



The Greenbelt

Summer, 2021

Volume VI, Issue 1 #67

Southwest Facing Significant Drought Challenges

Some are calling it a "Megadrought"

Beginning at its June meeting, the Mirage Crossing HOA Board of Directors began a community discussion regarding the extreme drought conditions in the Southwest, what some are calling a "megadrought." Drought conditions have been building over this region of the country for the past several years.

The Hoover Dam reservoir, with water from the Colorado River feeding into Lake Mead, provides water to 40 million people living in cities, farms, and tribal lands in the states of Arizona, Nevada, California, and in the country of Mexico. Years of drought and higher temperatures have significantly reduced the flow into the lake. According to the Arizona Republic, "Lake Mead has declined to its lowest level since the reservoir was filled in the 1930s following the construction of Hoover Dam." (See photo below).



In 2000, Lake Mead was nearly full. Since then, the reservoir has fallen nearly 143 feet and is now at its lowest levels since 1937. In the past month, Lake Mead has fallen below the threshold of a shortage declaration as defined by the federal government. This has the potential, next year, to bring about major cuts in water allotments to Arizona, Nevada and the country of Mexico according to the terms of the drought contingency plan signed by these three states, but Arizona would be hit hardest by the cutbacks. Even bigger water reductions could be forced upon the Southwest if the reservoir continues to drop, which the federal government is forecasting to be likely.

At this time, it is unclear what form these cuts might take. Thanks to the work of former Board Treasurer, Frank Gollings, notable progress has been made at Mirage Crossing over the past 6 years to reduce water usage

Drought Challenges Cont'd above right column

Drought Challenges Cont'd

by the irrigation system while the usage by the 56 buildings has basically remained in a "predictable" range.

The HOA budget for 2021 residential, clubhouse, and irrigation water is \$121,000.00. Water expense in recent years indicates roughly 2/3 of the use is in residential buildings and the clubhouse while the remaining 1/3 is in irrigation. Irrigation usage during the last five months of 2020 went beyond budget and directly related to extended high temperatures and drought conditions. The irrigation usage is roughly 75% in the turf area and 25% in the drip lines to plants. This information is based on discussions with Gothic supervisory and irrigation personnel.

Finally, Scottsdale has, in recent years, had an annual cost increase of 6 to 7% for sewage and water usage. Last summer, the Scottsdale City Council delayed an increase due to Covid - 19. The financial forecast for 2022 will likely increase 7 to 10 %, and perhaps even more based on drought conditions and water availability. These increases will need to be considered in the HOA 2022 budget.



What does all of this mean? In the future, Mirage Crossing will likely have to confront this drought, should it continue, by identifying various water conservation measures. It is important that all of our residents and property owners are aware of these looming challenges and begin to consider potential alternatives to support water conservation.

Bibliography

- As a megadrought persists, new projections show a key Colorado River reservoir could sink to a record low later this year Story by Drew Kann, video by Bryce Urbany and graphics by Renée Rigdon Updated 6:34 PM ET, Wed April 21, 2021
- Arizona water users preparing for first-ever cuts PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK Copyright © 2021 The Arizona Republic 4/11/2021 Powered by TECNAVIA Tuesday, 04/13/2021 Page. MORGAN LOEW POSTED 05/21 AZFAMILY.COM
- The Colorado River Approaches First Ever Shortage. By Ian James, 4/11/2021. A03 Environmental coverage on azcentral.com and in *The Arizona Republic*, part of the USA TODAY Network.
- Red alert: Lake Mead falls to lowest water level since Hoover Dam's construction in 1930s Ian James Environmental coverage on azcentral.com and in *The Arizona Republic*, is part of the USA TODAY Network.

The Greenbelt

Page 2

Summer 2021

Recent Maintenance and Amenity Projects

Administrative, maintenance and community enhancements and management projects are going on all of the time at Mirage Crossing. Below is a summary of recently completed and ongoing projects.

Administrative

- ✓ Submitted 2020 Federal and State tax returns.
- ✓ The Clubhouse has reopened with normal operational hours 9:00 a.m. – 10 p.m. 7 days a week.
- ✓ FirstService Residential's Scottsdale office has reopened.

Maintenance:

Cactus Property Services

- ✓ Repaired and repainted the dumpster enclosure gates in preparation for the installation of new signs.
- ✓ Replaced the gate locks at both Cochise pedestrian entries and adjusted both pool gate slams.
- ✓ Completed the installation of the new clubhouse pathway lighting.

Poolman

- ✓ New rail socks have been installed.
- ✓ Repaired spa heating and replaced drain cover
- ✓ Fountains were checked and returned to service.
- ✓ Replaced the spa blower
- ✓ Replaced the missing tiles in the spa
- ✓ Completed the approved pool deck repairs



Poolman repairing pool deck

Gothic

- ✓ Continues on its trim cycle to complete the sage renovation pruning.
- ✓ Continues spraying for post emergent weeds.
- ✓ Irrigation leaks continue to be addressed as reported.

Sign Art

- ✓ Is scheduled to install visitor parking signs in the single stall parking spaces.

Maintenance and Amenity Projects Cont'd above right column

Maintenance and Amenity Projects Cont'd

Roadrunner Sealcoat

- ✓ Completed street repair and all road seal coating

ELS Landscaping

- ✓ The 2021 tree trimming was completed.

Republic Services:

- ✓ Wheels on trash and recycling dumpsters removed to lower accessibility height.

Miler Plumbing and Heating

- ✓ Repaired a water line leak in 2069 and 1069.
- ✓ Reattached the gas line that services the spa.
- ✓ Repaired a shower drain leak in unit 2104.
- ✓ Replaced the filters on the clubhouse A/C units.
- ✓ Repaired a gas line to the spa heater and remounted it to the wall.
- ✓ Replaced a leaking spigot at building 20.

Metro Fire

- ✓ Repaired a leaking backflow.
- ✓ Backflow devices were repaired and retested. The results were filed with the city.

Atomic Pest Control

- ✓ Treated bees in several units.
- ✓ A honeycomb in a column at unit 2008 was removed and the column repaired. (See below)

Paramount Roofing

- ✓ Repaired the mortar balls and tiles at building 54.
- ✓ Recoated a portion of the flat roof at building 32.

Access Gates

- ✓ Replaced sensors on the inbound Cochise gate
- ✓ All gates were checked and found to be in order.



Atomic Pest Control removing a honeycomb in unit 2008

The Greenbelt

Page 3

Summer 2021

Social Committee Set to Return to Planning Great Activities

With the easing of covid restrictions, the Social Committee is again ready to begin planning activities for the entire community's participation. Co-Committee Chairs, Jeff and Kate Hirsch have indicated that there would definitely be some type of autumn event.

Normally planning five to six events a year from October to May, the committee works with the HOA Board of Directors for their limited funding. Committee members and the HOA Board of Directors are sure all of our members are looking forward to the return of social events starting next fall. More activity information will follow in the October 1 newsletter.



A new Arizona resident, spending his first summer in the "valley of the sun," was frustrated in trying to rationalize the summer heat:
"I don't understand, they say it's a dry heat, but so is an oven!"



Mirage Crossing is Abloom

With Spring, comes the flowering of our Mirage Crossing Landscaping. Several flowering plants are pictured in this edition reflecting the excellent work of our landscaping committee and our service vendor, Gothic.



All Community COVID-19 Restrictions Lifted

At their June meeting, the HOA Board Directors lifted all remaining Covid-19 restrictions. These remaining restrictions had limitations on the use of the clubhouse and fitness room.

The Clubhouse resumes its regular hours, being open seven days a week, from 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM. Residents may now book the clubhouse for a private event.

The Board also lifted the maximum number of persons using the fitness room at any one time. The fitness room remains open daily from 3:00 AM to 12 midnight.

The HOA Board of Directors greatly appreciates the cooperation and support from owners and residents throughout this difficult time. The pandemic presented circumstances foreign to most of us making it difficult to navigate such challenges. THANK YOU

The Greenbelt

Page 4

Summer 2021

Clubhouse Pathway Lighting Replaced

At the April meeting, the HOA Board of Directors approved several lighting upgrades. One of the most visible improvements is the fixture replacements along the front clubhouse pathway shown on the picture below.



Street Repair and Seal Coating

In early May, repairs were made to the street where needed and the entire road was then seal-coated and re-stripped. (Work in Progress shown below)



Be Careful: **Hot Surfaces** *and watch your pets*

Doctors who work in the Arizona burn center are warning people of injuries from contact with super-heated roadways, sidewalks and other surfaces as the extreme heat of the Arizona summer has now started. Health officials advised people to be mindful of hot asphalt, sidewalks and even desert sand for burn potential and also of the potential burns of pets.

When the outside temperature tops 100 degrees, pavement or asphalt at two o'clock in the afternoon in direct sunlight has a temperature somewhere around 180 degrees Fahrenheit, so it's vital to be aware of the difference between pavement and air temperatures. Walking without shoes on asphalt in the Arizona summer sunshine can actually cause third degree burns. Burns can also happen after touching hot surfaces like metal door handles, seat belt buckles or hot leather car seats.



Cats and dogs have sensitive paw pads that become quite vulnerable in the heat. Surfaces such as pavement, asphalt and artificial grass can become very hot causing blisters or burns on their paw pads. It only takes 60 seconds on pavement that is 125 degrees Fahrenheit for a dog's paws to burn. Some of our Mirage Crossing residents, actually carry their pets to avoid the hot sidewalks and roads to get to a cooler surface. Hot pavement can also increase the overall body temperature of your pet and lead to heat stroke.

“So be careful out there....”



The Greenbelt

Page 5

Summer 2021

HOA Board of Directors

The elected members of the 2021 HOA Board of Directors are:

Don Szyndrowski	President
Dan Cunningham	Vice President
Jim Olivi	Vice President
Ken Padgham	Vice President
Ron Rossman	Treasurer

Introductions
2021 HOA Board of Directors



✚ The board can be contacted at:
board@miragecrossing.com

✚ Mirage Crossing Website:
www.miragecrossing.com

HOA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

- ✚ September 21
 - ✚ TBD Time and Format Executive Session
 - ✚ TBD Open Meeting

There are NO meetings in July and August



Mirage Crossing Facility Hours

Property Manager On-Site

- Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- Wednesday and Friday: Office Closed

Clubhouse:

- Sunday thru Saturday 9:00 am -10:00 pm

Fitness Room:

- Sunday-Saturday 3:00 AM to 12:00 AM

Pool:

- Sunday-Saturday 6:00 am to 10:00 pm



✚ Next publication of *The Greenbelt*,
October 1

First Service Contact Information

Community Manager: Jeff Hennick
jeff.hennick@fsresidential.com Office: 480-860-0221
FirstService Residential (Management Company)
Call Service: 480-551-4300. (24/365)
Accounts Receivable: 480.551.4300 ext. 4906
ARsupport.telephone.az@fsresidential.com
Assessment Payment:
<https://www.fsresidential.com/arizona/pay-association-fees>
Fee Waiver Request:
www.fsresidential.com/arizona/homeowners/fee-waiver-request
Address Change:
addresschanges.az@fsresidential.com
Click Pay! ClickPay.com/FirstService 1.888.354.0135
Enrollment
<https://estatements.welcomelink.com/arizona>

The Greenbelt

The Greenbelt is published six times annually, October, December, February, March, April and June, by Board Member Dan Cunningham and edited by Carolyn Gollings. The purpose of *The Greenbelt* is to enhance community knowledge and understanding of the current work of the HOA and provide other items of information relevant to the entire Mirage Crossing community. Individuals wishing to submit items for publication should email them to miragecrossingnewsletter@gmail.com ten days prior to the publication date.