



**Halloween Party**  
**Sat, Oct 25 (5-7pm)**  
**Countryside Community Center**  
 Costume contest, food, drinks, fun!  
**Call 744-2403**  
 to register by October 20th

**...Speaking of  
 Creepy-Crawly!**



Photo by Monique

**Bark Scorpion**

Stinger barb →

Pictured above is a **poisonous Bark Scorpion** captured and killed by Villas' resident "Whiskers" the cat. Notice he removed the legs without getting stung (the tail barb is still intact!). Cats are handy pets to have around, they can disarm and kill a scorpion in minutes. They don't get stung because their fur is too thick for the scorpion's stinger to penetrate and a cat is too quick and agile. Dogs are not so lucky and often get stung on the nose and can become very ill. **Watch an amazing video of a cat in action vs. a scorpion:**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPIJ39dXDPY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPIJ39dXDPY)

# Villas Voice

Countryside Villas Newsletter—October 2008



Photo: www.erowid.com

**PET OWNERS BEWARE and  
 AWARE of the SONORAN  
 DESERT TOAD** (*Bufo alvarius*)

Recently our neighbor was alarmed to see her dog sprawled out and salivating on the sidewalk inside her yard. She quickly rinsed his mouth with water. Later, she saw him nosing a toad in her garden. The dog is fine now but let this serve as a reminder/warning that this is still the season for the **Sonoran Desert Toad**, aka **Colorado River Toad** (scientific name *Bufo alvarius*).

Sonoran Desert Toads are nocturnal and like well lit areas so that their bug and fly hunting is well illuminated. They live in the dirt/mud and are commonly found here during the monsoon season which is usually from **July to September**. The problem is that these toads secrete a toxin from the back of their heads which is where animals are most likely to grab them. Animals can make contact with this toxin by licking, biting, or playing with the toads. **Bufos like to sit on dogs' water dishes and can make a dog ill** by this simple action alone. Keep in mind that the dog does not have to swallow the toxin—just getting it in his/her mouth can cause toxicity. Animal owners usually can make the diagnosis because they see their pet playing with the toad. However, if as in the case of our neighbor, a dog is found down and the cause is not known, **other telltale signs are:** mouth irritation and excessive drooling (the drool looks like shaving cream). **Symptoms can include** heart arrhythmias, seizures, collapse, vomiting and diarrhea, weakness, difficulty breathing, cyanosis, hallucinations, and even death. Cats reportedly do not usually develop this toxicity. It is more commonly seen in dogs.

If you see your pet playing with a toad and there are signs of toxicity, rinse your pet's mouth with water immediately from a garden hose directed to the side of the mouth, rather than down the throat, then **take your pet to a vet immediately.**

REFERENCES: [www.speedwayvet.com/swpage2.htm](http://www.speedwayvet.com/swpage2.htm)  
[www.erowid.org/archive/sonoran\\_desert\\_toad/poisoning.htm](http://www.erowid.org/archive/sonoran_desert_toad/poisoning.htm)

# Contacts:



## HOA BOARD:

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Gene Fanning 579-1671

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Stan Astemborski 572-1723

### **Secretary: Monique Alponte**

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### **Landscape Committee:**

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Monique Alponte

### **Landscaping Issues:**

Call Jo Ann (579-1671)

### **DCC&R:**

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## Oct 20th @ 7pm

## Next Board Meeting:

### Mon, Oct 20 @ 7pm

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at:

**Countryside Community Center**

**9151 N Bald Eagle, Tucson AZ 85742 Tel: 744-4614**

[www.cccanews.com](http://www.cccanews.com)

All Homeowners in the Villas are welcome

**DISCLAIMER:** These services were submitted by homeowners in the Villas. Per ARS 33-1811 these listings in no way benefit any member of the board of directors or any person related to them, nor does the association endorse these services.



## Handyman

### Complete Homecare

**Jim: 955-4351**

All types of home repair, painting, stucco, utility doors & more

## House Cleaning, Etc.

**Services by Sally: 219-4085**

Superior housecleaning, reliable, flexible, reasonable rates, references; windows, pet care, errands, & more



The Villas Paint Scheme & Specifications are posted on the Villas' website. If you have more questions please call Gene (579-1671)



## Landscaping

### Perfect Landscaping

**Marvin: 867-1902**

Tree, vegetation trimming, sprinklers

## Computer Repair

### Rent-a-Techie

Comes to Your House

**Matt: 790-0279**

[mgarrett@rent-a-techie.com](mailto:mgarrett@rent-a-techie.com)



**HOA Mailbox:**

Located at 4879 Doria Dr

**Suggestion box**

(not for payments)



**The Villas' website:**

**[www.CountrysideVillas.Wordpress.com](http://www.CountrysideVillas.Wordpress.com)**