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Road Work Newsletter 2016: Issue 1

## **Road Work Party, March 2016**

*by Bobby Compton and Geary Hund*

Last Summer, Monument Manor experienced two separate high rain events. These two downpours and the accompanying run-off had catastrophic effects on our roads. Many of our roads experienced significant damage. The force of the water running down the roads removed material from the steep sections of the road depositing it as sand where the road leveled out. This double whammy meant that Manor residents had to negotiate both deep ruts and soft sand. To make matters worse, our usual tractor operator was not available. He was working at restoring a wash out on I-10. Fortunately, Sean Molina stepped up in his spare time to make our roads passable. Unfortunately, the damage to the roads was so severe that just making the roads passable again drained half of the association's savings. Repairs considered not immediately necessary had to be deferred because money needed to be kept in reserve with the predicted El Nino.

Over time our roads have become increasingly eroded. Water that used to disperse in the desert or be transported by the natural washes running through the community is increasingly being captured by and running down the roads. They are literally turning into washes. We can't afford to keep doing things the way they are. Our roads are now way below the surrounding desert in many spots, and we have built up large sand piles on the sides of the road where the material gets deposited.

The Roads Committee has been testing a few measures to reverse the damage. The first involves using sand bags as a stable base to build up low spots. We had a work party in March to do this work on the corner of Old Vine and Singletree.



The second method is to build "rolling dips" to slow down the water to decrease its erosive energy and where possible to divert it off the road.

Dips are also being used at natural wash crossings to keep the water in the wash and prevent it from flowing, instead, down the road. The most notable one of these is on Uphill, also built at the last road work party. From individual driveways that run downhill into our roads, to the roads themselves, the more of these dips that can be installed to take water off the road and dissipate its energy, the better off our roads will be. As we identify good locations to put diversion rolling dips in, we anticipate getting in contact with individual home owners to inquire about their interest in establishing them.



**So you  
can help**

-- both of these remedies are labor intensive, but cheap. This means we can use your help to fill sand bags, or just tie them off. You can shovel dirt, just direct others where to shovel, or even come out and meet your neighbors.

**See you at our next road party Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**  
 meet at intersection of Uphill Road & Turtle/Rocking Chair Road @ 8:30am  
 Questions, contact Geary Hund at 951-526-3348 or [gwhund@gmail.com](mailto:gwhund@gmail.com)