President's Corner
by Lynn Snyder

The end of spring brought numerous construction activities, repairs, and replacements throughout the Community and around the clubhouse. This includes the repairing of the cracks on the recreation courts and the issuance of numbered replacement court keys. The City of Prescott Public Works and Fann Contracting worked toward successfully completing the Hornet Drive Phase I Drainage project, which included the installation of three vaned grates across Hornet Drive between Rough Diamond Dr. and Sharpshooter Way. The City also completed a water diversion project to the clubhouse entrance off of Hummingbird Way.

Work began on the YHHOA Common Property & Community Clubhouse Drainage and Maintenance Analysis Project by Civiltec Engineering Inc. (Civiltec). During this 12 week project, Civiltec will review historical documentation regarding specific common property drainage identified during the 2018 City of Prescott Public Works Open House, conduct field surveys, including drone aerial (Cont’d on Pg. 3)

Annual Firewise Community Meeting
by Marty Trembly

The annual Firewise community meeting will be held in the Clubhouse on Wednesday, July 31, at 6:30 p.m. We will hear an informative presentation by Prescott Fire Chief Dennis Light about wildfire preparedness and the Fire Department's strategy for fighting fires in our area. Come with your questions and have some refreshments. All new residents are especially invited.

Maintaining Common Areas
by Marty Trembly, Firewise Committee

We have more than 240 acres of HOA owned common land in Yavapai Hills. Most of it contains vegetation that can be attractive to some, but over the years it has been invaded by non-native plants that can interfere with wildlife feeding, and can otherwise be dangerous when wildfires occur in our area.

As a Firewise Community, we have maintained our large common areas since 2011, with help from outside grant funding. It has taken us those eight years to finish the job for the first time, but they need continual maintenance. One of our problems is that most of the grant money we have used in the past is not available to us any more, so we need to be creative with our own money.

We are working on a long-term maintenance plan that includes repeat treatment and trimming of shrubs and trees, and trimming of grasses. We want to try to restore the look of the landscape as it was in 1900, (Cont’d on Pg. 4)
Debra and Greg Andrews moved in to their house here in Yavapai Hills in Sept. 2017. They purchased their home in September 2015 and visited occasionally. Greg is still working full time and has the pleasure of working out of their home, but at least Greg is planning to retire in the not too distant future. They both grew up in Chicago where they met at work. Debra and Greg got married April 4th, 2004 (that’s right 04-04-04; they didn’t even knowingly plan that date). They just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. Greg has four sons from his previous marriage, who live in Chicago and Indianapolis.

They both became avid pickleball players; learning to play once they moved to YH. Greg even took 1st place in the 2019 Tournament, and they enjoy the various social gathering in our clubhouse as well.

Greg’s degree is in electrical engineering and holds an MBA in marketing. He began his career at Motorola, then went on to various positions in the lighting industry, such as Philips Electronics, Sylvania, Juno Lighting, Hubbell Lighting, and eventually ended up with Inventonics (headquartered in Oklahoma City), where he currently works. He has always enjoyed working in lighting, which also included product management, sales, and marketing. Greg likes cars, enjoys anything to do with computers, he is very proficient as the household IT person in charge of computers, and any electronic devices.

Debra is currently a Certified Hypnotherapist and loves it. Previously in her career, she worked in various property management roles for about 30 years, first in Chicago then later in Los Angeles. She managed residential properties, commercial office space, then finally managed shopping centers. Longing for a change, she went back to Columbia College to study photography. She set up a studio in Chicago’s River North area and for a few years did professional, commercial, and portraiture photography. Always with an interest in wellness, she continued her education, and in 2009, Debra received her certification as a Holistic Health Coach through the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in New York City. Her interest in Hypnotherapy began in 2015 when she decided to incorporate hypnosis as a part of her wellness program. She has assisted many persons in achieving their goals.

Debra is a member of the Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters (YBBBS) organization, a Women of Influence Next Generation (WINGS), which are women leaders in that organization, and has a 12-year-old “Little” Sister named Jocelyn that she enjoys mentoring and spending time with. Debra is also a docent at the “The Smoki” museum in downtown Prescott, and volunteers there a few days a week. Debra started a local study group here in Yavapai Hills, called the “Conscious Explorers”. They meet in the clubhouse in the evening of the first Tuesday of every month. So far, they have 12 active members, and looking for more.

Greg was recently elected to the Board of Directors in Yavapai Hills. They both enjoy hiking, off-roading, camping, music, and movies. They love living in Prescott where they have made many new wonderful friends and have very friendly neighbors.
Presidents Corner  (Cont’d from Pg 1)

imagery and mapping, develop drainage and erosion mitigation concepts, and provide the YHHOA Board a maintenance schedule to keep the drainage facilities functional. The Community also had an annual playground inspection and came through with flying colors.

After a very wet and cold early May, the pool finally opened on May 18, 2019, with 63 members and 5 guests in attendance throughout the day. This opening couldn’t have taken place without the services of our own Sandra O’Clock, Community Manager. Sandra started coordinating pool opening tasks before April. Some of these tasks included the purchase and installation of the new ADA drinking fountain at the pool, the hiring of pool facilitators, installation, repair, and painting of fencing around the spa shed and pool area, cleaning of the pool decking and pool furniture, purchase and installation of new pool/spa sign, heating of the pool, spraying of trees, weeding, and installation of bark mulch in the perennial flower border. Stop by and enjoy the lovely annual and perennial flowers around the pool when you’re ready to cool off and take a dip. Wishing everyone a safe and happy pool season and enjoyable summer.

YHHOA Pool Flora and Fauna
by Lynn Snyder

We’d like to express our appreciation to Community Member Diane Dougherty and the following Community and Garden Club Members (Sylvia Fuentes, Shelly Dannett, Sandy Gallo Lee, Lynn Snyder, and Nancy Vance) for dodging the raindrops to plant the annual flowers around the pool and to Carescapes for weeding the pool area, spraying the trees, and installing the bark mulch in the perennial flower bed in preparation for the pool opening.

Pool Use Reminders

- Each resident issued a Pool Access Card, is expected to swipe their individual card when entering and exiting the pool area.
- Waiver & Release of Liability forms for persons under the age of 18, are to be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- All guests are to be signed into the HOA office, have completed a Waiver & Release of Liability and must be accompanied by the sponsoring Member prior to entering the pool or spa area.
- The use of soap, shampoo or conditioner in the shower is strictly prohibited.
Social Activities
by Freddie Scanze

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, it was Adult Pool Party time on June 29th. As usual, we had games with prizes, dancing to our rock and roll music and chatting away with our friends by the pool. Let’s not forget the wonderful food that people bring and of course the food the Social Committee provided.

What a beautiful day it was to enjoy our annual BBQ day on Saturday, May 18th. Over 60 people signed up for the event. Our serving crew worked hard to make sure everyone got served fast and everyone had enough food. A big thank you to our Social Committee members who made all this possible: Pam Rosic, Bill and Jolene Dunn, Ron Brandelli, and Sylvia and Tom Fuentes. Next time you see them please thank them for a job well done. And a big thanks to Big Daddy E’s for their excellent food.

Coming up, July 20th is the Ice Cream Social for those residents who would like to meet some of their neighbors. We encourage new, as well as established residents to enjoy a little refreshment and meet & greet their peers. Perhaps some of you would like to join the Social Committee and give some input as to what events you may want to see and participate in. We are always eager to welcome new members to the team.

Speaking of teams, did you know that there is always a game being played at the Clubhouse or in someone’s home? Just look at the back page of the Roundup and you may see a game you would like to join or perhaps you can start your own.

Our Ladies Luncheon has become quite an event with over 30 women attending each month. The locations vary month to month and Blanche Berkowitz makes sure everything runs smoothly. Our thanks to Blanche for a job well done. I know that those ladies really enjoy having a nice lunch out with their friends and meeting new ones. Bye for now!

Maintaining Common Areas
(Cont’d from Pg 1)

before settlers arrived and prevented natural fires from happening. That means reducing invasive shrubs and trees, and encouraging grasses to grow again in their place.

Trimming shrubs and trees is heavier work that will require us to get funding help from new sources. We anticipate to have those grant funds in 2020. In the meantime, we have kicked off a grass trimming project that we expect to repeat every year. This year, you will see contractors with string trimmers working on the largest common areas where there is a lot of grass. Our goal is a natural, healthy, attractive, and safe landscape for Yavapai Hills. Your thoughts and opinions are always welcome as we proceed with this project.
What gets the seeds first are our familiar Scrub Jays, often while still in the trees and with consummate timing and efficiency.

The Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) need the seeds to tide them over during our frigid winters and they often find and bury as many as 6,000 seeds in the autumn. Then, during the winter, when all of their other food, like bugs and grubs, have disappeared, they finally turn to the buried seeds. The remarkable thing is that they can remember where any of them are hidden. Most of us have trouble remembering where we left a set of car keys. One theory is that the jays triangulate between prominent features in the landscape when they’re burying and recall that geometry.

Ornithologists have performed numerous experiments to see how many of these buried nuts jays actually find and eat, and the results vary widely. A good rule of thumb may be one-third. Fortunately for the pines, the seeds the jays don’t find have been conveniently and effectively planted and yet another generation of trees is off and running.

This dispersal mechanism seems to work very well for both our jays and our pines—and very few of the seeds end up in pesto.

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**Partners**

by Bill Perry

Serious chefs, intent on a good pesto, can buy 8 oz. of raw pine nuts (pignolias) just across Highway 69 at Trader Joe’s for about $11.00. Or, for free, they can collect very fresh ones from the thousands of pinyon pines that grow in this neighborhood. But with those, there’s a catch.

An imperative of nature, to prevent competition between parents and offspring, is the spreading of progeny as widely as possible. This is relatively easy for animals, which have legs, fins and wings to take them away from their parents. For plants, though, which are mainly rooted and sedentary, scattering is a more challenging problem and one that’s been solved in a wide variety of ways called “dispersal mechanisms.”

Wind is an efficient dispersal mechanism, wafting specialized seeds like cottonwoods and dandelions often miles from home. Other plant species rely on furry mammals to encounter clinging seeds which, like Velcro, stick to the animal and ride to some distant new turf. Still other seeds get the less scenic route of passing through the gut of an animal where they soften sufficiently to germinate when finally deposited on the ground away from their parent.

Our two local Pinyon pines (*Pinus edulis* and *P. monophylla*), have a more involved mechanism—a symbiosis or partnership. Probably to preclude premature consumption—and cheapskate chefs—they grow their seeds in impervious green cones covered with some of the stickiest, nastiest pitch known to man. Gathering seeds from them is nearly impossible. It is only in the autumn, before they fall on the ground, that the cones dry and split open, revealing the nutritious seeds inside. This is when their ancient dispersal mechanism takes over and it doesn’t involve humans.

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**Friendly Reminder to Dog Owners**

Please follow the City of Prescott ordinance and HOA rules stating that in and around the Clubhouse / playground area:

- All pets must be under strict pet owner control at all times.
- Pet owners are responsible for removing pet waste and
- No pets should be around the playground equipment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Trails 
by the Trails Committee

Have you heard? The long-standing hiking trail from Hornet to Sunrise is being refurbished by a small core of hard working Yavapai Hills volunteers on our Trails Committee.

Chris Hosking (trails specialist for the city of Prescott) assisted us by providing detailed mapping of the trail. This was necessary because many sections of the trail had become obliterated by overgrowth over the last few decades.

Work began in early April beginning at the Sunrise trailhead. The volunteers have been out there working many weekdays and weekends contributing over 200 man-hours of labor and the committee is delighted to report that their project, as of June 18th, is 73% complete. They are now working to complete the Hornet Drive end of the trail.

New signage will be posted at both trailheads to replace the old “trail” posts that have been with us for years. Please note that the trail is not yet open but opening is expected before September. The trail is being christened as the Teapot Trail because of a teapot that was found along side of the trail during reconstruction. The teapot now adorns the trail near Sunrise Blvd.

Special thanks to Tom Mohoric for organizing and facilitating this endeavor. Thanks also to all the hard-working volunteers who gave up their free time to provide the needed manpower necessary to clear the trail.

Those volunteers include Robert Dal Santo, Bob Scanze, Jack Feeley, Alicia Feeley, Graham Pierson, Ian Critchley, Bruce Klein, Norm Nigro, Jonathan Beidelman, Ginny Beidelman, Jim Vickers, Rebecca Vickers, Dennis Kodimer, Laura Wright, Bruce Dewar and Todd Underwood.

Progress continues by the volunteers on the Trails Committee, but they could always use more help. Work consists of picking out rocks, trimming brush and leveling the trail. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Tom Mohoric at (330) 321-6587 or tommohoric@gmail.com.
Help Bambi
by Bill Perry, Firewise Committee

The Yavapai Hills Firewise Committee has received comments from residents saying that they don’t want to reduce vegetation on their property because it will have an adverse effect on wildlife. Their intent is commendable, but in reality, doing some clearing has the opposite effect: it actually benefits and encourages animals and other plants. Besides being highly flammable and a liability in a fire, many of our native plant species such as scrub oak, mountain mahogany, skunk bush (*Rhus*), pine and more, are inedible to critters like deer and rabbits—which is one reason those plants thrive on our slopes.

No one is recommending that we clear-cut our property, just attractively thinning it to allow tastier and less-dense species to compete with the thick, flammable chaparral plants. I did that on my 1/3-acre back yard and what used to be impassable scrub oak is now a veritable playground for deer, rabbits and any number of other species. In fact, I often shoo deer away because they eat things that are just getting started. Less dense vegetation also means that we are now able to see animals like bobcats, javelinas and many more birds, that were previously hidden by the brush.

Thinning our property not only reduces fire and liability risk, but makes it more attractive and accessible for us and the other species that live there.

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Be A Good Neighbor

Weeds! Weeds! Weeds!

We have had rain this year, and that means weeds. As in years past when we get moisture the first thing that grows is the weeds. Yavapai Hills HOA does have a Landscape Maintenance Policy for Improved and Vacant Lots. Please be vigilant in maintaining your property.

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The Communications Committee is seeking a new team member to take over the task of Layout Editor for our bimonthly newsletter. This position will focus primarily on the arrangement of text, photographs, advertising and other visual components into a print format. As most work will be done on computers, proficiency with graphic design and editing software, specifically MS Word and/or Publisher, is necessary to allow for the ability to manipulate design properties, such as type size, font style, spacing, column width and page placement.

If you have a strong attention to detail, the ability to visualize the final product, can work independent yet able to collaborate with peers, we need you. Please contact the HOA Office for more information.
We extend our many thanks to those whose efforts and contributions make this publication possible from the participating committees and individual community members, our supportive advertisers and most especially, to you our readers.

Enjoy your summer!!

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**The Roundup** is the official bimonthly publication of the Yavapai Hills Home Owners Association.

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