

## **Golf course frequently floods**

Apache Wells HOA to review solutions

**By Todd Hoover**

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Ruth Holmes, a 25-year resident of northeast Mesa neighborhood Apache Wells, is concerned about standing water collecting on the community's golf course near her doublewide mobile home.

Bing Miller, president of Apache Wells' Homeowners Association, said the water flows from Nicklaus, Demaret and Floyd drives – all city of Mesa streets within the age 55-plus community. "It builds up for about two blocks and then it crosses into the golf course, and there's a drainage easement across the 16th (golf) fairway and then the water does collect there in this area," Mr. Miller said of the area just east of Ms. Holmes' residence. "The water does sit there for a period of three to four days, five days, and then it dissipates into the ground, but it is a nuisance for them."

Ms. Holmes said her home gets "the brunt" of standing water, which she contends can be an environmental hazard. "I know I've had enough of this right now," she said. "That's the only location, really, on the golf course that we have this problem," said Jesus Ortiz, superintendent of Apache Wells Golf Club, 5601 E. Hermosa Vista Drive.



**From left, Jesus Ortiz, superintendent of Apache Wells Golf Club, and Bing Miller, president of Apache Wells' Homeowners Association, use a rented pump to drain standing water from the golf course.**

Mr. Miller said this issue is nothing new for Apache Wells, bordered roughly by McDowell, Recker, McKellips and Higley roads.

He said Ms. Holmes' property used to be one of several ponds along Higley to retain flowing water. "When they hooked up to the city sewer, then they started selling those lots, but of course the water still collects there when we have heavy rains," he explained.

Ms. Holmes' late husband Robert actively tried to eradicate the situation in 1993. "They spent about \$10,000 trying to correct this situation, which in '93 was quite a bit of money," Mr. Miller said.

That year, the city installed a drainage pipe, but Mr. Miller said it is at the wrong elevation. "The inlet to the drainage pipe is about eight inches to a foot higher than the water collects," he explained.

Ms. Holmes said during heavy rain, water flows across underneath her home and collects on Higley, which faces the west side of her home. "I can't get out to the mailbox when it rains ... You've got to wade out to get the mail or wait until it goes down," she explained. She claimed the standing water attracts cockroaches to her home. "My first roach I found in the hamper in the bedroom, and the other

day I was having breakfast here (at my home) and I thought, 'Oh no,' and there he is on the carpet," she said of the second roach she found. Mr. Ortiz thinks the cockroaches may come from manholes at the back of some Apache Wells homes, but not standing water.

"A lot of the utilities – electric and all that, telephone – are all located in the back," he said of Apache Wells homes. "Normally you see that in the front – it's just the way it was developed."

Mr. Miller has spoken to city representatives about the issue. "The city is not real interested in taking care of it, and their answer was, 'Yes, we know, we have a lot of areas like that,' and I can understand their position, too," he said.

"Stuff with the city takes a long time to get resolved," Mr. Ortiz said.

Mr. Miller met with a business to discuss possibly installing a dry well to drain the water, or buying a portable pump to distribute the standing water into the drain. "My 'guesstimation' is this estimate we're going to get from (the business) is going to rock everybody back on their heels, because they're talking about drilling down 60 to 75 feet with a two-foot casing and draining down that far so they can dissipate it and get rid of it," he said.

A pump was rented to drain standing water outside Ms. Holmes' residence after it rained the night of Sept. 10. Mr. Ortiz said the pump can drain 10,000 gallons of water. "You can drain a pool pretty quick, and the amount of water there was a lot," he said.

"I think within three to four hours, it could pump all the water out of there," Mr. Miller said.

Mr. Miller said the HOA's Board of Directors are mostly out of town until October. "That's one of the things that's going to be on the agenda – what are we going to do about this?" he explained. "We do want to take care of it – it's just a situation that has been lingering since '93 ... And now she expects me to take care of it in the next two or three weeks."

Call Apache Wells at 480-832-1550 or e-mail [media@awhaoffice.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:media@awhaoffice.phxcoxmail.com).

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