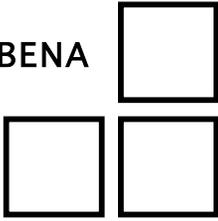


BENA



The Blenman Elm Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Blenman Elm Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 42092, Tucson, Arizona 85733

Spring 2013

Home Tour 2012 Report

Last spring Blenman Elm had a fabulous home tour. We had 7 homes and a travel trailer open. We benefit a local charity with \$1 for every ticket sold. Our check to Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse was for \$271. As all volunteers and participating owners tour for free, we toured over 300 last spring. It was a beautiful afternoon to showcase our neighborhood. We have sold more tickets in some past years. In the past our home tour groupies have depended upon an article appearing the week before in the Arizona Daily Star. Through a mix up by the Star, we did not get an article in the Home Section the week before, but instead there was a mention at the end of an article on an inside page the day of the tour. Some of the people who like to come to our part of town saw the article in time, but we think many missed it. Thank you all who helped.

We will be planning another home tour, perhaps Spring 2014. If you would like to have your home open, please contact benapresident@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed – Celebrate Earth Day

Help with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday April 20. We need help in both shifts, 8-10 AM and 10 AM to Noon. Please contact Alice Roe, 795-7310 or benapresident@gmail.com. If you have not volunteered before for an HHW collection, we will need to arrange a safety training session.

Blenman Elm Tiles for your house

The teal blue, pink and white tiles celebrating both the Blenman Elm Historic District and the Blenman Elm Walking Friendly Neighborhood are now scattered throughout the neighborhood. The tiles are designed by BENA board member, State Senator Steve Farley. We take orders only once a year. If you would like to have a tile for your property, place your order by June 15. Call Jane Powers at 326-1632



Sample historic tile



Sample non-historic tile

The tiles cost \$60 and are customized to your home's address and location.

Weeds – weeds – weeds

Our late winter rains have watered a nice crop of weeds. Please tidy up your property in a timely fashion.

The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Housing and Community Development Department and all other offices neither agrees nor disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requester is solely responsible.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday April 20, 2013

8:00 AM to Noon

On Saturday April 20 from 8:00 AM to Noon, BENA and other midtown neighborhoods will hold our 18th annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection in **the North Parking Lot of Himmel Park**, First Street east of Tucson Blvd. This is your opportunity to get rid of stuff that should **not** go to the landfill or down the drain. Here is what to bring:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Automotive Fluids | Fluorescent Lamps |
| Engine Oil Filters | Paint Products |
| Auto Batteries | Solvents |
| Rechargeable Batteries (Ni-Cd, Ni-MH, Pb) | Hobby Chemicals |
| Small Button Batteries | Pesticides |
| Lithium Batteries | Lawn & Garden Products |
| Cleaning Products | Pool Chemicals |
| Drain Openers | Propane Cylinders |
| Cooking Oil | Computer Equipment |
| Mercury Containing Products | Printer Cartridges |
- Items labeled:** *Acid, Flammable, Caustic, Poison, Caution, Toxic, Danger or Warning*

RISE Equipment Recycling Center will be participating in the collection. They will be accepting **electronics** (computers and monitors, peripherals, VCR's, DVD players, routers, modems, small appliances, etc.) at no charge, and they will also be accepting televisions with a \$10 payment for each. Note computer monitors without a computer tower will cost \$2. RISE does not accept large appliances.

Please bring your stuff during the hours of operation **ONLY**: 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday April 20. Everything you bring should be properly identified and labeled. **Containers should not leak.**

Please note, we **cannot handle business or commercial wastes**, commercial gas cylinders, explosives or ammunition, infectious or radioactive wastes.

If you have questions about what materials are hazardous wastes, please call the City of Tucson Household Hazardous Waste Program at 888-6947 or check the website at www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw/.

We depend on volunteers to help with the collection. If you would like to volunteer for this activity either the full four hours, or some part, please call Alice Roe 795-7310 or email benapresident@gmail.com.

For disposal of medications, see page 4.

MCRC – Military Community Relations Committee

The MCRC serves as a neutral forum for neighborhood interests, businesses and others to share information and identify mutually satisfactory solutions to concerns and issues associated with D-M operations impact on the community. Davis Monthan AFB, City of Tucson, Pima County personnel serve as liaisons to the committee.

Blenman Elm is a member of the MCRC. Gary Hunter is BENA's representative. Alice Roe chairs the committee; the Chair's role is to maintain a civil forum for the discussions.

The MCRC meets bimonthly from 6:00 PM-8:30PM on 3rd Wednesdays at Ward 6. The next meeting will be May 15, 2013. Although Blenman Elm is not as impacted by noisy over flights as some other neighborhoods such as Julia Keene, Colonia Solana, El Encanto, Arroyo Chico, Broadmoor Broadway Village or Sam Hughes, we do hear jets regularly. Many are concerned more for the future as noisier jets may become the norm. Blenman Elm covers a large area. The area closest to Country Club and Speedway seems to be the most impacted. The area of BENA closest to Campbell is, as one resident describes, more impacted by the flights of the medical helicopters going in and out of the UA Health Network Hospital than the military jets from Davis Monthan. For both Gary and Alice, the association with the MCRC has provided a wealth of knowledge about both our local Air Force Base and its operations as well as a better understanding of what goes on in the airspace above us.

One interesting tidbit: the airspace above Tucson is regulated in many tiers depending upon altitude and location. Where planes fly in and out of the parallel runways of Davis Monthan and Tucson International is prescribed by FAA and military regulations with a division of the skies in the vicinity of these airports. Routes for the military jets to the practice ranges of southern Arizona are likewise defined. The access to the practice ranges is one reason for the military's presence here.

For more information on Davis Monthan operations including maps of the airspaces over southern AZ, check out the DM website: <http://www.dm.af.mil/units/communityliaison.asp> For information on the MCRC check out its website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mcrtcucson/home>

Note: **Exercise Angel Thunder** will be taking place between April 7th and April 20th. The operation is a partnership of Davis Monthan and numerous other defense and health care organizations who train together as part of the largest personnel recovery exercise in the world. The training exercise will mimic an earthquake that will be centered in the White Mountains, with search and rescue activities beginning there. Tucson residents will be aware of the exercises on April 13th when trainees will fly 'victims' into UAMC by helicopter. Base representatives anticipate that between 5 – 10 helicopters will land at UAMC on the 13th. Questions or comments regarding the activity can be sent to DM public affairs office at 355wgpa@dm.af.mil.

Grant Road Update

Part of the RTA Transportation Plan for the Grant Road Project called for a corridor planning process. The corridor planning

developed into the Grant Road Overlay District. The entire five mile length for one overlay district has become unwieldy. Thus the Optional Overlay will be broken up into segments, that will correspond with the timing of the acquisitions for the roadway segments. The bad news is that nothing will be done before real estate is acquired prior to the construction of each segment. Thus the Optional Overlay that might encourage redevelopment in our area will not be available for at least another 10 years. I believe that we must work with City to find a way to deal with the blight along our segment of Grant from Tucson to Country Club, perhaps with different tools. A. Roe

For more info on the Grant Road Project go to the website: www.grantrroad.info

Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt...

What a diverse neighborhood, in our $\frac{3}{4}$ square mile along with Catalina Vista to complete the square mile. Here are some ideas of things to look for when you are walking through the neighborhood. We have some gems.

- Murals and sculptures.
- Exotic vegetation: what would you like to plant next? note the exposure of the plants that you admire for sun tolerance. and frost hardiness, especially obvious after this winter.
- Native vegetation. Note the exposure.
- Water Harvesting techniques.
- Historic structures. Parts of the neighborhood have been developed for 70+ years. There are some remnants from when the area was ranched.
- A Mountain stone in foundations.
- Adobe structures, mostly walls now, although there were a few homes built with adobes made on site
- Architecture. What do you admire?
- Raptor nests (owl or hawk), you might be lucky and find an owl pellet.
- Old washes and newer washes as demonstrated by the types of vegetation. Where does water flow after a hard rain?
- Our mountain ranges: Santa Catalina's, Rincons, Santa Rita's, Tucson Mountains and the northwest range of the Tortolita's.
- A sidewalk with the contractor imprint date 1929.

Blue Barrel Recycling

Note the lists especially of all the hard plastic we can now put in the Blue Recycling barrel. Just remember that food contamination is a safety hazard for the folks who work in the recycling plant. Also please take your plastic film like plastic grocery sacks back to the grocery stores where there are collection bins for bags. Unfortunately foamed plastic such as Styrofoam cannot be recycled in the blue barrel. Styrofoam peanuts are frequently accepted by shipping stores. For more information, check out the website:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/es/customer-services-residential-recycling>

This website also has links to info on how to get rid of other stuff: <http://knowwheretothrow.com/>

Be a Good Neighbor

To quote Ralph Nader: “When strangers start acting like neighbors.... communities are reinvigorated.”

We all need to know our neighbors. This is not just being nosy, but it is the basis for our common welfare. When you know your neighbors, you can watch out for each other, whether formalized in a Neighborhood Watch or not. What does this mean?

We all need to be aware of what is normal or not for our neighbors: what cars should be in the driveway, an awareness of comings and goings, lights at night or not etc. Then you will have some sense of when things are amiss: burglars, illness, need to request a check on a person's welfare, especially with our elderly neighbors who live alone.

How to do any of this? First meet your neighbors, exchange contact information, phone numbers, email. Some of us entrust a key to a neighbor. Let your neighbor know when you will be away on vacation or business.

Respect your neighbors:

We are a diverse neighborhood, ages, activities, housing type. Many neighbors treasure our relatively quiet midtown location with easy access to transit, the University of Arizona and downtown. Some are early risers, some are night owls. To live close together means we must respect each other's needs for privacy and for quiet sleeping hours, whenever they are.

What may interfere with quiet? A dog who barks, a noisy gathering whether it meets the technical definition of the Unruly Gathering Ordinance or not, a loud vehicle or vehicle stereo.

Parking. Many have limited off street parking. So, when you have guests over, remind them not to park in front of a neighbors driveway. Parking within five feet of a driveway can get you an expensive ticket from Parkwise.

Property Maintenance: We all appreciate a well kept yard. Keeping your property that is visible tidy is appreciated by your neighbors. Keeping your street front appearance well maintained adds to the value for all of us living in this neighborhood.

Shared areas: These are our streets and alleys as we do not have parks within our neighborhood beyond the Blenman Elementary School grounds. City makes the owners of adjacent properties responsible for the right of way next to their properties, both alley and street frontage. Pick up the trash blowing around. Would that everyone would scoop after their pets. Some neighbors scoop after our canine neighbors at times, just to keep the dog feces from washing down stream in the storm waters.

Trash and Recycling barrels: Pulling in trash and recycling containers after our Monday pick up helps keep the neighborhood looking cared for, and helps keep them from becoming magnets for graffiti.

What's going on when you see construction activity at residence?

You can find information on line at www.tucsonaz.gov/PRO, Property Resource On Line. Type the property address in the search dialog box and you will see if there is a permit and the documents associated with the permit.

Community Garden Opportunity

Do you know that you have a community garden near your neighborhood? There is a community garden at the Benedictine Monastery at Country Club and 3rd St. Historically there has been a waiting list for that garden but right now there are a few garden beds available. What can you do at a community garden? You can learn to grow nutritional organic vegetables. You can meet new friends and get to know your neighbors. You can get some exercise and enjoy some quiet time in beautiful surroundings. For more information visit the Community Gardens of Tucson web site at www.communitygardensoftucson.org. Gene Zonge 795-8823.

Graffiti - What you can do: Abate, Report, Watch for Perpetrators

Putting graffiti on public or private property is against the law. If you see someone in the act of “tagging,” call 911. If the graffiti is already in place, call 792-CITY (792-2489) to report it. Graffiti left in place tends to attract more graffiti.

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/graffiti/>

Historic District - What about Windows and Front Walls

Blenman Elm is a National Historic District. Contributing properties that are owner occupied are eligible for the historic property tax reclassification. Get more information: <http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/propertytax.html> That is the carrot. Those who are concerned about energy efficiency and privacy may want to swap out their windows for more energy efficient windows. Changing out front windows can endanger the Contributing Status of an historic home. Do check with the state architect before you plan in order to find out what you can and cannot do. (602-542-6943) What you do with your windows on the sides and back of your house are of lesser concern. Front walls can create more privacy for your front yard. There is a link to the State Historic Preservation Office's Policy on Front Walls at the bottom of the webpage listed above. The goal is to maintain the street scape, and be able to see the historic homes. As you tour the neighborhood you may notice a variety of ways neighbors have complied with the requirement to be able to see the house front from the street to maintain the contributing status for the Historic District and have defined a front yard perimeter.

Barking Dogs

The alert canine in your yard can be a source of joy, pride and security. Your neighbors may not experience those same emotions, but find the constant barking an interruption of their quiet enjoyment, sleep etc. Please do let your dog know that excess barking is not acceptable.... check out the resources on line for addressing problem dog (and cat) behavior at the Humane Society of Southern AZ's website:

www.hssaz.org/site/PageServer?pagename=as_behavioral

Crime Prevention

Know your neighbors and know your neighbors' habits of coming and going and their vehicles. This is not just "nosiness", but rather how we can watch out for each other. There have been too many day time burglaries. Do call 911 if something looks amiss and you know your neighbor is not home.

If you would like to form or resurrect a Neighborhood Watch for your block, please check out the TPD website:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police/neighborhood-watch> for more information. Contact Becky Noel at TPD Midtown 837-7428.

Don Ijams who has created and supported the Neighborhood Support Network that has the crime stats by neighborhood taken from TPD each morning, will be moving his site: currently, nsn.soaz.info. It will be moving to: <http://neighsupport.net/>

Blenman Elm Yahoo Group

If you are interested in joining Blenman Elm Yahoo Group, send an e-mail to Joe Spitale at jnspitale@yahoo.com. Just include Blenman-Elm Group in your subject line and you will be sent an e-mail invitation to join the group.

When posting messages, remember that messages go to everyone in the group. Rants and uncivil messages are not acceptable. Please refrain from political commentary.

Welcome Packets

Miriam Pattison has assembled information packets for new residents to welcome them to the neighborhood. If you are new or you know someone who would like a packet, please email benapresident@gmail.com. Please note whether the packet is for a renter or homeowner. We provide information on living in this area such as garbage and recycling info, the most recent BENA newsletter, Historic District information, useful phone numbers, how to be a good neighbor as it relates to party behavior, Red Tags and other information.

Brush and Bulky date: August 26, 2013

Have your stuff by your usual garbage pickup place by 6:00 AM on Monday August 26, 2013. The City will pick up tree debris cut into 5 foot lengths, no more than 24 in. in diameter for tree trunks. Tires are limited to 5 automobile tires. For further information call 791-3171, or check the web site: www.tucsonaz.gov/esd/Residential/Brush___Bulky/brush___bulky.html

For a \$55.00 fee City will schedule an individual pick up between our twice yearly regular pick ups.

Want to have a neighborhood cleanup?

BENA can request a dumpster or several, but we need a location, and a plan on filling it with stuff (not construction materials). So, if you and your block want to request a dumpster for a clean up, Environmental Services will work with BENA to arrange one. Plan a few weeks in advance. Contact Alice Roe 795-7310 or email benapresident@gmail.com.

Potholes Anyone?

Adopt your favorite neighborhood pothole. To get it filled report the pothole to Street Maintenance at 791-3154 or send an email to TDOTSR@tucsonaz.gov

What to do with old Medications?

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection cannot take medications. The best way to get rid of these is to take them to a National Take Back Initiative Collection Site. At publication, there are a couple of upcoming Dispose-a-Med locations run by the Pima County Sheriff's Dept: Saturday April 27, 2013 from 10 AM to 2 PM in front of the Target at 4040 N. Oracle Road, and Saturday May 4, 2013, 8 AM to noon at 7575 E. Speedway, Eastside Service Center Yard (enter off Prudence).

Prescription and over-the-counter tablets, capsules, liquids, and creams will be collected. Not accepted will be metal or glass inhalation aerosol bottles, syringes, and epi-pens. For safety and confidentiality reasons, any items turned over for collection cannot be returned. The site does not accept drugs from commercial organizations.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

For further information or future times, check the calendar on the website: <http://www.disposeamed.pima.gov>

The Blenman Elm Neighborhood is the area between Campbell and Country Club, Speedway to Elm west of Tucson Blvd., Speedway to Grant east of Tucson Blvd. BENA includes residents on the north side of Elm St. and Potter Place

BENA Representatives for 2012-2013

Officers: President	Alice Roe	795-7310
Vice President	Steve Morrison	881-8330
Treasurer	Jane Powers	326-1632
Secretary	Linda Phelan	325-4470

Board Members:

Steve Farley	Miriam Pattison	Joe Spitale
Alan Myklebust	Shirley Pitts	Kathy Wilson

BENA Board Meetings are usually held at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Arizona Inn, September to May. Occasionally, the board meeting date and/or place is changed due to scheduling difficulties.

Residents are invited to attend. You may reach your board members at BENA, P.O. Box 42092, Tucson AZ 85733, or email benapresident@gmail.com

Want to support your neighborhood association?

Become a member! Send your 2012-2013 membership dues of \$10.00 per household to Treasurer, BENA, P.O. Box 42092, Tucson AZ 85733

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Membership dues ensure that you will receive your newsletter via first class mail.

The printing of the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Spring 2013 Newsletter is supported by the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Assoc. Hand distribution is courtesy of many volunteers in the neighborhood. Thank you.