

HILLCREST IX HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 2026 | Taking Care of Our Animal Friends

A Tribute to Jake

We have a special article at the back of this issue as a tribute to Jake, our canine neighbor who recently passed away as a result of a coyote attack. Jake was 14, when he escaped his home and was abducted. Our condolences go out to Jake's owners, who suffered a very sad loss.



Upcoming Events

Our fall compliance review will happen Saturday, Oct. 17th, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Saturday, Oct. 24th, will be our annual **Tract D Public Multi-Use Trail Project** from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Join us for coffee and a light breakfast as we rake down and groom the trail just east of our neighborhood.

Finally, the **Annual Picnic** will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. Catering by "Pork on a Fork". We'll have food, drinks, tables, chairs and tents. Dessert treats are appreciated! We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Good Walls Make Good Neighbors

As originally constructed, Hillcrest IX had no walls separating neighboring properties, but over the years, most homeowners have negotiated the construction of walls on the property line between lots with their neighbors. Neighbors then share the upkeep of walls, each attending to their own side.

However, not all walls are on the property line. In those cases, wall upkeep is completely the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the wall resides. Don't assume an existing wall indicates the property line.

Before constructing a new wall between residences, have the property line surveyed to ensure that wall straddles the line. And, like any other outdoor construction, always submit a request to the HOA before beginning construction.

Common area walls like those surrounding Hillcrest IX and the arroyo-facing side of arroyo walls are kept in good repair by the HOA.

For detailed reference, the CCRs are available on Hillcrest9.org, and the Board is more than happy to answer questions.

Halloween Pumpkins Can Attract Javelina

We love to decorate for every holiday. Heads up. Javelina love to eat pumpkins! So, to keep your decor intact and to avoid attracting dangerous creatures into our neighborhood, you may want to consider artificial pumpkins. They look great, and can be reused every fall. Just a thought.

Block Watch Report

Heads up: a catalytic converter was stolen from a car parked in a neighbor's driveway recently. Locking the car in this case would not have helped, but also be mindful of locking a car parked outside of a garage and check to see if your programmed garage door opener within your car works, even when the car is not running. Many do, and that could allow access to your home!

Recycling Reminders

Remember, all materials must be emptied of liquids and free of food scraps and grease before tossing them in the container. Plastic bags are not accepted in the recycle container. Materials must also be placed in the container loosely, and not bagged. Recycle: Paper, plastic, metal and glass. Don't recycle: batteries, light bulbs, foam, styrofoam, electronics, and anything smaller than 2.5 inches.

For complete details see phoenix.gov/recycle.

A Desert Dog's Guide to Staying Safe

What I wish every human knew before opening the back door

My name is Scout, and I love the desert: the warm stones, the interesting smells, the way the evening air makes every bush seem worth investigating, and how the hot sun feels on my bones. But the desert isn't just my backyard – it's home to wild neighbors that hunt, defend themselves and move quietly after dark.

I've been 'round these parts for a long time. I feel 70 but my person says I'm only 10. I like to think the only reason they rush me back inside when I just want to lounge in the sun or in the night breeze is because I'm not a youngster anymore. But I know it's more about protecting me. I know what lurks beyond my walls. I hear them... hunting. Mostly at night, but I can sense them when the sun is out, too. Some slither, some fly; some look a lot like me and some look nothing like me. That's why I depend on my person to look beyond the fence, check the ground, fill my water bowl, clip on my leash and stay close by. I may have the nose, but my person has the judgment.

When the Desert Wakes Up

Nights may feel cooler and safe, but that is when desert critters are on the move. Owls can see a small pet from far above with their keen eyesight. I'm pretty big, weighing in at over 70 lbs., but those owls still swoop right over my head to size me up. I guess they don't want to mess with all that canine muscle (laughs). I've lost a few friends to those owls; my tiny friends who were out minding their own business only to be plucked up by a big desert owl. They like to hunt at dusk and they are so quiet. If you're lucky you might see one fly over, but you won't ever hear it.

Coyotes can slip through neighborhoods day or night, with surprising speed. Walls don't generally stop them. I've had several dust-ups with a coyote right at my back fence. They know I'm here. But my person is always close by, usually sitting a few feet away with me in their sight. So those encounters never last long. My person says coyotes are pack animals, so even if I think I can take the guy harassing me at my gate, there are probably 2 or 3 just beyond our fence waiting to pounce on me. Yep, those coyotes run in gangs. So even I can't be alone in the backyard, especially at dusk or later. When my person lets me out, they always scan the yard, make some noise when they flip on a light and stay close to call me back if they see any trouble. *(cont'd)*

Snakes Do Not Want to Play

I investigate with my nose, which puts my face right where a hidden snake may be resting. I've learned to stay away from rock piles, but my person keeps my leash short to keep me away from snake holes! That leash saves my life often, I think. It keeps me out of the brush, on the path and safe. If a snake does bite me, my person should carry me away, keeping me extra still and getting me to a vet as soon as possible.

Please Pick It Up – I Have a Reputation

There are few things more embarrassing than watching a person notice poop. We might make the mess but it's our people who have pockets and thumbs! I feel for my friends. My person has a bag, picks it up and throws it in the nearest trash container. Why are there bags sitting on the trail? There is no such thing as a poop-bag fairy. Poop smells, attracts pests, and can spread parasites or disease and just gives all dogs a bad name. Besides, I would like to be welcomed back on my favorite trail!

The Leash is Not an Insult

It keeps me away from traffic, wildlife, snakes, unsafe plants and dogs who don't want to meet me. Even when I'm feeling friendly, another dog might be fearful, injured or in training. My person keeps my leash at a manageable length and always asks if I'm allowed to greet and sniff.

Water is Part of Every Adventure

I cannot tell my person in words when it's too hot. Thank goodness they carry water on walks, with frequent breaks in the shade. We walk during the coolest times and they always test the pavement with their hands before asking my paws to cross it. If I start with heavy panting, drooling, weakness, confusion, vomiting, or even collapsing – these can all signal heat illness and require immediate cooling and veterinary help. I am proud to say my person has never left me in a parked car - not even for a quick stop.

My Simple Request

Love me like a desert dog: supervise me after dark, watch for wildlife and snakes, keep water close, protect my paws from heat, pick up what I leave behind, and use my leash with care. I will still sniff every bush and greet every walk like the greatest day of my life. I just need you to make sure I come home safely when the adventure is over.

Thanks to Wyly Wallace for this lovely article.

Help Us Help You Maintain Hillcrest IX

While the Hillcrest IX HOA board does a compliance review every three months to review the compliance with CCRs within our neighborhood, there may be things that cannot be seen from the street that we cannot note, because we cannot see them. and we never enter an owner's property on a compliance review.

Given that, it is perfectly fine if residents bring these issues to our attention in areas we cannot see from the street.

On this note, it would help for each owner to do a perimeter walk of their own property occasionally and look at the areas that you could not normally see. That will make sure your property stays well maintained.

Anyone can submit a concern to the Board by sending us an e-mail with a photo attached. Submissions and photo will be reviewed by the Board.

If the issue is, out of compliance with Hillcrest IX CCRs, we can send a friendly notice to let the owner know an issue needs their attention.

2026 Hillcrest IX HOA Board

A new HOA board was elected at the January 24th Annual Meeting.

Anne Dudley - President
928 707-1680 (call or text)

Wyly Wallace - Vice President
602 999-1371 (call or text)

Ryan Hildreth - Treasurer
603 781-5506 (call or text)

Rick Despres - Secretary
925 366-9441 (call or text)

Darla Williford - Director
602 790-7157 (call or text)

Important Contact Information

HOA

HOABoard@hillcrest9.org

HOA Block Watch

BlockWatch@hillcrest9.org

Non-Emergency Police

602 262-6151

Bulk Trash

Pick-Up Scheduling

602 262-6251

APS Power Outages

602 371-7171

Water and Sewer Emergencies

602 261-8000

2026 Hillcrest IX HOA Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings:

Monthly board meetings are held at Fountain of Life Church, located at 1055 E.Hearn Rd.

November | Monday the 2nd: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

December | Monday the 7th: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

January '27 | Monday the 4th: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

2026 Community Events Calendar:

Tract D Public Multi-Use Trail Project –
Saturday October 24th: 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Annual Picnic – Saturday November 7th: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

2027 Annual Meeting – Saturday January 23: 10:00 AM