



# Your Neighborhood NEWS

From the WASHINGTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION May 2007

---

## Getting to know us

Greetings.

This newsletter comes to you from your neighbors who for the past year have been involved in an exciting campaign to better our neighborhood and our community.

We spend the first year of our existence as an official city of Phoenix Fight Back organization.

Initially, we zeroed in on making our neighborhood the best it could be and on getting as many residents as possible involved in the effort.

Working closely with the city Neighborhood Services Department, we identified three of the most common blight violations that we believed needed to be addressed immediately - junk, litter and debris, inoperable vehicles and outside storage.

### **Neighborhood surveyed**

Our area inspector surveyed the neighborhood carefully and has been actively informing residents who are in violation of any of the three key regulations. The result of his work can be seen throughout the Fight

Back area. Many yards and alleyways have been cleared of junk and debris, most inoperable cars and trucks have been removed and assorted household items, landscaping equipment and building materials are gone from residential property.

### **Graffiti issues**

We addressed graffiti separately, making residents aware of how to report graffiti and what to do if they see someone in the act of graffiti vandalism. Also, one of our neighbors now regularly removes graffiti from the pedestrian bridge over Interstate 17, which has become a frequent target of vandals since its recent opening.

We looked at safety on our streets, too, and determined that speed humps were urgently needed in many areas, especially alongside Washington Park and Maryland Elementary School. Our petition campaigns led to the Streets Transportation Department installing 26 speed humps at a dozen different

locations, all of which reduced speeding and decreased traffic.

### **Street lights**

In order to help deter crime, we lighted up our streets with eight new street lights, which make people feel safer when they take evening walks. We also met with the Police Department to learn how to be safe inside and outside of our homes and how to protect our property from thieves and vandals.

In addition, we visited the owners of a number of apartment complexes and encouraged them to adopt the Police Department's "Crime Free" program for their properties.

### **Fight Back ends**

Now that our Fight Back designation has come to an end, we are transitioning into an official neighborhood organization - the Washington Park Neighborhood Association - and covering the area between 15th Avenue, Interstate 17, Glendale Avenue and Bethany Home Road.

*(continued on page 2)*

---

## Taking on Graffiti

Eliminating graffiti from our neighborhood is one of our top goals.



Everyone can help by reporting graffiti immediately and seeing that it gets removed as quickly as possible.

Residents who see graffiti in progress should call 911, while victims of the crime should report inci-

dents to police by calling Crime Stop at 602-262-6151.

In addition, to get graffiti removed by city crews, call Graffiti Busters at 495-7014 or #4663 from your cell phone. Locations of graffiti also can be sent by e-mail to [graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov](mailto:graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov).

The city also provides free paint and lends paint supplies and spray equipment to neighborhood groups interesting in cleaning graffiti themselves. You can sign up for a free class on how to use the equipment by calling 602-495-0323.

Remember, police say that prompt removal of graffiti reduces the chance of it reappearing and helps maintain a safe, secure and attractive environment.

## F.Y.I. . .

**Volunteers are urgently needed** to help plan monthly association meetings, arrange for guest speakers and help organize association and neighborhood activities. To sign up, e-mail [Washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com](mailto:Washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com)

\* \* \*

**Maryland Elementary School** campus is closed at 6 p. m. weekdays and all weekends. If you see young people on the school grounds when the campus is closed, call the police immediately.

\* \* \*

**Your representative** on the City Council is Claude Maddox. You can reach his office at 602-262-7446 or [councildistrict5@phoenix.gov](mailto:councildistrict5@phoenix.gov).

\* \* \*

**If you're looking** for something to do this summer, check out the activities at the Washington Activity Center. The center, which recently changed its name from Washington Adult Center, offers a variety of activities for people of all ages. It's at 2240 W. Citrus Lane between 21st and 23rd avenues. For more information, call 602-262-6971 or visit [phoenix.gov/parks](http://phoenix.gov/parks).

\* \* \*

**See something suspicious** in your neighborhood? Don't hesitate to call the police, either Crime Stop at 602-262-6151 or 911 if you believe a crime is being committed.

Your Neighborhood NEWS is published by the Washington Park Neighborhood Association.

[washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com](mailto:washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com)

President.....Robert Hof  
Vice President.....Pam Davis  
Treasurer.....Vicki Armstrong  
Secretary.....Pam Fitzgerald  
Newsletter.....Nancy Turco

### NEXT MEETING

6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1

Washington Activity Center  
2240 W. Citrus Way

## Make your car tough to steal

If you're worried about someone stealing your car, consider these tips that will make it a tougher target.

- Lock your car. Half of all vehicles stolen are left unlocked.
- Use a club, brake lock or other locking device.
- Always remove your keys. Nearly 20 percent of all vehicles stolen had the key in them.
- Park in well-lighted area.
- Don't leave an unattended car running, not even for a minute.
- Completely close your windows.
- Do not hide a spare key in your car. The pros know where to look.



Also, consider joining the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority's Watch Your Car Program. By joining, you authorize police to stop your vehicle between the hours of 1 and 5 a.m., the time period that most cars are stolen.

For information, call 602-364-2886 or visit [www.azwatchyourcar.com](http://www.azwatchyourcar.com).

## Light rail changes plans

Phoenix and Valley Metro have delayed the first planned extension of the light rail route north from 19th and Montebello avenues to 25th Avenue and Mountain View Road.

Initially, the 4.6-mile extension that would take the train north on 19th to Dunlap Avenue, west to 25th Avenue and then north to Mountain View was to be completed by 2012.

However, because of concerns about obtaining federal funds in time and uncertainties over the state's possible widening of Interstate 17, it was decided to build only the 3.2-mile stretch to Dunlap under that five-year timetable.

The remainder of the extension will stay in the rail expansion plans, but not be built until the plans for the interstate are complete.

## Getting the best of the taggers

The pedestrian bridge over Interstate 17 at Maryland Avenue has been a frequent target of taggers since its opening more than a year ago. But, thanks to Marion Frock, their graffiti doesn't last too long. Frock has been spending much of his spare time painting over the graffiti, some times getting rid of it soon after it goes up.

His prompt action is paying off, too. When he first started, he was spending six to 12 hours a week touching up the bridge. Now, it's taking him about three hours, a sign that he might just be getting the best of the taggers.

Marion has won high praise from the city, which gave him the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture's "Art Hero" award for his outstanding volunteerism.

## Getting to know us

(continued from page 1)

While we had great success as a Fight Back group and even won a city "Take it to the Streets" award for our effort, much more work needs to be done.

That's where you come in. We need more of our neighbors to join in an help us determine the direction we need to take to continue moving toward our goal of making our area safer, cleaner and a great place in which to live.

We meet at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Washington Activity Center or e-mail us at [washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com](mailto:washington.neighborhood@hotmail.com).