

Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

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

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Park Profile – Wisdom Park

Imaginations run free at Wisdom Park. With a play-structure resembling a sunken ship, this play space inspires creativity in children, inviting them to explore a make-believe world. It's also a great place for adults to relax with trees shading mounded grass. Located at 153rd Drive between Eugene Terrace and Alexandria Way - #8 on the Parks and Arbor Walk Map available in the documents section of marleypark.net.



Marley Park Residents Make Life in Our Community Extraordinary

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

It was five years ago that I first stepped foot on Marley Park, which was, at that time, a field of dirt. I can remember studying the renderings of planned homes and community amenities, trying to visualize what it might look like some day. Never did I dream that Marley Park would be what it is today. The charm and inherent beauty of our community is breathtaking. But what really makes Marley Park so special is you.

I've had the honor and privilege of celebrating many community milestones with you. From the first day of school at Marley Park Elementary School, to the grand opening of the Heritage Club and Heritage Pool House, to celebrating the completion of our eleven community parks and arbor walk – these symbolic structures in our community represent Marley Park's foundation. Yet some of my most memorable moments include welcoming home the newborn members of Marley Park, cheering you on in the Star-Spangled Celebration parade, and bursting with pride over the success of Community Cares.

While I'm sad to be leaving a great community, I recognize that for the continued success of Marley Park, and DMB, we have had to make difficult decisions to manage our budgets prudently. DMB and the Marley Park Team are an incredible group, committed to enhancing quality of life for our residents. Moving forward, I know that Marley Park residents will continue to be in good hands with some familiar faces and some new faces on the Community Association Team supporting our community programs and operations.

As I reflect on my journey at Marley Park, I'm humbled. You inspire me and I'm awestruck at the level of neighborliness and friendship enjoyed in our community. During these difficult economic times, I encourage each of you to focus on helping to make our community a better place. After all, you are stewards of Marley Park, and each of you has the heart and courage to improve the lives of those around you. Now more than ever, Marley Park needs the time and talent of our resident leaders. Working in partnership with the Community Association Team, I am confident that life in Marley Park will continue to be extraordinary.



I feel very blessed to have been part of Marley Park since its launch. I am proud of the many accomplishments our community has achieved over the last five years. It has been a pleasure working with you. Continue to celebrate the cherished moments of Marley Park and know that each of you will forever be my favorite Marley Park resident!

Kindest Regards,

Kelsia

Meet Your Neighbor - The Confer Family

As told by Charlotte Confer to the Marley Park Community Association

Kristian and Charlotte Confer and their son Garrett, moved to Marley Park in November 2007. In search of a multi-generational community where neighbors feel like family and neighborhoods feel comfortable and established, the Confer family fell in love with Marley Park. The community amenities were an added bonus. More research about the City of Surprise revealed low crime, great schools, and a beautiful outdoor landscape. The Confer's were sold and made the easy decision to move from the harsh winters and high-humidity summers of Rockford, Illinois to the sunny, humid-free weather in Surprise.



Whippersnappers. They attend Radiant Church. Kristian is employed at U.S. Bank and Charlotte is employed at Banner Boswell Medical Center. Last February (the 14th) Kristian and Charlotte celebrated 11 years of marriage! And next month, the family pet goldfish, Sergeant Moody, will celebrate one year (they never had a goldfish make it that long before!)

Says Charlotte, "We have met so many great people in Marley Park. Every family here is a part of what makes this community so great."

The family is active in and around Marley Park. Together, they enjoy spending time learning about their new home state at educational programs at White Tank and Estrella mountains. They also enjoy bike riding, hiking, taking short weekend trips to different places in AZ, and having fun at Marley Park's Heritage Pool.

Garrett, now 7-years-old, attends MPES and enjoys flag football, hiking, swimming and spending time with friends. In February, he earned his Maricopa County Junior Park Ranger badge.

The Confer family also participate in volunteer activities and several Marley Park clubs, including Grape Nutz, Community Cares, and the Little

Residents Tour Surprise's Newest Fire Station

By Scott Holewinski, Marley Park Neighbor

On March 14, Marley Park residents received a tour of Surprise Fire Station #307 located near the corner of Cactus and Sarival.

The firemen were very gracious hosts as they walked the group through the newest station in the City of Surprise. The tour began in the common area where the children received complementary badges and hats. We visited the kitchen where three full-sized refrigerators held food for the different shifts. The group then visited their office, sleeping quarters, fitness room, and of course the garage holding the fire truck.

The firemen thoroughly and patiently answered our questions. They also explained the training required to become a firefighter (training takes over two years!), and described the various calls they respond to. One firefighter got dressed in full gear to demonstrate the air tank, radio, and emergency beacon.

Everyone had a good time. The residents on the tour were very appreciative of the firemen taking time out of their busy day. Check out a slideshow from the tour on marleypark.net.



Club Corner: New Photography Club

By Shannon Adcock, Marley Park Neighbor

"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs." - Ansel Adams

Do you enjoy photography? Are you more likely to be behind the camera rather than in front of it? Are you interested in joining others with the same passion?

The Marley Park Photography Club is calling all resident photographers to share in the fun. This new club is an informal group of shutter bugs that want to learn and share photography tips from each other and have a good time!

Please contact Shannon Adcock at 480.239.7175 if you are interested in joining this new club. Beginner to expert photography levels welcome; this is a kid friendly group. A meet and greet date will be set after resident interest is confirmed. We'll meet at the Heritage Club before launching off to an area of Marley Park to practice snapping shots.

Looking forward to meeting fellow photog enthusiasts!



Community Round-Up

Stay in good standing with the Community Association. Did you know that for your convenience, Marley Park residents now have four options for paying their monthly assessments? For more details, visit marleypark.net.

Looking for a good summer read? Remember the Marley Park Book Exchange – an honor system book exchange housed in the Heritage Club lobby that lets residents drop off books they've read for some new page-turners.

Penny for your Thoughts. A new, resident-suggested message board for residents to share positive thoughts and reflections with each other.

MPES students visited by soldiers returning from duty in Iraq. On March 31, soldiers that had received letters and care packages from MPES students while serving overseas visited with the students to thank them for their support. Channel 12 News covered the gathering.

Luke Days Open House "Thunder in the Desert"

By Jennifer Speer, Marley Park Neighbor & Outreach Manager Fighter Country Foundation

March 21 and 22 Luke Air Force Base welcomed the community onto the Base to educate the public about the ongoing mission of Luke AFB and the larger mission of the United States Air Force. Attendees included active and retired military and their families, Department of Defense civilians, and the general public.

Air Show fans saw hundreds of aircraft on display and in the sky with air acts and performances. The highlight of the Show each day was the thrilling demonstration by the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Team.

Fighter Country Partnership (FCP) used this opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the organization. I ran the FCP booth during the Air Show, offering t-shirts, hats, Support the Troops magnets, challenge coins, and much more. The Air Show was also the kick-off to our "Go Green. Support Blue." raffle for a 2009 Toyota Prius with all of the proceeds used in support of Luke AFB. After months of preparing, the event was a success and FCP was able to get many new supporters.



For more information on FCP or the "Go Green. Support Blue." raffle, please go to www.fightercountry.org or email me at jspeer@fightercountry.org.

Swimming Pool Safety Checklist

By Carlos Machado, Marley Park Neighbor & Water Safe Kids Owner/Instructor

Summer is around the corner and the swim season will be in full swing. It is important for parents and caregivers to prepare themselves for a safe season. Below is a Swimming Pool Safety Checklist that will get you started:



1. Have a designated "Pool Watcher."
2. No pool hose in the pool when swimming – this includes cleaning tools.
3. Direct pool jets toward the shallow end.
4. Keep a hard cover on hot tubs and spas when they aren't in use.
5. Have an outdoor phone available at all times.
6. Do not rely on Flotation Devices – floaties, noodles or tubes.
7. Alarm your doors and/or install high locks on your doors.
8. Install a safety fence around your pool.
9. Enroll your child in a formal Survival Swim Program.
10. Learn CPR.
11. Supervision: Always watch your kids around water!!!

For more details and safety tips, visit the Water Safety section of www.WaterSafeKids.com

Please watch your kids around water and have a safe summer.

Owen Gauntt – Make A Wish Granted

By Gauntt Family, Marley Park Neighbors

It has been two years since Owen was diagnosed with cancer. After 18 months of waiting, our family received the wonderful news that his wish was granted from the Make A Wish Foundation. Owen's wish was to meet the actors of the Cartoon Network's new BEN 10 ALIEN movie and to see the movie in the making.

The Saturday before we left, Owen was given his first big surprise. You see, Owen wants to be a chef when he grows up. So the Make A Wish staff invited us to go to the Ritz Carlton in Phoenix so Owen could be chef for a day. We were greeted by staff and Owen was told he was not only making lunch for his family, but also helping to make lunch for a party of 200 people. They made him his own chef jacket with his name on it, and gave him a grand tour of the kitchen. He had his own menu, and prepared a delicious lunch for the whole family along with the Make A Wish staff. He was smiling from ear to ear for the whole day.

Next he was given the news that on March 10 he was traveling to Atlanta to meet the creators of the Cartoon Network series Ben 10 as well as to meet the actors of the new Ben 10 motion picture in production. We arrived at The Turner Complex where so many television shows are produced and went straight to Cartoon Network and met with the 3D design team who are adding all the special effects to the movie scenes. Owen was able to see how the green screen works and how they can add fire, sound, and much more to the scenes that were shot the week before.



Next we were shuttled over to the Atlanta Aquarium where the movie was being filmed. They were doing it at night when the aquarium is closed to the public. We arrived at 8 PM, and the director had a chair for Owen with his name on it placed right up front so he could see how the movie is made. He was then introduced to all the actors. He was definitely star struck and they were very gracious to him – they spent many hours talking to him, and brought him gifts of Ben 10 memorabilia not yet in the stores.

Owen felt like a rock star. This was a dream come true for him. Before Owen submitted his wish, Make A Wish had never heard of Ben 10. It was a difficult wish to grant and Owen was given the option to change his wish. But not our Owen, he had faith that it would happen and waited 18 months for his wish to come true. He said it was the best day of his life!



MPES Character Counts! art contest winner, Kay Angela Adversario. Kay's winning art piece was painted on a wall at MPES and featured on a water bottle for every K-8 student to take home for their first ever Character Counts! Field Day. Here's Kay in front of her mural with Principal Mady.

New reservation process and fees for Heritage Pool House. A popular gathering space for residents, the Community Association is thrilled to introduce a new reservation process allowing residents to secure use of the Heritage Pool House in advance. Check out marleypark.net for details (including fees) and reservations.



Save the Date. May 21, MPES Annual Appreciation Day. Visit marleypark.net for more details as well as other upcoming events and activities.

Community Cares Second Neighborhood-Wide Garage Sale a Success. On April 4, 35 homes registered and sold items from 7 am to 12 pm; at 1 pm the charity pick-up began. This year, Marley Park supported Arizona Quest for Kids, a non-profit 501c(3) organization that provides support for college graduation to low-income students with academic potential. Details on the Fall Garage Sale coming soon.



Heritage Pool Safety – Practice Healthy Swimming Behaviors

As you and your family begin the summer-time ritual of daily treks to the Heritage Pool House for a relieving dip in the play or lap pool, please practice healthy swimming behaviors to protect against recreational water illnesses like Crypto (cryptosporidiosis).

Crypto is a recreational water illness that causes diarrhea. In recent years, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported an increase in reported cases of this common recreational water illness.

Here's what the MPCA is doing to help keep our community pool safe: the Heritage Pool will continue to be closed the last Monday of each month for routine maintenance that now includes hyper-chlorinating the pool as a precautionary measure against Crypto.

Here's what you can do to help keep the community pool safe:

1. Please don't swim when you have diarrhea.
2. Please don't swallow pool water.
3. Please wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet or after changing diapers.
4. Please take your child on bathroom breaks often.
5. Please change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside.
6. Please wash your child thoroughly, especially their rear end, with soap and water before swimming.

Pool News Splash:

The Board of Directors recently approved a change to the Pool Use Guidelines that requires all minors age 14 and younger to be accompanied by an adult at the pool (the former age requirement for minors to be accompanied by an adult was 16).

For tips to operate the splash pad and fireplaces at Heritage Pool House, please visit marleypark.net.