

Notes from the President

Happy New Year FQ Story! I hope 2017 is treating you well and wish you a happy Valentine's Day.

2016 Home Tour – Our Home Tour was a success. Although we had a less than usual number of homes on tour, the one's we had were beautiful ones. Thank you to those that opened your doors to the Greater Phoenix area...without you, there is no Home Tour. I'd also like to extend my personal appreciation to the Home Tour Subcommittee for making it happen with probably the least experienced crew in many years. It went so well, I'm hearing there are already a few volunteers for the next tour subcommittee, so we're already off to an awesome start. A reminder to all of you on Willetta, it's your turn this year!

Trap, Neuter, & Release (TNR) – I appreciated the many responses I received about whether the SPA should fund a TNR program. There were several calls and emails that were against the idea. Many reasons were given, but unfortunately no alternatives, at least humane or legal ones, were provided. I also heard from neighbors on both how TNR has helped them directly and that doing nothing would only serve to increase the numbers of feral cats in our neighborhood. From the feedback I received, a majority of you were in favor of establishing an official TNR program in the Story neighborhood. From that, a subcommittee was tasked to research the feasibility of providing a successful program and the SC believes they have. Gathering information from surrounding neighborhoods with established programs, as well as city and county officials, the Steering Committee voted to approve funds through April. More details on how the program will work and who to contact will come shortly from the subcommittee.

FAA Update – As many of you may already know, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal 2017 which included a provision dealing with FAA flight paths. Senator McCain's amendment required the FAA to review all flight path changes after February 2012. Reviews are to determine if there has been significant impact to residents and what mitigation efforts could be provided, to include adjusting new flight paths. Former President Obama signed the Act into law. On the legal front, we've been waiting to hear if oral arguments would be needed for our case. We were notified in January they have been scheduled for March 17th.

2017 Elections – Steering Committee Elections are coming up in April. Contact Maureen Towne (info in the contact and email section) to submit nominees and request absentee ballots. Look for her article in this StoryTime. Please submit any resolutions or bylaw changes as soon as possible and no later than March 2nd so they can be included on the absentee ballots.

As always, please contact me if there's anything I can help with.
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