MIDTOWN NEWS

This is your GARDEN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER October 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things are happening in Midtown! Thanks to our brain storming activity, we have been having meetings focused on neighborhood interests. I am happy to report that there are sources in our community to help us all have a nicer place to live. Come to the meetings or share the newsletter with a neighbor, be part of Midtown, The Garden District.

Anna Marie Patti, President

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY

We had three guest speakers at last month's meeting. Our first speaker, Leslie Hunten, from the Pima Council on Aging, spoke about Midtown Helping Hands. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we did not get the grant for which we applied. This has made it difficult for us to get Midtown Helping Hands up and running. Leslie offered up the idea of working under Interfaith Community Services. This would allow us to provide services such as rides to appointments and minor home maintenance. All volunteers will be coordinated through ICS. A motion was made and accepted to work under ICS.

Four Wright School students worked together to create a great piece of art that will be used for the cover of our Midtown Helping Hands brochure,

Our next two guest speakers, Ward 6 Councilman, and Steven Pageau, Deputy Director of Transportation, came to speak to some of our concerns regarding traffic in and around our neighborhood. Number one on everyone's mind was Pima Street. Ward 6 Councilman reported that "Back to Basics" money has been allocated to restripe Pima Street down to three lanes from Swan to Columbus. One reason it has taken so long for this to happen is that the road is in such poor condition that it needs to be completely resurfaced. Mr. Pageau said that the new road would be topped with a layer of rubberized asphalt, which is a combination of asphalt and recycled tires. The result is a much quieter street. When Pima Street is finished, it will have one lane in either direction, a center turn lane and five foot bike lanes.

We will also be getting two new bus shelters in the near future. One will be placed at Pima and Alvernon, the other at Grant and Alvernon.

UPDATES

JOHN B. WRIGHT: Lisa Langford reported that according to the state, Wright School made "annual yearly progress" again last year which means they are now out of "corrective action". To help maintain quality educational opportunities, the district approved an additional kindergarten class. This allows for kinder class sizes of about 18.

The school is currently looking for a neighbor to serve on the site council. Martha Cooper represented us for many years and Ida Plotkin has served for the last two years. If you are interested in becoming a member of the site council, call the school at 232-8100.

The Fall Festival will be held on October 28th. This event provides a nice alternative to Trick-or-Treating for neighborhood children. It also raises money for the school. You can help by donating a bag of candy or by staffing a booth.

TREES FOR TUCSON: It's that time of year again! Trees will be available for a November planting. We will have applications for trees at our October meeting. Choose from Desert Willow, Blue Palo Verde, or Mesquite. They come in five-gallon containers and cost just $5.00. Bring checks payable to Midtown to our October meeting.

LEGO CLUB: On September 18, Lego Club members and parents gathered at the Ward 6 Council Office to celebrate its 4th anniversary. During the opening ceremony, the Club's founder and director - David Kha - reflected on the hard work of many volunteers, parents, and members to keep it going. David also took the opportunity to express his appreciation for the sponsorship of Ward 3, Ward 6, and Howard Ward. There were comments from parents and members recognizing the added benefits of the Club such as communication skills, teamwork, and problem solving.

Ward 3 awarded a surprise and impromptu gift to the Club. It will be used to pay registration fees for this year's First Lego League Tournament. The money will enable the Club to form a second team and allow more kids to participate.

Started as a neighborhood gathering of kids, the Tucson Lego Club now has over 200 members with ages ranging from 4 to 12 years!

BIKE CLUB: David Kha reports that anyone in need of minor bike repairs to call him at 323-8278.

TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDENS: The butterfly exhibit will return October 11. The exhibit will be open from 10:00 - 3:00 Tuesday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed to help with the exhibit. If you would like to be a part of this special event, please contact the Gardens at 326-9686.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❀ **FLOWER ANGEL:** This month's recipients are Belinda and Marcus Wyatt, long time residents of Midtown. Belinda is active at Wright School, their home has great curb appeal and they are caring neighbors.

TRAFFIC CIRCLES: Thank you to those of you who have "adopted" a traffic circle in your area. If you have a concern about one of the circles or you would like to help maintain one of the circles, please contact Anna Marie at 881-0244.

NEXT MEETING

October 18, 2005
Topic: Crime
6:30 Potluck
7:00 Business Meeting
Bring a dollar and a dish!

Department of Neighborhood Resources
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

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THE GARDEN DISTRICT
October 2005

Dated Material

MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, October 18, 2005
6:30PM
WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
4311 E. LINDEN
Bring a dollar and a dish!

Officers:

Anna Marie Patti, President	881-0244	e-mail ampatti@cox.net
Caroline Rondeau, Vice President	795-1478	e-mail crondeau1@juno.com
David Kha, Treasurer	323-8278	e-mail khasan@aol.com
Sharon Otstot, Secretary	323-5590	e-mail gazella2@cox.net
Caroline Rondeau, Newsletter	795-1478	e-mail crondeau1@juno.com
Amra Sabanic, MT Learning Center	881-4404	e-mail amrasabanic@juno.com
Leo Hartke, Graffiti Abatement	327-1603	

Phone Numbers to Remember:

Midtown Police Dept. Voicemail	791-5303 ex. 2311
Citizen Comment Line	791-4700
Midtown Garden District Web Page	www.thegardendistrict.org