

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Inside This Issue:

Neighborhood Meeting Recap 2

Feral Cats: Operation Nip & Tip 2

This Old House: Roof Maintenance 3

The Street Report:  
♦ Speed Humps on Mesquite 4

♦ Street Light Repair Hotline 4

Drag Racing Turns Deadly 5

Car Crashes through house on Palomino 5

Sidewalks Repair Update 5

Streets Repair Update 5

Our "Bicycle Friendly Community" 6

Mediation- Resolve Neighbor Disputes 6

The Crime Report:  
• Fight Crime-Blockwatch 7

Amberwood North Calendar of Events 8

## Announcing Our New Community Website- Visit Today!

■ By Judith Garner



The site's address:

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth)

Neighborhood Link is a service that provides neighborhood organizations with their own free interactive website. Neighborhood Link websites improve resident communication both within specific neighborhoods and between different neighborhood groups. In addition, the website also creates a two-way communication channel between our neighborhood and local government. Neighborhood Link has been successfully deployed in nearly every major metropolitan area, hundreds of cities, and tens of thousands of neighborhoods in the U.S.

Amberwood North's new website is designed to be a resource tool for all area residents by providing

information about available community services, civic resources, a neighborhood calendar of events and various community hotlinks.

The website is still a work in progress! So, if you have any suggestions that will help improve the site or ideas about what should be featured on the website, please contact our website's coordinator:

Judith Garner  
[judithgarner@qwest.net](mailto:judithgarner@qwest.net)  
Ph. 480-560-7842

Some of the information featured on the new website include:

- Community Calendar
- About Our Neighborhood Organization
- Neighborhood Schools

- Neighborhood Contacts & Become A Member
- Amberwood North's Boundaries
- About Amberwood North (History)
- Online Neighborhood Newsletter
- Meet Your Neighbors
- Numerous Local, City, Government Links
- Community Pages: Classifieds, Directory of Businesses/Services, Babysitting Connection And Other Community-Hotlinks
- Talk About It- An Online Resident Discussion Board

AND SO MUCH MORE!  
Check the website out

## Neighborhood Committee Meeting Recap

- By Judith Garner

Since the inception of the Amberwood North Neighborhood Organization (11/15/05), seventeen residents have volunteered, so far, to serve on the Neighborhood Committee. The committee member volunteers will attend periodic meetings in order to prioritize and develop our neighborhood projects, plan special events and coordinate volunteers to get the projects and events accomplished.

The first Neighborhood Committee Meeting was held on December 21, 2005 from 7 pm - 8:30 pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints, located at the corner of Hartford and Mesquite. We especially thank Helen Danielson for making the arrangements with the church, who generously allowed our Neighborhood Committee to use one of the meeting rooms in their beautiful building. The following topics were discussed at the meeting:

### Communications:

1. Newsletter publication
2. Develop community web site

### Neighborhood Projects:

1. List "Top-10" issues/projects
2. Volunteer sign-up sheet developed

The next Neighborhood Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2006. If you would like to become an Active Committee Member, or if you would like to review a copy of the Neighborhood Committee "Meeting Minutes"— please visit or call:

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/  
chandler/amberwoodnorth](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth)

Judith Garner- Section 2 & 3  
Ph. 480-560-7842

Pamela Culp- Section 1  
Ph. 480-782-5895

Stacy Coomer- Section 1  
Ph. 480-855-1697

## Feral Cats: Operation Nip and Tip

- By Kim Smith

Imagine yourself living in the lap of luxury, a nice, warm, cozy house, plenty of food to eat, clean water to drink, with lots of love and attention. It's a wonderful life — the only life you have ever known.

Now imagine, for whatever reason, you're dumped out on the street. You're all alone, in a strange place, a totally different world. It's noisy, you become confused and disoriented. You can't find your home or your family. There are dangers everywhere— cars, dogs, people— now you are terrified. You have no food or water. Chances are slim that you will survive through the first week, as you have no "street smarts". If somehow you do manage to make it, you are desperate; cold, dirty and starving. You hide by day and only venture out at night to find food. You fear everything and no longer trust the human race.

Congratulations! You have just become another feral (*wild*) cat. Though your sad story is true, you are not alone. Most feral cats are actually descendants of pets that

weren't spayed or neutered and allowed to roam outdoors. There are thousands throughout Maricopa County.

Though the numbers are staggering, there is hope. Once a month hundreds of dedicated volunteers from across the valley participate in Operation Nip and Tip. Feral cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered and their left ears are clipped for identification. Tame kittens go to no-kill shelters if there is room, the adults are released back into their original "colonies". These colonies cannot survive on their own. This is where volunteers come to the rescue again, monitoring the colonies for sick or injured animals and providing fresh food and water every night.

So you ask, why not euthanize the cats that are trapped?? Euthanization doesn't stop the problem, it even makes it worse. A colony can only sustain a certain number of cats. Sterile cats cannot breed and will take their places in the colony

hierarchy. They are bigger, stronger and healthier than their counterparts. There is less fighting which means less stress, which means less disease. Most importantly, no more kittens. The colony becomes stable. If the cats are merely trapped and taken away, others will take their places. They will breed uncontrollably. The colony will become genetically weaker through inbreeding. Because un-neutered cats fight more, the weakened, malnourished cats are now more susceptible to disease. Many will die but more will take their places and the cycle continues. Please remember, cats didn't create the problem, humans did. If you are having a problem with feral cats, would like information on low cost sterilization, would like to donate food or volunteer your time — please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you,  
Kim Smith  
Ph. 480-892-0801  
Section 3

# **This Old House: Roof Maintenance**

**-By Dennis Coggins (retired General Contractor)**

Your roof (hopefully not your wife) is the most neglected part of your home. When was the last time you inspected your roof? Did you know your roof is dying a slow death? Is your roof letting moisture into your home? If you have not inspected your roof within the last year, you need to read this article and hopefully save yourself thousands of dollars in unnecessary water damage repairs.

## **Types of roofing materials in our neighborhood:**

**Asphalt Shingle:** Used on about 80% of all homes, the asphalt shingle is by far the most common type of roofing material. These shingles are made of a layer of asphalt impregnated felt paper covered with an additional layer of asphalt. The granular material that gives a shingle its color is embedded into this top layer of asphalt. This type of roofing has a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years (less with multiple layers), requires little maintenance but should be inspected at least annually for loose or wind damaged shingles.

In the past asphalt shingles were classified by weight, the most common being 210 pounds per square. (The term "square" is the expression a roofer uses for the amount of material required to cover 100 square feet). Today, shingles are classified by the manufacturer's warranty. They are now known as 10 year, 15 year, 20 year, 25 year, and 30-year shingles. The reason for this change was the use of lighter fiberglass matting.

**Asphalt Rolled Roofing:** Asphalt rolled roofing is made of the same material as asphalt shingles. It typically comes in rolls that are 18 or 36 inches wide. Rolled roofing is usually installed on sloped or flat roofs. It can also be found in roof valleys. The material is considered

to be of low quality with a life expectancy of 5 to 15 years. Warping and buckling due to expansion of the material is a common problem. The granular coating tends to break down quickly in the wrinkled areas resulting in localized wear and deterioration. Periodically inspect rolled roofing for granular deterioration. If installed in roof valleys, check for cracking, tearing, and deterioration. Be sure all overlaps, edges, and surface nails stay well sealed.

**Roofing Tile:** Roofing tiles can be ceramic (e.g., clay fired at a high temperature) or fabricated from cement concrete. Some of the lighter types use fibers (e.g., cellulose) added for strength. The color of a tile may be dispersed throughout, or it may be applied in the form of a coating. Perhaps the most venerable type of roof tile is the Spanish style red barrel tile made from fired clay. The modern version of this tile is sometimes a cement tile with a suitable coating and is available in a wide range of colors. Advantages of tile include fire safety, as they are non-combustible, enhanced air circulation, and durability. Disadvantages include increased weight and cost compared with low-cost asphalt shingle roofs.

## **Routine Maintenance Checklist:**

- Spring and Fall are typically the best times to perform the routine maintenance required for your roof.
- Check for loose, damaged, or missing shingles or tiles. On flat roofs, check for cracking and blistering.
- Inspect flashings around chimneys, skylights, plumbing stacks, etc.
- Check vents, louvers, and chimneys for roof rats, bird or insect nests.
- Keep all debris cleared from roof, especially in the valleys.
- Check fascia and soffit boards for water penetration or decay.

- Trim back tree limbs growing over roof.

## **Common Causes of Roof Leaks:**

- Improper flashing around chimneys, plumbing stacks, skylights, etc.
- Missing or broken shingles.
- Tears in roof valleys.
- Heavy rain with high wind forcing water back up under loose shingles.
- Improperly hung gutters or drip edge.
- Improperly installed or wrong type of roofing.
- Cracking or deteriorated chimney caps.
- Roof mounted air conditioning elbow (duct) and related flashing.
- Deteriorated sealant around roof penetrations.

**Hint:** A one-gallon can of roofing tar can fix most of the items listed above.

Excessive heat build-up in an attic can also shorten the longevity of composition roof shingles by causing premature evaporation of the oils in the asphalt. Maintaining lower temperatures in your attic can forestall this drying process, thereby extending the useful life of the shingles. Increased ventilation will certainly achieve this objective, but there is a simple and effective method of venting an attic, without the needless expense of installing electrical attic fans. A practical alternative is to add two or more turbine vents near the ridgeline of the roof. Turbine vents are heat driven. When the attic becomes warm, rising air causes the turbines to spin thereby expelling heated air from the structure. What's more, turbine vents require no maintenance and will not increase your monthly electric bill.

Have fun, get on your roof today, and enjoy a wonderful view of the mountains.

—Dennis Coggins, Section 1

# The Streets Report

## Traffic Evaluation Indicates Speed Humps Are Warranted On Mesquite St.

- By Mary Young

An effort to get speed humps on Mesquite Street, between Hartford and Alma School, is currently in progress. Neighbors, Bob and Mary Young, initially contacted the City of Chandler on behalf of the residents on Mesquite. They received a packet containing the materials and explanation of the process to get speed humps on this street.

In order to request that the process begin, a committee of five neighbors needed to be formed. Once that part of the process was done, a two day speed evaluation by the City of Chandler's Transportation Department was completed.

Next, a meeting was held at the Sirrine Elementary School on November 1, 2005 in which all of the

neighbors on Mesquite (between Hartford and Alma School) were invited to attend. Approximately 20 residents turned out to the meeting. Martin Johnson, Transportation Manager with the City of Chandler, conveyed to those in attendance the results of the speed evaluation. He explained all of the options available to our neighborhood to reduce speed on Mesquite.

Results of the evaluation showed that speed humps are warranted to address the problems with speeding on Mesquite. During the evaluation, numerous vehicles were clocked traveling at speeds of 50 mph or more! The volume of traffic is high enough that the City of Chandler will pay for the implementation of the speed humps.

Within a couple of days after the meeting, Martin Johnson then provided Bob and Mary Young with a packet containing:

- A petition needing 200 signatures from the affected neighbors.
- A map showing where the proposed speed humps will be placed.
- The speed evaluation result chart and a detailed diagram of the actual speed hump.

Seven other neighbors have been helping to get the necessary signatures. At this time, roughly 50% of the signatures needed, have been obtained.

A majority of the neighbors are in favor of the speed humps. There are a few

opposed to them. Houses within 100 feet of the proposed speed hump locations must approve 100% (these must be homeowners and not renters). At least 80% of the remaining households affected must be represented on the petition with at least 75 % of those in favor of the speed humps (these can be renters).

If you have comments or questions regarding this article, please contact:

Mary Young  
Ph. 480-857-2866  
Section 1

## Notice A Street Light That Is Out? Call Repair Hotline:

**Street Light Repair Hotline:**  
Ph. 480-782-3460

The City of Chandler maintains more than 24,200 street lights along its major streets and in residential areas. Street lights are repaired during daylight hours; therefore it is important that you give an accurate description of where the street light is and nature of the malfunction. Have the following information available when you call the hotline: Street light pole location; Pole number; Nature of the problem; Name; Address; Daytime Telephone Number. Street light repairs are scheduled according to zip code: Monday- 85224; Tuesday- 85226; Wednesday- 85225; Thursday- 85248; Friday- 85249

For More Information: Chandler's Traffic Engineering Division- Ph. 480-782-3454

**Special thanks to: Debbie Donaldson-Section 2 and Sheryl Hagan-Section 3  
for contributing ideas/information for the Streets Report**



## Drag Racing Turns Deadly

### **Chandler Police Department Press Release**

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Chandler Police responded to an accident involving a motorcycle and a Lincoln Continental on Arizona Avenue and Palomino Drive.

Witnesses stated the motorcycle was racing with a Corvette southbound on Arizona Avenue when the motorcycle collided with the Lincoln, which was turning left onto Palomino Drive. The two vehicles caught on fire as a result of the collision.

The driver of the motorcycle, eighteen year old Joseph Lyczynski, was pronounced dead at a local hospital. The driver of the Lincoln was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Thirty six year old Norman Smith, the driver of the Corvette, was arrested and booked into jail for manslaughter and endangerment.

For further information, contact:

Detective Kacic  
Ph. 480-782-4105.

## Car Crashes Into House On Palomino Drive

**- By Judith Garner**

On Saturday, January 7, 2006 at approximately 5:40 a.m. a single vehicle crashed into a residence at 323 W. Palomino Dr. resulting in injuries to its driver. Amazingly, occupants inside the home were not injured but have been severely traumatized by the near miss and what has happened to their home.

The car which was traveling southbound on Hartford Dr. at approximately 80 MPH, continued through the T-type intersection at Palomino and Hartford without stopping. The car then struck the south raised curb of Palomino, continued over the

curb and into the front yard of the address, where it impacted a large decorative rock boulder. The car was vaulted into the air, by the collision with the rock, and impacted the right front wall of the residence.

The rock boulder's estimated weight is in excess of over 1,000 pounds. The boulder was sent approx. 60 feet to the south, where it breached the front wall of the house and came to its final resting place in the kitchen.

The car made a complete intrusion into the residence, causing major structural

**(article continued on Page 7.)**

## SIDEWALKS REPAIR UPDATE

Chandler's Streets Maintenance Department is in the process of rehabbing all of the ramps and sidewalks throughout the City that need to be brought up to the specifications of the American With Disabilities Act. The City of Chandler is utilizing a computer program that prioritizes and selects a number of streets at a time to be repaired. The rehabbing construction projects are spread out to stay within the annual budget for this department. This explains why some sidewalks and ramps in our neighborhood have been updated to the ADA code and others have not yet been completed.

Streets that have had recent ramp and sidewalk modifications to the ADA standard include:

- Nebraska Street- completed December 2005
- Evergreen Street- completed January 2006

Information provided to Judith Garner by Randy Meyer,  
City of Chandler Street Maintenance Department

## STREETS REPAIR UPDATE

- Mesquite Street-  
Will be slurry sealed this summer-  
(June 2006 approximately)
- Hartford Street-  
Cracks will be sealed-  
February 2006
- Nebraska Street-  
Entire street will be rehabbed, ripped  
out and brand new asphalt- meeting  
contractor in February

The street work is coming in different stages around the neighborhood because of the different applications required to repair these streets.

Information provided to Judith Garner by Rex Hartman,  
City of Chandler Street Maintenance Coordinator

# Amberwood dubbed a “Bicycle Friendly Community”

—By Stacy Coomer

Have you noticed all of the bicycle lanes throughout the City of Chandler? The League of American Bicyclists, a congressional lobbying group, has designated the City of Chandler as a “Bicycle Friendly Community”. Chandler has an extensive bike lane network that utilizes 50 percent of the arterial streets, for a total of 120 miles. Chandler is one of 44 communities across the nation to receive this award out of 98 applications.

League staff and reviewers look at several factors in order to grant a B.F.C. (Bicycle Friendly Community) Designation. The criteria for awards are as follows:

- The physical environment for bicycling— on street facilities (bike lanes), trails (or paths) and parking.

- Education programs to promote a “share the road” ethic among bicyclists and drivers.
- Promotional initiatives to persuade people to ride or ride more often.
- Enforcement of traffic laws for both motorists and bicyclists.
- Future plans and evaluation techniques to improve conditions further.

The City of Chandler Public Works/ Transit Service put up League of American Bicyclists signs throughout the City of Chandler. In the Amberwood North Neighborhood, a League of American Bicyclists sign is mounted to a light pole on the Northwest corner of Hoopes Park,

which has bicycle lanes on all four sides. This makes a great circuit to ride with family, friends, or just you alone.

The neighborhood has bicycle lanes on both sides of Mesquite, Palomino, Hartford and Evergreen. There are also bicycle lanes on Elliot Road and on Arizona Avenue.

If you haven’t been riding your bicycle in a while, now is the time to dust off that donkey and get to riding while the weather is nice. Ride with the flow of traffic, wear a helmet, drink plenty of water and remember to have fun. Ride safe, ride often and share your bicycle lanes with a buddy. Thanks for reading. —Stacy Coomer, Section 1

For more information, please visit:  
**[www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org)**

## Mediation Can Sometimes Resolve Neighbor Disputes

—Article information provided by Pamela Culp-Section 1

Town officials regularly receive calls for help from residents having trouble with neighbors. Many disputes, such as illegally parked vehicles or overgrown weeds, are handled by homeowners associations which are common place in Chandler. However, communities like Amberwood North aren’t governed by an HOA. And so residents here call on town officials to step in quite frequently.

Complaints about such things as a barking dog, a tree overhanging a neighboring pool or a badly parked car have unfortunately turned violent in some parts of the Valley. In Gilbert the town’s Mayor, Steve Berman made remarks about the subject that were quoted in a

Tribune article: “People are pretty proud of their homes”, He added “... Most of their personal wealth is tied up in their home. When they think some slob neighbor is making their investment worth less, it doesn’t make for a happy relationship, said Mayor Berman.

The Leadership Centre, which offers classes and mediation programs between neighbors, suggests that people get to know their neighbors ahead of time before trouble strikes. Cynthia Dunham, founder of The Leadership Centre, states that “95 percent of our neighborhood issues can be resolved if we just get to know our neighbors, and that they are probably going to be more likely to listen to you. You can

### Dispute Resolution

For help resolving a neighborhood dispute, call the Leadership Centre at Ph. 480-732-7296 or visit:: **[www.theleadershipcentre.org](http://www.theleadershipcentre.org)**

look out for each other”. She adds that “No man is an island, We live in communities”.

In our neighborhood, many disputes can arise because residents are not fully aware of the City of Chandler codes regarding: Neighborhood Standards and Maintenance Nuisance Abatement and Code Enforcement (found in Chapter 30, CODE City of Chandler, Arizona) These codes apply to all neighborhoods in Chandler, even those without a homeowner’s association. To review a full listing of the codes visit the following websites:

**[www.chandlercode.com](http://www.chandlercode.com)** or,

**[www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth)**

# The Crime Report



## Fight Crime By Forming A Block Watch

Information Provided By The City of Chandler Police Department

### What it is & how to get involved:

Block watch is...

- Becoming acquainted with your neighbors.
- Working together to solve problems in your neighborhood.
- Helping the police by being aware of and reporting any unusual activities as they occur. You know best what is "normal" activity in your neighborhood.
- Learning to prevent and detect crime in your neighborhood and taking the necessary steps to make it safer (i.e. utilizing locks, lighting, etc.)
- Reporting suspicious persons. NOT apprehending, leave that for the police.
- Looking out for your neighbors.

### How to organize a block watch:

Since the police are unable to cover every neighborhood at all times, you can help by forming Neighborhood Block Watch. You and your neighbors can stay safe by looking out for one another.

#### Step #1

Contact your neighbors from corner to corner and both sides of the street.

#### Step #2

Ask your neighbors when would it be a good time for them to be present for a Block Watch meeting. Weekdays - we schedule the block watches at 6:30 P.M. or 7:00 P.M. (The entire program is approximately two hours in length).

Topics include:

- A. Benefits of the Block Watch
- B. Co-Captain's responsibilities
- C. Crime statistics in your area
- D. Support programs
- E. Burglary prevention

#### Step #3

Contact the Block Watch Coordinator at **480-782-4530** to schedule your Block Watch meeting. A cover sheet with instructions, Block Watch pamphlet and generic flyer will be sent to assist you in organizing your meeting.

#### Step #4

To begin the Block Watch meeting, an Officer arrives and conducts the presentation.

#### Step #5

The officer leaves, and the people are encouraged to socialize after the officer leaves and become better acquainted.

**The Key:** Looking out for each other. It worked yesterday...it is still working today. Block Watch began many years ago when Arizona pioneers worked together to protect their early settlements. Today, the Block Watch concept can bring your neighbors together for the common goal of making your neighborhood a safe place to live. You and your neighbors are safer when you look out for each other. YOU could be the one to make a difference.

**Call 480-782-4528 today to schedule Block Watch for your neighborhood.**

## Car Crash Destroys House

(continued from Page 5.)

damage to the entire home. The impact of the two objects was a force significant to render the dwelling as structurally unsafe to occupy.

The driver of the car was conscious, and trapped inside of the vehicle. He appeared to have sustained head trauma, suffered several lacerations, contusions and abrasions. The driver was alert but disoriented, and had to be extricated from the vehicle by the Chandler Fire Department's vehicle rescue apparatus.

Upon extrication the driver was then ground transported to Scottsdale Memorial Hospital.

According to the Police Report, there were no problems or defects with the vehicle. At this point in the investigation, it appears that the driver fell asleep at the wheel, and accelerated to speeds estimated by crush damage, up to 80 MPH.

This case will be pending toxicology testing of Driver's blood for any substances which may have influenced the incident.

## Amberwood North Neighborhood Calendar of Events

February 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4
5	6	7 Neighborhood Committee Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm At LDS Church	8	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day Observed	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25 Spring Carnival 10:00 am - 2:00 pm At Sirrine Elementary
26	27	28				

### City of Chandler Frequently Called Phone Numbers

Animal Control	(480) 782-4130	Graffiti Hotline	(480) 782-4322
Block Watch	(480) 782-4528	Hazard Waste Disposal	(480) 782-3510
Building Permits	(480) 782-3000	Hospital, Chandler Regional	(480) 963-4561
Bulk Trash Pick-up	(480) 782-3510	Information Line	(480) 782-4636
Chandler Fire Department	(480) 782-2120	Tool Bank Program	(480) 782-4320
Chandler/Gilbert YMCA	(480) 899-9622	Traffic Engineering	(480) 782-3454
Chandler Parks	(480) 782-2727	Solid Waste/Garbage Pick-up	(480) 782-3510
Chandler Police Department		Senior Center	(480) 782-2720
Emergencies	9-1-1	Solve It! Mediation Program	(480) 732-7174
Non-emergency	(480) 782-4130	Special Events Hotline	(480) 782-2735
Chandler Recycling	(480) 782-3510	Sirrine Elementary School	(480) 472-3600
Code Compliance	(480) 782-4320	Hendrix Jr. High School	(480) 472-3300
Dial-a-Ride	(480) 633-0101	Dobson High School	(480) 472-3000

To contribute information to the newsletter or if you have questions, contact the Editor/Publisher

Judith Garner (480) 560-7842 or email: [judithgarner@qwest.net](mailto:judithgarner@qwest.net)

Thank you to the City of Chandler for Printing Amberwood North's Neighborhood News