

The Ridgerunner

Portillo Ridge Homeowners' Association
Email: PortilloRidgeHOA@gmail.com
Website: www.portilloridgehoa.org

Summer 2024



An Important Message . . .

THANK YOU and WELCOME to our newest Board of Directors members, **Gordon Postlewaite** and **Fred Fischer**, who have graciously agreed to serve our HOA. At the February 2024 Board meeting, Gordon was selected President, and Fred was selected Vice-President. They join **Steve Cripps**, Treasurer, and **Nancy Cook**, Member-at-Large. Unfortunately, the Secretary position remains unfilled despite several emailed pleas for a volunteer.

Portillo Ridge HOA is required by law ("By-Laws") to have a 5-member Board of Directors, whether or not we employ a management company to assist us. While an occasional short-term vacancy on the Board is permissible, it is not ideal. A quorum of 3 Board members is required to be present (in person or virtually) to conduct any official HOA business, such as approving expenditures for management company services, website hosting, common area landscaping, etc. Having a full roster of Board members means that we are more likely to have a quorum when needed. *(continued . . .)*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gordon Postlewaite
Vice President: Fred Fischer
Secretary: TBD
Treasurer: Steve Cripps
Member-at-Large: Nancy Cook

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Architectural Review: TBD
Audit: Gary Cook
Common Area Maintenance:
Jim Chisholm
Firewise: Joe Fields
Food Bank: Sandy Churchill
Neighborhood Watch: Wil Smith
Nominating and Elections: Wil Smith
Social: Nancy Cook

GVC REPRESENTATIVE

Primary: Glen Barnes
Alternate: TBD

WEBMASTER

Jim Chisholm

Dream Catcher Mgmt. Co.

Marge Garneau

(520) 216-0773

prhoa.mgmt@gmail.com

Important Message (. . . continued)

If the Board of Directors should ever reach a point where they are consistently unable to have a quorum, due to lack of Board members, there could be serious legal and financial repercussions for all of our residents, with the worst-case scenario being that the HOA is placed in receivership. This is something that needs to be avoided.

Although each Board member is elected to a 3-year term, our HOA was fortunate in the past to have found volunteers who generously served the HOA for 6, 8, and in some cases 10 or more years, in various capacities as Board members and/or Committee chairpersons or members. As these longtime volunteers step back from their duties, it is imperative that new volunteers step forward.

If you want Portillo Ridge to continue to be a desirable place to live, you have to do your part. That includes not only maintaining your own home and yard, but also maintaining the functional business structure of the HOA. Volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors is the most important way to do that. The time and effort required to serve on the Board is now minimal, thanks in part to Marge at our management company, who handles many of the tasks previously done by the Board members. Volunteering for a Committee is also appreciated.

Please don't say, "I'm too busy." We're all busy! Almost everyone who has ever served on our Board of Directors was at the same time volunteering for other organizations, as well as taking part in recreational activities.

Please don't say, "I'm a seasonal resident." Today's technology allows out-of-town residents to join our Board of Directors meetings virtually, and Board meetings are not scheduled for June, July or August, the main timeframe when our seasonal residents are at their other homes.

Please don't say, "Someone else will volunteer." If everyone said that, no one would volunteer!

Please say, "I'll do it."

Volunteer.



WEEDS . . . WEEDS . . . WEEDS!

Ugh! It's weed season . . . AGAIN!

We were fortunate to have abundant winter rains this year, but the weeds loved the moisture as much as we did! They are flourishing now and will only become more numerous when the monsoon begins.

Even if you are a seasonal resident, you are responsible for maintaining a weed-free yard year-round. Remember that an unkempt yard signals to others that your property is vacant!



Firewise Committee

The first annual Community Firewise day was held at the Madera Vista meeting room on May 20th, lasting almost 2 hrs. Twenty-five people were in attendance, including representatives from Portillo Hills II and Quail Creek. Representatives from Esperanza Estates were unable to attend but will be sent the minutes of our meeting.

Chris Reed of the **State of Arizona Forestry & Fire Division**, who used a Zoom (remote) presentation, provided details on the Firewise implementation for the homeowners and answered various questions from the audience. We found it to be an excellent substitute for the in-person presentation. Jim Chisholm, with his tech skills, deserves credit for making this possible.

John McGee from the **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** provided information on the CERT program and its link with FEMA in working with disasters. He is also our local contact with the Firewise Program. He mentioned that the insurance industry is closely looking at the Firewise Program and evaluating its effectiveness in reducing losses to wildfires. USAA is already offering a discount for individuals within a certified Firewise Community, which we were awarded in January.

Kevin McNichols of the **Green Valley Fire District** provided information on the Fire District's commitment to the Firewise Program and the assistance they can provide to homeowners and groups interested in Firewise and associated risk assessments. Part of his responsibility is managing the GVFD volunteer program, with which we all are familiar. He reminded us they always welcome new volunteers for their many active programs. A call to him will get you started.

Matt Smogor, Social Performance Manager, Freeport-McMoRan, discussed Freeport's community involvement and volunteer opportunities. His group is in contact with various HOAs and is interested in partnering with us in any way possible. Corporate policy prevails and prior to any direct involvement, approvals must be granted. They are in contact with the State Fire Officials and are in the process of a risk assessment for wildfire potential of their lands and how they fit in with our Firewise Plan.

Your Firewise committee is committed to making our community a safer place to live by making its residents **"fire wise."** If you need further information, please feel free to contact any of our members or e-mail our committee at prhoafirewise@gmail.com. Committee members are **Joe Fields**, Chairman, **Glen Barnes**, **Jim Chisholm**, **Tim Gronseth**, **Mike Millikin** and **Jim Richardson**.

Joe Fields

Firewise Chairperson



Secretary

Portillo Ridge Board of Directors

We are STILL looking for a volunteer to fill the remaining term of office for one Board of Directors position.

Whoever fills the position would become the HOA Secretary, which involves very little actual paperwork, since our management company handles most of what needs to be done. The primary commitment is attendance at monthly Board of Directors' meetings, in person or virtually.

If interested, please contact **Marge Garneau** at 520-216-0773 or any member of the Board of Directors.

Neighborhood Watch

Hello Everyone! I hope that everyone is getting accustomed to the heat. The warm temperatures were slow in returning this year but have arrived in a big way. During the summer, it is even more important to keep an eye on your neighbors to make sure they are OK. With most of the Snowbirds gone now, we have fewer eyes watching our neighborhood. It's not unusual to hear of someone who has passed out in their driveway or back yard in Arizona in the summer due to the heat.

Along with the return of summer weather is the usual reappearance of snakes, spiders, scorpions and Gila monsters. Be very vigilant around vegetation, patios and removing BBQ covers. You might get a surprise! Recovering from a bite or sting can be very painful.

As a reminder, please don't put your garbage cans out on the curb the night before garbage day. A few weeks ago, I watched a dozen or so javelinas working their way up my street, knocking over every garbage can they passed. They made quite a mess.

This fall we will have the **Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers** attend one of our meetings to talk about available services they provide. I am personally looking forward to getting more information about the telephone scams that are making the rounds. We all work hard for our money and I for one do not intend to give mine to a thief.

Last of all and this is for everyone: If you see something out of the ordinary, please do not hesitate to call 911.

Wil Smith

Neighborhood Watch Chairperson



Portillo Ridge HOA Food Drive Report

Our Portillo Ridge HOA supports the Green Valley Community Food Bank. So far this year our HOA has donated 639 lbs. of food and \$1,025.00.

We will have our Fall Food Drive in November and have a Food Bank donation box at our Christmas Party. A flyer will be emailed out as the date nears with details and needed items listed.

If you pay AZ State Tax, the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit allows a \$ for \$ AZ State Tax credit of up to \$800 Married or \$400 Single. You do not need to itemize. (AZDOR form 321)

Thank you to our committee: **Aleta Edwards, Chris Garrick, Dan & Delight Sullivan, Deanna Brooks, Anne Morrison, Fred Fischer, CJ Rhinehart, & Dave Churchill.**

Your local GV Food Bank is a great asset to this community. Call me at 805-377-7240 if you have food to donate or would like a tour of the Food Bank.

Green Valley Community Food Bank

250 E. Continental Rd. Green Valley, AZ 85614

520-625-5252

www.communityfoodbank.org

Sandy Churchill

Food Bank Chairperson

Social Committee

Many of our neighbors have left for cooler temperatures, but many of us are still here and it's time for some indoor activities.

Speaking of indoors, in May we had an art activity at Madera Vista Community Center. Watercolor Pencil Art was enjoyed by 16 neighbors thanks to our instructor, **Darilyn Ronn**, who has been a watercolor artist & teacher for 28 years. Darilyn provided a demonstration with instructions on using watercolor pencils with the next step of adding paint brush and water. Each student selected their favorite 2 small canvases provided with pre-stenciled pictures of a large variety of desert scenes, flowers, kites, pottery, etc. Neighbors enjoyed the art activity, meeting new neighbors and catching up with old acquaintances, plus a few snacks shared. It was great fun!

Cards and Games are coming back for Portillo Ridge neighbors on Wednesday, June 26th and again on Wednesday, August 21st at Madera Vista Community Center.

In addition, the July 4th holiday celebration will be held again this year, also at Madera Vista Community Center. Specific information will be sent to all neighbors by email prior to these dates.

Also, an early heads -up regarding our yearly Holiday Party. "Save the Date" on your calendar for Wednesday, December 18, 2024. The party will once again be held at the Grill on the Green restaurant at the Canoa Ranch Golf Course in the room with the beautiful view. Feedback received from many requested the same venue, with only a few against.

These activities are important opportunities for neighbors to get together and to meet new ones. While these events are fun, they are also a fair amount of work to organize and make happen. I'm looking for volunteers to help with ideas for activities and also set-up for the 4th of July function plus the Holiday Party in December.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me at my cell # 541-914-0546 or by email at **1ncook@comcast.net**.

Last, but not least, I'd like to run this idea by you. Since I know we have a lot of artists in our neighborhood, I'd like to coordinate an Arts & Craft Fair to be set up in the Madera Vista Community Center for a 1-day sale in November. Items must be created by you, such as paintings, drawings, ceramics, weaving, pottery, handmade jewelry, etc. No antiques, resale or garage sale items. No fees would be charged to secure one table. If you have any interest in joining this activity, please contact me via my above cell # or email. To make this happen I need an answer no later than the 1st of August.

Nancy Cook

Social Committee Chairperson



Wishing all of our
Portillo Ridge
neighbors a safe
and enjoyable 4th
of July holiday!

Architectural Review Committee

So far this year, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has processed and approved 16 requests.

As a reminder to all residents, the *Architectural Review Committee—Rules* can be found on our website portilloridgehoa.org under *Governing Documents*. Please take the time to read this document if you are considering any changes to the exterior of your house, your walls, or your yard. (An exception is if you are repainting your house the exact same colors, which does not require ARC approval.)

If you have any questions about whether or not a planned change will need ARC approval, please reach out to any of the committee members for guidance.

Your ARC members are **Fred Fischer, Glen Barnes, Dave Churchill, Joe Fields, Jerry Stasser, Chuck Smith, Howard Grondahl** and **Jim Chisholm**.

ARC approval is needed BEFORE you or your contractor begin any work on the project. Fines may apply if the ARC Rules are not followed, so please make sure to submit an ARC request when necessary.

Jim Chisholm
ARC Member

What in the World?!



*Strange but true
geography facts.*

Most Canadians live south of Seattle.

Reno, Nevada is farther west than Los Angeles, California.

All of South America is farther east than Michigan.

The Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal is actually farther west than its Pacific entrance.

Canada's southernmost point of land is Middle Island, located in Lake Erie. 13 U.S. states are entirely to the north of Middle Island—Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Maryland, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine!

Thank You, Glen Barnes and Nancy Williams!

*THANK YOU to **Glen Barnes** for his 3 years of service on the BOD. Glen served as the Vice-President. He also served as the ARC Chairperson, and he continues to serve as an ARC member, Firewise Committee member, and our GVC representative.*

*THANK YOU to **Nancy Williams** for her 3 years of service on the BOD.
Nancy served as the President.*



New Neighbors

Lot 25 - Thomas & Susan Piazza

Lot 20 - Margaret Kirchner

Lot 9 - Mike & Sherry Lewis

Lot 143 - John & Liane Worland

Lot 92 - Jon Kevin & Jeanne Blackburn

Lot 120 - Edward Davis & Joan Knight

Lot 85 - Robert & Judy Riether

Lot 111 - Thomas & Carole Daniel

Many thanks to **CJ Rhinehart**,
our wonderful "Welcome" representative!

*A little shout-out to **Marsha Barnes**, who proofreads every issue of the Ridgerunner before it goes out. In many cases it's annoying to have someone point out every little mistake you make, but in this case it's very much appreciated! Thank you, Marsha.* - Lynn

Caring & Sharing

If you know of a neighbor who would appreciate receiving a comforting note due to serious illness, hospitalization, or bereavement, please contact:

Judith LeClair
at
gvjudith@cox.net
or
520-490-2854

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

- Unknown

The Ridgerunner

Please note that the Ridgerunner is your avenue for sharing news and events that may affect or be of interest to our neighborhood.

Your newsletter is produced by **Lynn Chisholm**, and published on an as-needed basis, as determined by the Board of Directors. Please submit any news items to Lynn at JLChisholm881@gmail.com