The homeowners association of northeast Mesa neighborhood Apache Wells – bordered roughly by McDowell, Recker, McKellips and Higley roads – is hatching a plan to fix rainwater drainage problems on the age 55-plus community’s golf course.

“After 25 years, the thing is put to rest,” said Ruth Holmes, a 25-year resident of Apache Wells who consulted the board about golf course flooding.

Bing Miller, president of the Apache Wells HOA, said the association decided at its last meeting to formulate a solution with Jesus Ortiz, the golf course’s superintendent.

“The grounds and greens have industrial equipment, back hoes and so forth to be able to do some ditching and put some riprap in there – either that or concrete – around the drain in which to funnel the water,” Mr. Miller explained.

Mr. Ortiz said in an Oct. 21 phone interview he had not yet planned anything with the HOA board.

“I should hopefully hear something this week,” he said.

Mr. Miller said in an interview for an article titled “Golf course frequently floods” – published in the Sept. 16, 2008 edition of the Mesa Independent – that when it rains in Apache Wells, water flows from the community’s Nicklaus, Demaret and Floyd drives onto the golf course and collects mostly near Ms. Holmes’ double-wide mobile home.

“I never in all the 25 years I’ve lived here did I ever know that the water came from three streets over here – no wonder I got a flood over here,” Ms. Holmes said.

Mr. Miller said in an interview for the aforementioned article that Ms. Holmes’ property used to be one of several ponds along Higley to retain flowing water.

The city of Mesa installed a drainage pipe outside Ms. Holmes’ residence, but Mr. Miller said it is about a foot higher than where the water collects.

“Our intent is to cut that drain off and get it down to where the actual drainage pipe lies in the ground, which will drop it down probably at least 10 inches to a foot,” he explained.

Mr. Miller said Mr. Ortiz will install a drainage pipe in the raised barrier at the golf course’s north end.

“I think that’ll take care of about 90 percent of the problem, and whatever is left will dissipate into the ground rather quickly,” Mr. Miller explained.

Mr. Ortiz wants to remove some of the north barrier to allow water to drain across the entire golf course.

“There are still 250 yards where that water can still go in the rough, so it won’t be as spread out over a little bit,” he said.
Mr. Miller predicts the project will cost less than $500 in materials and be completed in less than a month.

“For the next couple of weeks, the golf course is shut down anyhow because it’s been over seeded,” he said.

“Once we all sit down and talk about it, I think we’ll figure out who covers what,” Mr. Ortiz said.

Mr. Miller said Ms. Holmes is the only Apache Wells resident he spoke to about the flooding. “From my knowledge, she’s the only one that has actually filed a verbal complaint or appeared before the board,” he said.

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Drain inlet well above floodwater level

Drain outlet on N. Higley Road