

October, 2008

The Sand Flower Community Association Board of Directors and the Landscape Committee would like to embark on a community clean-up to improve the appearance of our community and to make it a safer place to walk, drive and live. Since much of the clean-up involves work on private property, and because community funds cannot normally be used for work on private property, we are asking for your cooperation to accomplish this task.

We're asking that all property owners clear the first 10 - 12 feet from the roadway of all weeds, Desert Broom and any low vegetation that hangs over into the street. Each homeowner should maintain a trimmed appearance up to where their lot meets their neighbor's lot. NAOS (Natural Area Open Space) restrictions DO NOT apply to this 10 – 12 foot section along the roadway. If your lot backs onto Black Mountain Rd. or Windmill Rd., we are asking you to remove invasive weeds (such as Desert Broom), garbage and fire hazards between the street and your back or side wall, even if some of this area is NAOS. Create a “Defensible Space” as described in the enclosed “Wildland and NAOS” brochure.

If your lot is located on a street corner, we would like you to trim back a triangular area (called a Sight Distance Easement) that extends 25 feet back in each direction along the streets from the corner point. No shrubs in these triangular areas should exceed a height of 2 feet. All weeds and Desert Broom should to be completely removed. If there are trees within the triangle, prune the branches to a height of 8 - 10 feet to allow for a proper view of oncoming cars and pedestrians. If you have trees that hang over into the street anywhere on your property, please keep them trimmed back to a minimum of 8 – 10 feet above the ground.

If you have a culvert under your driveway, you are responsible for keeping it clear of sand and debris so it will function properly. Be sure the storm water has a clear path into, through, and out of the culvert. If your property has a culvert intake or outflow pipe that goes under a public street, you must clear all vegetation that blocks the flow of water. The city is responsible for cleaning any culvert under the street should it become blocked or clogged.

#### **About Desert Broom....**

Desert Broom is a “prohibited plant” according to our community documents. **It is the #1 noxious and invasive plant** according to the City of Scottsdale. See <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/preserve/InvasiveWeeds.asp>. **The City's native plant specialist and the Scottsdale Fire Department both highly recommend cutting down ALL Desert Broom on your property wherever you can (including NAOS areas).** Desert Broom will likely grow back unless you apply “Stump Killer” or something similar to the cut off stalks.

#### **About dog droppings....**

If you walk your dog anywhere in Sand Flower, including the wash and trails, PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG. It is the responsible thing to do.