

# ARCADIA CENTRAL

Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association

October 2021

## 56<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Update

Funding for the design phase of the 56<sup>th</sup> Street (Thomas to Camelback) has been appropriated and Phoenix is sourcing a design consultant.

Construction is expected to begin Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 – June 2024). Federal funding of \$1.5 M was obtained from the Maricopa Association of Governments. However, this is only enough funding for a portion of the project. A \$5 million federal earmark request has been included in the House Surface Transportation bill that's being negotiated in Congress right now. This would cover the balance of construction funding.

More on the 56<sup>th</sup> Street improvements can be found at [www.phoenix.gov/streets/56thstreet](http://www.phoenix.gov/streets/56thstreet)

**CONCEPTUAL DRAWING  
ON PAGE 3**

## ARCADIA UNDERGROUND

The ACMNA board has been investigating the possibility of having overhead utilities (electric, cable, phone, internet) buried underground. You may be aware that the City of Paradise Valley made the decision several years ago to move utilities underground; this would be a similar effort for the Arcadia – Camelback Mountain area.

The advantages of moving utilities underground are:

- ◆ *Aesthetics* – the environment looks more natural, with unobstructed mountain and city views.
- ◆ *Reliability* – less vulnerable to storm damage. Recent monsoon storms caused outages in the Arcadia area.
- ◆ *Safety* – no downed power lines, no lines overhead to be accidentally contacted by trucks, ladders, palm fronds, etc.. Roof rats do not have a cable to shimmy along to reach your home.
- ◆ *Upgrade* – fiber optic internet to every home



Indian School Rd: BEFORE

Indian School Rd: AFTER

Arizona Revised Statutes, Article 6.1, § 40-341 to 40-356 covers how property owners may form *Underground Conversion Areas* for the purpose of having overhead utilities converted into an underground system in their neighborhood.

The process to create an underground conversion area involves two petitions. If 60% of property owners sign a petition to express interest in underground conversion, the utility companies have 120 days to develop a cost commitment for the conversion and inform each property owner of their proportionate share of the costs. A second petition is then circulated, and if 60% of the property owners sign their approval, then SRP will petition the City of Phoenix Board of Supervisors to create the underground conversion area. Property owners pay their share of costs 60 days after their property is converted, or they can choose to pay (with interest) over 15 years.

Look for more information on underground conversion in future newsletters, the ACMNA website, and discussion at the ACMNA Annual Meeting in the Spring.



Exeter Blvd: BEFORE

Exeter Blvd: AFTER

# Popular Trails Closed During Heat Advisories

Hiking the two Camelback trails and one Piestewa trail will off-limits between the hours of 11 AM and 5 PM during the hot summer months when the Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Watch (105° and above).

In recent years, Phoenix Fire has seen an increase in the number of rescues on our three most extreme city hikes - Piestewa Peak and Camelback's Cholla and Echo Canyon Trails. Rescues have become more dangerous as the temperatures rise, resulting in hospitalizations not only for hikers but rescue workers as well.

Closures will be based on forecasts made 2 days in advance and will be based on the heat index, not the actual temperature. For example, during monsoon season, when the relative humidity hits 40%, the heat index will hit 105 when the air temperature is 98°.

Hikers may still use the trails between 5 AM – 11 AM, and 5 PM – close on high heat days.

The Parks department will update its social media page to reflect the status. The Parks department still has plenty of alternate trails available within the city for mid-day heat lovers. Please visit their website at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/locations)

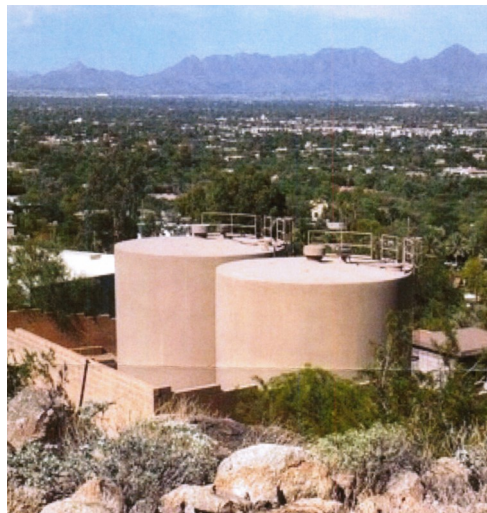
## Camelback Water Tank Protest

The City of Phoenix recently notified neighbors in the area that the two 100,000 gallon water tanks on the eastern side of Camelback Mountain are set to be replaced with two 200,000 gallon water tanks to support dozens of new homes being built at the Phoenician. The tanks would be no higher, but wider.

Current Phoenix design standards call for new water tanks to be placed below ground. However, Phoenix is planning on keeping the new tanks above ground.

Neighbors have organized to protest and demand the replacement tanks be buried, or partially buried so they are no more than eight feet high (which could then be hidden by landscaping).

For more information, send an email to [protectcamelback@gmail.com](mailto:protectcamelback@gmail.com)



Existing tanks viewed from N 61st Street

## Winter Construction Hours Start October 1st

**7:00 AM—7:00 PM**

**Weekdays ONLY**

Per City of Phoenix code, contractors are required to have an extended hours construction permit for **any** weekend or holiday work. Report violations to the After-Hours Construction Noise Complaint Program.

Call: 602-262-7456

Email:

[constructionnoisecomplaints@phoenix.gov](mailto:constructionnoisecomplaints@phoenix.gov)

*Attach a photo if possible.*

For more information visit

[www.phoenix.gov](http://www.phoenix.gov).

Please note that inspectors will only investigate projects requiring a permit, not minor residential repairs.



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### ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) Prince of Peace, Choir Room (NW corner).

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at: [www.acmna.org/agendas](http://www.acmna.org/agendas)

ACMNA website: [www.acmna.org](http://www.acmna.org)

Newsletter Archive: [www.arcadiacentral.com](http://www.arcadiacentral.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA)

Sign up for our Email notices (sent only when important issues occur):

[www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list](http://www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list)

## What I love about Arcadia

# Trees

Many of you may not be aware that Arcadia was at one time a desert. Old photos of Camelback Mountain show scrub brush and saguaro cactus as far as the eye can see.

Today, we cannot imagine our neighborhood without the beautiful and bountiful trees. They line our streets, shade our pools and just add to the ambiance that is Arcadia.

The name "Arcadia" comes from the Greek culture, referring to the garden of the Gods.

The original intent and purpose for developing Arcadia was to build citrus groves back in the early 20th century. The Arcadia Water Company was founded in 1919 for the very purpose of taking water from the Arizona Canal to irrigate the newly platted farms that would

attract wealthy investors. Lot sizes ranged from 5 to 10 acres each. Citrus trees were planted, with some of their "offspring" still residing in many of the yards today.

In the 1950's, after WWII, planting houses became more profitable and popular. Many other varieties of trees were brought in to make the landscapes more picturesque and attractive. Irrigation made it possible to grow just about any type of tree so new homeowners brought their favorite trees from wherever they considered "back home". Everything from Palm to Pines flourished in the rich soil and abundant water.

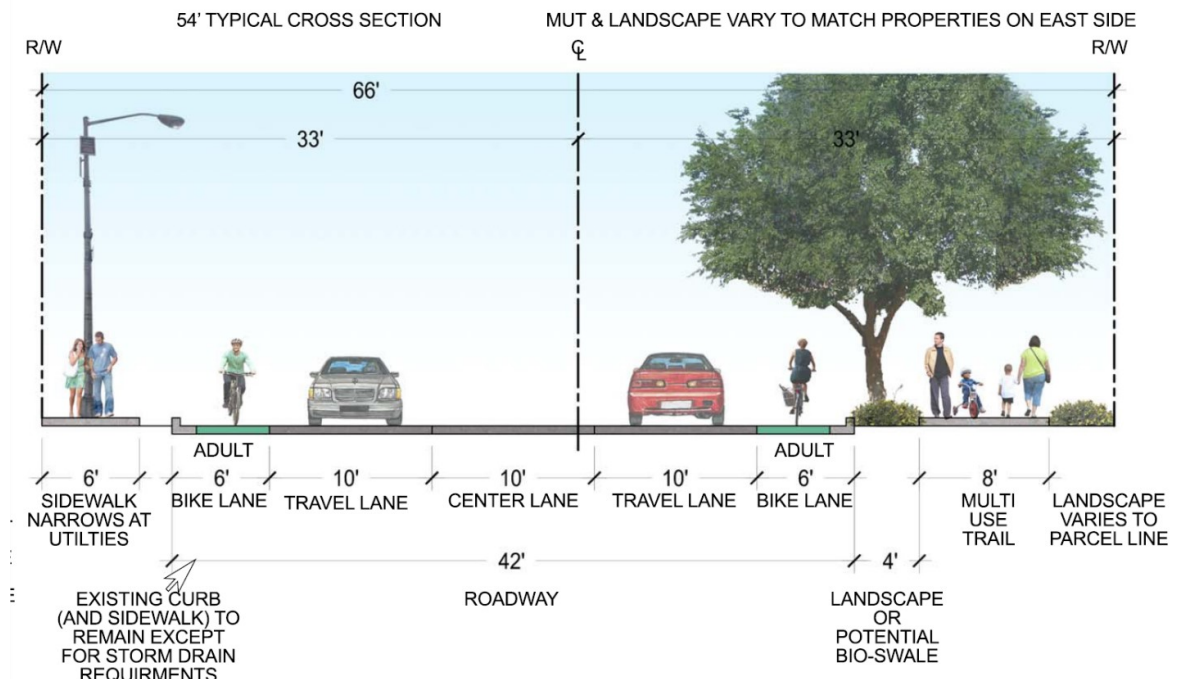
There are several great neighborhoods, new and old, in the Phoenix metro area, but, in my opinion, none has the richness and charm as our tree covered yards. We truly live in the "garden of the gods".

*Article by Joseph Prewitt*



## 56<sup>th</sup> Street Improvements Conceptual Drawing

Full article on front page.



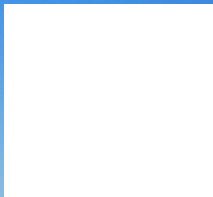
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Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association

[www.arcadiacentral.com](http://www.arcadiacentral.com)

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*Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Burying powerlines
- ◆ 56th Street improvement updates
- ◆ Hiking trail closures due to heat
- ◆ Camelback water tank rebuild
- ◆ We love trees!
- ◆ Arcadia Picnic—Free fun for all ages



**Saturday, November 6**

**2:00—5:00 PM**

**Hopi Elementary School**

5110 E. Lafayette Blvd.

**FREE FUN for all ages!**

### Food & Beverages

Hamburgers & hotdogs | Chick-fil-A | Ice cream trucks | Soft drinks

### Activities & Entertainment

Dino Crew (mechanical dinosaurs) | Deb's Dragons Wildlife Encounters

Balloon twister | Safe Decisions teen driving exhibit | And more!

**Demonstrations by Phoenix Police and Fire Departments**

**Live music by the Dusty Tuffet Band**

**Enjoy a fun day with your neighbors**

**Everything is FREE!**

## Upcoming Events

### ACMNA Board Meetings

Oct 7, 6 PM

Nov 4, 6PM

Prince of Peace Choir Room

[www.acmna.org/agendas](http://www.acmna.org/agendas)

### Phoenix PD Halloween Party

Oct 28, 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Mountain View Precinct

2075 East Maryland Avenue

### Neighborhood Picnic

Nov 6, 2 – 5 PM

Hopi Elementary School

### Camelback Cleanup

Nov 14, 8 – 9:30 AM

Volunteers needed!

Meet at Shemer Art Center

**Neighbors make a Neighborhood**