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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

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DTC ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Mill Avenue District Board of Directors announced Nancy Hormann, of Hormann & Associates Urban Marketing and Management, as the incoming Executive Director to replace Pam Goronkin. The vote was decided at the monthly Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday the 5th. The transition will occur over the next couple of months, no later than December of 2008. Ms. Hormann previously worked with similar downtown organizations in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Dallas, Texas. More recently, she has completed projects on a consulting basis for the communities of Arlington, Texas; Denver, Colorado; Lincoln, Nebraska; San Mateo, California; and Hollywood, California. With extensive background working with property owners to develop and revitalize downtowns with a residential core, Ms. Hormann brings a skill set that also includes retail recruitment and retention, downtown operations, marketing, lease administration, budget management, and extensive public and government relations. Goronkin and Hormann will work together, coordinating with Mill Avenue District staff, the Executive Committee, and Board of Directors to ensure a smooth transition.



DATE PALM MANOR

On Saturday, August 2, the Historic Preservation Office held a meeting with the Date Palm Manor neighborhood to discuss the potential for historic district designation to the *Tempe Historic Property Register*. About 30 neighbors attended the 9AM meeting along with Historic Preservation Commission Chair Bob Gasser, Commissioner Ann Patterson, Historic Preservation Officer Joe Nucci, and Community Development Planner E Hunter Hansen. Staff presented an overview of the subdivision which was built in 1954 immediately south of Tempe High School [SWC of Broadway Road and Mill Avenue] in a 20-acre operational date palm farm. Date Palm Manor is considered a 'Tier 1' candidate for designation due to its high degree of integrity, iconic landscape [mainly the date palm bosque], and post-war representation. The area includes 38 single-family [R1-6] parcels, of which roughly 90% have been determined to be potentially contributing properties to a future district. Discussions and planning efforts are ongoing with the neighborhood.

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LOOP

Construction for the widening of the Loop 202 freeway is underway and working very closely to the Rio Salado Operations Center on the north side of Town Lake. Widening of the Mill Avenue overpass has been accelerated so that the project will be completed prior to the opening of the Valley Metro Light Rail line in December. FNF Construction, ADOT's selected contractor has been a good partner to work with, especially because of the need for public access and boat access to Town Lake. Detours, road restrictions and temporary closures will continue through the fall.

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RAIN, RAIN

A desert rain is normally a welcome event for those of us living in the Valley of the Sun. One of the few negative effects though, is the surge in weed growth and desert landscaping that quickly becomes overrun with unwanted vegetation. After record rainfalls in January of 2008, the code section addressed an all-time high of over 1,000 code violations. After another deluge of over 2" of precipitation in July, the past ten days alone have resulted in approximately 500 new complaints of deteriorated landscaping. To date, the code section has addressed over 5,700 code complaints - 75% of the total of all complaints received in 2007. The precipitation total to date in Tempe is 5.2", compared to a total of 5.06" inches for the entirety of 2007. Yet, there may be more to come - historically, August is the wettest month.

source: www.wunderground.com/history

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