborhood meeting, but no plat proposal has yet been submitted for approval. The development would require an amendment to the existing plan, Plan Tucson, to allow a rezoning, and then obtain a rezoning.

ON ALERT:
TMA will alert Members if and when an actual application for rezoning is submitted. We will then ask you to contact the Mayor and Council to make your views known.

TUCSON CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Jonathan Rothschild	520.791.4201
Regina Romero Ward. 1	520.791.4040
Paul Cunningham, Ward. 2	520.791.4687
Paul Durham, Ward. 3	520.791.4711
Shirley Scott, Ward. 4	520.791.3199
Richard Fimbres, Ward. 5	520.791.4231
Steve Kozachik, Ward. 6	520.791.4601



Interstate-11

Interstate-11 is the proposed new highway from Mexico to Canada expected to pass through Arizona near Tucson. Discussions of the route have been ongoing for years, including several public meetings. Many local conservation organizations, including TMA, are concerned a route through the Avra Valley will be chosen. This would pass between the Tucson Mountains and the Ironwood Hills National Monument. This is currently a low development area and a vital wildlife linkage.

The County Board of Supervisors has gone on record opposing this route through the Avra Valley, but County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry supports it in spite of public opposition.

Two alternatives to the Avra Valley are being considered. First, a route that follows the existing highways I-19 and I-10, and second no I-11 at all. A preferred route is expected to be announced by the Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal

Highway Administration by the end of the year. Following that, more public meetings and detailed studies are to be expected.

CALL TO ACTION: Contact the Pima County Board of Supervisors and EIS Study Team.

1. **The only acceptable alternative is to expand/reconfigure the existing I-10 and I-19 corridor. A bypass through Avra Valley is not acceptable.**
2. **Attend the public meetings when announced and voice your opinion.**
3. **Let your local political representatives know your opinions. Keep the pressure up to save the Avra Valley and its essential role for the Tucson Mountains.**

For Arizona's Interstate-11 news:

<http://i11study.com/Arizona/index.asp>

Interstate Tier 1 EIS Study Team: 844-544-8049, i-11ADOTStudy@hdrinc.com

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ally Miller, Dist. 1 - 520.724.2738 Ramon Valadez, Dist. 2 - 520.724.8126 Sharon Bronson, Dist. 3 - 520.724.8051
 Steve Christy, Dist. 4 - 520.724.8094 Richard Elias, Dist. 5 - 520.724.8126

TMA Habitat Competition

TMA Members make a difference! Encourage environmental stewardship and preservation of the Tucson Mountains habitat. Submit your photos by October 1!

KIDS

The TMA habitat competition is a great kids' project to explore, nurture and learn about the desert environment!

Kids are excited to see animals respond to native flowering plants and seeds, or watch butterflies, deer or javelina be part of the restored habitat.



Kids enter by describing what they understand about wildlife habitats via photos, drawings and text. Competition details and how to enter are on the TMA website. Please contact TMA with any questions.

ADULTS

Vote for the environment! Make your statement about environmental stewardship. TMA Members believe in caring for the Tucson Mountains land. You can make a difference!

Habitat Competition Categories

1. Best preserved natural habitat, 3+ acres
2. Best preserved natural habitat, < 3 acres
3. Best habitat restoration
4. Best provision for wildlife corridors
5. Best provision for species at risk

Kids Categories:

- I. How to help preserve habitat
- II. How to help restore habitat

See details at:

www.TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

ENTER to WIN! Tucson Mountains stewardship starts at home. Native plants, environmental practices and your your vision will spread the passion.

Deadlines:

Kids: August 1, 2019

Adult: October 1, 2018

Tucson Mountain Feature: The Javelina

Javelinas, or collared peccary, are a special, limited visioned pack animal with strong sense of smell (and odor), and a unique social structure that live in the Tucson Mountains, desert southwest and through Latin America.

TMA Members report routine behavior of many nomadic javelina herds. Many know javelinas are only aggressive if they feel threatened, most notably when a baby is present in the pack or when establishing order in the pack.

Whether by time of day or time of year, javelina herds roam the Tucson Mountains for mesquite beans, prickly pear or to satisfy their seasonal hunger herbivore delicacy.

TMA Members have found the following books helpful in understanding javelinas: Javelinas by Jauray Yule and Javelinas and Other Peccaries by Lyle Sowls. In particular, Sowls lists the variety of javelina sounds:

Aggressive

Growls: Usually a short outburst between two javelinas when mouth fighting each other.

Tooth clicking: Rapid teeth snapping warns of an attack, usually between two javelinas for food or when one is threatened.

Alert

Woofs: When startled. The herd will either freeze or run.

Squealing: Piglet sound if scared. Herd will respond defensively.

At Ease


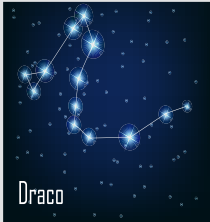




Grunt: Constant low, chortle-like grunts during calm feeding or herd activity.

Many TMA Members feel blessed to be on a javelina herd travel path, around a day or night bedding sight or provide the natural seasonal plants the javelina need to survive. Stewardship of the land and animals is signature to the Tucson Mountains lifestyle.

TMA celebrates Tucson Mountain javelinas and TMA Members who are part of the natural life of the Tucson Mountains.

Backyard Astronomy

The Tucson Mountains, fall nights and your backyard are a perfect place to enjoy astronomy. Watch the moon, meteor showers or grab a telescope and view the stars. A vast universe awaits your exploration.

 <p>9/24/18 6:28 pm Rise 7:52 pm Full</p>	 <p>Draco</p>	 <p>Orion</p>	 <p>Leo</p>	 <p>10/24/18 6:09 pm Rise 9:45 am Full</p>	 <p>11/22/18 5:23 pm Rise 10:39 pm Full</p>
<p>Harvest Moon Moon rises after sunset. In the autumnal equinox month, moon rises are 30 min. later each day instead of 50 the rest of the year.</p>	<p>Draconids Meteor Shower Peak: 10/8-9 Range: 10/6-10 #/Hr: <5 Best: Evening, once dark Feature: Slow</p>	<p>Orionids Meteor Shower Peak: 10/20-21 Range: 10/2-11/7 #/Hr: 10-20 Best: Pre-dawn Feature: Trains, some fireballs</p>	<p>Leonids Meteor Shower Peak: 11/17-18 Range: 11/6-30 #/Hr: 10-15+ Best: Pre-dawn, beg. after 12 am Feature: Abundant</p>	<p>Travel Moon-Hunters Moon</p>	<p>Beaver Moon Named after beavers readying for winter.</p>

1970s Look back: Tucson Mountains Jojobas Help Save the Whales

Some TMA Members recall joining the Save the Whale demonstrations, others sold jojoba seeds picked from the Tucson Mountains.

Jojoba is a woody shrub that is known for its long life, low water use and seeds that have a have a liquid wax. It became a commercialized crop to offset demand for whale oil and naturally sourced plants.

TMA celebrates the jojoba, the Tucson Mountains and TMA Members as part of the solution to save the whales!

Thank you for being part of a greater solution.



REUSING is the New Recycling

Members were on top of the recent Star and Republic reports that fewer items meet recycling facility requirements. An active pivot toward reusing all items helps reduce waste in our lives. For example, there are many ideas to use plastic bottles for:

1. Pencil/item holders
2. Planters
3. Watering cans
4. Kids toys/crafts

HOW DO YOU REUSE ITEMS?
Share your ideas with TMA & We will share the Best Reuse List.
Email Denise: denise2b@cox.net

AZ Star:
https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/es/DMBE_FlyerENG_web.pdf
www.tucson.com/news/local/tucsonans-may-soon-pay-more-for-less-recycling-service-city/article_3c64020b-dd38-5afd-a80f-0ca9b3c02ffc.html
www.tucson.com/news/local/steler-column-global-shift-tucson-s-poor-recycling-habits-are/article_2ed1706f-4e7a-5b47-aec8-fd99d666ee.html

AZ Republic:
www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2018/07/06/recycling-laws-phoenix-arizona-make-nearly-impossible-act-responsibly/761822002/
www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2018/06/06/phoenix-cancels-residents-recyclebank-recycling-program/819413002/

NEW! TMA MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION SPECIAL

2 Years for \$55*
*pay by Check only

exp. Oct. 7, 2018
New and Current Members

All Memberships begin January 1.

Don't miss out!

Please complete Registration attached to this Newsletter

Thank you!

REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE

Camino De Oeste Wash grading and the Silverbell Crossings

TMA is monitoring the Camino De Oeste Wash grading as an important scenic and habitat area. The goal is to minimize negative environmental impacts of this project. TMA is advocating for you.

Many residents recently noticed grading occurring between the Silverbell Golf Course and Silverbell Road. The Camino De Oeste Wash, which stretches from Tucson Mountain Park to the Santa Cruz River, crosses under Silverbell Road at this point. The grading is for retention basins associated with the Silverbell Crossings housing development.

There will be 143 housing units on 32 acres between the Golf Course and Silverbell Road.

Although we would rather not see a development of this type, it has been approved by the City and is now proceeding. County Flood Control has investigated the current grading activities and has confirmed compliance with their permit.

TMA will continue to monitor the progress, and you can be sure that we will express any concerns we have with the City of Tucson. This area has important scenic and habitat values.

Immediately west of Silverbell Road is City of Tucson open space land preserving natural habitat, and the Camino De Oeste Wash is an important wildlife corridor from the Tucson Mountains to the Santa Cruz River. Although development will inevitably take place, we are focused on minimizing any negative environmental impacts.

Thanks for TMA Members being alert.

Silverbell Golf Course Closure

The City of Tucson is researching closing one of its golf courses, and Silverbell Golf Course is one possibility. TMA has argued to the City that if Silverbell Golf Course is to be closed, it must be retained as open space. The golf course is on the banks of the Santa Cruz River and the Camino De Oeste Wash flows through it. TMA would like to see as much of the area returned to natural habitat as possible. There is much degraded land around the edges of the golf course highly suitable for restoration even if the golf course remains. Such restoration would be of great benefit both to the Santa Cruz River and the Camino De Oeste Wash as wildlife corridors, helping them function effectively together. The scenic values of the area would be greatly improved. The Loop Trail would be much more attractive with restored vegetation, and so would the golf course.

CALL TO ACTION: Contact the City Council. Tell them:

1. Silverbell Golf Course must remain open space.
2. The Santa Cruz and Camino De Oeste Washes are important wildlife corridors.
3. Regardless of closure, Silverbell Golf Course habitat should be restored.
4. A restored/revegetated area would benefit the Loop and Silverbell Golf Course.

Please see Page 4 for contact numbers.

Writing an effective Letter to the Editor (LTE)

- **Use the LTE format.** Call your newspaper to: address the letter to whom, required format and maximum word count. Other helpful hints:
- **Be concise.** Even if under the word limit, the more concise, the better.
- **Hold your subject.** A letter about one topic is better than a lengthy letter with many subjects that won't get published due to length or confusion.
- **Be timely.** Newspapers want relevant topics in the news now.
- **Educate your reader.** If writing about pending legislation, describe the legislation, its impact, and decision date.
- **Credentials count.** State your personal experience or expertise in the subject area.
- **Focus on local impact.** A subject with a local impact increases the chance for publication.
- **Follow up.** Confirm your LTE was received by the newspaper. If your LTE wasn't printed, ask why to incorporate changes into your next LTE.

Happy writing!

Meet Your 2018 TMA Board Candidates

This year, the TMA Board has two board members who will run again and is happy to announce one board member, Steve Dolan who is running for the board. Each of the candidates are committed to serving the Members of the Tucson Mountains Association and planning for the longterm best interests of the region.

Peter Chesson

Peter has lived in the Tucson Mountains for thirteen years and has been on the TMA board for about ten years. For the last four years he has served as president. Peter is a professor of Ecology at the UA, and also serves on the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission.

He is dedicated to nature conservation in our region, and as a board member will work to further this goal. During his time as president, he has been working to promote the preservation and restoration of the Santa Cruz River Corridor as a critical wildlife connection within our region.

Throughout the Tucson Mountains is the spirit of service to others and a deeprooted sense of community.

Steve Dolan

Steve and Susan Dolan moved from the University of Arizona area to the Tucson Mountains in 1989. They joined the Tucson Mountains Association and Steve helped the Board with issues including the Trails End Road rezoning, proposed Painted Hills development, and Sweetwater Preserve.

Steve looks forward to serving on the Board with his private engineering, Pima County, and Arizona government experience to help with land-use and water-related challenges to promote the quality of living in the Tucson Mountains.

Paul Eckerstrom

Paul grew up in the Tucson Mountains on Painted Hills Rd. and lived in the Tucson Mountains most of his life.

He has been a vocal activist for many causes in our community, but is most passionate about preserving the rural character and the beautiful Sonoran Desert of the Tucson Mountains. That is why he has been a board member for TMA since 2003 and wishes to continue in that role.



Tucson Mountains for Well-Being

Fall in the Tucson Mountains means more time to appreciate our parks and trails. A smart phone-based ecological momentary assessment app, Urban Mind, not only helps people track the effects of nature on one's mental well-being in real time, it's a research project. Early 2018, Urban Mind published preliminary results, with two key findings.

First, the positive effects on one's sense of well-being of a single experience in nature can last for seven hours.

Second, those at risk of mental health issues may benefit the most from exposure to nature.

The Tucson Mountains is a special place to visit and to live. TMA Members have valued Tucson Mountain space, parks, trails and homeowner stewardship of land, flora and fauna.

See: <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/68/2/134/4791430>

**TMA wishes each TMA Member a wonderful Fall Season.
Thank you for your ongoing participation.**



Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of the earth.

Henry David Thoreau

Tucson Mountains Association – Ballot for Election 2018 (See candidate biographies)

Please note: under TMA By-Laws, the new Board will meet in January and select one member to each a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The Membership elects the Board members and they, in turn, select officers from among them. You may vote for up to five Board members if your membership is current.

Board Members: Please choose up to five (5):

Peter Chesson

Write-in: _____

Paul Eckerstrom

Write-in: _____

Steve Dolan

Please return your ballot to TMA: P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754 by September 28, 2018, or submit at the Annual Meeting and potluck at Milagro Community Center by 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 7, 2018. Thank you.

Tucson Mountains Association TMA Members make things happen.

Join or email at: www.TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

PO Box 86117
Tucson, AZ 85754-6117

Membership. Join! Give a gift. Invite your friends!

MEMBER APPRECIATION SPECIAL
2 Years for \$55, Exp. Oct. 7: Pay by check only.

Mail or bring to Annual Meeting. Only current paid members can vote at the Annual Meeting.
Or, pay \$30/year per household online with credit card. **Please return this form with your payment.**

This Membership is for: My household A gift, to start: 2018 2019 Add to the current Membership acct.

I would like to purchase: ___ 2 Yr. Memberships @ \$55 = \$_____ + Optional Contribution = \$_____

How did you hear about TMA: I am a current Member Email Friend Other: _____

Name: _____ Cell: _____ Text: Yes No

Email: _____ Volunteer: Yes No

Spouse/Partner: _____ Cell: _____ Text: Yes No

Email: _____ Volunteer: Yes No

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

What do you love most about the Tucson Mountains: _____

Thank you!

Fall 2018