

Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

Marley Park Community Association
15210 W.Sweetwater Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85379

- > Community Amenities Enhanced to Better Meet Resident Needs
- > Marley Park Events – An Opportunity to Come Together with Neighbors and Friends to Celebrate and Share
- > Protecting Marley Park's Important Landscapes
- > Be a Leader – Volunteer to Improve Our Community
- > Club Corner: Community Cares Helps Shape Neighborhood Traditions
- > Meet Your Neighbor-Marley Park Volunteer of the Year, Billy Bungert



Issue Fourteen | January/February 2009



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A Marley Park Community Association Publication

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Marley Park Signature Events

Spring Training Day

Catch a game with neighbors and friends at Surprise Stadium.

Arbor Day

Held annually in partnership with Marley Park Elementary School to plant and celebrate trees.

Star Spangled Celebration

Enjoy family-fun games, music, and BBQ food at our community's annual Fourth of July celebration.

Homestead Harvest Festival

A charming tradition including park decorating, pumpkin carving, scarecrow contests, and the annual Boo Bash celebration and costume contest.

Home for the Holidays

Featuring carolers, photos with Santa, horse-drawn carriage rides, and "snow" there's no better way to celebrate the spirit of the season.

Bumblebee Park Ready for Buzzing

Follow the path of a bumblebee as you stroll the curving walkway of this new, community park. Families can gather within the honeycomb of the picnic areas while children explore the sandpit (the bee's head) and circular play area (the bee's body) complete with shade wings, ending at the flowershaped garden.



Kicking Off the New Year

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! Each January, I move between anticipation of the year to come and reflection on the accomplishments and challenges of the year gone by. And 2008 certainly brought changes that no one has been immune to with families and businesses alike strategically evaluating their priorities and making difficult decisions based on the realities of the economy.

Despite these changes, Marley Park continues to be an active and caring community. I'm comforted by the memories of our community coming together to commemorate major milestones and to share community traditions.

This past year we celebrated the grand opening of an impressive community amenity, the Heritage Pool House, as well as our first neighborhood marketplace, Marley Park Plaza. Our community also unveiled Penumbra Park in partnership with West Valley Arts Council, celebrated five outstanding signature events, partnered with residents to launch several new community clubs and kicked off a new, annual tradition with our Community Pride clean up day.

As I look to the New Year, I know that many of us are looking forward to a change of pace. The Marley Park Community Association team (check out the team photo above) will still be juggling the multiple challenges and complexities of our ever-changing world, but we'll be approaching our work with a focus on simplicity and value. This includes focusing on gatherings that celebrate the spirit and vision of Marley Park – friends outreaching to one another in times of need, neighbors committing to enhancing our community, and volunteers leading the efforts to strengthen our community engagement. These simple gestures will result in deep-rooted bonds and meaningful

relationships that will grow and enrich our community today and in the future.

As you begin to think about your New Year's resolutions, the members of the Marley Park Community Association team hope you'll join us in embracing the principle of community stewardship – taking responsibility for the well being of our community, by investing some of your time and energy with your friends and neighbors in Marley Park. In 2009 the Marley Park Community Association team will continue to work in partnership with our residents to leverage our resources – including *marleypark.net* and our impressive group of Community Cares volunteer leaders – to continue deliver high-quality experiences and to preserve our special community neighborhoods.



So consider joining the Marley Park Community Association team in taking a deep breath, slowing down, getting focused on what's important, and taking simple actions to connect with your Marley Park neighbors and friends.

2009 will be extraordinary, if we make it so.

Warmest regards,

Around the Neighborhood

What's your favorite spot in Marley Park?



Shannon Adcock:

My favorite spot is Founders Park. I love pushing my son, Ethan, around the park in his stroller during this awesome cool weather. The view of the White Tank Mountains (looking West) is gorgeous against the blue sky.



Valerie Jackson:

It's hard to choose just one! My first favorite spot in Marley Park is our home with our great front porch! During a late night monsoon storm, we can step out onto the front porch to enjoy the rain and to wave at several neighbors doing the exact same thing! Over the past three years we've had the opportunity to build some great relationships and we're so excited to live in a community where we know so many of our neighbors. My second favorite spot is the Heritage Club, offering opportunities for large and small gatherings in wonderfully warm, comfortable, homey environment.



Carrie Gauntt:

If I am spending the day with my whole family, I love the pool. It's a place where people of all ages can have fun and I can catch up with neighbors – including new neighbors. We can BBQ, swim, and socialize all at one location. If I am just with my husband, I enjoy walking to the pool with a bottle of wine and sitting at the fire pit, just talking and catching up. It is a great place to have a date with your spouse that's close to home.

Want to Contribute?

Neighborhood News is a publication of the Marley Park Community Association. To contribute, please contact Jennifer A. Barefoot at jbarefoot@dmbinc.com.

Marley Park Community Association
15120 West Sweetwater Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85379

For the most up-to-date community information, including events and activities, visit marleypark.net. Please remember to check that your *marleypark.net* profile is accurate so the Marley Park Community Association team can reach you and your family with important community announcements.

Community Amenities Enhanced to Better Meet Resident Needs

By Jessie Singer,
Marley Park Heritage Club Manager

If you've visited the Heritage Club recently, you may have noticed a few changes the Community Association team has made to better meet resident needs.



A hot spot for residents to cool off, the Heritage Pool House is accessible year-round with your key fob (remember, the lap pool is heated throughout the winter season).

As you enter, we've transformed our lobby into a more enjoyable space with comfy chairs to kick back to read a book or to relax.

And if you need a good book to read, you're in luck. The new Marley Park Book Exchange is beginning to accumulate a sizeable collection.

Located in the Heritage Club lobby, residents are encouraged to drop off books you have already read in exchange for some new books. The honor system applies to the book Exchange.

If you're out and about, don't leave home without your key fob. Residents can now access the Heritage Club through the West entrance with their key fob from 7am - 11pm. The Heritage Pool House is also accessible by key fob from 6am - 10pm. Additional key fobs are available at the Heritage Club for \$15.

And the Heritage Pool House is open year-round. Stop by with family and friends to take advantage of the open play space and the relaxing atmosphere. Or stick to that New Year's resolution and exercise in the lap pool - heated year-round for your exercise comfort.

Please remember, the Marley Park Community Association team is a resource for you. If you have suggestions to help us better meet your needs, pass

them along. Come visit us in the Heritage Club - while we do have an open door policy, we would encourage you to set up an appointment if possible to ensure that you get all of your questions answered in one visit. Please contact the Community Association at 623-466-8820 for assistance.



A favorite spot to gather with neighbors and friends, the Heritage Club is now accessible between 7 am and 11 pm with your key fob.

Marley Park Events - An Opportunity to Come Together with Neighbors and Friends to Celebrate and Share

Chontell Noelle-Goucker,
Marley Park Community Events Manager

In this time of uncertainty, the Marley Park Community Association team remains committed to delivering important opportunities for neighbors and friends to come together and share. Now more than ever, we need simple gestures to celebrate the strength and the unique traditions of our community.

In that spirit, our 2009 programming calendar will strive to provide events and activities that creatively use the talents of our residents and that wisely use our resources to ensure ongoing opportunities to share community traditions, foster resident engagement, and activate our special community gathering places.

Just this past December, Marley Park celebrated a full line-up of activities at our annual Home for the Holidays festivities. This special community celebration included important resident-led activities such as the Community Cares Holiday Homes Tour of Lights. It also included our Home for the Holidays signature celebration with our distinct community traditions - wagon rides, Santa

photos, snow, etc. Be sure to check out the Home for the Holidays event slideshow and video on marleypark.net. The Community Association will continue to work in partnership with residents to build on the success of our community events and activities.

What it boils down to is that Marley Park events and activities serve as stewardship opportunities for our community legacy by fostering resident interaction through creative engagements that optimize current resources for sustainability in the future.

The vision of Marley Park is for each resident to be an active member of a vibrant and caring community. In Marley Park, residents should feel a sense of home and belonging. The Community Association invites you to get involved - check out marleypark.net for details on clubs and groups



Community Cares volunteers supported community signature events, including Home for the Holidays.

in the community or contact the Community Association to volunteer for our community, including event planning and support.

Operations Update

Monthly Assessments: In an effort to simplify accounting procedures and ensure the most efficient posting and deposit of your assessment payments, **payments will no longer be accepted at the Heritage Club.** Residents can mail payments to the Community Association's lockbox: P.O. Box 66543; Phoenix, AZ 85082-6543. Residents can also sign up to make payments through direct debit. Please contact the Community Association operations team at 623-466-8820 with any accounting needs.

Save the date: 2009 Marley Park Community Association Annual Membership Meeting, Monday, February 9, 2009, 6:00 PM at the Heritage Club.

Protecting Marley Park's Important Landscapes

By Scott Rowan,
Marley Park Community Services Manager

It's hard to believe that as this newsletter hits your mail box, I will have been at Marley Park one year! I have truly enjoyed working in such a wonderful community, and I look forward to the fun and challenges in the coming year.

As we enter 2009, the Marley Park Community Association team remains committed to being as efficient and resourceful as possible to keep our community looking beautiful. I am specifically committed to maintaining some of Marley Park's most important investments - our special community landscapes and unique neighborhood settings.

As an example, based on a community acreage audit conducted in partnership with the Department of Resources last year, I look forward to implementing an improved water budget in 2009. This means that our community, in partnership with our landscapers, Four Peaks, will continue to utilize a state-of-the-art irrigation management system, but we will do so with enhanced water and power efficiency.

As another example, Marley Park's distinct tree-lined streets are one of our community's defining features. By the end of 2009, we will have inventoried each and every tree - that means that every tree in Marley Park will be touched, documented, mapped, and fed into a system allowing us to more effectively plan

to care for these trees as they age, requiring more specialized care and maintenance.

As always, please remember that I am a resource and you can contact me anytime with questions or concerns. In that spirit, here's a couple of seasonal landscape reminders:

January and February are the antithesis of our hot summers in the Sonoran Desert. As temperatures dip, freezing the most tender of our desert plants,



Founders Park - an important community landscape and a favorite destination for residents.

remember to avoid cutting back frosted plants until the danger of additional frost is past - usually around March 1 - to help keep your plants alive and healthy for the spring growing season.

Also, this is the time of year that very little water is needed to care for your established plants since most plants are dormant or their growth is slowed considerably. If you see a white, scale buildup on the ground surrounding your plants, that's usually a sign of over watering.

Be a Leader - Volunteer to Improve Our Community

By Chontell Noelle-Goucker,
Marley Park Community Events Manager

Many of us have made New Year's resolutions, and the Marley Park Community Association team hopes that embracing the principle of community stewardship has made the top of your resolution list.

That means that this year we resolve that we are going to take responsibility for our community. From getting to know our neighbors to improving our community, there are diverse opportunities to volunteer right here in Marley Park.

What does it mean to volunteer? Volunteers contribute their time and talents in service to their community, building a Community of Character.

During the challenging times ahead of us, Marley Park will need our volunteer leaders to step up and help us stay focused on the simple gestures that we all value the most - the gestures that create the Character of Marley Park.

We see many examples of this all around us. The community leaders who give their time and talent to enrich our neighborhoods and to invest in the lives of friends - from PTA to playgroups and from gardening to sewing, there's something for everyone in Marley Park. The volunteers at our community events who make resident-to-resident introductions; and the Marley Park Community Association office volunteers who help keep things moving.

So this year, please consider volunteering your special talents with Marley Park neighbors and friends. You can complete a volunteer application on marleypark.net or pick up an application at the Heritage Club information center.

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another." -Erma Bombeck

Club Corner: Community Cares Helps Shape Neighborhood Traditions

By Shannon Adcock,
Marley Park Neighbor

Can you believe 2009 is already upon us? It's been an undoubtedly busy year for Community Cares (CC). Thanks to our resident volunteers, CC helped over 20 families this past year - from providing stork visits and meals, welcoming new neighbors, and launching the Neighborhood Garage Sale, CC has helped spread new traditions throughout Marley Park.

Our fun-loving volunteers Rich and Diane Williams along with CC leader Carrie Gaunt helped to pioneer several fun new holiday events, including the Holiday Lights Contest and Tour, the Second Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange, the Evening of Luminaries, and the Candle Treat Drops. We look forward to seeing resident participation grow in these events each season.

Additionally CC supported community signature events, including Home for the Holidays by volunteering at various stations throughout the night. You may have seen us pouring that yummy hot chocolate or guiding you to the horse wagon ride. We are a friendly bunch and are happy to help the neighborhood in any way possible.

Our vision is accomplished through the volunteer participation of neighbors. We

encourage new faces to join us at our planning meetings. Our first 2009 meeting will be held at the Heritage Club on Monday, January 12 at 7:30 pm. We plan to discuss the Spring Garage

Sale, the Military Welcome Home events, and more! Please bring your ideas and help us roll out even more fun Marley Park traditions in the New Year - 2009 will be great!

Thanks to all our volunteers for making Marley Park a friendly, fun, and caring community.

If you know a neighbor who would benefit from our various initiatives or if you have any inquiries, please contact your neighborhood CC representative or one of our leaders:

Shannon Adcock 480-239-7175
Carrie Gaunt 623-444-2292
Jen McSweeney 623-444-4067



Helping to build new traditions, Community Cares launched the Holiday Homes Tour of Lights in 2008.

Meet Your Neighbor - Marley Park Volunteer of the Year, Billy Bungert

By Jessie Singer,
Marley Park Heritage Club Manager

This November, Billy Bungert, was honored as Marley Park's 2008 Volunteer of the Year at our community's annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Billy embodies our community's volunteer spirit. She received this honor for her commitment to improving our community - from her tireless efforts coordinating Marley Park gatherings to her volunteer contributions to the greater Northwest Valley, Billy is willing to take on the great and the mundane. She and her husband have such pride for our community that they collect trash littering our community on their morning walks.

Billy is active in every aspect of Marley Park. She coordinates monthly Bingo games at the Heritage Club and Heritage Pool House for all residents. She is the leader for one of our community's most active clubs, the Grape Nutz Wine Club; she is also an active member in Neighborhood Watch and Community Cares. Billy also volunteers her time to ensure that our amenities remain in tip-top shape. Whether it's cleaning up after an event she's hosted or helping the Community Association staff with special cleaning needs - like steam cleaning - at the Heritage Club, she's the first one to help out!

Without Billy, each and every event and activity at Marley Park would be missing something. She motivates and recruits neighbors and friends across the community to get involved - she successfully recruited her Mosaic Park neighbors to deliver their trash cans for the Homestead Harvest Festival Boo Bash, and participate in the Scarecrow Decorating Contest. She is hands-down a woman of her word - always ready to help out whenever and wherever she can.

Volunteering is an integral part of binding the Marley Park Community together to enhance the quality of life for Marley Park residents today and in the future. If you would like to get involved with volunteer opportunities in Marley Park, please contact Chontell Noelle-Goucker about the volunteer opportunities that interest you the most.

