

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Recent Neighborhood Meeting At The Sirrine Elementary School Has High Turn-Out

### Inside This Issue:

<b>How Is Our Neighborhood Getting Organized?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Trying To Get Neighborhood Named</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>First Neighborhood Organization Projects</b>	<b>4</b>

On Tuesday, November 15, 2005, approximately 50 residents attended a publicized meeting which was held at the Sirrine Elementary School gymnasium. The meeting started at 7:00 pm and lasted until well past 8:30 pm! The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the benefits of living in an organized neighborhood. Representatives from the City of Chandler were on

hand to speak about available community services and also answer questions throughout the evening. Stefanie Garcia and Judy Ramos with the City Manager Office of Neighborhood Programs kicked the meeting off by explaining that their department is working to strengthen Chandler neighborhoods and to build stronger, more productive relationships

between the City and its residents. The City can provide resources to a unified neighborhood that is registered with the City. Staff can assist in organizing our neighborhood, from helping residents plan meetings and activities, to resolving neighborhood issues. Other City representatives that were

(See Neighborhood Meeting Page 2.)

## Is Someone Trying To Start A Home Owner's Association?

### WHAT IS A HOME OWNER'S ASSOCIATION?

A group that governs a subdivision, condominium or planned community. The association collects monthly fees from all owners to pay for common area maintenance, handle legal and safety issues and enforce the covenants, conditions, and restrictions set by the developer.

### WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION?

A group of people organized for the purpose of considering and acting upon issues affecting the quality of life in their neighborhood.

Several neighbors have expressed concerns that someone is trying to start a home owner's association, commonly referred to as a HOA. To clear up anyone's notion of this, it should be definitively understood that there is no group of residents, or Chandler City officials, who are advocating or attempting to start a HOA in this neighborhood. What is trying to be accomplished, however, is the formation of a Neighborhood Organization.

As the home subdivisions, shopping centers and infrastructure age in this area, many like minded neighbors do not want to see the quality of our neighborhood decline. Currently, a small

group of residents are beginning to get organized for the purpose of considering and acting upon issues affecting the quality of life in our neighborhood. We are looking for more people to participate and get involved with this effort as there are many benefits to living in an organized community.

We are starting to get the word out, and in doing so, neighbors are discovering that they share a lot of common interests. Many of us simply want to work together more as a community to resolve neighborhood issues. For example keeping crime off our streets and out of the alleys. By forming a neighborhood organization

we plan to work together, as friendly neighbors, to insure that the transition of our aging neighborhood is not one of a gradual decline. We plan to utilize our own ideas and also the City's Neighborhood Programs and resources for assistance with this.

For more information or to participate in our Neighborhood Organization efforts contact:

Judith Garner  
Ph. 480-560-7842

Pam Culp  
Ph. 480-782-5895.

## Neighborhood Meeting (continued from Page 1.)

scheduled to speak included: Don Slomeinski with Code Compliance, Lt. Larry Roberts with Police Department, Sheree Sepulveda with Solid Waste, and Brian Bosshardt with Mayor and City Council Office. The meeting quickly turned into a "Q & A" forum where residents aired a wide-range of neighborhood concerns. The city officials did not have an opportunity to make their planned presentations as they spent most of the evening discussing a variety of issues and answering numerous questions. The turn out at the meeting does demonstrate that many residents are interested in bringing attention to problems in the neighborhood and were interested in the City's Neighborhood Programs. Many residents were disappointed that the meeting did not stay on course.

As a result of the first Neighborhood Organization Meeting, many neighbors met each other for the first time and learned that we share a lot of common issues! The issues that came up at this meeting are the following:

- Is Someone Trying To Form an H O A? (Home Owner's Association)
- Barking Dogs
- Ferrell Cats
- Illegal Dumping In The Alleys
- Upcoming City Survey Being Mailed To Each Residence: Regarding The City of Chandler Possibly Eliminating Our Trash Containers In The Alleys And Switching To Curbside Garbage Pick-up.
- Alley Maintenance
- Rundown Properties/Blight

- Code Compliance-Weeding
- Disturbing The Peace
- Shopping Carts

In order to get our neighborhood issues in front of the City officials who may be able to help us resolve them, it was suggested at the meeting that the neighborhood be segmented into three smaller sections. We will still have one over all Neighborhood Organization, but in the future neighbors would be able to call the volunteer representative in their neighborhood section with issues they have at any time. The volunteer representatives will then be tasked with bringing the issues to future meetings with the City. Those involved agree: We've made a good start!

## How Is Our Neighborhood Getting Organized?

Longtime neighborhood resident, Judith Garner, recently read an article about Chandler's Neighborhood Programs in the October/November 2005 issue of "City Scope" (this newsletter is printed by the City of Chandler and is mailed to each household enclosed in the monthly water bills). What caught Judith's attention is that the City has a Neighborhood Matching Grants Program. The program provides matching funds of up to \$5,000 to organized neighborhood groups. Grants are intended to spur small grassroots community efforts. Since the programs inception in 2000, the Mayor and City Council have approved more than \$188,000 in funds to complete 48 neighborhood based projects.

Neighborhoods have been using awarded matching funds for such projects as block wall conversions, wall repairs, landscape improve-

ments in common areas, speed humps, entry-way improvements, signage and lighting!

Many of the neighborhoods that have received funds from the program have a homeowner's association, however, the Matching Grant Program can be used by an older traditional neighborhood like ours as well. We just need to have a neighborhood group or organization, that is registered with the City.

Judith then contacted Stefanie Garcia, Neighborhood Programs Administrator with the City of Chandler to get our neighborhood registered and to get guidance as to how an older traditional neighborhood, like ours, can begin to organize ourselves. Stefanie suggested that the first step would be to have a neighborhood meeting to bring residents together, introduce the concept, share ideas, and get feed-

back as to how the neighborhood can become organized. Judith suggested the neighborhood boundaries and from this point forward, Stefanie's office assisted our neighborhood by arranging for the meeting place at the Serrine Elementary School.

Office of Neighborhood Programs printed an announcement for the meeting which was mailed to every home in the following subdivisions: Southmoore, Womack East, Mastercraft East, Dave Brown Unit 2 and Project 12 Associates. These five subdivisions are situated around Hoopes Park and the Serrine Elementary School. The mailing was followed up by door to door flyer deliveries. The flyers were

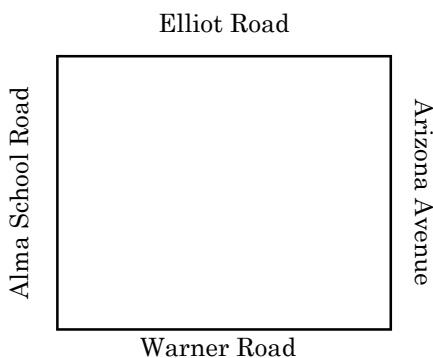
(See Neighborhood Organization Page 3.)

# Neighborhood Organization (continued from Page 2.)

distributed by neighborhood residents: Pat and Judith Garner, and City of Chandler Neighborhood Programs Administrator's: Stefanie Garcia, Judy Ramos.

The meeting took place at Sirrine Elementary School on November 15, 2005 and had a good turn-out. At this meeting the neighborhood's exterior major street boundaries were determined to be:

North Boundary: Elliot Road  
South Boundary: Warner Road  
West Boundary: Alma School Road  
East Boundary: Arizona Avenue



Everyone agreed that the neighborhood should be segmented into three major sections. Each section will ultimately have several volunteer representatives called "Ambassadors". The Ambassadors

will attend future Neighborhood Committee Meetings. These meetings will be coordinated with Chandler's Neighborhood Programs and other City departments when it is necessary to work with the City on neighborhood issues. The committee will also have regular meetings to organize any neighborhood projects, plan social events, and produce a neighborhood newsletter for starters. Ambassadors will also be a point of contact for the neighbors in their section to notify regarding issues and projects that they would like to see the Neighborhood Organization working on.

Every neighbor is encouraged to participate and is welcome to become an active member. We are looking for ideas, suggestions, feedback, and communication in general. Knowing your neighbors makes the difference between merely residing on a street or living in a community of friends.

If you are interested in becoming an "Active Member", have a suggestion, or can volunteer to be an "Ambassador" in your neighborhood section, call or email:

Judith Garner at:  
 Ph: 480-560-7842  
 Email: judithgarner@qwest.net

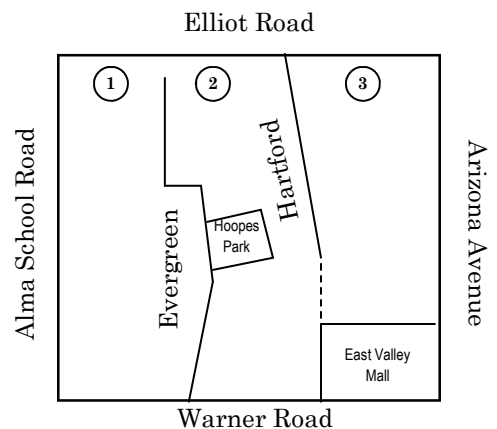
## NEIGHBORHOOD SECTIONS:

From Elliot Rd. to Warner Rd.:

Section 1: Alma School Rd. to Evergreen St.

Section 2: Evergreen St. to Hartford

Section 3: Hartford to Arizona Ave.



Note: As more people become involved, and volunteer to be "Ambassadors", these sections will most likely be broken down again into smaller areas within the master neighborhood boundaries.

## Trying To Get Neighborhood Named

Our neighborhood does not have a name! Currently we are registered with the City of Chandler as the Sirrine Neighborhood, because the school happens to be one of the few landmarks here.

The Sirrine Elementary School is in the Mesa School District, however, so the question is, do we want our Chandler neighborhood named after a Mesa school?

The only other major landmark in the neighborhood is Hoopes Park. Another possibility for a name is the Hoopes Park Neighborhood. Quite often a City park is named after the family that donated the land. At this time, however, the history of Hoopes Park has not been verified.

Pat & Judith Garner, homeowners here since 1989, have some original

paperwork from the builder of their home, Homes By Dave Brown. The feature sheet shows that the marketing name for the original development is Amberwood. Judith then called Dave Brown Family Communities, a builder still in business here in the Valley after 30 plus years, to verify this. She was told that the subdivisions developed

(See Naming The Neighborhood Page 4.)

# Naming The Neighborhood (continued from Page 3.)

by Dave Brown were named: Amberwood North at Dave Brown North III. There is a good chance that the entire neighborhood, which consists of three other home builders, was initially named Amberwood or Amberwood North. In this case, each builder would have developed a subdivision unit within the master planned development.

All of the single family homes built here between approximately 1979 to 1986 are situated around the Hoopes Park and Sistine Elementary School. The subdivision units as listed in the public records are called: Southmoore, Womack East, Mastercraft East Units 1– 6, Project 12 Associates, and Dave Brown Unit 2. The home builders here include: Crane Homes, Lennar, Mastercraft, Homes By Dave Brown, and possibly others.

If you are an original homeowner who knows about the history of the neighborhood when it was first developed, or if you still have any paperwork or marketing materials from any of these home builders please contact

Judith Garner at:

Ph: 480-560-7842

Email: judithgarner@qwest.net

## First Neighborhood Organization Projects

### NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE PROJECTS

- Neighborhood Signage
- Illegal Dumping In The Alleys and Alley Cleanup
- Shopping Carts

If you are interested in becoming an Active Member and can volunteer to help serve on the Neighborhood Committee that will be starting to work on these beginning projects please contact:

Judith Garner– Sections 2 & 3  
480-560-7842

Pam Culp– Section 1  
Ph. 480-782-5895

As of the publication date of this newsletter, the following residents have joined together as Active Members and have volunteered to serve on the current Neighborhood Committee:

Judith Garner– Section 3  
Pam Culp– Section 1  
Stacy Coomer– Section 1  
Donald Stafford– Section 2  
Debbie Donaldson– Section 2  
Lavonne Sanders– Section 1  
Dale Xavier– Section 3

We're looking for all the help we can get, so please don't hesitate to get involved yourself! The Neighborhood Committee will have a meeting soon after the Thanksgiving Holiday to formulate a plan of action for each of the first three projects.

#### Neighborhood Signage:

The idea behind this project is to get our neighborhood name, in example "Amberwood", placed on some exterior walls coming into the neighborhood.

The major street entrances being considered are: Cheyenne, Mesquite, or Palomino off of Alma School Rd. and also Hartford or Nebraska off of Elliot Rd. This is a big project that will involve our neighborhood applying for funds from the Chandler's Neighborhoods Matching Grant Program.

#### Illegal Dumping In The Alleys and Alley Cleanup:

This project involves meeting with the appropriate City official(s) to try and get the City of Chandler to provide signage that will be posted throughout all of the alleys in the neighborhood warning that dumping is illegal and that per state law, perpetrator's are subject to a hefty fine. The signs will serve as a deterrent. Also we want to organize some cleanup crews.

#### Shopping Carts:

This project involves meeting with the managers at Walmart and Frys Grocery to discuss how these companies can assist our neighborhood.