

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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## A Message from Your HOA President

Hello Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you well as we enjoy this beautiful desert weather! It's truly wonderful to see so many of you—along with your pets and bicycles—out and about enjoying our community. Please remember to drive with caution throughout the neighborhood for everyone's safety.

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## Welcoming New Leaders & Thanking Our Former Board

First, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our three newest members of the Board of Directors: Tom, Dave, and Sarah! We are excited to have their fresh perspectives and dedication as we move into the new year.

Equally important, we want to express our deep gratitude and sincere thanks to the former board members: Rob, Kevin, and Stuart. They dedicated their time, effort, and passion to serving our community. Their commitment has been invaluable, and we appreciate everything they've done to help make our neighborhood an excellent place to call home. Thank you for your service!

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## Celebrating Success & Planning Fun Events

Our recent Fall Event in the Park was fantastic! Thank you to all who came out to socialize and make it such a memorable afternoon. We are already looking forward to planning more social events for the community next year. Mark your calendars too because we plan to host community-wide garage sales twice a year going forward!

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## Operational Updates & Improved Communication

Your Board has been working diligently on several fronts. We continue to work closely with First Service Residential, and we're seeing positive results as our communication with homeowners is improving. We encourage you to reach out and stay connected.

Looking ahead to 2026, our major capital improvement plans include starting Phase 4 of the irrigation project, which has already proven its value. We are also looking into options for bringing more color and visual interest to our community monuments.

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## **2026 Budget and Assessments**

The Board has just completed the 2026 budget. I'm pleased to report that the new irrigation system has allowed us to significantly reduce our water budget due to fewer leaks. This is a major win for our resources!

However, to ensure the long-term health and value of our homes, we have approved increasing our contributions to the reserve fund for future capital improvements. As a result, your Board of Directors has approved a 5% increase in annual assessments. This strategic increase ensures that we can maintain our current beautiful standard of living while planning responsibly for the future.

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Thank you for your ongoing efforts in keeping our beautiful desert community an excellent place to reside. Your commitment makes a real difference.

Sincerely,  
Pat Diaz  
HOA President

# ARC MESSAGE

Happy Holidays, Tatum Highlands Residents!

As the weather cools and we prepare for the holiday season, please review these important reminders regarding our architectural guidelines. Your cooperation helps keep our neighborhood beautiful for everyone.

## Architectural Committee Updates

### **Holiday Decorations & Lighting**

We love seeing the community spirit during the holidays! Please keep these rules in mind as you plan your displays:

- **Permanent Lighting:** All permanent holiday lighting installations (i.e., fixtures that remain year-round) must be approved by the Architectural Committee before installation.
- **Visibility:** Permanent holiday fixtures may not be visible from the street during the non-holiday season.
- **Usage:** Permanent holiday lighting may be illuminated only during the traditional holiday times.

### **Exterior Projects & Dumpsters**

Planning a remodel or clean-out? Remember that Architectural Committee approval is required for visible exterior projects, and specific rules govern dumpster placement:

- **Project Approval:** Always seek Architectural Committee approval for all exterior projects that are visible from the street.
- **Dumpster Rule:** Any use of a dumpster, even for indoor projects, requires prior Architectural Committee approval.
  - Dumpsters must be placed entirely within your driveway.
  - They are prohibited on sidewalks or streets (per Phoenix city ordinance).
  - Limit: Dumpsters have a six-week limit on-site. If you need more time, you must reapply for an extension.

- **Prohibited Items:** Portable toilets are strictly prohibited in driveways or front yards.

## Home Maintenance Reminders

### **Window Screen Standards**

A simple detail can make a big difference in curb appeal! Please inspect your window screens now before the holidays:

- **Action Required:** Faded, torn, ripped, or heavily rippled window screens must be taken down or replaced.
- **Approval Note:** Please remember that architectural approval is required for screen replacement to ensure consistency in materials and color.

### **Low-Water Plant Guidelines**

- **Plant Guidelines:** Our updated, low-water plant guidelines are currently available for review on the First Service Residential website at [tatumhighlands.connectresident.com](http://tatumhighlands.connectresident.com), click on Landscape Plant List..
- **Compliance:** Please submit any landscape changes to the Architectural Committee. Utilize the [amwua.org/plants](http://amwua.org/plants) website when planning any new landscaping to view approved plants.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our Tatum Highlands community wellmaintained and looking its best throughout the year!

# Community Holiday Light Contest

12/15/25, 12:32 PM

Community Holiday Light Contest



## Tatum Highlands

### HOLIDAY LIGHT CONTEST

Bring the magic of the season to life with dazzling holiday lights and festive decorations!

Residents are invited to participate in the Tatum Highlands Holiday Light Contest for a chance to win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

If you would like your home to be included in the voting, please contact the community manager.

Let's make Tatum Highlands shine bright with holiday cheer!

Email: [Mylia.Straub@fsresidential.com](mailto:Mylia.Straub@fsresidential.com)

# Would you like to sign up for autopay? Follow these steps.

ClickPay is our preferred way of accepting homeowner payments. We invite you to make individual or automatic payments online through ClickPay from your smartphone, tablet, or other media device. Payments can be made by e-check (ACH) now for FREE and by major credit or debit card for a fee. Get started by creating your account at [ClickPay.com/FirstService](https://ClickPay.com/FirstService). If you wish to edit your existing setup, click the link emailed to you or create your profile online with ClickPay at [ClickPay.com/FirstService](https://ClickPay.com/FirstService). For help getting started, visit [ClickPay.com/GetHelp](https://ClickPay.com/GetHelp) or call 1-888-354-0135

The new assessment amount for 2026 is \$142.55. Assessments are due on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Homeowners may want to adjust their ClickPay or automatic payments accordingly. (For reference, see the [President's Message](#) in this newsletter.)

# UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS

by Karen Blue



## Zoolights at the Phoenix Zoo

**November 26, 2025 – January 16, 2026**

Whether you visit ZooLights every year, or you're starting a brand-new family tradition, the Phoenix Zoo has everything you need to celebrate the season. Embrace the holiday spirit as more than four million twinkling lights transform the Phoenix Zoo into a winter wonderland with over two miles of

glimmering tree-lined trails, dozens of life-like animal lanterns and the tallest floating tree in North America, featuring an all-new light show. Relax by the firepit while enjoying s'mores and hot cocoa, swing into fun at the Glow Garden, get your photo with Santa and create lasting holiday memories at the Phoenix Zoo. For more information:  
[phoenixzoo.org/events/ZooLights/](http://phoenixzoo.org/events/ZooLights/)

## Desert Botanical Garden Las Noches De Las Luminarias

**November 28 – December 30, 2025**

Experience the magic of the season with glowing luminaria paths, sparkling lights, live entertainment and festive treats. Plus, be captivated by Framerate: Desert Pulse for an immersive Sonoran Desert holiday like never before. To purchase tickets:  
[vividseats.com/lasnoches-de-las-luminarias-tickets/performer/209889](http://vividseats.com/lasnoches-de-las-luminarias-tickets/performer/209889)

## Scottsdazzle Holiday Extravaganza

**November 29 – December 31, 2025**

Scottsdazzle is the area's signature holiday event. Don't miss out as the city of Scottsdale blankets Old Town with even more seasonal cheer and events to help residents and visitors celebrate in style all the way into the New Year. Holiday spirit comes to life with seasonal décor and sparkling lights twinkling merrily along the streets. Experience the West's Most Western Town in a whole new way by discovering the best in dining, shopping, and so many incredible events. For more information: [scottsdazzle.com/](http://scottsdazzle.com/)

## Mesa Temple Christmas Lights and International Nativity Display

**November 28 – December 30, 2025**

The Mesa Temple Christmas Lights return in 2025 from 5 to 10 p.m. each evening from Friday, Nov. 28, through Tuesday, Dec. 30. Come and enjoy a wonderful feeling of peace and view beautiful displays that celebrate the birth of Jesus at the Mesa Temple & Visitors' Center. See the Christmas lights and feel the spirit of Christmas at the International Nativity Display. All activities are open to the public, free of charge, and family-friendly. For more information: [mesatemple.org/christmas/](http://mesatemple.org/christmas/)



### **Christmas at Schnepf Farms**

**November 28 – December 28, 2025**

Christmas has come to Schnepf Farms! Experience a winter wonderland like no other with seasonal food, fun and festivities for the whole family. Catch a ride on the World of Illumination Express, hop on a hayride to visit Rudolph or journey through Santa's magic workshop. Whatever you choose, it's all happening at Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek. For more information: [schnepfchristmas.com/](http://schnepfchristmas.com/)

### **The Tianyu Lights Festival**

**October 24, 2025 – January 4, 2026**

The Tianyu Lights Festival, an enchanting nighttime walk-through experience for all ages that brings nature and art together through awe-inspiring visual, cultural, and light effects, is coming to the Valley for the first time ever from Oct. 26, 2025 to Jan. 4, 2026. Camelback Ranch – Glendale. For more information: [tianyuculture.us/phoenix](http://tianyuculture.us/phoenix)



### **Chanukahincarefree.com**

**December 14-21, 2025 –** Nightly Menorah Lighting @ 5:30 pm @ Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion in Carefree.

This is an outdoor event with enhanced security measures in place. LIVE streaming also available on selected nights. For more information: [chanukahincarefree.com/](http://chanukahincarefree.com/)

**Desert Farm Lights****November 21 – December 28, 2025**

Desert Farm Lights, the West Valley's premiere walkable holiday light installation, is returning with expanded entertainment offerings for 2025. The family-friendly festive event will occur daily from Nov. 21 until Dec. 28, and will feature hands-on activities like ice skating, a Christmas ornament workshop, wagon and train rides, jolly food offerings, live entertainment and much more! Be dazzled by one million Christmas lights and the magic of the holiday season. Justice Brothers Ranch, Waddell. <https://www.desertfarmlights.com/>

**DRIVE-THROUGH HOLIDAY LIGHTS**

World of Illumination, the producer of the world's largest drive-through animated light show, presents two drive-through locations this year, Glendale and Tempe. Featuring millions of colorful lights synced to your favorite festive tunes, enjoy a mesmerizing event that will rock your holidays. The best part is that you can experience it from the warmth of your car. Just stock your car with snacks and treats and enjoy the 25-35 minute drive.

For more information: [worldofillumination.com](http://worldofillumination.com)

**World of Illumination Cosmic Sleigh Ride-Desert Diamond Casino, Glendale**

**November 14, 2025 – January 4, 2026**

**World of Illumination Rockin' Christmas-Tempe Diablo Stadium, Tempe**

**November 14, 2025 - January 4, 2026**

For Even MORE Holiday Events visit: [visitphoenix.com/events/annual-events/holidayevents/](http://visitphoenix.com/events/annual-events/holidayevents/)

# HOLIDAY RECIPE TIP:DITCH THE CANNED CRANBERRY SAUCE

Submitted by: Valeria Miraglia, A Tatum Highlands Homeowner

Make your own cranberry sauce using fresh or frozen cranberries!

Just follow the instructions on the bag of cranberries but elevate the taste.

- Substitute apple cider or apple juice for the water.
- Toss in a cinnamon stick and some orange rind while the berries are cooking.
- Once the berries have popped and the sauce has thickened, remove the cinnamon stick and orange rind.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to serve.



Optional: For a smoother sauce, push the cranberry sauce in small amounts through a sieve to remove the skins and seeds.

# DID YOU KNOW?

by Karen Blue

- Costco pharmacy now carries pet medicines. The Costco Member Prescription Program offers Costco members opportunities to obtain lower prices on many popular pet medications at Costco Warehouse pharmacies including Apoquel, Bravecto, Heartgard, Vetmedin, and many more. For more information: [Costco.com/pet-medications.html](https://www.costco.com/pet-medications.html).
- The Musical Instrument Museum (Phoenix, AZ) will be hosting a new special exhibition opening November 7, 2025 through April 30, 2026. Experience the enduring power of the world's first wind instrument in *The Magical Flute: Beauty, Enchantment, and Power*. With more than 100 remarkable flutes from the dawn of time to the present day, this exhibition celebrates the resounding influence of the flute on cultures from around the world. For more information: [mim.org/special-exhibitions/the-magical-flute/](https://mim.org/special-exhibitions/the-magical-flute/)



# GARDEN CALENDAR

By Pam Albo

## December/January

These are the coldest months of the year in the greater Phoenix area. Be prepared to cover frost sensitive plants on evenings when temperatures are below 30 degrees. Use frost cloth available at nurseries or sheets or towels.

Pick spent blossoms and fruit. Pick fruit on the outside of fruit trees that is more exposed to frost.

Prune rose bushes by one half but do not feed until February.

Remove dead branches from trees and plants but delay heavy pruning until March. Plant colorful winter annuals: Alyssum, calendula, pansies, gaillardia, verbena, viola, and snapdragons.

Plant cool weather vegetable transplants such as cabbage, lettuce, artichoke, asparagus, broccoli, and chard.

Plant citrus after the danger of frost is over.

Consider applying organic mulch around your plants to conserve water, shield plant roots, preserve soil temperature, and prevent weed growth.

## February

Feed roses.



Fertilize citrus through March.

Plant cool weather annuals such as geraniums, petunias, gaillardia, verbena, snapdragons, and violas.

Plant bulbs such as canna, dahlias, and gladiolus for late Spring bloom that will receive afternoon shade.

Tomato and pepper starts are available for planting this month.

Remember to cover frost sensitive plants on evenings when we have frost warnings.

Hoe weeds brought on by winter rains. Apply re-emergent.

In late February, prune any frost damage from plants and trees to promote new growth.

## **March**

March is the best planting month in our area.

Prune back lantana as far as you want.

Feed roses and citrus.

Fertilize your plants and trees for optimal growth and health.

Plant annuals such as alyssum, geranium, marigolds, gerbera daisies, Angelita daisies, vinca, salvia, Angelonia, and petunias.

Plant shrubs such as Texas sage, yellow bells, coral fountain, pink fairy duster, and red bird of paradise.

Plant herbs such as basil, chives, oregano, parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme.

Plant citrus after the danger of frost is over.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH: PINK FAIRY DUSTER (Calliandra)

By Pam Albo

We garden in an arid desert, and the Pink Fairy Duster is a drought tolerant shrub that is perfect for desert landscaping. Plus, it loves full sun and heat. A bonus is it will add a zap of color to your garden.

Fairy Duster produces pink blossoms that look like little feather dusters from Spring through Fall. It's native to southwest desert areas and very easy to care for. Full direct sunlight works best for Fairy Duster. It also does well with reflected heat from walls.

A medium shrub, it grows to 4' by 4'. Feed with Osmocote granules during the blooming season to enjoy the beautiful pink blossoms almost year-round.

While the flowers may not look like it, they attract hummingbirds and butterflies.



# 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](mailto:mylia.straub@fsresidential.com)**
- Bulk Trash Day of Collection for Tatum Highlands: **Thursday**
- Schedule a pickup: [phoenix.gov/bulktrash](https://phoenix.gov/bulktrash)

## **Solid Waste Customer Contact Center:**

Main Phone: 602-262-6251  
Email: [solid.waste@phoenix.gov](mailto:solid.waste@phoenix.gov)  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm