

# The Blenman Elm Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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

Spring 2014

## Blenman Elm Neighborhood Home Tour 2014



**Sunday, March 30, 2014**  
**12:30 – 5:00 PM**  
**Tickets \$10**

Buy your tickets starting at **12:15 PM** on **Sunday March 30th** at **Grace St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams** for the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Home Tour. Tickets are \$10.00 each. The ticket price includes a \$1 donation to EMERGE! Center Against Domestic Abuse. The tour will feature seven (7) homes including a quaint bungalow built in the 30’s and one (1) business that underwent a renovation.

Our recently published “Guide to Tucson’s Historic Neighborhoods” will be available. Artist Erika Parrino, who did the illustrations for the Guide, will also be available with her artwork

This is a big neighborhood event and is BENA’s only fundraiser in a couple of years. Bring your friends and encourage all to come for an afternoon celebrating our neighborhood.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Spring Fling April 11-13, 2014

Spring Fling, the 40th annual UA student run carnival, will be back on the UA main campus April 11-13. The event will be open 3 days only on the UA mall west of Cherry. From April 7 to 15 the University Blvd entrance off of Campbell will be closed to all traffic for the set up, event, and take down. Local signs will direct traffic, pedestrians and bicycles around the event. At Spring Fling will be student clubs and food booths, fair rides and concerts. This is the major fundraiser for all the student groups on campus. The Spring Fling Committee has been working with the campus community and neighbors to keep this event fun, safe, with as little disruption as possible given the location. Since the last time Spring Fling was on campus over a decade ago, there are new buildings, new technology and a real awareness of how planning will make this a better event for all. The campus location reemphasizes that this event is for the whole campus and everyone in the community. <http://springfling.arizona.edu>

**UA Alert** is a free service that delivers emergency alerts to registered UA students, faculty and staff – as well as their friends, family and neighbors – via their cell phones, mobile devices and/or email accounts during a campus emergency. <http://cert.arizona.edu/ualert>

## 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 795-7310 or email [benapresident@gmail.com](mailto:benapresident@gmail.com)



Sample historic tile



Sample non-historic tile

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

The printing of the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Spring 2014 Newsletter is supported by the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Assoc. Hand distribution is courtesy of many volunteers in the neighborhood. Thank you

## PAG survey seeks public input on regional transportation needs for long-range plan update

Pima Association of Governments invites the public to submit their thoughts via an online survey for consideration as PAG begins to update its long-range plan.

PAG, the region's metropolitan planning organization, recently launched the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) planning process. When finished, the 2045 RTP will identify goals, challenges, performance targets and projects for the PAG region over the next 30 years, guiding how transportation funds are spent in Tucson and Pima County.

The 2045 RTP will consider all elements of the regional transportation network, including, but not limited to:

- Land use and growth forecasts
- Public transportation
- Congestion management
- High-capacity transit
- Transportation finance
- Transportation safety
- Bikeways and sidewalks
- Aviation improvements
- Highways and arterials
- Road maintenance

The RTP incorporates the projects included in the 20-year Regional Transportation Authority plan and projects that are included in PAG's five-year transportation improvement program, which is updated annually.

In developing the RTP, PAG wants to hear from members of the community about goals, concerns and regional priorities for the future of our region's transportation system. PAG is conducting a regional transportation survey from now through the end of March 2014.

To take the survey and learn more about the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, please visit [www.pagregion.com](http://www.pagregion.com). Or to access the survey directly, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2045RTP>

## 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](mailto: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.

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### Where oh where has my little dog gone?

Where oh where can she be?

She slipped into the alley to do her thing

Now, I must scoop what she did while free.

## Livability – What does this mean?

The Campus Community Relations Committee (CCRC) adopted a revised vision/purpose this year to focus on sustaining the livability of the communities around the UA.

CCRC will continue with dialogue to:

- *recognize achievements toward livability*
- *identify opportunities for improvement through collaborative action and shared influence*
- *discuss issues*
- *resolve conflicts*
- *find and implement mutually satisfactory solutions to achieve the vision and goals of the University Area communities*
- *Promote a culture of continual learning*

For the community areas around the University of Arizona, livable communities are defined as distinct regions that are safe, attractive, diverse, and stable with physical, social, and economic features that support a community environment that fosters the following key indicators:

- *residential livability*
- *social stability and equity*
- *preservation and appropriate reuse of historic assets*
- *stable business environment that promotes economic prosperity*
- *mutually beneficial programs with the University of Arizona*
- *effective support from municipal agencies and departments*
- *highly successful neighborhood area schools*
- *cultural, entertainment and recreation programs*
- *sustainable environmental features such as storm water retention and energy reduction programs*

How does this apply to Blenman Elm? What makes our neighborhood livable currently? What will make it more livable in the future?

Much of what makes Blenman Elm livable under these definitions is provided by the proximity to the UA for the cultural and recreational events on campus and the UAMC Hospital.

All of the university area neighborhoods were challenged by Marilyn Robinson of the Drachman Institute to gather photos of the elements that residents think contribute to the livability of their individual neighborhoods. These photos will go into collages to illustrate the distinct nature of each neighborhood. Send your photos and description of why the picture illustrates livability of Blenman Elm to: [benapresident@gmail.com](mailto:benapresident@gmail.com)

## What should you do with old meds?

The Tucson Police Dept. substations are now permanent locations for Dispose a Med. Take your meds to TPD Midtown substation, 1100 N. Alvernon Way, M-F 8AM to 5PM. Other TPD locations are on the website:

<http://www.disposeamed.pima.gov>

## Crime Prevention, Burglaries, what you need to know:

TPD Community Resource Officer Becky Noel met with the BENA Board and visitors in February. Here is a summary of her Crime Prevention suggestions:

Becky began with a discussion of what number to call:

1. Emergencies and crime in progress, call 911. The operators know how to triage your call to the appropriate agency.
2. Non-emergencies, call the Midtown Station 791-4444.
3. For an ongoing problem, such as comings and goings that are odd, repeated etc., call Becky Noel 837-7428 or email her [Rebecca.Noel@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Noel@tucsonaz.gov). Be sure to give as much info as possible, times, license plate numbers, descriptions. With the data Becky can better give the information to officers on the beat and do follow up.

Currently there have been 11-18 burglaries per week in the City. Burglaries usually spike during the Christmas season, but they did not in 2013. The area east of Campbell is worse for burglaries, because of the drug problem in midtown especially in the Grant/Alvernon area. Becky said that burglaries are 100% related to drugs, and Tucson is the US drug corridor.

About the burglaries, half the time the entry point was unlocked. **Lock everything**; close and lock windows and doors even if you are out of the house for only 5 minutes. When burglars are in a house, they go to the master bedroom first looking for jewelry, cash, guns. They will help themselves to the electronics on the way out.

Layer your house security like you layer clothes and make the burglars work. The usual method for a burglar is to go to the front door first, ring the bell or knock to see if anyone is home. If someone rings your doorbell, don't open the door. Ask who it is. This will tell the potential burglar that someone is home, and he may move on to a house where no one is home. If the door bell or knock is not answered, a burglar will usually try to get in from the back yard, where he cannot be seen from the street. Keep your gates padlocked. Make them climb over the wall. Note, if you come home, the burglars usually hightail out.

Criminals don't like encounters that are friendly, or being waved to and so forth. They don't want to be noticed. If you meet a stranger outside, look at them, be friendly and wave. Becky says "Be dumb and happy" letting the person know you have seen them.

If you get the license plate number of a suspicious vehicle, you can check whether it is stolen with the Attorney General's website [TheftAZ theftaz.azag.gov](http://TheftAZ.theftaz.azag.gov)

If the vehicle is reported stolen, call 911.

There has been an increase in car thefts. A club does work as a deterrent. Use it. Car thefts and car break ins usually occur during the daylight hours at places like a mall, or

movie theater. A thief can see you leave your car and know there will be time to work on your car before you return.

For more crime prevention tips, check out the TPD website. Here you will find links to auto theft prevention, burglary prevention, vacation safety, fraud prevention and other topics: <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/police/crime-prevention>

To view Don Ijams Neighborhood Support Network's police incidents by neighborhood:

<http://nsn.soaz.info/incidents/zblenman.html>

## How to Report Transportation Problems

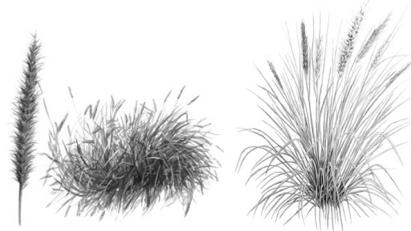
Is there a pothole you'd like to see fixed? Is a street sign missing? Is a tree limb hanging too close over a roadway or sidewalk? You can report these issues to the Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT), 791-3154, or email the exact location to [tdotsr@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:tdotsr@tucsonaz.gov). You also can use the SeeClickFix website or download a smart phone app: [www.seeclickfix.com/tucson](http://www.seeclickfix.com/tucson)

## 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/>

## Buffelgrass – Eradication is still needed

For information on the identification and eradication of Buffelgrass, go to the website: <http://www.buffelgrass.org>. There you will find lots of information including a video demonstrating eradication. Note: the preferred method of eradication is to pull up the grass and bag it. This can be done year round, but is easier when the ground is damp. Chemical warfare with herbicides is only useful while the plant's leaves are over 50% green. Herbicides are non-selective and will destroy desirable plants.



Buffelgrass

Fountain Grass

## Cats in the neighborhood

You may want to keep your cats indoors. Cats are a prime food for the local coyotes and have been taken by the resident owls. Also when you keep your cat indoors, the cat has not used your neighbor's yard for its business. Outdoor cats also impact the local bird populations.

## Living with Javelina

There have been a number of javelina sightings in Blenman Elm this winter and spring. Keep in mind that these are wild animals that view coyotes and by extension dogs as their natural enemies. Be especially careful at dusk as the javelina begin to move around.

Here are some suggestions from the AZ Game and Fish Dept. for living with urban javelina:

Don't feed javelina. They like to eat cacti, succulent plants, bulbs, tubers, beans and seeds, insects, garbage and grubs. They have eaten Halloween pumpkins off of doorsteps.

- fence your garden
- Secure your garbage and compost
- place pots and water sources above their reach.
- don't leave pet food out
- place quail blocks or bird seed inside your wall or chain link fence
- plant javelina resistant plants such as allysum, geranium, ice plant, ivy, marigolds, pansies, vinca. But javelina can and will trample any plants. Here is a more complete list of plants less palatable to javelina: [http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/w\\_c/urban/JavelinaResistantPlants.pdf](http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/w_c/urban/JavelinaResistantPlants.pdf)

Javelina are classified as big game species and it is illegal to trap them. As a last resort Game and Fish can remove problem javelina, but that does not mean that there won't be another urban javelina to move in to take its place.

To discourage javelina: scare them with loud noises like banging on pans or yelling, and/or throw rocks at them.

If a javelina is in your yard, open the gate and have people leave the area. Wait for the animal to leave.

If you see a javelina while walking your dog, quickly take your dog in a different direction. Javelina will charge dogs and can do a nasty job on the dog (or you) with their tusks. For more information on urban javelina:

[http://www.azgfd.gov/w\\_c/urban\\_javelina.shtml](http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/urban_javelina.shtml)

## Brush and Bulky service

We just had Brush and Bulky service the week of March 3. Our next Brush and Bulky Service will be September 1, 2014. For service between schedules, contact Environmental Services at 791-3171. There is a minimum charge of \$55.

## Managing your waste in the City just got easier with My Waste™

Download the free smart phone app *My Waste™*: <http://www.my-waste.mobi/AZ-Tucson/>

You can customize your location, set reminders and find out proper recycling/disposal procedures for hundreds of materials.

## Household hazardous waste collection

If you cannot bring your household hazardous wastes such as old paint, solvents, old pool chemicals etc to the now twice yearly collections at Himmel Park, or other locations in the community, please call for a pickup 791-3171. For a fee of \$25 Environmental Services will schedule a pickup.

## Report Abandoned Shopping Carts

If you see an abandoned shopping cart, please call 792-CITY or 791-3171 and report the location of the cart. You can also use the 'My Waste™' app on your smartphone. Once the City of Tucson has been notified of the location, a contractor will investigate, tag the cart and notify the store management. If the cart is not removed in a designated amount of time, the Environmental Services (ES) department will take it away.

## Aircraft Noise

For helicopters headed to the hospital, call UAMC Security 694-6533. Remember that the usual flight path may be violated for local wind conditions or the patient's condition. For military aircraft, call Davis Monthan 228-5091. Check out the D-M Community Initiatives website: <http://www.dm.af.mil/units/communityliaison.asp>

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*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 2013-2014

Officers: President	Alice Roe	795-7310
Vice President	Steve Morrison	881-8330
Treasurer	Vacant, interim	Steve Morrison
Secretary	Linda Phelan	325-4470

### Board Members:

Steve Farley	Lisa Orozco	Teresa Vasquez
Jackie Kinman	Miriam Pattison	Vince Vasquez
Alan Myklebust	Shirley Pitts	Kathy Wilson
Craig Orozco	Joe Spitale	

BENA Board Meetings are usually held at 7:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:benapresident@gmail.com)

### Want to support your neighborhood association?

Become a member! Send your 2013-2014 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.