Garden District

GARDEN DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

http://midtowngardendistrict.org

May 2010

Greetings Neighbors,
Our May 18 neighborhood meeting was full of information for all of us. Karin Erickson and Carlos Portillo, Department of Neighborhood Resources, answered all questions relating to code violations and gave us the tools to empower us in our desire to keep our neighborhood safe and beautiful. First of all, if you see a code violation, weeds, junk, etc., try to speak to the property owner or renter. If that doesn't work, we were given numbers to call or we can use an online complaint form. These numbers and web sites are listed in this newsletter. Also Paula Aboud, Arizona State Senator from District 28 (our district) stopped by to present information that will enable us to be active citizens, involved in the political process that also affects us very directly. The message from the meeting is this: if you want to see changes, if you want to make your world better, you need to be involved. Please attend meetings, the next one will be August 17, after a two month summer recess. We will keep you posted on summer events that are being planned in our neighborhood.

Ida Plotkin, president

Thank You to the owners of Las Margaritas for their donation of restaurant certificates and to the owner of XOOM Juice for certificates awarded as our meeting door prizes.
Remember, you must be present to win the prizes.

NO ASSOCIATION MEETINGS DURING JUNE & JULY. CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR NEWS ON OUR MOVIE NIGHT AND BOWLING EVENT.

We received valuable information from Carlos Portillo, Supervisor of Code Enforcement Inspections & Karin Erickson, both with the Dept. of Neighborhood Resources. Carlos went over the enforcement process after a call is received by the call center, how they verify the violation, issue the "Notice of Violation", re-inspection fees and finally if there is need to file a civil citation. Court fines can range from $100-$2,500 per violation.

Common violations: Weeds over 6 inches tall
Trash/debris including excessive animal waste
Junk motor vehicles in public view
Abandon/non-working vehicle on the roadway
(vehicles must be moved every 48 hours)
Property storage violation
Commercial vehicle storage in residential area
Vacant & neglected structures
Signs placed in public right-of-way
Signs installed without a permit

You can call in a **Code Violation complaint** to: **791-5843**
You can also complete the form on-line anytime of day, receive a complaint number and follow the process: http://www.tucsonaz.gov/csd/violation/

They establish a priority to the type of violations reported. It is important that residents do report violations so that our neighborhoods can have safety and order. With school being out of session, Tucson Police Department reports that criminal activity is becoming more active so we all must be watchful and responsible for letting authorities know of hazards or suspicious activity.

- - - Larry Chittester (phone 971-1789) is the house manager with the **Coming Home Project** (a non-profit organization devoted to providing compassionate expert care, support, education, and stress management tools for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, service members, their families, and their service providers) has provided volunteer hours helping our neighborhood in many ways. Their group is in need of landscape/garden plant and equipment that the Project participants can use. Larry also will work with you if you have a project that you need help with as many of these hard-working men have a variety of skills. If you can help the Project with garden items or need helping hands to get a job done, give Larry a call to work out the details.

- - - **Census Workers** have 2,000 addresses that they must physically check out in our neighborhood. These Census Workers are from our neighborhood and will be identified by a neck badge and carrying a shoulder bag identified as U.S. Census. If you have sent in your Census information, they might be knocking on your door to see if you can help them with information on a neighboring property where they could not contact anyone. Census information is critical to apportion of electoral representation.

- - - **Senator Paula Aboud** stopped by our meeting to provide information on contacts & programs many of us were not aware of. Pima Community Access Program (PCAP) is a non-profit organization that provides access to professional health care at discounted prices the uninsured can afford. For information, check their web site: www.pcap.cc or phone: 694-0418. There is also a "Camp Wellness" program offering activities for mentally ill people already on AHCCCS. Senator Aboud also provided legislative contact information: www.azleg.gov that offers a wide range of legislative info, access to bills, how to view live or archived proceedings, etc. To contact Senator Aboud's office directly, phone: 602-926-5262 or email: paboud@azleg.gov

- - - **Ward 6** representative, Carmen Cousins, spoke briefly on the City Council action on an ordinance proposed by Tucson Police Department asking for a charge of $3.00 at pawnshops which would be used to help defray TPD costs in verifying ownership of stolen goods which frequently ends up at swap meets and pawn shops. Residents can also call Ward 6 to file an anonymous complaint if you do not feel comfortable providing your own name. Phone: 837-4237.

- - - **Martha Cooper Library** reports there are a variety of summer activities planned for those from the very young to the more mature folks of all ages. **Make a Splash at the Library this Summer!** runs from May 27 – July 24th; FREE job help, FREE English classes, FREE GED classes, etc. etc. Stop at the Library and check out their on-going book sale as well as all the other activities planned.

- - - Old Pueblo Community Services housing counselor, Lourdes Frese, spoke briefly that their organization (a non-profit 501(c)(3) a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency, plus a City of Tucson, Pima County and Arizona State certified Community Housing Development Organization) is there to help (this is FREE) people in mortgage trouble possibly facing foreclosure, also senior citizens needing reverse mortgage counseling, and first-time home buyers. You can contact Lourdes at 445-7075 or check the web site: http://www.oldpueblohousing.org .

GARDEN DISTRICT MEETING
August 17, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Martha Cooper Library
1377 N Catalina Avenue
Be present to win door prizes!

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

Garden District Neighborhood

You can view the Newsletter on the Garden District web site OR City of Tucson web site: http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/dnr/NAnewsletters/nanewsletters.html

Keep Handy, Mark Your Calendars
Garden District Neighborhood Association Meetings for 2010

June, July – no meeting
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16

Upcoming Events - (dates & time to be announced)
July - Bowling Party @ Lucky Strike Lane
August 3rd – National Night Out to deter crime
December – Holiday Party @ Tucson Botanical Gardens

Alvernon-Grant Initiative (AGI) meetings:
2nd Tuesday each month @ Emerge, 6:30 p.m., 2425 N. Haskell (just off Grant across the street from the Alvernon Walgreens).

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		email addresses
Ida Plotkin, President	326-1557	president@midtowngardendistrict.org
Caroline Rondeau , Vice President	795-1478	vp@midtowngardendistrict.org
Lois Pawlak, Treasurer	325-7611	treasurer@midtowngardendistrict.org
Meg Johnson, Secretary	325-7611	secretary@midtowngardendistrict.org
Judy Kempf, Newsletter	322-9842	newsletter@midtowngardendistrict.org

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

NW Quadrant: Lois Pawlak	325-7611
NE Quadrant: Russell Beal	664-4339
SE Quadrant: Judy Ostermeyer	326-1517
SW Quadrant: Arthur Block	881-6356
& Phyllis Montgomery	248-9915

City Information line 792-CITY	792-2489
Code Enforcement	791-5843
Trash, junked cars, weeds, neglected property	
Police non-emergency	791-4444
Abandoned vehicles	
Graffiti removal hotline	792-2489