



North Park Central Neighborhood Association

FEBRUARY 2008

Our goal is to work together as a friendly community to maintain and improve the appearance, safety, and property value of our neighborhood, thereby creating a better place to live, grow, and raise our children

City Budget Cuts Effect Neighborhoods Find out about which city services will be cut at Councilman Tom Simplot's next District 4 Breakfast Meeting. City Manager Frank Fairbanks will be the guest speaker on Thursday, February 28th beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the HomeTown Buffet Restaurant at 1501 W. Bethany Home Road. Call 602-262-7447 to RSVP. I am urging everyone in the neighborhood that can attend to please do so. This is the annual budget hearing process and it is your chance to review the budget and way in your concerns on budget cuts that will affect our neighborhood. These budget cuts will cause many of the programs that neighborhoods have come to rely upon to now be cut. Among those are Graffiti Busters, shopping cart retrieval and inspections on illegal construction just to name a few. This is your chance to voice your concerns and to let the City know which programs we rely upon. As an example, Graffiti Busters which began as a volunteer based program now relies heavily on city employees. The City is looking to cut this program that we, especially in the inner city, have come to rely on. Again, please attend this meeting and enjoy a free breakfast with other folks in District 4.



Blighted property at 1517 and 1525 W. Indian School Road Two apartment complexes have continued to blight our neighborhoods to the west with transients, prostitutes and drug users. We have reported the problem to city officials, but we could use your input to help keep the pressure on. If you have driven by these two properties just to the west the 7/Seven on 15th Ave. and Indian School Road, no doubt you have witnessed what a blighted nest this has become. Police run periodic sweeps through the property and take trespassers away, but because of how the system works, these trespassers are back within 4 to 12 hours. Both properties have been stripped of fixtures, copper and water heaters and are not in any condition to be refurbished. Police have reported that there are more people living in these abandoned apartments now than when they were actually for rent. Some trespassers have even installed their own locks on doors. We are asking the city to urge the owner to bulldoze both properties so that this nest of undesirable can not live in our neighborhood and commit crimes. To help us with this cause, please call Councilman Tom Simplot at 602-262-7447, Director of Neighborhood Services, Jerome Miller at 602-495-0127 and Mayor Phil Gordon's office at 602-262-7111 and voice your concerns and ask that they take actions to remove these two blighted properties.

Light Rail Tour and Free Train Ride February 25th Join Councilman Tom Simplot and the Metro Board Chairman at the Metro Operations and Maintenance Center for a free tour and train ride on the Light Rail. Bring a brown bag lunch on Monday, February 25th at 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 605 South 48th Street, Phoenix. The site is south of Washington Street, just east of Highway 143. Go to the dead-end of 48th Street and veer left, follow the street to the Center. Park in the covered lot to the right of the entrance. Enter the building by going up the ramp on the north side. Please RSVP to Councilman Simplot's office at 602-262-7447.

St. Joseph's Hospital Community Update

Baby Safety Seat Event Feb. 9th St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center is partnering with Basha's to host the third annual Bundle Your Baby event – an event that brings car seat safety education to the community. The event will take place on Saturday, February 9th from 9 am to noon at the Food City located at 1940 W. Indian School Road. Free car-seat inspections will be offered. However, if a family needs a car seat, they can receive one for a donation of \$25. The money that is collected will help offset costs for more car seats. Even children up to age 8 and 4 feet 9 inches tall should be buckled in a car seat every time they ride in a car. National data shows that approximately nine out of 10 car seats are not used correctly. The Bundle Your Baby event reminds families how important it is for them to use car seats effectively to protect their children.

Face in the Mirror Foundation St. Joseph's Hospital has partnered with Face in the Mirror and invited women in all phases of cancer recovery to an "afternoon tea" with delicious tea sandwiches, desserts and beverage with makeovers and an educational fun session. This is offered the first Wednesday of each month. Check www.faceinthemirror.org for more information.

The Wellness Community This is the best kept secret in town. The Wellness Community is a cancer support group near our neighborhood. Located at 360 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, The Wellness Community is an international non-profit organization dedicated to providing free support, education and hope to people with cancer and their loved ones. Through participation in professionally-led support groups, educational workshops, nutrition, exercise programs, and stress-reduction classes, people affected by cancer learn vital skills that enable them to regain control, reduce isolation and restore hope regardless of the stage of their disease. To learn more call 602-712-1006 or visit their website at www.thewellnesscommunityaz.org.



Tax Season and Identity Theft Tax season is upon us once again and according to the Identity Theft Resource Center this means another opportunity for criminals to steal your identity. The documents you send and receive contain all the important information criminals are searching for; your name, address, bank and financial account information and your social security number.

Here are some tips to minimize the risk of identity theft:

1. **Paper Security** – Keep your tax paperwork in a safe, locked location. Financial documents should not be left in a vehicle.
2. **Document Disposal** – Shred all documents with a cross-cut shredder. This includes receipts, papers with credit card account information and Social Security Numbers (such as health benefit payment and income reporting forms), and loan documents. All these documents contain important financial information that thieves can use to convert into a new account in your name. Keep in mind that a seven year old receipt can be used by a thief.
3. **Computer Security** – If you file your taxes on line or store financial information in your computer be sure to update your firewall, antivirus, and spy ware software to protect yourself

from invasion. Music and file sharing software on your computer invites thieves to your information. You may not be just sharing music, you may be sharing everything.

4. **Mail Theft Prevention** – Take your tax documents directly to the Post Office. Drop them in a box inside the Post Office. If you use an outside Post Office pickup box, it is best practice to drop your mail before the last pick up. Leaving mail overnight gives a thief a better opportunity to steal mail. Don't leave tax documents in an outgoing mail box at work.
5. **Tax Preparers and Personal Privacy** – Be selective about who prepares your taxes. Investigate tax preparation companies with the Better Business Bureau, especially new or seasonal offices. Ask how your information will be stored, what computer security software is used, and if the person working on your taxes has undergone a thorough background screening. Do you see personal papers displayed on desks? If you feel uncomfortable go elsewhere. Avoid doing financial business in supermarket concession booths where others may hear or see your transaction. Those mini offices are not soundproof and criminals have been observed watching transactions with telescopic lenses.
6. **Tax Time Scams** – If you receive an email asking you for your Social Security Number or financial information, delete it or send it to FTC at spam@uce.gov for investigation. The IRS does not send emails stating you are being electronically audited. They also do not contact you by email about refunds which require you to provide bank information. If you have any questions about an email you received from the IRS or a letter that sounds suspicious, immediately call the IRS Taxpayers Advocates at 877-777-4778.
7. **Employment Identity Theft** – Identity theft goes beyond financial identity theft. Sometimes your information is used for thieves to get a job. They may be employed using your or your child's Social Security Number. In these situations, the IRS may send a notice indicating that more than one person is using your Social Security Number, or that you owe back taxes. If this happens, immediately contact the IRS Taxpayer Advocates or the Identity Theft Resource Center for assistance. For more information or help:
Identity Theft Resource Center www.idtheftcenter.org
IRS Taxpayer Advocates 1-877-777-4778
Federal Trade Commission www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Bulk Trash Collection The next quarterly scheduled collection is on February 18th. You can begin placement curbside on February 9th. For information on appliance and electronic recycling, plastic bag and shredded paper and the cardboard recycling program, call 602-262-7251.

Catch Graffiti Vandals and Get Reward Graffiti is costly and destructive, and sends a message that the community is not concerned about the appearance of the neighborhood. Graffiti is against the law and because of new city budget cuts, neighborhoods are going to have to clean up the graffiti. Did you know that there is a graffiti vandal catching /reward program? This is a special Police Department graffiti hotline. If you believe you can provide information leading to the arrest of a graffiti vandal, call 602-262-7327 to make a report. You don't have to give your name or other identification, and you could receive an award up to \$250.

Phoenix Children's Chorus to Hold Auditions for Upcoming Season The Phoenix Children's Chorus will be holding auditions for boys and girls, second through 12th grades, for the 2008-2009 season. No prior choral training is required – applicants need only possess a clear, pleasant singing voice and the desire to learn. The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the culturally diverse chorus that offers young people a comprehensive choral music education with performance opportunities in a positive learning environment. For more information about

the Phoenix Children’s Chorus or to schedule an audition online, visit phxchildrenschorus.org or call 602-534-3788. Auditions will be held at the Phoenix Center for the Arts, 1202 N. Third St. on April 18 at 6 p.m., May 3 at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and May 20 at 6 p.m. This award winning chorus has performed throughout Europe and taken top honors at the World Choral Olympics.

Not a Good Time For Sellers

The continued downward slumping housing market is affecting our neighborhood prices. Two homes came off the market and one new listing because of foreclosure tells the story. But on the bright side, 825 W. Mitchell Drive was purchased in December with a list price of \$172,000 and is back on the market after being renovated.

Address	SqFt	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sale Price	Price per SqFt
825 W. Mitchell Dr.	1,110	3/1	\$250,000	Active	\$225.23
1001 W. Clarendon Ave.	1,840	3/2	\$275,000	Active	\$149.46
847 W. Indianola Ave.	1,271	3/1.75	\$274,900	Active	\$216.29
822 W. Indianola Ave.	2,017	4/2	\$309,900	Active	\$153.64
812 W. Fairmount Ave.	1,570	3/2	\$210,000	Active	\$133.76
832 W. Fairmount Ave.	1,223	3/2	\$279,000	Active	\$228.13
848 W. Fairmount Ave.	2,075	4/2	\$225,000	Active	\$108.43
3837 N. 8th Ave.	1,600	5/2	\$189,000	Active	\$118.13
3615 N. 8th Ave.	1,506	3/2	\$245,000	Active	\$162.68
3441 N. 8th Ave.	1,185	3/1.5	\$239,000	Active	\$201.69

If you want to see pictures and expanding listing information, send an e-mail to mail@NPCNA.com and ask to be added to the home sales e-mail list to receive the “Buyers Page” courtesy of Realtor Juan Medina at *HomeSmart*, 602-430-6895. All e-mail addresses will be kept confidential and are not given to any realtor.

Contact Information

North Park Central Neighborhood Association

Board Members

Nancy Joplin – Acting President	(602) 367-4480
Nancy Joplin – Information Officer	(602) 367-4480
Erica Hoekstra – Secretary/Treasurer	(602) 277-3905
Barbara Herren	(602) 279-3635
Helen Kennelly	(602) 274-4483
Rosemarie Lewis	(602) 265-9887

Thank you to Neighborhood Services for printing costs. Your support is appreciated!

Check out our new website at
www.NPCNA.com

To contact any board member, send an e-mail to: Mail@NPCNA.com .

Like to paint? We are looking for volunteers to help remove graffiti in our neighborhood.

Community Phone Numbers

City of Phoenix Administration Services	(602) 534-5033
Graffiti Busters hotline	(602) 495-7014
Graffiti Detective reward hotline	(602) 262-7327
Report property blight violations	(602) 262-7844
	blight@phoenix.gov
Grocery Cart Removal	(800) 843-2278
Illegal Signs	(602) 534-7100
Landlord/Tenant Counseling	(602) 262-7210
General Information, city	(602) 534-6262
Police Crime Stop	(602) 262-6151
To report a crime in progress	9-1-1
Dave Chambers, Police Comm. Action Officer	(602) 534-2637
Tom Simplot, District 4 City Councilman	(602) 262-7447
Ken Chevront, District 15 State Senator	(602) 926-5325
City of Phoenix Water Services	(602) 262-6251
Arizona Public Service	(602) 371-7171
Southwest Gas	(602) 862-1999
Cox Communications	(623) 594-1000
City of Phoenix Sewer Dept.	(602) 262-6222