

MORE PAVING BEING DONE ON TWIN PEAKS ROAD

Paving along Twin Peaks Road from Silverbell Road to the Santa Cruz River began Monday and will continue as part of the Twin Peaks Interchange Project.

During paving operations, one traffic lane will remain open in each direction.

The Twin Peaks Interchange Project is a partnership between the Town of Marana and the Arizona Department of Transportation to improve the pavement conditions along Silverbell Road from Cortaro to Twin Peaks roads, and along Twin Peaks Road from Silverbell Road to the Santa Cruz River. The existing asphalt pavement within these areas will be removed and replaced with rubberized asphalt that officials say will provide drivers with a smoother, quieter ride.

The first phase of paving, on Silverbell Road from Cortaro to Twin Peaks roads, already has been completed.

The town, in an effort to complete paving operations with minimal impacts and lessen the length of community disruption, authorized a 24-hour-a-day paving schedule, during which asphalt removal takes place during daytime hours and paving at night. Estimated time for the removal and replacement process, including new lane striping, is approximately three weeks.

Marana Police Department officers will be on site to direct traffic when and where necessary.

RIDING ACADEMY PRESENTS SUMMER KIDS CAMP

Rolling Hills Riding Academy will hold its "Crazy for Horses Summer Kids Camp" in several sessions during May, June and July.

The kids camp will be held from May 24 to 28, June 7 to 11, June 21 to 25, and July 19 to 23.

The camp, located at the academy at 4670 W. Hardy Rd., will run Monday through Friday, from 7 to 10 a.m. There is a fee of \$175.

The camp features gaining horseback riding experience, as well as learning about horse behavior, maintenance, anatomy and breeds of horses.

Children 6-13 years of age are allowed to participate. Visit www.oro-valleyaz.gov/pkrec to register.

PIMA & PINAL

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Courtesy of Mountain Vista Fire District

An artist's rendering of the proposed station 2 for Mountain Vista Fire District.

MV Fire District plans second station

NO BORROWING NEEDED TO BUILD \$4.6M FACILITY, OFFICIALS SAY

By ALAN M. PETRILLO
Special to *The Explorer*

Mountain Vista Fire District plans to have a second fire station built by summer of next year and might even be able to staff the facility with some of its own fire apparatus.

The station, designated Mountain Vista Station 2, will be located at 1176 W. Magee Rd. on 3.3 acres of property the district recently purchased, according to Earl Ruhnke, Mountain Vista Governing Board chairman.

Mountain Vista currently contracts with Rural/Metro Fire Department, leasing stations, vehicles, personnel and equipment to provide fire protection within the district.

Mountain Vista does not currently own any fire apparatus or equipment, but is building its first station at 9310 N. Shannon Rd.

That 11,500-square foot station will house 11 firefighters and have 2-1/2 bays for apparatus and equipment. It is designed so an additional bay can be added in the future if needed.

However, Ruhnke said, work has been delayed on Station 1.

"We have been told we're in a flood plain, so we have to build up the property before we can proceed," he said.

Scott Butler, the district's

administrative chief, said the proposed Station 2 would consist of three buildings totaling 21,183 square feet.

The main structure would be the fire station at 15,072 square feet, with five apparatus bays, three being drive-through, bunk rooms for a dozen firefighters, a firefighter study room, physical fitness room, kitchen and dining room, turnout gear storage and cleaning area.

The new station also will have a battalion chief's office suite with a bunk room, shower and meeting room.

The second building on the Magee Road site, at 4,165 square feet, would house administration offices, while the third structure of 1,946 square feet would be a training building that also would serve as a meeting facility to accommo-

date up to 90 people.

Butler said he expects the project architect — WSM Architects of Tucson, and the builder, Lloyd Construction — would have final cost numbers for consideration by the board of directors by the end of the month.

He noted that the cost of the Station 2 complex is estimated at \$4.6 million.

Ruhnke added that the district doesn't expect it will have to borrow money for the new station.

"We will not have to bond, especially because we expect to get \$900,000 this year from Pima County for the Fire Department Assistance Tax," Ruhnke said. "So we should have enough in our general fund to cover it."

The district also is considering the purchase of two pumpers, Butler noted. He said bids should come in by May 21 from the six vendors — Crimson Fire, E-ONE, Seagrave Fire Apparatus, KME Fire Apparatus, Pierce Manufacturing and Ferrara Fire Apparatus.

Butler pointed out that the district has capital funds in excess of the purchase price of two vehicles already set aside, so there would be no impact on fire tax rates.

Mountain Vista's tax rate is \$1.25 per \$100 of secondary assessed valuation, below that of neighboring fire districts.

"We have \$1.2 million set aside for the purchase of vehicles and we expect to put another several hundred thousand dollars into capital equipment this year," Butler said.

Mountain Vista Fire District was formed in November of 2008 from a merger of three adjoining fire districts — North Ranch-Linda Vista, Heritage Hills and La Canada.

In 2009, Mountain Vista annexed 320 properties north of Lambert Lane and Thornydale Road, and later in the year annexed property in Oro Valley from Hardy Road south to the town line.

School superintendent's e-mail raises concerns among some in district

ORACLE SCHOOL'S BOSS URGED PASSAGE OF PROP. 100 AND VOTING OUT OF STATE LEADERS

By PATRICK McNAMARA
The Explorer

The Pinal County Attorney's office has warned the superintendent of the Oracle School District that an e-mail message he sent violated state laws.

In a letter dated March 26, Pinal County Attorney's Chief Civil Deputy Chris Roll notified Superintendent Todd Kissick that an e-mail he sent violated prohibitions against use of school resources to influence the outcome of an election.

Kissick sent the e-mail to 73 recipients, including district employees, wherein he encouraged support for Proposition 100

and the voting out of legislative incumbents.

"Paying these crucial taxes is certainly better than the alternative we face if we continue to follow the Arizona Legislature's lead," Kissick wrote in the March 5 e-mail.

The superintendent also urged district employees to kick state legislators out of office.

"The time has come to expect more from your state legislators. Either they perform or we need to vote them out," Kissick wrote.

The message also contained comments about former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin and the so-called "birther" bill, which requires presidential candidates to provide the Arizona Secretary of State with verification of citizenship and age to have their name appear on the ballot.

"I'll show them Obama's birth certificate when they show me Sarah Palin's high school diploma

(I'm sorry Palin fans, but she is as dumb as a post)," Kissick wrote in the e-mail.

Kissick's comments caused concern among some district employees and parents.

In the aftermath of the e-mail, the superintendent decided to report himself to the Pinal County Attorney, who agreed that the e-mail violated the law.

"You have used the authority of your position as superintendent to influence the vote of subordinate employees in regard to the one-cent sales tax increase proposal and certain Arizona legislators," Roll wrote Kissick.

Roll wrote that the message appeared to violate tenets of Title 15 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. Kissick was admonished to refrain from further political statements or from using his