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October 2014 Newsletter

ACMNA Sponsored G.A.I.N. Event

The Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association will again be having a neighborhood meeting on Saturday, October 11 at the Shemer Art Center from 2 until 4 pm. The event is known as G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods.) This meeting will give you a chance to talk with the City Manager (Ed Zuercher) and the Mountain View Precinct Commander (Marcel Spaulding). A contingent of police officers and Fire Department personnel will be attending. The Fire Fighters will bring their neat trucks. Kids love them.

We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and chips for everyone. This event provides an opportunity to meet those officials who make our lives secure. It also provides an opportunity to express any concerns you might have and to express your appreciation personally. ACMNA has enjoyed a long partnership with the City of Phoenix Block Watch Grant Program, which sponsors these events throughout the city. We hope you will attend.

Saturday, October, 11, 2014 ❖ 2 – 4 pm ❖ Shemer Art Center

Preparing for Emergencies

Our recent storms have brought home the need for preparing for a disaster before it occurs. That seems pretty clear and should not be hard to do, but we all procrastinate. The Mountain View Precinct held a meeting to talk about getting prepared and suggested actions, which can help us all.

Phoenix has appointed Kevin as Director of Homeland Security and Don Peyton as Director of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Together they are responsible for directing responses to disasters when they occur.

Kevin Kaltbrenner has been a firefighter for 28 years, and has been Assistant Chief of Operations as of February 2014. He has managerial responsibilities for all fire stations, alarm rooms, and all battalion chiefs. He has also done urban search and rescue, not just in Phoenix but also around the United States when there was a disaster like Katrina. This experience and the opportunity to learn about appropriate disaster procedures in other major cities. This experience has helped inform the approaches he has developed for implementation here in Phoenix.

While homeland security responses are coordinated between the police and fire departments, City Manager Ed Zuercher appointed Kevin, last February, to head up Homeland Security for Phoenix. Under his direction, projects for preparedness and protection have been created. If that was not enough, he also sits on the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The complexity of homeland security responses requires close coordination among various departments. As an example, Mr. Kaltbrenner works with the Streets Department to install temporary diversion dams to prevent or control storm water flooding. His staff consists of an accountant, a cyber security analyst (*retired colonel*), and an emergency planner. Some of the functions his office oversees are funded with federal grants. Others are funded with utility tax revenues.

When a disaster occurs immediate coordination begins among police, fire, public works, streets, and water department managers. Fire and police have 24-hour operations and can mobilize quickly; the Streets Department dispatches crews to clear streets; etc.

The biggest problem is finding time to train people. The second major problem is how to organize the efforts being made to help the city recover. He experienced the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center and observed that New York knew what to do and how to do it. Advanced planning prevented panic that could have occurred.

An example of what not to do was New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina was bad, but the breakdown of municipal response resulted in abandoned posts people stranded in homes. Social order all but disappeared. Residents had to wait on their rooftops for helicopters. The relief workers had to take back the city and restore some semblance of order.

Don Peyton, as Director of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), was in charge for responding to the results of the August 11th monsoon storm, which dumped 3 inches over a narrow area of South Mountain. He set up a command post at 17th and Dobbins. City Manager, Ed Zuercher, when confronted by these problems, made a simple statement, "we are going to do it right." And by all accounts, it was done right.



Immediately the city had to shelter people, find a way to remove mud from homes, manage debris cleanup, and get municipal services back on line. Within seven days, Don opened a recovery information center. It was the focal point for residents affected by the storm to connect with the right people who could provide them direct assistance. This center organized hotel rooms, clothing, and food for those affected. Don oversaw the set up a virtual recovery center, a phone bank at city hall, and an e-mail site, and city employees continued connecting victims with the right agencies.

The following week, heavy rains from Hurricane Odiell hit Phoenix. The city was slated to get 5 to 6 inches of rain. The City prepared immediately to launch into preparedness, prepositioning equipment and placing staff on alert.

The Public Works Department is currently reviewing the experiences of these two storms, and planning ways to improve future responses. It has created an internal crisis team to manage those events.

Overall, the City's plan is to be prepared to manage widespread power outages, cyber attacks, airplane crashes, and the like. A recent focus is to consider cyber attacks that might be mounted against water plants or power plants and cause physical damage. The City's Information Technology personnel are prepared to spring into action to foil a possible attack.

A big question is how to mobilize citizens. The desire is to create resiliency and find ways to take care of each other. Experience shows that it is often neighbors who will be the first to help. The City would like to encourage all who are interested to sign up for the certification classes. Each class lasts 20 hours (over several days)

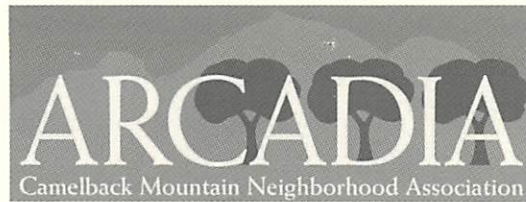
The City needs help with spontaneous volunteers. Each receives an initial background check before being accepted into the program. Many get involved in: 1.) managing shelter assistance, 2.) staffing the volunteer reception center, 3.) COPS (Citizens Offering Police Support), and 4.) assisting in any canine search for missing persons detail. If you are interested contact Don Peyton at: don.L.peyton@phoenix.gov

Policing with a Purpose

It is with great sadness that we bid adieu to our Community Action Officer, Ben Carro. Those who have had a chance to work with him have been impressed by his energy, attention to detail, and his responsiveness. Our area may not have seen the violent crime that other parts of the city have experienced, but our concerns for safety and protection are at the forefront of many of our lives.

Ben has been in place for four years and has made a difference. He has kept us informed, provided a valuable liaison relationship with the police department, and has been quick to help when there were concerns about specific matters. He personifies the motto, "Policing with a Purpose" and has made a difference.

Because of seniority, bidding for positions can be difficult for some. Ben found himself without sufficient seniority to hold onto that position. He bid on and secured a position in Patrol on the 3rd shift



in our area, so we are likely to see him around if we are out late at night. I know he was sorry to have to make the move, but we are all better for the efforts he made. If you see him, please thank him.

VOTE – Tuesday, Nov. 4 – General Election

Arcadia always celebrates our civic pride every 4th of July. The foundation of that pride ought to be our right to choose our governing representatives by our collective votes. That is true only if we take our civic duty to actually vote at each election. Let's all take that civic duty seriously. Let's get informed and cast thoughtful votes in each of the races, and for each of the propositions, on the ballot for the November 2014 General Election.

Our democratic system only works if we all participate. No matter your individual motivation, whether it be to voice your support for competent and responsible governance or for ideological dominance, we encourage you to voice your opinion where it means the most – at the polls.

Unfortunately, the percentage of registered voters who actually vote has not been the best in recent elections. Statewide turnout has been in the 55% range. Arcadia ought to beat that percentage this year – if we all vote! If you receive a Vote-By-Mail Ballot, fill it out and return it. If you prefer to go to your polling place, do that on Tuesday, November 2nd.

Arcadia Precincts: Hopi – 0308; Kaibab – 0330; Kachina – 0329; Look Out Ridge – 0371.

For more information about the election, or to double check on the designated polling place for your voting precinct (you can check that by entering your address), go on-line to: <http://recorder.maricopa.gov/pollingplace/pollingplace.aspx>

Scottsdale Unified School District Board

The difference in key races in prior years has been so small that only a few more votes would have probably made a difference.

Your Association enjoyed a presentation at its September meeting from two candidates for the Scottsdale Unified School Board, Francesca Thomas and Kim Hartmann. Their presentations were incisive and focused on the significant needs for our schools to best educate our children and grandchildren. Many on your board have expressed support for these two ladies. We would encourage your support but, please, be informed.

Upcoming Events

- Camelback Road Clean Up – Sat., Nov. 15 at 8:00am
(after the election, so all political signs will be removed.)
Can you help? Please RSVP to: info@acmna.com
- Annual Meeting: Saturday, February 21, 2015 8:45 – 11:15 am -- Gangsei Hall,
Lutheran Church Parish Campus, 3641 N. 56th Street ???