

Bumps in the Road

September 2016

Recently, the Monument Manor road crew installed what's called a rolling dip near the top of Uphill Road. A rolling dip is a mound created in a road to manage drainage. It either catches water flowing down the road and moves it off or it keeps water moving across the road where there is a natural drainage like a desert wash. In both cases rolling dips prevent water from flowing down the road, where it can quickly increase in volume and velocity. Large volumes of fast moving water can quickly and badly damage dirt roads, making them nearly or completely impassable. The cost of repair and cleanup can be thousands of dollars.

It's hard to imagine in times of dry weather why we need rolling dips in the Manor. However, one just needs to look back to last summer, 2015, when we had several large downpours from monsoons, to know just how much damage flowing water can do to our roads. The upper, steeper part of our roads, including Uphill, eroded, leaving deep gullies, and the lower parts of the roads, where the water slowed down and dropped out all the sand it picked up in the steep areas, were buried making them impassable. It cost thousands of dollars in heavy equipment time just to make the roads minimally passable again, depleting the association budget, and not all the needed repairs

could be made (we are continuing to make them with incoming funds and the hard work of volunteers on road work party days).

To help prevent catastrophic storm damage in the future, the Association is doing preventative work such as installing rolling dips, in addition to making needed repairs. The new rolling dip on Uphill is larger than most, and thus more noticeable, because the roadbed has eroded so badly. Look as you drive, especially, a bit farther down the road, and you will see that you are driving up to 5 or 6 feet below the natural contour of the desert in places due to erosion. Lastly, even though they may serve the same purpose as a speed bump, by slowing speeding vehicles, the rolling dips are not put in for that purpose.

For more information, contact Geary Hund, chair of the roads committee at gwhund@gmail.com.