

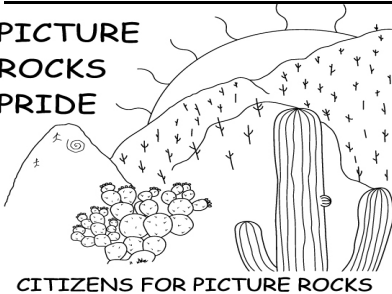
PICTURE ROCKS DIGEST

Vol. 14, No. 2

For more information, visit our website at www.CitizensForPictureRocks.org

February 2016

PICTURE ROCKS PRIDE



Welcome to the *Picture Rocks Digest*, a free newsletter about issues and events in the community. The print version of this all-volunteer publication is distributed at area businesses and community sites. The electronic version is available online at www.CitizensForPictureRocks.org and via email. If you have events or news items, or if you would like to be added to our email list, please contact us at PictureRocksDigest@comcast.net.

The *Picture Rocks Digest* is a publication of Citizens for Picture Rocks, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(4) civic organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the community. C4PR meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (except June, July and December) at the Picture Rocks Community Center, 5615 N. Sanders Road, with Iced Tea Social Time at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are always free and open to the public. Membership not required to attend. Annual membership dues are \$12/person.

CITIZENS FOR PICTURE ROCKS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

**Guest Speaker: Vin Nitido, CEO and
General Manager, Trico Electric Cooperative**

Topic: Trico rate hike and other news.

Iced Tea Social Time at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Picture Rocks Community Center

5615 N. Sandario Road

Free. All Welcome.

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK LITTER CLEAN-UP DAY

Come out and help our neighbors clean up. Saguaro National Park will have a Litter Clean-Up Day on Monday, February 15. Meet at the Cam-Boh Picnic Area at 9:00 a.m. and clean up along Picture Rocks Road.

Wear long pants, sturdy closed-toed shoes, hats and sunscreen. Bring plenty of water and snacks. All tools and gloves will be provided. Contact Corina Yeh at corina_yeh@partner.nps.gov for details or to sign up.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

January's board meeting of the Picture Rocks Fire Department, PRFD, dealt with the question that many citizens have regarding the LED announcement board on Sandario Road. State law requires that any announcements be directly related to fire department business, the mission of the fire department, or public safety. So, even though there is contract language that they accept any submission, at this time that language is pre-empted by state law.

Go to the PRFD website at picturerocksfire.org and you will see a form to submit announcements. You can request that they use your message, but if the content does not fit the criteria above, they will not display it. Many requests will fit the public safety requirement. The form also asks how many seconds you want to light up your message, so you can ask for a slower speed.

The website will carry monthly board minutes after they are approved at the subsequent month's board meeting. Expect to see December 2015 minutes soon.

An update on Firefighter Chris Farmer and his family – they celebrated the first birthday of their little girl. You might remember that she was born with a serious medical condition. She spent the first eight months in the hospital but is now able to come home several days a week. Residents continue to wish the best for her and the whole family.

(Continued on page 2)

JANUARY CITIZENS FOR PICTURE ROCKS MEETING

On Tuesday, January 19, citizens from the Picture Rocks community met to discuss issues happening around town. Those in attendance voiced concerns and announced events. Issues about Pima Animal Control were discussed and have yet to be addressed. We hope to have a representative come out and answer questions.

Other topics suggested for upcoming meetings were news from the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, and Saguaro National Park. We hope to have representatives from these departments come and speak with us on issues that affect our community. The Elder Alliance and transportation needs, Ina Road construction, the RTA Transportation Survey and the I-11 Bypass are other topics to be discussed at future meetings.

The Picture Rocks Community Center has a lot going on. Trunk o' Treats on Halloween is the most popular event. Thanksgiving dinner and Cookies and Cocoa with Santa are for everybody. Volunteers are needed for the PRCC Library. There is Tech Support for those who need help with the latest gadgets. Contact Adam Bernal at 682-7166 for details.

**C4PR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE GOING ON NOW!
JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
FOR ONLY \$12/YEAR.
SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS.**

Another agenda item was a report from the independent auditor that found just a few areas for improvement, but a much better billing procedure and improved policies and procedures. PRFD will end the use of the old fire station on Sandario Road by the end of February. There are no plans to put anything else there at this time.

END OF LIFE CARE PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Free, interactive workshops that guide you through advance care planning for End of Life Care will be offered at the Picture Rocks Community Center in February.

Talking about end of life choices can be difficult. This class will empower attendees with words to discuss difficult topics with loved ones and tools to make difficult decisions related to quality of life, advanced illness and treatment decisions. End of Life Care Coalition members will answer your questions and help you, if you are ready, to put your end of life care plan in writing.

End of Life Care Planning Workshops will be held at PRCC, 5615 N. Sanders Road, during the day on Thursdays, February 18 and February 25, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and in the evening on Mondays, February 22 and February 29, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to attend two sessions to complete the workshop.

The End of Life Care Planning Workshops will help you make a plan and complete your advanced directives. They are open to the public at no cost; anyone over 18 is invited to participate. Official State of Arizona forms and Five Wishes booklets and other useful tools and resources to make this important task easier to complete will be available for all participants. By planning, you make decisions that reflect your wishes for end of life care and create a guide for loved ones and health care professionals to follow.

Attendance is limited. Call 520-903-3924 to reserve a spot. The End of Life Care Coalition is dedicated to providing education and resources that prepare adults to plan end of life care. Their efforts are part of the ELDER Alliance and are funded by the Shaaron Kent Endowment Fund, Community Foundation for South-ern Arizona and the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Clients can pick up food at the Ortiz Community Health Center at 12635 W. Radasill Road on the second Wednesday of each month between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Picture ID required. To qualify, sign up at 11734 W. Grier in Marana Tuesday-Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information, call 682-3001.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PICTURE ROCKS

Every Thursday: Hummin' and Strummin' (March will mark 15 years!)

Feb. 3: C4PR Coordinating Committee Meeting

Feb. 15: Saguaro National Park President's Day Litter Pick-Up. (See story on p. 1.)

Feb. 16: TRICO CEO Vin Nitido will be the guest speaker at the Citizens for Picture Rocks monthly meeting. (See announcement on p. 1.)

Feb. 18: Hiking Club to meet at PRCC for a group hike.

Feb. 18: Picture Rocks Fire Department Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Feb. 18 & 25, and Feb. 22 & 29: End of Life Planning Workshops. (See story on p. 2).

March 12: Hike the Monument at Ironwood National Monument.

SENIOR SERVICES

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) offers seniors in Picture Rocks transportation to medical appointments, pharmacies, and grocery shopping; mobile meals along certain routes; and help with shopping and home repairs. Most services are free, except mobile meals and home repair expenses.

Contact Mary at 297-6049, ext. 223, for all services except mobile meals. The mobile meals program contact is Janis at 297-6049, ext. 208. Can you help by volunteering your time to provide transportation to a senior or disabled person? Email Volunteer Resources Manager Tori Carlson at tcarlson@icstucson.org, or call 297-6049, ext. 217.

ABOUT CITIZENS FOR PICTURE ROCKS....

Citizens for Picture Rocks, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose charter states that it exists for the "purpose of promoting the common good and general welfare of the community" of Picture Rocks. It is an organization of the people and for the people of the community. Membership in Citizens for Picture Rocks (C4PR) is open to all community residents, but membership is not needed to attend any monthly meeting of C4PR.

Citizens for Picture Rocks serves as the focal point to amplify and advocate for policy and practical changes in matters that affect the daily lives of our community residents. The group has advocated for and accomplished the following: 1) Pima County Sheriff substation; 2) BMX/Skateboard Park and subsequent lighting; 3) Ortiz Community Medical Clinic; 4) Revised and updated Flood Plain designations; 5) State and local political candidate forums to hear and question the candidates; 6) Computer Lab at the Community Center; 7) Shade for the playground; 8) Community Resource Fairs; 9) Swimming Pool; 10) Safe Routes to Schools sidewalks and bike lanes; 11) Picture Rocks Fire Department electronic sign.

Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Picture Rocks Community Center at 5615 N. Sanders Rd. Website: www.CitizensForPictureRocks.com. The next meeting is February 16 with guest speaker Vin Nitido, CEO and General Manager of Trico. Free and open to all. Membership not required. Annual member dues are \$12/person.

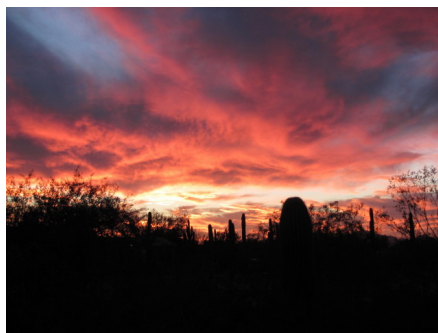
BUILDING A COMMUNITY WEST OF TUCSON

Part 1 of 4

By Albert Vetere Lannon

The Avra Valley, named with an O'odham word meaning "wide," was farmed by the ancestral Huhugam peoples for thousands of years. When the southwest was conquered by Spain and became Mexico, land grants established cattle ranches that still exist today. The name of the unincorporated community of Picture Rocks comes from many ancient petroglyphs in the area, notably along the wash below the Redemptorist Renewal Center on Picture Rocks Road just east of the Tucson Mountains. That center was built in 1965.

There are about 9,000 residents in the 55 square miles of Picture Rocks, and another 4,000 in the adjacent unincorporated communities of Avra Valley and Avra Valley West. The valley is shared with ranchers like Oscar L. Garcia, whose family has run cattle here for about 200 years, and with Tucson Water and Saguaro National Park. The City of Tucson bought up many parcels in the 1970s to build settling ponds for Colorado River water to recharge the aquifer.



Sunsets in
Picture Rocks
are unbeatable!

Tucson Water also planted a lot of non-native buffelgrass to control erosion. That invasive grass, also used for cattle forage, was later banned in Arizona as a "noxious weed." Tucson Water and neighboring Saguaro National Park are using aerial spraying to fight buffelgrass, and neighbors have been sickened and plants killed, prompting protests.

West of Picture Rocks and Avra Valley is the O'odham Nation, the second-largest reservation in the U.S., with over 4,000 square miles and over 10,000 people within its four sections. This section of the reservation was created in 1916 with Sells, then called Indian Oasis, as its center. A finger of "The Rez" reaches to Sandario Road south of Picture Rocks, creating a problem for backers of an Interstate 11 route through the Avra Valley.

Where O'odham Nation land comes to Sandario, there is only an 80-foot right-of-way (ROW) with the federal Bureau of Reclamation's Wildlife

Mitigation Corridor on the east side of the road. That corridor was established when the Central Arizona Project canal was built. I-11 needs an 800-foot ROW. I-11 backer and Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry has proposed using Sandario as the base for an elevated freeway starting at Mile Wide Road to accommodate a new highway.

The Man in the
Maze, an O'odham
symbol representing
the journey of life.



O'ODHAM RIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS SPEAKER SERIES

The O'odham VOICE Against the WALL organization has announced its Distinguished Speakers series taking place at Cat Mountain Lodge in the Tucson Estates area:

Feb. 27: John Zerzan is a critic of unbridled technology and the resulting "civilization" with numerous books and articles published.


March 5: Dr. Julian Kunnie is a University of Arizona Professor currently working on a prison project looking at race, class, gender, and the growing incarceration of young people of color.

March 12: Ruben Cu:k Ba'ak is an O'odham poet and prose writer who also looks at the economics of the O'odham Nation.

March 19: Laura Tohe is the current Poet Laureate of the Navajo Nation, with many books in print.

March 26: Simon Ortiz is a widely respected and well-known Puebloan poet from Acoma Pueblo, author and editor of 25 books and recipient of many awards. He teaches at Arizona State University.

O'odham activist Ofelia Rivas will also speak at all events. The Ramada at Cat Mountain Lodge is at 3030 Donald Avenue, north of Ajo Road and Western Way off the west side of Kinney Road. A donation of \$20 or more is requested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. All events begin at 6:30 p.m., with featured speakers at 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Ofelia Rivas, 520-308-9904; Dan Todd, 520-982-1835; or Cat Mountain Lodge, 520-578-6085.



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520-616-7145

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