

Neighborhood News



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New Neighborhood Signs Make Debut

-By Judith Garner



Community of
Amberwood-North
New sign-toppers are
currently installed at the
following locations:

- Alma School at
Cheyenne, Mesquite
and Palomino.
- Evergreen at
ElPrado, Palomino,
Nopal and Mesquite.
- Mesquite & Cheri-
Lynn.
- Palomino & ElPrado.
- Hartford at
Elliot, Mesquite
and Palomino.
- Nebraska at Elliot
and Palomino.

Have you noticed the "Community of Amberwood North" sign toppers in various locations around our neighborhood recently? The City's Neighborhood Programs sponsored this project as a new benefit for traditional registered neighborhoods in Chandler. Amberwood North resident, Dale Xavier, designed and made the signs.

Signage Project Update: Grant Application Underway

On September 13, 2006 the grant committee members turned in an application to the City of Chandler seeking funds to install Amberwood North monument signs at all main entrances into the neighborhood. If accepted, entrance signs will be placed in the following locations: Elliot and Hartford, Elliot and Nebraska, Alma School at Cheyenne, Mesquite and Palomino. Residents are also planning to have a celebration event in Hoopes Park this late winter, or early spring, when the weather will be more pleasurable. Next, grant committee members are scheduled to make a brief presentation to Chandler's Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) at 5:30 p.m. on October 18, 2006 at the City Manager's Office.

Have You Visited Our Neighborhood Website?

www.neighborhoodlink.com/chandler/amberwoodnorth

Police Department Revisits Amberwood North After Missing June's Town Hall Meeting: Speeding & Traffic Q & A

—By Pamela Culp

On Tuesday, September 19, 2006, Sgt. Dean Lavergne from the Traffic Division of the Chandler City Police Department attended Amberwood North's monthly neighborhood meeting. His attendance had been requested by the neighborhood committee in order to answer questions that had not been answered from the City of Chandler Traffic Division during the Town Hall Meeting held on June 29, 2006. His presentation was informative and will be very helpful in addressing some of the issues brought forth by Amberwood North residents. The questions and answers are as follows:

Question: Does the Chandler Police Department have officers that are dedicated to traffic only?

Answer: Yes, there are officers specifically dedicated to traffic enforcement and accidents. Generally, there are three teams of six officers that are assigned to the traffic division within the City of Chandler. However, there are currently only two teams of six officers as a result of either promotions and/or reassignments.

Question: Does Chandler have photo radar vans? If not, what do we have to do to get one? If so, who decides where the vans are used?

Answer: The City of Chandler does not have photo radar vans. Photo radar lights are being used at certain intersections within the city and the result has shown that the accidents appear to be less severe at these intersections.

Question: What are the Chandler Police Department's

policies for pulling over speeders? i.e., When do the police enforce the speed limit? Is it based on citizen calls, school times, manpower, etc.?

Answer: Police discretion is used to determine if a vehicle will be pulled over for speeding. Patrol of an area is based on citizen's calls and complaints. The police department does have a "frequent patrol" list. Being added to the list would provide some additional enforcement to an area that is being affected by speeding vehicles. The phone number is 480-782-4853.

Another option available would be a radar trailer. The citizen calling for a radar trailer would be responsible for housing the trailer nightly and tracking speeding vehicles for one week. A traffic division volunteer would come to your home and explain the responsibilities involved and how to maintain the trailer. Notices can be sent to the speeding perpetrators by the police department if the citizen maintaining the radar trailer thoroughly documents the license plate number, speed, time and location. To obtain a radar trailer, please contact Sgt. Dean Lavergne at 480-782-4852.

Question: How often are warnings given out versus actual tickets?

Answer: Specific stats were not provided for our neighborhood. Police discretion was reiterated.

Question: Does the speeder have to be going so much over the speed limit before a ticket is issued?

Answer: Police discretion is used in determining if a warning or a ticket will be issued. Typically, between 6-miles to 11-miles over the speed limit will warrant a

warning or ticket.

Question: When requested by a resident, or neighborhood, will the Chandler Police Department send a police officer out during certain times of the day to watch for speeding? What is the frequent patrol list?

Answer: Yes, the police department will send additional enforcement when requested by a citizen. Being added to the frequent patrol list would provide some additional enforcement to an area that is being affected by speeding vehicles. To be added to the frequent patrol list, call 480-782-4853.

Question: What can be done regarding the bike lane usage by drivers? Drivers are using the bike lane as a right hand turn lane, especially around Sirrine Elementary School and Hoopes Park.

Answer: Bike lanes are not to be used as right-hand turn lanes. Those lanes were designed specifically for bicyclists, not motor vehicles. A ticket can be issued for improper use of a bike lane.

Question: What can be done about motorized skateboard usage and the disobeying of traffic laws and regulations? Safety seems to be our neighborhood residents concern.

Answer: Please refer to Chandler Police Department's website at: <http://police.chandleraz.gov> and access Motorized Play Vehicle Code under "What's New" in the lower left hand column for Ordinance No. 3683. There have been many changes to the traffic laws and regulations of motorized play vehicles in the city of Chandler.

Around The House



Repainting The Exterior Of Your Home

-By Dennis Coggins (retired General Contractor)

The way your home exterior looks is a reflection on you and our neighborhood. Protecting and maintaining this investment is no small task and there are many things to consider before you begin. You need to think about everything from removing the old paint to choosing the new color for your home. Surface preparation is the main ingredient to a successful and long lasting paint job.

First explore the current condition of your home's exterior. Walk around your house and search for the following common problems:

- leaky gutters (If you are lucky enough to have them)
- crumbling masonry or mortar cracking out of the joints
- loose siding
- rotting wood (This is a problem in our neighborhood because the builders used T111 composite siding and it is known to deteriorate. If the siding has started to rot, REPLACE IT.)
- windows and doors in need of repair
- insect invasions (Remove wasps nests and beehives you find)
- broken hardware or electrical fixtures
- signs of mildew
- caulking missing or in bad shape
- peeling paint (Most of the time peeling paint is a symptom of a moisture problem. Simply removing it will not deal with the cause unless it is the peeling is a result of poor prepping the last time the house was painted.)

You'll have to repair or remove and replace all problem areas before you start painting.

Surface preparation

Remove peeling paint by scraping and sanding the surface thoroughly.

All exterior surfaces need to be washed down (with a brush, roller, or sprayer) using a mixture of trisodium phosphate (TSP) and bleach to remove dirt and kill mildew. You should wash from the bottom to the top to avoid staining. Immediately hose down the house with a garden hose or water compressor. Let the house dry thoroughly before proceeding.

Tip: Work in the opposite direction of sun. Travel so that you and the house are in the shade as much possible.

Drape drop cloths over shrubs and delicate plants to protect the landscape. When you're finished, remove the cloths immediately to avoid the plants suffocating in the hot sun. Protect patios, decks, railings, light fixtures, too. Cover (do not remove) door handles.

Apply a primer to any bare wood before you paint.

Countersink nails and fill up the holes with exterior wood filler.

Apply fresh caulking where needed.

Tools required

- Ladders are an important consideration in any exterior painting project. Any ladder you use will need to be in excellent shape and be able to reach the highest places

safely. Overreaching is the most dangerous part of a painting project.

- Eye protection, goggles, and gloves.
- Primer and paint
- Sandpaper
- Paint Scraper
- Paint Brush
- Paint Pail
- Solvent

Types of paint

Nearly all paint and wood finishes used for exterior projects can be divided into water-based or solvent based. Water-based products are easier to use and more friendly to the environment. Solvent types are thought to be more durable, but are very difficult to use and clean up.

Block filler is used to seal bare block surfaces and can be applied to a surface with a brush or roller.

Primer undercoat is simply a primer and an undercoat all in one. Used on bare wood, it provides a base for your topcoat.

Masonry paint is available in both smooth and textured varieties. Smooth masonry paint can be purchased as flat or semi-gloss and should be used on a smooth masonry surface. It will cover around 150-square foot a gallon, although, it may reveal imperfections that textured finishes can hide. Apply with a brush, roller or airless sprayer.

Textured masonry paint has a gritty quality that can be applied to nearly any masonry surface. You will only get around 40

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Repainting Home Exterior (continued from Page 3)

square foot coverage to the gallon, but it is capable of hiding cracks or other surface imperfections and is a good water repelling material.

Glossy paint can be applied to nearly any surface that has an undercoat. It conveys both polish and shine. Apply it with a brush or roller for a hardwearing surface that will be easy to clean. Our Arizona sun will eventually dull a glossy finish.

Metal finishing paint can be applied to most any metal surface (not aluminum). It can be applied with a brush, roller or aerosol spray.

Varnish can be applied to both bare wood and wood stained surfaces. Available in gloss, semi-gloss and matte finishes, varnish is clear finish that will completely seal a surface. Spar varnish holds up best to our Arizona sun. Apply with a brush or a short nap roller.

Wood stain comes in many sheens and hues to convey a natural wood finish. It is applied to bare surfaces with a brush. Once applied, it is difficult to change colors so choose carefully.

Oil is a natural wood finish that penetrates deeply into the surface for rich preservation. Apply with a brush or cloth to bare wood.

Wood preservative can be applied to bare or previously preserved surfaces to help ward off decay. Use a brush or airless sprayer to apply, and apply on a regular basis.

Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully to insure proper usage. Hint: I prefer to use paint manufacturers that are located in the West and formulate products to work well in our harsh environment. I painted my house eight years ago with Dunn Edwards and it looks as good as the day I painted it.

Ways to pick out Colors

Selecting the perfect color combination for your home is equal parts instinct and homework, and with a little effort your home can become the envy of the neighborhood.

Study what you have, and make note of what you like and don't like about it. Make a trip to a couple of local paint stores. Pick up exterior color brochures, which contain samples of exterior color combinations that work well together for siding and trim. Ask if you can borrow a paint fan. Paint fans are a collection of every color available grouped together by shades and contains hundreds of colors.

Spend a little time walking or driving around different neighborhoods and look at colors and combinations of colors that really catch your eye. Snap a photo and take it to a paint store for help with color selections.

Take a photograph of the front of your own house and make several black and white photocopies of the print. This will give

you a blank canvas to work from, so grab your crayons or colored pencils and start trying a few combinations. If coloring is not your favorite pastime, try the high-tech computer option instead. Most paint stores have computerized color selection programs available, either in the store or as software that you can purchase inexpensively to use at home.

There are also a growing number of websites that offer color selection programs you can use online. Here is one free color picking program: <http://www.linexplorer.com/colorpicker.html>

Buy a quart of the color(s) you like and try them out at home. Paint small patches of siding and trim at eye level in a few areas around the house, where they'll catch different natural lighting. Seeing the actual colors on the wall in something other than a tiny paint chip will do wonders for the selection process, and is well worth the investment.

Now you are ready to start painting your house. Paint from the top down. Since most of our houses are masonry, be sure and use a roller that has at least a 1" nap and is made out of lambs wool. Have fun and enjoy the new look of your home.



Have a suggestion for a future 'Around This House' topic for Dennis to write about?

Email him at: dcoggins2006@aol.com

Meet Your Neighbor

How did Arizona get its name?

—By Bill Coates, bill.coates@azcapitoltimes.com
 Arizona Capitol Times, August 11, 2006- Reprint



All in the past

Don Langlois, Arizona history librarian at the Capitol, has everything from an 1869 book on Kit Carson to a sizable collection of Arizona high school year books.

As the Arizona history librarian, Don Langlois has thousands of books at his fingertips. Some are rare. Some are obscure – like the one that lists all known skirmishes with Indians from 1837 to 1891.

The books are crammed into the third floor mezzanine of the 1938 Capitol addition. The collection falls under the administration of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, an arm of the Arizona Legislature.

Here, Mr. Langlois (pronounced LANG-lwa) tracks down the answers to the public's persistent questions about Arizona's past.

He has no pat answer, however, to the most oft-asked question: What is the origin of Arizona's name?

"It has been said that we're the only state that doesn't really know why we're called what we're called," Mr. Langlois told a visitor. But Mr. Langlois does not duck the question. He has fit three citations offering competing theories onto a single page, suitable for e-mailing. It's a stock answer for a stock question. Librarians used to work the phones, he said. Now he provides answers by e-mail.

He printed the page. The bottom citation offered the latest theory about "Arizona." It argued that the name is Basque, coined by a prospector from that region of Spain. The word referred to the oak tree he was camped under, according to this theory. Another writer said it came from a Papago or Tohono O'odham word for "little spring."

As for the third citation, that came from an 1892 letter from James Ashley, chairman of the Committee on Territories. He wrote: "I selected the name 'Arizona' because it described the arid plains of that territory and because it was appropriate and euphonious."

Mr. Langlois does not seem too impressed by this last claim, however. "This Basque business ... is more interesting," said Mr. Langlois, 65.

A cheerful man, Mr. Langlois has something of a squinting, elfin smile. And clearly, he enjoys the work. If somebody asks a question, he's glad to help. No question is an imposition, though he does get the occasional query that has no answer.

One man from Indiana wrote: "My mother got something in the mail from some library in Arizona." It was sometime around 1979, he added. The man wanted to know what it was that the unnamed library sent. The question was too vague and Mr. Langlois was stumped.

Many questions come from state lawmakers. The state library itself was set up in 1865 as a creature of the territorial Legislature.

Collection is older than state

"Our collection here is older than the state of Arizona," Mr. Langlois

said. "Some of our books actually have the territorial library stamp inside them." The state is 94.

New books keep coming, though. The collection acquires some 20 to 30 titles a month, Mr. Langlois says. Some are donated. In some cases, authors agree to give the library two copies of a book in exchange for use of material like photographs. Other books are purchased, from a \$23,000 fund that also goes toward putting the library's newspaper collection on microfilm.

In this library, that's a lot of newspapers.

"We have the best collection of Arizona newspapers in the state," Mr. Langlois said.

Putting the collection on microfilm will help preserve it, he added. Newspapers printed during World War II are in particular danger, because the newsprint used then had a high content of corrosive sulfur.

"That is the worst," he said. "The 1915 paper might actually be better than the paper in 1942." The microfilmed newspapers are housed in a separate area.

Mr. Langlois was keen to give a visitor a tour of the books, though. He unlocked a door that said "staff only" and led the way into a back-room warren of shelves. Before he started down a narrow corridor, though, he turned and sized up his guest—literally. He pointed to a low concrete beam on a low ceiling. "Watch out for this," he said. "I can just barely clear it, and believe me if you hit that..." From Mars to Wyatt Earp. With that warning, he headed to one of his

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Meet Your Neighbor

Don Langlois— Arizona History Librarian

(continued from Page 4)

personal favorites from the shelf, he pulled out “Mars and Its Canals” by Percival Lowell, who founded the observatory in Flagstaff that now bears his name. The book was donated by Mr. Lowell’s widow in 1938 and has a handwritten note by her inside the cover.

“We have lot of things that were autographed, signed by authors – that sort of thing,” Mr. Langlois says. As was the style in those days, the Lowell book was signed, “Mrs. Percival Lowell.” In jest, Mr. Langlois added: “Whatever her first name is, I have no idea.”

He then went from his personal favorite to the popular favorite—the Wyatt Earp collection, covering Wyatt and his brothers. New Earp books keep coming in, he said.

Mr. Langlois then held up a Wyatt Earp book big enough to flatten squirrels. He added: “The books keep getting bigger and bigger and when you get something like this—Lee Silva’s book, ‘Volume One, The Cowtown Years’ – you think, oh my

gosh, this is Wyatt before he got to Tombstone.”

Still, he’s glad to have books about all things Earp.

“It’s a popular topic, and let’s face it, where would Tombstone be today without the Earps?”

But the bigger the book, the harder it is to find room for it. He has just about run out of room. To save shelf space, he has had to place books behind books.

“I just have to know something is back there,” he said. Some books are set flat atop the books already in the shelf. There’s just no room to squeeze them in. “We’re jammed,” he said. “We’re waiting for the new archive building.”

New archive building

The Legislature has approved \$38 million for construction of a new history and archives building on Jefferson west of 19th Avenue, but construction has not begun.

Mr. Langlois moved on down the stacks. He stopped to pluck out a book on the life of Kit Carson,

published in 1869. “Probably should go in the rare book collection, but I don’t have room to put it in that,” he says.

Some rare books, he added, are in a vault.

Many of them can’t be replaced. And Mr. Langlois wants to be sure he has all his resources lined up when legislators call. After all, they’re the boss.

On a recent morning, for example, he offered to help a regular caller – after he answered a state senator’s question about Hugo Oconor.

Curious, the caller asked: What about Hugo Oconor, aside from his odd name spelling? Well, he was the Irishman who founded Tucson in 1775.

Not many people know that—outside of Mr. Langlois.

Don Langlois has lived in Amberwood North 15-years. He is also a neighborhood Ambassador– Section 1.



Communicate With Your Neighbors...

A public blog forum is available at Amberwood North's Community Website. Look for the "Discussion Forums" icon at the top of the website's home page. Discussion forums allow anyone interested to post and respond to questions, issues, and concerns about the neighborhood.

Check it out!

Meet Your Neighbor

Eagle Scout Service Project

—By Daniel Danielson



My name is Daniel and I am working towards receiving my Eagle Scout award. One of the requirements to obtaining this high achievement is by doing a service project. I have decided what I want my service project to be, that will not only benefit me but also the community that I live in. Not only in our community, but, communities all over have a problem with their address labels that are located on the sidewalks in front of their homes. Some are vaguely visible; others have been completely wiped off. My project will consist of re-painting the residents address numbers on the sidewalks.

The City of Chandler is willing to supply me with all the tools that I need to execute this project successfully. They're going to give me paint, stencils and the knowledge of how to do this properly. The third Saturday of October 21, 2006 is when I am planning to start my Eagle project. The weather by then will be cooler and I feel that we can get a lot more done at that time of year. Saturday morning at around 9:00 a.m. we will be meeting at the LDS Church on the north-side of the building. There I will show all those who want to help me out in completing my project how to paint the curbs. From that point we will separate and I will make the assignments of who is to go in what neighborhood area to paint the streets curbs. I'd appreciate all those who are available at that time that could help me out, so please come and assist me in achieving the highest recognition a scout can receive.

My goal is to do as many homes as we possibly can but our community has over 1,000 homes in our square mile. A thousand homes is a lot of houses so I will not be able to do all the homes in the community, but if we do not reach your home and you wish for your numbers to be re-painted please contact me after October 21st and I will attend to it as fast as I can. You can contact me through my email at dj2jordan@yahoo.com.

Thanks,
Daniel

*Volunteers Meeting Place
Amberwood North Curb Painting Project*

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2006
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Hartford & Mesquite (north-side of building)
Contact: Email Daniel at: dj2jordan@yahoo.com

Eagle Scouts Information

Significance- The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

Meet Your Neighbor

Health & Fitness: How To Wake-up Energized

—By Stacy Coomer



Today is a great day, at least it will be, once you get out of bed and get going right? If you are like me, you're not a morning person and your snooze button is probably worn out and not functioning anymore.

As an ex-elite level competitive cyclist, I used to have to get up very early in the morning and train four to six hours a day, six days a week. The one day off from riding was looked at as sacred, well, because I got to sleep in. Now that I'm not training anymore, my body's metabolism is a lot slower and I don't have to wake up as early. This makes it harder to get out of bed. It also makes it easier to gain weight.

For all of us who suffer from this condition, there is a simple way to wake up and feel energized. Before you go to bed, make a conscious decision to get up on the first alarm. Next, exercise immediately. I'm not saying a full out routine is in order, but, one just enough to get your blood flowing. Depending on your physical state, jumping jacks, push-ups and sit-ups are great for getting your heart rate up a little. This also

jumps start your metabolism which is good for the weight loss department. Do only a small number of repetitions, at first, then work in more repetitions, in small amounts, as your level of fitness increases.

As a competitive cyclist, I could not just hop on my bike and just ride fast. I had to first set goals and set a time when I wanted to have these goals reached, setting myself up for success.

Success takes planning. I could not decide what to do the night before a training ride or a race for that matter. I had to plan months and weeks ahead so there wouldn't be any worries that anything got left out, or worse, I wouldn't know what to do. A 120-mile bike ride is not something any person can just do right off the bat. You have to start small and work your way up. So as a non-morning person, just waking up and feeling great while being out of shape isn't going to happen overnight. I have to start with a plan of what to do, ahead of when I want to start.

The exercise I started off with was a mental one, "Get up!" Followed immediately with push-ups, ten to be exact. Yeah it was tough, but

when I finished, I actually felt more awake. The key to this is to keep moving, giving your body a reason to be awake.

As far as coffee is concerned, (I personally drink decaf) if you drink caffeinated coffee, drink it black. Sugar is hard on the pancreas which releases insulin to help the body absorb sugar. When the sugar is absorbed, you get an energy surge. If you eat a sugar based food a half-hour before going to bed, you'll get an energy surge, therefore keeping you awake and making you groggy in the morning. This is not what you want.

These ideas are just a touch of what can help you get out of bed in the morning. However, don't attempt any exercise without first consulting your doctor. You don't want to wake-up dead, you just want to wake-up!

So...go to bed a little early and get up when that evil little device called an alarm goes off the first time. Thanks for reading.

Stacy Coomer resides in Section 1 and has lived in Amberwood North 7-1/2 years.

Meet Your Neighbors...

Post a free personal home page on Amberwood North's Community Website! Put up a picture of your kids or pets. Let your neighbors know about your prize-winning garden, your hobbies, interests and occupation. Or simply let the world know you're here.

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

Former K-Mart– Chandler Mercado Shopping Center Getting A Makeover –By Judith Garner

An exciting remodel is planned for the Chandler Mercado Shopping Center located at the northeast corner of Arizona Avenue and Warner Road that includes new store front, new elevation, all new huge sign band, new landscaping and a new parking lot.

DeRito Partners, Inc., a commercial brokerage firm representing several high profile retail projects, currently has a sign posted on the property that shows an artist's rendering of the remodeled shopping center. Currently there is no other information about the project posted on the company's website: www.derito.com.

Harry Paxton, our city's Retail Specialist, shared some details. In



May, 2006, the city entered into an agreement with two of the three shopping center's owners as part of Chandler's Commercial Reinvestment Program, said Paxton.

The Commercial Reinvestment Program is a matching dollars grant from the city that offers retail centers and business owners additional funding to

make improvements to their investments which helps to keep neighborhood centers strong. This program is implemented through the City's Economic Development Division. The program was developed to see that neighborhood centers continue to maintain low vacancy rates and to thrive. That equates

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The Streets Report



Partial Warner Repaving Underway

—Information Source, Chandler Republic

A three-mile repaving job is going to restrict Warner Road through Chandler from October 9, 2006 until Thanksgiving.

Deputy Public Works Director, Dan Cook said the street is cracking, and it would eventually require more costly repairs without immediate attention.

Warner is considered one of the city's main east-west thoroughfares. To prevent rush-hour gridlock, the crews will close only one lane at a time from Arizona Avenue to Price Road and work between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and some weekends, Cook

said. All lanes will be open to traffic before and after those times.

Businesses in the area have been anticipating more serious restrictions with the planned reconstruction of the Alma School and Warner roads intersection. Skyrocketing construction costs forced Chandler to scale back plans for that reconstruction and to seek new bids. Cook said the work, which was suppose to have been underway by now, is expected to start early next year.

Notices sent to businesses along Warner Road said there might be short periods of time when access

will be blocked and traffic directed to alternate entrances.

The notices also said the city is using a one-step paving process that is faster than traditional methods.

Cook said Chandler is sensitive to businesses' needs and does not schedule roadwork during the peak holiday shopping season between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sections of Warner being repaved are between Arizona Avenue west to Alma School Road, Dobson and the Price Freeway.

The Streets Report



Delayed Widening Of Alma School & Warner Intersection “Back-On-Track”

—By Judith Garner

Chandler hoped to widen the congested intersection at Alma School Road and Warner Road in 2005, but had a case of sticker shock when a bid came in. Contractors were so busy with other road projects at the time that only one firm bid on the project. And it wanted \$9 million—about twice what was budgeted.

The city had engineers look at underground infrastructure like storm drains and utilities, and

found a way to scale back some things. But, the main improvements are still in place, city spokesman Jim Phipps said. The city is about to get bids again and expects the work to start early next year and finish by the fall.

The intersection improvements will consist of adding dual left turn lanes, dedicated right turn lanes, through lanes in each direction, plus new curb, gutter, sidewalks, and landscaping.

Chandler Photo Enforcement Test At Several Intersections—Finds Speeding Reduced Dramatically.

—Information Source, Chandler Republic

A pilot photo enforcement program at three Chandler intersections reduced speeding so dramatically that the city is taking steps to expand it and make it permanent.

A tentative decision came out of a City Council public safety subcommittee in late August, 2006. Police still have to work out the details, and the decision must go to a council vote. Possibly, several “speed on green” cameras will augment the city’s red-light cameras next year, which have been catching signal runners since 2001.

The speed detection cameras catch vehicles driving 11-miles or more over the limit, and the technology is similar to red light cameras that capture vehicles entering intersections after the light turns red. Even though it carried no citations or fines, the pilot project

last November and December saw weekly instances of intersection speeding plummet at one of the city’s most problematic spots, Arizona Avenue and Ray Road.

Police reported that speeding at Rural and Ray roads and Alma School and Ray roads, the other two pilot locations, went down by at least 45 percent each.

Speeders caught during the experiment, got warning notices in the mail, and the city paid the \$100,000 operations cost. When the permanent program starts and violators get citations, a significant portion of the fines will be used to pay a contractor to run the program, officials said.

Police Chief, Sherry Kiyler says, “this is about safety; it’s not about making money.”

UPDATE ON NEIGHBORHOOD STREET SEALING PROJECTS:

According to the city’s Street Maintenance Department, Mesquite St., Hartford St. and a portion of Evergreen (south of El Monte Pl. to Warner) are still scheduled to be Micro Sealed. The original time frame was to be sometime between June 12, 2006 and October 2, 2006—a 16-week period.

At this time, these streets still await being Micro Sealed. The Street Maintenance Department now says the Micro Seal will take place sometime in October 2006. The delay has been attributed to the city’s contractor rearranging the original schedule.

For more information, call the Streets Division: (480) 782-3500.

At the subcommittee meeting, Councilman Jeff Weninger was the only member to speak against making the speed cameras permanent. He believes there should be more public input. Weninger said, “I’m also concerned about how far we let these cameras and different devices get into our policy making.”

As with the red light citations, vehicle owners who were not the driver at the time of the violation may contest the citation, and many tickets are dismissed for that reason, said City officials. The number and location of any future speed cameras have not yet been determined. Scottsdale based Redflex Traffic Systems is the contractor for Chandler’s red-light cameras and the speed-camera pilot program.

Program Helps Revitalize Neighborhood Shopping Centers

(continued from Page 9)

to sustainable tax revenues for the City to apply to other valuable services. City councilman, Jeff Weninger says "One of the worst things that can occur to any neighborhood is to have vacant and/or declining retail centers. The effects of these centers are truly critical to surrounding neighborhoods, providing needed goods and services, while creating a sense of neighborhood pride and a conduit for local communication. These centers become focal points and meeting places for neighbors."

Harry Paxton, City's Retail Specialist, said renovations to the

Chandler Mercado Shopping Center will start construction later this Fall and be completed in late Spring.

Area residents can expect to see a complete façade improvement to the old K-mart building which will have its square-footage broken down into smaller spaces that can be leased to shops or restaurants. Where the old Garden Center used to be, more shops will be added facing along Warner Road. This is why many trees were removed to create visibility for the new shops.

Tenants have not been announced yet. The rest of the shopping

center will be updated with new paint colors. The parking lot is being resurfaced and the main entrances will be decoratively enhanced, most likely, with brick.

A separate owner purchased the southwest corner piece of the property and is tearing down the gas station to construct a new building, possibly a bank. This owner does not have an agreement with the city yet.

Since November 2002, Paxton says the city is very committed to revitalizing commercial centers in the areas north of Pecos Road and east of Ellis Road.

The Crime Report



Sirriner School Locked Down During Recent Discovery Of Suspects By The Chandler Police Department

Information Sources: The Chandler Republic and Sergeant Travis Feyen Chandler Police Department

Sirriner Elementary school in Chandler was locked down Tuesday for nearly two-hours after a search for a missing woman escalated into a job for Police SWAT teams.

The K-6 school (which has more than 600 students) was locked down from 12:15 to 2:00 p.m. after Chandler police encountered several people suspected of involvement in a previous, unrelated crime, authorities said. Letters were sent home to parents explaining the situation, said Kathy Bareiss, a spokeswoman for the school district.

The saga stems back to August 18, 2006 when an 18-year old, Mesa resident, ran away from her parents' home. The young woman had been living with her parents while attending Mesa Community

College and never returned home after going to school last month, said Sgt. Chuck Trapani, a Mesa police spokesman.

Detectives from Mesa's missing-persons unit called Chandler police just before 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, for help in the case. "We had information that she might be staying in a residence in Chandler," Sgt. Trapani said. "We contacted Chandler (police) to swing by the address to see if she was there."

Chandler Police Sgt. Travis Feyen said the young woman was found at the house, in the 900 block of West Mission Drive. In the same area, Chandler police officers recognized a parked vehicle that was consistent with the description of a vehicle used in two recent burglary crimes. The police

approached several people present at the scene regarding the vehicle. At one-point a weapon was displayed when the homeowner arrived on-site. Ultimately stolen guns and weapons were discovered and Chandler Police made arrests of several people.

Although the incident occurred many blocks away from the school, (the actual location was in Section-1 north of Mesquite and west of Evergreen.) Sgt. Feyen said the Sirriner Elementary School was locked down as a precautionary safety measure.

The missing young-woman, did not want to return to her parents because she is a legal adult. Police released her.

Did You Know?

The Amberwood North Neighborhood News needs your stories! You are invited to submit articles to the publisher no later than the fourth Monday of each month. Do you have a great idea for how the neighborhood newsletter can be improved? Call a neighborhood Ambassador and share your ideas, or better yet, come to a monthly neighborhood meeting and share your ideas in person...your neighbors look forward to meeting and talking with you!



Halloween Festivities

Howlin' Halloween Spooktacular

All ghosts, goblins, ghouls, creatures, characters and superheroes are invited to an afternoon of fun at the Family Halloween Festivities. The event takes place, Saturday, October 28, from 1:00- 3:30 p.m. at the Downtown Library Plaza (125 E. Commonwealth Ave.) Participants in the costume contest will compete in categories including: Scariest, Best Comic Book or Cartoon Character, Best Fairy Tale or Story Book Character, Most Original and Best Family. Persephone will be on-hand to perform kids' interactive music. **Call the Special Events Information Hotline at: (480) 782-2735**

Neighborhood Meeting

ATTENTION REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MOVED TO A NEW DATE...

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

Time- 7:00 p.m.

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 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 | 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

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