

Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association
Next Meeting at Desert Sky Middle School, 9850 E. Rankin Loop
Wednesday February 23rd, 2011 Time: 7pm
Web site: www.ritaranch.org

The City pays for printing and mailing of this Neighborhood notice. Therefore this will be the only Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association bulletin for this year or until after July 1st, when the City begins a new fiscal year.

FEBRUARY 23 (WEDNESDAY) MEETING: This will be the Association's annual meeting.

Fire Department Presentation: There will be a short presentation by TFD (Tucson Fire Department) to let us know how they are responding to emergencies and with what type of equipment. Should be about 10 min.

Election of Board members: We will be electing Association board members. Currently there are 9 residents who are on the board and who have indicated they would like to continue. Names of the board members can be found listed on our web site. Anyone else who would be interested in being elected to the board needs to be at the February meeting.

Vote on Park Project valued at \$150,000: City Parks Dept personnel will provide information of possible Purple Heart park improvements. The City has \$150,000 received for the AT&T cell tower that is to be used in our park. The Association's park committee has recommended it be used for a dog park to be located over by Rees Loop. We will Vote at February's RRNA meeting as to what project we want in the park. Location of the project will also be voted on at the meeting. So if you are interested in improvements to the park you will want to attend the February meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed. We are trying to get costs of various other items such as playground equipment, tennis courts etc. The costs of these will be listed on our web page.

We will also be voting on updating the Purple Heart Park Master Plan. This plan would put in place all improvements we would like to see in the future if and when funding becomes available. This is an important topic so you may want to attend.

Family Fun Day Planning: Planning for Family Fun Day 2011 will begin in February. The event will be held on Saturday, May 28th in Purple Heart Park. If your organization is interested in participating please send an email to alwiruth1@yahoo.com. Organizations that participated last year will all be notified by email. There is no cost to the residents so if you have a chance please come. This has always been a successful event due to the participation of local businesses and groups. Unfortunately the swimming pool will NOT be open for Family Fun Day. In fact at this time we are not sure if the pool will be open for the summer. The Parks Department is hoping to have an arrangement with the YMCA, as they did last year, to open the pool on a temporary basis. When we have more information we will put it out to our email list and on our web page.

Houghton Road Widening The City is still planning on widening Houghton to 6 lanes at least from Golf Links to the I-10. The next section to be widened is between Irvington to Valencia starting around June 2011. Improvements to Houghton/Valencia intersection may also be included during the 18 month construction phase. For more info we recommend you check out the web site: www.houghtonroad.info.

Art Project along Houghton: We are looking for one or more individuals who would like to participate in providing input to the city art representatives as to what type of art the Rita Ranch residents would like to see along Houghton from Poorman to Old Vail Road. This would require some meetings during the day. If you are interested please contact Al Wiruth at 574-1189 or email alwiruth1@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Community Service Project: In our area we have a young Boy Scout who is working to obtain an Eagle Scout designation. In this endeavor he needs to perform a community service project. The project he has decided on is to provide information to residents on how to maintain the American flag and also gather up old American flags that are torn, or frayed so they can be destroyed properly. If you have an old flag that needs to be properly destroyed please send an email to alwiruth1@yahoo.com. We will forward your email to the young man so he can make arrangements with you to obtain the old flag.

Latest Information on Commercial Development at Old Vail/Houghton: Home Depot project on the southwest side of Houghton/Old Vail Road has been put off again for another year. Earliest date for construction to start would be September 2011 or later.

Noise Complaints regarding DM flights: We have not been hearing of any complaints regarding jets from DM over our area. The Association is still a member of the MCRC (Military Community Relations Committee). If you have a noise complaint the hot line number is 228-5091. The MCRC web page is www.MCRC.com.

Using Cross Walks: Children & young adults continue to ride bikes or skateboards rather than walk across Rita Road in marked cross walks. If they are not walking they are considered moving vehicles even in a cross walk and could be at fault if there were an accident. Please pass this on to your children & young adults. This includes going to school even with a crossing guard being present.

Brush and Bulky Survey: The city recently asked neighborhoods to provide input regarding residents feelings about Brush and Bulky pickups. The City waste department has seen a 15% drop in material residents put out for pickup. Residents on our email listing said in an informal survey that they like the present system (2 pickup times a year) at the current cost. These facts were relayed to the City's Waste Department.

Graffiti Removal. The phone number to request graffiti removal is 792-CITY or 792-2489. The City of Tucson's police department (East side) is asking "The Community or Residents" to please photograph the graffiti using a yard stick for measurement to give TPD a perspective of the size before cleaning it/painting over it. You can make a report on line at Graffiti@tucsonaz.gov. You will get a report number which the city would like you to put on the photographs so they can tie the report and photos together.

RRNA Email Listing: If you want to be put on our email listing, please notify Mike at info@ritaranch.org. Sometimes we don't get an opportunity to put out a notice or ask for your input on topics like Brush and Bulky. In those instances we notify those residents who are on our email listing. Our web page expert uses Blind Copy so you don't get the names of the others on the listing. As this will be the only notification for some time you may want to get other updates via email. Later if decide you don't want to be on the email listing you can be removed.

POC: Al Wiruth (alwiruth1@yahoo.com, (574-1189)

The Rita Ranch Neighborhood Association boundaries are Poorman (North), railroad tracks (South), Pantano Drive (West) and Pantano Wash (East).

"The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Department of neighborhood Resources and all other offices neither agrees or disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requestor is solely responsible."