



**ON NEIGHBORHOOD** by Elizabeth Burden

Recently, while watching PBS Kids with my granddaughter, Gianna, I was reminded that from a very young age we teach our children about being a good neighbor. People of a certain age will remember *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*; following are ten things I learned from his—and my own—neighborhood, which I keep in mind as I begin my term as APNA president.

1. **Ask a lot of questions.** I believe that asking questions helps one to gain understanding of the views of others, and that asking good questions about issues are the first step in finding good solutions. Questions that I have as we begin the year: What are the things that concern neighbors most? In what ways can we, together, make the neighborhood even better? What positive actions now will make a difference for the neighborhood tomorrow? How can I help? This year, we will be asking questions of you, in a variety of ways.
2. **Look and listen carefully.** There is a saying, “There is a reason why the Creator gave us two eyes, two ears and only one mouth.” After asking the questions, it is important to listen. I intend to do so. I look forward to our community dialogue in neighborhood meetings and in other spaces, where mutual understanding can lead to collective action.
3. **Many hands make work light.** To me, this is a core reason we form associations. If you haven’t joined the association or renewed your membership, I invite you to do so. I also encourage you join one of the APNA committees, which do the work of the association.
4. **Stick with tasks, even though they may be difficult.** It’s the difficult things that are often the most worth doing.
5. **Making mistakes is part of learning.** I expect to make mistakes (perhaps a few less because of the many experienced APNA board members and thoughtful residents). I pledge to be a quick learner.
6. **Share.** I believe this is the heart of being a good neighbor. APNA has a significant history of creating or supporting programs, which embody sharing. Let’s do more.

7. **Play.** My favorite principle. Being a neighbor means gathering, enjoying each other’s company and, yes, even playing. Do you have suggestions for activities that can bring people together? Want to start a neighborhood tradition? We invite you to join The Outreach Committee to help plan and do neighborhood events.
8. **Be yourself** and
9. **Accept others as they are.** Our residents are diverse; each person has unique talents, skills, and resources that can enrich the neighborhood. (Did I mention that there are APNA committees on which you can put your skills to work?)
10. **Be kind to yourself and others.** It is through kindness that we summon our best selves to work for the collective good.

In early February, the board will be setting goals for the association for the upcoming year; we will report on these in a future newsletter. It is my hope that in the next year, APNA will continue to embody the principles of neighborliness that were learned in childhood.



Won’t you be my neighbor?

Liz Burden, President

**ARMORY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Upcoming Board Meetings**  
**March 9 and April 13**

Board Meetings occur on the 2nd Tuesday of each month  
(except August and December)  
7 to 8:30 PM at St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
at 5th Avenue and 16th Street

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE at  
**WWW.ARMORYPARKTUCSON.ORG**



**Not Just Another Crime: An Armory Burglary Victim Recalls** by George Mairs

The white stucco and wood bungalow at 630 S. 4th Avenue is a striking piece of Armory Park architecture, a creation of James Oliphant, the same man who designed the Arizona Inn. The house, one hundred years old this year, features among other things, a wide welcoming porch. Perhaps, as events proved, too welcoming! The owner, Tico Arenas, described the burglary that took place at his home on the evening of New Year’s Day. Thinking back on the break-in, Arenas said somewhat ruefully, “Dar papaya,” a Columbian expression that refers to something given (like a papaya) perhaps too generously.

The family - Arenas, his wife, two small sons and his mother - moved to Armory Park three years ago because of the area’s “sense of history and nearness to urban life.” In neither regard have they been disappointed.

*Continued on Page 2...*

**Armory Park Center Closures Due to Budget Cuts** by Mary Sabatini

In the next few months, Armory Park will see what might appear to be only a slight impact on our City-run facilities due to budget cuts adopted by the Council in January of this year. The actual impact on some of our residents could be quite severe, however.

January 18) due to furlough day closure on the Friday and Martin Luther King Day observed on the Monday. This will occur again in May, with a furlough day closure on Friday, May 28, and the Memorial Day holiday being observed on Monday, May 31.

to two-way exchanges. The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department as a whole will lose nine staff members across the city, however.

Due to the imposition of “furlough days” (days off without pay) the Armory Park Center will be closed, along with all other City of Tucson offices, on two Fridays: April 9 and May 28. (Four additional furlough days must be taken by City employees before May 28, but these will be distributed across the calendar among employees and will not cause any closures.) The timing of the furlough-day closings is the problem. Already in January, over 100 seniors depending on the Center for their main meal found the Center dining room closed four days in a row (Friday, January 15, through Monday,

On the bright side, hours of operation at the Center will not be reduced, at least for the time being. Current Armory Park Center hours are:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed on Sundays and most holidays

According to Debbie Adams of Pima Council on Aging, which partially funds the meals program at the Center, no reduction in meal services is anticipated yet. Although that agency’s City funding was cut by 20%, offsetting federal stimulus funds are making it possible to avoid cutbacks. Home-delivered meals will not be affected by furlough-day closures.

Furthermore, according to Armory Park Center Assistant Director Jerry Neely, the Center will not lose any positions, although some staff may be relocated due

In June, the Tucson City Council will vote on recommendations from the City Manager to balance the new budget, which goes into effect on July 1, 2010. As things stand, the City faces a deficit in the \$20 million range going into FY 2011, and further cutbacks are likely. Stay tuned.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**ARMORY PARK HOME TOUR**  
Saturday, March 27, 2010



**An Invitation...** Would you like to participate in the planning, preparation and execution of neighborhood gatherings? If so, the Outreach committee would love to have you as a new member. Please contact Karen Olson at [ko77@earthlink.net](mailto:ko77@earthlink.net) if you are interested in joining us!

*...Not Just Another Crime Continued from Page 1*

It was also true that prior to the burglary, they felt quite safe in the neighborhood. After all, the whole family had just been on a week’s vacation and returned to find their house tight and secure. There was a built-in alarm system that had not been activated when they moved in and there seemed to be no need for it. When they left the house at 5:30 PM on January 1st, they didn’t bother to pull the curtains on the front windows, and two laptop computers were easily visible sitting in the living room. The kitchen window over the sink was unlocked.

Arenas and his mother, Beatrix Arenas, who also discussed the crime, spoke with some sadness about returning home at 8:30 that same night to find they had been burglarized. Clearly the shock and “sense of violation,” as Arenas put it, take a long time to wear off. Ultimately, the family found they had lost the computers, a large screen TV, a DVD player, an Ipod, and jewelry.

The police came within a few minutes, but as others know who have had similar experiences, there is little they can do but take a report and file it. They mentioned that they had already received two hundred calls that night.

The events as reconstructed involve two individuals who came up on to the front porch and knocked at the front door of the empty house. It was still light enough for them to see the computers in the living room. They may have gone away until it was dark; then returned and knocked again to be sure no one was home. Walking around the house, checking windows, they found the kitchen window unlocked and were able to push it open; one burglar was small enough to fit through and let the other in the back door. Because they missed obvious items, they were probably in the house only briefly. Then they took their booty out the back door and out to the street, probably to a vehicle. Their activities were obscured by the hedges that surround the house.

The pain is the main thing that remains. It takes many forms. There is the new sense of vulnerability. Arenas noted that one of his little sons sleeps at the front of the house and he and his wife sleep in the rear. This arrangement had never caused them worry. Now it does. Then there’s the loss of items that carry worth in so many different ways. There’s Beatrix’s jewelry, some of it weighted with memories, and even something like the Ipod, which contained hundreds of songs that the family had accumulated over the years. And, of course, there’s self-recrimination. We can all understand that feeling of “Why didn’t I think to do such and such? Close the curtains? Check to see all the windows were locked? Install that alarm system? Or make it possible to identify the stolen items by marking them and installing some sort of i.d. devices in the computers?” And on and on. We can all understand.

**Neighbors Feeding Neighbors**

by Jefferson Bailey, Program Coordinator

*The following is an open letter to our Armory Park neighbors, describing a program to which many of us contribute and of which all of us can be proud.*

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors is a program based at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church that offers home-delivered meals to those living within the boundaries of Armory Park who cannot otherwise provide for themselves. The service is offered at no cost to the client and with no regard to religious affiliation; the only criterion is need. The three-year-old program is staffed by volunteers and is supported by APNA, the Church and many private donations. Last spring, APNA raised \$3,500.00, proceeds from the Armory Park Home Tour, for the program and private donations in 2009 amounted to an additional \$3,000.00.

Besides myself, there are four regular volunteers from the neighborhood who deliver food on a weekly basis. We serve an average of twelve people 48 meals per week. Currently, this costs almost \$200 per week and is an ongoing expense. Since the beginning of the program, we have served over 4,800 meals!

We primarily serve the elderly who already get meals-on-wheels; however, that program only offers one meal a day and none on weekends, so we try to fill that gap. We also make an effort to feed anyone who comes to the church kitchen and is hungry.

Every penny counts and I urge you to consider giving a little to your neighbors in need. Donations may be made thru APNA or on-line at [www.armoryparktucson.org](http://www.armoryparktucson.org).



**SAVE \$\$\$\$ - CHECK FIRST!**

Living in an historic neighborhood brings with it advantages (lower taxes, for instance) and also unique responsibilities. In order to maintain the visual continuity of the neighborhood and retain its historic status, the Armory Park Historic Zone Advisory Board (Advisory Board) reviews all desired changes to the exterior of a property including all structures, walls, fences, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** As a property owner in an historic district, any and all changes you wish to make **MUST** be reviewed by the Advisory Board, whose recommendations are then presented to the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission. Failure to have the appropriate approvals may have severe consequences, which include fines, formal zoning violations, loss of the historic preservation property tax incentive, and having to restore a building to its prior condition. It is much easier to adjust a project while it is still in the planning stages.

It is strongly recommended that any changes you are considering are informally presented to the Advisory Board prior to having formal drawings or any work begun. The brochure, "Armory Park Historic District Guidelines for Remodeling, Renovation, and Construction" has additional information. To obtain a copy of the brochure, or for additional information, please contact the current chairman of the board, Nadine Rund, 622-5676 or the alternate contact, Phyllis Factor, 623-8722.

The Board meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall located on E. 16<sup>th</sup> St. at S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month when needed at 7:00 p.m. Formal reviews must be placed on the agenda several days prior to the meeting to be included.

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

....that if there is a sidewalk in front of your home, you may be liable for any accidents that occur on them. If your sidewalk is in bad condition or has been uprooted, it is in your best interest to work with the city to have them repaired.

**Introducing one of APNA's new Board Members .... Brooke Sanders**

Brooke was raised in central Tucson before leaving for college to study education in Washington State. For twelve years, she has lived and worked abroad in various countries as well as several locales in the U.S., always in the fields of education and non-profit work.

Two years ago, she returned to Tucson, where the sun is always shining. Currently, she is the Director of Education at the Tucson Children's Museum. Brooke has a strong passion for children. In her spare time, she loves cooking and good food, traveling, collecting vinyl records, concerts, gardening, yoga, spending time with family and friends, as well as occasional jaunts to the beach!



**TRAP, SPAY-NEUTER, RETURN FUND CREATED!**

Armory Park is known for historic homes, friendly neighbors--and an abundance of furry felines. Some cats are feral, others are merely homeless, but all need to be fixed so their numbers don't keep growing. In response, the APNA Board has provided \$300 in seed funding for a trap/spay-neuter/return program. We are working to lessen this problem in a humane, responsible way, and donations to our fund are greatly appreciated. Donations can be made by contacting any board member. We also have traps available if you want to do T/N/R on your own and agree to follow our simple guidelines. Contact Tim Vanderpool at [tmvpl@cox.net](mailto:tmvpl@cox.net) or call APNA at 829-0074 for more information.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE APNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9 FROM 7 PM TO 8:30 PM. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND. ALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN MEETINGS.**

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**COMING EVENTS**

**APNA Board Meeting** - Tuesday, March 9 - 7 PM to 8:30 PM  
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

**Armory Park 2010 Home Tour** - Saturday, March 27  
More information will be provided as available at [www.ArmoryParkTucson.org](http://www.ArmoryParkTucson.org)

**Armory Park Spring Potluck Picnic** - Sunday, April 11 - Beginning at 5 PM  
at Ashley Park 14th and Ott St. in Armory Park del Sol

**APNA Board Meeting** - Tuesday, April 13 - 7 PM to 8:30 PM  
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

**Visit our Website at [www.ArmoryParkTucson.org](http://www.ArmoryParkTucson.org)  
or contact us by Phone at (520) 829-0074**

**APNA Board of Directors**

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Liz Burden - President  
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