



Commentary
by:
Cathy Carlat

**Year Summary
December 2012**

*Councilmember – Mesquite District
City of Peoria*



At the end of each year I find myself amazed by how quickly the months seem to pass by. Although the reality of progress is sometimes obscure, a lot has happened in our City over the past twelve months.

Several months ago, the Mesquite District welcomed our first fire boat. The purchase of the custom craft was made possible through a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation and has been an essential tool in increasing safety in and around Lake Pleasant. Also, a second grant is fully funding six additional fulltime first responders. Anyone who frequents our very busy lake can appreciate the importance of these public safety improvements.

The City of Peoria has also entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County that formalizes a partnership regarding the development surrounding Lake Pleasant Regional Park. This is a huge step which represents an agreement to pursue mutual interests and protect the future of land improvements around the lake.

Heading south of the lake, residents may have noticed that the expansion of Lake Pleasant Parkway has begun. Improving the capacity of this roadway from Westwing Parkway to the Loop 303 will help improve traffic flow and economic development potential as our City continues to grow.

Of course the list doesn't stop here. Among many others projects, Council approved the Vistancia Commercial Core Strategy to guide staff and stimulate business attraction in the area of Lone Mountain and the 303.

Personally, I am very excited that the Open Space Preservation Project is moving forward. It is critical to ensure that we protect and preserve the natural resources, uses, and beauty of our City. I know many of you have participated in the public meetings to gather stakeholder input. Thank you for your interest and comments. All of them will be taken into account as this important project progresses.

Job creation, a number one priority, has seen some positive momentum this year. BioInspire, Maxwell Technologies, Genome Identification Corporation and Trine University are all in varying stages of development. Each one will not only



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move us closer towards our niche in the biotechnology market, they will all provide quality employment in Peoria.

I will continue to advocate for City services in north Peoria such as the recent prescription take-back, shred-a-thon, and household hazardous waste drop off events. With the cost of gas these days, we should not have to drive excessive distances to participate in City offerings.

I take great pride in all that has happened in our City over the past year. In spite of the fragile economy, we have maintained a stable financial condition while moving forward with many crucial and innovative projects. As we move into the new year, I will be vigilant to keep my eye on the future of a quality Peoria for all of us.

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.