

La Madera Neighborhood



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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La Madera Garden Award Winner Announced

Check inside to see who was voted by the neighborhood as winner of the Spring Garden Award recognition for Best Spring Blossoms!

Nominations for the summer term, Xeriscape, can be submitted June through August.

Information at LMNAyard.blogspot.com.

Thanks to all who participated!

Comfort Station in Park Makes Progress

As you may have noticed, the City of Tucson, Department of Parks & Recreation (P&R) is remodeling the La Madera Comfort Station/Ramada (Ramada). P&R completed demolition operations at the Ramada and are currently installing the electrical and plumbing rough-in. By June 5, P&R will have new concrete footings and ramada slabs poured. It is projected that the Ramada remodel will be completed by the end of June 2009. The Ramada remodel work is funded by Sustainability Funds, which are used for repair and maintenance of City facilities including the addition of handicap accessibility where needed. The P&R is developing handicap accessibility to the Ramada via the path to the Fitness Equipment, which was designed with the foresight to accommodate future handicap access to the Ramada.

The primary goal of P&R was to provide

handicap accessibility at the La Madera Comfort Station. P&R collaborated with La Madera Board representatives during the design phase of the Ramada. La Madera representatives coordinated with the City of Tucson Department of Conservation and Sustainable Development to develop recommendations to P&R for ways to incorporate environmentally sensitive design elements into the remodel if possible. P&R secured additional funds to implement progressive designs at the Ramada. New features at the La Madera Comfort Station/Ramada include:

- * All facilities will now be fully handicap accessible.

- * A gray water system will capture water from the drinking fountain and the restroom sinks and direct it to a new tree to be planted on the south side of the building.

- * A water harvesting cistern will capture runoff from the comfort

station and ramada roof and store it for use at a new butterfly and hummingbird garden to be planted northeast of the ramada.

- * A photovoltaic solar system will be utilized to power the dawn-to-dusk lighting under the ramada as well as to light the restrooms at night. Restrooms will have motion sensors to activate the lights only when they are occupied.

- * Glass block "windows" have been added in the masonry walls of the restrooms and community room to lessen the need for electric lighting during daylight hours.

Thank you to Howard B. Dutt, P&R Landscape Architect for providing information used in this article. Also, thank you to all City of Tucson staff who helped to make this "green" remodel possible.

Submitted by
Deborah Tosline

Bike Boulevard in the Works

Preliminary plans are underway for a Treat Ave bike boulevard. The project is being headed up by Tucson department of transportation Tom Thivener and members of his staff.

This spring, people from various neighborhoods rode the bike route to develop a template of potential traffic calming devices. These include bump outs, traffic circles and signs. The group looked at potential traffic conflicts and solutions.

As a follow-up to the ride, cycling advocates from many of the communities along the route attended a presentation by Jenny Leijonhufvud, a U of A graduate student who is helping to design the route.

She discussed the benefits of a bike boulevard for the community.

The Tucson Bike Alliance (TBA) will be hosting presentations at several locations for a comment and input period. Depending on time and resources, TBA may present at neighborhood association meetings for neighborhoods located along the route. TBA is currently working a grant to fund the project.

Other bike boulevards are already underway in Tucson. The 4th and Fontana bike boulevard has received Regional Transportation approval for \$300,000. It runs north from 4th at Speedway to Fontana and on to Prince. TBA hopes to make Treat the

second one approved.

TBA is a new, recently incorporated organization. The group is currently going through the approval process for a 503c3 designation. One of TBA's main goals is to develop an alliance of groups and neighborhoods to increase cycling through routes with low motor vehicle traffic called "Bike Boulevards." The group will have a website available over the summer with more information.

Submitted by
Bruce Hermes

Crime Prevention Update

Burglaries

We continue to see a high number of property crimes, especially burglaries, in the neighborhood. So far in 2009 there have been 11 burglaries, which is the highest number we have seen in the first five months in previous years. Typically the burglars will look for houses where no one appears to be home (for example, no cars in the driveway) and then en-

ter the house through a door or window in the backyard. These burglaries most commonly occur in the middle of the day when many people are at work. Please be vigilant and call 911 for any suspicious activity.

Neighborhood

Coalition We are organizing a coalition of neighborhoods in the area, including Winterhaven and Richland Heights (to our north and northwest, respec-



Don't let this happen to you! Participate in Crime Watch!

tively) to meet regularly with police and city officials. This will allow us to express current concerns on an ongoing basis and implement specific steps to address these concerns.

(cont. pg. 3 **Crime Update**)

Neighbor News— Obituary

Twenty-year La Madera resident, Benjamin Schultz, 98, died at home on Friday, March 13, 2009. Most will remember him as the elderly gentleman who walked around the park, almost daily. Ben graduated from Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. In 1952, in conjunction with a pharmacology professor from Rutgers University and the NYC Health Department, Ben developed a chart to catalog over 100,000 toxic ingredients in household chemicals and their antidotes. In 1957, he became the President of the NJ Pharmacists Association;

He launched the “File for Life” for the American Red Cross, which was a fact sheet that contained emergency medical, insurance, and advanced directives information about an individual. In 1982, he received President Reagan’s Volunteer Action award for his role in the establishment of Project Spirit.

Ben moved to Tucson, AZ in 1989 from Deal, New Jersey to live with his daughter, Robin. He became involved with many senior organizations. He volunteered at Tucson Medical Center and with Pima Council on Aging. He participated in all the Senior Health Fairs and distributed the “File for Life.”



Congratulations! The La Madera Yard and Garden Awards, category of **Spring Blossoms**, has been awarded to Deborah Daun for her front yard at 2612 East La Cienega Drive!

Mosquito season is upon us. *If you see mosquito activity in the neighborhood, then a mosquito habitat is nearby. Call the West Nile Virus Hot Line at 243-7999 to report mosquito activity, standing water or green pools, or to get prevention tips.*

CRIME UPDATE (cont’d.)

This model has been effective in other parts of midtown, including the area around Grant and Alvernon. Once these meetings are organized, they will be open to all neighbors. Please look for more information in upcoming newsletters and in our Yahoo! Group.

Neighborhood Watch

If you would like to coordinate neighborhood watch on your block, please contact Becky Noel (837-7428) with the Tucson Police Department. The process is simple: Get agreement from

half of your neighbors to attend an introductory meeting; collect their names, address and contact information to distribute; and attend a brief orientation meeting that the coordinator schedules with Becky. Learn more at http://tpdinternet.tucsonaz.gov/CrimePrevention/neighborhood_watch.html. If you are currently a coordinator (block captain) or would like to be, please let Bill Prenzno know (prezno@yahoo.com) so that we can maintain a current listing of Neighborhood watches in the neighborhood.

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Like to become a Board member? Contact Jamie Kennealy at 490-4379 or jmkennealy@yahoo.com.



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LA MADERA NEIGHBORHOOD

We are on the web—
join the Yahoo
on-line forum!

La Madera Yahoo On-line Forum is an on-line group for the neighborhood—simply log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/la_madera. Click on the blue button at the lower right labeled “Join this Group”. Then follow the directions. Or, if you prefer, contact the moderator with your email address at lmnamoderator@yahoo.com for a direct link to join or for help if you are having trouble joining.

Recent Chip Seal— Satisfied?

As the result of some complaints received by Board members, La Madera representatives met with the City's road maintenance department to discuss the recent chip seal. Several defects and quality issues were noted, including sealing over incompletely-filled pot-holes and failing to extend chip-sealing all the way to curb lines. The City expressed willingness to perform repairs when issues are brought to its attention, and noted that repairs had already been made at one location where the resident contacted the City directly. A meeting synopsis appeared on the La Madera group site,

which included a request for concerned residents to post specific sites of concern with the chip seal so we can compile those and relay them to the City.

However, no further comments have been received, and the opportunity for action is rapidly diminishing. We need to get back to the City as soon as possible. If you have issues with the chip seal, please note the specific location (addresses, preferably) and post them on the La Madera group site, or email them to me at sgsi-bob@aol.com or, if you do not have Internet access, leave a message at 322-5170.