

Big doings at Barbara's Park turn trash into art



by Jim Bishop, Jr.

Longtime Sedona residents often talk lovingly of the "old days when we all knew each other and had time to talk ..." Well those days are back!

The four free Red Dirt Concerts held at the Barbara Antonsen Memorial Park this summer by the Friends of the Posse Grounds - and attended by close to 900 citizens - confirmed that. Many of those attendees discovered the fun and relaxation to be had by just coming, finding plenty of parking, sitting down, visiting, picnicking, and enjoying great music. As far as views and action, they had it all: sunlight, majestic red rocks, cloudy skies and double rainbows, blood red sunsets, and the dramatic presence of fire-fighting helicopters shuttling water back and forth to Brins Mesa.

"Talk about mellowing out," recounts Marion Herrman, Sedona's senior cultural doyenne. "How delightful were the Red Dirt Concerts this summer? How cool it was to see whole families, with their pets and picnics, just enjoying themselves grooving with their neighbors and new-found friends. What a marvelous taste of what we have in store for all of us Barbara's Park."

For Kathy Shriver, noted musician and longtime Sedona business-person, the concerts struck her this way: "In the Sedona world of three jobs, three houses, three businesses, three meetings or three medical specialists to worry about, Barbara's Park offers a nice respite to forget it all for a couple of hours."

Shriver and Friends of the Posse Grounds are

now excited about the next big event up on the Posse Grounds.

Weaving the community together October 14, 2006

"Time to get woven," proclaims that creative whirlwind, Martha Edwards, co-producer with the equally energetic Marilyn Winebarger, of the second annual Scripture event at Barbara's Park up on the Posse Grounds, October 14, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The public is invited to join local artists and poet Chris "Take a Poem Home" Lane, to turn scrap materials into art.

• Art?

Yes art in the form of costumes, visual art, a Community Weaving Wall, poems and a dragon for openers.

Artists include Joella Jean Mahoney, Fuller Barnes, Wendy Harford, Liam "Chainsaw" Herbert, Bob Syracuse, Sally Stryker, Rich Kimble and others. Entertainment features belly dancing by the Gypsy Chicks, singer Shirley Shields, the Ying Yang and Zen Some band, dance performances by Light Vibe and Martha Edwards -

and more including the renowned Uqualla.

Bring chairs, a picnic, there will be scrap materials and tools to work with. Spend the day at YOUR park on city land, thanks to the volunteers from Friends of the Posse Grounds for the Antonsen Park. Even now Peter Hordorich, chief yardman at Sedona Recycles is making piles of junk destined to be art.



Emily Haas

Come create away. Donations for the restoration of our community park will be appreciated. Volunteers are welcome for all sorts of activities. For more information, call Edwards at (928) 821-1037.

*"The more the better,"
sums up project co-chair
Madeleine O'Callaghan.
"We have many hills to climb
before we can turn the project
back to the city. We would
love more community
involvement, please call
to volunteer. We are fun
to work with!"*

All the while, day by day, week by week, month by month, Friends of the Posse Grounds are picking up supporters.

Comments Mary Ann Bishop of Sedona Copy and Design, "I am truly impressed with the vision for Barbara's Park. And I want to help with it.

Apart from preparing for the Scripture Event, Madeleine O'Callaghan, and a small group of volunteers, are planning a one-of-a-kind Grass Roots fundraising campaign. Believe it not, but blades of grass - at 16 cents per blade - are metaphors for the Park's needs: benches, tables, and a covered platform and of course, grass. Just imagine how much grass a \$100 donation would buy?

For info., call (928) 821-2534 or (928) 300-1301.



Carrie Konyha