



# Community Connection

*News and events for citizens of Sedona*

June 2013

*SedonaAZ.gov*

## *An Update from Mayor Rob Adams*

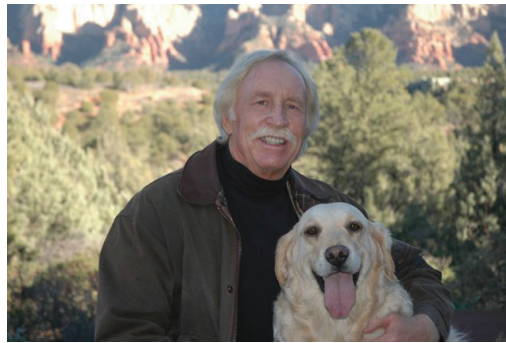
Happy Summer everyone!

Some of you may recall receiving this newsletter several years ago. The last issue of the Community Connection was September 2009, which was during my first term as Mayor. As a result of the economic downturn, the newsletter was discontinued due to strict budget reductions. The economy has improved somewhat and the City Council has determined that the Community Connection is a valuable resource for disseminating information, so WE ARE BACK!

In order to prepare for this article, I researched the files for old copies of the newsletter. I found a copy that was published in June 2008, a month after I was seated for my first term as Mayor. In that article, I was talking about the beginning of the SR 179 construction and the challenges that we would face. Little did I know that this was just the beginning of a series of momentous events that would take place during the next five years!

The SR 179 project lasted over two years. Citizens and businesses faced traffic delays, construction noise, ingress/egress issues and many other inconveniences. The City worked diligently with ADOT to address these issues and to move the project forward in a timely manner. When the project was completed in early 2010, the roadway into Sedona showcased our city in a beautiful way. Pedestrian sidewalks, bike paths, underground utilities, and a new bridge provided a gateway that reflects our values as a city and is in harmony with our natural environment.

Almost concurrent with the beginning of the construction of SR 179, the great recession struck our country. The City Council and staff initiated a series of budget discussions that resulted in a 30% reduction in our city expenditures. As a result of these efforts, the city has enjoyed operating surpluses for the last four years. Some people continue to criticize and second guess our fiscal policies, but our city is now considered to have one of the best managed budgets in the State.



*Mayor Rob Adams*

The 10.8 million dollar Stormwater Management and Sewer project in the Chapel area began in December 2009. This was a highly controversial endeavor and added to the inconveniences that our citizens were experiencing with the SR 179 project. The project took close to a year to complete. The Chapel area now enjoys a significant reduction in flooding and environmental pollution due to the storm water runoff and septic systems.

And, who can forget the contentious debates that surrounded the continuous roadway lighting issue and the "turnback" of SR 89A? The citizens of Sedona were divided on an unprecedented level. A referendum by the citizens ended the conflict. We now have a safer nighttime roadway and pay only a pittance for the maintenance and operations.

After five difficult years, we have emerged with a safer, more beautiful and fiscally secure city. The citizens of Sedona are passionate about their community. We disagree, we argue, we debate, and we ultimately arrive at an outcome that is appropriate for our unique city.

Looking forward, I hope that we have learned some lessons. Debates are healthy. Gunfights are not. As long as we are listening to one another and are willing to make some compromises, we can avoid toxic standoffs that result in hard feelings and disharmony. This community has an abundance of well-educated, worldly people. Together, we have the opportunity to create a unique community that offers a quality of life that is second to none.

The City has taken advantage of the downturn in the economy to do some long range planning. The Community Plan update will be completed in early 2014 and a Parks Master Plan was completed in the fall of 2012. My next article will talk about some of the visions of our citizens and how the City Council can begin the implementation of these visions. Until then, enjoy the beautiful weather!

***The mission of the City of Sedona government is to provide exemplary municipal services that are consistent with our values, history, culture and unique beauty.***

# Parks and Recreation

## ***Come Out and Play!***

There is no need to leave the comfort and beauty of your home town this summer when there is so much to take part in and enjoy right here in Sedona! Let your local Parks and Recreation Department provide you with some of those great options.



*2012 Fourth of July Celebration*

Come celebrate the Fourth of July featuring a laser show and live concert. Bring a blanket to spread out on the cool green grass of Sedona Red Rock High School's baseball field and enjoy a picnic, live music from the David Parker band, and a patriotic laser show choreographed to music. The concert fills the air from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with the laser show beginning at dark (approximately 8:45 p.m.). Food and dessert vendors will be on site selling yummy treats, so plan on arriving early and enjoying the festivities for the evening. Many thanks to Diamond Resorts for sponsoring this event.

July is warm, but this department is hotter! We just keep cranking out the fun. Every Wednesday in July is a wet one when you participate in our free, two-hour sprinklers in the park event appropriately named Wet Wednesdays. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the grass field of Sunset Park, participants can enjoy running through the sprinklers or taking turns on the brand new 30 foot long inflatable slip and slide. Enjoy the sunshine, playground, and lounging around with your neighbors at this

relaxing community event. If that isn't enough water to satisfy you, take a trip to the Sedona Community Pool, open six days a week until the kids are back in school.

The Sedona Community Pool has a variety of programming and new events to keep almost everyone satisfied. Swim laps, participate in an aerobics class, learn how to swim, or just goof around during Open Swim, it's your choice. Heated to a comfortable 83 degrees, the pool offers eight lap lanes, both deep and shallow water for play, lounge chairs on deck, and locker room facilities with showers and lockers. Swim lessons are taught throughout the summer, with convenient sessions in both the morning and evening. It's never too late or early to learn this valuable skill, as classes are available for children starting at 6 months old.

It is not just kids and adults that enjoy the park. On Saturday, July 20, your dogs will too! Bring your well-behaved four-legged friends to A Dog's Day Out in the Park and enjoy vendors set up to pamper your pooch for free. Nail trimmings, discounted vaccinations, doggy baths, free dog licensing, and more are available. Your dogs will also love the off leash grass play area where they can run, jump, and splash in a kiddie pool. This event begins at 7:30 a.m., so arrive in the cool morning hours to enjoy and support this pet friendly event. Plus, the first 50 dogs through the gate get a commemorative traveling dog bowl.

Summer is here, and we hope you will join us for our diverse recreational offerings. And, look to us all year long for creative, outdoor activities, such as the Red Mud Run and Wife Carry races happening in September. For details and pictures of all of these events and more, we invite you to check out the Parks and Recreation photo galleries and event pages at [www.SedonaAZ.gov/Parks](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov/Parks). See you in the park!



*Wet Wednesdays*

# Community Development

---

## Helpful City Code Information

Weeds over 24 inches in height are not allowed by City Code. Please help keep your City beautiful and regularly pull weeds in your yard.

Yard or garage sale signs are not allowed by City Code to be placed on sidewalks, behind sidewalks, on poles and in the streets along State Route 179, State Route 89A or on City streets and sidewalks.

Every residential lot is allowed by City Code to have up to 200 square feet of screened outdoor storage space outside in the side or rear yards. Acceptable methods of screening are structures, fences, gates, or masonry wall. A permit may be required for certain types of screening. Before you create a screened outdoor storage area, please contact the Community Development Department at 282-1154 for more information and assistance.



Sign placement ***not*** allowed

---

## Police

### Celebrate National Night Out on August 6

Sedona residents and visitors are invited to join thousands of other communities nationwide in celebrating the 30th Annual National Night Out with safety presentations and a free community picnic on Tuesday, August 6 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Posse Grounds Park, Posse Ground Road.

National Night Out is designed to increase community involvement and strengthen partnerships between the community and local public safety agencies.

Free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and water donated by local merchants will be served throughout the evening along with live demonstrations, live music and a wide range of information on public safety topics. Those attending can have children fingerprinted for free, see the latest in law enforcement, fire fighting, safety and rescue equipment, learn ways to make their homes and streets safer as well as meet community public safety officials.

Sedona's celebration is hosted by the Sedona Police Department with participation from numerous other public service agencies and private organizations such as DPS, Friends of the Forest, Sedona Fire District, Arizona Rangers, ADOT, Arizona Attorney General's Office and Sedona Food Bank.

The Sedona Police Department officers, Animal Control Officer and others will be doing demonstrations.

This year's celebration is being organized by the Sedona Community Police Alliance (CPA), the Police Department's citizen volunteer group. CPA volunteers will also be assisting Sedona Police Department officers with a number of the demonstration and informational sites and explaining police volunteer service opportunities.

For additional information, please contact the Sedona Police Department at 282-3100.



# Police

## Drive Safe Sedona

While the spring and summer months can be packed with the excitement of outdoor events, barbecues, vacations and endless fun in our beautiful community, it should also be a time for us to increase our driving awareness. We all have the best intentions to drive safely and courteously when we get behind the wheel, but trying to get the most out of our planned activities amongst work schedules, family commitments, and daily roadway traffic can create an environment of stress, distraction and irritability. It is vital for all of us to put aside any thoughts of rushing or aggressive driving and pledge a shared focus when we are on the road – to safely arrive at our destination.

The months of May through September often bring our heaviest traffic volumes through town and unfortunately our highest occurrences of traffic collisions. During these five months, we often experience over half of all injury traffic collisions that happen during the year and more than half of all DUI related collisions that occur during the year. Sadly, the four fatal collisions that have occurred in the past two years all have taken place during these months. While the number of collisions that happen in the city are relatively low, it is important to understand why enhanced driving awareness is important during these months.

There are a number of recommendations that we should keep in mind for driving safely in Sedona:

- Make sure you and your passengers are correctly secured in the vehicle before you start the vehicle.
- Avoid potential distractions that take your attention away from the roadway such as:
  - Reaching behind or across from you to obtain an item.
  - Picking something up from the floor.
  - Performing personal grooming.
  - Allowing your pet to sit in your lap or roam freely within the vehicle.
  - Paying needless attention to a collision or other roadside activity.
  - Although not specifically unlawful in Arizona, use of a cell phone should be done by first pulling over safely to the side of the roadway or other lawful stopping location or through a hands-free device.
- Don't drink and drive or operate a vehicle under the influence of any drug that inhibits your ability to drive safely.
- Reduce your speed at night and increase the distance between the vehicle in front of you.
- Be safe and courteous. Don't allow aggressive behavior to influence your driving.
- Allow plenty of time to get to where you are going. Know when and where you will find increased roadway traffic and change your route or schedule to avoid it.

We hope that our local and area residents would want to set the example for all who may be driving in our community. Here are a few driving habits that we would like to see our "locals" do more often:

- Come to a complete stop at stop signs and look in all direction of travel before continuing. This will provide more opportunity to see a pedestrian or bicyclist that you may have not otherwise observed.
- Come to a complete stop on red lights at intersections before making a right hand turn. This again provides you more opportunity to see a pedestrian or bicyclist that you may have not noticed.
- Use caution and care when making left hand turns from driveways onto the roadway. The goal is to execute this turning movement safely and not to try to beat the other car that is heading in your direction.
- Know where you can access a signalized intersection to make a "protected" left turn instead of trying to dodge or beat traffic to make an "unprotected" left turn from a driveway. Some great examples are:
  - Use Rodeo Road instead of making a left turn onto SR 89A from the Safeway parking lot.
  - Use Shelby Drive instead of making a left turn from SR 89A into the Wells Fargo parking lot and use Shelby Drive instead of making a left turn out of the parking lot onto SR 89A.
  - Use Shelby Drive instead of making a left hand turn onto SR 89A from the Harkins Theater parking lot.
  - Use Soldiers Pass Road instead of making a left turn onto SR 89A from the New Frontiers parking lot.
- Do not make left hand turns into the Bashas' parking lot from SR 89A. There are signs that prohibit left turns at this location.
- Do not make left hand turns into the Walgreen's or Natural Grocers parking lot from SR 89A. Left turns are not allowed at this location.

Our police officers, community service aides and volunteers are out in the city everyday conducting activities that are focused on making vehicle, pedestrian and bicyclist travel safe for everyone who lives in, works in or visits our community. Through funding made possible by our City Council and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and by working together with our residents and visitors, we can achieve the goal to **Drive Safe Sedona.**



Speed Trailer on SR 89A

# Public Works

## Public Works Sets the Stage

Maintaining and setting the stage for comfortable enjoyment of our community is what the Public Works Department does day after day. Safe roads, flushing toilets, well-maintained parks, and flowing storm drains are a significant part of the set against which life is enjoyed in Sedona. While these elements do not compete with the backdrop scenery of red mountains, they contribute to an enjoyable experience.

Planning is important to the maintenance of the environment of Sedona. Preventative maintenance of existing road, sewer, drainage, and parks systems are planned. For some systems, plans are made to upgrade and add to the systems. During the past year, over three miles of the City's approximately 106 miles of road were overlaid with new pavement. Soldiers Pass Road, a major City road, was one of the roads overlaid.



*Soldiers Pass Road Paving*

The City also continued its program to clean the public drainages around the City at least once every five years. Some drainage facilities receive more frequent cleaning under the City's annual pre-monsoon program, which began in 2012. Many people are surprised to hear that the City sends a TV camera into the sewer system. This is part of a program to inspect the sewer pipe system every three to five years. This helps the department to determine where repairs may be needed based on the condition of the system. Besides the inspection of existing systems, use of more energy efficient fixtures and water saving fixtures are incorporated into City facilities when possible. The Public Works Department is committed to developing its preventative maintenance capability so that Sedona is experienced with fewer malfunctions.

From time to time, enhancements to the various systems are planned. This year, two significant enhancements have been made that can affect the Sedona experience. Open water wetlands were added to the Sedona Wastewater Reclamation Plant, located

about five miles west of the City along SR 89A. The open water wetlands are part of a plan to increase the ability of the plant to manage the treated water that remains at the end of the treatment process. Through a joint effort between a citizens group, the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and the Public Works Department, improvements were added to the wetlands to create the Sedona Wetlands Preserve, a new public park for the City. This is an ecological park that is a great place to walk, view birds, and take photographs. Ecotourism is a major tourist activity, which Sedona has positioned itself to benefit from.



*New Posse Grounds Park Walkway*

Besides a new park experience, enhancements have been made to the major park in the City system. The possible movements within Posse Grounds Park have been broadened by the addition of walkways near the multiuse field. The ADA compliant walkway connects the parking lot adjacent to Posse Ground Road to the picnicking area near the multiuse field. This creates more parking, a nice walk, and adds a convenient connection between different parts of the park.



*Culvert Cleaning*

The Public Works Department aims to maintain and enhance the Sedona's public backdrop so that Sedona is safe and enjoyable.

# Sedona City Council

Did you know that City Council packets are available on the City of Sedona's website, [www.SedonaAZ.gov](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov)? Packets are posted by 1 p.m. the Friday before the meeting in PDF format. An iPad compatible packet is also posted at the same time, as the Sedona City Council and staff use iPads for their Council packets.

The meetings of the City Council are also broadcast live on Suddenlink Channel 4 and on the City's website. Archived meeting videos are also available on the City's website, typically the day after the meetings have concluded.



## ***Your City Council wants to hear from you.***

They can be contacted by mail at Sedona City Hall, 102 Roadrunner Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336 or by email at:

Mayor Rob Adams	<a href="mailto:RAdams@SedonaAZ.gov">RAdams@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Vice Mayor Mark DiNunzio	<a href="mailto:MDiNunzio@SedonaAZ.gov">MDiNunzio@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Barbara Litrell	<a href="mailto:BLitrell@SedonaAZ.gov">BLitrell@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor John Martinez	<a href="mailto:JMartinez@SedonaAZ.gov">JMartinez@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Dan McIlroy	<a href="mailto:DMcIlroy@SedonaAZ.gov">DMcIlroy@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Mike Ward	<a href="mailto:MWard@SedonaAZ.gov">MWard@SedonaAZ.gov</a>
Councilor Jessica Williamson	<a href="mailto:JWilliamson@SedonaAZ.gov">JWilliamson@SedonaAZ.gov</a>

The City Council is here to listen and serve you!



102 Roadrunner Drive  
Sedona, Arizona 86336

STANDARD MAILING  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 67  
SEDONA, AZ 86336

## **Sign Up Online for Important News & Events**

Would you like to receive up-to-date information from the City of Sedona via email? Sign up now for E-Notify on the City's website at [www.SedonaAZ.gov/notify](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov/notify).

You can choose the topics that interest you such as meetings of the City Council. Or, perhaps you want to know about upcoming Parks and Recreation events and classes. Also, you can receive news releases on a variety of topics. All you need to do is type in your E-mail address, choose your topics, and then reply back when system responds to finalize your set-up. You may update or edit your choices at any time in the future.

**POSTAL PATRON**

To follow us on Facebook or find us on YouTube, click on the Facebook or YouTube link at [www.SedonaAZ.gov](http://www.SedonaAZ.gov).



PRINTED ON  
RECYCLED PAPER