When overnight low temperatures are consistently above 65 degrees (usually in May), you can begin transitioning your winter ryegrass back to bermuda grass for the warm season. If you allow the ryegrass to grow unchecked, it will outcompete the Bermuda grass. When June comes with its Arizona heat, the ryegrass will finally die and you’ll be left with nothing but bare spots. To avoid that, follow the below steps and you’ll have a summer lawn the whole neighborhood will envy!

- Reduce your watering to 70-80% of your normal usage. This will start stressing out the ryegrass but will continue to support the Bermuda grass.
- Lightly verticut your grass to open up its canopy. This allows more sunshine to reach the Bermuda grass below.
- Aerify your ground. This increases water penetration and nutrient uptake, breaks up soil compaction, and allows more oxygen to reach the root zone. Most home supply stores rent verticutting and aerifying equipment.
- Gradually lower your mower settings and increase your mowing intervals to twice a week so that the grass height does not exceed 1/2” to 3/4.” Make sure to bag all clippings. If they remain on the ground, they’ll create a mat layer that will inhibit the growth of the Bermuda grass.
- Beware of shady areas in your lawn. The ryegrass will grow aggressively in these areas so you must maintain a low mowing height to allow the Bermuda grass to get its needed sunlight.
- Fertilize and increase your watering schedule. After about 2 weeks, you should notice that the Bermuda grass is overcoming the ryegrass. Finally, once your Bermuda grass is growing again, use a high nitrogen fertilizer such as 21-0-0 or 21-7-14 once a month to keep it green.
Congratulations to newly elected board members

The Parkside community recently elected incumbent Tim Fyke and Brad Sundquist to two-year terms on the Anthem Parkside Community Association (APCA) Board of Directors. Incumbent Darrin Francom was elected to a three-year term to the Anthem Community Council (ACC) Board of Directors as a representative of the APCA. Thank you to all the residents who participated as candidates, and those who voted in the election.

Pictured left to right: Chris Yano, Brad Sundquist, Bettye Ruff, Doug Sutherland, and Tim Fyke.

Playground safety in the summer

The warm Arizona climate can mean hot playgrounds. Playground equipment spends all day in the sun just soaking up the summer temperatures. It can heat up quickly and retain the heat easily, causing serious burns to skin upon contact. Please be sure to check the temperature of the equipment and surfacing before letting your children play on the playground.

What to do:

- Remember, a young child’s skin will burn faster than your own. If it feels hot to your hand, it may be too hot for a child’s bare skin.
- Because some materials transfer heat more slowly than others, these materials may not feel hot with a quick touch.
- Always dress your child in appropriate clothing for the playground (e.g., shoes, pants).
- Remember that playground equipment, as well as playground surfacing, may cause burns.
- Always watch your children while on the playground. Supervision can help to prevent some incidents.

Gate maintenance and repairs

Unfortunately, time and weather can work against you to make your gate start to wear out and need updating or even replacing. That’s why it is important to do a routine check on your gate.

If you find your gate is in need of an update there are a few options. The wood slats can either be sanded and stained any natural wood color, or they can be painted the color of the Parkside block walls (Stonington – SW2076 or DE6216). An additional option is to replace the wood with composite slats which require little to no maintenance. If the metal needs to be painted, it can be painted black, Spruce Island (green color tone used for metal on view fences in the community), or Stonington.

If you have any questions regarding gate maintenance, contact staff@anthemparkside.org.

Upcoming iron view fence painting schedule

The following areas are scheduled for iron view fence painting. Homeowners will receive a notification letter from Premier Painting, either hand-delivered or taped to the garage, ten days prior to fence painting in the applicable neighborhood. This schedule is based on painting iron view fences every five years. Please note that dates are tentative and subject to change.

- Enchantment
- Heritage
- Jubilation
- The Canyons
- Desert Highlands
- Desert Terrace (N. of Anthem Way)
- Discovery (both)
- The Inaugurals (both)
- Desert Foothills (S. of Anthem Way)
- Desert Terrace (S. of Anthem Way)

Monsoon Awareness Week

Monsoon Awareness Week is June 10-15, kicking off a season lasting through September that brings dust storms, thunderstorms and flash floods. Monsoon season is a time when we need to take extra safety precautions. Here is a list of must-know monsoon safety tips.

- Move inside and avoid travel during storms.
- If driving during a dust storm with limited visibility, pull off the road and get as far to the right as possible. Turn off the car and headlights. Set the parking brake and do not step on the brake pedal.
- Stay clear of trees, power lines and telephone poles during thunderstorms; remain inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder.
- Do not drive into flooded roadways or go around barricades.
- Do not play or allow children to play in flood waters.

Monsoon Awareness Week

- Enchantment    Aug. 5
- Heritage    Aug. 25
- Jubilation    Sept. 4
- The Canyons    Sept. 9
- Desert Highlands    Sept. 9
- Desert Terrace (N. of Anthem Way)    Sept. 9
- Discovery (both)    Sept. 27
- The Inaugurals (both)    Sept. 27
- Desert Foothills (S. of Anthem Way)    Sept. 27
- Desert Terrace (S. of Anthem Way)    Sept. 27

What to do:

- Remember, a young child’s skin will burn faster than your own. If it feels hot to your hand, it may be too hot for a child’s bare skin.
- Because some materials transfer heat more slowly than others, these materials may not feel hot with a quick touch.
- Always dress your child in appropriate clothing for the playground (e.g., shoes, pants).
- Remember that playground equipment, as well as playground surfacing, may cause burns.
- Always watch your children while on the playground. Supervision can help to prevent some incidents.