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VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth

CALL A NEIGHBORHOOD AMBASSADOR:

Pamela Culp- Section 1 ph. 480-782-5895 tpjculp@msn.com

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

<u>Judith Garner</u>- Section 3 ph. 480-560-7842 judithgarner@qwest.net

<u>Dale Xavier</u>- Section 3 ph. 480-332-3253 DALE3132002@yahoo.com



Amberwood North Neighborhood Seeks A Signage Grant From City of Chandler

-By Judith Garner

The neighborhood is no longer without a name! Since November 2005, our Amberwood North community has worked to develop an identity within Chandler that is attracting attention from our city officials, and other neighborhoods within the city as well.

What's all this fuss about? It's simple, long-time residents are working together to restore a lost sense of community pride in Amberwood North, among our residents and among our city officials.

Our homes and infrastructure may be aging, but we have a neighborhood full of great people with lots of vitality who love it here and plan to stay here! Our residents are determined to thwart the decline that all too often besets an older neighborhood, such as an advent of crime, illegal trash dumping, and blight.

Chandler's Neighborhood Programs Dept. assists neighborhoods with this type of effort. This Fall, there is an opportunity to apply for a grant from the city for a neighborhood project. Amberwood North's network involved neighbors voted to apply for a signage grant to install neighborhood logo at all entrances main into Amberwood North.

Resident Dale Xavier, president of Arizona Solar Window Graphics, has designed our neighborhood logo (see above). Dale has generously volunteered his

expertise, time and materials to make graphics and a model of our neighborhood signage to present to the city along with the grant application.

Resident volunteers have recently formed a special Grant Committee who will be representing our neighborhood throughout the layered grant application process which starts on August 12, 2006 and is finished on October 25, 2006

SIGNAGE GRANT COMMITTEE

Don Langlois—Section 1
Ed Campbell—Section 3
Judith Garner—Section 3
Dale Xavier—Section 3

For more information about this project please contact:

Judith Garner (480)560-7842 Dale Xavier (480)332-3253

Streets Are Working To Secure Speed Humps on Mesquite, Hartford & Palomino

-See the story on page 7-

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Speeding & Traffic Issues Bring Community Out To Second Town Hall Meeting

-By Judith Garner

The second Town Hall meeting with the City of Chandler covered numerous transportation, traffic and speeding issues in the The Town Hall neighborhood. meeting was held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gymnasium on June 29, 2006. The meeting started at 7:20 p.m. and lasted until about 8:20 p.m. There were approximately 41 Amberwood North residents in attendance, and 4 residents from two visiting neighborhoods who attended because they are interested in developing similar meetings in their own neighborhood.

Amberwood North's committee of neighborhood volunteers planned the Town Hall meeting with Chandler's Transportation Manager, Martin Johnson, and Stefanie Garcia of Neighborhood Programs.

On June 13, 2006, 24 residents met and finalized a set of drafted questions relating to our neighborhood's specific transportation, traffic and speeding issues. The questions were then forwarded to Martin Johnson and Stefanie Garcia so that they could prepare, at the city level, for the meeting.

The Town Hall meeting was moderated by resident Stacy Coomer. Stacy welcomed the audience and introduced the city representative Martin Johnson. Stacy asked each

question aloud, and Martin Johnson addressed each question one by one. Residents were encouraged to ask questions after the presentation. Mr. Johnson remained after the meeting to talk further with residents.

Chandler Police Department had an officer scheduled to answer law enforcement questions, but he got called to duty just before the Town Hall meeting started. Judy Ramos, of Neighborhood Programs, quickly coordinated a replacement officer who arrived towards the end of the meeting. The police officer who arrived actually works in DUI. He answered the questions he could, promising to take residents concerns to his superior lieutenant.

FOR MORE TOWN HALL INFO. VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth
Go to: Community Pages and click on Town Hall Meeting 6/29/06. The following are online: Town Hall Meeting Recap; Neighborhood Meeting Announcement; Meeting Agenda; Q & A-Transportation, Traffic and Speeding

Number of Neighbors Attend Chandler Police Department's District 4 Meeting -By Judith Garner

If you have never been to the Chandler Police Department's District 4 meeting, presented by Lieutenant Tollefson, plan to attend the next quarterly meeting in September. You will meet the police officers that patrol your neighborhood, and be informed of the latest crime statistics around your home.

Attendees are additionally treated to a special presentation or demonstration that features various aspects of the Police Department. March's meeting included an educational K-9 demonstration. The most recent district meeting, on June 22nd, included a presentation showing

how TASER® guns operate. A demonstration was also provided in the shooting range showing the department's F.A.T.S. Fire Arms Training System.

Citizens learned that the Chandler Police Department uses F.A.T.S. to support marksmanship and judgmental training for the full spectrum of tools available to Chandler police officers. These tools include less-lethal and non-lethal options such as verbal commands, baton, chemical spray and TASER®, in addition to different firearm types.

Ten residents from Amberwood North attended the meeting and were quite impressed with what we learned and enjoyed the experience.

Lieutenant Tollefson explained that a new full-service police substation and fire station will be opening at Desert Breeze Park, located near McClintock Rd. and Chandler Boulevard in August. Currently the city has 15 police beats, but with the opening of the Desert Breeze Police Substation, the city will have 18 police beats and 3 precincts this Fall. There will be some shifting around of the police department's personnel, and Lieutenant Spear will be taking over District 4 on October 1, 2006.

Seargent Brian Cox presented the crime statistics for Beat 7, where Amberwood North is located. **See CRIME STATISTICS ON PAGE 6.**

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Era Ends: Chandler Craftmart Store Is Closing Pollack Warner Plaza To Get A Major Overhaul

■Information sources: Chandler Republic and Chandler Independent

The Chandler Craftmart store at Alma School and Warner roads is closing, and the shopping center it occupies will undergo a major renovation.

Chandler residents who have relied on Craftmart, at 1980 N. Alma School Road in Pollack Warner Plaza, for quality arts and crafts supplies are really disappointed that the store is closing after 15 years at this location.

The store opened in Chandler in 1991 and is the last of four Craftmarts in the Valley to close, said Laurie Umbarger, whose parents, Chuck and April Umbarger started the business 18 years ago in the West Valley. Stores in Glendale and Peoria have closed over the past three years, Laurie said, because her parents are retiring.

Umbarger said the going-out-ofbusiness sale will likely continue for nine weeks or until everything is sold, including store fixtures.

Michael Pollack's investment company owns the shopping center, located on the southwest corner of the intersection, and is preparing a major overhaul of the strip center. "We are working with the city of Chandler and looking to do a full redevelopment at that center like we did at Arizona Avenue and Ray Road and at Alma School and

Ray Road," Pollack said. Several potential tenants have expressed interest in the 36,000 square-foot Craftmart space, including furniture stores and a discount retailer, he said.

The shopping center, built in the '80s, will receive renovations to modernize the exterior of all stores, repave the parking lot and add landscaping, according to Pollack.

The closing of the Craftmart store is the end of an era for the Umbarger family, as they retire. It is also the end of an era for their loyal Chandler customers who will really miss the store when it closes by the end of summer.

City's New Guidelines For Pool Draining

■Information from City of Chandler's Community Newsletter 'City Scope'

Ready to do some work on your pool? Before you start pumping the water out, you need to make sure you're meeting the City of Chandler's pool draining requirements. Changes to the policy go into effect August 1, 2006.

In an effort to make the process more efficient and safer, it is now recommended that residents discharge the pool water directly into the sewer clean-out located on their property, and not into the street. There is no permit or notification needed, and the process is easy, and environmentally friendly.

The sewer cleanout is typically a 3-4 inch black pipe about level with the landscaping, typically located close to the home. It may have a black cap, with a raised square nut or a

recessed slot, which can be unscrewed to make way for the hose from the pool to drain the water. In a newer home you may find that there are two clean-out pipes. In this case you generally want to discharge into the one closest to the home. The recommended flow rate is no greater than 12 gallons per minute. The safe flow rate may differ depending on the size of the drain line, distance to the sewer main, and the condition of the pipes. If you have trouble locating your sewer cleanout, or have questions on proper drainage or safe flow rates consult a plumber or check with your pool contractor.

During general maintenance, when backwashing your pool, drainage into the sewer cleanout is not necessary as long as the discharge is maintained on your private property.



Some reasons for the change:

- Water discharged into the city's sewer system is treated, while storm drain water generally is not.
- Enforcing state and federal environmental regulations.

Go to www.chandleraz.gov for a complete listing of Pool Draining requirements, or call

(480) 782-3502

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Electric Hot Water Heaters Troubleshooting Guide

-By Dennis Coggins (retired General Contractor)

Hello neighbors! Now that the temperatures are well over 100 degrees, who wants to worry about a water heater? Actually this is a good time of the year to service or repair the heater to get it ready for the winter when hot water is a necessity. This article will guide you to cost effective and simple repairs. Enjoy!

<u>Electric Hot Water Heaters</u> Troubleshooting Guide

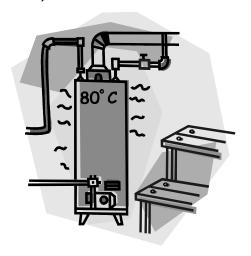
This information assumes the hot water heaters were properly installed and were operating correctly before any problem developed.

Most electric hot water heaters have two thermostats, one near the top of the tank and one near the bottom, and are covered by removable metal cover plates (and usually a removable piece of insulation). The thermostats are pressed firmly against the bare metal wall of the hot water heaters tank.

The top thermostat usually has a high limit switch that will trip if the water gets too hot. When it trips it shuts off the electricity to both the upper and lower heating elements. To reset the high limit switch there is usually a red button that you must press. When the upper limit switch trips it is often an indication that something else has gone wrong with the heater.

Problem: Water not hot.

First remove the upper thermostat cover plate and check the high limit switch button. If it has tripped, press it to reset it. Using a volt meter, check for power at the input terminals of the upper thermostat. (Usually marked L2 and L2) If no power is present then check your circuit breakers or



wiring to the water heater. If there is power at the heating element but the element is not getting hot, the heating element needs to be replaced. If there is no power at the upper heating element, the upper thermostat needs to be replaced.

<u>Problem: Not enough hot water or</u> water temperature too low.

When the top of the tank is hot the upper thermostat removes power from the upper heating element and transfers the power to the lower thermostat and heating element. If the lower thermostat is defective, the lower portion of the tank will not be heated and the supply will be greatly reduced.

Check for power at the upper thermostat terminals where the power is sent to the lower thermostat and heating element. If there is no power, the upper thermostat should be replaced. If there is power, check for power at the lower heating element. If there is no power at the lower heating element, replace the lower thermostat.

If there is power to the lower heating element it should be getting hot. If it is not, replace it. Another possibility is a broken dip tube. Check for a broken dip tube and replace if necessary.

Problem: Water is too hot.

A likely cause is one of the thermostats. Check for power at the top heating element. If power is present at the top heating element, the top thermostat is defective. If power is present at the lower heating element, the lower heating element, the lower thermostat is defective. Another possible cause is the thermostats are not pushed firmly against the tank or set too high.

Problem: TPR relief valve leaking. (usually located on top of the water heater with a copper pipe draining to the exterior)

The relief valve will operate if either the temperature is too high or if the pressure gets too high. If the inlet is fed directly from the main with no pressure relief valves or check valves between them, when the water heater heats it expands and simply flows back toward the main.

Howeve, if there is a blockage such as a check valve or pressure reducing valve with a defective bypass, the increase in water volume has nowhere to go and the pressure will dramatically increase. Placing an expansion tank in the line at the inlet will give the increased volume someplace to go and prevent operation of the relief valve.

Another possibility is that the City water pressure has increased above the setting of the relief. Again, the installation of an expansion tank will solve the problem.

(continued page 5)

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Troubleshooting Guide: Hot Water Heaters

(continued from page 4)

<u>Problem:</u> <u>Popping or banging</u> noise.

Scale can build up on the heating elements causing all sorts of noises to occur while heating. Try removing the heating elements and either clean or replace them.

Problem: Stinky Water

Certain types of bacteria can react with the magnesium anode rod resulting in a rotten egg odor. Clean the tank using chlorine bleach or changing the anode rod to aluminum usually will solve the problem.

Problem: Leaking tank

Replace the tank. Lacking hot water is no fun. And discolored, smelly water is just as bad. What to do?

- 1. Make sure the breaker hasn't tripped, if you have an electric unit and are not getting any hot water. Press the reset button on the thermostat inside the access panel if a tripped breaker isn't the problem.
- 2. Suspect a buildup of sediments in the water-heater tank if the hot water is discolored or is taking a long time to replenish. If this is the case, you'll need to drain the tank completely and flush it with clean water. The drain is usually a valve located near the bottom of the tank.
- 3. Check the water heater's temperature settings if you have noisy plumbing. It might be too hot, and the noise may be the result of steam building up in the pipes. If this is the case, lower the temperature setting on the thermostat.
- 4. Make sure you aren't running multiple appliances that use hot water running the dishwasher

and the washing machine will make your shower short and not so sweet.

- 5. Notice if the water smells like sulfur. Sometimes bacteria that live in the water get out of control. A good dose of chlorine will usually take care of the problem. (Consult your owner's manual for the recommended dosage.)
- 6. Check the water temperature when the tank is full. Run hot water from the tap over a thermometer. It should be within 5 degrees of the thermostat setting. Replace the thermostat if there is a larger discrepancy.

<u>How to replace electric water</u> heater elements

There are usually two heating elements on a water heater. If one goes bad, this causes luke-warm water. Replacing the elements is as simple as matching the wattage (e.g.; 4500 watts x 2 on a standard 40 gallon residential heater), and follow this procedure:

- 1. Shut off power <u>VERY IMPORTANT!</u> at the breaker.
- 2. Turn the water valve off above the heater.
- 3. Go in the house and turn a faucet on (Hot side) until the water runs out, then turn it back OFF.
- 4. Remove the element cover plates on the heater. This exposes the wiring, thermostats and elements.
- 5. Remove the two wires on each element you wish to replace (in some cases, only one element need be replaced).
- 6. IMPORTANT, FOLLOW CLOSELY! To unscrew the element, you'll need a socket made exclusively for the element and you can purchase the

socket with the element. Have the new element close and loosen the old one in the heater slightly so you can unscrew it with your fingers. Hold the new element in one hand, and unscrew the old one in the other. Immediately replace the old element with the new one as quickly as possible to avoid losing water. Keep towels handy since you will loose some water.

This is important so you don't have to drain your heater. Keeping the faucets in the house off creates a vacuum like putting your finger over the top of a straw in water. You'll lose a small amount of water so keep a towel close, but nothing to worry about! Also, DO NOT turn the power back on until you turn the water valve back on and run the tub (Hot side) until all air is out (Usually 2 to 5 minutes). This is especially important if you do drain your heater. The elements will burn out immediately if they are turned on and not submersed! Turn the power on last!

7. Tighten the new element hand tight then 1/2 to 3/4 turn more, put it all back together, and you're done!

Hint: If the water gets hot when you turn it on but starts to get cold while you are taking a shower, this usually means the bottom element is bad. If you run the water for a long time before it gets hot, that usually means the upper element is bad.

Water heater warranties rarely cover elements and/or thermostats, so save yourself a bundle of \$\$ and DO IT YOURSELF!

AMBER Alert Victim Located and Suspects Booked

-Chandler Police Department Website-Press Release

For Immediate Release Friday, July 07, 2006

Contact: Detective Livi Kacic Public Information Officer Office 480-782-4105

CHANDLER, AZ. On July 6, 2006 at approximately 9:00 am, 24-year-old Steven Herman abducted his 17-year-old ex-girlfriend Danyelle Hawkins at gunpoint from her home in the 500 block of West Cheyenne Drive in Chandler. Hawkins'

11-year-old brother witnessed the abduction, and Herman told him not to tell anyone or he would kill Hawkins and ship her body back to the family. Herman's friend, 21-year-old Jonathan Pina, was with him during and after the abduction.

Thanks to a tip generated from the AMBER Alert activation, Herman, Pina, and Hawkins were located that same day at approximately 4:30 p.m. in a car in the vicinity of 35th Avenue and Indian School

Road in Phoenix. With the assistance of Phoenix Police, the car was stopped and Hawkins was recovered unharmed.

Herman was booked into jail for kidnapping, aggravated assault, 1st degree burglary, criminal damage, and prohibited possession of a firearm. Pina was booked into jail for conspiracy to commit kidnap, aggravated assault, 1st degree burglary, and criminal damage. Both are still waiting their initial court appearance.

Upcoming Citizen's Academy runs Aug. 9 - Nov. 1

-Chandler Police Department Website-Press Release

The goal of the Citizen Police Academy is to give citizens a better understanding of the guidelines within which an officer functions and a better understanding of why officers handle situations as they do. The academy combines instruction in police procedures and theory with practical, hands-on scenarios.

Those eligible to attend must be at least 18 years of age and work, live, or attend school in the City of Chandler. They can have no prior felony convictions and no misdemeanor arrests within six months of their academy

application. They must pass a background check conducted by the police department.

Some of the courses to be taught include: Media and the Law, Firearms Training, Gang Awareness, Patrol Functions, K-9 Program, Criminal Investigations/Narcotics, Traffic Law, and Use of Force.

Graduation Standards:

- No more than three (3) absences.
- One five-hour (5) or more (1/2 shift) ride-along with a Chandler Police Officer.
- Conduct conducive to the

informational goals established for this academy.

Those goals are designed to provide the student with a basic knowledge of the police function. Individuals will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the achievement of those goals.

Citizens are encouraged to contact Rosenda Contreras (480)782-4521 for an application or any other information regarding the academy. The Department plans on holding three of these academies per year with 40 students in each academy class.

2nd Quarter-Beat 7 Crime Statistics

Police Seargent Brian Cox reports that graffiti increased this quarter, and that there is an up and coming teenaged gang at 286 W. Palomino, Chandler Meadows Condominiums. A 12-year old boy was recently shot in the arm there, but this appears to be an isolated incident. The police are currently taking a proactive approach to minimize late night problems stemming from the bars located in the Target shopping center located at the northwest corner of Arizona Avenue and Warner Road. Sgt. Cox also reports that the police received approximately 80 calls per day from Beat 7 with an average of 3,304 calls since March. He says the highest percentage of calls are 911 hang-up, alarm, disorderly conduct and stolen cars. Hot button areas near Amberwood North are the bar areas and the gang activity at the condominiums. FOR CRIME PREVENTION GENERAL INFORMATION (480)782-4521

The Streets Report



Residents Want Speeding Controlled Three Streets Now Seek Speed Humps As A Control Measure -By Judith Garner

Residents living on Hartford, Palomino and Mesquite streets are sick and tired of law-breaking speeders! All three streets are pursuing speed control measures, and are currently working through the city's process to obtain speed humps.

Speeding drivers are blowing through the neighborhood exceeding the 25 m.p.h. residential speed limit, apparently, with no fear of prosecution. Many major streets

in the neighborhood have vehicles traveling at speeds exceeding 50 m.p.h. and some have been clocked at 80 m.p.h.! These speeds actually exceed the legal speed limit of 45 m.p.h. on the major arterial streets: Alma School, Arizona Avenue, Elliot and Warner.

Luckily, no people have been killed by speeders in Amberwood North to date. Some pets have not been so lucky. Many dogs and cats have been hit by cars over the years. Property has also been destroyed by speeders. In January, a speeding vehicle plowed through a house at Palomino and Hartford rendering the structure inhabitable until it could be rebuilt. If you live on Hartford, Palomino or Mesquite, you will soon be asked by a group of your neighbors to support the effort to install speed humps.

Transportation Manager, Martin Johnson, says that Chandler currently installs a 14-foot-wide speed hump, opposed to a 12-foot-wide speed hump used in the past. The reason for this change, is that the 14-foot-wide speed hump helps motorists maintain their vehicle speed at 25 m.p.h. without having to brake. For more information, call a neighborhood Ambassador or visit the website. (see front page)



Cell Tower Disguised As Palm Tree Appears At Sirrine School -By Judith Garner

New cell tower installations are going up across his year as wireless

the Valley this year as wireless companies scramble to improve coverage in the face of sprawl. Churches and schools are being approached by cell-phone providers, such as T-Mobile and Cingular Wireless, about renting space to erect new towers disguised as palm trees. fake palms are adorned with microwave receptors. **Besides** better reception and fewer dropped calls, the tower proliferation is generating cash for non-profits and schools that rent space for the towers.

According to Darcey Estes, area development manager for T-Mobile, planning departments in Chandler and other municipalities help the companies find acceptable sites at schools or

churches if commercial areas aren't close by. Frank Fletcher, associate superintendent for the Chandler Unified School District, said about a dozen towers are on school property and each is under individually negotiated leases. A MonoPalm installation at Erie Elementary School brought the Chandler school district \$95,000 for 15-year use of the spot. Recently, a palm cell tower has appeared at the Sirrine Elementary School. It is located on the west side of the school, (near the Hoopes Park playground) and is in the same spot that a C.O.W. tower (cell on wheels) had been previously erected temporarily. Can you spot it?

According to John Miller, inspector in operations at the Mesa school district, T-Mobile is leasing the space for \$900 per month with 60 percent of that money going directly to the school, and 40 per-

cent going to administration. "The lease agreement is very beneficial to the school," John said. "Chandler's Planning Department reviewed this. Chandler's codes do apply to the tower," he said. Chandler allows wireless transmission devices up to 70 feet tall on school property and in commercial and industrial areas. They can also be built within 300 feet of neighborhoods but need a special permit to get closer.

Companies avoid aesthetic objections from neighbors by installing fake trees or hidden receptors. Lauren Garner, spokeswoman for Cingular Wireless says, "We do palm trees, pine trees, church steeples and flagpoles." A MonoPalm wireless transmission pole can cost \$80,000 according to PennSummit Tubular, one of the nations largest manufacturers of wireless transmission poles.

Did You Know?



Water Resources/Conservation

All of the following are FREE to Chandler Utility Customers:

- 1. Retrofit kits including shower head, faucet aerators, leak detection tablets and toilet displacement bag for homes built before 1992.
- 2. Brochures with information about landscaping and household watersaving tips.
- 3. Workshops held every spring and fall to help you plan and maintain a waterwise landscape.
- 4. Home water audits. The audit will help if you have a high water bill and are not sure if you have a leak.
- 5. School programs, HOA and neighborhood group presentations. Staff is available by appointment.
- 6. Landscape and irrigation timer rebates.

Call Water Conservation for more information about these FREE services: (480) 782-3580

Get out and meet your neighbors! Attend a monthly neighborhood meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For time, location, or more information:

<u>Time</u>- 7:00 p.m.

<u>Location</u>- 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 check the Community Calendar online at our neighborhood's website:

www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth

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		
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
• •	, ,	Street Light Repair Hotline	(480) 782-3460
Chandler Recycling	(480) 782-3510		, ,
Code Compliance	(480) 782-4320	Sirrine Elementary School	(480) 472-3600
Dial-a-Ride	(480) 633-0101	Hendrix Jr. High School	(480) 472-3300
Graffiti Hotline	(480) 782-4322	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