

2018 President Message

Happy Holidays including Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa and Happy New Year to our fellow Cimarron Foothills Estates homeowners. I hope that you find this annual newsletter, Cimarron Ambiance, informative with regards to our community. Each of our nine volunteer HOA board members have prepared a summary of their activities throughout the year for your information.

Our HOA Board of Directors started out 2017 with four new board members and a new bookkeeper. It took us a few months to adjust to our new roles and responsibilities. We were very fortunate to pick up four very sharp and dedicated new board members that have taken on some of our most challenging tasks. We also hired an exceptional new bookkeeper, Patricia Stoll.

Margaret Weinberg accepted the position of Board Secretary and has done a stellar job of taking notes and preparing our meeting minutes for posterity. She has also taken over the publishing of our Cimarron Ambiance newsletter. She has worked as a professional graphic designer/art director for the past 20 years, and currently works as a freelance designer specializing in print media. She brings much to her position on our board.

Bob Linsell accepted the position Director of CR&R's (Conditions, Reservations and Restrictions). The truth is he missed the first meeting in February and got assigned one of the toughest assignments... persuading 400 homeowners to adhere to our restrictions to maintain a quality community. He has done a fabulous job using his "face to face principles of persuasion" to resolve many issues in the neighborhood. As a geology graduate of the University of Colorado and employee of a major construction company, he voluntarily took on the task of assisting neighbors with driveway improvement and repair. News to come at our annual meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018.

Tom Botchie was a draftee brought onto our board after we lost one of our board members last spring. Tom has a strong engineering background and volunteered to be our Director of Architectural Review. He has taken on this very busy position with a dedication to maintaining the integrity of our neighborhood while working with homeowners with their remodeling and maintenance projects.

Peter Lincowski accepted the position of board Treasurer in February just in time to have our bookkeeper of 20 years retire. He helped recruit an outstanding new bookkeeper and has done a stellar job of coordinating Pat Stoll with our records and reports. Peter has been a resident of Cimarron Foothills for over 21 years. Most of his career has been in high-tech, working for companies in computer hardware, software, consulting, and services so he and Pat speak the same language.

Pat Stoll is our only paid team member. As the part-time bookkeeper for our board, she jumped in with both feet last March and is a genius with Quick Books. Pat reports to our Treasurer, Peter Lincowski, and is making his job real easy. She has introduced several key changes to improve the quality of our reports and information. This spring we will add a new homeowner directory to our website that will be updated on a monthly basis rather than just once a year.

Returning to our board for 2018 are members with years of experience. We are blessed to have Karen Egbert return as Vice President and Community Relations. Francis Morgan maintains our website, communication and coordination of the Nextdoor Neighbor website. Mike Carsten is Deputy Chief for the Tucson Fire Department and continues to coordinate our neighborhood security with Central Alarm.

This is our team that is "at your service" moving forward into 2018.



Larry Lewis

President

520-225-8827

Roles & Changes in the Board

Board members Karen Egbert, Larry Lewis, Mike Carsten and Francis Morgan are up for reelection to the Board. Roles and responsibilities will be announced at the January Annual Meeting.

- **Mike Carsten** serves as Chair for Safety & Security.
- **Larry Lewis** is President of the Board.
- **Karen Egbert** is Vice President of the Board and Chair of Environmental Services.
- **Francis Morgan** takes care of Communications and the Website.
- **Margaret Weinberg** is Secretary of the Board.
- **Peter Lincowski** is Treasurer of the Board.
- **Chris Pappas** serves as Chair for Roads & Medians.
- **Bob Linsell** makes sure that the CR&Rs are adhered to.
- **Tom Botchie** serves as Architectural Chair.
- **Pat Stoll** is bookkeeper.

Election to the Board — 2018

In December, you should have received the ballots for the election of Board Members along with your annual dues invoice. We have four returning candidates in line for your confirmation vote as members of our Board of Directors for two year terms ending January 2020. The results of the election will be announced at our annual HOA meeting which will be held on January 28th, 2018 at Catalina Foothills High School. Keep track of these assignment changes on our website in February 2018. Assignments, duties and contact information will be included on our website:

cimarronfoothillshoa.org

Candidates for Election

Mike Carsten — Mike is the current Chair for Security for the Cimarron Foothills HOA. He has lived in Cimarron since 2012. He moved to Tucson 1990, after growing up in Toledo, Ohio. He currently works as a Deputy Chief for the Tucson Fire Department. Mike has been in the Fire Service for 25 years.

Larry Lewis — Larry is currently President of the Board. He has lived in Cimarron Foothills since March 2006. He and his wife, Sue, moved to Tucson from Florida after he retired from Sears after 42 years of service. He continues to stay active working in commercial real estate and business consulting. Larry is active as a 4th degree Knight of Columbus at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. He holds the office of Financial Secretary and Comptroller for both the Council and Assembly organizations. Larry has experience working with community activities including: Executive Director of Rio Nuevo; VP of the NW Greater Chicago Redevelopment Corp.; Scout leader; Irving Park YMCA Board Member, and HOA president in Fair Oaks, California.

Karen Egbert — Karen has been serving on Cimarron Foothills Homeowners Board since 2005 in the capacities of Vice President, Treasurer, and CR&R Chair. Karen moved to Cimarron in 2000. She received her engineering degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology and spent most of her career in process control systems. More recently Karen works as An Account Development Specialist with Curriculum Associates. She has been a Girl Scout Leader since 2004 and has two daughters, Kryne and Christiana.

Francis Morgan — Francis is the current Chair for Communications and Webmaster for the Cimarron Foothills HOA. He has been a Cimarron resident since 1989, when he relocated from the San Francisco Bay Area. Francis was CEO and Creative Director at Morgan-Cain & Associates, at the time, Tucson's largest graphic design studio. Francis also conceived and developed the educational websites— Reading A-Z and RAZ Kids, among the most popular educational sites on the Internet. Francis was born and educated in Great Britain where he received a degree in graphic design. Before relocation to the USA in 1977, he worked in London for the , where he managed BBC Educational Publications. Francis is the recipient of numerous national design awards and has written more than 100 children's books. Francis is President of the Board of Directors of the Environmental Education Exchange and Editor of the Tucson Festival of Books newsletter. In 2013, Francis was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the University of Wales, UK for his work in educational publishing.

Vice President

As your Vice President, my responsibility includes performing all duties in the absence of the President. I also act as the chair of the nominating committee. Our Board consists of the required President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer Director positions and any other Chairpersons and Directors the Board votes as necessary. Over the past years we have maintained a Board of at least 7 Directors and Chairpersons. Unfortunately, this year we did not receive any interested members running for a Board position. We would love to see new faces and new ideas! If you're interested in becoming part of the leadership team of Cimarron, please let me know, as there may be vacancies that occur during this year or for the next upcoming year.

Environmental Services

I've summarized some questions you may have below:

1. Weekly pick up of one trash can and one recycle bin (you may have been grandfathered in for two containers)
2. You may have ten extra tied bags picked up, as long as they can be easily tossed in the trash truck. You can not have your own trash container as the trucks are designed for automatic pick up of their containers. Only ten tied bags can be additional.
3. If you need additional containers, you may contact Republic at **520-745-8820** to discuss this with them. There is an additional fee.
4. We've been advised by Republic, they will no longer be taking new requests for back door service.
5. Please recycle all glass bottles and jars; metal and aluminum cans and lids; newspapers, cardboard, phone books and paper boxes; and #1, #2, #4, #5 and #7 plastic food and beverage containers.
6. Please **do not** recycle Styrofoam or plastic shopping and newspaper bags.
7. Please note on a week with a specific holiday (printed on the top of your garbage bin), pick ups will be moved to Saturday.

Happy New Year!

Karen Egbert,
Vice-President/Environmental Service



Living with Javalinas

Credit: Arizona Game and Fish

Though some people think javelina are a type of wild pig, they are actually members of the peccary family, a group of hoofed mammals originating from South America. Javelina are common in much of central and southern Arizona, including the outskirts of the Phoenix area, most of Tucson, and occasionally as far north as Flagstaff. Javelina form herds of two to more than 20 animals and rely on each other to defend territory, protect against predators, regulate temperature and interact socially. They use washes and areas with dense vegetation as travel corridors. Javelina are most active at night, but they may be active during the day when it is cold.

Possible Conflicts with Humans and Pets

Javelina will likely visit occasionally if you live in a semi-urban area near a wash or other natural desert. Javelina usually cause only minor problems for people by surprising them or eating a few plants. However, people should **NEVER feed javelinas**. This can cause them to become regular visitors and lose their fear of people, creating problems for the neighborhood and often leading to the death of the javelina. Javelina occasionally bite humans, but incidents of bites are almost always associated with people providing the javelina with food. Javelina can inflict a serious wound. Defensive javelina behavior may include charging, teeth clacking, or a barking, growling sound. Javelina may act defensively when cornered, to protect their young, or when they hear or smell a dog. Dogs and coyotes are natural predators of javelina, and they can seriously hurt or kill each other.

Director Reports

Keeping Cimarron Safe

This has been a very safe year here in Cimarron Foothills Estates. We have had very few incidents relating to the safety of our neighborhood. Our security, which is provided by Central Alarm, does an outstanding job of keeping our neighborhood safe. The guards, which provide 24/7 security, have a visible presence in our neighborhood, they respond quickly to calls that are made to the Central Alarm truck, and they offer reassurance to the homeowners who report an incident or who are out of town and request a vacation check. This outstanding security service contributes to the quality of life that we all enjoy here in Cimarron Foothills Estates.

I would like to share that we recently had two vehicles that were broken into. These cars were both parked outside of the home and both were unlocked. As a reminder please keep your vehicles locked when your home and consider taking your garage door opener with you when you go inside. In the event you have a similar issue, please contact our Central Alarm security guard immediately.

If you are on vacation, the HOA encourages you to use Central Alarm for vacation checks. This is free of charge, because the vacation checks are covered by your dues. We are working on getting representation from the Pima County Sheriff's Office to come and speak at our annual meeting in January of 2018.

Cimarron Foothills is a very safe community to live in and a great place to raise your family. Please take the opportunity to thank the Central Alarm guards if you see them driving in the neighborhood. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns regarding security here at Cimarron.

Mike Carsten, Security Chairman

Architecture

I am approaching the first anniversary of being the Cimarron Foothills HOA Architectural chair and I want to tell you I have really enjoyed the experience. Having been the general contractor on 2 houses that my wife and I built in Ohio, along with a mechanical engineering degree, gave me a good foundation for this role on the board. I have also enjoyed being a part of a great group of board members who have the good of the residents and this community as their sole focus.

If I could point to one document that everyone should take 2 minutes to read, it would be the Architectural Review Process in detail. This short 1½ page summary found under the "documents" tab on the HOA website:

[Architecture ReviewProcess](#) will answer almost all of your questions regarding remodeling, painting, new construction, driveway changes, etc. It tells you when and how to submit plans, what the fee schedule is for your project, the board and county review process and much more. This document, along with the CR&Rs will tell you everything you need to get started. I am always happy to answer questions and to tap the expertise of the board members, many of whom have held the Architectural chair in the past.

In recent months, I have reviewed and approved a lot of solar projects, sometimes a couple per month. I will tell you that if you are considering solar, you should move ahead as soon as you can. The state legislature, with the help of Arizona utility lobbyists, is trying hard to take the financial benefits of a rooftop solar system away from the average homeowner. Just search "Arizona Solar Legislation" and you will quickly be convinced that there is no time like the present to move ahead with your solar project.

My thanks to the many homeowners who have completed projects that continue to make Cimarron Foothills a great place to live.

Tom Botchie, Architectural Chairman

WANTED: Your email address

If you have not supplied us with your email address, please sign -up now and join the mailing list. Rather than send out printed newsletters, we are now providing important information via email.
webmastercimarron@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

Cimarron Foothills Homeowners Association
Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2018
Catalina Foothills High School
House 1 Seminar Room

9:00 – 9:30 am: Continental Breakfast

9:30 – 11:00 am: Program

Board Reports

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Cimarron Roads and Medians

Board members Bob Linsell, Francis Morgan and Tom Botchie attended the 13 member Advisory Committee to Pima County Department of Transportation on September 26, 2017. Francis created a presentation to advocate for repairs to our neighborhood streets.

We learned there is a recommended list of subdivisions based on the state of their roads. The first ten subdivisions on the list will get the funding. Unfortunately, our neighborhood didn't make the cut for major road repairs.

Due to our advocacy, the county did make some minor road repairs. They also did a massive clean-up of our medians, trimming trees and removing dead brush making for a more attractive appearance and safer driving. Diligence and persistence is the key to staying on their radar screen to be proactive in attempting to maintain our roads and medians within Cimarron Foothills.

Thanks for everyone's comments and suggestions over the past year.

Chris Pappas, Roads & Medians Chairman



Before trimming.



After trimming.

CR&Rs

Wow! My first year of serving Cimarron Foothills is just about up and I'm still standing! As a first time member of the Board, I was given the unenviable task of being the official "Finger Wagger" when various complaints arise regarding compliance with the Covenants, Reservations and Restrictions (CR&R's) of our Home Owner's Association. What has been overwhelmingly clear to me is that we all enjoy a community of neighbors who really care about preserving the beautiful atmosphere in which we live. Situations inevitably arise though when one of our neighbors lodges a complaint against another. We all share the proverbial sandbox, so I have been quite impressed with how grown-up we all can be in finding solutions to these truly "first world" encounters.

The common denominator of course is not knowing or understanding our CR&R's. A few of the most common infractions are:

- Parking boats, trailers or recreational vehicles outside of a garage or enclosed structure.
- Painting your flat parapet roof white instead of the proper Desert Tan.
- Not maintaining a "tidy" property that is free from undesirable clutter or debris.
- Barking dogs and/or having more than two adult dogs per household.

If you haven't read the CR&R's in a while (full disclosure: I never fully read them myself until last year), please take ten minutes and familiarize yourselves with them:

[CR&Rs on Website](#)

Or contact me if you have any questions or need clarification. With that said, my wish for the new year is that we all make an effort to reach out more often and say hello to our neighbors. Our lives can be so busy and stressful with seemingly urgent duties before us all the time; so smile and a wave at a neighbor!

In Health and Happiness,

Bob Linsell, CR&R's

Treasurer

Dues Are Remaining Steady

For 2017 we are tracking a slight surplus based on the dues increase implemented in 2016.

We renewed our efforts in looking at our costs in each expense category and are making good progress. We also acquired the services of a new bookkeeper with the retirement of our longtime bookkeeper and friend Eldonna Eckhart. We wish Eldonna well. Our new bookkeeper, Pat Stoll, has jumped in and made our transition very smooth.

We continue to be in a fiscally responsible position where the association holds about nine months of operating expenses in reserves. We are investigating whether this position for reserves is reasonable or can be gradually lowered moving forward to future years.

We continue to have moderate price increases based on our contracts for guard service and waste collection. Our increases are in the 2-3% range for these two services which make up 89% of our

annual expenses. The other 11% is comprised of bookkeeping, accounting, taxes, landscaping and other minor items. However, we have no plans for any increase in annual dues and will continue to manage expenses to cover these increases.

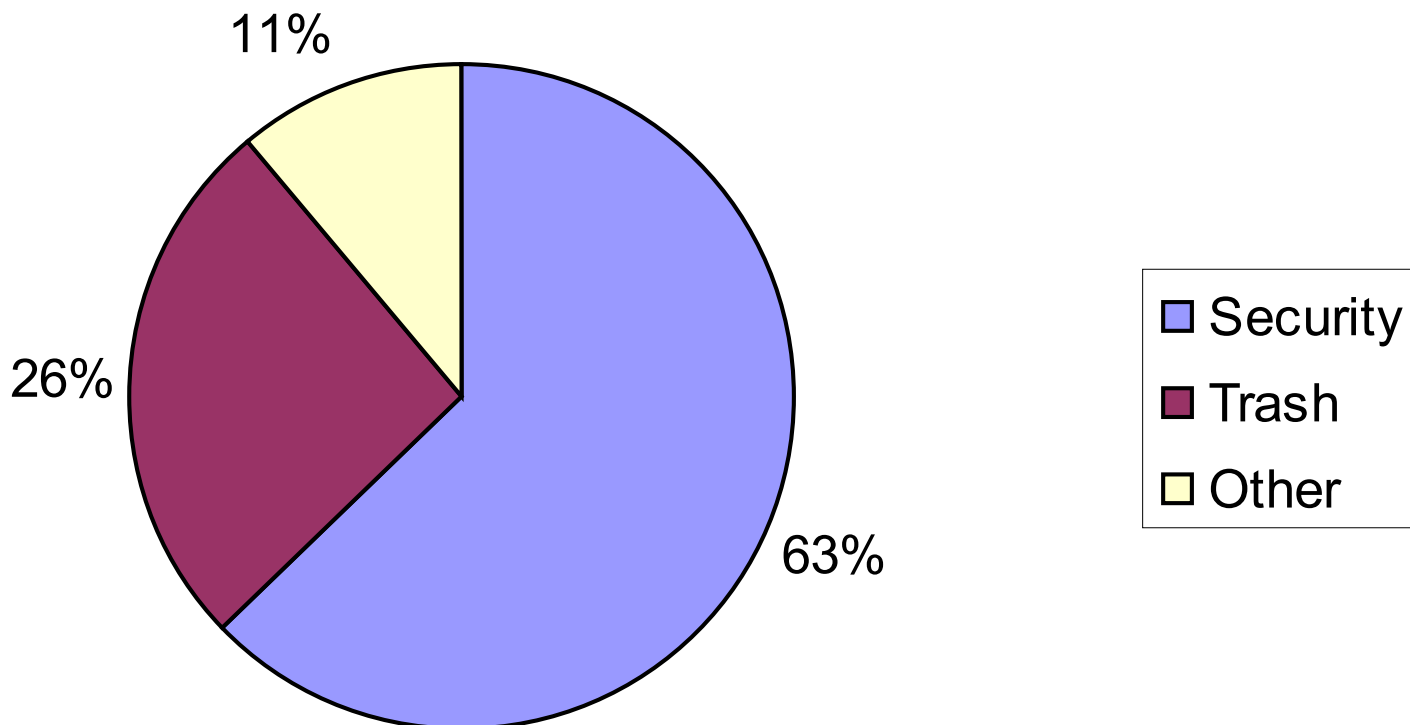
Your annual dues have to be paid by January 31, 2018. After that date, a late charge of \$25 will apply. In 2017, we recorded liens on properties to secure our dues. We hope that you all will pay on time to avoid any additional letters and fees.

In closing, I can speak for myself and other board members, we are committed to keeping our expenses and dues as low as possible moving forward. Have a great New Year!

Peter Lincowski, Treasurer

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Winter 2017



Gila Woodpecker

One of the favorite birds in Cimarron is the Gila Woodpecker. This noisy woodpecker is with us all year round and is only found where there are many saguaro cacti as it makes its nest in the cactus.

Both male and female take part in excavating the nest. The male is the one with a red cap. They usually excavate one year and then use the nest the next year, as drying time is required for the inner pulp of the cactus to form a solid casing around the cavity.

The holes they excavate are later used as nesting sites by other birds, particularly elf owls.

You will sometimes hear the woodpeckers bang loudly on metal chimneys and pipes. This is to declare their territories and to attract mates.

Their diet consists of insects, fruit, nectar from flowers, seeds, occasional birds' eggs, and lizards. You may see them drinking sugar-water from your hummingbird feeders. They have even been known to steal dog food from backyard porches.

About 28% of Gila woodpeckers live in Southern Arizona, the rest live in cactus forests in Mexico.

The oldest recorded Gila Woodpecker was a male in Arizona, who was at least seven years and nine months old.

Francis Morgan



Photos Francis Morgan

These photographs were taken in April 2017 near Paseo Cimarron and Via Gerasol. While walking my dog, I noticed the woodpeckers returning to the same saguaro. Early the next morning, for best lighting, I returned and sat near the same saguaro and waited patiently. The woodpecker couple came back, and once they got used to me being there, I was able to get a series of photographs of these beautiful birds.

Camera: Nikon D800
Lens: 300mm
f/9.0 1/1250 400 iso