

Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

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

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Issue Eighteen | Sept/Oct 2009



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A Marley Park Community Association Publication

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Star-Spangled – What a Celebration

On July 3, over 500 neighbors and friends gathered at Marley Park's Heritage Pool House for the third annual Star-Spangled Celebration. Residents feasted on an all-American BBQ meal, grooved to a pool-side DJ and the live, high-energy sounds of Peppermint James, enjoyed family water activities and a flag presentation by the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard, and participated in two of Marley Park's special traditions: the annual Watermelon Eating Contest and Pie Baking Contest. The celebration continued the morning of July 4 with almost 100 neighbors participating in a special, resident-organized tradition, the Independence Day Parade. Special thanks to those 15 resident volunteers that helped make this celebration such a success, specifically the leadership from Community Cares in organizing the Independence Day Parade, and to Kyler Van Horn for singing the National Anthem.



Marley Park: Built with Pillars of Strength

Being a Community of Character is what distinguishes Marley Park from its local competition. This community is full of neighbors who demonstrate the six pillars of character each and every day. The words Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship are engrained into our everyday actions.

Marley Park is different from its surrounding communities because it encompasses neighbors who trust one another by respecting boundaries and looking after each other. Respect is demonstrated by picking up after one-self and showing each other how special it is to live in a beautiful community. This community exemplifies caring especially through our Community Cares group bringing meals to those who are ill or returning from hospital. Our resident-run clubs showcase responsible individuals finding common interests and treating each other with fairness...and having fun too! Our neighborhood is full of good citizens who get involved in our community and always keep its best interests at heart.

So next time you are cruising around the neighborhood, take a look around and remember what brought you here and why you chose to live in Marley Park. Its residents like you that make the difference and make Marley Park such a special place to live. Welcome Home!

Protecting Our Landscape Vision

Marley Park Community Association (MPCA) and DLC Resources, Inc.

As stewards of Marley Park's unique landscape, the Community Association has had to make some adjustments to responsibly and sustainably manage our resources – both our community resources and our desert resources.



Proper care for dormant lawns results in healthier grass that will be varying shades of brown from the first frost through to the spring. Dormant lawn: January

We will continue to prioritize protecting Marley Park's long-term vision. This means prioritizing our care for the important and high-profile, grass, gathering spaces at the center of our community, including the Heritage Club, Heritage Pool House, and Sweetwater and Reems Entry; it also includes prioritizing our care for the important landscape features that distinguish our community, such as the trees that line and shade Marley Park's streets.

usually from about mid-December to late April.

Overseeded or not, we will continue to have healthy grass in the parks throughout Marley Park. Because the overseeding process stops the Bermuda grass' normal growing cycle and interrupts the Bermuda's transition into dormancy, in the long run, not overseeding turf every two or three years is beneficial to the general appearance and long-term health of the grass because it allows the Bermuda grass time to recover and to re-establish itself. In addition, overseeded Ryegrass requires more resources through the winter than dormant Bermuda. Once Ryegrass is seeded, it is watered at least three times a day to stimulate seed germination and to keep the grass alive throughout the season; it also requires more mowing during the year, increasing fuel consumption and emissions.



Dormant lawn: October/November/December

Please join the MPCA and DLC Resources, Inc. at a workshop to learn how you can Care for Your Dormant Lawn; September 30, 6 – 7:30 PM at the Heritage Club. Details and RSVP on marleypark.net

By concentrating our resources on the central, outdoor gathering spots and on our distinguishing tree-scapes, Marley Park will achieve \$23,000 in savings this year; our community will also conserve almost 4 million gallons of water.

Our landscape partner, DLC Resources, Inc., is already utilizing maintenance practices to protect our existing grass to benefit its long-term health and appearance while also helping to preserve our desert resources.



Dormant lawn: February/March

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.

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15120 West Sweetwater Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85379

For the most up-to-date community information, including events and activities, visit marleypark.net.

Community Cares, Helping Neighbors

Carrie Gauntt, Neighbor



Community Cares has been hard at work for the last few months helping our fellow neighbors in a variety of ways. We helped three families welcome home new babies by coordinating volunteer meals and placing a "Welcome Home" stork sign in their yards.

One of the newest arrivals to Marley Park is Dylan Praskins. Dylan was born to Erik and Michelle on April 16. At two-months-old, Dylan was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL). In order to help ease some of the burden on the Praskins family, Community Cares rallied the troops into action. On a Saturday in June, we went to the Praskins' home to trim trees, pull weeds and perform general outdoor clean-up for this family. Irish Pest Control, owned by our very own Irish and Holly Dougherty, came out the same day and sprayed their yard for weeds at no cost to the family. Owen Gauntt, a HopeKid hero, delivered a gift basket to Dylan and his family at St. Joseph's Hospital with donated items from the Gauntt family, Kimberle Shannon, Ali Vance, Billy Bungert, and Shannon Adcock (see photo). It is amazing what Marley Park residents can accomplish, and how much they give from their heart.



Save the Date: Community Cares will host its second New Neighbor Potluck on August 29 at 4:30 PM. This new community tradition provides an opportunity for residents who have moved to Marley Park between May and July 2009 to mingle with neighbors and learn about life in Marley Park.

Volunteer Spotlight: Shannon Adcock

Charlotte Confer, Neighbor

Shannon Adcock and her husband John, originally from Chicago, IL, moved to Marley Park for the all the wonderful parks, events, and unique homes our community offers. Since her arrival Marley Park, Shannon has provided volunteer leadership to our community in several ways.

From community clubs – including Community Cares where she leads the Military Welcome Home Events, Hot Shots Photography Club which she recently founded, and as an active member of the Sew and Sews Club and the Gourmet Cooking Group – to volunteering her time and talents to the success of our community events and activities, including capturing all the great photographic moments at our recent Star Spangled Celebration and July 4th parade, Shannon is engaged and she is everywhere!

In addition to volunteering, Shannon enjoys holiday decorating and entertaining. And Shannon is not the only creative one in the family. John plays the guitar and together Shannon and John enjoy taking in an annual Dave Matthews Band concert.

John is employed as a financial consultant for a small Pittsburgh, PA-based firm. Formerly in pharmaceutical sales, Shannon is now a full-time mom, caring for her 1-year-old son, Ethan. She also managed to find time to launch Love You To Pieces Designs with fellow Marley Park resident, Billy Bungert. Their company offers handcrafted baby and mommy gifts. The Adcock family is completed with Charlie their West Highland Terrier. When the Adcock's are not busy with their many community activities, they family enjoys weekend get-aways to California and visits to see family and friends in Chicago.



Says Shannon, "Volunteering close to home has such a positive impact...So many folks have stepped up in support of neighbors and Marley Park in general that it has become contagious. Many families that have been helped through efforts of Community Cares have been right there to pay the support forward to others in need. Here in Marley Park people exemplify what it means to give their time and energy, which is priceless. It's the people who live here who bring that legacy to life and we love calling it 'home'."

Heritage Boutique Summer Sale

With many thanks to residents Betsy Kirschner and Karen Zelek, the Heritage Boutique is up and running at the Heritage Club. Show your Marley Park spirit by purchasing shirts for your entire family. Other items such as coffee tumblers, sun shades, license plates, visors, hats and more are also available. Come by the Heritage Club today and take a look – quantities and sizes are limited and all sale items!



Feel the Heat, Join The Big Read | Fahrenheit 451, September 25 - October 31

Cristen Crujido, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, West Valley Arts Council (WVAC)

For most of us, it has been years or decades since we have read Ray Bradbury's literary classic Fahrenheit 451. If you still have your copy, you're in luck! Pull it out, dust it off, and devour because The Big Read is back!

This September, join the WVAC, Marley Park residents, and communities across the Valley for the nation's largest book club, The Big Read, and help restore reading to the center of American culture. From book discussions and film screenings, to concerts and exhibits, the WVAC will present more than 60 free events in partnership with the Maricopa County Library District and a host of other regional partners and sponsors including Marley Park.

The Big Read answers a big need. According to a landmark survey conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), just one in four American adults now read. Literary reading is rapidly declining among all groups, especially the young, as books must now compete with IPODS, XBOX, TV and the internet. The Big Read aims to address this crisis squarely and effectively by providing citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their community.



The Big Read is an initiative of the NEA in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. For more information about The Big Read, visit bigreadaz.org. For details about Marley Park's plans for The Big Read, visit marleypark.net.

Marley Park Elementary School (MPES) Focusing on Excelling

Principal Cindy Mady

As we begin our sixth school year here at MPES, we reflect upon the contributions of community members to our successful development as an effective school. Through our joint efforts and interdependency of community – home and school – we have built a school that is student-centered with high student achievement and good character as our focus.

Our most recent success in acquiring the Arizona Learns label of Highly Performing on the AIMS testing for 08-09 academic year is a reflection not only of our students, but of our hard working teachers, guiding parents, and giving community members. On behalf of our entire staff, Vice Principal Nevers and I would like to thank all of you for your partnership in accomplishing this.



As we move into our new school year with so many unknowns in the economy impacting our state and federal education budgets, it is even more critical for all of us to strengthen our partnership. Together

we can continue to educate our students, using high standards to raise reputable citizens who are 21st Century ready.

Our focus this year is to further increase student achievement and move ourselves to the label of Excelling. We intend to do this by exercising a variety of strategies:

- increase rigor of instruction by providing additional opportunities for students to expand their critical thinking skills, such as Project Based Learning
- supplement math materials with new Excel Math
- integrate math in our special area classes through Music- and PE-teacher-created Music, Movement and Math program
- increase student use of STUDY ISLAND math software at school and at home
- increase tutoring opportunities for students
- begin college preparation using the AVID program in our middle school grades
- set Individual student goals for academics

Please join us this school year as we provide our students with continued opportunities for high academic achievement and character development. Your attendance at a PTA meeting or a Site Council meeting, or your time spent volunteering will be greatly appreciated. Call us at 623.523.8200 to find out how you can help MPES become an Excelling school for its students.

Operations News You Can Use

The MPCA now offers homeowners secure and convenient opportunities to access your account and to make assessment payments online. Go to marleypark.net, select Community Association and then Accounting to:

- Access your account statements, including account details such as payment history, payment confirmation, outstanding balances, etc; you will need your account number and password recently sent by mail from the MPCA.
- View and email your detailed account statements online 24/7. You will need the Online Enrollment Number in the bottom, left corner of your statement to complete the online enrollment process.
- Pay assessments by credit card or echeck. Homeowners can authorize a one-time charge to your credit card or designated checking account to pay your monthly assessments. You will need your statement to complete the online form. The bank accepts MasterCard, American Express and Discover; service fees apply for credit card transactions. eCheck transactions can take several days to post.

- Pay assessments by direct debit by completing a Direct Debit Form and mailing it with a voided check to the MPCA, 13118 Founders Park Blvd., Surprise, AZ 85379.

If you have any accounting questions, the best way to reach the accounting team is by email at alsemmler@dmbinc.com, you can also call us at 623-466-8820.

Other Operations News:

- The splash pad in Mosaic Park will be turned on for the season and available for daily use (9AM – 8 PM) from Easter to Halloween.
- The heat for the Fitness Pool will be turned back on around Halloween.
- Please be considerate of your neighbors – parking is not permitted in our community alleyways and in our community landscapes.
- Renters, please remember that the MPCA requires a valid lease agreement on file to keep your key fob/marleypark.net account activated. Be sure your lease is current.

Stepping Up to Keep Marley Park Beautiful

Cheryl Vendt, Neighbor

A few weeks ago, two of my neighbors cleaned up the yard of a vacant house down the street. In this act, I was reminded that caring about our neighborhood and keeping it clean is not just a one day event, it is ongoing. Each day we make choices to walk by trash that is lying on the ground or to pick it up and throw it in the garbage can.

My family recently trimmed the bushes at the vacant house next door instead of letting it become overgrown and unsightly. We all know how hard the housing market has been hit by the economy. It is our daily efforts to keep Marley Park the best that it can be that will put us ahead when the real estate market recovers. And it's not just property values that should encourage us to take care of our neighborhood, it's the pride we feel when we drive into Marley Park or step outside our front doors.

Marley Park has a lot to offer, the Heritage Club, the Heritage Pool, parks and tree-covered walkways, and most of all the people who live here. This is a great neighborhood to raise our children. Let's keep it that way by making good choices and by doing our part to keep it looking its best each and every day.

Mark Your Calendars:

- Movie Night on the Heritage Club Lawn. Friday, September 25, 7 PM. Adult audience encouraged.
- National Walk to School Day October 7. Get out and walk students to school; random walkers may be selected to receive a special token of appreciation from the MPCA.
- Out & About - Jazz by the Pool. Thursday, October 15, 7 PM. The Marley Park Grape Nutz Club is hosting Out and About – adults are welcome to join us for an evening of wine tasting, jazz and art at the Heritage Pool House.
- Character Counts Week. October 18 - 24

And don't forget our Homestead Harvest Festival and Home for the Holidays signature community-wide celebrations!

Check out marleypark.net for more events, details, and to RSVP.

