

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sam Schwartzberg, Board President and Social Chair

Welcome to Fall

It was a brutally hot summer and Fall is very welcome. Temperatures have finally fallen below the 100-degree mark during the day. Even with this past summer being the hottest on record, Members of the Board and Landscape Committee worked closely with our landscaping company, SDL, and managed to save money on landscape water usage.

New Budget and Assessment Change

The Board has approved the 2024 budget. There will be an increase in our assessments of 5% for 2024. This is slightly over \$5 per quarter or slightly less than \$25 for the year. Here is what necessitates this increase:

1. The Reserve Study that was just finished spells out the projects to be completed and the financial requirements to perform these projects over the next several years. Our reserve fund is currently at 55% of being fully funded. As our community continues to age, there are many projects such as irrigation, tree replacements, maintenance of the washes, etc. that are required to maintain the beauty and functionality of the community.
2. Another factor for this increase is the way inflation has impacted many of the everyday costs associated with maintaining our community.

The new budget will be placed on the Trestle Management portal for your review soon.

Events

By the time you read this newsletter we will have had our third community gathering over the past year with Fall Festival 2023. These events are designed to bring the community together with an opportunity to meet your neighbors while enjoying contests, activities such as face painting, arts & crafts, and bouncy equipment for our children, with food available to enjoy a picnic type atmosphere.

Volunteers Welcome

I request again that if you have ideas and suggestions for the Tatum Highlands community, please get involved by volunteering for the social events, joining an HOA committee, or running for a Board seat. Below are committees available.

- Architectural (ARC) Committee (by election)
- Communications Committee
- Social Committee
- Landscape Committee

We will let you know when other committees are formed to continually improve our community.

Stay well everyone and have a wonderful Holiday Season!!

Sam

LANDSCAPE UPDATE

By Kevin Hufnagel, Board Director and Landscape Chair

We evaluate trees through our common areas on an annual basis. The Landscape Committee continues to be proactive on removing trees that pose a safety risk of falling, trees that have wood borer infestation, and trees that were damaged by prior storms.

Tree trimming

The annual tree trimming for 2024 will start this December. The thoroughfares of Tatum, Jomax, 40th Street, Briles, and Ramuda will receive the annual trimming. Other areas of trees will be trimmed as well.

New tree plantings

Our next planting of new trees will take place in March 2024.

Irrigation improvement

Phase one of the irrigation project is already in the planning stages for 2024. The goal of upgrading the irrigation will be five phases within a three-year time period. The first phase will be the unfinished areas of the southside of Jomax Road as well as Tatum Boulevard including the medians. New PVC pipe will be installed which will replace old poly tubing. Phase two will replace the old irrigation lines on the northside of Jomax.



A tree that will be removed.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE

By Sam Schwartzberg, Board President & Social Committee Chair

Another Fall Festival was held with fun had by all! The turnout was slightly smaller than the last community event but comments from residents were all positive and appreciative for this occasion. Here are the events held:

CONTESTS: pumpkin painting contest, three-legged race, water balloon toss, and a free throw shooting contest. All winners won Target gift certificates.

EXTRAS: Face painting, bouncy house and bouncy obstacle course for children, free cotton candy, drinks, and food trucks.

(See more photos from the Fall Festival [here](#).)

Frank Moskowitz from Sun Valley Fliers was at the fall festival and offered two free lessons for flying radio-controlled aircraft. If anyone is interested in learning more or joining the Sun Valley Fliers, the website is: sunvalleyfliers.com. Many of you might spot these aircraft flying on the other side of Cave Creek Road off Jomax, just west of our community.

I want to thank everyone who assisted with the planning and volunteering during the event so that fun could be had by all and for the event to go so smoothly. A special thanks to Missy Delay who donated pumpkins for the pumpkin painting contest.

More to come next year!

The budget for 2024 includes funding for additional community events. Anyone who would like to join our Social Committee, please reach out to me at tatumhighlandsnews@gmail.com. We can always use more help and fresh ideas for community events!

Sam



McKinley – Pumpkin Painting Contest Winner

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Happy Autumn from the Architectural Committee! The holidays will soon be upon us. This is the time to start thinking of home projects that you wish to accomplish. We want to remind residents that all projects visible from the street must be submitted for architectural approval.

In need of a dumpster?

Are you tackling a big indoor project and need a dumpster? If so, architectural approval is required. With approval, dumpsters must be placed and wholly contained in your driveway. Dumpsters must not block the sidewalk nor be placed in the street. This is also a City of Phoenix ordinance* and you can be subject to fines. Dumpsters are permitted for six weeks. You must reapply if you need it for a longer period. Portable toilets of any kind are prohibited in the front of the home! Please refer to the Architectural Guidelines Section II. ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PROCESS, Pod Storage/Dumpster section for guidance with your application.

* Phoenix Municipal Code: Sec. 23-9

It's time to open our windows again

The weather is nice, and we will all be opening our windows. Please make a point of looking at your window screens. Frequently we don't notice them, as we come and go each day. If your screens are faded, torn, or rippled it's time to replace them. Window screens must be submitted for architectural approval. Please refer to the Architectural Guidelines Section BB for guidance with your window screen application.

New plant guidelines are ready to view

The committee is happy to announce that the **new Plant Guidelines** are complete. They are posted on the Trestle website portal and all homeowners received a copy in an e-blast. We have expanded the community's choice of plants that have low water usage. As a reminder, Sissoo trees are now prohibited, and Mexican Fan Palms are still prohibited!



The committee would like to thank you for submitting all projects and keeping our community beautiful.

Arizona Yellow Bells

Pat Diaz-Chairperson

Rob Miraglia-Committee Member

Missy DeLay-Committee Member

Dan Luitjens-alt. Committee Member

Stuart Kleinberg-alt. Committee Member

PRALINE-TOPPED YAMS

By Valerie Miraglia, Tatum Highlands Resident

"This has been a holiday favorite in my family for many years. It's like dessert with dinner."

Preheat oven to 375 degrees

Ingredients

3 lbs. of yams
½ cup of butter (divided)
½ cup heavy cream (divided)
2 large eggs
1 cup light brown sugar (divided),
firmly packed
¾ cup chopped pecans
¼ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp ground nutmeg
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla extract
Toasted pecan halves, if desired



Instructions

Bake the yams and scoop out the insides into a food processor. Puree with 6 Tbs melted butter and 2 Tbs cream. Add eggs and ½ cup brown sugar. Process until blended. (*Note: this can also be done with a stand mixer.*)

Spread half of the potato mixture into a shallow 2-quart baking dish. With remaining potato mixture in a pastry bag fitted with a large star tip, pipe large rosettes around the edge of the dish. OR, place all of the potato mix in the dish, but build up the edges to hold the praline sauce.

In a small saucepan, combine remaining butter, cream, brown sugar, pecans, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ½ tsp salt. Bring to a boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in the vanilla, and spoon over center of potato mixture.

Bake for 20 minutes or until bubbly. If desired, garnish with toasted pecan halves.

(Note: Potato mixture can be made a day in advance and refrigerated. Add praline mix when ready to bake.)

BUNDT WINE CAKE

By Erika Auten, Tatum Highlands Resident

“A festive cake for the holidays, handed down in my family for generations.”

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Ingredients

1 box Super Moist Yellow Cake Mix

1 box (1 oz.) Vanilla Jello Pudding

4 eggs at room temperature

1 cup white wine (*I use one bottle from the Gallo 4-pack of Chardonnay but any dry white wine will do.*)

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup canola or vegetable oil

1 Tbs ground nutmeg

Powdered sugar and refined sugar for topping

Instructions

Prepare a standard 10-12 cup bundt pan and spray with baking spray.

Stir all ingredients together and mix on medium speed for approximately 3 minutes, or until all ingredients are well mixed. Make sure to scrape the mixing bowl while mixing.

Pour batter evenly into your bundt pan and bake for 30-45 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean. When cake is completely cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar and sprinkle some sanding refined sugar to make it festive.

Slice and serve with your favorite hot drink!



IN YOUR GARDEN – FALL PLANTING

By Pam Albo

In the Valley of the Sun, fall flowers can be a magnificent addition to your garden! With the scorching summer heat subsiding, the cooler autumn months offer a respite and a chance to cultivate a thriving garden. This is the time to allow plants to establish their root systems before the harsh summer heat returns.



WHAT TO PLANT NOW

Veggies

Broccoli	Cauliflower	Lettuce	Spinach	Carrots
Kale	Radish	Beets	Garlic	Green onion
Winter squash	Cabbage			

Herbs

Cilantro	Chives	Oregano	Parsley	Rosemary
Sage	Basil			

Colorful annuals and perennials

Petunias	Geranium	Lobelia	Alyssum	Snapdragon
Chrysanthemum	Marigold	Viola	Verbena	

Blooming Shrubs that are drought resistant and heat tolerant

Baja fairy duster	Red yucca	Autumn sage	Penstemon
Desert marigold	Angelita daisy	Texas sages	AZ yellow bells
Cape honeysuckle	Lantana	Mexican bird of paradise	

Citrus trees

Orange	Grapefruit	Lemon
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TIME TO PRUNE

Autumn is a great time to begin pruning your plants. Remove dead plant material. Continue to deadhead spent flowers to encourage new growth.

PEST CONTROL

Although pests aren't as active in the cooler months, remain vigilant for aphids, caterpillars, and spider mites.



WATERING

Water deeply but less frequently to encourage deeper root growth. Adjust your watering schedule as temps drop.

FROST PROTECTION

Be prepared for winter temps below 32 degrees. Have on hand

frost cloth, old sheets, and towels.

You can find most of the above plant descriptions with beautiful photos at <https://www.amwua.org>. Plants shown on this website are approved for Tatum Highlands with only a few exceptions.

Be creative and have fun enhancing your landscape with the wide array of beautiful plants available to us here in the desert!

LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

By Karen Blue

Arizona Lights Up the Holidays

Check out many more holiday light attractions throughout our beautiful state of Arizona @ visitarizona.com/like-a-local/arizona-lights-up-the-holidays/ -or- phoenixlocalevents.com/events/list/page/2/

Christmas at the Scottsdale Princess

Rediscover the magic of Christmas this winter. Go ice skating and catch colorful light shows in the Enchanted Plaza. Roast marshmallows and make s'mores. Stage a selfie with Santa and meet the cute cast of holiday characters. With kid-friendly activities and entertainment all season long, this is where new traditions are created together.

DATES: November 17, 2023 through January 6, 2024

For more information: christmasattheprincess.com/



Zoolights at the Phoenix Zoo

ZooLights is back for another sparkling season at the Phoenix Zoo. Shining bright with illuminated displays and millions of twinkling lights, it's the perfect backdrop for any holiday event. ZooLights is open to the public from 5:30 – 10:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023 through Sunday, January 14, 2024.**

To purchase tickets:

phoenixzoo.org/events/ZooLights/

Desert Botanical Garden Las Noches De Las Luminarias

Garden lights on winter nights is a must this holiday season at Desert Botanical Garden's Las Noches de las Luminarias. Enjoy an evening filled with sparkling luminaria-lit trails and twinkling holiday lights. Musical performances, entertainment and festive food and drinks available for a picture-perfect night.

DATES: Nov. 24, 25 | Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 19-23, 26-30

TIME: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

PRICE: Members: Adult \$34.95, Youth \$14.95 | General Admission: \$39.95, Youth: \$16.95
To purchase tickets: ticketing.dbg.org/events

Scottsdazzle Holiday Extravaganza

Developed by the City of Scottsdale officials as a way to bring the community together in a fun



and magical way, Scottsdazzle serves as the area’s signature holiday event spanning two months and offering something for everyone when it comes to celebrating, shopping and dining. Scottsdazzle kicks off Saturday, November 25th with the signature Sing-Along & Tree Lighting Ceremony. Check out the Events page to see all the activities and events taking place at various locations around Old Town **through December 31, 2023**. Free.

For more information: scottsdazzle.com/events/

Enchant Christmas, Salt River Fields at Talking Stick

Touted as the world’s largest Christmas light maze and village, the sprawling 10- acre event, presented by the Hallmark Channel, features an immersive walk-thru light maze created from more than four million sparkling lights, an impressive 100-foot-tall holiday tree, a unique ice-skating trail, live entertainment, Santa visits and a village marketplace with crafts, gifts, festive culinary treats and holiday cocktails. Tickets required.

DATES: **Friday, Nov 24 – Dec. 30 2023**, Salt River Fields

For more information: enchantchristmas.com/scottsdale-az-salt-river-fields



APS Electric Parade

DATE: **Saturday, December 2, 2023**. Parade starting location: Central Ave. and Montebello Ave. Parade Starts at 7 p.m. Parade ending location: 7th St. and Indian School Rd. Free.

<https://www.phoenix.gov/parks/elp>



Complete with acrobatic feats, dancing mice, a snowfall on stage and the beauty of the Sugar Plum Fairy, it's a sight to cherish for the entire family. Let the holidays begin and see why audiences have been raving about Phoenix Ballet!

DATES: Friday, December 8, 2023 – Saturday, December 23, 2023 (\$20-\$125)

For more information: tickets-ctickets-center.com/search/Orpheum-Theatre-Phoenix/The-Nutcracker-tickets/

The Nutcracker Ballet @ the Orpheum Theatre Phoenix

Dances to Tchaikovsky's famous score are held at the enchanting Orpheum Theatre. Let this magical, authentic production transport you back in time.



Glendale Christmas Parade

DATE: Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 11am-1:00 pm
City of Glendale | Free

Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade at Tempe Town Lake

DATE: Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 4-9 pm
Tempe Town Lake, 80 W. Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe, AZ
Free

Fiesta Bowl Parade

DATE: Saturday, December 16, 2023 @ 10am-12 pm
Downtown Phoenix
Free



ARIZONA WILDLIFE

THE RESILIENT GAMBEL QUAIL

By Pam Albo

Introduction

Arizona, a state known for its diverse landscapes, is home to an array of unique wildlife. Among its avian inhabitants, the Gambel Quail stands out as a resilient and intriguing species. These birds are well-adapted to the state's semi-arid and arid regions, where they find ample food and shelter.



Mating Habits

Courtship Rituals: Quail are known for their intricate courtship rituals, especially during the breeding season, which typically spans from late winter to early summer. These rituals involve elaborate displays of affection and bonding. Male quail perform distinctive calls and engage in dances to attract a mate. These dances often include puffing up their plumage, fanning their tails, and bobbing their heads to showcase their vitality and suitability as a partner.

Pair Bonding: Once a male successfully attracts a female, they form monogamous pair bonds for the breeding season. These pairs often stay together for the duration of the breeding period.

Predators

Survival in the desert comes with its share of challenges, including a host of predators that prey on quail. Common predators of quails in Arizona include birds of prey like hawks and owls, as well as terrestrial predators such as coyotes, bobcats, and snakes. To evade these threats, quails rely on their excellent camouflage and vigilance. When danger is detected, they freeze in place or quickly take cover in nearby vegetation, minimizing their chances of being detected.

Breeding and Nesting

After forming pairs, quails prepare to build nests. Nests are often constructed on the ground, concealed beneath shrubs, cacti, or tall grasses, and often inside shrubs. These nests are carefully crafted using grasses, twigs, and leaves to create a secure and hidden environment for their eggs.

Female quails lay a clutch of eggs, typically ranging from 8 to 15 eggs, depending on environmental conditions and food availability. Incubation duties are primarily carried out by the female, sometimes assisted by the male, lasting about three weeks. During this period, the male remains vigilant and defends the territory, ensuring the safety of the nest.

Family Life



Upon hatching, the quail chicks are precocial, meaning they are born with their eyes open and can move and feed themselves shortly after hatching. The parents are highly protective of their chicks, and the entire family unit remains close-knit as they forage for food in the desert landscape.



As the chicks grow, both parents play a role in teaching them essential survival skills, including foraging techniques and how to evade predators. This family cohesion contributes to the young quails' chances of survival in a harsh desert environment. Unfortunately, some chicks may be lost to predators.

Conclusion

The Gambel Quail is a remarkable desert inhabitant, known for its unique mating habits, vigilant predator avoidance strategies, and close-knit family dynamics. Their adaptations to the challenging desert environment showcase their resilience and the incredible biodiversity that can be found in the state.

As Arizona continues to grow and urbanize, it is vital to conserve the natural habitats of these quails to ensure that these fascinating birds continue to thrive in the deserts of the Southwest.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

By Pam Albo

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*)

The Christmas Cactus is a colorful houseplant with tubular flowers in pink or lilac that blooms indoors in the winter. It's popular during holiday time and makes a great gift, too. Unlike regular cacti, however, this is not a plant from a dry, hot, desert location. Instead, it is a succulent native to tropical rainforests where they grow on tree branches and soak up the high humidity.



Light

Plants should be kept in bright, indirect light such as an east-facing window. They prefer a more humid environment which makes a bright kitchen or bathroom the ideal spot.

Water

Water every 2-3 weeks but only when the top 1/3 of the soil feels dry to the touch. The Christmas Cactus prefers soaking until water runs through the pot's drainage holes.

Humidity

The Christmas cactus prefers humid conditions and homes are often dry. You can raise the humidity by placing the pot on top of a container filled with pebbles. Pour water over the pebbles until it rises above the bottom of the top layer of pebbles. The water will evaporate, increasing the humidity around the cactus.

NEXT BULK TRASH PICKUP

by Karen Blue

CITY OF PHOENIX QUARTERLY BULK TRASH PICKUP

Placement Begins on

December 23-31, 2023

Collection Begins

The week of **January 1, 2024**

Bulk trash is collected four times per year.

- You are allowed to place your bulk items on the on the curb nine (9) days prior to the scheduled collection week. This is what “placement begins on” means.
- Place your bulk trash on the curb by 6 am on the “collection begins” date.
- Do not place piles on water meters, next to fixed objects, or next to parked cars.
- Dates may change due to staffing shortages.



For more information or to view the bulk trash chart, visit: phoenix.gov/publicworks/bulktrash.

Or call (602) 262-6251

Bulk Trash Do's and Don'ts

DO - - - - - Put yard clippings & bulk items out on time – no later than 6 am on the Monday of your collection week.

DO - - - - - Separate the yard clippings from the bulk pile, placing at least 3 feet apart.

DO - - - - - Organize piles. Place cacti and glass in a box with a lid; place yard clippings in plastic bags; stack tree limbs and palm fronds in one direction.

DON'T - - - - Exceed the pile size limit of no larger than 10' long x 6' wide x 4' tall.

DON'T - - - - Place piles near meters & electrical boxes.

DON'T - - - - Throw hazardous waste into bins or brush piles.