



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For immediate release  
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### **The Grinch Can't Keep Ahwatukee Down! Lights Aglow After Generators Stolen Volunteers Come Through for Ahwatukee's Biggest Event**

Phoenix, AZ, November 19, 2007 – The Grinch threatened to dampen holiday spirits in the Ahwatukee Foothills area last week when five portable generators used to power a “mile of a million lights” were stolen in the dark of night. But the folks of Ahwatukee stood strong and put the pieces back into place and are ready for the big Kick-Off Party on Saturday, November 24.

#### **Update on Stolen Generators**

The company responsible for the installation of the light display spent last week scrambling not only to find replacement generators, but also to figure out a way to avoid the same misfortune again. “We think we’ve got a good solution figured out, but we don’t want to give away the farm, we’re still hoping to catch these guys!” said Doug Topham, President, Christmas Light Decorators. The display is alive and well and will be lit from roughly 5:30pm to 11:00pm each night from November 19 through December 31. It runs on Chandler Blvd. from 24<sup>th</sup> Street to Desert Foothills Parkway.

\*Interview/photo opportunity: The FOL Committee will be meeting at the intersection of Chandler Blvd. and Clubhouse drive on Tuesday, November 20, from 5:00pm-5:45pm to take photos in front of the light display for personal use. Any media wishing to shoot video or stills for a story is welcome to come. Contact Dixie Prosser at 480-252-2010 for more info.

#### **Volunteers Come Through**

With only 10 days to go until the big Kick-Off Party in Desert Foothills Park on November 24, volunteer coordinator Vicki Witt was starting to sweat with nearly 100 spots still left to fill. “Volunteers usually come in late, but not that late!” she said. “I am happy (and relieved) to report that when word got out that we were short on volunteers, people stepped up – and now I’m having to turn people away!” she added. The group still needs about volunteers to help take the lights down along Chandler Blvd. on Saturday, January 5. “If we can get between 50-75 people to help us remove lights, we’ll get it done in about 6 hours on that one Saturday,” said FOL Administrative Director Dixie Prosser.



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**Harley-Davidson Parade Route Changed**

The annual Harley-Davidson Parade has also been modified because of changes in the police department's coverage of community events and stricter enforcement of public street use. The ride, formerly from 40<sup>th</sup> Street down Chandler Blvd. through the lights and then up the hill into Candlewood Views escorted by City of Phoenix Police is now a quick run from 21st Street through one intersection and into the park. "The riders and people in the park enjoyed hearing the hum of the engines and seeing the lights from the bikes come down around the Candlewood hill. Now the bikes will simply just appear on Marketplace Street without fanfare. It takes away from the event a little and the people in Candlewood loved having us," said lead rider and FOL Treasurer Janyce Hazlett. The parade is no longer allowed to enter private streets.

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