

What's new in your neighborhood?

# Countryside Villas

July 1999

Vol. 2 No. 2

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Gene Fanning, President 579-1671  
Sue Gac, Vice President 579-9582  
Julie Ogden, Secretary 572-8377  
Carole Bayer, Treasurer 744-0932  
Rodney Tipping, Member at Large 579-9754



**The Villas Mailbox**

4879 W. Doria Drive



## BOARD MEETING NOTICE


It's that time again...

**When:** Monday, July 19, 1999  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Countryside Community Center

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**Just call me "Mother"** This is another discussion of the birds and the bees! Because of the heat, I bought Sarah (my Lab) a wading pool and put it in the back yard under a Palo Verde Tree which was a little stupid as it drops more refuse than most species. That meant I had to empty it and fill it with clean water but that also meant the bushes and posies would get a watering they appreciated. The winds and gusts and sprinkles soon littered the pool again but I left it. One morning after Sarah and I had walked, I went into the back yard to sow bird seed and I went over to the pool and saw there was something little, itty-bitty moving around in the water. 'They' were so small I couldn't even tell what 'they' were. I got my magnifying glass, knelt down and bent over the pool and got as close as I could - without drowning - and 'they' looked like polliwogs or tadpoles!!!!!! Holy Cow!

I looked up Fish and Game (by now, I should know the number by heart!) and I explained what I thought I had seen and declared I wanted NOBODY to laugh at me and the gal said to hang on, she would find someone who knew more than she. She came back on the line and said the polliwogs WERE tadpoles of either the Colorado River Toad or the Spade Foot Frog which come up from the earth, lay their eggs and probably roam around looking for another father-to-be before they go back down under for another season!

They were peculiar acting little wigglers ( I used a tea strainer, scooped up a few, put them on a sheet of white paper and stared at them through the magnifying glass ) as they would roll up into a ball, then bounce, unroll, wiggle and back into the ball position.

I am well aware of the danger of the Colorado River Toad  because of their poison glands that can kill a pet. If your dog tries to grab, lick, bite or just 'mouth' the toad, it can be lethal as they excrete a secretion that causes the throat of the pet to swell and they can die. **IF SUCH OCCURS, TAKE THE WATER HOSE, INSERT INTO THE MOUTH OF YOUR PET AND FLUSH AND FLUSH AND FLUSH** until you get the mouth and upper throat clean and void of the poison. Do not drown the poor soul as they will gasp and resist.

I had mentioned one time I had installed a piece of wire mesh on my front gate...easy to do, just attach a strip to the bottom of your gate to keep out both rattlesnakes and the Colorado River Toad (Bufoalvarius) which I have seen. If you have a remodeled back yard fence that has a couple openings for water escape, you could (and we did) cover those openings with the wire mesh also.

The Colorado River Toad is the biggest toad in the USA and is kinda olive to dark brown with a smooth shiny skin. If you wanna look, it's belly is cream colored. It is nocturnal and it's call is a "weak, low-pitched toot, lasting less than a second". The Spadefoot frog which I do not think I have ever seen, is different in as much as it is smaller, dusky-olive to brown or gray and it lays its eggs on vegetation. I am NOT an expert but I would guess we have more of the frogs than the toads.

**THANKS** Since this is MY nickle, I want to thank all the people who leave **aluminum cans** at my gate. I have a seventeen year old niece in New York State who has cystic fibrosis and managed to graduate from high school this year with plans to go on to college. That's where all the revenue from the cans goes to the **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** as it has for over seventeen years. Keep 'em coming



**DOGGY DEPOSITS** This last "thrust" is to the owner who has a canine that has a bowel movement on our common grounds. I have made this statement to anyone I have seen: I am **TIRED** of picking up the deposits for which I do not blame the canine: I blame the owner.

And I have said publicly, if I **EVER** see the "act", I will trace it to it's home and throw the feces through the gate and into the yard! Since many residents appear to agree with me, the owner of that pet who does not pick up the "deposit" will never know who tossed "IT". Shame on the owner but not the pet. **PLEASE** carry a plastic bag when you walk your pet. *Ruth E. Bolen*



### **ATTENTION HANDYPERSONS**

Our neighbor, Ray, has discovered the tops of our garages and square shaped arches over the gates need to be checked for cracks. He found sizable cracks and breaks that are allowing water to seep down into the wood framework that will eventually cause the wood to rot.

Ray used patching stucco (Ace \$5.00 for a 5 lb. bucket) to repair the cracks and holes and then used rubberized roofing compound to coat the top of the arch to seal the surface. Thanks, Ray.

### **LANDSCAPING UPDATE**

We are having some problems with our irrigation system, which we are working on. In the meantime, please water any plantings at your front gate if you notice they are looking stressed. It shouldn't be too much of a concern while we are having our monsoon rains. Hopefully, we can locate and resolve the situation soon.

## **Parking Notice**

Last year we added very nice signs to the parking areas which designate these areas for **SHORT TERM AND VISITOR PARKING - ONLY**.

We have some new residents who might not be aware of the designated use of these areas. Please be aware our vehicles are to be parked in our garages so these parking areas can be used by our visitors and residents for short periods of time.

If you have a need to use these parking areas for longer than a few hours at a time, please contact your President, Gene Fanning at 579-1671 for a **PARKING PERMIT**.

Thanks for your help!