

Neighborhood News

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Amberwood North Committee will hold regular monthly meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month starting in May 2006:

Time- 7:00 pm

Location- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church (southwest entrance) The church is located across the street from Sirrine Elementary School at the northwest corner of Hartford and Mesquite Streets.

Please check before each meeting to ensure that there have been no changes to dates, times or locations by calling an Ambassador or checking the Community Calendar at:

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth>

City Surveys Are Coming!

Residents To Make Decisions Regarding Alley Trash Collection Services

—By Judith Garner

Back in June 2005, the Mayor and Council voted to convert containers for alley trash collection from metal to plastic. This decision was based on current costs associated with the purchase and maintenance of 3-yard metal containers in comparison to 300-gallon plastic containers. The 300-gallon plastic containers are scheduled to replace existing metal containers in the alleys in the very near future.

Currently, one metal container serves approximately 3 to 4 homes. One 300-gallon plastic container will serve 2 homes. As a result, additional 300-gallon plastic containers will be needed in each alley to accommodate the total number of residents served.

The Mayor and Council voted to convert the containers because there are numerous benefits by switching from metal to the 300-gallon plastic containers:

- The 300-gallon plastic containers

offer a higher level of efficiency with collection and life expectancy— both of which will result in long-term savings.

- The 300-gallon plastic containers are more economical than metal containers. The estimated cost for metal containers is approximately \$500 to \$600 per each container versus the estimated cost for 300-gallon plastic containers at approximately \$200 per each container.
- The life expectancy of a 300-gallon plastic container is 8 to 10 years or longer, and can include up to a 10-year warranty. Metal containers last approximately 2 to 5 years before having to be renovated and have no warranty.

It is estimated that the economic impact of changing the containers from the current metal to the 300-gallon plastic

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Amberwood North Neighborhood History

—By John R. Hoopes

My father, John S. Hoopes, moved to the area in 1938. He was born in Miami, Arizona, where his father operated a kiln supplying limestone to the copper smelters. While my father, John, was a student at the University of Arizona, my grandfather died. My father was the youngest of six children, and the only one of his family who had not established a life elsewhere. It was decided that my grandmother,

Mercy Clairidge Hoopes, would take what money she had and buy some farm land in the Valley, and that my father would quit the university and become a farmer. Prior to that time, he had no real experience in farming.

This was during the Depression, and many farms in the Valley had been taken back by banks, including what was then

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Trash Collection Changes & Surveys

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containers will net a savings to the City of approximately \$480,000 annually, following the overall switch.

The Mayor and Council formerly requested that prior to implementing the change from metal to plastic containers for alley collection, residents affected be surveyed by Solid Waste Services to determine what type of trash collection service they prefer. The options are:

- Alley Service
- Curbside Service

Sheree Sepulveda with Chandler's Municipal Utilities Department is coordinating the surveying process for Solid Waste Services. She stated that after the surveys are completed, her department will be reporting the results to the Mayor and City Council.

The City will then provide the service preferred based on the results of a majority response.

The surveys are being conducted in different stages and according to trash pick-up routes. Two routes will be surveyed at a time during the course of these four phases. The four phases will tentatively be completed within a four-month time period.

The surveying process started in February 2006, and the first phase has already been completed. Some of the residents in the Southmoore subdivision have already been surveyed. (Southmoore is located at the North end of Amberwood North's Section 1.)

Sheree Sepulveda stated that the City will be embarking on the start of the second phase soon – most likely sometime in April 2006.

Who will decide what type of collection service I am provided?

Residents who respond to the survey will have a voice in determining what type of collection service is offered.

The type of collection service will be determined by the greatest number of responses to either continue with alley collection or switch to curbside collection.

What if I have more questions I need answered before making my decision and responding to the survey?

To ensure you have all the information needed to make an informed decision, residents are encouraged to call Solid Waste Services with any questions.

**City of Chandler
Solid Waste Services
480-782-3510**

Neighborhood Organization Is Working & Growing

—By Judith Garner

The Amberwood North Neighborhood Organization has been steadily growing in membership since its inception at the Sirrine School Neighborhood Meeting on November 15, 2005.

As of mid-March, 2006 there are currently 42 neighbors that have joined the Neighborhood Committee, and a dozen others who have called with questions and plan to join by attending the next meeting when it is held.

Currently, there are four Ambassadors: Pamela Culp and Stacy Coomer in Section 1, Dawn Rusnell in Section 2, and Judith Garner in Section 3. The Ambassadors have volunteered to be a point of contact for residents in each of the

three neighborhood sections. If you have a question about the neighborhood organization, or want to become a member, please call or email one of the Ambassadors or log onto our new website at <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth>

In December 2005, a Neighborhood Newsletter (dated November/December) was distributed door-to-door to each house by Ambassadors Pamela Culp, Stacy Coomer and Judith Garner. This newsletter explained how and why the neighborhood organization was being started, and asked that those residents interested in joining please contact one of the above mentioned Ambassadors. Those residents who called and joined

were notified by phone and email regarding the first-ever Neighborhood Committee meeting which was held on December 21, 2005 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located at the corner of Hartford and Mesquite. Seventeen neighbors attended; plans were made to create a neighborhood newsletter; and start a community website for Amberwood North. The group also discussed and prioritized the top 7-10 neighborhood issues.

Richard and Helen Danielson have been coordinating the use of a meeting room at the church whenever the Neighborhood Committee schedules a meeting. We really appreciate the Danielsons. We also

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Randy Hoopes Reflects on Amberwood North's History

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the Valley National Bank (the predecessor to Bank One and then Chase Bank in the Valley). My grandmother purchased 80 acres at the southeast corner of Alma School Road and Elliot. She soon built a house where she and my father lived until he married in 1941. That house is what is now the Farm House office building just east of Fry's. My grandmother lived in that house until her death in 1968. While long ago removed, at my grandmother's house there was a large hay barn, a milk barn, a horse barn, and a large chicken coop.

When he married, my father moved to a small existing farmhouse across Elliot from my Grandmother's house which no longer exists. I was born in that house in 1952, as were my older brother Doug, and my sisters Judy and Cindy. About 1954, my father built the red brick house at 533 West Elliot. My little sister Nancy was born in that house. Around 1960, my father sold about 5 acres west of his house to a cousin, L.R. Layton, who built the blue house that is still next door to my father's red brick house. In 1967, my brother Doug, who farmed with my father, built the house to the east of my father's house. The Adams family later purchased that house.

After acquiring the first 80 acres, my father worked hard and ultimately acquired all but about 10 acres in the square mile within Alma School, Elliot, Warner and Arizona Avenue. He also acquired all but 200 acres of the square mile immediately to the north to Guadalupe. My father purchased some of the acreage along Arizona Avenue directly from A. J. Chandler, the founder of Chandler. Over the years, my father raised cotton, alfalfa, wheat, barley, and later, sugar beets. Just off Elliot

Road, about where Nebraska Street is, was the farm headquarters. There were about six small houses for farm workers, a shop, sheds for the many tractors and implements used on the farm, several large hay barns and corrals for the horses and cattle we always had. My father later purchased a feedlot on Warner Road just east of Arizona Avenue, where he fed about 2000 head of cattle. From the time I was about 11 until I entered law school at the University of Arizona, I worked every summer and many Saturdays on the farm and at the feedlot. My older brother Doug was my father's partner in the operation.

When my father sold the farm to developers around 1978, and bought a farm in Imperial County, California, the area looked much different. Alma School and Warner Roads were dirt roads until the mid sixties. I believe Guadalupe was a dirt road until the seventies. WPA crews (Work Progress Administration) paved every other section line road in the thirties. For example, Elliot and Dobson Roads were paved with a narrow (maybe 20 feet wide) strip of concrete that was badly deteriorated by the time it was replaced. Along all the main section line roads (Alma School, Elliot, Warner, Dobson, etc.) were open Salt River Project laterals for irrigation. Until the late fifties all those laterals and roads were lined with huge cottonwood trees that were more beautiful than you can imagine. Some areas of cottonwood-lined ditches continued to exist until development, but not many because it was discovered that they used large amounts of water from the ditches.

While a serious matter now, we routinely swam in the laterals and canals, and nobody much cared. The well that still exists at the

corner of Alma School Road and Elliot was a warm water well, and we really liked to swim in the ditch where that well emptied because the water was warm. We would strip to our underwear without concern because a car might pass by only a few times a day, and those that did, didn't care. We also built forts in the hay barns out of hay bales, rode horses, played in trailers full of picked cotton, built tree houses in cottonwood trees, rode bicycles everywhere, and played "kick the can", baseball, hide and seek, and other games in the evenings.

Until 1978, in the whole square mile where the Amberwood North Neighborhood now is, there were only five houses, plus the housing for my father's workers: My grandmother's house, the Layton house, my brother Doug's house, and a house on Warner Road where an African-American family lived on their small 10-acre farm. We all went to elementary school at the old Alma School, which was located on Alma School Road, just north of Main Street, where Mesa Public Schools now operates a commissary.

My mother, and her mother, attended that same elementary school. I would take a bus to school, and one small school bus could pick up every single child that lived from Warner Road to Southern, and between Arizona Avenue and Price Road.

My house has a screened-in porch, as did my grandmother's home and a majority of homes built before air conditioning was common. In the summer people slept on screened-in porches, and out of habit, my grandmother often continued to do so even after she had air conditioning.

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Randy Hoopes Reflects on Amberwood North's History

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As a young child I spent many summer nights sleeping with her on that screened porch. Alfalfa hay was baled at night in the summer when the hay was damp with dew. When we slept out on the porch, we could hear the comforting rhythmic pounding of the haybaler as it compressed the hay into bales.

Summers (late July and August) were hot and humid as they are now, because the irrigated farm land retained much less heat than the pavement and rooftops do now. The evenings were much cooler then. I can remember when I drove home from Mesa late at night, I could feel the noticeably cooler air as I left the City that pretty much ended at Southern Avenue.

The area thrived because of irrigation provided by the Salt River Project. I have seen maps prepared by the Mesa Southwest History Museum showing the approximate location of ancient HoHoKam ditches. None are shown in this area. The closest, among the many in the Valley, were a network of ditches near Extension Road south of Southern Avenue. This is the area where my mother's family

homesteaded in the 1880s, the area around Kyrene Road and Elliot. Although long considered some of the best soil for farming in the state, I suspect this area is just high enough that the HoHoKams could not get Salt River water this far. However, when I was driving a tractor in a field next to Arizona Avenue and just north of the Western Canal, I dug up a HoHoKam axe, and other farm workers would from time to time dig up a HoHoKam tomahawk. So, while the ancient Indians did not farm in the area, they probably gathered wood or did other work with tools in the area where we live. My mother's mother, who grew up near Alma School Road between Southern and Broadway in the late 1800s said that what is now Alma School Road was the main path for the Indians to travel from their reservation south of Chandler to the other reservation north of Mesa. When she was young, some of the men still wore nothing but loin cloths. Even when I was very young, on Saturdays Indians would travel to Mesa to shop in horse-drawn wagons.

A couple of stories about this area

might be interesting. There was an old abandoned adobe house on Alma School Road where Mesquite Street is now. Somehow, a rumor got started that a prior owner had hidden gold in the house, and every so often we would find that someone had been looking through the house and digging in the walls to find the supposed gold.

During World War II, a plane traveling from Williams Air Force Base east of Chandler to Luke Field east of Glendale crashed in a storm about 200 yards east of my grandmother's house and our house that was then across the street. All eight people on board were killed. My older sister Judy thought it was a Japanese attack and grabbed her doll and went outside to hide in a ditch until my mother came and convinced her everyone was safe. In the late sixties, there was a tornado that touched down where the farm headquarters was and destroyed all of the barns and many of the buildings.

This area has been my home all my life, and for most of the life of my parents. It is very special to me, as it now is to you as your home.

John R. Hoopes

About John R. Hoopes

John is a fourth generation Arizonan, born in Mesa, Arizona in 1952 and raised on family farm in Chandler, Arizona. His family has been involved with Salt River Project since his great-grandfather joined its Council in 1904. John was elected to the SRP Council in 1997, and each year since 2002, has been chosen by members of the Council to serve as Council Chairman. If elected, John R. Hoopes, will leave a business law practice to serve as SRP President. The SRP election is April 4, 2006 at the Desert Cross Lutheran Church, 8600 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ 85284

For more information regarding the Salt River Project election visit the following websites:

www.elect-hoopes-rousseau.com and for election information go to www.srpnet.com/election

Amberwood North Neighborhood Organization Is Growing

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thank the LDS Church for being so gracious towards our Neighborhood Organization.

The next Neighborhood Committee meetings took place on February 7, 2006 and a follow-up meeting was held on February 15, 2005. Through word-of-mouth and residents contacting one of the Ambassadors, 25 more neighbors decided to get involved!

The February meetings were expertly moderated by Dale Xavier who lives in Section 3. We cannot thank Dale enough for getting the members focused! As a result, the Neighborhood Committee is now planning a series of neighborhood "Town-Hall" styled meetings with various City of Chandler departments over time.

These meetings will tentatively be held, quarterly, at the Sirrine Elementary School gymnasium.

Once scheduled, Town Hall Meeting announcements will be distributed by volunteers door-to-door and posted in the Community Calendar on Amberwood North's website.

It is planned that each Town Hall meeting will address only one topic, or issue, at a time. This will respectfully allow City officials the ample time they need to prepare. The Neighborhood Committee will also give the City officials a listing of our neighborhood's questions, concerns, and needs in advance. This will also enable the City to provide complete and accurate information of interest to our residents.

The goal of the Town Hall Meeting Series is to create purposeful two-way communication with the City and Amberwood North's residents. These meetings will also bring about a clear, organized way to speak to the City government with a guarantee we will be heard in numbers!

The Amberwood North Neighborhood Committee is currently working on planning for the first four-topics in the Town-Hall Meeting Series-

COMMITTEE #1: TRASH SERVICE-
ALLEY DUMPSTERS VERSUS
CURBSIDE PICK-UP; ASSOCIATED
ALLEY ISSUES

AJ Almanasier, Brian Barabe,
Stacy Coomer, Judith Garner

COMMITTEE #2: CODE COMPLIANCE
AS RELATED TO PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE

Ed Campbell, Don Langlois

COMMITTEE #3: STREET CONDITION
MAINTENANCE

Bob Briggs, Cheryl Duran, Debbie
Norton

COMMITTEE #4: TRAFFIC-SPEEDING

Judith Garner, Gary Hoehn

AMBERWOOD NORTH AMBASSADORS:

SECTION 1:

Pamela Culp
ph. 480-782-5895
email: tpjculp@msn.com

Stacy Coomer
ph. 480-855-1697

SECTION 2:

Dawn Rusnell
ph. 602-410-5092
email: dawnsavon1@cox.net

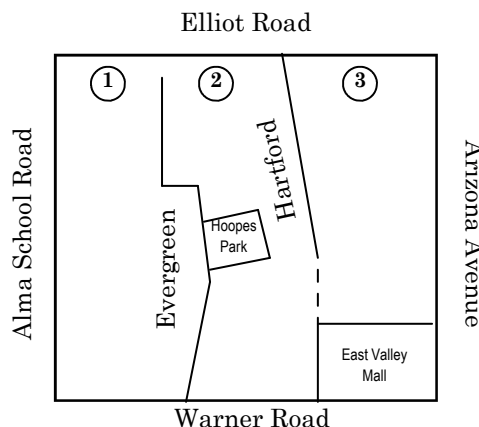
SECTION 3:

Judith Garner
ph. 480-560-7842
email: judithgarner@qwest.net

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:

If you are interested in becoming an Active Committee Member, have a suggestion, or can volunteer to help distribute newsletters, call an Ambassador, or log onto our new community website and sign up.

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth>





Chandler Police Department's Community District-4 Meeting Highlights

—By Judith Garner

On March 16, 2006 the Chandler Police Department held its quarterly Community District 4 Meeting (previously known as Beat Meetings). The meeting started at 6:00 pm, and was held at the CPD Community Room located at 250 E. Chicago in downtown Chandler.

Currently Chandler is divided into seven districts. District 4 includes Police Beats 7, 8 and 9. The Amberwood North Neighborhood is currently located in Beat 7. District 4 Lieutenant Jim Tollefson, stated that there is a very good chance the District Meeting will be restructured again soon with the addition of more Police Officers.

The meeting had a great turn out and began promptly with Police Officer's introductions for Beats 7, 8 and 9. Next on the agenda, the crime stats for February 2006 were reviewed with the audience. Thereafter, an open

forum for questions and comments brought forth some interesting concerns and issues. A number of Police Officers were on hand to answer these questions. Lastly, an educational K-9 demonstration was held for the audience.

Here are highlights of the meeting :

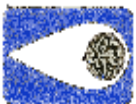
- Chandler City Council voted recently to allow the Police Department to hire 23 more Police Officers. Chandler will possibly be broken into three districts, but no date was given for the change.
- Chandler Police Department's goal is to provide response times of less than 5 minutes for Priority One calls.
- Crime rate reduced 15 percent in February compared to the previous month.

BEAT 7 CRIME STATS FEBRUARY 2006

- Average Response Time For Priority One Calls: 4.91 minutes
- Busiest Day: Wednesday - 111 calls
- Slowest Day: Sunday - 84 calls
- Busiest Times: Noon to 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Highest Volume Calls:
 - 1.) 911 calls
 - 2.) Alarm calls
 - 3.) Zoning calls

The most calls received came from the Chandler Meadows Condominiums located at Palomino & Arizona Ave. Sgt. Brian Cox stated that there are many problems at the condos, i.e., teenaged gangs; drug activity. Police patrols in this area have been increased. Target and Wal-Mart have been hit a lot lately with shoplifting and forged checks.

District 4 Lt. Jim Tollefson
Ph. 480-782-4210
jim.tollefson@ci.chandler.az.us



Does Your Street Have A Block Watch Yet?

Block Watch is a national program that is based on the principle that neighbors working together are the first and best defense against crime. Block Watch can improve the security of our neighborhood as well as increase a sense of community among the residents.

Congratulations and thanks to Sundance Way for starting a Block Watch on their street!

What Block Watch Is

Block Watch is really just an extension of what you are probably already doing on an informal basis. We tend to know and watch out for our closest neighbors, but a group of neighbors at one end of the block who are doing this may not know the group of neighbors at the other end of the block. Organizing a Block Watch makes this attitude of watchfulness more systematic, and provides a block map with neighbors' names and telephone numbers that can be used in case of an emergency.

It takes two commitments: A commitment to be concerned about your neighbor's property as well as your own, and a commitment that when you see suspicious activity, you will take action by calling your neighbor or 9-1-1.

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(continued from page 6) What Block Watch is Not

Block Watch doesn't require you to perform any special tasks, go to a lot of meetings, or take on extra responsibilities. You don't have to patrol the neighborhood, or chase burglars. Block Watch just involves being alert as a part of your everyday life. For example, when you go to the window to open or close the drapes, instead of just opening or closing them and turning away, you might stop for a second and glance around the neighborhood to be sure everything is okay. When you go out to get in the car to go to work, instead of heading for the car with "tunnel vision," glance up and check the neighborhood. It is this kind of "watching" that is involved.

Being a part of a Block Watch doesn't require you to live in your neighbor's hip pocket, or tell them every aspect of your business. You can still conduct your life in privacy. All it requires is that you and your neighbors be familiar enough with each other to know who belongs in the neighborhood and who doesn't; which cars are a part of the neighborhood and which aren't; and when something suspicious is going on. It doesn't require you to be any friendlier than you want to be. **BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM CHANDLER POLICE DEPARTMENT CALL: 480-782-4521**

The Streets Report

Mesquite Street Speed Hump Effort Making Progress

—By Mary Young

***Background:** An effort to get speed humps on Mesquite Street, between Hartford and Alma School, has been underway by a group of residents since October 2005. In the January/February Amberwood North Neighborhood Newsletter, there was an article, written by Mary Young, that explained how this effort got started and what the process entails. If you missed reading the article, you will find archived copies of the Neighborhood News on Amberwood North's new neighborhood website:*

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth>

Update:

Here's the status of the speed humps on Mesquite Street...a total of 200 signatures is required. There are 9 separate signature gathering sheets that need to be completed, which in total comprise the 200 required signatures:

- 4 sheets have been circulated
- 3 sheets are still out being circulated
- 2 sheets are currently pending circulation

To date, we have 59 signatures, 6 of these signatures were not in favor of the speed humps. That is 29.5 percent of the 90 percent of total signatures needed. We are almost 1/3 of the way there.

If neighbors were not home when someone came by with the petition, a "Sorry we missed you" note was left saying that a petition will be brought to them for their signature if they give Bob and Mary Young a call. A few have taken us up on the offer. The offer still stands. If they received one of these notes, and did not have time to call us, it's not too late—go ahead and give us a call.

Thanks to neighbors Bert, Greg, Debbie, Pat, Jean, Mike, Allyson and Tom for helping to gather signatures!

STREETS REPAIR UPDATE

Asphalt Overlays- In order to prepare the following streets for a new surface, the existing surface was milled down on:

- Nebraska Street from Elliot Rd to Palomino
- Evergreen Street at a starting point North of Wal-Mart to Mesquite

Chandler recycles street millings by putting them in alleys with a light sealing to reduce dust..

Crack sealing is currently being completed on Hartford, Mesquite, Cheyenne and a number of other streets in the neighborhood. Chandler's Pavement Management Program analyzes streets according to age, also the department's budget dictates when streets will later be resurfaced.

If you have questions about street work in the area, please call the following department at the City of Chandler:

Street Maintenance: Ph. 480-782-3500

The Community Calendar has been moved to the neighborhood website:
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth>

Newsletter Deliveries

Thanks to the following neighbor volunteers who have been helping to get the Amberwood North Neighborhood News distributed door to door:

Section 1 - Pamela Culp and family, Stacy Coomer and family, Lavonne Sanders

Section 2 - Fred and Cheryl Duran, Don and Jan Stafford

Section 3 - Helen Danielson and family, Judith Garner and family, Kim Smith

We can use all of the volunteers we can get to help distribute our neighborhood newsletter. If you can help... please contact: **Judith Garner, ph. 480-560-7842, or email: judithgarner@qwest.net**

Did You Know?...

The City of Chandler's Tool Bank Program allows The Neighborhood Services Unit to lend basic hand tools, lawnmowers, and weed eaters to Chandler Residents for the purpose of property maintenance. This service is provided free of charge and tools are delivered to the residence.

Should you need this service or want more information please contact:

Neighborhood Services, ph. 480-782-4320 or email: don.slomcinsky@chandleraz.gov

City of Chandler Frequently Called Phone Numbers

Animal Control	(480) 782-4130	Hazard Waste Disposal	(480) 782-3510
Block Watch	(480) 782-4528	Hospital, Chandler Regional	(480) 963-4561
Building Permits	(480) 782-3000	Information Line	(480) 782-4636
Bulk Trash Pick-up	(480) 782-3510	Tool Bank Program	(480) 782-4320
Chandler Fire Department	(480) 782-2120	Traffic Engineering	(480) 782-3454
Chandler/Gilbert YMCA	(480) 899-9622	Solid Waste/Garbage Pick-up	(480) 782-3510
Chandler Parks	(480) 782-2727	Senior Center	(480) 782-2720
Chandler Police Department		Solve It! Mediation Program	(480) 732-7174
Emergencies	9-1-1	Special Events Hotline	(480) 782-2735
Non-emergency	(480) 782-4130	Street Light Repair Hotline	(480) 782-3460
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
Graffiti Hotline	(480) 782-4322		

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