

Tucson Mountains ASSOCIATION SINCE 1934

Summer 2008

PO BOX 86117, TUCSON, AZ 85754-6117 • www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org • TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

Tucson Mountains Association

Celebrates!

The Sweetwater Preserve

Sunday, October 26
Noon to 5 PM
Christopher Columbus Park
4600 N. Silverbell Rd.

TMA is thrilled to invite all members and Sweetwater donors to a joyous ribbon-cutting ceremony and party for the Sweetwater Preserve, our new 695-acre Pima County park, filled with beautiful trails through desert highland scenery! This long-heralded event promises to bring us together for a true celebration of the best of our Westside community! We'll also hold a ribbon-cutting for the new Christopher Columbus Park equestrian staging ground and ball fields.

Our goals are to foster community spirit and a sense of connection for all Westside citizens, from a sense of shared goals and accomplishments; to honor the efforts of those who helped create the Sweetwater Preserve; to conduct our annual meeting

and add some real fun; and to offer ideas for living ever better in our Sonoran Desert.

A scrumptious luncheon will begin our festivities at noon, with TMA providing a main course, as well as soft drinks and water, and our members bringing favorite pot-luck salads and sides. TMA will also provide the celebratory cake. Our TMA annual meeting will be enhanced with accolades for all the heroes whose hard work and gifts created the Sweetwater Preserve.

This luncheon is open (and free) only to members, sponsors and invited VIP guests.

From 1:30 until 5:00 PM, we will hold a concert event that



will be ***open to the public***, as well as our members, donors and sponsors. We

will present the captivating sound of:

Alana
Sweetwater
& her band,
The Heavy
Steppers



As many of you know, Alana grew up here in the Tucson Mountains and developed a following here in Tucson, as a passionate and captivating singer and songwriter, before heading off to LA, NY, and national tours. She took, as her stage name, the name of the land she loved, and that we are celebrating now! This will be a perfect homecoming concert, with VIP seating for Sweetwater donors, sponsors and members, and picnic grounds for everyone. Come dance with us!

As you know, it took years of very hard work, starting with

a few generous and dedicated individuals and a committee of the Tucson Mountains Association Board. They then partnered with other organizations and individuals, and together raised over \$30,000 from within and outside of the Tucson Mountains to purchase a land option and pay taxes on 695 acres of glorious mountainous desert highlands. The committee convinced the Trust for Public Lands to step in as a partner, and then convinced County officials and ultimately the voters to issue bonds, so the County could preserve this land for future generations. What a thrilling accomplishment!

The band's equipment will be powered by a solar array. We will have exhibitors of sustainable living ideas to enhance life in our hills, and hopefully wildlife exhibits as well. We will have a jumping castle for the children. With your help, this will be the first of many delightful "Music in the Park" events for the Westside!

**** City allows no alcohol except beer, and no glass is allowed.***

PLEASE RSVP no later than October 20th to attend the Celebrates! Event and TMA annual meeting. Use the form on the back.



Seeking Volunteers & “Stuff” For October 26th Celebrates! Event

In order to make this the great event we all deserve, we will need the help of many hands! **We will need:** people to direct traffic to parking; check people in and welcome them; greet dignitaries and escort them to VIP seating; install signs on roadways and at the park; assist with setting up and taking down tables, chairs and other equipment; prepare and set tables; collect and tabulate ballots for the annual meeting; distribute programs and membership forms; sell raffle tickets; provide name tags; provide first aid support; oversee the jumping castle and games; assist with cleanup after the event. Also, before the event, we will need help getting sponsors, raffle and silent auction items; contacting the media; putting together the event program.

We are fortunate to have Rosa Terlep as our coordinator of volunteers. Please call her at 743-9664 to talk about the role you'd like to play in this Celebration!

We also have a “wish list” of items we will need, and if you are able to provide any of them, or know a business that may provide them as a community partner or sponsor, please let us know. Contact co-chair Ed Verburg, at 743-7728. **We need:** propane barbecue grills or a commercial cooker; folding or stacking chairs; tables; table cloths; plates, glasses, and plastic flatware; coolers; walkie talkies; tents for exhibitor booths; a large party tent; a back-up generator; & signage materials.

Also, do you own or work with a business that would like to be one of our community partners and sponsor this event? Please contact Ed Verburg, at 743-7728, for sponsorship information, or see our new website at www.tucsonmountainsassoc.org.

TMA Welcomes New Board Member

The TMA Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Ed Verburg to the board position left open when Jane West resigned. Ed has a background in finance, and also with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. His full biographical statement is elsewhere in this newsletter, as he is running for a full two-year term on the Board beginning in January 2009. We are grateful to have such a bright and enthusiastic new member. Ed is a co-chair of our Celebrates! Event.

DEBATE:

**SHARON BRONSON &
DONNA BRANCH-
GILBY**



Saturday, Aug. 30

1-2:30 PM

El Rio Center

1390 W. Speedway

TMA and the League of Women Voters will co-sponsor a debate between incumbent Pima County District 3 Supervisor Sharon Bronson and her challenger for the Democratic nomination, Donna Branch-Gilby. The primary election will be September 2. We hope it is helpful in making an important choice between these two excellent candidates.

We invite you to submit questions you want the candidates to address. You may mail your suggestions to:

TMA at PO Box 86117,
Tucson, AZ 85754.

All questions must be submitted in writing before or at the debate. We will have limited time, and questions will not be allowed from the floor. Please come and hear the candidates!



**New
TMA
Web
Site**

With any luck, by the time you read this newsletter, our new website will have gone live! Please check us out at:

www.TucsonMountainsAssoc.org.

We are forever indebted to the lovely, enormously talented and generous Donna Snyder, of RS Design West, here in the Tucson Mountains. Her graphic art now graces our new web site, our newsletter, and other written materials. Donna has donated the logo for TMA's Celebrates! Event as well. Enjoy them, and do thank her when you meet her at the event in October. The web site is also made absolutely stunning by Tom Wiewandt's amazing, donated photographs.

RED HOT TIP!

**Start
collecting
pinecones
now for
winter fire
starters!**



Would you like to suggest an area for our first cleanup effort in several years? TMA has not organized one of these for some time, but we do have a member interested in chairing this helpful public service for us. Where do you think it would be most valuable for our members, for those of us who are able and willing to set aside a half-day to clean up and spruce up a public area while enjoying one another's company? Please contact Judith Meyer with your suggestions.

Call for Input: Evangelos Condo Project

The owners of the defunct Evangelos Restaurant near Speedway and Camino de Oeste want to build a condominium complex on that 2-acre parcel. Their proposal calls for 36 units in 4 buildings, one of which would be 3 stories high. The units all face a central pool area, with parking and a wall around the perimeter but no outward-facing yards.

The site is zoned commercial, so apartments of this kind are within the basic zoning. But it is also within the Gateway Overlay Zone: that portion of Speedway is considered a scenic point of entry into Tucson. So there are design guidelines which must be met, under Section 18.78.030 of the Pima County Code, "intended to reflect the historic, natural, southwestern, or rural character of Pima County." Unfortunately, residential developments are subject only to guidelines as to color and landscaping, and there is very limited restriction as to the architecture. TMA representatives and neighbors have met with the developer, and expressed concern with how poorly the three-story proposal blends into the surroundings. The developer claims it cannot eliminate one unit or the third floor without making the project economically infeasible. For those interested, the Design Review Committee will review the proposal at a hearing August 21, 1:30 PM.

More disturbing, however, is that the parcel does not have safe road access, according to Pima County guidelines. The driveway for this new use should be 245 feet away from an intersection on this 45-mile-per-hour road, but this parcel does not have that much frontage altogether. The County proposed to require the owner to pay for an improvement to make the intersection of Anklam and Speedway a right-angle intersection, removing the currently curved right turn from eastbound Speedway onto Anklam. Since the condominiums would be a change of use, the County can make a condition of this kind, before approving the development. But this change still would not provide adequate distance between the driveway and the intersection, and those who use those roads regularly appear to oppose the right-angle idea. Let us know what you think, or let your County Supervisor know! That's why we always include addresses, phones and emails for public officials in every newsletter.

West Side Road Report

There are significant developments on a number of roadwork projects. First, for those wondering about the construction on a section of Silverbell south of Goret, where a new development was stalled east of Silverbell, the road is being widened to three lanes to allow for a left-turn lane. The former developer went into bankruptcy and could not fulfill its obli-

gation to pay for the widening of Silverbell. A new builder has purchased the property and is paying for this necessary public improvement.

The City also reports that it expects to have three lanes on Silverbell for the entire section from Grant north to Goret, by the end of 2008, and hopefully to El Camino del Cerro shortly after.

At the same time, the City plans to reconstruct the roadway along El Camino del Cerro, from Silverbell to I-10, adding walkways and a bike path. That will feed into the new ball fields, as reported in our last newsletter, and ultimately into a decomposed-granite path running south through Columbus Park all the way to Grant.

Perhaps more significantly, the RTA project to expand Silverbell to a 4-lane median-divided road for the entire length from Grant north to Ina Road may be accelerated. The City, which will take the lead on this project, is preparing to seek design plans this year, as opposed to waiting until at least 2009, under the original RTA schedule. Work would not commence until after the Freeway project is completed, probably in late 2009 or early 2010. But originally the design phase was scheduled for 2012, and the City is now attempting to accelerate it by several years. The City will want to convene a Citizen Advisory Group, so let us know if you have an interest in serving on such a

panel. The RTA is also considering accelerating the rebuilding of the Sunset Bridge, currently planned for about 2017, so that it might be designed along with the Silverbell improvements.

In the meantime, the Arizona Department of Transportation may change its priorities and re-design the interchange between I-10 and El Camino del Cerro, joining forces with the RTA to accelerate the project to create a railroad overpass, as well as widening the tunnel under the Freeway. It could make sense to prioritize this over the less-trafficked Prince Road interchange, which is a "T" intersection rather than a four-way intersection.

Water & Wastewater Issues

Last newsletter we reported on the new City/County joint study. In order to make it easy for all members of the community to follow the study's progress and provide information and insight, the Oversight Committee has promised to put all the proceedings, including presentations and studies, on their website at:

www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com.

TMA attended the first several meetings. We were disappointed to note that among the "resources" listed for inventorying, rainwater harvesting was absent. But we found the Oversight Committee quite responsive to our suggestion. TMA has,



Water and Wastewater Issues, Continued

among its members, not only residents of the Milagro Co-Housing Development, who have made great use of rainwater harvesting for xero-scaping purposes, but also a member who built a home which is a model for the community in successful rainwater harvesting. Charles J. Cole and his wife

built their home nearly as far west as possible, off of Sweetwater Drive, in 2003, during the current drought. They knew they would have no public water supply, so they buried a cistern and built their roof to direct water into it; and they added filters which make it as safe as any public water supply, or more

so. Since 2003, they have not only met all their household and landscaping needs, but filled a swimming pool which, in turn, is connected into a fire sprinkler system. Jay has invited the Oversight Committee members to view his system. But TMA has asked for something more: we want that Committee,

which is hiring experts to guide regional planning, to help us all learn what advances have been made thus far in rainwater harvesting, worldwide, and how the County's needs can be met well into the future by more judicious use of this resource.

ATTENTION ALL WEST SIDERS! DID YOU KNOW THAT FOR ONLY \$20 A YEAR YOU CAN BE PART OF ARIZONA'S OLDEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION? NEVER AGAIN WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING ON "THIS" WEST SIDE CORNER OR "THAT ONE!" YOUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES A NEWSLETTER THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ON ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES IN YOUR WEST SIDE COMMUNITY!

The Tucson Mountains Association was formed in 1934 by families homesteading in the Tucson Mountains. It is the oldest Neighborhood Association in Arizona. The area served by TMA is bounded on the north by Twin Peaks Road, on the east by Silverbell Road, on the south by the 22nd Street alignment/Starr pass Boulevard and on the west by Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain Park. TMA goals include:

- *Promoting sensitive area planning.*
- *Representing homeowners' concerns in area re-zonings.*
- *Preserving neighborhood integrity and a rural lifestyle.*
- *Supporting Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.*
- *Keeping members informed through quarterly newsletters, mailings & e-mailings.*
- *Assuring trail systems and access to park lands.*
- *Sponsoring neighborhood clean-ups and beautification projects.*
- *Expanding Tucson Mountain Park and Saguaro National Park.*
- *Sponsoring an annual picnic and BBQ and general meeting.*

Current Members: Your mailing label displays the due date for your membership dues. If your label indicates 1/09, then you have paid your dues for the current year. If not, please return the following form with your check! Our annual dues are only \$20.00 per household. Tell your neighbors about TMA. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be on your behalf, when we approach elected officials. And only those whose 2008 dues are current by October 1, 2008 will be on our Celebrates! Event list October 26!

✂

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Do you agree to receive future TMA newsletters via email only? ____ Yes ____ No

New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Mail to: TMA, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117



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www.tucsonmountainassoc.org • TMA@TucsonMountainsAssoc.org

***Introducing the
Tucson Mountains Association
Board of Director's
Candidates***

Paul Eckerstrom has served on the Tucson Mountains Association Board since 2003. He grew up here in the Tucson Mountains, playing in the Painted Hills, and he still resides right near his beloved childhood haunts. He has been an active advocate for preservation of our desert environment since his high school days at Tucson High. Paul is a criminal attorney by trade, but he has been involved in local politics all his adult life. From 2003 to 2006 he was the Pima County Democratic Chair, and he continues to have a good relationship with members of the Board of Supervisors and other local officials. He is currently the campaign manager for the TUSD Proposition 403 budget override, to get more funds for our children's classrooms; add teachers to reduce class sizes in the early grades; and expand the OMA Program, which has well-documented solid academic results.

Lissa Gibbs

Having grown up in Tucson, playing in the Tucson Mountains, Lissa Gibbs has a very deeply rooted respect and appreciation for the unique natural beauty of the Sonoran Desert, and the Tucson Mountains in particular. She is a member of the Pima County Board of Adjustment for District 5, and at the same time she serves as the principal organizer of the Friends of Painted Hills. She also serves on the board of directors of Second Street Children's School.

Lissa is a Tucson-based educator, media producer, and cultural advocate whose professional experience has ranged from directing film festivals to teaching English in an inner-city public high school. She currently co-directs the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Tucson, while consulting as both a curator and producer to a variety of independent filmmakers, festivals, and public cultural events throughout the United States. She holds both a B.A. and an M.A. from U.C. Berkeley.

Ed Verburg

Ed Verburg, a local resident, is interested in being on the TMA board to support the preservation of natural resources in the western foothills area of Tucson. He has worked for local, regional, and the federal governments, and retired from government service 10 years ago.

Ed developed the Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation Plan for the City of Glendale, CA. His federal service included senior management positions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he developed the first bureau-wide strategic plan; and also senior management with the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Ed joined Kelly, Anderson & Associates as a senior management consultant and served on their board and as a trustee. Key areas of expertise include natural resources, planning, and finance. Ed was on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Arlington, VA, and its Foundation. The Kiwanis de Amigos Club in Tucson recently elected him to a two-year term on their board. He and his wife Joyce have two daughters and two grandchildren. Ed holds a B.S. in Environmental Design, an M.C.P., and Doctorate degree.

TMA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Www.TucsonMountainsAssoc.Org

<u>President</u>	Judith D. Meyer	743-8058
<u>Vice President/Treasurer</u>	Debbie Hicks	743-3906
<u>Secretary</u>	Pamela Ridgway	743-7227
	Peter Chesson	743-7223
	Paul Eckerstrom	400-4978
	Peter Hormel	245-2727
	Liz Kelley	743-3741
	Kurt Luscombe	488-9104
	Ed Verburg	743-7728
	Bruce Woodruff	909-9572

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONTACT INFORMATION

Ann Day	740-2738
Sharon Bronson	740-8051
Ray Carroll	740-8094
Richard Elias	740-8126
Ramon Valadez	740-8126

ALL SUPERVISORS

Phone: 740-8126 Fax: 884-1152 Mail: 130 W. Congress, 11th Floor, Tucson, AZ 85701

County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry: 740-8751 Fax: 740-8171

Conservation Acquisition Commissioners, c/o Nicole Fyffe, County Administrator's Office,
130 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701

TUCSON GOVERNMENT

Regina Romero, Westside Ward One: (520) 791-4040

Mayor Bob Walkup: (520) 791-4201

Mail to: TMA, P.O. Box 86117, Tucson, AZ 85754-6117

I'D LIKE TO REQUEST A VEGETARIAN MEAL: _____ YES _____ NO

I WILL BRING THIS SALAD OR SIDE DISH: _____

I WILL NOT ATTEND. ■ THERE WILL BE _____ (number) PEOPLE IN OUR PARTY.

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please!!! Return by Oct. 20, 2008 - We MUST know how many we are feeding!!!

LIVE MUSIC AND FUN AT CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK! NOON TO 5 PM.

RSVP FOR TMA ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATES! EVENT OCTOBER 26!!!



Tucson Mountains
ASSOCIATION
 SINCE 1934



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