FOOTHILLS CLUB WEST

Foothills Club West Homeowners Association



Welcome to the second edition of the Foothills Club West e-Magazine

Picture of the updated main monument
on Chandler Boulevard

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A Message from the President

By Paul Moroz

As the monsoon season is fast approaching, the Board has completed various projects over the last year throughout the community to help with preventing major damage from the high winds and rains that accompany the monsoons. We have thinned our trees and completed some preventative work to help with reducing erosion. We're keeping our fingers crossed that we don't have a season like last year when we encountered over $40,000 of damage during just one storm.

I was sorry to see that we had to cancel our movie night in the park just a half an hour into the movie (Big Hero 6) due to rain and lightning. But we have our second movie night scheduled for October. If you have suggestions for a movie selection, please send them off to our property manager, Jay, at ClubWest@wearevision.com.

Your Board is continuing to strive to make this community one of the best places to call home, and we look forward to your feedback. Board members represent a group of volunteers who live in and care deeply about our community and who have chosen to participate in the oversight of this amazing place we call Club West. Our purpose and charter is to preserve, protect and enhance the property values within Club West. Be assured that all decisions we make will align with that purpose. Sometimes we have to make decisions that may not be popular, but are made in the best interest of the nearly 2,400 homes comprising Foothills Club West. This Board works together as a team, and even though we may not see eye to eye on all issues, the homeowners always come first. If you have suggestions for projects or just want to provide feedback, please email our property manager, Jay Thomas, at ClubWest@wearevision.com.

We want to wish everyone an enjoyable summer, and please watch out for the children throughout our community.

Comments from the Editor

By Mick McLaughlin

For those who missed the first edition of the Foothills Club West e-Magazine, welcome! And for those who are returning, we're glad you're back. As I mentioned last month, we're saving a boat load of money for the community by publishing this magazine on-line instead of issuing a paper publication. Hope it works as well or better for you. Our goal is to send out this quarterly publication on the solstices (June and December 20) and the equinoxes (March 20 and September 20). Watch for the next edition in September.



You'll notice on the cover of this quarter's e-Mag is a picture of the main monument as you enter FCW on Chandler Boulevard. You probably also noticed that the monument and the surrounding area very recently received a face lift. We did away with the planter box in the front of the monument because anything that we planted in the box only had about a four-month life span. In the summer months, plants were cooked due to excessive heat, and in the fall and winter, drainage became a real problem. The Board decided to eliminate the box and concentrate on modernizing the entire area. If you look at the picture (above) as contrasted with the cover, you'll see several differences. We added layers of stone to the base of the monument; we installed dark granite chips all around the monument; we removed a lot of brittlebush and sage, and replaced them with a number of desert hearty plants; and we included over 100 accent plants throughout the area from top to bottom. We hope you like the changes and invite any comments you have. Send them to the e-mail address below as "letter to the editor" for publication in the fall edition.

If you have ideas about what we might publish: news facts and even thoughts about topics that you'd like to see; or if you'd like to write a letter to the editor that expresses your opinion about any news-worthy item, we'd like to hear from you. You're invited to submit your information in an e-mail directly to me at MickFCW@cox.net. The Board reserves the right to withhold any submittal that we believe is inappropriate for publication. Let us know what you think of this new format. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Neighborhood Tree Trimming

Our HOA uses Tree Doctors, Inc. for the annual trimming and maintenance of common area trees. We've arranged with Tree Doctors to offer to multiple homeowners in the same neighborhood a discount similar to our HOA's. If you'd like to arrange tree trimming with your neighbors and receive the discount, call Tree Doctors at 480-844-4037 or e-mail them at treedocs@treedoctorsinc.com and tell them you are a resident of Foothills Club West. Arrange a time with your neighbors and Tree Doctors when they can come to trim all trees during the same visit, and enjoy a great discount.

A Nice Guy Story

By Mick McLaughlin



There's a guy whom most of us have seen on Chandler Boulevard walking with a big plastic bag, wearing a baseball cap and a bright reflective orange or yellow vest, and picking up trash between Desert Foothills Parkway and the top of the hill right before the Foothills Club West monument. His name is Arthur, but he goes by Arty. Arty is out there several days a week keeping the portion of Chandler Boulevard that he polices clean and as aesthetically pleasing as a stretch of roadway can be.

I asked Arty why he was undertaking this rather thankless job. He said he doesn't do it for notoriety or even the gratitude from others, but merely because he wants to keep his neighborhood clean. He said that he hopes others will follow his lead and begin picking up trash in other areas of our mountain neighborhood.

Arty is one of those unsung heroes and role models who deserves our thanks for making Ahwatukee an attractive place to live. So the next time you see Arty out on Chandler early in the morning, give him a honk, a wave, a smile, and a "thank you". Even humble saints like to know they're appreciated.

Senior and Retiree Lifestyle at Foothills Club West

Foothills Club West is quite a diverse community that includes homeowners of all ages. Activities are plentiful for kids through their schools and outside organizations. Between work and chauffeuring their kids around, the young to middle age parents keep busy. But if you're a senior living in FCW, there really isn't a lot to do. Yea, you could join the ARC (Ahwatukee Recreation Center), drive 20 minutes each way, and pay about $827 a year per couple. Or there's the Pecos Senior Center. It's a great place to go for some very specific activities. But short of driving 15 to 20 minutes down the mountain, seniors come up dry in the "things to do" column. I'd like to change that.

If you're a retired senior, what are your interests? Do you like to play cards or board games, pickleball, lawn bowling, or other game activities? Are you interested in joining a book clubs, cycling club, camera club, hiking club, or sewing club? Do you like to travel, go to movies or plays, play ping pong, watch TV, or just sit around talking? Whatever you're into, if you're interested in creating a social structure that includes people like you with interests like yours, you're invited to attend an organization meeting at the FCW club house on 14th Avenue on Thursday, June 25, at 10:00 am. If you're not able to make the meeting, you can contact Vision Community Management (480-759-4945) and let them know you're interested.

I often say to my wife that there's a load of potential good friends out there. We just haven't met them yet. One of them could be you. Remember, life is short, and it's getting shorter every day. Why not make the most of these years with friends. I'll be looking forward to seeing you.



Where In The Club?

Identify where and what this is and you will be entered to win a $25 gift card. E-mail your answer along with your name, address, and phone number to jthomas@wearevision.com. Good luck!

Preparing For Summer

By Sal DiCiccio

We have been very fortunate to have fantastic weather this spring. Normally, we can expect to hit and maintain 100 plus degree temperatures by mid to late April. Winter visitors set their clocks to leave the Valley of the Sun in April because that's when the sun begins to turn up the heat on our valley. And with the change of weather, it's a good time to remind ourselves of risks and dangers that accompany the heat.

Snakes and Scorpions

Snakes, scorpions and other desert animals find comfort with our dry heat. If you're planning on spending time outdoors before it really gets hot, more vigilance may be required. Rattlesnakes, the cold-blooded reptiles that they are, seek out areas to sun and shade themselves. Be careful hitting the trails or areas where they may be sunning, lurking or preying. Scorpions also become a problem in certain areas. If you see 1-2 of these critters, it may be time to call an exterminator to eliminate any nests or habitats. If you are either bitten or stung by one of these animals, call 800-222-1222.

Door-to-Door Solicitors

Individuals going door-to-door posing as solicitors, "representatives" or "officials" may attempt to gain access to your property or personal information. I helped pass an ordinance in our city requiring all solicitors to carry with them identification. There is no need to ever open a door to these people, but it is critical that they know you are home. A simple yell at the door will accomplish the task of letting them know there is someone home will work without having to open the door. Always ask for credentials and/or identification before engaging in any conversation. If you feel pressured, intimidated or threatened by anyone, ask them to leave your property while you retreat to a safe area. You should also contact the official entity that the individual claims to represent. If you feel you are in any danger, or if you feel that the solicitor is for any reason a threat to you or to your neighbors, call 911 immediately.

Your Vehicle

As temperatures begin to climb, always remember that your vehicle can quickly turn into a mobile oven. Pets, children, elders and disabled family members require the utmost care and attention when driving to and from work, school or errands. Always remember to make sure everyone is out of your vehicle before turning off the A/C and engine. Tragically, too many pets and family members die every year because someone forgets a passenger.

Your Pool
We are all too familiar with the tragedies and dangers of drowning. Bringing our pools back into service for the summer should include checking that all the proper safety features are in place. From pool covers, fencing, gate latches, back door locks and flotation devices – it's time to make sure everything is working properly. Obviously, the best guarantee of safety for little ones is keeping a watchful eye. Also consider getting trained in CPR and first aid if you plan on spending a lot of time by the pool this summer. Call 911 if there is ever a problem you can't handle.

The transition from spring to summer brings several precautionary challenges to our lifestyles. Living in the desert southwest brings with it a unique quality of life, but just like anywhere else, there are risks. How we minimize those risks is important in preventing tragedies. This summer, let's prepare with safety and prevention in mind. Avoiding all the dangers of the season will ensure a safe and enjoyable summer.

Fred Says . . .

By Fred Kaiser

1. Elephants are the only animal that cannot jump.
2. The body's strongest muscle is our tongue.
3. Statistically, people are more afraid of spiders than of dying.
4. Crocodiles cannot stick out their tongue.
5. Butterflies taste with their feet.
6. A duck's quack has no echo, and nobody knows why.
7. It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
8. Multiplying 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.

Community Coalition Fights South Mountain Freeway

By Pat Lawlis

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is hoping they have convinced the public that the South Mountain Freeway (SMF) is a "done deal." While it is true that ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have released a Record of Decision (ROD) to build the SMF, this event marks the beginning of the real work for which Protecting Arizona's Resources and Children (PARC) has been preparing for years. The ROD is the end of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It marks the beginning, however, of the legal process that is permitted by law.

PARC has responded to the Draft EIS released in 2013 and the Final EIS released in 2014 with in-depth expert commentary identifying the unresolved issues brought to light during the EIS process. For the most part, ADOT has not resolved these issues. That means that PARC's expert comments regarding the unresolved issues provide a basis – a very strong basis – for legal action against building the SMF.

With the release of the ROD, ADOT threw the public a curve ball and decided not to permit an appeal. The bad side of this is that they began planning and buying homes immediately. The good side is that PARC and a coalition of other organizations – including the Foothills Club West Home Owners Association – has already been able to file suit against ADOT and the FHWA in federal court. The first action of the suit was to request a preliminary injunction against any building activity on the SMF.

PARC entered the legal process with what we expect will stop the SMF for good. Pessimists say that suing the government is a useless exercise, but they are wrong. A good body of case law exists on other freeways that have been stopped. In most of these cases, a freeway was stopped just because one important issue was not resolved. PARC has at least seven (7) areas of issues with the SMF, and any one of them can stop this freeway! Putting all these issues together makes PARC's chances of winning in court extremely good. Some of the important issues are:

1. The ADOT "decision-making" process for the SMF was a farce.

- The NEPA process is intended to gather environmental information, study alternatives, and analyze potential problems BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE. Accurate scientific analyses, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to the NEPA process.
- ADOT used the NEPA process to rationalize a decision made 30 years ago.
- They began acquiring land for their "selected alternative" in 1988, but acquired no property along any other proposed alternative route.
- The "Study Area" that was used was defined in the 1980s and purposely avoided best alternatives for a truck bypass – the true purpose of the SMF – which should be as far from the metropolitan area as possible.

2. ADOT provided no justification for a freeway, providing inadequate and misleading information regarding traffic.

- Traffic models used exaggerated data to justify a need for a freeway.
- Even with exaggerations, the best ADOT could come up with was a one-minute improvement in time for commuting downtown (26 rather than 27 minutes from Ahwatukee).
- SMF would just induce <u>additional</u> traffic (including a multitude of trucks) into the metropolitan area.

3. ADOT provided inadequate and misleading information regarding air pollution.

- Every indication is that air quality in other parts of the Valley would be unchanged by the SMF.
- Air quality along the SMF, on the other hand, would deteriorate substantially, particularly in Ahwatukee where South Mountain would produce a "mini-LA" effect permitting pollution to accumulate against the mountain.
- Despite public insistence, ADOT would not study the South Mountain "air shed" or the effect the mountain would have on pollution coming in from the south on the prevailing winds.

4. ADOT failed to adequately consider the health impacts on the population – particularly on the children.

- You may say, "Other freeways have been built close to schools, so why is this one so special?"
- It is what we have learned at the expense of the children attending those other schools near freeways that makes us so determined not to let it happen here.
- According to health experts, children attending schools within ½ mile of the SMF would be in the toxic zone and at high risk for respiratory illness, including asthma and retarded lung development.
- According to the EPA, the impact on school children of toxic elements spewed by cars and trucks would be <u>triple</u> the effect on the population at large.
- 17 schools and 15,000 children would be in the SMF toxic zone.

5. ***ADOT failed to make a special effort to preserve the natural beauty of public park and recreation lands, wildlife, and historic areas, as prescribed by Section 4(f) of the US Transportation Act.***
   - According to the act, no highway can use public park land unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative.
   - ADOT's restrictive Study Area artificially limits alternatives for the SMF.
   - ADOT also failed to respect the sanctity of Moadak Do'ag (South Mountain) which is sacred to many Native Americans throughout Arizona and especially to many members of the Gila River Indian Community.

6. ***ADOT refused to consider impacts associated with the transportation of hazardous materials.***
   - The number of trucks transporting hazardous materials next to our community would increase from 0 to some significant number, at least in the hundreds, daily.
   - A toxic spill on the SMF could threaten the lives of thousands of Ahwatukee residents unless they could evacuate within 10 or 15 minutes.
   - Yet in Ahwatukee, known as the "World's Largest *Cul-de-sac*", the ability to evacuate large numbers of people quickly in case of emergency is severely limited.

7. ***ADOT failed to adequately consider the impacts of the SMF on ground water resources.***
   - Both the Foothills Community Association and the Lakewood Community Association – and potentially others – are likely to lose their groundwater supply wells to the freeway.
   - The likelihood of finding replacement wells north of the freeway path is slim to none.
   - The only available water would then be from the city – both undesirable and prohibitively expensive.

PARC is a 501(c)(3) organization that is collecting donations for the court case. All donations are tax deductible. With the expectation of a long and difficult court case, PARC needs donations of all sizes. Checks can be mailed to PARC, PO Box 50455, Phoenix, AZ 85076-0455. Credit card donations can be made from links on the PARC website at www.protectAZchildren.org. Thank you.

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Howard M. Shanker of The Shanker Law Firm, PLC has been PARC's attorney pleading our case against the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). What follows is his perspective of the case.

Right now, there are two things going on simultaneously. First, the Plaintiff (PARC) filed a complaint in Federal Court against the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on or about May 19, 2015. The pleadings were served on defendants on that same day. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States has to file a responsive pleading (answer) within 60 days after service (Rule 12(a)(2), Fed R. Civ. P). That means that we can likely expect to hear from the federal defendants on or about July 20, 2015. The State filed its answer on June 9, 2015. This is how the case probably will proceed. Once the Federal Highway Department files its answer, we will likely agree to a scheduling order for the filing of dispositive motions. FHWA/ADOT will also be producing the approximately 12,000 page administrative record which will generally provide the factual basis for their claims. In other words, the case is moving forward, but there will be times where there is not much to report.

Second, we filed an amended motion for a preliminary injunction on May 26, 2015. This motion essentially asks the court to stop FHWA/ADOT from doing anything in furtherance of the freeway project until the case can be heard on the merits (see above). The defendants filed their response briefs on June 12, 2015. Our reply brief is due on Monday, June 22, 2015. Generally, sometime after the briefing has been concluded, the court will order oral argument on the motion/briefs. The standard for granting a preliminary injunction motion is different from that required to prevail on the merits. In other words, while we believe that we should prevail on the motion for preliminary Injunction, even if the court does not grant the motion, the case still goes forward.

While attorneys cannot guarantee the outcome of any disputed matter, we believe that we have a very strong case going forward.

The Power of Community - 100+ Women Who Care Launches in Ahwatukee

Ahwatukee resident, Kim Tarnopolski, believes in the power of community. Kim, along with a team of women wanting to make a difference in their communities, has launched the 100+ Women Who Care, Valley of the Sun chapter, and are already making a big impact in the community. In the first two quarters of 2015, the group donated over $20,000 to local charities.

100+ Women Who Care, Valley of the Sun is all about sharing a simple concept of coming together as a collective community to make an immediate, direct and positive impact in giving locally. Membership in the chapter involves attending four, one-hour meetings a year (one each quarter) with the sole purpose of supporting the wonderful work our local non-profit organizations do by providing donations, exposure and awareness.

The 100+ Women Who Care, Valley of the Sun Chapter is comprised of two sister groups – one in Ahwatukee and one in Scottsdale. At each quarterly group meeting, three charities are picked "from the hat." The members who nominated these organizations share the mission and need of the charities with the group. After a brief question and answer session, members vote and the non-profit with the most votes is the recipient of the group's donation. Each member writes a $100 tax-deductible check directly to the selected charity that same evening. In one hour, the goal is to donate $10,000 to the charity. Just like that.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Desert Southwest Chapter received over $7,000 from the Ahwatukee members in the first quarter of 2015. Sunshine Angels received over $13,000 during the second quarter.

"We've heard from so many women that they want to do something and be involved in some way in giving back to their community, yet their time and funds are limited," says Tarnopolski. "With 100+ Women Who Care, we now have a simple way to make a big impact that requires very little in terms of time and dollar commitment."

The next meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun - Ahwatukee will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Foothills Golf Club located at 2201 E. Clubhouse Drive Phoenix, AZ 85048. Guests are welcome.

For more information, to become a member or register for their next meeting, visit www.100wwcvalleyofthesun.org. Women may also join in teams of two or four if they'd like to share the quarterly contribution of $100 with friends.

Don't Forget . . .

Red, White, and Boom will move to Pecos Park on July 3.

Keeping Safe

- Keep your porch or driveway lights on at night.
- If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call the police immediately.
- Trim overgrown plant material away from windows and doors, which is a good hiding spot for vandals.
- Don't leave notes on your door announcing when you will be home.
- Police Non-Emergency 602-262-6151 or 911 for emergencies.

2015 Board Meeting Dates

The Homeowners Association Board of Directors Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm at the FCW Club House located at 16414 South 14th Avenue next to the park. Any FCW homeowner is invited to attend. If you have an issue you would like to present to the Board, contact Jay Thomas at jthomas@wearevision.com.

July 16	October 15	December (no Board meeting)
August 20	November 19	
September17		

Cultural Dictionary

By Chris Geist

haiku (heye -kooh)

A form of Japanese poetry. A haiku expresses a single feeling or impression and contains three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables respectively.

Summer's upon us
The beauty of the desert
Ouch! Hot steering wheel . . .

Architectural Submittals

Architectural applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted to the Architectural Committee for any changes you wish to make to your lot or the outside of your home. Response to submittals will be provided via mail, so please make sure to include your current e-mail address. Forms are available on the community website and from the Vision management office. All paint must be flat exterior house paint. If you are painting your home and are not using Dunn Edwards paint, you will need to include paint samples with your submittal. Sorry; pdf samples are not acceptable.

Pet Policy Reminder

Attention Dog Owners:
Please be a responsible pet owner by doing your part to help keep Club West a pleasant, clean and safe neighborhood for all. "Scoop the poop", "latch the leash", and ban excessive barking. Thank you.

For those neighborhood pet owners who do pick up after their pets and follow the pet handling rules, thank you for your consideration, common sense and diligence in setting a good example for others.

Just a reminder: no pets are permitted in the 14th Avenue Park. Signs are posted at both entrances of the park.

Payment Options for Assessments

ONLINE PAYMENT
eCheck and Credit Card transactions can be made online. Information contained in your billing statement is required to complete an online transaction. Visit www.wearevision.com and click on "Pay Your Assessment Online" to make a one-time online payment.

BILL PAY OR MAILING A PAYMENT
Bill Pay is an online banking service that is offered by most banks. Your choice of your checking or saving account will be debited. You may pay your assessments on a one-time occurrence or set up a recurring arrangement. Go to your bank's website and follow instructions, or call your bank for assistance. Remember to include your association name, your account number, and the lockbox address below.

Checks and money orders can be mailed with your statement stub and should be made payable to Foothills Club West with your account number listed in the memo area of the check to:
Foothills Club West
P.O. Box 60516
Phoenix, AZ 85082-0516

AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL
Payments can be deducted from your checking or savings account automatically via ACH. There is no fee to sign up. Visit www.clubwestaz.com to download an ACH form. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the community, your experienced team of professionals is ready to assist.

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