



Montevista Community Corner Newsletter January 2026



What's Up Montevista!

Notable Notes/Reminders

It Takes a Team

Kicking the Can - Lone Mountain Park

Did You Know?/There's More!

Scottsdale Road Improvement Update

Don't Let the Warm Temps Fool You

New Year's Fun Facts

The Psychology of Pickleball

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Recipe of the Month

Notable Notes

There was no HOA Board meeting in December. Our next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Montevista does not have a full-time on-site property manager. If you have an issue or concern, please contact our management company, AZCMS at 480-355-1190 or support@azcms.com.

Barro's Pizza will replace Babbo's at the Fry's Shopping Center off Tatum and Cave Creek; The Q Restaurant will replace Carrabba's Italian Grill at Scottsdale Rd. and Frank Lloyd Wright, and a new concept Ikea store will replace Hobby Lobby on the south side of PV Mall.

A one million dollar Powerball ticket was purchased at the Cobblestone car wash off of Tatum and Cave Creek. Was it you?!?

Reminders

Holiday lights and decor need to be taken down by the 15th of January.

AZCMS has received several recent complaints that HOMEOWNERS are allowing their dogs to poop and pee in neighboring yards, leaving poop behind for others to clean up. This not only constitutes trespassing, but is a violation of sanitation codes.

Going onto private property without a homeowner's permission or allowing a pet to do so is against the law. If done repeatedly, it can result in fines from local authorities and potential legal action taken.

Understanding local laws and HOA regulations is crucial for pet owners to avoid potential conflicts and penalties. Poop bags have also been found left on sidewalks mere steps from trash receptacles. Montevista has a huge main park and multiple pocket parks with doggie poop bag dispensers and trash bins located throughout our community for residents' convenience.

It Takes a Team

Bored? Restless? Can't Sleep? Retired? Too much time on your hands? Spending too much time on your phone? Then it's time to become a Montevista volunteer! Hours are flexible - you can even make your own. Pick an hour, pick a day - any day, any time, weekly, monthly or yearly; morning, noon or night. Our Board, YOUR community, neighbors and friends need your help on our Architectural, Safety and Social committees for the benefit of all Montevista residents.

Montevista's Board consists of only five resident volunteers and just a handful of others who not only oversee the financial well-being of our community, but its aesthetics, advertising, communication, complaints and compliance, gates, landscaping, property values, safety, and more. That's a big commitment of their time, and it's all free of charge to you!

So, the next time you stroll through Montevista, take note that it is not this way by accident. It takes hours of hard work, patience and dedication to manage and plan for the unexpected and for the future. A few more helping hands can make a huge difference in their workload, while just a few hours of your time can make a big difference in theirs. Please contact AZCMS at 480-355-1190 and become part of the team!



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Kicking the Can...

Lone Mountain Park Update

Construction of Lone Mountain Park has been postponed for the 5th time since early 2022 according to an email dated December 15, 2025 by Danielle Poveromo, NE Deputy Director of City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation. In that email she stated, "It was recently determined to address rising construction costs, the city created a plan to begin construction of Lone Mountain Park in March 2026 to better align funding to complete the park. As we get closer to March, additional information will be shared on construction details." Of note, on November 22, 2025, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation was the only bidder at an auction of state trust land for a planned park near TSMC in West Phoenix. Their bid was for 11.9 million dollars. Perhaps this was the reason. Despite this; however, Phoenix Parks and Recreation, according to a FOIA request from August 11, 2023, received over 11 million dollars in 2022 alone from out- of-state groups to rent sports fields. This is a recurring revenue stream for them. Having been involved in this project since December of 2021, this delay is a source of much frustration for me. Regardless, I will not give up on my efforts to push this project through in a more timely manner.

History: In February of 2022, Lone Mountain Park was finally budgeted for and given a 1.5-2 year timeframe to completion - its original purchase dating back to 2008. In July of 2022, it was "fully funded" and a designer chosen. A steering committee was then to be formed and a survey sent to Phoenix residents for feedback. The first meeting of the steering committee did not take place until October of 2022 with construction to begin at the end of the summer of 2023. However, the survey results were not compiled until four months **after** it had ended in July of 2023 due to "a technical issue." The final design was approved in late October of 2023. On December 10, 2024, Deputy Director Poveromo stated, "We are finalizing contracts to complete design for permitting, and targeting a construction start timeframe for summer 2025." On March 18, 2025, she stated, "The development of Lone Mountain Park remains on target." In a meeting held on July 15, 2025, she stated that construction of the park would begin "no later than the last day of Fall" (December 20th) and once started would take "no more than 12-18 months maximum to complete." Meanwhile, tax dollars collected specifically through assessments on new homes in our area seem to be going towards the ongoing rental of the fence and watering of boxed trees.

Contact Info: City Councilman Jim Waring at jim.waring@phoenix.gov. Parks Director Cynthia Aguilar at cynthia.aguilar@phoenix.gov, NE Division Deputy Director Danielle Poveromo at danielle.poveromo@phoenix.gov.

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Our next Board
meeting
will be held
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Did You Know?

A new dam is in the works. The Salt River Project is planning to build a new dam below Roosevelt Lake on the Salt River capable of generating up to 2,000 megawatts of energy - significantly increasing its hydropower capacity. Construction is slated to begin by 2027 with the potential of it being operational between 2030 and 2033.

The goal of this project is to enhance energy generation capabilities and improve the management of water resources. The new reservoir will cover approximately 300 acres, possibly reaching depths of up to 300 feet. Approximately 17,000 acres of federal land have been reserved to facilitate construction.

The generation of 2,000 megawatts of energy would surpass the combined energy production of all existing SRP reservoirs, potentially supplying power to between 220,000 and 450,000 homes during peak demand.

The dam will enable SRP to pump water back into Lake Roosevelt during low energy demand and release it during peak times, thus providing a reliable energy source. This project is part of SRP's commitment to renewable energy and desire to address the growing energy demands of the Phoenix area.

As a result, rapid changes in water levels could limit recreational activity and potentially affect local wildlife.

There's More!

There's water in the East Valley and it's called the Goldfield Basin, a hidden gem that is naturally protected sitting between two of the most well supported water zones in the entire state.

The Goldfield Basin is massive, stretching across a wide area at the base of the Superstition Mountains acting like a natural bowl that captures rainfall, sheet flow and mountain runoff. Due to its size and shape, it can hold and channel an incredible amount of water. This water settles, seeps and recharges the underlying aquifers that feed Apache Junction, Gold Canyon and surrounding areas of the East Valley.

While other parts of the state lean heavily on imported or single source supply, this corner of the Valley has many layers of protection, helping to refill groundwater in cities like Mesa, Apache Junction and Gilbert. With the addition of a natural recharge from such a large basin, long-term stability results - something most people do not hear about when researching Arizona and its water woes.



Scottsdale Road Update

Scottsdale Road Improvements – Jomax Road to Dixileta Drive

We've heard from several residents regarding the lack of left turns beginning in early January, so sending this update with clarification about left turn availability between the major intersections.

Construction continues for improvements to Scottsdale Road from Jomax Road to Dixileta Drive. Planned improvements will convert this section of Scottsdale Road to a complete street to include landscaped medians, bike lanes, sidewalks and trails to improve safety, capacity and accessibility for motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. The project includes installation of a signalized crossing at Pinnacle Vista Drive, and drainage improvements.

Scottsdale Road traffic is currently shifted to the west side of Scottsdale Road, one lane in each direction with left turns restricted at Dixileta Drive. **Left turns are permitted between Dynamite Road and Dixileta Drive.** There is no access to Dale Lane or Via Dona Road on the east side of Scottsdale Road; however, access is maintained for Desert Foothills Lutheran Church and SonRise Bible Church.

Crews are currently working to grade for curb and gutter, and the concrete path on the east side of Scottsdale Road. Concrete crews are working to install concrete curb and the week of Jan. 5, will begin installing the concrete path.

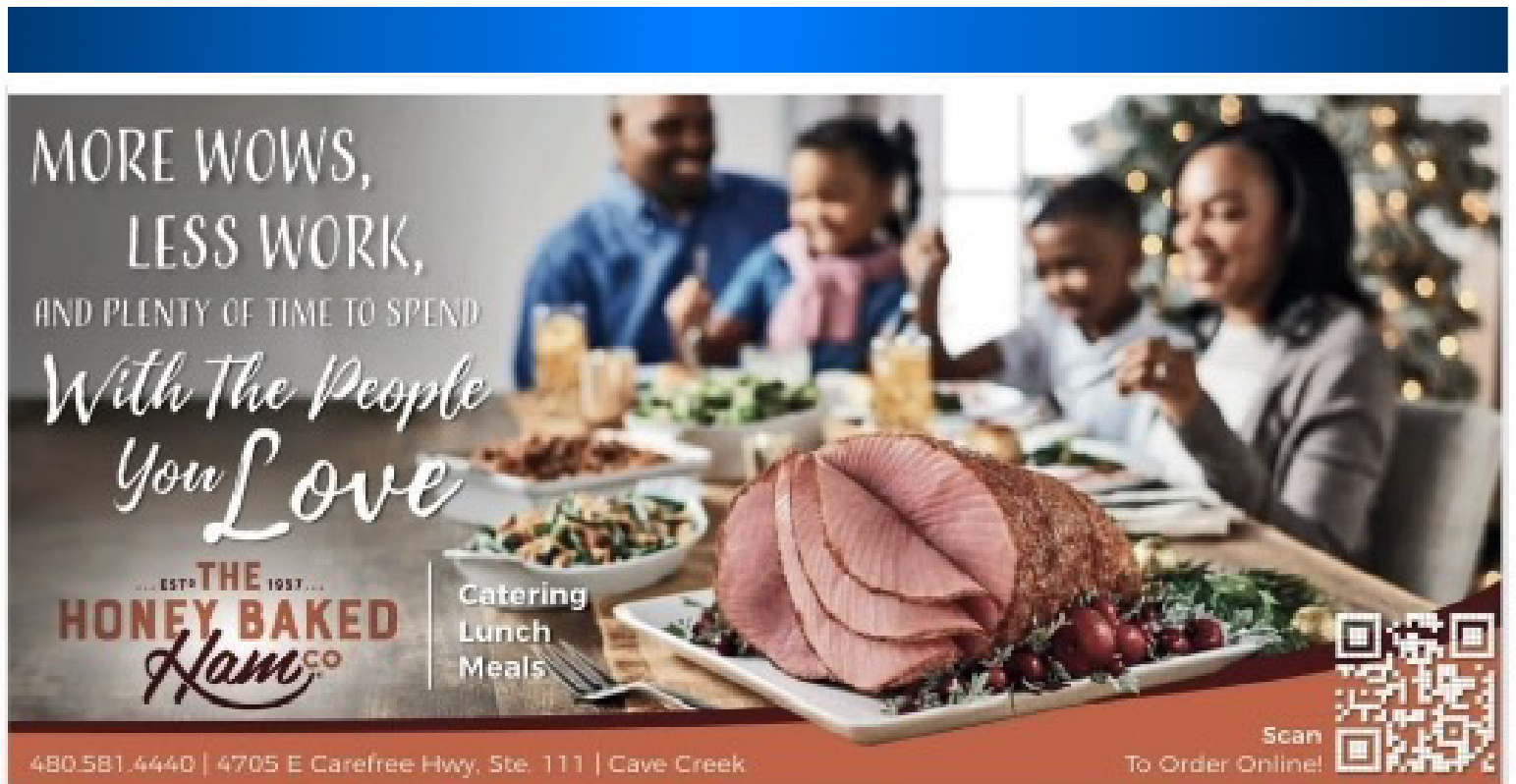
Scheduled for the week of Dec. 29, crews will excavate for catch basins, and concrete crews will begin forming and pouring of the catch basins the first week of January.

Scheduled to begin Jan. 5, left turns will not be permitted in all directions at the Dynamite Road intersection for approximately three weeks as crews install water pipeline through the intersection.

Scottsdale Road traffic is currently shifted to the west side of Scottsdale Road, one lane in each direction with left turns restricted at Jomax Road. **Left turns are permitted between Jomax Road and Dynamite Road.** There is no access to Redbird Road, Bent Tree Drive, or Oberlin Way on the east side of Scottsdale Road.

Crews are nearing completion installing storm drain pipe, and will soon work to install storm drain headwalls and manholes.

Scheduled for the week of Dec. 29, crews will begin channel excavation for the drainage swale on the east side of Scottsdale Road. This effort will take several weeks to complete.




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Don't Let the Warm Temperatures Fool You!



Whether you're a native, visitor, snowbird, friend or family member, it's easy to be fooled into a false sense of security by our mild winter temperatures when it comes to hiking in Arizona. Our beautiful weather and scenic deserts can be deceiving and unforgiving.

Every year, first responders attend to emergencies involving locals and visitors alike who have underestimated the heat and lack of humidity and overestimated their own abilities and knowledge of just how dangerous Arizona's trails and terrain can be. So before you head out to explore, here are a few things everyone should know...

According to fire crews, you really want to pre-hydrate for several days in advance of a hike. Chugging fluids right before a hike just doesn't cut it. If you think you're dehydrated on the trail, you're already behind in rehydrating yourself. As temperatures can fluctuate day-to-day, it's best to get outdoors a bit before you plan to hike, and start off with a short hike before progressing to longer ones.

Early in the morning is the best time to start your hike. Starting one's hike mid-day can be dangerous as temperatures can rise quickly. Avoiding extreme heat is a must.

Speaking of the heat, if it's too hot to walk bare footed, it's too hot for your dog's paws. Dogs overheat faster than humans and can suffer irreversible damage or death within minutes.

When it comes to water and electrolytes, one should always carry more than you think you will need. More importantly, when your water is 50% gone, it is time to head back.

Wearing proper shoes is also a must. This means no flip-flops! Here in the desert there are rattlesnakes, Gila monsters, scorpions, spiders, jumping cacti full of thorns and thorns in general. So, watch what you wear!

Safety gear is also a must. A 120-decibel whistle, satellite tracker or location-sharing app, maps, cooling neck wraps or bandanas, a back-up battery and flashlight along with water and electrolytes are absolute necessities.

New Year's Fun Facts

Over 50 tons of trash are left in Times Square after New Year's Eve celebrations - about 3,000 pounds of that is confetti.

Confetti in Times Square has thousands of wishes written on them; thus in 2015, "wishfetti" became part of the tradition. People submit their wishes to the Wish Wall in Times Square or online.

Nearly 80% of resolutions made at the beginning of the year are forgotten by February.

The month of January was named after the Roman god Janus, but is actually rooted in the Latin word "ianua," meaning door. It was chosen to symbolize the opening of a new door when the new year begins.

The annual tradition of gathering in Times Square for New Year's started as a party to celebrate the opening of the *New York Times* building in 1904. Over 200,000 people attended. A ball drop did not occur until 1907 after fireworks were banned due to burning embers falling on the crowd.

The original ball was made from 700 pounds of iron and wood. It was later reduced to just 400 pounds of wrought iron; then switched to an aluminum frame in 1955. After the millennium, the 11,875 pound ball got a new look with an LED display. The sphere is now made up of 2,688 crystal triangles and over 32,000 lights displaying over 16 million color patterns.



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The Psychology of Pickleball: Why We're All Addicted to It and Proud of It by Lee Whitwell

When we were kids, play was our natural state. We ran, climbed, chased, giggled, scraped our knees, and waited for the street lights to come on or begged for five more minutes before coming inside.

Then life happened. We grew up, got degrees, got jobs, got mortgages, got responsible. Somewhere between college applications and 401(k)s, play quietly packed up and left the building, and the saddest part is, it happened while we weren't looking. None of us even noticed it was gone.

But then came pickleball. And suddenly, we're playing again. At its core, pickleball hits all the right psychological buttons. It's movement, connection, and challenge all wrapped in laughter and plastic wiffle-ball chaos. It gives us a dopamine hit every time we win a point, a serotonin boost when we laugh with friends, and something even deeper - it taps into one of Maslow's most fundamental human needs: belonging. In Maslow's hierarchy, once we've met our basic survival needs - food, safety, shelter - what we crave most is connection. We want to feel seen, valued, and part of something bigger than ourselves. Pickleball checks every one of those boxes. It's not just a sport - it's a social ecosystem where strangers become partners, partners become friends, and friends become family. It's our adult version of recess, only now recess comes with a post-match margarita.

Pickleball has done something remarkable. It's brought every cross-section of life onto the same court. White collar meets blue collar. Republicans dink with Democrats. Gay, straight, young, old, retired, still figuring it out - everyone's welcome. No uniforms, no hierarchy, just paddles, laughter, and questionable line calls. It's one of the few places left where connection beats comparison. We're addicted, yes, but not just to the game. We're addicted to the culture it created. We belong. We're part of something. Our friend groups are growing instead of shrinking. Games turn into coffee, into happy hour, into lifelong friendships. Pickleball has become an extension of our backyard - an open invitation to connect, play, and be seen.

The Psychology of Pickleball: (Continued)

The last time most of us were surrounded by such a diverse mix of people was back in college or university, when the campus population drew from every corner of the world. But even then, those connections existed mostly on a horizontal axis - people our own age, walking similar paths. Pickleball has added a vertical axis to that social map, bridging generations, professions, and perspectives in a way no other sport truly has. It's not just diversity on paper, it's diversity in motion, playing side by side, point by point.

As adults, our social circles tend to get smaller. But pickleball has flipped that script. We're meeting new people, laughing with strangers, finding our tribe. How many people in your phone now have "Pickleball" as their first or last name? Exactly. Pickleball didn't just bring us a new sport, it gave us permission to play again. To show up without agenda. To laugh until our cheeks hurt. To remember that the best parts of life don't happen in boardrooms or inboxes. They happen on courts, surrounded by people who now feel like family. And that, my friends, is why we're all beautifully, unapologetically addicted. There would be a lot more joy in the world if more people played pickleball!



January Fun for Everyone



Recipe of the Month

Mini Mac & Cheese Dogs

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen bread dough dinner rolls (12 count), thawed but still cold
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 12 bun-length beef hot dogs
- 1 package (7-1/4 ounces) macaroni and cheese dinner mix

DIRECTIONS:

Let dough stand at room temperature until soft enough to shape, **15-20 minutes**. Cut each roll in half; shape each half into a 3-in.-long mini hot dog bun. Place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets.

Cover with greased plastic wrap; let rise in a warm place until almost doubled, about **45 minutes**. Preheat oven to 350°.

Bake buns until golden brown, **12-15 minutes**. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

In a 15x10x1-in. baking pan, toss bread crumbs with onion, oil, salt and pepper. Bake at 350° until golden brown, stirring once, **5-7 minutes**.

