

Graffiti and Community Policing

Attacking graffiti

Graffiti harms us. It is ugly. It decreases our property values. It negatively affects our community.



I have been actively involved in stamping out graffiti. I met with the City Manager and the Police Chief to create a plan to fight and stop it. All occurrences of graffiti are now recorded and cataloged by the police. The police now use this information to build leads to identify the culprits. Cameras are now installed in some areas so these criminals can be photographed in the act.

Your help is needed. The City of Peoria has a very aggressive graffiti removal team that sand blasts or paints over graffiti in 48 hours. If you see graffiti call 623-773-7094 or email graffitihotline@peoriaaz.gov and the graffiti team will do the rest.

Also, if you see someone committing graffiti, call 9-1-1. These criminals, whether youths or adults, face steep fines and sometimes prison time if arrested and convicted. Tips to the police about graffiti can be made anonymously. By working together, we can put a stop to graffiti.

Community policing

The City of Peoria's Police Department and I support the idea that police and citizens need to work together to combat crime and disorder in neighborhoods. The department is exploring ways to expand its community policing efforts. If you would like to become involved, please contact the Peoria Police Department at (623) 773-7099 or visit their link on www.peoriaaz.gov.



Councilman Aames with Police Chief Larry Ratcliff (left) and Deputy Police Chief Rocky Smith (right)

Palo Verde District Update

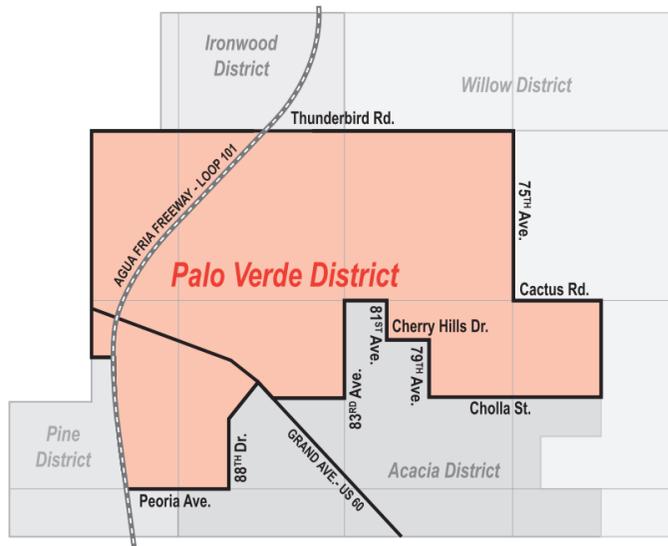
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Office of the Mayor and City Council
8401 W. Monroe Street
Peoria, Arizona 85345

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Palo Verde District Update • Fall 2008

www.peoriaaz.gov



Published by the City of Peoria
623-773-7000
www.peoriaaz.gov

Peoria Frequently Called Numbers

Councilman Dr. Ron Aames.....	773-7306
AM-PM Afterschool Program.....	773-7137
Barking Dog Hotline.....	773-7040
Block Watch.....	773-7099
Code Enforcement.....	773-7226
Dial-A-Ride.....	773-7435
Graffiti Hotline.....	773-7094
Library.....	773-7555
Parks Reservations.....	773-7137
Police Non-Emergency.....	773-8311
Utility Billing and Meters.....	773-7160
General City Information.....	773-7000
Shopping Cart Pick Up.....	773-7226
or after hours.....	1-800-843-2278

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Palo Verde District Update



FALL 2008

THINGS TO KNOW FROM YOUR COUNCILMAN DR. RON AAMES



Working for You

I am your Peoria city council representative. As your councilperson, I work with the city on your behalf.

I have also directly helped 150 citizens in our Palo Verde

District who have contacted me about their concerns.

I worked with the city to install barriers and lighting on a city passageway to help a family who needed to stop motorcycles and play vehicles from tearing up their front lawn to reach it.

I worked for and got passed an ordinance to control campers and trailers from being parked permanently on your streets.

I have made it my mission to work with the police to prevent graffiti and to catch those responsible. I have also kept spray paint out of the hands of troublemakers by making sure it is kept locked up at home improvement and hardware stores.

I have addressed many different issues on your behalf:

- Working with the police to keep our neighborhoods safe
- Helping our schools
- Replacing dangerous playground equipment
- Making abandoned houses look kept-up
- Making sure trash is picked up

- Getting weeds cleared and trees and bushes trimmed along street right-of-ways
- Enhancing the look of neighborhoods
- Fixing sidewalk erosion problems
- Working to make our streets safer
- Identifying future city needs
- Reducing property taxes
- Making sure our city services and projects are a good value

HOW TO REACH COUNCILMAN AAMES

Email:
ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov

Phone:
623-773-7306

How can I help you?

What ideas do you have to improve Peoria?

LET'S TALK

Inside this issue

- Improving the Look of Our District
- Better Transportation
- Graffiti and Community Policing
- Building Neighborhoods

Inside Every Issue

- District Map
- Peoria Frequently Called Numbers



Palo Verde District



Improving the Look of Our District

Working to make our streets and neighborhoods more beautiful

What you see when you drive along the streets of our city says a lot about our neighborhoods and about the value of our homes. The look of our roadsides is very important. Interesting plants, attractive walls, and well-kept areas that are weed-free and pleasant to look at make us proud of where we live.

You told me it was important to improve the look of the roadsides in our district. So I got the city to improve its right-of-way maintenance program. The upgrading includes better and more frequent weeding and trimming and doing pre-emergent spraying so weeds don't sprout in the first place.



New Stuccoed & Painted Wall & Plantings on Cactus Road

You also wanted unsightly walls and right-of-ways beautified. Because of my efforts, the city began a program to do that starting in our district on the north side of Cactus Road between 85th and 89th Avenues. The unsightly gray walls along this stretch are now attractively stuccoed and painted and the right-of-way has new rock and plantings.



As a result of the success of this Cactus Road project, the city has established a permanent program to do roadside beautification over time throughout our district and the city.

Another recent project I did for us was the painting of the wall on the north side of Grand Avenue between Cheyenne Elementary and 91st Avenue. It had become very weathered and the sections varied in color. It was an eyesore along Grand Avenue. Now it is an enhancement.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Neighborhood grants are available for improving our neighborhoods. As your councilperson, I can work with you and the city to get neighborhood improvements done.

Please contact me, and let's see what we can get done together.

Cocoa brown recycling containers blend with our homes

The vote to begin recycling occurred prior to my joining the council. But I immediately got involved when you told me you did not like the electric blue color the city was planning to use for the containers.

After I made a motion to consider different colors, the council chose cocoa brown, a dark brown that not only blends in with our homes but also with our lighter brown regular trash containers.

"Arresting" abandoned shopping carts

Abandoned shopping carts left on the sides of our streets are eyesores. They are also safety hazards for pedestrians and vehicles.

I worked with the city to adopt an ordinance for solving this problem. Abandoned carts are now picked up by the city and "put in jail." Retailers who own the carts can retrieve them from the "jail" or impoundment area. If they do, they avoid a fine. If not, the cart is recycled.

Your help is needed to make this program work. If you see a stray shopping cart, contact the city's Code Enforcement Department at (623) 773-7226.

Better Transportation

Transportation on the move

I am actively involved in regional transportation programs and planning. I represent Peoria on the Valley Metro Rail and Bus Boards and on the Transportation Policy Committee of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). These regional bodies meet monthly and make policy and spending decisions on trails, streets, freeways, and rail and bus transit for the valley.

I am an advocate for adding commuter trains as one answer for solving our county's growing traffic congestion and pollution. While light rail has its place, it will not solve Peoria's problems. Commuter trains, which move passengers much faster than light rail trains, are needed to link our suburbs to one another and to the light rail network in the urban center.

For those of us in the Northwest Valley, commuter trains on the rail line along Grand Avenue would be best. So I worked with representatives from other Northwest Valley cities to form a coalition for the development of Grand Avenue. Our long-term goal is to have commuter trains running from Wickenburg to downtown Phoenix. In addition to Peoria, whom I represent, the Grand Coalition includes representatives from Phoenix, Glendale, Youngtown, El Mirage, Surprise, ADOT, MAG, and the BNSF Railway.

Commuter trains will be part of Peoria's future

This won't happen over night, but mass transit solutions as well as freeways need to be part of our future.

Thunderbird Road widening

Improvements continue to be made to Thunderbird Road. Most recently a dedicated right-turn lane to 83rd Avenue for traffic traveling east on Thunderbird Road was completed. Currently Thunderbird Road between Loop 101 and 94th Avenue is being widened to handle increased traffic volumes. The widening is expected to be completed by August 2009.

The widening project will result in:

- Three lanes westbound from Loop 101 to 91st Avenue, plus sidewalks
- Three lanes eastbound from 94th Avenue to Loop 101, plus sidewalks
- Widening of the New River Bridge
- New storm drain between Sarah Drive and Plaza Del Rio Blvd.
- Modifications of traffic signals at Thunderbird Road and Rio Vista, 91st Avenue, Plaza del Rio, and 94th Avenue
- Installation of street lighting
- Burying of overhead power lines
- Coordination with the proposed ADOT project to widen the Thunderbird Road/Loop 101 traffic interchange

Sound walls coming to Our District

When funds were left over from the freeway-rubberizing program, ADOT decided to use the money to construct sound walls. I wanted sound walls for our district and Peoria so at a recent regional Transportation Policy Committee meeting I amended the recommendation to allow Peoria's section of the 101 Freeway to be included.

ADOT will be constructing sound walls along the 101 Freeway in our district from Peoria Avenue to Grand Avenue. Also, sound walls will be constructed in two other sections of the 101 Freeway in Peoria—from Northern Avenue to Olive Avenue and Olive Avenue to Peoria Avenue.

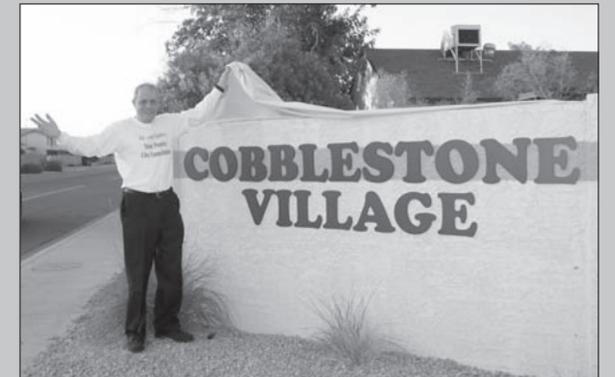
Building Neighborhoods

Neighborhood entry signs bring neighbors together

Recently I hosted a special event for two neighborhoods in our district, Cactus Heights and Cobblestone Village, which were part of the Cactus Road right-of-way beautification project. In addition to the stuccoed and painted walls and new landscaping, I installed neighborhood entry signs for them.

Signs at the entrance to neighborhoods help create a sense of community, and neighborhood pride. They also help visitors find your home.

While some neighborhoods in our district have neighborhood entry signs, others do not. Let me know if your neighborhood doesn't have one, so we can work together to get you one.



Councilman Aames Unveiling Neighborhood Entry Sign

Neighborhood Block Party Kit

Block parties are very important because neighbors become friends, keep an eye on each other's houses, and help each other. Neighborhoods are better and safer places to live when people know each other.

I have created a Block Party Kit. This kit includes tips on organizing such a party as well as suggestions on party activities. I would be happy to attend your block party. Please give my office a call at (623) 773-7306 or email me at ron.aames@peoriaaz.gov if you would like a kit sent to you or have questions on how to get started.