

Cimarron Ambiance

2019 President Message

Happy 2020! As Francis pointed out, 2020 is the year of the rat. Being that we live in the Foothills and we see them scurrying around, I feel we are going to be pretty lucky this year, so may your year be generous and prosperous.

Thanks to all who joined the Cimarron Foothills Estates Homeowner's Annual Board Meeting last month. We had a tremendous turnout. It is great to see so many homeowners interested in attending, speaking to your Board, offering suggestions and we love the questions! As we discussed, the Board decided to delay the newsletter until after the Annual Meeting to be able to incorporate your feedback.

One of the things the Board was contacted for over the 2019 year was fraudulent calls. Some were callers yelling at you on the phone, some were downright silly (the caller wanted to use the roof of a homeowner's home to practice his trapeze act), some were not what I would want my daughters to hear, and some even went to the home acting as an IRS agent. This was concerning. We opened up a file in the Pima County Sheriff's Department and asked you to refer to a case number if you received these calls. Most of these calls were "spoofed" which means your caller ID will not show the real number they are calling from, but one they chose. Although spoofing is illegal it's extremely difficult to get caught.

We believe these incidents started from the directory on our website, which has since been removed. If you'd like access, please contact our Webmaster, Francis Morgan.

Our Special guest speaker at the Annual Board meeting was Detective Jessica Bodane. She is part of the Criminal Investional Division focused on fraud. She can be contacted for any questions at jessica.badine@sheriff.pima.gov

If you were unable to attend the meeting, you are able to watch the presentation on the main home page of our website. Please do so as there is a lot of information on what to look for with regard to fraud.

Please continue to read on for committee reports!

For the 2019 year, the following Board Members were re-elected and maintained their previous positions:

Karen Egbert: President

Karen joined the Board in 2006 and has served in the positions of Vice President and Community Relations, Treasurer, Secretary, and CR&R Chair.

Francis Morgan: Webmaster

Francis joined the Board as Webmaster in 2008. He is responsible for maintaining the website, creating and distributing your emails, and he has many other hands in the fire to help Cimarron Foothills HOA.

Mike Carsten - Security

Mike has been on the Board since 2016. He works directly with our Security team to keep Cimarron safe. Please read Mike's article for contact information if you are in need of security assistance, whether it be to report strange vehicles, solicitors, vacation checks, etc.

Omar Candaleria: Vice President and Community Relations

Omar took over the position in 2018 and has two roles. He will stand in for the President at Board meetings they are unable to attend and sets up the room availability for our

Board meetings. He also manages the trash service with Republic. We have a contract with Republic as a community. If you are having difficulty with getting through to the Customer Service representatives, please send an email to Omar so he can expedite your request.



THE HOA IS BUSTIN' MY CHOPS ABOUT MY PAINT COLORS!

Roles & Changes in the Board

Board Members that returned in 2020:

Bob Linsell: CR&R Chair

Bob has been a Board member since 2017 as our CR&R Chair. Over this time he continues to be diligent in maintaining our rules in the neighborhood while taking an empathetic understanding and brings neighbors together to discuss issues. He is beginning an exploratory committee this year to review what and how to update our CR&Rs.

Tom Botchie: Architecture Chair

Tom has been on the Board since 2017 as our Architecture Chair. Tom continues to review any changes you want to make to your property and also acts as the liaison between neighbors. He keeps a pulse on all projects to make sure they finish on time and on spec.

Peter Lincowski: Treasurer

Peter joined the Board in 2017 as the Treasurer/ Financial Chair. Peter works closely with our Bookkeeper, Patricia Stoll. Together, they establish healthy community reserves, review expenditures, report at monthly meetings the health of our finances, and creating the annual budget for vote.

Christopher Pappas: Roads and Medians

Chris has been on the Board since 2015 as Roads and Medians Chair. Although we don't own the roads or medians in Cimarron, Chris continues to maintain our medians within his budget, listening

to homeowners about road potholes while making suggestions on how to move forward. He also works directly with Pima County.

Margaret Weinberg: Secretary

Margaret joined the Board as secretary in 2017. As secretary, she takes all meeting minutes and is the custodian of the Board's records.

In closing

2018 provided us with inconsistent trash service. That has been corrected and we re-signed a contract with Republic at great savings and adding Bush and Bulky pickups in lieu of extra bags on Fridays.

2018 provided us with the introduction of short term rentals. After seeking advice from our attorney, we realized we cannot disallow them per the ARS statutes for homeowners associations. Francis took the lead with Patricia Stoll, our Bookkeeper to make sure those homeowners with short term rentals are following all rules and regulations.

2019 provided us with many of us receiving fraudulent calls. As Detective Badine mentioned, those numbers were probably sold to multiple people and in her opinion are long gone. We will remain diligent to maintain your personal information.

I am honored to serve on this Board. I can assure you our team works great together to provide you with what is required of a Board; fairness, honesty, and always keeping your best interest at the top of our list.

Karen Egbert, President

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Winter 2020



A Tour of Cimarron Yards and Gardens

At the Annual meeting, last month, I proposed that we organize a Tour of Cimarron Yard and Gardens.

In my role as Architecture Chair, I have visited many properties around Cimarron and have been impressed with the beauty of the landscaping at many properties. I think that other homeowners may benefit by seeing how some of their neighbors have improved their properties.

I plan to approach some local landscaping businesses with a view to obtaining sponsorships. Please contact me if you wish to participate. **Tom Botchie: tomcimarronhoa@gmail.com**

We may want this in 3rd person instead of 1st...

Environmental Services

Hello all. I wanted to give you an update on the Republic Services for our waste removal contract. You may be aware that we entered into a new contract with Republic around the middle of last year. As part of our responsibility to be fiscally responsible with your HOA dues, we sought and received additional quotes from Diggins and Waste Management. Republic Services continues to be the most cost-effective option for us.

There are some small changes to the way that things were done before. I want to make sure that you are aware of these changes and how they affect you.

Cimarron Foothills Homeowners Association (HOA) covers the expense of one trash and one recycle container for all of the homes within the HOA. Homeowners that wish to have additional receptacles can obtain them by contacting the **Republic Customer Service line (520-745-8820)** and request additional containers. You, as the homeowner, will be responsible for a fee of \$4.00 per month per additional container. If you already have additional containers and wish for Republic to pick them up, please call Customer Service to arrange that. Republic drivers will notate any home that places additional containers outside for pick-up and a Republic representative will contact the homeowner to ascertain if they wish to enter into a private contract with Republic or simply have those extra containers picked up.

Republic used to allow up to an additional ten bags of trash to be placed next to your container. The driver

would empty the container, then exit the truck, place the bags in said container, then re-empty it before moving on. This is no longer an option. Instead, Republic will conduct two Brush and Bulky pick up days per year as scheduled by the HOA. We will be conducting 2020 Brush and bulky pickups in the April/May and in October/November timeframes. You will be notified via email with dates and specific instructions.

Quick Note on Space

We had an amazing turnout for our annual meeting! So much so, that we had to place additional seats along the wall and some homeowners had to stand. We took note of that and have already started a conversation with the Catalina High School regarding a different venue for next year's meeting space with greater seating capacity. We appreciate you, as homeowners and community members, taking interest and participating in the meeting. We absolutely loved the fact that you came out and added your voice to the proceedings.

As always, you can join us during our monthly meetings. See the website for dates/locations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Omar Candelaria, Security Chairman

Rattlesnake Season Q & A Credit: Tucsontopia.com

Answers have been provided by two highly qualified rattlesnake experts — Bill Savary of the Tucson Herpetological Society and Catherine Bartlett in the Department of Herpetology at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Q. How many rattlesnakes are there in Tucson? Are they all venomous?

A. There are 15 species of rattlesnakes in Arizona. Those most often encountered are the Western Diamond-backed (*pictured*), Western, Mojave, Black-tailed, and Sidewinder. All rattlesnakes are venomous.

Q. When are rattlesnakes most active?

A. March–October, between 65 and 85F. Rattlesnakes are most active during warm months, especially during the monsoons. At warmer seasonal temperatures their metabolism increases, meaning they are more active and need to hunt more food. But 'active' is a pretty relative term. Rattlesnakes are primarily ambush hunters, meaning they will lie motionless for long periods of time when they are hunting.

Q. What should I do if I SEE a rattlesnake?

A. If you see a rattlesnake, then simply avoid bothering it. If you keep a distance of several feet, you are safe. I've got a western diamondback that's been living under my back porch for maybe 7 years now. We see him all the time and just avoid stepping on him or crowding him...

Q. What should I do if there is a rattlesnake near my home or workplace?

A. Leave them alone. The exception would be if you have children too young to trust around snakes. In such a case, there are individuals and organizations (**including Rural Metro**) that can be called for rattlesnake removal.



Director Reports

Communications

Keeping Cimarron Safe

This past year has once again been a very safe year here at Cimarron Foothills Estates. The safe ambiance of our neighborhood can be credited to the amazing work that is done by our contracted alarm company, Central Alarm. The guards who are on duty daily, 24/7 are highly visible throughout all phases of Cimarron Foothills Estates. In the event that a guard receives a call for an alarm, you can be assured that they will respond to your residence quickly to investigate the situation. In the event that they are unable to handle a situation, they are trained to escalate the call to the Pima County Sheriff's Department. It is the professionalism and quick response of the guards that allows us all to feel safe in the beautiful neighborhood we call home.

If you are on vacation, the HOA encourages you to use Central Alarm for their vacations check service. This is a great benefit to the homeowner and will allow you to know that your home is being watched over as you enjoy some time away from home. In the event that you need the form which notifies Central Alarm that you will be out of town, you can contact the guard directly at **520-404-0966**, or obtain the form on our website. I do want to remind you all that we did have one break-in last year, which was discussed at the annual HOA meeting. Please remember to be aware of strange vehicles in the neighborhood or people who may look suspicious. In the event that something does not seem right, please contact the guard on duty and let them investigate the situation.

Cimarron Foothills is a wonderful community to live in and a great place to raise a family. Please take the opportunity to thank the Central Alarm guards when you see them driving in the neighborhood. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any concerns with Central Alarm or general security questions.

Mike Carsten, Security Chairman

The Board now communicates with homeowners by email, other than at the end of the year when the annual dues invoice is sent out through the US Mail.

We currently have email addresses for about 95% of Cimarron lots, the other 5% either do not have email addresses or have not yet provided us with one.

We only send out emails which contain important information to homeowners. For other communications, like lost dogs, etc., homeowners can use the Nextdoor website at **www.nextdoor.com**.

When we send out an important email about 58% of homeowners open the email. On a second send, about another 20% will open it. This means that 22% of homeowners do not receive the information. So if you receive an email from Cimarron Homeowners Association, please open it as it contains important information pertaining to your property.

We also post important information, including monthly Board meeting dates, on our website at www.cimarronfoothillshoa.org. You can also download a Directory of homeowners from the website. It can be reached from the Documents menu item. The Directory contains the names and addresses of homeowners listed by last name and also by lot number.

Each Board member provides information and a review of the year in the annual Newsletter, which is emailed to homeowners and is also available on the website under the Documents menu item.

Francis Morgan, WebmasterCimarron@gmail.com

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

Architecture

If you attended the HOA Annual Meeting a couple of weeks ago, some of what I am about to say may sound familiar, but since the Board presentations at that meeting are only heard by about 15% of our residents, I thought I would cover some of the topics I talked about on January 25th. So, at the risk of repeating myself, here we go.

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 1 and ½ page summary found under the “documents” tab on the HOA website (cimarronfoothillshoa.org) will answer almost all of your questions regarding remodeling, painting, new construction, driveway changes, pools, 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 offer advice.

For the last year or two, I have reviewed and approved a lot of solar projects, sometimes 3 to 4 per month. I will tell you that if you are considering solar, you should move ahead as soon as you can afford to. The state legislature, with the help of Arizona utility lobbyists, is trying hard to take the

SeeClickFix Tucson

Neighbor John Cabrera highly recommends the Pima County App: **SECLICKFIX**. It can be used to report a variety of issues, and will route the concern to the appropriate Pima County Department. John has successfully used it to report road, sign, vegetation and graffiti problems.

From **TucsonAZ.gov** website:

Download **SeeClickFix Tucson** to your mobile device to use it on the go, upload and send photos of your issue, and get email updates as it gets fixed!

With this app, you can participate and communicate with public services via SeeClickFix — an efficient tool for reporting non-emergency concerns like potholes or light outages to the service provider responsible for fixing them.

You can find the app on **Google Play** and the **Apple App Store**.

financial benefits of a rooftop solar system away from the average homeowner with rebates starting to decrease from the current rate of 26% of the cost of the system in 2020 to 10% by 2022 and then to zero in 2023. My wife and I installed 26 solar panels two years ago and have seen our electric bill (for an all-electric home) decrease from the \$400 per month range five years ago to about \$115 per month and, in the months with no heat or A/C operating to as low as \$20 per month which is the minimum charge to be connected to the TEP grid.

On a different topic, if you have a dog who does a fair amount of “nuisance” barking (as our two dogs do), we found a great product that will reduce or eliminate the problem immediately. It is made by a company called PetSafe and is called the “Outdoor Ultrasonic Bark Control Deterrent”. It is a plastic birdhouse-looking device that runs on a 9-volt battery, is weatherproof, and has a range of 50 feet and coverage of ¼ acre. It can be purchased for about \$43 from PetSafe, Chewy.com, or Amazon. I can tell you it will make your neighbor much more tolerant of your yapping beast.

My thanks to the many homeowners who have read the published project guidance and completed work that continues to make Cimarron Foothills a very attractive community and a great place to live. You make my job a lot easier.

Tom Botchie, Architectural Chairman

Interested in updating our CR&Rs?

Robert Linsell is forming a steering committee and is in need of a few volunteers. Check out his CR&Rs Directors Report on page 6 for more information.

If you're interested, contact Bob at **520-403-0491** or **bob.linsell@gmail.com** if you would like more information.

Dues Are Remaining Steady

Our 2019 Revenues were \$212,022, and our expenses for the year were \$ 206,858 creating a net gain of \$5,164 leaving us a cash balance of \$ 143,792. This was better than an expected loss of \$10,278. This variance was mostly related to the re-negotiation of our trash contract and other savings. The new contract gave us a 10% reduction the first year with increases year 2 and 3 which still benefits us from our previous contract. We are always looking at our costs in each expense category and are doing well. We continue to be in a fiscally responsible position where the association holds about 9 months of operating expenses in reserves. We are working towards gradually lowering our reserves to 6 months operating expenses moving forward to future years. This will result in slight operating losses to reduce reserves to the 6 month reserve point. Our 2020 Budget is at a moderate deficit of -\$8,900 to lower cash reserves to the 6 month target.

Every year our annual dues have to be paid by January 31. After that date, a late charge of \$25 will apply. 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 member's, we are committed to keeping our expenses and dues as low as possible moving forward. Have a great 2020!

Peter Lincowski, Treasurer

Cimarron Roads and Medians

2019 we've been busy keeping our neighborhood entryways weed-free, well-trimmed and maintained. I monitor the neighborhood medians for regrowth of the mistletoe for a possible call to Pima County for removal. I also routinely drive around the community looking for major potholes that might pose a risk to our resident walkers, drivers and vehicles. I contact Pima County to make them aware of the road conditions that need repair. 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

CR&Rs

Hello Neighbors! First business then pleasure.

Business: For those of you that did not attend the annual meeting last month, I am forming a steering committee of sorts to explore updating our Conditions, Restrictions and Reservations (CR&R's). I'm looking for 8 to 10 volunteers. So far I have 5 including myself. The intent is to give us as a community a clearer set of guidelines and expectations by which we all can use to maintain our unique place in the foothills we call home. I expect to have the first of monthly meetings in March where we'll first review the CR&R's as a group and decide where clarity is needed. If, as a committee we see a way forward from there we'll develop a plan to prepare the community for a vote at next year's annual meeting in January, 2021. *Please contact me at (520) 403-0491 or bob.linsell@gmail.com if you would like more information. "Change never happens without effort"; Bob Linsell, 2020.*

Now Pleasure (at least for me): For the geologic and geomorphically curious, I thought I would give some perspective of the ground we live on. If you ever tried to dig a hole in your backyard here's the problem: Our foothills are the remnant of an ancient alluvial fan that was deposited by streams and debris flows at the foot of the Santa Catalina Mountains over a 10 million year time period beginning 30 million years ago. To put this in perspective, 30 million years is the amount of time it would take a rather athletic snail moving at a swift 8 inches per minute to go around the world at the equator 79,952 times. Due to annual precipitation many times that of our present 12", vast amounts of rock tumbled out of the mountains and deposited a vast sheet of cobbles and sand forming a thick layer on top of what is called the Pantano Formation. The Pantano is a reddish pink material deposited from the erosion of an old volcano. If you'd like to see a cross section of where the two deposits intersect, take Hacienda Del Sol South from Sunrise and while you're making your first turns quickly look to your left...on second thought that would not be safe. There are exposures all over the foothills if you look closely enough. Keep your eyes on the road and take a hike!

In Health and Happiness,

Bob Linsell, CR&R's

Phainopepla

I have a friend who said he'd like to shoot every *Desert Cardinal* that he sees. I understood that by *Desert Cardinal* he meant the phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*). Phainopeplas are not related to cardinals; their nearest common ancestors are the waxwings.

My friend's dislike of these birds is because their diet consists mainly of mistletoe berries; they excrete the mistletoe seeds, thereby spreading the parasite to other tree branches.

Phainopeplas have digestive tracts specialized for eating mistletoe fruit. The berries are low in nutrients, so the birds have to consume lots of them, the birds may eat more than a 1,000 berries in a day. The Phainopepla rarely drinks water. Instead, it gets the water it needs from its diet of mistletoe berries. They also eat insects, you will see them perch high in trees and shrubs and catch insects on the wing.



Bird of the Year

There are some in Cimarron who think that every piece of mistletoe should be removed, others think that it should be untouched so that the berries continue to be food for the birds.

I say leave the mistletoe unless a tree gets heavily infested. Healthy trees are able to tolerate a few mistletoe plants with little harmful effect. Trees that are heavily infested with mistletoe may become less vigorous, stunted, and can possibly be killed.

Let's continue to enjoy this active little bird by not depleting its source of food. This symbiotic relationship has been going on long before Cimarron existed — long may it continue!

Francis Morgan

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Winter 2020



Photos Francis Morgan

Phainopepla female

These photographs were taken in February 2020 in Sabino Canyon, although you don't need to go to Sabino to see them, Phainopeplas are all over Cimarron.

Camera: Nikon D850
Lens: 200.0-500.0 mm
480mm f/5.6 1/2000 ISO 800



Phainopepla male

The name "Phainopepla" comes from the Greek for "shining robe," a fitting characterization of the shiny, jet-black plumage of the adult male.