

## [Ahwatukee](#)

### Around Ahwatukee: McComish pushes freeway move

by **Cathryn Creno** - Dec. 22, 2009 01:40 PM  
The Arizona Republic

• **Gov. Jan Brewer** and **House Majority Leader John McComish** have sent letters to the head of the **Arizona Department of Transportation**, urging that the state agency work with the **Gila River Indian Community** to route the planned South Mountain Freeway south of Ahwatukee.

"The potential delay in completing the 202 Loop, in my opinion, is more than offset by avoiding the destruction of a portion of South Mountain Park and the serious disruption to Ahwatukee homes and neighborhoods," McComish, an Ahwatukee resident, wrote to ADOT director **John Halikowski** in a Dec. 16 letter.

"It now appears that working with the Gila River Indian Community may provide a solution that benefits all concerned."

The letters were sent after tribal officials confirmed last week that the community is open to discussion with the state about routing the planned \$1.9 billion extension of Loop 202 through tribal land.

• Love to draw? Paint? Are you a dedicated scrap booker?

**The Phoenix Human Services Department Senior Services Division** is seeking volunteer arts and crafts instructors who are interested in teaching older adults at the **Pecos Community Center**.

Classes are planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays starting next month. . Instructors with experience in drawing, painting, scrapbook making, floral arranging, beading and paper crafts are needed.

For more information or to obtain a volunteer application, call 602-534-2011 or visit the Pecos Center at 17010 S. 48th St. in Ahwatukee.

• **Phoenix Public Library's** family winter reading program, "Catch BookBreath @ your Phoenix Public Library," will start Jan. 11 Children and teens through age 17 are eligible to participate in the program and earn prizes by reading or listening to books. The program is designed to encourage families to read together. The program continues through.

For more information, call 602-262-4636, visit [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org) or drop by **Ironwood Branch Library**, 4333 E. Chandler Blvd. in Ahwatukee.

*Around Ahwatukee is a weekly forum about people and events in the Ahwatukee Foothills. Submit information to [cathryn.creno@arizonarepublic.com](mailto:cathryn.creno@arizonarepublic.com).*