

Community Briefing



RIO RICO PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
DBA

“RESIDENTS OF RIO RICO”

Thank You, Firefighters!

Special points of interest:

- *“Treasure Market” Event Scheduled*
- *Town Hall Meeting on Property Tax Increase*
- *New Website for RORR*
- *Update on Baca Float Lawsuit*

Teamwork Defeats Murphy Fire

Just a couple of weeks ago, the entire range of the Tumacacori Mountains blazed. The "Murphy" wildfire, fed by last year's luxuriant monsoon crop of grasses and weeds, was moving swiftly south along the western edge of the Atascosas and across Peck Canyon. Rio Rico was choked with clouds of smoke. Westside residents, if not packing up valued possessions, were at least making a list.

Throughout the week of the fire, fire crews, including

many members of our own departments, were deployed to contain its boundaries. On Sunday, June 5, crews set a series of backfires along the western border of the community, successfully keeping the fire to the west, preventing property loss and eliminating the need for evacuations.

In the light of what has happened with the Monument Fire, we know that this could have gone very differently. We extend to everyone who manned the Murphy Fire our heartfelt thanks for their courage

and hard work. And we are highly appreciative of the science and skill with which this potential disaster was managed.



Moon over Murphy Fire in Beautiful Rio Rico, AZ

Inside this issue:

<i>Thanks to our Firefighters</i>	1
<i>Scholarship Awards</i>	1
<i>Baca Float Lawsuit</i>	2
<i>New RORR Website</i>	2
<i>Town Hall Meeting</i>	3
HELP WANTED	3
<i>First-Ever Treasure Market</i>	3

RORR 2011 Scholarships Awarded

The Board of RORR has awarded college scholarship grants to seniors at RRHS. Victoria Elizabeth Ahumada and Lucero I. Pesqueira, members of the Class of 2011 were honored with certificates and a \$1,000 scholarship in a presentation at the high school on May 19.

Scholarship Chairwoman, Helen Serras-Herman, and her committee reviewed a number of written proposals and interviewed each candidate before making the awards.

This year, an additional scholarship was granted to Esther Valenzuela Mendoza, a 2004 graduate of RRHS, who currently works at La Posada in

Green Valley and attends Pima Community College. This special award was proposed by Henry and Augusta Feinstein, who endowed the scholarship fund and who now reside at La Posada. Ms. Mendoza is a nursing student at Pima Community College. Congratulations to all our recipients!

Town Hall Meeting Packs Community Center

A Town Hall Meeting of the "Residents of Rio Rico" drew a large crowd to the Community Center on Tuesday afternoon, June 21.

Residents of Santa Cruz County from Nogales and Tubac also attended to hear County Supervisor John Maynard's presentation on the county's current budgetary situation.

Mr Maynard provided a clear picture of the decline in revenue, both of monies derived from the State and from reduction of total property taxes due to falling valuations. He also detailed numerous

steps that the Board of Supervisors has taken to reduce expenditures over the past four years as the economic crisis deepened

As property valuations will continue to be adjusted downward in the coming fiscal year, a property tax rate adjustment of \$.23 has been proposed as the basis for the next budget. This translates to an additional \$23.00 per year per \$100,000 of assessed evaluation. The Board will also consider creation of a new county-wide library district to be funded with an additional \$.15. This makes a total adjustment of \$.38, although, if existing libraries in the county

opt out of the library district, the total could be reduced somewhat.

Proposed changes and the new budget need to be in place by August 18. The Board of Supervisors will hold public meetings to consider these issues. These meetings will be posted on the RORR website as they are scheduled.

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Help Wanted

RORR Governmental Liaison: The recent Standing Room Only attendance at RORR's Town Hall Meeting suggests a level of interest in the conduct of county government as it may apply to us in Rio Rico. The Board of Directors is seeking a member to act as Governmental Liaison. The person for this role is someone with both the freedom to attend meetings of various governmental organizations and an interest in finding out what's going on.

Treasure Market to be held on September 3

Is your garage so full you can't get your car in there?

Do you have boxes of unsold yard sale items? Are you ready to replace your furniture, your wardrobe, your library? Well, come on down for the Treasure Market on Saturday, September 3rd, and unload that stuff!

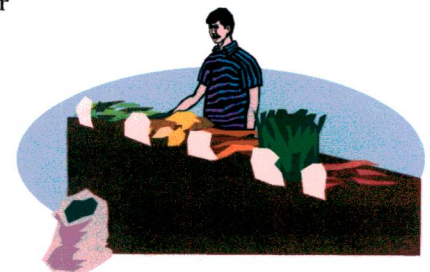
Well, yes, it IS a flea market. But let's face it, "one man's trash is another man's treasure." So, why not call it a Treasure Market and let the dogs keep the fleas?

If your interested in picking up some real bargains, then the Community Center from 9am to 4pm is the place to be. If you want to participate as a seller, space will be

available inside the Center and outside. Watch for a new page on the RORR website where you can get your booth application.

Food and drinks will be available, and there will be entertainment as well.

We are hoping to make it a Rio Rico tradition.



PAGE 3

Baca Float Wins a Round by Kathi Campana



“This was Round 1 in the battle for the Santa Gertrudis easement and an important first step.”

In early 2008, a large gate was erected on Santa Gertrudis Lane (SGL), effectively closing off a main access point for northeast Rio Rico, Morning Star Ranch, Tubac Foothills Ranch and Salero Ranch. This action created a public safety issue, economic hardship for commuters and local business owners, as well as increased time and dollar costs for delivery of goods and services. At that time, Baca Float Coalition was formed to keep the river crossings open to the northeast area of the old Baca Float Spanish Land Grant. Attempts were made to meet with and discuss the concerns of lane residents who had asked the railroad to erect the gate. They refused to recognize our right to use the historic crossing.

Baca Float Coalition then began raising monies for a legal

fund to pursue getting the lane reopened. Attorneys were retained to pursue obtaining legal access to SGL. In July, 2010, Baca Float Coalition, Inc., along with two named complainants, filed a complaint against Union Pacific Railroad, Santa Gertrudis Lane Road Association, LLC, and several property owners along Santa Gertrudis Lane. Union Pacific counter-claimed and in early 2011 filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. The case was heard in Superior Court, and UPRR’s Motion was denied.

Why is this victory important? It was presumed impossible to prevail against UPRR. This was Round 1 in the battle for the SGL easement and an important first step. It may position the attorneys to negotiate

a settlement, or barring a settlement, to schedule the trial, probably in March, 2012.

These actions put Baca Float Coalition, Inc. back into fund-raising mode so that we have the financial means to prevail against the railroad. For all who would use this crossing if it were reopened, consider the additional costs to travel south several miles, cross, and then to retrace those miles back to the north in order to get to work, shopping, medical appointments, and emergency services. Then consider contributing to Baca Float Coalition, Inc.’s SGL Legal Fund so that we can finish the job we started on your behalf. Send contributions to **BFC Legal Fund, P. O. Box 4467, Rio Rico, AZ 85648-4467.**



Revised RORR Website Now Online

The Board of Directors of "Residents of Rio Rico" recently published a revised website to the Internet:

www.residentsofriorico.com.

The new site will be a frequently-updated resource you can access for information on upcoming events and other featured content relevant to the operation of the Community Center and the mission of our civic organization.

At the website, you can:

—View an up-to-date calendar of upcoming events

—Get contact information for the Board member who can help you

—Print a RORR membership application

—Print a Community Center Rental Agreement

—View the most recently approved Minutes of the Board Meetings

—View the most recently approved Treasurer's Report

—Review the guidelines for use of the Community Sign

As the site is further developed, we hope to make it more useful to you. Please contact Robin White at 520-870-2025 with questions, comments and suggestions.