

Neighborhood NEWS

Life Beyond Your Front Door

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



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Issue Twenty-One

A Marley Park Community Association Publication

Summer 2010

Volunteer Contributors

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Charlotte Confer, Rose Garden
Angela Kirschner, Arbor Park
Jen McSweeney, Wisdom Park
Dana Rowitz, Discovery Park
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Marley Park Leadership™ Launches

Jessie Singer, Community Programs Specialist

This spring something special happened in Marley Park: our community formerly launched our newest program, Marley Park Leadership – a program focused on enhancing quality of life for the residents of Marley Park today and in the future.

Created through the vision of the MPCA, in partnership with Arizona State University and a resident steering committee, Marley Park Leadership is intended to create a sense of community by facilitating neighborhood gatherings, providing clear and accurate communications, and fostering resident involvement consistent with our community's core values.



In May, participants of the inaugural Class of Marley Park Leadership gathered for a full-day forum to begin planning for the future of our community together. The 14 Neighborhood Leaders that comprise Class 1 will continue to meet monthly through the end of this year engaging in discussions on topics ranging from education to volunteerism, and learning from experts including leaders at West Valley Arts Council and the City of Surprise about diverse issues impacting our community. Neighborhood Leaders will be informed about the resources available in and around Marley Park helping them meet their objectives: to provide a warm welcome to new residents, to organize neighbors, to serve as an advocate for the community and as an ambassador for MPCA, and to facilitate information exchange and communications.



If you haven't already, be sure to connect with your Neighborhood Leader or any member of Marley Park Leadership Class 1 to stay informed: Bill Adams (Hourglass Park), Pam Calvert (Hourglass Park), Rosalba Chan (Desert Garden Park), Frank Dias (Founders Park), Carrie Gauntt (Discovery Park), Scott Holewinski (Mosaic Park), Angela Kirschner (Arbor Park), Mark McCall (Starlight Park), Jen McSweeney (Wisdom Park), Bill & Sandi Munz (Heritage Park), Sean & Amy Neden (Discovery Park) and Troy Vanderhule (Arbor Park).

Bake Sale Supports Local Charities

This June, 22 Marley Park residents donated their time and their baking skills to coordinate a community bake sale, raising \$360 for the Surprise Firefighters Charities. Sale proceeds will support the purchase of food, toys, clothing, and other necessary items for re-donation in our community. For example, toy donations to the



Aisles of Smiles program for children in need or food donations for the Surprise Thanksgiving food drive for families in need, as well as monetary donations to organizations such as Hope Kids, the Phoenix Fire Emerald Society, and West Valley Food Bank.

Neighborhood News Needs You!

Got a story idea? Want to write an article? Or share a photo of our community? If you want to contribute to Neighborhood News, please contact Kate Ellingson (kellingson@dmbinc.com) at the Marley Park Community Association, Inc. (MPCA).

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

Join us on Facebook. Become a fan of the MPCA to engage with neighbors. Share ideas and images of life in Marley Park. Be sure to check out the photos from Live Healthy. Live Well. and Star-Spangled Celebration.

Celebrations and Announcements

Compiled by Jen McSweeney, Neighbor



Cleo Davis

Molly and Clay Davis welcomed their first child, Cleo, on March 6. Cleo weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces and was 22 inches long.



Austin Brezina

Austin Ryan Brezina was born on May 20. Welcomed by parents Ryan and Jennifer and big brother Noah, Austin weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 inches long.



Christopher Conley

Laura and Chris Conley, and older sisters Cailyn and Ryann welcomed Christopher on May 12 weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces and 21 inches long.



Dru Langley

Clint Langley, Brooke Jordan, and big sister Elise welcomed Dru Jordan Langley on February 19. Dru weighed 4 pounds, 7 ounces and was 17 inches long.



Savannah Oschner

LaBriecce and Patrick Oschner with big brother Alexander and big sister Shani welcomed Savannah August on June 28. Savannah weighed 8 pounds and was 19 inches long.

Live Healthy. Live Well. Event=Happy!

Rosalba Chan, Neighbor with the MPCA

This April, Marley Park residents came out in droves to show their commitment to health and well-being at our community's newest signature event, Live Healthy. Live Well (other signature events include our Star-Spangled Celebration, Homestead Harvest Festival/Boo Bash, and Home for the Holidays). This inaugural, health-conscious event – the brainchild of resident leader, Rosalba Chan – reflects Marley Park's longstanding commitment to health and well being.

Rosalba states, "I went to the Community Association with a little idea. They listened, started making notes, looked on the computer for more information and then smiled and said, "This is a perfect fit with the vision for Marley Park; we can do it!"

Approximately 450 attendees flowed in and out of the Saturday morning event, fostering a perfect opportunity to interact with neighbors and friends, while experiencing the latest trends in health and wellness. With perfect weather and about 50 vendors to choose from – including skate shops, health specialists, and tasty treats from our Marley Park Plaza neighbor, Vogue – there was no shortage of activities.

Several attendees jumped into action at exercise demonstrations that included Pilates, boxing, and a mini boot camp. The braver participants challenged their physical skills on the rock climbing wall, while others relaxed on blankets listening to the sounds of a local DJ and a live performance by local band, Peppermint James.



Ensuring the success of this new event required dedication from numerous volunteers. We asked for volunteers to help bring this event together in advance and on the day of, and there was no shortage. Luke Air Force Base sent 12 volunteers and several Marley Park residents helped too, including: Betty Dias, Mai Ling, Nicky and Alex Chan, Alice Karanja, Carrie Gauntt, Karen and Al Zelek, Andrea Vanderhule, Nan Wallin, Arlene McKeever, Ann Disabato, and Karen Smith. "I am so proud of this community," says Rosalba.

The MPCA looks forward to working with residents to build on the success of this event in future years. This interactive celebration of health and wellness was a great kick-off to a new community tradition. It was also a refreshing reminder of Marley Park's aspiration to encourage living a happy, healthy, and balanced life.

Making Memories at the Heritage Pool House

Summer is here and that definitely means pool season in Arizona. Familiar friends and neighbors, and some new ones too, continue to make the Heritage Pool House a well-known gathering place. The MPCA has received great feedback regarding our improved services at the Heritage Pool House. This includes our new rental process for the Multi-Purpose Room. Reserve this space now for your next party. It also includes our new pool attendants. If you have not introduced yourself, be sure to stop by on Saturdays and Sundays to meet Anthony Sandoval and Mike Gauntt (also a Marley Park resident).

Kids Corner

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



In this edition, we share our ideas for summer fun in and around Marley Park. We also interview resident, Angela Kirschner, who released a book named, *Marshall Explores Arizona*.

Summer Fun: Here are some great places we like to visit.

- Mexico
- Illinois
- California
- Flagstaff
- San Diego
- Hawaii

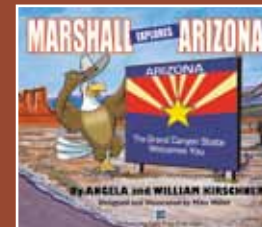
Water Fun: Here are some places to cool off in the hot summer in and around Marley Park!

- Wet 'n' Wild
- The Aquatic Center in Surprise
- Heritage Pool House
- Or just in your backyard if you have a pool.

Interviewing Angela:

1. Why did you write a rhyming book?

I always had a love for poetry growing up, in part because my grandfather wrote me a poem each birthday until I turned 18. These poems are very special to me and inspired me to write.



2. Why did you make a state bird on every page of the book?

Because we thought it would be fun to incorporate a "Where's Waldo?" type theme. We thought it would give readers one more thing to do while reading the book!

3. Why did you choose to write a book?

I always loved being read to as a child, and now that I am a mom I really enjoy reading to my son, Ethan. When he was born I came up with the idea to write a fun book for each state for kids of all ages!

4. Why did you choose an eagle to explore Arizona?

A Bald Eagle is a National Symbol, and since we plan to write a book for each state, we felt the eagle would be a great character!

5. How long did it take to write the book?

It took about 6 months to write the book, but two years to publish it.

6. Where is Marshall going after Michigan?

Nevada then California.

You can pick up a copy of *Marshall Explores Arizona* at: www.kirschnerbooks.com
See you around Marley Park! Bye!



Meet Your Neighbors: The Praskin Family

Charlotte Confer, Neighbor



Erik and Michelle Praskin relocated to Marley Park from another subdivision in Surprise in March of 2009. The family chose Marley Park as their new home for all the community amenities, including our beautiful parks.

Erik is a real estate agent and Michelle is a proud stay-

at-home mom to their son, Dylan. For the Praskins, Dylan is a true blessing and miracle. Dylan, who recently celebrated his 1st birthday, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia when he was eight weeks old. With his leukemia in remission for nine months and counting, Dylan has completed his treatments

and continues to see his bone marrow transplant doctor once a month. Says Erik and Michelle Praskin, "Everyday is a new adventure with him."

During Dylan's treatment, the Praskin family was spending most of their time at medical centers throughout Arizona. The Praskins were thrilled to move back to their Marley Park home full-time in December 2009. Say the Praskins, "We have been loving every second of life!"

The Praskin family also has a five-year-old white lab named Lily who loves to swim. When not running around after their busy family, Erik enjoys playing softball and Michelle enjoys scrapbooking. Says Michelle Praskin, "We are so very thankful for the love and support the community has shown us over the past year. It is just one more reason that we are proud to call Marley Park our home."

Volunteer Spotlight: Bill Adams

Fiona Blake, Community Engagement Manager

Bill Adams spends a lot of his free time helping to make Marley Park an enriched community. He is a "doer," eager to help as evidenced by his commitment to the Events Group, Marley Park Leadership, and Community Pride Committee. The MPCA is grateful for his helping hand complete with a smile.

Q: What is your main motivation for wanting to volunteer and make a difference at Marley Park?

A: This is my way of giving back to the community. Volunteerism enhances a community.

Q: How has the formation of the Events Group made a difference in the community?

A: The Events Group is a group of Marley Park residents that work hand-in-hand with the MPCA to enhance community life by helping to ensure that our community programs and events are successful.

Q: What is your motivation for being involved with the Community Pride Committee (CPC)?

A: Marley Park is a community that must have standards and guidelines in order to maintain its special appearance and character. Educating the residents on those standards and guidelines is a high priority of the CPC. The CPC also gives residents an opportunity to provide input into community standards.

Q: What is your favorite thing about living in Marley Park?

A: I value the opportunity to enhance community life by working with the MPCA and by utilizing all of the amenities.



Park Profile: Experience Desert Garden Park

Scott Rowan, Assistant Community Operations Manager

The design of all 14 parks in Marley Park starts with a vision. It is evident when visiting Desert Garden Park that the vision for this unique park was to create a relaxing location, an outdoor place to enjoy reading a book or to enjoy the blooms of some of our favorite native flowers.

From the high deserts of the Northern Riparian Woodlands to the Sonoran Desert in the south, Desert Garden Park embraces Arizona's terrain – follow gently meandering paths lined with desert flowers, explore the canyon wall on your bikes, relax in the butterfly garden or observe native plants in the cactus garden.

From conception to inception it is wonderful to see the parks mature and become an integral part of each neighborhood. The Mesquite trees are getting larger so the shade they provide makes for a "cool" gathering spot while the kids play on the teeter totter or play catch on the lawn. Be sure to visit Desert Garden neighborhood and park the next time you go for a bike ride or for a walk.



Finding Desert Garden Park: Desert Garden Park sits on North 154th Avenue between West Aster Drive and West Windrose Drive.

We hope you noticed that construction is under way at our community's newest park, Starlight Park, just off Old Oak Lane between 148th Lane and 149th Avenue! This fall, residents can expect Starlight Park to provide another grass oasis to relax and play with family and friends. As more homeowners move into the area surrounding Starlight Park, additional features will be constructed, including a gazebo structure.