



Commentary
by:
Cathy Carlat



Lake Pleasant Emergency Response
Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria

Often referred to as the “Jewel of the Desert,” Lake Pleasant has become a treasured destination, not only for Peoria residents but for people from every corner of the Valley of the Sun.

Lake Pleasant is located within Peoria city limits and is managed by multiple jurisdictions including Peoria, Maricopa County, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The lake functions as a storage reservoir for Central Arizona Project as well as a major recreation destination.

As popularity of the second largest lake in Arizona continues to rise, public safety becomes increasingly important. Currently, the Maricopa County Sherriff’s Office maintains policing of the lake, while the Peoria Fire Department is responsible for emergency situations.

The City of Peoria recently received grant funding for the Tohono O’odham Nation to purchase a state of the art Emergency, Medical, Fire, and Rescue Watercraft.

In addition, the City of Peoria received grant funding from the US Department of Homeland Security to hire six additional fire fighters to staff Lake Pleasant. The funds are part of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

The combination of these grants is exciting and extremely important. Without the aid of these two grants, we simply would not have the \$1.1 million to fund these critical resources. The Peoria Fire Department just moved years ahead in their ability to respond to citizens and meet their needs in emergency situations in and around Lake Pleasant.

Over the next year, the Peoria Fire Department will also be replacing one of the normal brush trucks with a 4x4 off-road engine/pumper, which will be stationed at the Lake Pleasant fire station. This vehicle will significantly reduce response times in the difficult terrains around the Lake and throughout the northern area of the City. We anticipate the arrival of the vehicle near spring of 2013.

I am thrilled to see these improvements that will assist us in making the experiences of every citizen as safe as possible at Peoria’s “Jewel of the Desert”.



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To keep updated about what is happening in your city, register for the Mesquite District electronic news alerts by visiting www.peoriaaz.gov/mesquite. Contact Councilmember Cathy Carlat at Mesquite@peoriaaz.gov or by calling 623-773-7306.