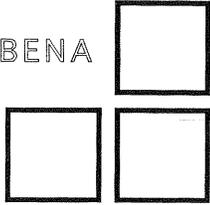


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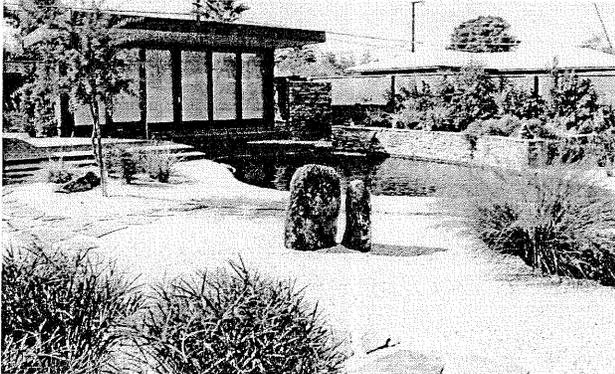


The Blenman Elm Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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

Spring 2010

Blenman Elm Home Tour Historical Homes and Gardens



Sunday, April 11, 2010
12:30 – 5:00 PM
Tickets \$10

Buy your tickets for the Blenman Elm Historic Neighborhood Home Tour at **Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St. at 12:30 PM on Sunday April 11th**. Tickets are \$10.00, of which \$1 goes to the Tucson Community Food Bank, the rest will be used for BENA projects.

The tour will include 10 homes and/or gardens: an historic Joesler home, homes with guest houses, remodels, a Zendo, a casita, a Tudor, the garden of another Joesler, and a home designed by solar pioneer architect Arthur Brown.

To volunteer to help with the Home Tour, please call Jane Powers (326-1632) or email Alan Myklebust, mykle@dakotacom.net

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

Watch for the Blenman Elm Home Tour article in the Arizona Daily Star Home Section on Sunday April 11. There will be pictures and some description of the Tudor that will be open for the Home Tour.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday April 17, 2010

8:00 AM to Noon

On Saturday April 17 from 8:00 AM to Noon, BENA will hold our 15th 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, computer monitors, peripherals, VCR's, DVD players, routers, modems, small appliances, etc.) at no charge, and they will also be accepting televisions for \$10 each. They do not accept large appliances.

Please bring your stuff **ONLY** during the hours of operation: 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday April 17. 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. **We are no longer taking prescription drugs, other medications or tablets.** See Fact Sheet, Medications Disposal: www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/docs/medication-disposal.pdf.

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.

Military Community Relations Committee

Many express concerns about aircraft noise from the overflights of military aircraft. Blenman Elm participates in the Military Community Relations Committee. This is a forum for discussion, education and working on the issues that concern Davis Monthan, city residents, City of Tucson and Pima County. The airspace above Tucson is divided roughly along I-10. At lower altitudes the aircraft going to or coming from Tucson International Airport stay south and west of the I-10, while aircraft going to or coming from DM stay north and east of I-10. The airspace division is for safety. Aircraft taking off are noisier than a similar aircraft coming in to land. At DM (and TIA) aircraft take off to the southeast unless there are winds that create safety issues. In general in Tucson the morning take off will be to the southeast, but by midday the winds may shift and force planes to take off to the northwest. The military planes that we see and hear in BENA are usually going to or coming from Davis Monthan.

There have been recent meetings collecting information for the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the potential bedding down of the new F35A fighter at Tucson International Airport. "While Davis-Monthan AFB is not a candidate for bedding down the F-35A, a small portion of F-35A training may require limited use of the flightline and other facilities on Davis-Monthan AFB. Additionally, the Air Force may use airspace managed and scheduled by Davis-Monthan AFB if the Arizona Air National Guard Base at TIA is selected for the F-35A beddown." from www.f-35atrainingeis.com/resources/Tucson%20FS.pdf

For more information on Davis Monthan's operation, maps and lots of other interesting information see the DM Community Liaison website:

www.dm.af.mil/units/communityliaison.asp

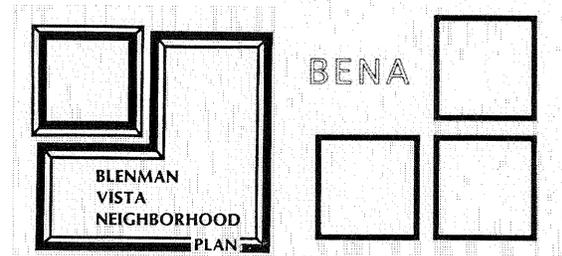
Helicopter Noise

The medical helicopters that go to UMC, the only Level 1 Trauma Center for southern Arizona, are supposed to fly routes that approach the helipad atop the new Diamond Children's Center tower from Cherry or Campbell. If the patient is critical or the winds or weather do not allow this approach, helicopters may fly over the close neighborhoods on their way to or from the helipad. UMC Security monitors every helicopter flight for compliance with their flight path. If you have concerns about an individual flight, please call UMC Security 694-6533. Every month, UMC reports to the Campus Community Relations Committee on the number of helicopter flights, the number of "violations" and the number of complaints. In the last few months, there have been between 110 and 140+ flights per month, with a few violations of the flight path due to a new pilot's ignorance of the flight path rules. UMC Security provides these pilots with the maps and they usually depart appropriately.

There are other helicopters besides these medical flights in the skies over Tucson: police helicopters, military helicopters, and other civilian flights.

Where did the BENA logo come from?

How did BENA get the 3 squares logo that graces the front page of this newsletter? In the middle 1980's neighbors started work on a neighborhood plan. At the time the Blenman Elm Neighborhood's original northern boundary was Elm or Seneca between Tucson Blvd. and Country Club. The City was reluctant to plan for less than a square mile. So, we invited residents of Catalina Vista and the area north of Seneca into the process. When it came time for the Neighborhood Plan to have a cover, the design logo reflected that there were two neighborhoods in the square mile represented in the now named Blenman Vista Neighborhood Plan, adopted in 1986.



As the neighborhood became more organized, we needed a mast head for the newsletter. Joel Fields was then president and owner of an early Macintosh computer. The three boxes logo was originally made with the early graphics program MacPaint. And so it continues, now made without the jaggies of the early pixelated graphics. This graphic started to appear regularly in the newsletter by 1989. The logo has been recreated over the years with better software, but still has those three squares representing the three quarter-square-miles of the Blenman Elm Neighborhood. It remains a relic of the time of crude home computer graphics.

Design Development Option (DDO) Reviews

As a neighborhood association we are noticed along with adjacent property owners when a property owner in the neighborhood applies for a Design Development Option, or DDO. The DDO is a variance specifically for setbacks and wall heights that are part of the Land Use Code (LUC) for the zoning designation. Usually the concern is that the setback of a proposed project does not meet the current LUC setback provisions. For example, the side and back perimeter set back from the property line in the R-1 zoning is the greater of 6 feet or 2/3 the height of the building. We work closely with Development Services in reviewing these. Alice Roe and other board members used to have to go downtown to see the site plans and elevations. Now these are available on line. (www.tucsonaz.gov/pro) We always review the site plans with a view of what is good for keeping our neighborhood character. Likewise, for the resident applying for the DDO, we try to understand their needs and not be capricious in protesting. Other neighborhoods have CC&R's that protect their residents from inappropriate development next door or down the street. We have only the Land Use Code for the underlying zoning to provide us the stability of our built environment.

Residential Parking Program

Some neighbors in Blenman Elm close to the UA suffer from an influx of day parking related to the UA or AZ Health Sciences complex. UA has for a number of years controlled parking by charging a fee to get a parking permit. UA Parking and Transportation subsidizes bus passes for the campus and has other travel reduction programs to encourage use of alternate modes of transportation. As the fee to get a parking permit has gone up, there are some people who decide not to pay the fee and become Blenman Elm resident wannabes by parking on our streets and walking or biking to their destination on campus.

ParkWise has run the Residential Parking Permit program for many years. This program successfully limits the excess parking on neighborhood streets during normal business hours. Many neighbors in the Blenman Elm SW quarter square mile enjoy the benefits of this program to control on street parking. For City budget reasons the ParkWise program can no longer be subsidized by the City. The individual Residential Parking permit that a resident purchases has been very modest since inception with the first permit free, any extras were \$2.50 per year. The revenues generated, however, do not support the program. There is a committee of neighbors who use the program working with ParkWise on how to make the program sustainable in covering the costs of running the program assigned to Blenman Elm. The individual permit price will go up, but how much is the question.

NPZ (Neighborhood Protection Zone).

Those watching City Council meetings will know that after the NPZ enabling legislation two years ago, the pilot for this concept was the Feldman's Neighborhood. The Feldman's Design Manual, a document integral to the NPZ rezoning process, was the subject of a City Council public hearing last fall before it was accepted. The Design Manual was worked on by neighborhood residents and property owners. No one was truly happy, no one got all they wanted, but this was a start to controlling inappropriate development as some have pushed the limits of what could be built under the current zoning code. The real problem is that the One-Size-Fits-All city wide Land Use Code does not serve older neighborhoods particularly well. The next neighborhood to work on the process is Jefferson Park, which has started their Design Manual meetings.

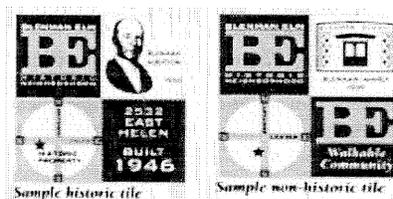
Thank you to everyone who has and will volunteer for BENA. The Potluck last fall on that breezy afternoon was a lot of fun. We had maps to find where you are, neighbors to meet. This spring volunteers will help with the Home Tour and the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. And thank you to my very favorite volunteers: the BENA Board and everyone who hand delivers the Blenman Elm Neighborhood Association Newsletter. Thank you one and all. -Alice Roe

Status of City supported newsletters for neighborhood associations

The City is cutting discretionary spending items from the budget. The cuts include the newsletter mailing services that the City provides for City registered neighborhood associations. Neighborhood associations that mail out newsletters through the Housing and Community Development Department have one last mailing before the end of the fiscal year June 30. For a variety of reasons, BENA has not relied upon the mailing by the City. Address lists were not good, although these have gotten better over the years. In BENA there are a number of residents who chose not to get any mail at their street addresses. City mailings will never reach these neighbors. Using hand delivery we can continue to get the newsletters to our residents. The City has been printing the BENA newsletter for us twice a year. Whether this service will continue beyond this spring is unknown. Prior City guidelines had permitted neighborhoods to send monthly newsletters of up to 4 pages, although not every one of the over 130 registered neighborhoods participated. So, what do we do to continue to foster community, comply with the by laws on notices for annual meetings as well as provide the link between residents in the neighborhood and information that neighbors might need to know? Some neighborhoods are going much more electronic using the Internet, recognizing that not all residents are computer savvy or are on line. Others are taking on the task for hand delivering their newsletters as we do. The costs of printing our usual four page newsletter by the City has been $\$0.139 \times 1884 = \262 per issue. Were we to mail, the cost including postage would be $\$0.36 \times 1884 = \678 for printing and mailing. Over the years by hand delivering we have saved the City a bundle. Thank you to all our neighbors who have hand delivered the newsletters faithfully Spring and Fall. Like everyone else with budget problems we will be looking at how we continue to do our business and get information to neighbors.

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 Representative 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 by calling Jane Powers at 326-1632



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

Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes

Yes, we have some foreclosed and abandoned homes in BENA. Please watch out for these former neighbors' properties. If they become too unkempt, they reflect badly on all of us. So, pick up the trash, watch for break-ins or evidence of a transient's occupation. For criminal activity in progress, call 911. For issues of weeds and junk, call 791-4605.

Potholes and Graffiti, what you can do.

SeeClickFix.com was announced at the Mayor's State of the City Address in January, as an innovative way to engage the citizenry in reporting issues that need City's attention. If you have an iPhone or other GPS enabled smart phone, you can download an App that allows you to take a picture of the issue (pothole, graffiti, junk car, litter or other problem), use the phone's GPS location, and describe the problem, and send in your report. Pothole reports go to City of Tucson Streets and Maintenance. Unfortunately due to budget cuts, potholes on neighborhood streets are placed on a list that is backed up for months. For safety issues and potholes on arterials, the City will address these in a more timely fashion. For those who do not have a smart phone, you can go to the website: <http://www.seeclickfix.com/tucson>. There you can see the issues others have reported viewed in a variety of ways (including by neighborhood). There you can report your issue and upload a picture if you have one, although, you can report an issue without having a picture. The location is required. In addition, you can add your vote to an existing issue. The potholes that get the most prompt attention are those that are safety related, i.e. bigger than 2 ft x 2 ft x 2 in deep.

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.

Welcome Packets

BENA is creating a welcome letter and packet of useful information for new residents in Blenman Elm. This is a work in progress. Please let us know what information you would have liked to have had when you moved here. Maybe you know someone who should receive such a welcome packet. Please call Alice Roe 795-7310 or you may email BENApresident@gmail.com

Brush and Bulky date: August 2, 2010

Have your stuff by your usual garbage pickup place by 6:00 AM on Monday August 2. The City will pick up tree debris cut into 5 foot lengths, no more than 24 in. in diameter for tree trunks. There is also a limit on the number of old tires. For further information call 791-3171, or check out 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.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Ongoing BENCA (Blenman Elm Neighbors Care Alliance) is helping older neighbors with transportation to appointments or shopping, friendly visits and friendly phone calls. As some of our neighbors have moved to the next step or moved away, we have more volunteers currently than needs. As we all age, don't forget that these neighbors have offered to help in small ways, even just a friendly phone call to ease the sense of isolation when aging takes its toll on our ability to get around.

You never know when you too may temporarily need help like driving to an appointment when you've been told you should not drive yourself. Keep BENCA in mind. Call Paula Keyes, coordinator at 784-0760.

What number do I call for City services?

Part of City's budget cutbacks means less service from the 792-CITY line. So, if you know whom to call about your issue, you may get better service. The City maintains an online version of the Info Guide that is kept up to date.

www.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide/infoguide.php City Services A to Z. This guide is a comprehensive "one-stop" alphabetical listing of both Tucson-area organizations and City services. You'll find everything here from information on *Abandoned buildings* to hours for the *Reid Park Zoo*. For example, if a street light is broken in your neighborhood, look under 'S' for *Street light*. This information is also available as a downloadable PDF document. www.tucsonaz.gov/pdf/infoguide.pdf

BENA Representatives for 2009-2010

Officers: President	Alice Roe	795-7310
Vice President	Steve Morrison	881-8330
Treasurer	Jane Powers	326-1632
Secretary	Linda Phelan	325-4470
Board Members:		
Judy Calvert	Denise Holzman	Shirley Pitts
Dorsett Edmunds	Mike Mahan	Lorna Soroko
Dave Ewoldt	Alan Myklebust	Joe Spitale
Steve Farley	Miriam Pattison	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 June. 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.

Want to support your neighborhood association?

Become a member! Send your 2009-2010 membership dues of \$5.00 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.