



Housing and Community Development Department
 P.O. Box 27210
 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

Mountain/1st

Neighborhood Association

Next Meetings:

Next meeting:

Thursday, November 19th, 2009
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Ward III Community Room
1510 East Grant Road

Following month: Dec 17th, 2009

2009 Officers:

Co-Chairs

George Hubbard 405-8743
John Fleming 465-3784

Secretary / Newsletter

Elizabeth Hammon 207-2868

Treasurer

Elva Davis 624-1126

Sergeant-at-Arms

Lori Andersen 623-9637

Park Cleanup Phil Alderink 622-2767
Tucson Police Dept. Emergencies 911

Non-emergencies 791-4444

Beat Cop 791-4467

Ward 3 Council Office 791-4711

Citizen Comment Line 791-4700

Independent Police Auditor 791-5176

Community Services 792-2489

Graffiti Removal Hotline 792-2489

Lend A Hand senior assistance 248-6882

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Mountain/1st
Neighborhood Association
www.mtn1st.org

November 2009

THANKSGIVING!

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

Report on Last Meetings

Minutes of Mountain/1st Neighborhood Meeting
October 15th, 2009 at the Ward 3 Office
8 Neighbors present
Visitors: 0 Ward Office Staff: 0

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes from the September meeting were unanimously approved. There is \$2154.83 in the treasury.

Committee Reports

- Social Activities – No report.
- No new liquor licenses of any concern.
- Sustainability – The **Art in the Park** event will be **Sunday, November 8 in Mitchell Park from 1 to 4 PM**. There will be green vendors, an art project for neighborhood children to live on, and a tour of local sustainable houses.
- Crime – No official report. Home burglaries are on the rise in the neighborhood. Make sure to document the serial numbers on all expensive items.
- Park Avenue – There was a meeting at 6PM on October 15th. Elizabeth Lawrence attended and sent this report: Last week's Park Avenue Transportation Enhancement Grant meeting focused on the long term process for the project.

As a reminder, the project is to create a wheelchair-friendly stabilized decomposed granite pedestrian path on one side of Park Ave. from Ft. Lowell down to Speedway, and to improve the bike lane to make it safer for travel. Plans also include desert landscaping featuring shady trees and water harvesting basins. The original grant application from 2007 also called for enhanced intersections to make crossing the street safer where the path changes sides of the street.

Before beginning any work, laws require that both environmental and archaeological assessments occur. Those studies are beginning now, and the city is continuing to solicit input from community members. For more information, please go to:

<http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/projects/TEgrants/>

The features of the project may change before construction begins. For example, although the d.g. path is a highly desired element and was a key feature of the grant application, the city may

Agenda For Next Meeting

**Thursday , November 19, 2009
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

<i>Minutes approval/Treasurer's report</i>	7:00-7:10
<i>Committee Reports: Social Activities, Liquor Licenses, Sustainability, Crime, Park Ave.,</i>	7:10-7:30
<i>Board Elections</i>	7:30-7:45
<i>Lend a Hand Donation</i>	7:45-8:00
<i>New Business</i>	8:00-8:30

require us to switch to asphalt.

The time line is not quick -- due to the various government entities involved and the many steps in the formal process, it will likely be more than 5 years before the project is completed. However, based upon everything we know right now, the project WILL happen. The Federal Transportation Enhancement grant was for \$500,000 and the city is committed to contributing a portion as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

New Business

Lend a Hand – The Lend a Hand Foundation has asked for a donation from the Neighborhood Association in the amount of \$200 to \$500. This will be discussed in further detail at the next Neighborhood Association meeting.

Board Elections This Month

Come out to the Neighborhood Association meeting this month to run or vote for board member positions. Any neighbor is welcome to run for any position.

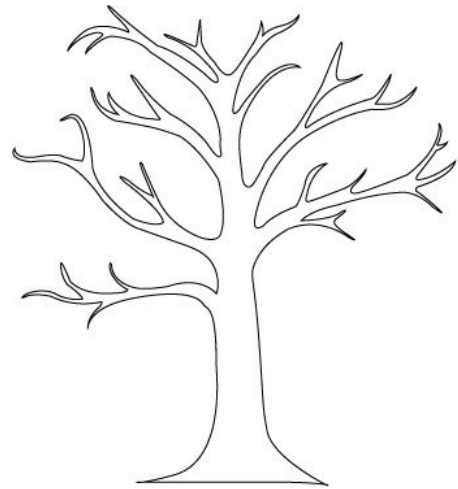
YOU are personally invited to Art in the Park on Sunday, November 8th!!!!!!

Art in the Park is our neighborhood festival designed to bring neighbors together for a great day of learning about how to make our old homes more sustainable, touring some great properties right near the part that have made the leap to sustainability, connecting with neighbors, and story time and a great art project (with a free take-

home project) for the kids! Snacks and drinks will be provided. We will also have information about our tree planting project, applications to order your trees, and we will be taking orders for neighborhood t-shirts (\$10 each). Our t-shirts are a great fashion statement and a fantastic way to contribute bettering your very own neighborhood. Imagine that!

Start out or finish the afternoon with a tour of The Nature Conservancy's Water Harvesting Demonstration Gardens. Tours will be free for all Mountain/1st neighbors and will be at 12:00 and 3:30. The Nature Conservancy is located at 1501 E Fort Lowell Road (just west of Campbell on the south side of Fort Lowell).

Art in the Park will be held November 8th, from 1:00-4:00 at Mitchell Park (between Mountain and Park on Mitchell Street) and is completely FREE! Please join us at the park and show your support for our neighborhood. You'll be glad you did!



Neighborhood Beautification

And the winner is....

Congratulations to the residents of **926 Alturas Street**. You are the first winner of our Neighborhood Beautification Project. We appreciated the time and effort you have put in to landscaping and decorating your home. Your efforts improve the quality of life for all of us in the neighborhood.

This month we will be looking at houses on **Mitchell St between Mountain Ave and Via Encatadora**. Neighbors on this street, it's your turn to show us what you've got! There's nothing like a little friendly competition to make this a better neighborhood for us all!

OPEN LETTER TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

HOW DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD GET BUILT? CRISIS OR OPTIMISTIC PARTICIPATORY VISION?

I was reminded at the October Mtn/1st Neighborhood Association meeting about the fragility of neighborhoods and the difficulties of trying to improve our community. Since we became a Neighborhood Association about 10 years ago, I have observed the ebb and flow of community involvement. For those who have been here long enough, we have seen some efforts arise and fail, but others have blossomed and should be recognized. Because if we see ourselves in terms of what we have not been able to accomplish, we become failures. But if we recognize what we have done – together – we find that we ARE a neighborhood, and ARE successful – and THAT we can build upon.

Even though current attendance at our monthly meetings is low, that is not the only indicator that the Neighborhood has some healthy growth going on. It should be recognized that several neighborhood efforts are alive and well, and the neighborhood is better off for them. I'll mention three:

For those who participated in the Neighborhood Master Plan effort in 2004, you know we generated a Master Plan for our Neighborhood. Through a several-month process we developed a shared vision for our community, establishing goals of improving street safety (by establishing pedestrian and bike paths and thru traffic mitigation), creating a

neighborhood identity (thru the use of distinctive species of trees, plantings and artwork) and doing this in a ecologically friendly way. We have this document available (and on our website: www.mtn1st.org) to guide us in neighborhood actions at that level.

Proceeding forward from this foundation, a survey was conducted which found our neighborhood wanting to prioritize our energies around the improvement of Park Ave. as it had safety, traffic, and drainage issues. A small group of dedicated neighbors organized to apply for a grant that got us consultants in transportation, hydrology, landscape design, and we held a series of 3 community meetings to hear what the community wanted. Almost unbelievably, we received a \$500,000 grant to improve Park Ave. from Speedway Blvd. to Fort Lowell. The first public meeting, reaching back out to the public for input was held last week. 4 members of our Neighborhood Association were there. Unfortunately, construction won't begin for another 4 years. But the funds are secure, and Park Ave. – one of our Master Plan cross streets - is slated for major improvements and will make our Neighborhood safer and more beautiful.

In 2005, an effort was launched to serve the elders in our community by organizing neighborhood volunteers. Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) placed the seed of an idea at one of our Neighborhood Association meetings and it found fertile ground. Again, a small group of dedicated Association members joined efforts to create Lend A Hand Senior Outreach, Inc. a 501c3 not-for-profit service that allows our seniors to remain in their own homes with a little bit of local voluntary assistance. Consider for yourselves, where will you be most comfortable as you age? For many, the answer is in your own home. And a small amount of assistance can be the difference between living there or a nursing home. Lend A Hand is currently serving 8 seniors in our Neighborhood, with the services of 6 trained volunteers. Are you one of them? Are you an elder needing help? As an aside, the November Association meeting will be voting some amount of financial support for this year's service. Come show your support with your vote. Become a trained volunteer. Join the Lend A Hand Board of Directors to help steer this growing (now 8 neighborhoods) organization.

The third effort currently underway to improve the Neighborhood comes thru the efforts of the Sustainability Committee. We are organizing the planting of trees in the City right-of-way, planting day now planned for Valentines Day weekend 2010. We are concentrating on planting Copper Street as we continue to use our Master Plan as a guide for our actions. Trees can be planted on other streets that same weekend if we can get property owners to become stewards of the trees in front of their yards. More information on the trees (as well as waterharvesting, photovoltaic systems, home renovation, and kids art) will be available at a sustainability committee sponsored "Art in the Park" event – November 8th, Mitchell Park, 1-4. Bring the kids to paint Mtn/1st "birdhouses".

It seems there are two categories that move some of us to action: crisis and positive vision. Crisis brings out the very powerful emotion of fear and its companion feelings of individual helplessness and vulnerability. On the other hand, positive vision is derived from optimism and sharing. The Neighborhood Association IS doing good things, but it is still too small a group of neighbors who are making it happen. I hope those of you who have lived in Mtn/1st for a while will reconsider your place in this community and the effort you can make on its behalf. For those who are new to Mtn/1st, know that there is a bunch of friendly community-minded people who look forward to making new acquaintances who want to help build a healthier neighborhood through optimism and sharing instead of waiting for the next crisis to bring us together. Please attend our next Association meeting: November 19th, 7:00-8:30pm, at the Ward 3 office.

And bring a friend.

Sincerely,
Ron Proctor

Clip this Coupon to pay your Annual Association dues.

Make checks for \$12.00 per household payable to:

Mountain/1st Neighborhood Association. Bring to our next meeting or mail to our Treasurer:

Elva Davis, 2714 North Tyndall, Tucson, AZ. 85719

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-Mail _____

Willing to volunteer for

Mitchell Park Cleanup _____ Phone Tree _____

Tree Planting Project _____ Newsletters _____

