



WARD 3

Karin Uhlich
Council Member

Holiday Edition
2009



A Note from Karin

Dear Tucsonans,

This Holiday edition of our Ward 3 newsletter holds great meaning for me and my staff – we all feel grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve you. Winning the recent, spirited election (over not just one but two capable candidates) brought me new insights about how to better lead and better deliver for our great City. You can be sure I have taken those lessons to heart as I move into my second term of service.

We already know that urgent challenges loom ahead – local budget shortfalls, the economic downturn, the fiscal mess at the state level to name a few. We also know that Tucson holds unique strengths and potentials that must be tapped as we move forward. We have everything it takes to survive these difficult times together, and the extra measure of energy and innovation needed to emerge from hardship as a more focused and unified community.

Every day I keep struggling workers, families and small businesses in mind as I do my best to help navigate Tucson's future. My greatest hope for the holidays is that we all offer one another compassion through difficult times and an unwavering commitment to the betterment of this beautiful place we call home.

Thank you, and best wishes.

Karin

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Free Tax Preparation at Ward 3!

by Hector Arellano

For the third year in a row, the Ward 3 office is teaming up with the United Way of Southern Arizona to host the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. The VITA program offers free tax preparation to low-to moderate-income people, through the use of IRS-certified volunteers. Last year, the Ward 3 site completed over 300 returns.

The VITA program is also designed to raise awareness about EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) a refundable federal income tax credit for low-to moderate-income working individuals and families. Last year, one third of the people that completed their returns at Ward 3 received an EITC tax credit (the average credit is \$1,465 per household).

I highly recommend to anyone that qualifies to take advantage of this opportunity. VITA provides a safe alternative to high-fee tax preparation and predatory lending. Plus, the volunteers are really friendly.

Here is the schedule for the Ward 3 VITA site located at 1510 E. Grant Rd.

Begins January 26, 2010

Ends April 13, 2010

Tuesday 2:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.



For more information visit the United Way of Southern Arizona VITA site:

<http://bit.ly/4IN0hF>

Holiday Open House

by Lisa Ross

On December 17th, the Ward 3 office will be hosting a Holiday Open House from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Delicious hors d'oeuvres from Pastiche Modern Eatery will be served, along with homemade holiday treats from the Ward 3 staff.

We urge everyone to bring a non-perishable food item for the Tucson Community Food Bank. This is a great opportunity to share some holiday cheer with your friends and neighbors at the Ward 3 office.

Please R.S.V.P. to 791-4711 or email us at ward3@tucsonaz.gov



Central Neighborhoods in Ward 3

by Miguel Ortega

We have highlighted the solid work and commitment of neighborhood leaders on both the east and west sides of Ward 3 in past newsletters. Now we take a look at the rest of the neighborhoods I have the pleasure of serving as an aide for Council Member Karin Uhlich.

Jefferson Park and **Feldman's** lead the effort in advocating for the preservation of residential neighborhoods. Feldman's was first to have their design manual (which provides design standards for the construction of houses) approved by the Mayor and Council. While Jefferson Park prepares to be next in that undertaking, they continue to raise money for their historic designation efforts.

Folks at **Limberlost** and **Hedrick Acres** recognize the need to work with surrounding businesses. After all, by being good neighbors and having a better line of communication, the impact businesses may have on the quality of life for nearby residents can be more easily mitigated. In turn, residents become more familiar with local business owners and how every dollar spent with them helps to support our local economy. Much of the successful redevelopment of the **Super Target** on Oracle came about from the excellent communication and planning that took place between Limberlost leaders, such as the president of that neighborhood, **Cazlin Robbins**, and Target management. In a more direct way, Hedrick Acres has partnered with businesses to help support their exceptional website constructed by **Josh Kassel**. Check it out at www.hedrickacres.org

When it comes to the *greening* of Ward 3, there is no stopping the creativity and commitment of **Samos** and **Mountain 1st** neighborhoods. Back in August, Mountain 1st published a special edition of their newsletter entitled "Growing Our Neighborhood Green" to announce a \$2,000 grant they received to help support green projects in their area. Behind the scene, **Sarah Sharp** continues to provide her valuable leadership for this effort. Meanwhile, thanks in large part to long time Samos resident, **Henry Jacobson**, the greening and beautification efforts of the Samos neighborhood continues in partnership with the **Watershed Management Group** and the Ward 3 Office.

While crime concerns remain an issue throughout the City and within our ward, neighborhood leaders continue to partner with TPD and the Ward 3 Office on proactive solutions. **The San Ignacio Yaqui Council**, in their wisdom, recognizes two key ingredients for a safe community—working in partnership with TPD and supporting events that celebrate the culture and pride of their community. Last spring's outstanding TPD officers recognition dinner, and the ever popular Yaqui Easter Ceremonies, are perfect examples for both efforts. Meanwhile, the **Ward 3 Alliance**, led by **Marc Haberman**, has incorporated crime fighting and prevention presentations at several of their monthly meetings. More and more, the leadership of neighborhood associations from across Ward 3 attend these monthly meetings and benefit from these hearty programs.

Bill Crouse, the president of **Mountain View**, maintains his advocacy for the big and small things important to him and his neighbors—everything from traffic mitigation efforts for safer roads to advocating for the redevelopment of retail centers within Mountain View.

Finally, if you have never attended a **Flowing Wells** neighborhood meeting, you are missing out. The president, **Ellie Towne**, always makes sure to have a variety of speakers, from the City and Pima County, at each meeting to inform her neighbors about issues and services critical in their area. Recently, Ward 3 staff presented on job opportunities for youth and seniors currently available through the local Census count effort. (article continues on next page...)

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The above community leaders embody what Tucson is all about—strong neighborhoods guided by a fierce commitment to protecting and enhancing our desert way of life. Ward 3 and the City at large are in good hands with these neighborhood leaders and it continues to be my pleasure to work with them as Council Member Uhlich’s representative.

Winterhaven Festival of Lights

by Janine Kaucher, Festival of Lights Chairman

Winterhaven residents are proud to announce the **59th Annual Festival of Lights**. The opening ceremony will be on December 12th at 5:30 p.m., and the festival will continue until December 26th. Drive-through nights are on December 15th, 17th, and 26th.

Winterhaven residents welcome the community to enjoy all the wonderful light displays and join in supporting Tucson’s Community Food Bank, the only non-profit organization Winterhaven Festival of Lights supports. Last year’s Festival collected over 26,000 pounds of food and \$16,958.02 in donations. Thanks Tucson!

Entrances into the neighborhood at Ft. Lowell Blvd., Country Club, Prince Blvd., and Tucson Blvd. will have volunteers from the Food Bank collecting money and/or food donations.

Winterhaven residents invite the community to enjoy the holidays with the Festival of Lights.

For more information visit: <http://www.winterhavenfestival.org/>



*Special thanks to Ray Brice for providing the photos!

Exciting Developments from the Gateway Business Alliance

by Tamara Prime

In years past, Miracle Mile, Oracle Road and Drachman Street were together known as Tucson's "Miracle Mile Strip". As noted on the *Gateway Business Alliance* website, this strip was the northern segment of Tucson's primary automotive corridor; the vehicular route into the city from the north and a crossroads for those traversing the nation on Routes 80 and 89. As such it was an arterial corridor that fostered economic development.

Today, this historic corridor is being celebrated as a part of the *Oracle Area Revitalization Project (OARP)*. In October 2008, out of the OARP effort, an active group of business owners formed the *Gateway Business Alliance (GBA)*. The alliance's mission is to work together to be thriving businesses that are socially and environmentally responsible. Moreover, *GBA* intends to be an ongoing catalyst for the economic development of this historically significant area.

As a sign of its developing success, the *Gateway Business Alliance* and *Pima Community College* recently received a grant award from the University of Arizona to conduct **FREE business workshops!** Currently recruiting participants, the 'Gateways to Entrepreneurship' series includes the following topics:

- 10/14/2009 – What is My Business? Who are My Customers?
- 10/29/2009 – Customer Service
- 11/19/2009 – Delighting and Keeping Customers
- 12/01/2009 – Marketing Mix Tool Box
- 01/14/2010 – Buy, Rent or Lease?
- 02/04/2010 – Small Business Fraud Indicators (Financial Security)
- 02/25/2010 – Recession Proof Financial Strategies
- 03/25/2010 – Legal Aspects of Business Organizations
- 04/08/2010 – Using Excel in the Small Business
- 04/29/2010 – To Be Determined by Participants

All workshops take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the College Place at 1601 N. Oracle Rd. For more information, registration questions or assistance with childcare: Call (520) 509-3917 or visit <http://www.gbatucson.com/>



Holiday Consumer Tips from the Attorney General

by Hector Arellano

The AZ Attorney General's Office has setup a website to inform the public on how to protect themselves from consumer scams or pitfalls this holiday season. Here is a sample of some of the tips available on the site:

- Check recall notices before buying children's products
- Watch out for restocking fees
- Save all receipts, warranties and service agreements



The website can be found by visiting the following site:

<http://www.azag.gov/consumer/holiday/>

For more information about consumer issues, civil rights or victim services feel to contact Attorney General Terry Goddard's office in Tucson at 520-628-6504 or visit: <http://www.azag.gov>

Lend A Hand Volunteer Program

by Linda Mehall

Located in Ward 3, Lend A Hand Volunteer Program is a member of the Neighbors Care Alliance, a program administered through the Pima Council on Aging.

Trained volunteers offer services including transportation, yard work, errands, friendly visits, and access to other resources to allow older residents to live independently in their homes.

This notable organization is a growing coalition of central Tucson neighborhoods, faith-based and business partnerships working together within the boundaries of participating neighborhoods. Currently, **Campus Farms, Hedrick Acres, Jefferson Park, La Madera, Limberlost, Mountain/First, Samos and Winterhaven Neighborhoods** are participating members.

Lend A Hand is always looking for compassionate people. There is a "volunteer interest form" on the website. In addition, they are a 501C (3) tax exempt organization. If you'd like to donate, a check may be sent to 2509 N. Campbell Ave. #66 Tucson, 85719.

For more information, please call Michelle Brubaker at 520-248-6882 or visit their website at: <http://www.lahseniorhelp.org/>



Neighborhood Preservation Zone Summary

by Holly Lachowicz

The protection of historic, central Tucson homes and neighborhoods is a major concern for Ward 3. These homes are a valuable, integral part of the Tucson Community and homeowners create a welcome sense of neighborhood.

In June of 2008, the Mayor and Council adopted the Neighborhood Preservation Zone to "preserve, protect, and enhance the unique character and historical resources of established City neighborhoods" and to provide for the creation and establishment of neighborhood-specific Design Manuals. These manuals are intended to require new construction to blend with the neighborhoods.

There is a need for a variety of housing close to the University of Arizona and denser infill on the main arterials. This housing is needed for single family home owners and renters such as U of A faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduates who behave in a neighborly way.

In August, the Mayor and Council adopted the Downtown Area Infill Incentive District to encourage and incentivize "sustainable infill development that supports the creation of urban neighborhoods that are pedestrian and transit-oriented" in the downtown area. The intention of these two companion ordinances is to protect neighborhoods while we provide areas for appropriate infill redevelopment.

These are ideas to help neighborhoods deal with the tension between preservation, quality of life and the need for University housing and appropriate infill. Other regulations continue to be needed to reinforce the progress embodied by the adopted preservation and infill incentives.

For more information regarding NPZ contact me at 791-4711 or email me at holly.lachowicz@tucsonaz.gov

Karin and Bob Proclaim "Buy Local Month"! Take That, Phoenix!

by Miguel Ortega

Ok. So, we can't let our friends in Phoenix out do us, right? No way! The Wild Cats must always be on top! So what is to be done after **Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon** proclaimed an entire week as Buy Local Week?

You guessed right.

On November 24, **Council Member Karin Uhlich** successfully persuaded **Mayor Walkup** and the **City Council** to proclaim the day after Thanksgiving through Christmas as **Buy Local Month!** That's right, a whole *month!*

Take that, Sun Devils! Ok, ok... so long as this friendly rivalry produces *real* winners, the small, locally owned businesses, I think we can put away the paint and paint brushes for now.

In the meantime, both sides agree-- *We all* should... **Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local!**

“Community Food Bank” and “Diaper Bank”

by Lisa Ross

Just a reminder that the Ward 3 Council Office has been added as a drop-off site for non-perishable food items for the Community Food Bank. Items such as: Canned Meats, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soups, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit, Canned Tomato Products, Meal Mixes, such as Hamburger Helper or Rice-A-Roni, also Condiments are much needed.

Please feel free to stop by our office with your donations Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

We also collect any size diapers for the Community Diaper Bank. We will accept opened and/or unopened bags of diapers of any size.

We are happy to accept your donations for both of these drives at our office throughout the coming year!

Thank you in advance for your generous donations!



Treecycle 2009

by Linda Mehall

If you select a cut tree, be sure to plan ahead on proper disposal of your tree just after the holidays. The City of Tucson does not collect Christmas trees from curbside or alleys, nor will many local waste haulers accept trees in curbside trash collection. Instead, drop-off sites scattered throughout the Tucson area will become available on December 26 and be open until mid-January 2010.

Open 7 days a week, during daylight hours, **Rillito Park** at 4502 North 1st Avenue is the designated drop-off area in Ward 3. On Saturday, January 9, 2010, they'll be “grinding” trees. Bring your own container to take home mulch for your yard.



Please call 791-5000 for more information, or visit www.tucsonrecycles.org

Ward 3 Website Refresh

by Hector Arellano

The Ward 3 website will be receiving a major update in the next two months. Changes will include: updated neighborhood information, new community room page, new links and resources page, and updated Ward 3 staff page (with new pictures!).

Also, expect faster updates with the most current Ward 3 info. So...don't forget to bookmark the Ward 3 website for the latest on your community.

Ward 3 Website:

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/ward3/>



Save the Date!

by Linda Mehall

December 12—Downtown holiday events at the Hotel Congress begin at noon. At 5:30 Mayor Walkup will host the first annual Christmas tree and Menorah Lighting Event. At 6pm, join Council Member Karin Uhlich in the 15th Annual Downtown Parade of Lights. For more info visit: www.hotelcongress.com and www.downtowntucson.org

December 12-19—Rainwater Harvesting Tour. Call the Nature Conservancy at 622-3861 for dates and times, or visit: www.nature.org/arizona/

December 12-26—"59th Annual Festival of Lights." For more info read page 4 of this newsletter.

December 17—Ward 3 "Holiday Open House." For more info read page 2 of this newsletter.

December 25 and January 1—Ward 3 office will be closed. Happy Holidays to All.

January 12—"12 minute makeover." City-wide event to cleanup our neighborhoods. For more info visit: www.tucsonaz.gov/12minutemakeover

January 15—City-wide unpaid furlough day. Ward 3 office will be closed.

January 18—Martin Luther King Jr Holiday. Ward 3 office will be closed.

January 25—"Community Conversation with Karin Uhlich" Ward 3 office. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

January 30—"Shade Structure Party" in the El Cortez Neighborhood. Begins at 10 a.m. For more info email Tori at elcortez@gmail.com

Happy Holidays from the Ward 3 Office!



Back row from left to right: Hector Arellano, VISTA Volunteer; Linda Mehall, Executive Assistant PT; Lisa Ross, Administrative Assistant; Miguel Ortega, Chief of Staff.

Front row from left to right: George Pettit, Council Aide; Tamara Prime, Council Aide; Karin Uhlich, Council Member; Holly Lachowicz, Council Aide PT.

Ward 3

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