

Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

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

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Issue Twenty | Spring 2010



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A Marley Park Community Association Publication

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Character Counts

MPES sixth grader, Reve Gomez, won this year's Character Counts! art contest. Her winning design that expressed the Character Counts! pillars in musical notes is painted on a wall at MPES.



Want to Contribute?

Neighborhood News is a publication of the Marley Park Community Association.

To contribute, please contact Jessie Singer at jsinger@dmvinc.com.

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

2010 is Off to a Great Start

Despite the challenging times we are living in, our community continues to shine and thrive, making many of us proud and relieved to call Marley Park "home".

Our community has recently welcomed new neighbors and partners that you'll read about in this issue. This includes the West Valley Arts Council to our Heritage Pool House, a tribute to our community's commitment to the arts. It also includes several new homebuilders that are actively selling the extraordinary quality of life Marley Park has to offer.

In recent months, the opportunities for residents to get involved in our community have continued to grow. From the launch of several new, resident-led clubs (including Urban Homesteaders and Kiwanis featured in this issue) to the launch of two new leadership programs of the Marley Park Community Association, Community Pride Committee and Marley Park Leadership (also featured in this issue), there's no shortage of ways for neighbors to connect and get engaged to improve our community.

Let's continue to celebrate life in Marley Park together...2010 is off to a great start!

Welcome Our Newest Partner and Neighbor - West Valley Arts Council

Marley Park has an exciting new partnership with West Valley Arts Council (WVAC). This partnership developed through Marley Park's longstanding commitment to the arts, allowing the Council to expand its reach and presence across the West Valley.



This partnership provides a multitude of new arts venues for the Council within our community in addition to housing the Council's new administrative offices at the Heritage Pool House. Neighbors are encouraged to swing by and meet the WVAC team.

Marley Park residents will directly benefit from increased access to a variety of new arts programming including exhibits, performances, arts education and public arts programs. Residents can count on 2 for 1 ticket prices...stay tuned for other unique program opportunities for residents.

"This is a win-win partnership for Marley Park and for the Council," said Todd Hornback, Director of Community Life. "We are thrilled that WVAC now calls Marley Park home."

To learn more about WVAC, to view their calendar of events, and to join their e-newsletter list, visit www.wvfac.org (there's also a direct link to their site on marleypark.net under Community Partners).

Marley Park's Landscape Partner Weathers the Storm

Martha Golea, Marketing Specialist, DLC Resources

In June of 2009 Marley Park welcomed your new landscape maintenance partner, DLC Resources, Inc. - a team that recognizes the importance of "home" and a team committed to protecting your important community landscapes.



On the heels of a severe winter storm in January that left considerable damage across the community, DLC had the opportunity to demonstrate our dedication to preserving the quality of Marley Park's unique landscapes and to protecting the safety of your residents.

The DLC crew responded immediately to begin repairs, working into the weekend - late Friday (1/22) and all day Saturday (1/23) - to remove 15 fallen trees and to re-stake almost 100 trees that were salvageable but posed as hazards. Together, DLC worked with DMB to repair sinkholes and erosion around houses and in common areas.

DLC's prompt response to in Marley Park reflects our commitment to our partnership and to our focus on what Marley Park residents need and deserve. To learn more about DLC, visit the landscape section on marleypark.net.

Another Leadership Opportunity - Community Pride Committee Comes to Marley Park!

By Tabatha Rook, Community Operations Coordinator

Community leadership is thriving in Marley Park, and as a result, the Marley Park Community Association (MPCA) in partnership with resident leaders has formed a Community Pride Committee (CPC).

This new leadership group is dedicated to fostering "Community Pride" by promoting a neat, aesthetically pleasing environment, and by encouraging adherence to our community-wide standards. This group will work closely with the MPCA Community Operations team to educate and support resident efforts to protect the special landscapes and unique neighborhoods in our beautiful and dynamic community.

With a focus on enhancing the health and safety of our community, the CPC will absorb the existing Neighborhood Watch, offering ongoing support, recruitment, and awareness for the program. In addition, the CPC will launch a variety of new initiatives in partnership with the MPCA, including community garage sales, landscape and community design workshops, and community clean-up activities.

The CPC is a leadership program of the MPCA, and its membership is open to any resident interested in the program's purpose and goals. Please visit the CPC club page on marleypark.net for up-to-date information, including dates of our quarterly meetings (open to all interested residents) and of our upcoming program plans. You can also contact me, Tabatha, at the MPCA.

Volunteer Spotlight: Shannon Adcock and Carrie Gauntt

Marley Park neighbors, Shannon Adcock and Carrie Gauntt, were honored as our community's 2009 Volunteer(s) of the Year.

Shannon was recognized for her diverse volunteer leadership within our community. This includes leadership of Community Cares, Hot Shots Photography, Sew and Sews, and the Gourmet Cooking clubs; it also includes volunteering her time and talents to the success of our community events, from capturing the photographic moments at our Star Spangled celebration to co-leading the decorating of the haunted house at our Boo Bash celebration.



Carrie was recognized for her volunteer leadership in Marley Park and in the greater community of Surprise. From providing leadership to Community Cares and the Garden Club to providing leadership to Relay For Life of Surprise as well as several other City initiatives, Carrie's focus has been laser sharp on educating and mobilizing neighbors to action on important issues that impact our community.

Welcoming New Builders to the Neighborhood

Tracy Simmons, Director of Marketing

Marley Park will soon welcome some new faces to the neighborhood. The introduction of several new homebuilders in Marley Park reflects an exciting return of growth and speaks directly to our exceptional community.

Last year, as homebuilders began looking to the future, they sought out extraordinary communities where they were confident of success – Marley Park was one of those few, chosen communities.

Through spring and into the summer months, three new homebuilders will begin selling in Marley Park: K Hovnanian Homes, Richmond American Homes, and Scott Communities. Each of these builders brings a genuine interest and commitment to fulfilling Marley Park's neighborhood vision; they also bring nearly a century of combined experience and proven success in the Valley and around the country.

DMB is pleased to be partnering with these builders to support Marley Park's continued growth and development. In that spirit, Marley Park will host the builder sales teams in the Heritage Club prior to the opening of their sales offices - drop by for any real estate questions and referrals. We look forward to a whole host of new families that will soon call our special community "home."

Join the Club

Kiwanis Club – Jim Platt, Neighbor

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world through service to children and communities. With clubs all over the world, Kiwanis members help shelter the homeless, build playgrounds for children, and care for the sick.

Our local club, Kiwanis Club of Surprise, sponsors programs in the schools. This includes sponsoring Key Club International, the largest high school service organization in the world, empowering members to lead and serve by cultivating leadership skills, developing friendships, and performing community service. In addition, Kiwanis Club of Surprise raises money to support our Club's children's programs, helping fund projects and scholarships.



Interested neighbors are invited to join our meetings – these are open meetings held on Thursday evenings, right here in Marley Park. For more details on Kiwanis Club of Surprise, visit marleypark.net or visit our group page on Facebook; you can also contact me, Jim Platt, directly (look me up in the Resident Directory on marleypark.net).

Urban Homesteaders - Jennifer Holewinski, Neighbor



Homesteading means getting more out of what you already have; it also means making things for yourself. In other words, if you are interested in things as simple as butter making or as intimidating as culturing your own keifer (a thick, yogurt-like liquid loaded with protein and calcium), the Marley Park Urban Homesteaders is for you.

The concepts of self-reliance and independence play a large role in the spirit of this club. The ideal includes cooking and baking from scratch, as well as preserving and stock-piling between harvests.

Many homesteaders make butter, cheese, yogurt, and ice cream, and

some make and smoke ham, bacon, and sausage; a growing number raise fish (the latter may be wishful thinking in Marley Park). In addition, many homesteaders have an interest in gardening and cooking coupled with a desire to eat organically grown food. This combination can provide you and your family the satisfaction of enjoying a meal that came entirely from your own efforts and skills, as well as the security of a well-stocked pantry in case of a job-loss or other challenges.

We aren't experts in homesteading – to date, some of us have only read about how to convert our "hobbies" into homesteading skills. But we are interested in coming together to learn, and experiment. Each month the Marley Park Urban Homesteaders will explore a different skill – for example, making food, soap, paper, and homemade spa treatments.

For more information and to RSVP, visit the Marley Park Urban Homesteads club page on marleypark.net; you can also contact me, Jen Holewinski, or Nancy Reynolds (look us up in the Resident Directory on marleypark.net).

Meet Your Neighbors: Trevor and Kara Sehr

Charlotte Confer, Neighbor



Trevor and Kara Sehr moved to Marley Park in 2008. They loved how the community's landscapes and its neighborly, hometown feeling reminded them of their Midwestern roots.

And with an incredibly active lifestyle, Marley Park is the perfect place for them to call home. The Sehr's enjoy the convenience of the fitness pool for swimming and the beautiful parks and trails for running and biking.

In 2009, the Sehr's competed alongside friends and family at the Ironman Arizona – an intense triathlon race consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike

ride, and ending with a 26.2 mile run. Five days following this incredible athletic accomplishment, friends and family joined them for their beach wedding in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Today, Trevor and Kara remain in training and plan to compete in the Vineman, an iron-distance event in California in July 2010; they also plan to complete in the Ironman Arizona event again in 2011.

When not busy swimming, biking, and running, the Sehr's attend Radiant Church and enjoy spending time with their golden retrievers, Zoot and Luck. Trevor teaches PE at El Mirage Elementary and Kara is a Math Interventionist in Tolleson.

Says Kara, "We love every aspect of living in Marley Park: the friendly faces and great neighbors around the community, as well as the beautiful parks are a perfect combination for us to call home."

Kids Corner

Organized by Angela Kirschner, Neighbor
Reporters/Journalists: Dana Rowitz, Olivia Zimmerman, Colin Zimmerman, Tya Rowitz, Emmy Rowitz



Hello and welcome to Kids Korner! This is our space to showcase an article about what children find exciting, important, and just plain fun here in Marley Park. These articles are created and written by children learning about reporting. If you are interested in being interviewed or in joining our team of reporters, please contact me, Angela (you can find me in the Resident Directory on marleypark.net)...and enjoy!

Hello. This is a new Marley Park letter from five kids in the community. I am Dana Rowitz. I'm 10 years old and a rocking gymnast. I like playing with my friends and going camping.

Hey! I am Olivia Zimmerman. I am 7 years old. My nickname is Oli and I love to cheerlead and play piano. I am such a cutie.

What's up? My name is Colin Zimmerman and I'm 8 years old. I love the X-games, BMX racing and acting silly.



Hi, I am Tya Rowitz. I am 8 years old and love gymnastics. My favorite vacation spot is Mexico. I like going with my friends and hanging on the beach.

Hello! I am Emmy Rowitz and I am 5 years old. I kid around and like to be free.

This Kids Korner is going to be a fun thing for us. We put so much time into this and we hope you enjoy. This month we are asking some of our friends in Marley Park what they like to do when they have a day off of school.

Max Machado: I like to play basketball and X-Box

Tatum Adams: I like to play with friends and get exercise.

Logan Kelly: I like to do BMX and play football.

Stay tuned for our next kid's article. Until then, we will see you around Marley Park.



Marley Park Leadership – An Exciting New Program Taking Shape

Fiona Blake, Community Engagement Manger

The Marley Park Community Association (MPCA) is thrilled to be working with a small group of diverse resident leaders who have volunteered to assist in the development of Marley Park Leadership.

This new leadership program honors the incredible work of Community Cares, a committed group of volunteer leaders that have provided a solid foundation in providing a warm welcome to new residents, organizing neighbors, and serving as community advocates. As a next step, volunteer leaders from Community Cares and other community groups and clubs have come together with the MPCA to work in partnership with ASU's Partnership for Community Development (PCD) to formalize our purpose and our goals to continue to facilitate a sense of community under a new program, Marley Park Leadership.

Throughout March, our work with ASU, and specifically with Dr. Richard Knopf, Director of PCD, will continue with plans to launch Class 1 of Marley Park Leadership this spring. Each year thereafter, Marley Park Leadership will offer interested residents in good standing with the MPCA the opportunity to participate in this program. The program will require a commitment of one full year from participants.

We are excited about working in partnership with ASU and with many of our volunteer leaders to continue to help shape our community. Stay tuned for more details about Marley Park Leadership. In the meantime, please contact me at the MPCA with any questions.