



# La Colina Report

January 2009

## Wireless Facility on Street Poles

All La Colina homeowners should have received a notice that Newpath Networks made application to Scottsdale for a wireless facility atop the light pole at the entrance to our community. There is a utility easement along 136<sup>th</sup> Street and we don't think there is much chance of stopping the mounting on the pole. The accompanying 4x4 "box" is another matter. Newpath wants to place the "box," which they say contains radio equipment, but may be cooling for the electronics, as close as possible to the light pole. That will have a large negative impact on the entrance to the La Colina community. Our preference is to locate the "box" across the street, on the East side and preferably underground.



**La Colina  
Homeowners'  
Association  
is managed by:  
AMCOR Property  
Management**

Robin Thomas is the manager  
for La Colina. Contact her at  
480-948-5860, ext 22 or  
Fax 480-483-6244

Dennis McGill and landscape committee member Jim Bilello attended a meeting of the North East Scottsdale Property Owners Association (NESPOA) on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and convinced them to use their clout as an organization of 28 separate HOAs to draft a letter to the incoming City Council to change the existing policy that allows utilities to place their equipment boxes on the surface thereby destroying the beauty of Scottsdale's streets. It was our alliance with NESPOA that was instrumental in getting the turn arrows at 136<sup>th</sup> and Shea last year.

Newpath is trying to install approximately 275 of these facilities in Scottsdale and the proliferation of these support mechanisms will be out of control.

In a related matter, Dennis McGill, representing La Colina, will testify at the Development Review Board hearing in February on a Verizon application at 136<sup>th</sup> and Shea to add more wireless receivers at that location and add another "box." We will ask that it and its backup "box" both be in the ground instead of defacing the corner.

## Why is the Green so Dark?

Vandalism. Currently, five lights have been damaged by vandals and are beyond repair.

The senior community volunteers, who try to repair these lights, cannot keep up with the damage. As a result, your Homeowner's Association (HOA) is currently getting bids on in-ground fixtures, which are more expensive due to our 120-volt lighting system.

Because of the expected high cost, work will begin around the green area first, followed by areas that are likely targets of further damage.



## Cell Towers on Private Property

To avoid the City of Scottsdale's zoning and review process, some cell phone companies have resorted to putting cell towers on private property, often in "faux" cactus.

Such installations are prohibited in La Colina. Remember that ANY change to the exterior of your home MUST be approved by the Architectural Review Committee.

It is recommended that La Colina homeowners not select the services of unscrupulous phone companies.

## Basis School Rated Best in State

Basis Scottsdale, a public charter school located in the La Colina greater neighborhood, was named Arizona's best overall school for academic performance by *Business Week* magazine.

The rankings were based on state math, reading and science standardized test scores for public schools. Math and reading were weighted twice as heavily as science.

Michael Block, chairman of Basis schools, said Basis Scottsdale, 11440 N. 136th St., performs so well nationally because of the school's emphasis on testing, particularly Advanced Placement exams .

## Prohibited Plants

The City of Scottsdale has zoned La Colina into the city's Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance (ESLO) area, and the community is covered by a zoning ordinance of the same name. In that ordinance, there is a list of prohibited plants. They are:

- Any species of tree or shrub that has a mature height that exceeds 25 feet.
- All palm and pine trees with a mature height over 10 feet.
- Mexican palo verde trees.
- Oleanders (except for dwarf varieties)
- Fountain Grass



Years ago, the La Colina HOA decided that it was not their role to be the “plant police,” and the Board referred homeowners to the ESLO ordinance when plans for architectural approval were submitted.

The fact that the La Colina Architectural Committee will *only* point out prohibited plants when a change proposal is submitted does *not* mean that the City of Scottsdale will not take action against any home that violates the ESLO ordinance.

## We Dodged a Big One

Cox Communications sent us a letter in early January informing us of yet another rate increase to take effect in February. This time, it was \$6 per home, per month or \$660. Even for Cox, that's a big increase. Their rack rate for Expanded Service, which is supplied as part of your HOA fee, is \$47.95 per month. Our contract with Cox calls for us to pay 60% of that, or \$28.77. We are currently paying \$22.77 monthly for each home.

The HOA Board president pointed out to Cox that our contract runs November thru October, so a February increase should not be allowed. They finally agreed, and for the next 9 months, we will pay the old rate and save \$5940.00!