

March 2, 2010

N.U.N.A. NEWS

Noona news? Noon anew? Noona noona noona noo? (remember the little typewriter guy cartoon from Sesame Street?) Well, we knew no news, actually – just wanted to send you this newsletter to say howdy and stay in touch with all you families and friends who live just north of the Speedway Boulevard side of the U of A campus. The **North University Neighborhood** (described as “neighborhood #131” on the Tucson city map) includes everything from Elm/Pima Street on the north to Speedway Boulevard on the south and from Campbell Avenue on the east to Park Avenue to the west. We had our annual **N.U.N.A.** meeting last fall at the Himmel Park Library. Two members of the Tucson Police Department presented a crime report on the neighborhood, and we had a good trouble-shooting session about combating problems of weeds, graffiti, vandalism, parking, speeders, noisy parties and trash collection. Two local landlords spoke about issues involving U of A mini-dorms. There was an interesting article in the November 1st issue of the Arizona Daily Star about the student community and the potential sale of some properties in the 1100 block of the Mabel Street and Drachman Ave. area to “American Campus Communities”, a Texas-based developer that specializes in large apartment complexes to accommodate students living in the university area.

Whether you are a student or a permanent resident, property owner or renter, perhaps this list of phone numbers will be helpful to you.-

Environmental Services 791-3171

Graffiti Removal –792-2489

Ward Three office - 791-4711

Dept. of Transportation – 791-4371

Ward Six office – 791-4601

Suntran Schedule – 792-9222

Development Services – 791-5550

Mosquito Hotline – 243-7999

Community Services – 791-4601

Code Violations – 791-5843

U of A Office of Community Relations (Sara Evans & Jaime Gutierrez) - 621-3316

Well, hope you all had a lovely holiday and are already thinking about spring cleaning.

Our third annual **Mortar Board Cleanup Day** is set for **Saturday March 27th** We'll meet at 9 a.m. at the garden of the AME building on Mountain and Speedway, grab door-hangers, snacks, pick-sticks, trash bags, work gloves and rakes and head out around the neighborhood picking up trash as we go, noting any special problems or people that might need further assistance. For more information or to volunteer extra help, call Sara Evans at the U of A Office of Community Relations (621-3316) or N.U.N.A. President Gracie Rich at 622-5659. And speaking of Mortar Boards, CONGRATULATIONS!! to the winter graduates of U of A class of 2009 who received their diplomas this past December 18.

We attended a meeting last fall at the U of A Alumni building about alternative energy technology and applying for government grants to fund rural solar and wind energy projects. If you have an idea for some such project to be done outside of the city, check out their website at www.rurdev.usa.gov/az or

www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html. For inner city plans & needs, look into **PRO Neighborhoods** at PRO Neighborhoods.org on the internet or you can call them at 882-5885 (their fax number is 903-3995.)

PRO Neighborhoods is a collaboration of the City of Tucson, United Way and Pima County Community Foundation of Southern Arizona. If it's painting projects you're planning, City of Tucson Household Hazardous Wastes Disposal Site has 5 gallon buckets of **recycled exterior housepaint** for only 5 bucks each! Homeowners can choose



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

NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD

Dated Material

from white, beige or pale blue gray (it's on a first-come,first-served basis) . Come Saturdays 8 a.m. –noon to 2440 W. Sweetwater Drive off the Prince Road exit of I-10 near the auto emissions testing station or call 740-3340 for more information.

Did you know that we have several Jojoba bushes (the source of the new age replacement for whale oil) growing in our garden? Growing Jojoba plants is a part of the **Greenpeace** campaign to end the overharvesting of whales from the sea. Thanx and a big Hooray! to “ **Planta Claus**”, our latest environmental culture hero who has a great green alternative to too many toys -. This year, for Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Easter or whatever holiday, give gifts that keep on giving – living plants, potted Christmas trees, seeds and gardening kits and “how to” books. Check out “**Trees for Tucson**” on the web for inexpensive saplings to green up your neck of the woods. Your kids might enjoy being a “Web Ranger” on the **National Parks** website or signing up to monitor wildlife activity on the **National Phenology Network (npn.org)** Phenology , remember, is the study of the effects of climatic and environmental changes on plant and animal life cycles. We’ve had several suggestions for the further development of our little “Pipe Dream Park” at the corner of Mountain Ave. and Mabel Street. Some chess or checker tables might be fun ... we’ve cleared a small court area where the sidewalk ends and set up a net of sorts for badminton or volleyball – it’d be dandy to add a layer of soft sand to the playing area there. A drinking fountain for people and their doggies might be nice. We’re still marveling at the way the streetlights there change from pink to yellow at sunset when the natural sky’s cloud-lights change from yellow to pink. I believe the phenomenon of the coloration of the atmospheric gasses is called the **Tyndall Effect** or Crepuscular Rays (French language students may recall the term “la crepuscule” means “twilight”) Check out crepuscular rays on Wikipedia -internet – some great images! Is Tommy Edison trying to capture the **Northern Lights** in a streetlamp? Who designed those lamps, anyway? And speaking of light, don’t forget to “**Wear white at night and carry a light!**” - especially if you’re on a bike. Tucson city bike route maps and maintenance classes are available at <http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/bicycle> or call 837-6691. Another good source is www.bikeped.pima.gov or call **243-BIKE**. Happy pedaling, everyone, and best wishes for a verdant **Vernal Equinox**- March 21st is the first day of Spring. TTFN! - your N.U.N.A. News correspondent, Lib Morgan, sitting in for Kermit the Frog here at the Big Bird Memorial Swamp.

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