



North Park Central Neighborhood Association

January 2006

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

**Happy New Year to everyone!
We all enjoyed the holiday lights and decorations. Good job!**

Identity Theft, What You Need to Know – Phoenix is Number 1

This is one newsletter to read, follow the advice and tuck away in case you need to refer to it in the future. It deals with identity theft. The only way to stop it from happening is to educate yourself. Learn how to check your credit reports and how to find if there is a problem.

Mail theft is normally the beginning for a lot of identity theft. They can steal a paid bill that you leave on your post box for the mailman or one of the many credit card applications that you receive. All the information they need is right in that envelope, your name, address, check with routing and account numbers. Also, technology has opened new ways to steal your information. A quick click from a camera phone can capture your credit/debit card information and a watchful eye can see you enter your pin number.



In 2004, the Federal Trade Commission identified the Phoenix metropolitan area as having the highest rate of identity theft in the nation. Nearly 10 million Americans were victim last year to identity theft, costing \$5 billion.

Officials say that methamphetamine and identity theft are solidly linked and they usually find evidence of identity theft when they bust meth labs and meth when they bust identity theft rings. Also meth users are drawn to identity theft because they can stay up for days scanning computer records or go “Dumpster diving” for discarded financial information.

Meanwhile, the popularity of meth has grown, with an estimated 12 million people trying it at least once.

How to Protect Yourself.

1. Get a current copy of your credit report and look it over carefully. The three national credit organizations are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Each is required to give you a free credit report once a year. If spaced out on a 4 month rotation, you can keep an eye on your account at no cost to you.

January – Equifax, May – Experian, September - Trans Union

2. The next time you order checks, have only your initial (instead of first name) and last name printed on the checks. If someone takes your checkbook they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.
3. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “PHOTO ID REQUIRED.”
4. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the “For” line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.
5. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks.
6. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit cards, etc. If you have to cancel your credit cards, you will know what you had in your wallet and all the account numbers and toll free phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. (Also, if you are traveling abroad, carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling.)
7. Shred everything!!!
8. Check out the FTC’s identity theft website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.



What you need to do if you are a victim.

1. Immediately call each of the creditors or service providers where the identity thief has established or accessed an account, to request that the account be closed and to dispute any associated charges. We have been told to cancel our credit cards immediately. The key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy. But of course you have that information tucked away when you copied the contents of your wallet.
2. Report identity theft to the police. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc. were stolen. This is a first step toward an investigation. If in Phoenix, call crime stop at 602-262-6151. A police report will be very helpful in demonstrating to would be creditors and debt collectors that you are a genuine victim of identity theft.
3. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Equifax: 1-888-766-0008

Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

4. Call the Social Security Administration (fraud line) 1-800-269-0271.

5. Call the southwest credit organization, Premier Credit Report at 602-528-7785.
6. Call the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Identity Theft number 1-877-ID THEFT (438-4338) to alert them. You can also file a complaint on their website <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/06/030624idthefttestimony.htm>. Callers to the hotline will receive telephone counseling from specially trained personnel who provide general information about identity theft and help guide victims through the steps needed to resolve the problems resulting from the misuse of their identity. Counselors also advise victims having particular problems about their rights under relevant consumer credit laws including the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Credit Billing Act, the Truth in Lending Act, and the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. If the investigation and resolution of the identity theft falls under the jurisdiction of another regulatory agency that has a program in place to assist consumers, callers also are referred to those agencies.

The FTC's identity theft website, located at www.consumer.gov/idtheft, provides equivalent service for those who prefer an online interaction.



Clarendon News

How You Can Help Clarendon School

Right now there are two ways that you can help Clarendon School:

- *Tax Credit Donations*—Arizona law now allows married taxpayers (parent or non-parent) who are filing jointly to donate up to \$300 to a public school of their choice and receive a state tax credit. Single tax payers may donate up to \$200 and receive the state tax credit. These tax credit donations help us to provide a variety of activities to our students including: field trips, sports activities, after school educational activities. Checks for tax credit donations for this year must be written before December 31st. The appropriate forms are available at our school office. The school will issue a receipt to submit with your tax return. If you are unable to come to school we will be happy to send you a donation form. Just give us a call at 707-2200.
- *Collect Labels and Box Tops*--Through the PTSA we are participating in the Box Tops for Education Program. Throughout the year the box tops and labels are collected. When they are sent in, the PTSA finds the area of greatest need to determine how to spend the money. In the past it has been spent on library books, playground equipment, laminating supplies etc. You can help us by saving the labels and box tops. To find out which labels and box tops to collect you can go to boxtops4education.com or stop by the Clarendon office for a list.

Ongoing Water Works

The City of Phoenix is still working on the water lines in our area. This construction was to replace the existing 4" water lines with 6" lines, which should improve our water pressure. Those of you who have meters in sidewalks with temporary black top should be seeing the workers come around and replace the black top with concrete. If you have any questions, you can call 602-348-4211 for more information.





Home prices and sales – Sales stood still during the Holidays with one additional property added to the list on Indianola Ave. If you would like to see details on the web of these homes, join our e-mail list and you will be sent the “Buyers Page” courtesy of Realtor Monique Walker. Send an e-mail to vkaboom@hotmail and ask to be added to the home sales e-mail list. All e-mail address will be kept confidential.

Address	SqFt	Bed/Bath	List Price	Sale Price	Price per SqFt
816 W. Mitchell Dr.	1,170	3/1.75	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$170.94
821 W. Mitchell Dr.	1,519	3/1.75	\$269,900	Active	\$177.68
811 W. Indianola Ave.	1,514	3/2	\$234,900	Active	\$155.15
818 W. Indianola Ave.	1,200	3/2	\$225,000	Active	\$187.50
822 W. Indianola Ave.	1,657	4/2	\$315,000	Active	\$190.10
848 W. Indianola Ave.	1196	5/1.75	\$199,950	Active	\$167.18
841 W. Amelia Ave.	1,629	4/2	\$239,900	Active	\$147.26
824 W. Amelia Ave.	1276	3/1.75	\$225,000	Active	\$176.33
3827 N. 8th Ave.	1,284	4/1	\$209,800	Active	\$163.39

2006 Bulk Trash Pick-Up

Placement Begins: February 11 Collection Begins: February 19

Bulk trash is material that cannot be placed in the garbage or recycling containers such as furniture, some large appliances and large amounts of vegetation. Bulk trash crews do NOT pick up dirt, rocks, concrete, bricks, large auto parts, heavy metal objects, glass or appliances that contain chlorofluorocarbons such as refrigerators, air conditioners, heat pumps, water coolers and dehumidifiers. If you have a question please call Solid Waste Customer Service at 602-262-7251.



Contact Information

North Park Central Neighborhood Association

Board Members

Nancy Joplin – President	(602) 367-4480
Erica Hoekstra – Secretary/Treasurer	(602) 277-3905
Dennis Newcombe – Block Watch Coord.	(602) 279-5674
Russell Combs	(602) 530-9918
Barbara Herren	(602) 279-3635
Helen Kennelly	(602) 274-4483

Do you want to be notified about breaking neighborhood news that affects you?

If so, please send an email to vkaboom@hotmail.com and be added to our distribution list. Your email address will only be used for notification purposes.

Community Phone Numbers

City of Phoenix Administration Services	(602) 534-5033
Graffiti Busters hotline	(602) 495-7014
Graffiti Detective reward hotline	(602) 262-7327
Property maintenance 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
Qwest Communications	(800) 244-1111
Cox Communications	(623) 594-1000

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

