

# Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

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

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Issue Fifteen | March/April 2009



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A Marley Park Community Association Publication

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## Upcoming Community Events and Activities

By Chontell Noelle-Goucker, Marley Park Community Association, Events Manager and Jessie Singer, Marley Park Community Association, Heritage Club Manager

### Spring Training Day – March 28

Grab your glove and help kick off this annual community event at the Neighborhood Softball Game (8:00-10:00 AM; all ages and skills welcome). All 7-14-year-old boys and girls are invited to join the Pitch, Hit & Run competition, the official skills competition of MLB (10:00 – 11:00 AM). Carpool with friends and neighbors to the Surprise Stadium for a Spring Training Game as the Kansas City Royals will take on the Texas Rangers! Tickets are \$7 per person and must be pre-paid at the Heritage Club by March 20. Game time: 1:05 PM.



### Character Counts! Arbor Day Celebration – April 24

Held annually in partnership with Marley Park Elementary School (MPES), our community will celebrate the greatness of trees with MPES students reciting poetry and singing songs; the celebration culminates with a tree planting ceremony.

### Relay For Life of Surprise – April 25 - 26

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity, offering

an opportunity for everyone to participate in the fight against cancer. Join the Marley Park Team as we take turns walking the track at Surprise Stadium beginning April 25 at 6:00 PM and ending April 26 at 6:00 AM. For more information and to join the Marley Park Team visit: [www.relayforlife.org/Surprise](http://www.relayforlife.org/Surprise)



Additional events and activities:

### West Valley Arts Council, Taste of the Arts – March 20

A great opportunity for adults to enjoy some appetizers, taste some wine, and view some local fine art.

### First Annual Community Safety Day – March 21

This resident-driven event will focus on family safety with demonstrations and information on Child Safety, Home Safety, Water Safety, Car Seat Safety/Inspections, Health Neighborhood Watch and other areas.



### Heritage Club Two-Year Anniversary – March 26

The Heritage Club will mark its two-year anniversary with an all-ages birthday party.

### Easter Egg Hunt – April 22

Join the egg-hunting festivities at the Heritage Club.

Check [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net) for the most up-to-date details on these events and more.

## Around the Neighborhood

### What's your favorite park in Marley Park?

#### Jen Holewinski

The new park, Bumble Bee. It's the only park that I can relax with my two-year-old. I can let her run around and not worry since it's so toddler friendly!



About Bumble Bee Park: Follow the path of the bumblebee as you stroll the curving walkway – gather within the honeycomb of the picnic areas while children explore the sandpit and circular play-area with shade wings.

#### Allison Vance

My family loves Marley Park that is in the center of the former Model Home Neighborhood.



About Marley Park: Music and play come alive in this tree-lined, green, gathering space that includes a center-stage gazebo for artistic and cultural performances.

## 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](mailto:jbarefoot@dmbinc.com).

Marley Park Community Association  
15120 West Sweetwater Avenue  
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For the most up-to-date community information, including events and activities, visit [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net). Please remember to check that your [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net) profile is accurate so the Marley Park Community Association can reach you and your family with important community announcements.

## Spring is the Season to Celebrate Our Unique Community Roots

Dear Friends and Neighbors –

I love this time of year at Marley Park! The other day, I saw a family teaching their son how to ride a bike in Wisdom Park. Witnessing the memories being made, and seeing the expression of courage and pride on this boy's face, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to be a part of such a special community.

Marley Park's unique physical attributes – pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, tree-lined streets, large front porches, and 12 distinct community parks – provide opportunities for neighbors to engage and connect, contributing significantly to our quality of life. Whatever your outdoor pleasure, I wish you time this spring to gather with your friends and neighbors beyond your front door to enjoy the simple beauty of our community surroundings.

In addition to caring for the physical attributes of our community, Marley Park's success as an emerging community depends on the relationships, and our commitment to strengthen and nurture these relationships.

This April marks five years since Marley Park was dedicated. At our dedication, special trees were planted throughout the community signifying our commitment to building a place to call "home." Since then, some individuals in Marley Park have added soil to the trees, representing this land and this place where Marley Park took root. Others added rich nutrients to the trees, symbolic of the role of education, the arts and technology in enriching and providing fertile soil for growing and learning. Still others add water,

symbolic of nurturing the healthy growth of the community. Thank you to each of you for your contributions to growing a healthy and fulfilling community.



Today, Marley Park is living up to its vision - a strong community and a special place to live, learn and grow. That dedication ceremony five years ago, along with all of community traditions we've celebrated since that dedication provides us with a sense of unity and pride that will continue to grow, building on our heritage for generations to come.

Fondly,

*Kelsia*

## Meet Your Neighbor - Owen Gauntt Wins Most Inspirational Athlete of 2008

By Coach Crissy, City of Surprise Adaptive Sports Program

I have coached Owen Gauntt for four seasons during Bambino Buddy Ball. When I first met him, he was sitting in a wheelchair, timid, unsure of himself. Once he was comfortable with the game, the people, and himself, he started showing up to the games with his walker. He was so determined. I watched this boy grow to be such an athlete. Now he no longer uses his walker, he has graduated to his cane.

I admire Owen for his courage and his determination. I remember an early evening during practice when he approached me with the biggest smile on his face. He looked up at me and said, "Hey coach, look.", as he proceeded to take his baseball cap off to reveal his new growth of hair that was finally growing back after his chemo treatments. The look on his face was priceless. It made me realize how much we take for granted.



Owen is absolutely amazing and this is why he was chosen as the Most Inspirational Athlete of the Year 2008 through the City of Surprise Adaptive Sports Program.

## Block Party Trailer, Ready to Roll

By Jessie Singer, Marley Park Community Association, Heritage Club Manager

As you make your plans this spring to get outdoors with friends and family to enjoy a day of picnicking and playing at the park, remember the Marley Park Block Party Trailer – Park & Play. Fully equipped with all the items needed to host a neighborhood gathering, including, barbecue equipment, chairs, tables, and fun games and activities for big and little ones alike, the Park & Play Trailer is FREE for all residents to use on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information and to reserve the Park & Play Trailer, visit the Recreation section of [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net).



## Spring Landscape Tips: Weed Control

By Scott Rowan, Marley Park Community Association Service Manager

As our plants begin to wake up and thrive this spring season, the weeds will also be back in full growing mode. I thought I would give a quick primer on two types of herbicides – pre-emergent and post-emergent – to help residents control your weeds, keeping your lawns and our community looking beautiful this season.

Pre-emergent herbicides inhibit weed germination. A great weed-prevention strategy for larger lots, pre-emergents are generally put down two times a year – late summer and early spring – and they can be applied in either liquid or granular form. An added bonus for your wallet: using pre-emergent herbicides can reduce the costs and time associated with spraying and/or hoeing weeds after they appear.

Post-emergent herbicides, such as Round-Up, are the herbicides we are all most familiar with. There are two types; of post-emergent herbicides – systemic and contact. With the spring weeds (annuals) a contact herbicide will work just fine. Contact herbicides are marketed as "fast-acting" because they will quickly kill everything it contacts. As for more nuisance-type weeds, such as Bermuda grass (perennial), a systemic herbicide such as Round-Up is your best bet. Systemic herbicides work from the "bottom-up," so you spray the weeds and it slowly makes its way to the root system so there is no chance that weed is returning!

## Club Corner: Marley Park Garden Club – Green Thumbs (of all shades) Welcome

By Jen Holewinski, Marley Park Neighbor

The weather is warmer and the flowers are blooming. What better time to start that little herb or rose garden you have been thinking about but never get to? Whether you want to grow your own produce or prune roses, the Garden Club is a learning club that is looking for thumbs that are all shades of green.



Our club has many events planned this year, including a pesto/wine night, salsa making, and the planting Marley Park's first pumpkin patch. As always, we will be doing lots of exciting things at the community garden in Arbor Park. So grab your gloves and trowels and join us! We look forward to seeing new faces.

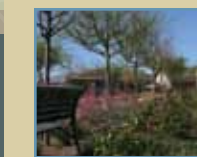
"...it is not the size of the garden that is important, nor how much gardening one does...it is the enjoyment of the creation...valuing the teachings from other members and sharing our own hard-learned knowledge with our community."

Jen Holewinski, Garden Club Facilitator, 623-256-8302  
Carrie Gauntt, Garden Club Co-Facilitator, 623-444-2292

## Spring is Here - Get out and Enjoy Our Community Parks and Arbor Walk

By Jennifer A. Barefoot, Marley Park Community Association, Communications Manager

The spring weather is here and its time to get outdoors and experience Marley Park's extended living space, our unique community parks and Arbor Walk.



Take an evening stroll with your spouse, an afternoon jog with your neighbor, or weekend bike ride along our community's Arbor Walk connecting Marley Park neighborhoods and parks. Make your way from park to park, exploring their unique features, including: open play areas at Founders Park, covered picnic areas at Bumblebee Park, flower gardens at Desert Garden and Rose Garden Park, adventure play areas at Heritage Park, colored glass displays at Mosaic Park, and so much more.

To learn more or to view and print a map of Marley Park's 12 uniquely themed parks and connecting Arbor Walk, visit the Recreation or Amenity section of [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net).

## Marley Park's Signature Elm Tree

By Scott Rowan, Marley Park Community Association, Community Services Manager

One of the reasons many residents choose to live at Marley Park are the wonderful parks, front porches, and tree-lined streets that remind many of us of a small-town we once lived in or visited. One of the trees used throughout Marley Park is the Chinese Evergreen Elm (*Ulmus parviflora*). You'll find the Chinese Evergreen Elm along Sweetwater as well as lining the Arbor Walk. We tend to drive by daily and not notice much in the formative years, but there will come a day when streets like Sweetwater, Pershing and others will resemble a tree-lined street from established communities in the Midwest or in north Phoenix for that matter!



Arbor Park photo: Host to our community garden, Arbor Park features a centralized play structure surrounded by gardens and shaded seating that's ideal for an afternoon picnic.

The Chinese Evergreen Elm has been a staple in the Phoenix area for many years. There are wonderful mature specimens in Central Phoenix – check out Central Avenue! At maturity they can reach 35' tall and can be equally as wide. They are true energy efficient trees as well since they are deciduous – this means these trees allow the warm, winter light through after they have dropped their leaves, and these trees also provide shade from the harsh summer sun.

## Community Cares: Caring for Marley Park Neighbors

By Shannon Adcock, Marley Park Neighbor

Community Cares was created for residents by residents to facilitate a sense of community by providing education, clear and accurate communication and fostering involvement consistent with the core values of our community. We are always looking for new members, particularly in our parks that do not currently have representation. We have achieved some great successes in our community and have some exciting plans for the coming months:

that is deploying/returning from overseas, please contact Community Cares through our group page on [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net).

### Community Cares Community Garage Sale – April 4 | 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Community Cares is coordinating the Marley Park Community Garage Sale scheduled for April 4. In order for your home to be featured in the community garage sale map, please contact Community Cares by March 27. Mosaic Park neighbors, Jen Holewinski, will be coordinating a central selling point for the Mosaic neighborhood.

For more information and to participate, visit the Community Cares page on [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net).

### New Residents Happy Hour Pot Luck – May 2 and August 29 | 4:30 PM

Community Cares is happy to announce this fun event for new residents to help introduce our Neighborhood Partners and to understand all that Marley Park has to offer. We hope that all new residents will join us at the Heritage Club for an evening of food and getting to know your neighbors.

**If you are interested in participating in Community Cares, please join us at an upcoming meeting: April 27, August 17, and December 7; all meetings are at 7:30 PM at the Heritage Club.**

## Operations News... You can Use

By Chad Reed, Marley Park Community Association, Operations Manager

As the temperatures in Arizona reach absolute perfection and everyone enjoys more and more time outside, we wanted to take a moment to encourage Marley Park neighbors to do some outdoor spring cleaning around your home. And while you're mowing, raking, and digging, please take the opportunity to meet those neighbors you always see but haven't had time to connect with. Grab a batch of your most famous chocolate chip cookie recipe – we all have one - and bring them over and introduce yourself.

The Marley Park Community Association Operations Team knows that building a community of character is the backbone to Marley Park's success. Our community was designed to bring people together so that neighbors would respect and take care of each other. And our Team knows that you do respect and care for each other because we receive very few calls regarding compliance issues in our community. Each of your efforts, big and small, to improve our community – picking up after your pets, keeping noise to a reasonable level, pulling in trash cans from the curb, yanking weeds in an adjoining flower bed, closing an open back-yard gate, etc – contributes to making Marley Park a great place to call home. Thanks for your terrific efforts.

## Heritage Club: Revised Rental Rates

By Jessie Singer, Marley Park Community Association, Heritage Club Manager

As if we needed to give residents another reason to throw a party, the Marley Park Community Association team is excited to introduce new, lower rental fees for resident use of the indoor and outdoor facilities at the Heritage Club.



Whether love is in the air and you are in a need of a wedding location or you have a special birthday or graduation party coming up, the Heritage Club is the perfect destination to host your celebration. Our new, hourly rates allow us to accommodate multiple events on the same day. In addition, the flexible space of the Heritage Club makes any type of gathering possible. The Common Parlor (multipurpose room) can partition into three different sections or stay open as one large gathering space. The Heritage Club exterior can fit nearly 300 people in its enclosed gates, while still allowing plenty of space to run and play.

So if you're itching to host a party, consider reserving the Heritage Club. Check out the details and make your reservations now on [marleypark.net](http://marleypark.net) – select the Heritage Club page under the Amenity menu option.



### Community Cares Welcomes Residents Home From Military Service

Community Cares coordinated its first Military Welcome Home for Marley Park neighbor, James, who returned on January 30 from overseas service in Iraq. You may have noticed the Welcome Home sign displayed in James' front yard on Founders Park Blvd. Community Cares also provided a welcome home gift to James, including letters from Marley Park neighbors. If you know of a neighbor