J-6/Mescal Community Development Organization

TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 01

January 2009

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BE INFORMED!

BE INVOLVED!

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES TO REMAIN LOCAL

Firefighters and community members listened intently on Tuesday, January 13th at the BOS Public Hearing in Bisbee as Tom Schelling, Elections Officer, acknowledged everyone's hard work in meeting the signature requirements in all three categories.

The BOS adopted Resolution 09-01 to order the formation of the fire district based on submission of valid petitions and verification that all formation requirements had been successfully met by the proposed district's Organizing Board.

A VICTORIOUS EFFORT BY THE FIREFIGHTERS AND THE COMMUNITY!

Fire District Approved!

Did your signature make a difference?

Required Target	Number Needed	# Valid Submitted
Qualified Voters	819	885
Assessed Valuation	$ 9,769,295	$ 12, 131,841
Property Owner	855	866

Your support was critical!

PAGE 2 - FIRE DISTRICT BOARD RECRUITING

FIRE DISTRICT BOARD RECRUITING FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The new Mescal-J6 Fire District is seeking community members interested in serving on an unpaid Advisory Committee to the District Governing Board.

Our Fire District was established by order of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors on January 13, 2009. In mid February the Fire District will begin the transition of taking over responsibility for fire and emergency medical response in the area.

The District's Governing Board will consist of 3 voting members until the General Election in November 2010. At that time the Board expands to 5 members.

Until then, the Governing Board would like to appoint a 3 member, non-voting Advisory Committee. The committee members will serve 4-5 hours per month for the first months of District operation, after which the commitment should reduce to 2-3 hours per month.

One advisory committee member will be an active volunteer firefighter selected by the Mescal Firefighters Association. The other two committee members will be selected by the District's Governing Board.

The Board will consider the following criteria when selecting the 2 committee members:

Required:

- Registered voter residing in the boundaries of the Mescal-J6 Fire District.
- Able to consider the interests of all property owners and residents.
- Applying as an individual, not as a representative of any group or entity, e.g. church, business, home owners group, special interest organization, and/or an entity outside the District.
- Dedicated to ensuring top-quality emergency response and fire protection, balanced with fiscal responsibility.
- Reliable attendance for monthly meetings (1st Mondays) and other meetings and work sessions as needed.

Desired

- Experience in public safety and/or prior service on a public safety board.
- Experience in financial management.
- Access to email and the internet.
- Understanding of parliamentary procedures and public meeting laws.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT LETTER 1/28/09 AT 5:00 P.M.

Anyone interested in serving on the Advisory Committee is asked to submit a letter of interest to Bill Dupee c/o Mescal-J6 Fire District 388 S. J-Six Ranch Rd. Benson AZ 85602 or email to mescalj6fire@hotmail.com.

Please provide your experience or qualifications and indicate why you wish to serve on the committee. The deadline to submit a letter of interest is 5:00 pm January 28, 2009. The Board will announce the members on or before February 16, 2009.

ISO RATING STATUS - *The ISO inspector has been notified of the hearing creating the fire district. Fire Chief Neff will address District Board in Feb. about options to correct the items rated as deficient by the ISO. A formal update with action plan must reach the inspector by Feb. 20 so he can issue a final decision on the potential downgrading of our ISO rating. Neff is confident that all deficiencies will be met to keep our community's fire service rating at a 8B instead of being downgraded to a 10.*

NEWS BRIEFS

COMMISSIONERS SAY NO TO MESCAL ROPING ARENA

Tom Anderson made yet another attempt on Wednesday Jan. 14 to obtain a special permit for a 42,000 - square-foot commercial roping arena in Mescal - just east of the residential area along Tequila Trail.

P & Z Staff recommended approval if Anderson met a list of conditions which included 10 to 8 p.m. operational hours, limiting events to four per month - one per week, and prohibiting alcoholic beverages.

Although no one was opposed to roping events, many Tequila Trail residents emphasized the location was wrong. With the parcel 2/3 of a mile long and 400 feet wide, residents continually stated there was no way to keep the dust and noise from impacting the neighborhood.

Jason Ambrasio highlighted this fact as the arena would only be 230 feet from his back porch.

Anderson can appeal the commissioners' denial within 15 days at a cost of $300.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SAYS DEVELOPMENT SHOULD PAY FOR ITSELF

"The County should not subsidize development," stated Supervisor Searle as the BOS unanimously adopted an ordinance on Jan. 13th that amends fee schedules for the county's P & Z and Floodplain Departments.

The rate changes will allow the County to pass on to the Developer the cost of intensive review hours by County Staff as well as the additional costs when using outside consultants for complex projects.

BOS directed county administration to inform developers up front of the anticipated fees since establishing a cap was not realistic.

NEW CHAIR FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ann English, District 2 newly elected Supervisor, will serve as chairwoman effective at the Board's Feb. 10th regular meeting. Richard Searle, District 3, is the current Chair.

CHANGE ONE LIGHT BULB - SAVE MONEY AND MORE!!!

A single CFL bulb can save about $30 in energy costs and keep more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere.

According to the recent "Currents" by SSVEC, CFL's use about 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescents.

Incandescents work by heating a tungsten filament, or wire, until it glows. Because 90% of the energy used to generate that light is wasted as heat, incandescent bulbs are an inefficient lighting source.

CFL's that resemble a traditional light bulb are available. The A-Line Shape is actually a coilshaped bulb with a plastic or glass cover. - only slightly reducing the amount of light produced.

Since CFL's contain Mercury - they should not be disposed of in landfills. Care should be taken to avoid direct contact with broken glass or mercury-contaminated powder.

Bulbs can be recycled at Home Depot and IKEA stores.

BILLBOARDS DENIED ON HWY 90

Concerned county residents spoke in opposition to two lighted 35-foot high, 432-square-foot billboards proposed along Highway 90 and intersections of Allen Lane and Redwing Lane in Whetstone.

On December 11th, Scott Outdoor Advertising requested special-use permits to install the two-sided billboards on vacant property zoned commercial but their request was denied by a 6-1 vote of the Commissioners.

Several commissions and those in opposition feel that billboards should be banned in the County due to the visual blight to scenic areas and light pollution.

Chairman Corey noted that the county is known world-wide for its dark skies - an integral part of the county's economy.

NEW CHAIR FOR PLANNING AND ZONING TO BE DETERMINED AFTER SUPERVISOR ANN ENGLISH FILLS VACANCY THAT OCCURRED WHEN SUPERVISOR PAUL NEWMAN DID NOT REAPPOINT KAREN COREY BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE.

COCHISE TRAILS

Hiking □ Biking □ Equestrian

ANNUAL MEETING

I. WELCOME
II. 2008 Review - Access - Collaboration, the expanded network
III. Inventory Mapping Update - Mapping the Mule Mountains Marathon
IV. Review of Recommendations being submitted Jan. 2009 to National Forest Service Management Plan
V. Important Legislative Updates
VI. Important Dates
VII. Election of Board Members - if interested in running, please submit name and a brief statement as to how you can assist CTA to achieve its goals.

JANUARY 29, 2009

6:30 BENSON CITY HALL

30,000 SANDHILL CRANES - A THRILLING SIGHT!

A Birding Extravaganza takes place only forty miles away as crane's travel from the Artic Circle to winter in a 60-sq.-mile roosting site near Willcox.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department owns the land where the birds roost and makes sure it is flooded each year to create the six-inch deep pool the cranes find so appealing.

Lift Off is well worth the chilly wait as the rising sun lights the flight of thousands of birds with a five-to six-foot wingspan, weighing in as much as 14 pounds.

These gangly birds with red caps feast on seed left in the fields after corn, hay and alfalfa have been harvested.

The cranes return from their feeding grounds around 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from around 4 p.m. to dark for the night.

To view Whitewater Draw follow Highway 80 from Tombstone to Davis Road and turn left. Travel approximately 23 miles to Coffman Road and take a right. The draw is a few miles down on the right and is clearly marked. Viewing platforms, bathrooms, and large parking area provided.

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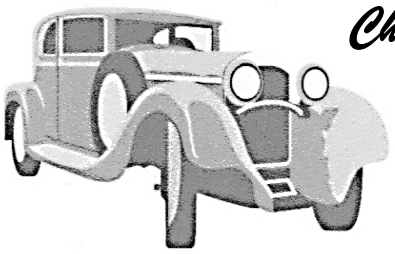

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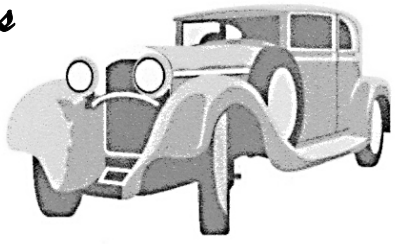

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TRI-COMMUNITY NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE: Fire District Recruits Advisory Committee, P & Z Votes on Mescal Roping Arena, Developers to Pay, Future of Billboards in Cochise County, Classifieds, and Business Specials!

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JANUARY ISSUE
Volume 5 Issue 01

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J-6 / Mescal Community Development Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM - CALENDAR YEAR 2009

Name of members for given address:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Physical Address:

_____

_____ZIP_____

Email Address:

_____

Phone: _____

All residents and property owners within the J-6, Mescal, Skyline and surrounding areas are eligible to join.

Households may have more than one member. Each member must be at least 18 years old.

Each membership is $ 10.00

Each member is entitled to cast 1 vote for meeting action items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES PAY FOR:

- Operating expenses such as copies, postage, printing, phone bills, and office supplies
- Production costs for the Tri-Community Newsletter

Bring to next meeting or mail to : Nancy Upp, 412 S. Many Winds Rd., Benson, Az