A Message from Your HOA President

As we settle into the new year, I want to take a moment to share some excellent news regarding the "business" side of our community. While we often focus on landscaping and community events, the underlying financial health of our association is what ensures our property values remain high and our amenities stay beautiful.

Our Board of Directors, in partnership with our management team, has remained committed to a strategy of disciplined spending and proactive planning. This year, we have been able to increase our funding to the reserves; we are currently adding $14,440.00 every month to the reserve fund.

Additionally, we moved $150,000 in excess funds from our operating account into our reserve account and purchased four CDs in the amount of $150,000 each, with staggered maturity dates of 6, 12, 18, and 24 months. This strategy ensures our capital is working for us while remaining accessible.

Financial stability isn't just about numbers on a spreadsheet; it's about peace of mind. A fiscally sound HOA means:
· **Protecting Your Investment:** Lenders look at an HOA's health when approving mortgages for potential buyers, making your home easier to sell.
· **No Surprises:** Our goal is to avoid special assessments by planning for the future today.
· **Quality of Life:** We can continue to maintain our common areas to the high standards we all expect.

Thank you for being such a vital part of this community. Your timely dues and the care you provide for your properties are what make this stability possible.

Best regards,
Pat Diaz
President, Tatum Highlands Board of Directors

Spring into Home Improvements: An ARC Refresher

With the weather warming up, many of us are looking at home projects and fresh coats of paint. Before you grab your ladder or call a contractor, here is a quick reminder about the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) process!

The ARC's goal is to keep Tatum Highlands looking its best by ensuring all improvements align with our community's design guidelines. This helps maintain our beautiful aesthetic and protects property values for everyone.

Important: All projects must be reviewed and approved by the ARC prior to the start of any work.

How to Submit Your Application

To keep things streamlined, we offer two ways to submit your project application. Please note that emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted.

- **Online Portal:** This is the fastest method! Log in to your homeowner portal to upload your application and pay the Smartwebs fee digitally.
- **U.S. Mail:** Mail your completed application and a $10.00 check (payable to Tatum Highlands HOA) to:
  Tatum Highlands Community Association, c/o FirstService Residential
  9000 E Pima Center Pkwy, Suite #300
  Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Thinking of Painting?

If you are planning to refresh your home's exterior, please remember to fill out the paint application completely. If you are only painting a specific area, such as just the trim or the front door, be sure to state that clearly on your application.

To Access the Homeowner Portal, go to: tatumhighlands.connectresident.com or access directly from the HOA website at tatumhighlandsaz.org

Landscape Update

Greetings Neighbors. Your Landscape Committee has been busy with several projects which will result in significant improvements to the public areas of our community.

We're about to enter Phase 4 of 5 of our Irrigation System Upgrade. This upgrade focuses on water conservation and creating irrigation zones that are specific to the needs of our various trees and shrubs. This will allow our beautiful native plantings to not only survive, but to thrive! We're also addressing the pruning schedule for trees, based on their species and size, in an effort to allow mature, healthy trees a better chance of surviving the Monsoon Season.

From a maintenance standpoint, we will be tending to the fire breaks, assuring proper clearance from homes that border the desert, and the Stinkweed in the washes and public areas will also be removed.

One other item on the agenda is an evaluation of our current monuments at the entrances to the Tatum Highlands Community. These have been in place since the community was built. While they have been well maintained, they could use some upgrades. This is in the early stages of discussion, and it is a great opportunity for homeowners to get more involved. Let us know if you'd like to be considered for a spot on the Landscape Committee. Homeowner involvement is crucial to the health of the Tatum Highlands Community!

Tatum Highlands

Holiday Lights Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to these 3 winners:

Martin/Bray Resident
4222 E Andrea Drive

Flynn Resident
25856 N 47 th Place

Blasing Residence
4609 E Briles Road

We want to thank all the homeowners who decorated their homes for the holidays. Tatum Highlands looked very festive for the holidays.

With over 35 homes submitted for the contest, it was challenging for the judges to pick a winner. The Social Committee has decided to grant a 3-way tie and split the total prize money to $175 for each home.

Upcoming Election

Members of your Board of Directors are elected each year to serve for two consecutive terms. This year there are four open positions for Board members. The Nominating Committee presents your candidates below:

Candidates for Board of Directors:

Pat Diaz

Jeff Hirsch

Robert Miraglia

Melissa Palopoli

Chris Stanford

Ballots will also include candidates for three open positions on the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). These candidates are volunteers and not selected by the Nominating Committee.

Candidates for ARC:

Melissa DeLay

Pat Diaz

Robert Miraglia

Bios of all candidates will be provided to voters.

IMPORTANT!
You can meet your candidates in person at the "**Meet & Greet the Candidates**" on **April 11**, **10am–noon**, at **Teets Park Ramada**

Look for your ballots in April. New members will be announced at the Annual Meeting in May, date to be announced.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

VOTE

Local Events

by Karen Blue

Cactus League Spring Training Schedule
February 20 – March 24, 2026
Cactus League Spring Training has more than 200 games scheduled at 10 stadiums throughout the Greater Phoenix area from Feb. 20 to March 24. Catch your favorite MLB players all month long at an affordable price. For tickets and more information: visitphoenix.com/events/sports-events/cactus-league-spring-training/cactus-league-spring-training-schedule/

31st Annual Spring Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival
March 27-29, 2026
The Town of Carefree, AZ
Signature Event
101 Easy StreetCarefree, AZ 85377
As the last show of the season, the Carefree Fine Art & Wine Festival is more than an event—it's a celebration of creativity, connection, and the beauty of Arizona's festival tradition. Don't miss the grand finale! For tickets and more information: thunderbirdartists.com/carefree-fine-art-wine-festival-march

Cave Creek Rodeo Days
March 27-28 8am-10pm
March 29 12-4pm
32701 N 28th Street, Cave Creek

A Celebration of Western Heritage
For over 45 years the sport of Rodeo has been alive and kicking in the Sonoran Desert.

The Cave Creek Rodeo consists of a Parade, Mutton Bustin', Rodeo Dances, a Cornhole Tournament, All Bulls, All Night and three action packed days of PRCA Rodeo performances and more to round out a weeklong celebration of an Arizona town's Western Heritage. cavecreekrodeo.com/events-calendar/

Arizona Fine Art Expo
Ends March 29, 2026
26540 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

The Arizona Fine Art EXPO is a juried art show featuring 10 weeks of passion, creativity and inspiration, as renowned artists create original, one-of-a-kind pieces for sale in over 120 studios. For tickets and more information: Arizonafineartexpo.com

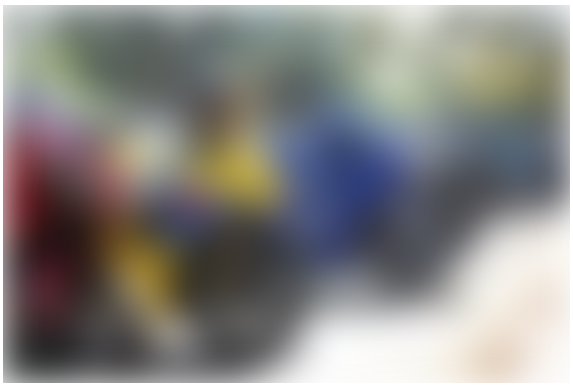
Phoenix Film Festival
April 9-19, 2026
Harkins Scottsdale 1017000 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix, AZ
The Phoenix Film Festival returns April 9-19 at Harkins Scottsdale 101 Theatre celebrating its 26th anniversary. Originating in 2001 by local filmmakers, this 11-day celebration of over 250 films will once again welcome filmmakers from around the globe. For more information: phoenixfilmfestival.com/

Cave Creek Bike Week
April 3-12, 2026
The 28th Annual Cave Creek Bike Week in 2026 is shaping up to be an unmissable event for motorcycle enthusiasts from around the globe. Set in the rugged, scenic landscape of Cave Creek, Arizona, this year's rally, happening from April 3-12, 2026, will blend the best of biker culture with the unique charm of Cave Creek's local attractions. For more information: hideaway-usa.com/2025/08/19/cave-creek-bike-week-2026/

Arizona Bike Week
April 8-12, 2026
Arizona Bike Week 2026 will take place at Westworld of Scottsdale, AZ 85260. The event will run from April 8-12, 2026. For tickets and more information: azbikeweek.com

Carefree Restaurant Week

May 11-17, 2026



Carefree Restaurant Week 2026 will take place May 11-17, 2026. Restaurant Week is an opportunity for all participating restaurants to showcase their menus at discounted prices. Some restaurants will offer a special lunch menu, others a special 2 or 3 course dinner for $33, $44 or $55. Unlike other towns filled with national chains, Carefree's dining scene is proudly independent and family-owned. Every restaurant reflects the personal touch, passion, and creativity of its owner—from the menu and ambiance to pricing and brand. For more information: carefreerestaurants.com/

Scottsdale Arts District Gold Palette 'Celebrate Spring' ArtWalk

April 9, 2026; 6:30-9 pm

ArtWalks are free to the public every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. along Main Street from Scottsdale Rd. west to Goldwater Blvd., and on Marshall Way north of Indian School Rd. to Fifth Ave. Restaurants, museums and free trolley and/or horse-drawn carriage rides are available during ArtWalk to transport visitors from numerous free parking areas throughout the Scottsdale Arts District and Scottsdale Downtown. ArtWalk offers a special Gold Palette series throughout the year during select months. For more information: scottsdaleartsdistrict.com/artwalk/

McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Events 2026

Discover Scottsdale's natural treasure at McDowell Sonoran Preserve, where adventure awaits year-round. Join expert-led sunrise hikes to witness desert awakening, participate in family-friendly wildlife education programs, or explore ancient petroglyphs on guided cultural walks. For more information: mcdowellsonoran.org/events/

Farmers Markets

High Street, Phoenix

Sundays, 9am-1pm

5415 E High St

Holland Center, Scottsdale

2nd Saturdays, 9am-1pm

34250 N 60th St

Carefree
Fridays 9am-1pm
101 Easy Street, Pavilion

Cave Creek
Thursdays, 3-7pm
Tractor Supply on CC Road

Foothills Food Bank, Cave Creek
Saturdays, 10am-1pm
4250 E Carefree Hwy

For More Local Event Information for **Scottsdale**: experiencescottsdale.com/events/

For More Local Event Information for **Phoenix:**

April 2026: phoenix-az.events/april/

May 2026: phoenix-az.events/may/

June 2026: phoenix-az.events/june/

Recipe of the Month-Tuscan Chicken Pasta

By Dana Davis, a Tatum Highlands Resident

“This dish receives rave reviews every time. If you want a saucy, creamy, flavorful chicken dinner, this is the recipe to make!!”

STAUB

Ingredients

Chicken

2 boneless chicken breasts, approximately 1 pound

3 tbsp olive oil, divided

1 tsp paprika

1 Tbs garlic powder

1 tsp Kosher salt

½ tsp black pepper

Pasta

8 ounces rigatoni pasta noodles

4 tbsp unsalted butter (1/2 stick)

¼ cup shallots, finely diced

¼ cup sun-dried tomatoes, softened in hot water and chopped

1 tsp minced garlic

2 Tbs tomato paste

1 tsp oregano

1 tsp paprika

½ tsp garlic powder

½ tsp Kosher salt

¼ tsp black pepper

1-1/2 cups of heavy cream

1-1/2 cups of milk

1 cup fresh spinach

1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

For garnish, fresh parsley and Parmesan cheese

Instructions
Chicken

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees
2. Drizzle 2 tablespoons of olive oil over chicken on all sides and rub it in.
3. In a small bowl combine paprika, garlic powder, salt, and pepper
4. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over chicken on all sizes.
5. In a large, oven-safe skillet or Dutch oven, over medium-high heat, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil. Once hot, add chicken. Sear for 3 minutes on each side (or until browned.)
6. The chicken will not be cooked through at this point.
7. Transfer the skillet to the oven and cook for 10-15 minutes, or until chicken reaches a temperature of 165 degrees.
8. Place the chicken onto a plate and tent to keep warm as you prepare the pasta and sauce.

Pasta

1. Add rigatoni to a pot of boiling salted water. Cook al dente (about 14 minutes).
2. In the same large pan as you cooked the chicken, melt butter over medium heat. Add shallots
3. and sun-dried tomatoes. Cook until the shallots are softened (3-5 minutes). Add garlic and cook for 1 more minute.
4. Add tomato paste, oregano, paprika, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Stir to combine.
5. Add heavy cream and milk. Stir to combine.
6. Add spinach, Parmesan cheese, and tomatoes. Toss to combine. Reduce heat to low and simmer until cheese is fully melted and spinach is wilted (8-10 minutes).
7. Add the cooked pasta and toss to coat.
8. Slice or cube the chicken and add to the pasta and sauce.
9. Serve topped with more Parmesan cheese and fresh parsley.

In Your Garden: Why Should I Water My Shrubs, Cactus, and Trees?

By Ed Sieckert, MS Certified Professional Agronomist

Summer temperatures can often go above 105 degrees, and it will place a big demand on plants in your yard. We live in the Sonoran Desert and rainfall is limited or not at all.

Providing additional water helps the plants grow and without proper water plants will stress and die.

March To Do List

1. Turn on all drip emitters and make sure they are working
2. Replace emitters every 5 years. Why? Hard water minerals build up in the emitter and reduce water flow thus stressing plants.
3. Clean all water filters / Flush each line.
4. Turn on your timer to each valve and check it delivers to the shrubs and trees.
5. Fertilize all plants now and in September to stimulate good growth.

When to water

The Arizona Water Users Association provides an excellent workbook on how and when to water trees, cactus and shrubs. It is free to call 602-261-8367 for a mailed copy of **"Managing Watering by the Numbers."**

For Example: A guide is provided just for Shrubs.

See p 9-10 *Landscaping Watering by the Numbers*

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Call for the free booklet at 602-261-8367, or in your browser type: "Landscaping Watering by the Numbers."

There is a simple table to help you calculate number of emitters, gallons/hr. and total run time. This will save you time and money and return a beautiful yard to you.

Best wishes for a great growing season.

****

PHXWATERSMART

PHOENIX.GOV/SAVEWATER

YOUR GUIDE TO WATERING SHRUBS

HOW MUCH WATER DOES YOUR PLANT NEED?

Shrub Diameter	1'	2'	3'	4'	5'	6'
Gallons of Water Needed	1	4	8	12	17	20

Ground covers need about half as much water as a shrub of the same diameter.

DETERMINE YOUR DRIP SYSTEM FLOW RATE

1/2 gph approx 1 second between drips

1 gph constant drip

2 gph 1/2" stream before drips

4 gph 1" stream before drips

CALCULATE YOUR RUN TIME

GALLONS NEEDED (GAL) ÷ FLOW RATE (GPH) = RUN TIME (HRS)

If you have multiple emitters, add all the flow rates together

If you have different size shrubs, start with the average run time and adjust as needed

DON'T SET IT AND FORGET IT

TYPE OF PLANT	WATERING NEEDS	WATERING FREQUENCY - DAYS BETWEEN WATERINGS				WATERING DEPTH
		SPRING Mar-May	SUMMER May-Oct	FALL Oct-Dec	WINTER Dec-Mar	
Shrubs	Desert Adapted	14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	30-45 days	18"-24"
	High Water Use	7-10 days	5-7 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	18"-24"
Groundcovers & Vines	Desert Adapted	14-30 days	7-21 days	14-30 days	21-45 days	6"-12"
	High Water Use	7-10 days	3-5 days	7-10 days	10-14 days	6"-12"

Cacti & Succulents	N/A	21-45 days	14-30 days	21-45 days	If Needed	8"-12"

Did You Know?

by Karen Blue

No Burn Days

When air pollution levels are on the rise and weather conditions create dry, stagnant conditions, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department will issue a No Burn Day. Restrictions last for a 24-hour period, starting at midnight, and include a ban on wood burning activity including fireplaces, fire pits, and open outdoor fires.

The purpose of the No Burn Day restriction is to avoid adding pollution to our air when the forecast suggests air quality will approach or exceed the federal health standard.

For more information: Visit Maricopa.gov/AQ to check the air quality status and learn whether it's a No Burn Day. Or call 602-506-6400 to call the Maricopa County Burn Line. A recorded message in English and Spanish will let you know whether a No Burn Day is in effect.

Garden Calendar

By Pam Albo

Spring is coming which means it's time to prune, fertilize, and plant.

March

Planting is recommended early to let your plants become established before the hot summer heat in our area.

This is the ideal time to prune existing shrubs, such as lantana and bougainvillea.

Fertilize roses after each bloom, continuing every 2-4 weeks. If you haven't already, it's time to prune roses by cutting them back 50%.

April

Water succulents every other week.

This is the last month to plant shrubs, annuals, and herbs before summer arrives.

Ground covers work well to cool the ground. Try Purple Trailing Lantana and New Gold Lantana for hot, sunny areas.

Finish pruning before summer.

All plants may need a boost in water this month.

May

Feed citrus.

Adjust irrigation systems to prepare for hot weather. (See Ed Seickert's article for watering tips.)

Remove petunias and geraniums, which won't take the heat.

Plant cacti, agaves, and succulents, using shade cloth to prevent sunburn.

An additional way to protect plants from heat is by adding mulch or compost to the surrounding soil to help retain moisture.

Be sure your irrigation system is working properly, and plants and trees are receiving adequate water for the hotter weather.

To view Tatum Highlands approved plants and trees, go to amwua.org/plants

Plant of the Month: Firebush

FIREBUSH (*hamelia patens*)
By Pam Albo

Gardeners love Firebush because it produces flowers from late spring until the first winter frost. The bright red flowers are filled with nectar and attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

Songbirds also like to feed on its berries.

Firebush produces clusters of bright orange to red tubular flowers. Fruits are small green berries that turn red and purplish as they mature.

It is also a great plant to grow in the Phoenix Area because it is heat and drought tolerant once established and can grow in a range of soils. A plus is it has no serious insect or disease problems. In other words, it is easy to care for!

Firebush can grow to 5' tall if pruned back. Plant in late Spring in full sun.

For additional plants approved for Tatum Highlands, view amwua/plants.org

Bulk Trash Reminder

by Karen Blue

- **Just a reminder, bulk trash is now collected by appointment only!**
- With appointment-based bulk trash, customers have the freedom to schedule bulk trash pickup based on when they need it. Residents can schedule a bulk trash pickup through an online portal, which will offer available collection dates based on the customer's address.
- Upon selecting a date, customers will receive an email confirmation and may place their bulk items at the edge of their property no more than 7 days ahead of their pickup appointment.
- Customers are still allowed up to four bulk trash collections each year.
- **When you receive your email confirmation from the City, please forward your appointment day and time to the Tatum Highlands Community Manager, Mylia Straub at: mylia.straub@fsresidential.com**
- Bulk Trash Day of Collection for Tatum Highlands: **Thursday**
- Schedule a pickup: phoenix.gov/bulktrash

Solid Waste Customer Contact Center:
Main Phone: 602-262-6251
Email: solid.waste@phoenix.gov
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm