



MEMO

To: Building Strong Neighborhood Residents

From: Lindsey VerStraeten, City of Mesa, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Date: June 2009

Re: Building Strong Neighborhoods Results and Resources

Building Strong Neighborhoods Goals

The Building Strong Neighborhoods program ran April-June 2009 with the goals of identifying neighborhood concerns, connecting you to City services and staff, and enhancing neighbor to neighbor communication and activities for the betterment of your neighborhood. The kickoff meeting was held April 21, 2009. Seventy residents from your neighborhood attended.

Surveys

Forty-three percent of households completed surveys in your neighborhood. The results of the surveys were used to form Action Teams and to address issues of concern for you and your neighbors.

Clean Sweep

Action taken: Forty Clean Sweep/Green Sweep containers and two tire bins were set in your neighborhood over a four week period

Results: Sixty-nine tons of debris and seven and one-half tons of green waste were removed from the dumpsters in your neighborhood. Fifty-eight thousand pounds of tires were also removed.

⇒ **What you can do:** The Clean Sweep program is available to your neighborhood once a year. Normally, a signed request from a minimum of ten homeowners living near one another are needed in order to request dumpsters for the neighborhood. To participate next year, call 480-644-4791 or visit http://www.mesaaz.gov/waste/Clean_Sweep.aspx.

Volunteer Projects

Action taken: More than seventy volunteers were recruited and served in your neighborhood in April and May of 2009.

Results: One neighborhood home and more than three-hundred curb addresses were painted in order to increase efficiency of safety services. Thirteen-hundred nuisance signs were removed.

⇒ **What you can do:** If you would like to volunteer in your community, or if you are in need of assistance with exterior painting or landscaping, contact Katie Brown 480-644-3705, Katie.Brown@mesaaz.gov.

Action Teams

Action taken: Nineteen neighborhood residents participated on three action team (Traffic, Public Safety and Neighborhood Teams) in partnership with City staff to address concerns in your neighborhood.

Traffic Action Team

Meeting report: Six residents participated on the Traffic Team with Joe Draper from City of Mesa's Transportation Department. The focus of this team was to address issues related to speeding, traffic calming, and traffic signage.

Action taken:

- **Speed cushion study and installation on 48th Street between McLellan and Brown:** It was determined that all requirements for full city funding of speed cushions were met. The neighbor that requested the speed cushions has been given an acceptance survey that she must get 70% of the affected property owners to sign prior to March 2010 to move forward.
- **Speed cushions on Hackamore between Ogden and Greenfield:** A preliminary survey to determine whether there is enough neighborhood support for speed cushions must be conducted by the neighbor requesting the cushions. At present the neighbor reports that only 50% approval has been obtained. 70% is required. Further efforts will be made by the neighbor in the fall of 2009.
- **Speed cushion on Ogden between Hackamore and McLellan:** Speed cushion policies were provided to the neighbor requesting this installation. He will speak with the affected neighbors and let Joe know if they would like to proceed with request for speed cushions.
- **Speed cushion study and installation on Princess between 46th and 48th Streets:** Study results conducted showed that the speed requirements were met, but volume counts were not met. Because the volume was not met, resident interested in the installation would be responsible for \$500 of the material and construction cost of each speed hump installed. Two speed humps are recommended. The neighbor that made the initial request has been given an acceptance survey that he must have 70% of affected property owners sign prior to March 2010 to move forward.

Results: Pending neighborhood petitions required to have speed cushions installed.

What you can do:

- **Neighborhood Speed Watch Program:** In this program you and your neighbors can collect vehicle and speed information and report it to the Transportation Division. Notices will be sent by the Division to the registered owners of the speeding vehicles encouraging them and other drivers to watch their speed on residential streets. To reserve a radar gun for use in your neighborhood call at 480-644-2160.
- **Speed Trailer:** The Speed Trailer is available to neighborhoods on a registration basis. The trailer "clocks" the speed of the approaching vehicle and posts it for the driver to see. It is a visual warning device. To reserve the trailer call 480-644-2598.
- **Speed humps/signage:** to request additional information on how to receive speed humps or speed limit signage in your area contact Joe Draper, 480-644-5639.

Public Safety Action Team

Meeting report: Six residents participated on this team with leadership from Crime Prevention Officer Lindy Marino. The focus of this team was to encourage Neighborhood Watch programs and crime prevention measures; and to address concerns regarding safety issues in the area.

Action taken:

Crimes statistics, safety information, and neighborhood watch program information was shared with residents on this team. Residents discussed concerns including suspicious homes in the community, possible drug use, people using sheds to sleep in, speeding, motorized scooters and concerns in Princess Park.

Results: Specific concerns voiced in the meeting were brought to the attention of the Police Department and Code Compliance to address public safety issues.



What you can do:

It is important to report criminal activity in your neighborhood as it occurs or as you notice potential violations. Being consistent in reporting can help to call attention to the issue and assist the police department in making your neighborhood safer.

- **Narcotics:** 480-644-NARC (6272) to report suspected drug use/sales/other drug related crime anonymously.
- **Graffiti:** Call 480-644-3083 to report graffiti activity. If you choose to paint over graffiti yourself, first report it to ensure potentially related gang activity can be tracked.
- **Gang Activity:** To report non-emergency suspected gang activity call 480-644-GANG (3083).
- **Noise Complaints:** Call 480-644-2211.
- **Falcon Field Noise Concerns:** 480-644-NOISE (6647)
- **Vacant Homes:** Keep an eye on vacant homes in your neighborhood. Find out who manages the property and communicate with them if issues arise. For assistance with this process, call 480-644-5434.
- **Report street light outages:** 480-644-3191
- **Start a Block Watch:** 480-644-3921.
- **Know your neighbors:** attend the next neighborhood meeting or take a walk in your area and get to know the people that live near you. Knowing more people in your neighborhood can make your community stronger and safer.

Neighborhood Team

Meeting report: Seven residents participated on this team with leadership from Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Lindsey VerStraeten. The focus of this team was to enhance neighbor-to-neighbor communication, discuss how to address neighborhood concerns and encourage the planning of special events such as a Neighborhood Block Party.

Action taken:

The Neighborhood decided as a group to focus on neighborhood clean ups, and neighborhood communication, as well as concern over speeding and loud noise violations in the area.

Results:

- **Neighborhood website:** through www.neighborhoodlink.com a website will be created by residents for your neighborhood to enhance communication amongst the group.
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** concern was expressed related to foreclosed/vacant properties, rental properties and properties in which residents are not able to complete work that is needed, as well as the perceived lack of pride some residents take in maintaining their properties. A "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" volunteer group is being created to assist neighbors with things such as yard clean ups or light exterior home repairs/painting.
- **Vacant Homes & Yard Maintenance:** Team members were encouraged to keep an eye on vacant properties, report suspicious activity, and tend to weeds or overgrown lawns if they are so inclined in order to contribute to the overall well-being of neighborhood.
- **Block Party:** plans for a neighborhood block party are tentatively planned to take place in Princess Park in late August or September with leadership from this team.
- **Street Captains needed:** Six volunteers were recruited to act as Street Captains to help hand out flyers and share meeting/event information with the neighborhood.

⇒ **What you can do:**

- **Attend and/or Help Plan the Block Party:** contact Lindsey, 480-644-5434.
- **Become a Street Captain:** volunteer to help distribute important information about your neighborhood to your neighbors. Contact Lindsey, 480-644-5434.
- **Neighbors Helping Neighbors:** If you need assistance or know someone who may need help with yard work, or exterior home repairs contact Katie, 480-644-3705. Or call to give your time to enhance your neighborhood by helping neighbors in need.
- **Attend Ongoing Neighborhood Meetings:** Many residents from the action teams expressed interest in attending regularly occurring meetings to build upon the momentum that was started with the BSN. With assistance from the Neighborhood Outreach office, the next meeting will be held in August or September 2009. To be put on the email distribution list and receive meeting updates, contact Lindsey.VerStraeten@mesaaz.gov, 480-644-5434.

Special thanks to those who took the extra time to participate in this program!
Please contact Lindsey VerStraeten, 480-644-5434, Lindsey.VerStraete@mesaaz.gov
with any questions or feedback.