

# Tanuri Ridge

A Quarterly HOA Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 3 -- Fall 2011

**The Old Cottonwood Tree**

The cottonwood tree that was in the Tanuri Ridge Desert Park was largest in Nation. Mark Popp shares 1985 Tucson Citizen article.

Page 4.

**The Big Old Saguaro**

This past winter was hard on many things, especially plants. Another Tanuri Ridge landmark is now a "thing of the past."

Page 1.

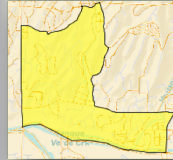
**Homeland of the Ancient Hohokam Indians**

Archaeologists have excavated two Hohokam villages along the Tanque Verde River near our neighborhood. An article by Larry Conyers.

Page 2.

**Who Are We and Where Do We Live?**

Jan Knight shares demographic census data on who we are and where we live.



Page 5.

**What is Community Supported Agriculture?**

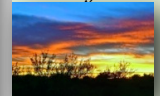
Beth Levy tells us that CSA is a "Win-Win" arrangement. See page 5.

**Meet Your Neighbors**

Lot 39 "Place" Page 3.

**Ridge Notes**

- Solar Panels
- Fall Fest
- Landscaping
- Optics In Nature
- "HOAs Turning to Managers Arizona Daily Star"



Page 1

**Ridge Notes:**

**Solar Panels** -- "Oh my gracious, our bill for June was \$26. How expensive! But, last year it was \$150." -- Bill Wolfe



**Landscaping** -- "Even though we are growing weary of daily temperatures reaching 100 degrees or more, most of us still have memories of the cold frosty weather we experienced this past winter. As we drive around our city, we continue to notice certain trees and plants that were severely damaged by the frost. Tanuri Ridge was no exception. In order to preserve plant stability, early in the spring we began an aggressive program of applying extra fertilizer and water, when needed, to our frost damaged plants throughout our landscaped common areas and within the town home front yards. As our

... continued on Page 3, Ridge Notes

**Another Tanuri Ridge Landmark Passes On**

Larry Conyers & Kenne Turner

Many who walk the trails down by the wash have seen and admired the stately multi-armed saguaro tree. An image of this beauty was included in the summer newsletter Photo Gallery. Whether because of its sheer weight or the recent harsh weather, this landmark has fallen. It was probably 200 years old or more when it froze and died. The other three large saguaros appear to have survived, but this largest most majestic saguaro is a sad loss. An inspection of many of the smaller, younger saguaros, show that most of them survived the freeze and are now thriving,

The majestic saguaro cactus is emblematic of southern Arizona, and there are many wonderful specimens in the Tanuri Ridge area. You may have noticed, however, that our neighborhood has few large saguaros and many smaller ones. There are a few of the mature saguaros in people's yards, but these appear to have been transplanted from elsewhere.

The density of large saguaros in Tanuri Ridge is far below the land next to our area. All you have to do is count the number of large saguaros you can see on the hills driving along River Road and compare that density to our neighborhood. In the open space in Tanuri Ridge you will notice that most of the small saguaros are growing under "nurse trees", which cover them somewhat to protect the juvenile cacti from direct sun and frost during their formative years. Birds, who eat the fruit of the few mature saguaros in the area drop the seeds when they roost in these nurse trees, and are the agents for moving the seeds around to new "nurse" locations in our neighborhood. ... continued on Page 3 Saguaro





## ANCIENT HOHOKAM INDIAN EXCAVATION NEAR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Larry Conyers

Our area of southern Arizona was the homeland of the ancient Hohokam Indians for thousands of years before the immigration of the Spanish from Mexico and Europeans from the eastern US, beginning in the 18th century. Two of the largest, and most impressive of the ancient Hohokam villages, now buried below the ground, have been excavated by archaeologists along the Tanque Verde River near our neighborhood.

When the U.S. Cavalry constructed Fort Lowell, along what is now Craycroft, the remains of a large Indian village was noticed and commented on. University of Arizona archaeologists excavated some of these ruins in the 1970s and found that there was a very dense habitation (now preserved under the baseball diamonds and tennis courts) of ancient Indian farmers in this area. The location of this ancient village appears to have been occupied from about the year 200 AD to 1150. The Hohokam people lived there in “pit houses”, which were structures dug into the ground with roofs covered with earth. They farmed the banks of the Tanque Verde and the Pantano Wash, where water flowed on the surface much of the year during these ancient times. In fact, it was the abundant water at the confluence of the Pantano and Tanque Verde that drew the cavalry to this area when Fort Lowell was built, as grass for their horses was abundant year-round.

While there are no remains of this ancient Hohokam village still visible on the surface at Fort Lowell park, a small “story board” with some pictures of what the village might have looked like, is located just east of the baseball diamonds. What I find particularly interesting is that in about 1150 this large village at Fort Lowell was totally abandoned and it appears that all these people moved about a mile to the east. They founded a new village, now preserved in the Indian Ridge neighborhood between the Tucson Country Club and Sabino Canyon Road, just south of the Tanque Verde Wash. I have been involved in excavating this ancient village, with University of Arizona faculty and students for the last 3 years. Some of you have taken field trips with me to this site in the past, and I will be offering another trip there this winter. The site is called University Indian Ruin (UIR), as the property on which the site is centered is owned by the University of Arizona, although most of the people that live in this neighborhood have ruins on their property.



One of the outstanding questions for archaeologists is why people left the Fort Lowell area and moved to UIR about the year 1150, abandoning the village where they and their ancestors had lived for almost 1,000 years. Even more puzzling is why they built their new village in the Indian Ridge area using a completely different building technology. At UIR they built two large “great houses”, which were as large and as impressive as the Casa Grande Ruins, which you might have visited north of Tucson. The largest great house today is still partially exposed on a large mound in the middle of the site, but it has mostly been eroded by rain since it was abandoned about the year 1425. We have also found evidence of many hundreds of houses surrounding the great house that were built as above ground dwellings with thatched roofs in “apartment building” structures. This is a very different architecture than their ancestors built at Fort Lowell. Were these people at UIR perhaps a completely different group of people with different ideas about how to build houses? Were they perhaps influenced by others with a different culture from outside the Tucson area? Or, were there cultural disruptions or some social organization changes that totally transformed Hohokam society about 1150? These are interesting and outstanding questions, which we are just beginning to ask and test with

new data from excavations. I have my own ideas about this interesting social transformation, which I will share with you during our field trip this coming winter (or when I see you at the pool or on walks around the neighborhood).

**Continued on Page 3, Artifacts . . .**



**Artifacts . . . continued from Page 2**

What we do know is that the group of people who lived at University Indian Ruin must have included “special people” that lived in the largest great house in the middle of the site. They were farmers whose corn, bean, cotton and squash fields were under what is now the Tucson Country Club golf course. Trade was also prevalent, and these people received shell jewelry from the Gulf of California and other items from far to the South in what is today Mexico. They were also in contact with the Pueblo people in northern Arizona and New Mexico as artifacts have been found from that area. One of the strangest finds from last winter was the butchered skeleton of a bison (The remains of a very large barbecue?), an animal that is not native to southern Arizona. Where did that creature come from? As with most archaeological projects, our excavations have generated new information that produces many more questions at the same time others are answered. Perhaps excavations this coming winter will yield new information that can help us understand these ancient inhabitants of our area of Tucson.

**Ridge Notes . . . continued from Page 1**

plants established new growth, we trimmed back the frost damaged sections. Most survived except for a few of our trees.  
-- Terri Ruther, HOA Landscape Chair

**Tanuri Ridge Fall Fest** -- The Fall Fest (resident get together at the pool/clubhouse) is being planned for:  
Sunday October 16th, 2011 4pm – 6:30pm  
As always it will be informal with residents bringing a dessert or appetizer to share -- Bring your own beverage (BYOB) Plates, cups, napkins are provided. More details to follow closer to the event.

Questions? Please contact Diane O'Rourke at [dizdiz333@yahoo.com](mailto:dizdiz333@yahoo.com) or 217-840-7180



**Optics In Nature** -- Last time I explained that we have sunsets that are red because of the selective nature of scattering by small particles. Blue is scattered more than red. Thus, blue skies and red sunsets. Clouds are different. The water droplets that make up clouds are about 1000 times larger than the light waves. Thus, all colors are scattered equally – neutral scattering. The droplets absorb light a little; that is why clouds are white near the top, gray further down and

even black at the bottom. But, we only have gorgeous sunsets when there are many clouds. The two go together. The clouds scatter the setting sun neutrally, all over the place, and the particles of the atmosphere filter out the blue light, leaving only the gorgeous reds to get to our eyes.  
-- Bill Wolfe

**Arizona Daily Star: HOAs turning to managers** -- Residents of Tanuri Ridge have always managed their community without a management company. “Nationally, between 15 and 25 percent of HOAs are self-managed, says the Community Associations Institute based in Falls Church, VA.” This number of self-managed HOAs has dropped dramatically over the last four decades.

Whether because of resident inquiries or his own interest in getting more information on our options, in July HOA President, Bill Johnston asked resident, Kenne Turner, to research management company options and report back to him. Our HOA continues to do a good job managing Tanuri Ridge. However, a maturing community can bring on new challenges that might be better managed in a partnership with a team of experts.

“Fees for hiring a management company are calculated on a case-by-case basis and factor in the types of services -- management, inspection, bookkeeping, for example -- and number of hours each month that will be required to meet the HOA's expectations.”

Your thoughts on whether our HOA should partner with a management company are welcomed.  
Contact: Bill Johnston or Kenne Turner.

**Saguaro . . . continued from page 1**

The loss of this old cactus has been cause for reflection:

*Before I made an offer on this property, I spotted this lovely unduly armed saguaro and knew it was likely to be one of the oldest saguaro's in southern Arizona. Over the past 150-200 years it's weathered many storms, many droughts and much sunshine day after day. It remained discreet when surrounded by coyotes, javelina, rabbits, rattlesnakes and neighborhood dogs. Bobcats, vultures and hawks used it for their viewpoint while screech owls exploited it to nest. In 2010, I removed some of my stucco wall so I could view it from anywhere on my patio. I didn't hear a thing when it began its descent, I only noticed it missing from my vista while enjoying my morning tea when I looked, and saw, and knew it would be no more. Each time I look at what is left, I remember the magnificence and glory that stood before me and I am saddened. – Patricia Cowan*



*Margarita and I would often talk about the old fella that we affectionally called “Methuselah.” We would think about the history of Arizona and of particularly about the history of Tucson that had transpired during the life of this wonderful cactus. I often thought about propping it up in some fashion to keep gravity from pulling it down but decided that its time was drawing to an end anyway. So sad to see it fall.. – David Berg*

**Changed your email? Your phone number? Please remember to keep Jan Knight informed so that she can continue to keep you informed!**  
[jan@bancroftinfo.com](mailto:jan@bancroftinfo.com)



**Cottonwood Tree At Tanuri Ridge Is Called The Largest In The Nation** by Kenne Turner & Mark Poop

This was the title of an article that appeared in the Tucson Citizen December 12, 1985, in the Home section. The article, probably submitted by the developer, (there is no byline) was promoting the 49-acre desert park owned by the residents of Tanuri Ridge. The old cottonwood tree, with a circumference of about 36 feet, was located at the park entrance. "The tree was determined to be the nation's largest by University of Arizona researchers." The article went on to say, "Cottonwood trees do not produce good tree rings, so researchers used a special foot-long drilling rod to remove a piece of the tree."



As a recent new resident of Tanuri Ridge, I have heard several references to the old cottonwood that was struck by lightning in the late 1980s and burned.

Thanks to resident Mark Popp for providing a copy of the article. Having been a resident since 1982, Mark remembers well the old cottonwood tree and its majestic appearance.



**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT LOT 39 "PLACE"**

-- Beth Yankee and Andy Jensen

Here, at one of several Country Club Vistas, live an unlikely pair, Beth Yankee, MD, and mass spectroscopist Andy Jensen. Beth was sent forth to study 'premed' at Valparaiso U. in 1955 and Andy said goodbye to his family at Whitewater, CA in the summer of 1947 (as the rest of the family began their 60th USA home relocation to their first love, Green Bay, WI.)

Beth never looked back until she finished med school at Wayne State in Detroit. She then volunteered to serve as a Lutheran missionary doctor in E. Nigeria at a 130-bed hospital and as a member of a Red Cross Relief Team during a civil war there (The Biafaran War of 1967 ... a total of eight years in all.) She then returned to begin a family practice plus ObGyn and surgery in Southern Michigan. Her parents and married brother were still residents of Manistee, MI, a four-hour drive north.

Andy, with scholarship in hand, headed for the University of Redlands, CA and graduated with a degree in Chemistry. He signed up to work at the US Naval Ordnance Test Station in '51, and wound up his civil service career working for the AF Rocket Propulsion Lab at Edwards AFB in 1964-65. His last assignment was to study UV spectroscopy of flames at ASU, Tempe, AZ.

There in church he read a plea from Lutheran Medical Missions for a Hospital Administrator. He said good-bye to Tempe and Andy and his now family of five, volunteered and were sent to E. Nigeria to serve the same hospital as Dr. Beth Yankee. Twenty-one years later and after several untimely family deaths, Beth and Andy were married in Charlotte, MI. That's all for now folks!



**Calendar Dates**

**Tanuri Ridge HOA Board Meeting**  
 Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm  
 Contact Bill Johnston at 577-7962  
 if you wish to attend.

**Tanuri Ridge Fall Fest**

The Fall Fest (resident get together at the pool & clubhouse) is being planned for:  
**Sunday October 16th, 2011 4pm – 6:30pm.**  
 As always it will be informal with residents bringing a dessert or appetizer to share – Bring your own beverage (BYOB) Plates, cups, napkins are provided. More details to follow closer to time.

Questions? Please contact Diane O'Rourke at [dizdiz333@yahoo.com](mailto:dizdiz333@yahoo.com) or 217-840-7180

Please submit calendar dates to [kenneturner@yahoo.com](mailto:kenneturner@yahoo.com)

**WIN – WIN ARRANGEMENT**

**Beth Levy**

The date on the calendar or the place you call home do not matter – everyone loves fresh produce. We are all aware of the health benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables. As an urban dweller having access to those fresh products used to be confined to shopping in a store or going to a market for produce. There is now an alternative for fresh product – besides trying to grow things on your own. Recently Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a presence in many communities around the country.

The participant in a CSA is the farmer and the consumer – usually known as a shareholder. The details for each group of farmers and consumers vary but the idea is founded on the same principle. The shareholder pays a certain amount of money for a share of the farm's bounty. The consumer receives an agreed upon number of harvest pick-ups at a predetermined location. This arrangement gives the farmer some working capital needed at the beginning of each growing season and the connection to a community. They become that community's farm. The shareholder has access to freshly picked produce and a partnership with a farm.

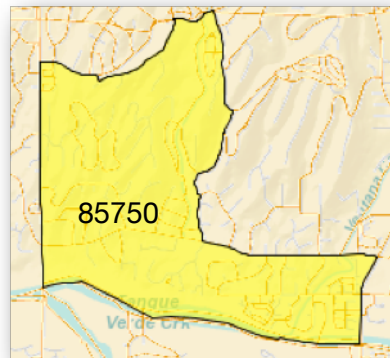
Some of the fruits and vegetables that are part of the harvest are items you might never consider buying in a supermarket such as kale, fava beans and kohlrabi. There is fun and satisfaction in trying new foods. Most often the haul is way more than you would be able to eat on your own – a perfect opportunity to share the bounty with friends and family whether you invite them to your home or drop off some goodies for them to enjoy. Community Supported Agriculture is a perfect opportunity to support local farmers and their efforts to help us connect with the farm and all it has to offer.

Links to CSA programs in Tucson [Down On The Farm](#) and [Tucson CSA Department of Agriculture Information about CSA's](#)

**Who Are We & Where Do We Live?**

Jan Knight, HOA Communications Chair (Source: Census.gov)

We all know that we live in Zip Code 85750. But, did you know that according to the Census we live in a geographic designation of “Block Group 1, Census Tract 47.21”? Demographic data aren't always available for the Block Group or smaller, but for the *Census Tract 47.21*, a geographic area smaller than a zip code, and in this case encompasses roughly the area between Craycroft and Sabino Canyon and the wash on our south to Territory Drive on our north, here are a few facts about us:



- Total Population:** 3,419
- Median Age:** 50.7
- Males:** 1,680
- Median Male Age:** 49.3
- Females:** 1,739
- Female Median Age:** 51.8
- Race:** 89.4% white, 4.9% Asian, 2.2% African American
- Total Housing Units:** 2,128
- Occupied Housing Units:** 1,845
- Housing units for seasonal, recreational or occasionally use:** 49 (2.3%)
- Renter- Occupied housing units:** 820

**Tanuri Ridge Newsletter -- Vol. 1 No.3**

**Want to participate?** This newsletter is published quarterly on a one year trial basis. Whether it continues after one year will depend on the interest and participation of Tanuri Ridge residents. However, like most endeavors, someone needs to take the lead in getting it started. Contributors to this issue:

- Larry Conyers
- Patricia Cowan
- Bill Johnston
- Andy Jensen
- Jan Knight
- Beth Levy
- Tom O'Rourke
- Mark Popp
- Kenne Turner
- Bill Wolfe
- Beth Yankee

Contact Kenne Turner [kenneturner@yahoo.com](mailto:kenneturner@yahoo.com) with your newsletter content ideas, copy and photos. Example Topics:

- What's your favorite thing about living in Tanuri Ridge?
- How have things changed since the beginning of Tanuri Ridge?
- What was Tanuri Ridge like back in the beginning? (We need history stories.)
- Do you have an expertise or topic of interest you would like to share?
- Have you participated in an event or project you would like to share?



# TANURI RIDGE PHOTO GALLERY

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS TO THE GALLERY



Tanuri Ridge Community Center Pool -- Image by Kenne Turner



Bobcat Kittens -- Image by Jan Knight



Tanuri Ridge in the Snow, December, 1987 -- Image by Mark Papp



Catalinas in The Snow, December, 1987 -- Image by Mark Papp



Bobcat Kitten -- Image by Jan Knight



Tree Pruning -- Image by Kenne Turner



Orange Red Hibiscus -- Image by Kenne Turner



Tanuri Ridge Pool -- Image by Kenne Turner



Tanuri Ridge Pool Entrance -- Image by Kenne Turner