

# Northwest Neighborhood News

May 2011



**Left:** Neighbors plant the first "chicane" – sunken street planter- on Elm St. This spring we saw a flurry of exciting projects in our neighborhood: the Elm St. chicanes, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Greenway, and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bike Boulevard.

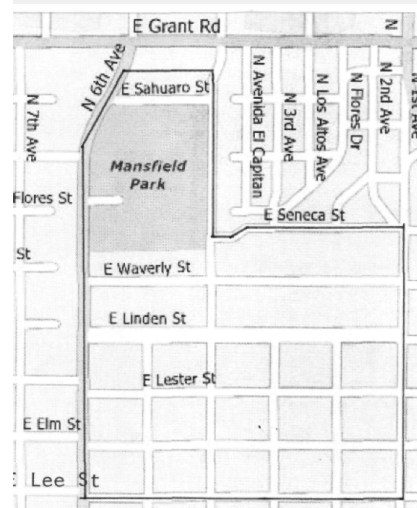
See page 2 for more about these projects.

Photos by Hannah Soreng

Northwest Neighborhood Association is a group of residents residing within the boundaries of Northwest Neighborhood who are joined together to build and maintain a strong, vibrant, and sustainable local community for all residents.

We aim to build community interaction among residents, improve and maintain neighborhood streets and public spaces, and improve health and safety of residents, through various means including implementing environmentally sustainable practices, the arts, education, and advocating for improved municipal services.

Neighborhood boundaries:



**Below:** Neighbors at the February Elm St. chicane planting event



## Youth Assist with Sugar Hill Oral History Project

By Armando Vargas

"Sugar Hill", the area now encompassed within Northwest, El Cortez and Feldman's neighborhoods, was one of the few places in Tucson where black professionals could buy a home between World War II and the passage of civil-rights legislation in the '60s. Today, the area is still one of the most racially diverse in Tucson.

Pan Left Productions, a local 501(c)3 media organization, received a Kresge Arts Foundation "P.L.A.C.E. Initiative Grant" through the Tucson Pima Arts Council this summer to work with neighborhoods to record the oral histories of their elderly residents. With these grant funds, El Cortez, Feldmans and Northwest neighborhoods are collaborating with the Arizona Historical Society Archive Library and Pan Left Productions to record the "Sugar Hill" Oral History. Up to 15 neighborhood residents, with focus on teens, will be

trained by Pan Left this spring in audio and video equipment techniques. Upon completion of training, these neighbors will be conducting and filming in-depth interviews of elderly neighborhood residents, and capturing stories from the neighborhood's earlier era. The final project will produce transcripts and video recordings of residents' stories, which will be kept on record at the Arizona Historical Society Archive Library. This will be a multi-year project, and neighborhood involvement is encouraged. Please contact

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for more information or to get involved.

**See the 2005 Arizona Daily Star article about the history of Sugar Hill:**

[http://www.azstarnet.com/news/local/article\\_8d7afb35-2339-523f-a616-9cc1a1dca235.html](http://www.azstarnet.com/news/local/article_8d7afb35-2339-523f-a616-9cc1a1dca235.html)

### THIS MONTH AT NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER...

- Senior lunch for 60+ Monday-Friday 10am-1pm, \$1.50 donation
- Weight room / gym certification, every Saturday at 9:00am and Thursday at 6:30pm, Free
- Adults and Seniors ZUMBA class, every Tues & Thurs, 12:30-1:30pm, \$2
- English classes, call 884-8628 to register