

Arcadia Friends and Neighbors

I have been a resident of Arcadia since 1967, when my parents purchased their only home in Arizona. My children and your children are the reason I became the president of the Arcadia Estates HOA in 2014. This is my second stint as president. During my first term in 1998, after a challenging 13-year journey, I was proud to get an intra-governmental agreement that enabled us to install a pedestrian bridge across the Arizona Canal.

The eucalyptus trees and the sidewalk that runs along Arcadia Drive are of utmost concern. My goal right now is to engage the community and put pressure on the municipality that is responsible for a problem they continue to ignore. Arcadia Estates is striving to make this entry into Arcadia safe and beautiful for all to use and enjoy.

The heritage of Arcadia Estates involves one of the most iconic properties in Arcadia. Since it was built in 1937-38, the property and the historic home on it have been owned by members of the same family. Dr. Herbert Johnson "Tim" Louis planted the red river gum eucalyptus trees in the 1940s when the original 24 acres surrounding the property were used for cultivating citrus. The estate home on the property is named "el chaparral" and is the only home in Arcadia that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The eucalyptus along Arcadia Drive also hold a place on the National Register of Historic Places. This stand of trees is the largest in the City of Phoenix and they are our gateway into Arcadia. Unfortunately, there are multiple governments that intersect at the area, which allows the different parties to point to the other while they excuse themselves of responsibility.

My hope is as a neighborhood we turn this property into a valuable asset for Arcadia. Lineal parks are most desired because they can be used for transportation as well as recreation. This part of Arcadia Drive enjoys multiple public events, including the Rock & Roll Marathon and Taylor's Run and it is capable of so much more.

In 2002, the City of Phoenix placed 2,870 LF of this historic Burgess Lateral on the National Register of Historical Places without participation from SRP Maintenance or Arcadia Estates. SRP concluded the eucalyptus trees are integral to the ditch and therefore they are historical. The city has no method or regulation for trimming historical trees.

How can you help:

- 1) Annual clean-up of the disputed area until a design is implemented, accepted and approved.
- 2) Support a permanent resolution which would require amendment to Arcadia Estates subdivision where a defined parcel along Arcadia Drive is collectively assembled into a unified space that is designed for uses acceptable by residents of Arcadia.

Read the *Arcadia News* article for more information. Greg Bruns and Nick Smith spent months researching this and we applaud them for caring about our community.

Dan Colton
President, Arcadia Estates Homeowner's Association
Proud Arcadia Resident since 1967