

SYCAMORE CANYON

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COMMUNITY UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope the summer has treated everyone well. We've had several good downpours and the desert has come alive with all the beauty and greenery we appreciate.

Several concerns, some repeats from each year, have been brought to the HOA's attention through resident feedback and/or discovered during inspections by the HOA manager:

1) Parking. This issue seems to creep up noticeably when we have new residents that are unaware of the parking policy we have in place. The HOA website has the parking policy for resident review at www.caddenmanagement.com/sycamorecanyon. Please be sure to only park on your driveway or garage and not on the street (unless a guest) nor on any area on your lot not considered part of the driveway. The HOA has and will enforce the rules plus take the necessary action to curb these violations. PLEASE NOTE – the continued willful neglect of the parking policy will result in the HOA fines, liens and towing cars from these restricted areas. Boats and RVs are provided four hours to load and unload per the parking policy. However, if the resident does not force their other vehicles to be parked on the street or off the driveway AND does not block the sidewalk, then an RV or boat may be allowed up to 48 hours to load and unload. Boats and RVs should not become a nuisance to neighbors.

2) Weeds. With the summer rains we all always fight the battle of the pesky weeds. Please note that we understand the quickness with which these weeds can grow, so any initial letter sent out to you is a friendly reminder. We all want the community to shine and look its best at all times.

3) Pool Conduct. Youth is said to be wasted on the young. Well, we still have our occasional rambunctious youth disturbing the enjoyment of some residents' use of the pool. The pool policy conduct is in place to allow for everyone's enjoyment of the pool – please share with your family.

The Board appreciates how the above concerns are not the result of most in the community and want to thank everyone's efforts in keeping the community looking great. It is appreciated.

The Buffelgrass Brigade has done a fantastic job in curbing the Buffelgrass outbreak in our community. This monumental effort has been done with resident volunteers. I am sure they can always use more help especially since the fight is never really over. Please contact Tricia or Lia if you wish to volunteer.

Also, please be sure to attend this year's Fall Festival on October 13th. Our Events Committee did a great job last year and we hope everyone can come out to enjoy the day.

Have a great end to summer and a terrific fall.

Jamie Argueta

Sycamore Canyon Board President

July 2012 Financial Report

Operating Account

Last Month
Ending Balance
\$47,424.40

Total Income
Current Month
\$28,759.96

Total Expenses
Current Month
\$40,526.22

This Month
Ending Balance
\$35,658.14

Reserve Account

Last Month
Ending Balance
\$40,953.67

Total Income
Current Month
\$1.39

Total Expenses
Current Month
\$0.00

This Month
Ending Balance
\$40,955.06

Account Balances

Delinquent
Assessments
\$21,379.69

Prepaid
\$27,496.29

Buffelgrass

Our desert is beautifully green thanks to our early monsoon rains this year! Buffelgrass is green and growing strong as well! The good news for our community is that we have reduced our severe infestation in the bridge wash to a controllable level. The bad news is that as buffelgrass grows in surrounding open space and communities, it shows up in new patches throughout our community, on our trails and open spaces. Last year we found new outbreaks on many trails. However, they were small, and we pulled or sprayed the plants before they became out of control. We are in a great position to control these small outbreaks before they become large infestations that require enormous resources - labor and money! **The buffelgrass is in peak season right now and is easy to spot!** It is also at peak time for it to spread and take over new areas! Please join us as we scout our trails. We all make a difference! Please contact Lia for more information— Lia.lavallee@gmail.com.



Weeds, weeds, weeds!!



The summer monsoon rains bring much needed moisture to the desert, but it also brings an abundance

of weeds. If you only have a few weeds in a relatively small area, mechanical removal is often the most desirable. This can be accomplished with sharp hoes, shovels, or hand pulling. C'mon, this is good exercise - therapeutic even.

Most years, the best method for controlling weeds is to apply a pre-emergent herbicide. This type herbicide is applied to the soil's surface before the weed sprouts. Unfortunately, with excessive rains this type of program will have marginal results this time around.

When pre-emergent control is not as effective as desired, a well-planned post-emergent program can

go along way to effectively control weeds. Post-emergent meaning weeds that have already sprouted and are growing. There are two major types of post-emergent herbicides; contact herbicide, which starts killing the weed on contact, and systemic herbicide, which is absorbed into the plant's system, translocating to the roots and cutting off the plant's water and food source. Both will kill any growing vegetation, both grass and broadleaf.

The best time to control weeds once they have started to grow is when they are relatively small and actively growing. Well-planned and executed chemical weed control programs will climate that ugly invasion of unwanted weeds. It will also prevent all the dreaded pulling, hoeing, chopping, and cutting of these allergy-causing, thorn-infested pests that invade our landscapes after a wet summer.

SYCAMORE CANYON EVENTS COMMITTEE

Middle School Pool Party Success!!!

On August 18th, the Sycamore Events Committee hosted a Middle School Pool Party! Twenty five students came and had a great time! They enjoyed listening to music, playing ball, chatting with friends, and having a popsicle. Thank you to all parents and volunteers that made this special night possible!

Other Upcoming Events in Sycamore Canyon:

Fall Festival in the Park

October 13, 2012
3-6 p.m.

Fall Community Yard Sale

November 3, 2012
7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Holiday Wagon Rides through the neighborhood

December 16, 2012
7-9 p.m.



Snake Time



Be vigilant and protect yourself and others to avoid coming in contact with them. Be careful in desert areas on your property or adjacent to your neighborhood.

Rattlesnake Facts

The Sonoran Desert has more species of rattlesnakes (11) than anywhere else in the world. Venom breaks down blood and/or paralyzes nerves, useful for subduing prey and beginning the digestive process (and warding off threats). A rattlesnake uses many senses to find prey, for example, its body feels ground vibrations, allowing the snake to "hear" animals approaching. Like adult rattlesnakes, the bite from a young rattlesnake is poisonous.

Rattlesnakes tend to nest in brush, tall grass, or rocky areas, so be careful around these natural features. At night, snakes may slither onto roads, sidewalks, or trails to absorb the heat from these surfaces. Avoid rattlesnakes altogether. If

you see one, don't try to get closer to it or catch it.

What to do if you are bitten by a snake:

- ♦ **Look for symptoms. If the area of the bite begins to swell and change color, the snake was probably poisonous.**
- ♦ **Keep the bitten area still. You can immobilize the area with an improvised splint made from a board, magazines, or other stiff material tied to the limb. Don't tie it too tight---you don't want to reduce blood flow.**
- ♦ **Remove any jewelry or constricting items near the affected area in case of swelling.**
- ♦ **Keep the area of the area of the snake bite lower than the heart.**
- ♦ **Go to a hospital immediately. If you cannot get to a hospital, call the Arizona Poison Control and Drug Information Center at 1-800-362-0101 immediately.**
- ♦ **DO NOT use ice to cool the bite.**
- ♦ **DO NOT cut open the wound and try to suck out the venom.**
- ♦ **DO NOT use a tourniquet. This will cut off blood flow and the limb may be lost.**



Lightning & Dogs

Many dogs are fearful of a variety of loud noises including thunder and fireworks. It is a good idea to have a safe place for your dog to be during storms. A Dog should never be left outdoors during a storm or if you know that there will be fireworks nearby that your dog may hear. Many dogs that have thunderstorm phobia (extreme fear) also experience separation anxiety so in general it is not a good idea to lock your fearful pet up during a storm as this will heighten their fears.

If your dog has minimal anxiety it may be best to not give him or her much attention, but if his anxiety is more severe it is appropriate to divert his attention to a more pleasurable activity such as obedience training (if that is something you guys do together) or other treat oriented tasks.

Should I hold my pet or leave them alone through a thunder and lightening storm?

Giving your dog attention when they are frightened is natural. However, in many situations the attention ultimately reinforces their fear. It essentially tells them it is

right to be fearful. However, if your dog is extremely anxious ignoring the behavior will likely increase their anxiety. This is when you should consult your veterinarian or trained behaviorist.

My Dog runs off when the thunder starts. What forms of I.D. are available in case he gets lost?

Make sure they wear an appropriately sized and fitted collar with your CURRENT contact information listed. Microchipping your pet is another option and one of the easiest, most secure ways of permanently identifying your pet as your own. Your veterinarian implants a small microchip with a needle under the skin in between the shoulder blades. You then must register your pet with the maker of the microchip so that your contact information is linked to the number of that microchip. Your actual contact info is not stored in that microchip. Registering is the single most important step in this process. I actually found a dog that had a microchip, but whose guardians did not register that chip so I was unable to return him to his family.

Is tracking of my pet on the internet or by cell phone available?

Yes, this is actually pretty cool technology though a bit bulky still. There are several companies that offer GPS tracking collars. The most well-known and respected company is SpotLight who has partnered with the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR). Additional information can be found at www.spot-lightgps.com

Bird Feeders or Bird Baths?

According to a local pest control representative, if you want fewer mice, moles, & similar rodents in your yard and neighborhood, consider using bird baths instead of bird feeders. The bird seed that drops to the ground under the feeder attracts rodents; and where there are rodents there are snakes. A bird bath is an excellent alternative. Most homeowners don't realize that water attracts more bird species than any feeder.

Here are some general bird bath guidelines:

1. A bird bath needs to be above ground level and out in the open, at least 4 feet from any brush or undercover.

2. Water depth should be no more than 3 inches

3. Clean the bird bath regularly, at least once a week.

Give it a try!





I hear a lot of stories about Colorado River Toads. What is true and what is fiction?

Colorado River Toads (Bufo alvarius) are found in the desert southwest and toxic to dogs and cats that eat or lick the toads. While technically they are a frog (as all toads are frogs) they are distinct in that they have stubby bodies with short hind legs (for walking instead of hopping), they have warty and dry skin (usually preferring dryer climates), and they have paratoid (or poison) glands behind the eyes. Most toads will cause some degree of oral irritation if licked or consumed, but the Colorado River Toad can be life-threatening if licked or eaten. They have a more toxic relative that lives in Florida and Hawaii called the Marine Toad (Bufo Marinus).

How do I know if my pet has made contact with a Colorado River Toad?

Animals that come in contact with these toads will have profuse salivation, they may be pawing at their mouths,

vocalizing. They will have brick red gums. Additionally they may have seizures, become hyperthermic (too high a body temperature), and may have cardiac arrhythmias (abnormal heart beats), vomiting, trouble walking (ataxia), increased respiratory rate (tachypnea). If you are in doubt, call your veterinarian.

Are there any home remedies available to treat my pet if they come in contact with a Colorado River Toad?

It is essential that you rinse your pet's mouth with fresh clean water if they come in contact with a Colorado River Toad. That is the only thing that could or should be done at home.

You must rinse the mouth from the tap or hose but make sure that the water runs side to side through the mouth or from the back of the mouth out the front. DO NOT RINSE FROM THE FRONT OF THE MOUTH TO THE BACK AS THAT MAY CAUSE WATER TO RUN DOWN INTO THE LUNGS OR STOMACH. You should rinse the mouth only if you have seen your pet lick or eat a toad and if they are having mild to no clinical signs. If your pet is having a seizure or is experiencing more advanced signs they should be seen immediately by a veterinarian.

Once you have thoroughly rinsed your pet's mouth, transport them to their primary care veterinarian or an Emergency Veterinary Hospital of your choice for continued treatment and monitoring.

If you come into contact with the toad make sure that you thoroughly wash your hands.

Parking Reminder

Parking—Homeowners and their guests need to be reminded that there is no parking on the curbs, sidewalks, or on any common area landscaping. Homeowner's vehicles should be parked in the garage or driveway and may not be parked in the street. When visitors park on the street tires should not be on the strip landscaping. This is important because the streets in our community are narrow. Safety is an issue, as cars parked in the street can cause blind spots where children can run out without warning.



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Easy tips to keep cool and help manage energy cost!

- Make sure unit is up to date on service to help prevent mechanical failure.
- Install a Programmable Thermostat and consider setting air conditioners a few degrees warmer on hot days. Every degree you add to your temperature in the summer can reduce your energy usage by up to 5 percent.
- If your home has an attached garage, keep your garage door closed during the hottest hours of the day. This can reduce the amount of cool air that might escape.
- Close air conditioning registers in unused rooms and keep the doors to those rooms closed. This will reduce the amount of energy your air conditioner will use to maintain the homes temperature.
- Remember, keep filters clean.



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