



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



# NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD

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 CURRENT OCCUPANT  
 NORTHWEST  
 2160 N 6TH AVE  
 TUCSON, AZ 85705-5607



### Next NWNA Meeting:

Annual Elections & Potluck!  
 Wednesday, May 4, 2011,  
 6:00-8:00 pm, in the  
 Mansfield Park ramada,  
 2160 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Everyone is welcome. Bring  
 food, dessert or drink to  
 share and meet your  
 neighbors! *No alcohol or  
 glass permitted.*

*Agenda will be posted on  
 the website below prior to  
 the meeting.*

Contact:  
 Armando Vargas, 628-9913

E-Mail:  
 avargas@u.arizona.edu

NWNA:  
 nwna85705@gmail.com

Web Site:  
[http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Northwest\\_-\\_Tucson/](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Northwest_-_Tucson/)

Have an announcement or  
 contribution for the next  
 neighborhood newsletter?  
 Contact Leona Davis at  
 leonafdavis@gmail.com

## Changes in OUR Neighborhood

You may have noticed a lot of commotion in our neighborhood lately – city trucks, bobcats and a lot of dust, but what are they doing?

Three major city projects have been implemented in our neighborhood this spring. The first is the Elm St. chicanes, or curbed planters, that line the north and south sides of Elm. These planters slow traffic and add some greenery to our street. Each chicane is planted with native plants, which will be watered by the City for the first year. After that, the neighbors take on responsibility of supplemental watering and maintenance of these plants, though rainwater allowed to flow through the planters should provide enough water once plants are established.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Greenway similarly narrowed the street, slowing traffic on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Lee St. and Linden St., to make way for native trees, shrubs and cacti. Striped bollards in both the chicanes and greenway plantings



Above: Finished chicane on Elm St.

aim to warn cyclists and motorists of these structures at night.

The 4<sup>th</sup>/Fontana Avenues Bicycle Boulevard is a separate project simultaneously in construction in our neighborhood on N 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This RTA project will modify 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to make it safer and more pleasant for bicycle traffic. This includes traffic circles, a 25 mph speed limit and speed tables.

Many elements of these projects were designed with neighbor input with assistance from the Drachman Institute of the UA College of Landscape Architecture and City of Tucson.



Above: Pedestrian pathway between Waverly St. and Mansfield Park, still in progress

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# Northwest Neighborhood News

May 2011



Left: Neighbors plant the first "chicane" – sunken street planter- on Elm St. This spring we saw a flurry of exciting projects in our neighborhood: the Elm St. chicanes, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Greenway, and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard.

See page 2 for more about these projects.

Photos by Hannah Soreng

Northwest Neighborhood Association is a group of residents residing within the boundaries of Northwest Neighborhood who are joined together to build and maintain a strong, vibrant, and sustainable local community for all residents.

We aim to build community interaction among residents, improve and maintain neighborhood streets and public spaces, and improve health and safety of residents, through various means including implementing environmentally sustainable practices, the arts, education, and advocating for improved municipal services.

Neighborhood boundaries:

## Youth Assist with Sugar Hill Oral History Project

By Armando Vargas

"Sugar Hill", the area now encompassed within Northwest, El Cortez and Feldman's neighborhoods, was one of the few places in Tucson where black professionals could buy a home between World War II and the passage of civil-rights legislation in the '60s. Today, the area is still one of the most racially diverse in Tucson.

Pan Left Productions, a local 501(c)3 media organization, received a Kresge Arts Foundation "P.L.A.C.E. Initiative Grant" through the Tucson Pima Arts Council this summer to work with neighborhoods to record the oral histories of their elderly residents. With these grant funds, El Cortez, Feldmans and Northwest neighborhoods are collaborating with the Arizona Historical Society Archive Library and Pan Left Productions to record the "Sugar Hill" Oral History. Up to 15 neighborhood residents, with focus on teens, will be

trained by Pan Left this spring in audio and video equipment techniques. Upon completion of training, these neighbors will be conducting and filming in-depth interviews of elderly neighborhood residents, and capturing stories from the neighborhood's earlier era. The final project will produce transcripts and video recordings of residents' stories, which will be kept on record at the Arizona Historical Society Archive Library. This will be a multi-year project, and neighborhood involvement is encouraged. Please contact

Armando Vargas  
(avargas@u.arizona.edu)  
for more information or to get involved.

See the 2005 Arizona Daily Star article about the history of Sugar Hill:

[http://www.azstarnet.com/news/local/article\\_8d7afb35-](http://www.azstarnet.com/news/local/article_8d7afb35-)

Below: Neighbors at the February Elm St. chicane planting event



### THIS MONTH AT NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER...

- Senior lunch for 60+ Monday-Friday 10am-1pm, \$1.50 donation
- Weight room / gym certification, every Saturday at 9:00am and Thursday at 6:30pm, Free
- Adults and Seniors ZUMBA class, every Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:30pm, \$2
- English classes, call 884-8628 to register