

The Feldman Chronicle

A newsletter for Feldman's Neighborhood Association (FNA)

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Doppelgangers Not Wanted

Identity thieves can drain your bank account, ruin your credit rating, subject you to harassment by collection agencies, and even put you in the position of being a defendant in a criminal case. It can take years to "prove" that you are not the person who wrote bad checks and defaulted on huge debts. During this time, you won't pass a credit check, meaning you will have difficulty obtaining housing, utility service, affordable insurance, and even a new job. Don't be a victim! Protect yourself from identity theft.

NEVER give out personal information to unknown persons—including your birth date, social security number, bank account numbers, and PIN numbers—as identity thieves may use a variety of tricks, such as phoning and claiming that you are subject to arrest for failing to report for jury duty, or contacting you by e-mail and claiming to represent your bank or Pay Pal. Identity thieves may not ask for your personal information directly; they may ask for a wire transfer or personal check, instead.

Do not accept checks from unknown persons. All forms of checks, including cashier's checks and postal money orders, are subject to counterfeiting. Fake checks are now very difficult to detect.

Protect your checks and electronic payments. If you pay your bills by U.S. mail, send your checks from the post office, as outgoing mail placed in home mail boxes can be vulnerable to theft. If you pay your bills online, make sure your computer has a current antivirus program and firewall, and be cautious about using a non-secured wireless connection.

Protect your credit and debit cards. Carry only the cards you plan to use on a particular day.

Protect all your financial accounts. Check your bank and credit card statements promptly every month and report any unauthorized charges to the issuing bank immediately. Close any account that has been compromised by unauthorized use

immediately; your bank or credit card issuer will assist you in opening a replacement account.

Protect your credit rating. Check your credit report at least once per year. Look for accounts and credit cards you do not recognize. If you do spot an unfamiliar account, immediately request correction of your credit report. You can also request that your credit be frozen, so that no additional unauthorized accounts can be opened. FREE credit reports are available once every 12 months from www.annualcreditreport.com or 877-322-8228 or Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Reduce unwanted mail and telemarketing calls. Join the Do Not Call Registry by calling 888-382-1222 or visiting www.donotcall.gov. Stop credit card offers by calling 888-567-8688). Write to the Direct Marketing Association and ask to have your name registered with the Preference Service. The addresses are Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. 643 or Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. 1559, Carmel, NY 10512

Stay informed about the latest scams and contribute to the database. Check the website of the Arizona Attorney General at www.azag.gov. You can also sign up for regular e-mail alerts at this site. Report internet crime to the Internet Crime Complaint Center www.ic3.gov. Report suspicious telemarketing calls to the National Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060.

Information courtesy of Pima Council on Aging. For information and assistance with all issues pertaining to the elderly and their caregivers, contact PCOA Ambassador, Diana Lett, at 623-8233 or paruni@dakotacom.net

Neighborhood Meetings

1st Thursday of each month
7:00 pm

St. Luke's – Chapel
Entrance near 1st Avenue and Lee

Next meeting: October 5, 2006



Not Just Annoying

The ankle biters have returned to Feldman's. Mosquitoes are more than simple pests: they are the carrier for West Nile virus.

Because the drought of last year suppressed the expected surge in viral infections, it may seem that West Nile virus is no big deal. But West Nile virus is a potentially fatal disease that can cause severe nerve damage. People over fifty are at greater risk, but young athletes have also been paralyzed by West Nile.

To protect yourself against mosquito bites, stay indoors at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outdoors, wear long pants tucked into your socks and long sleeves. Spray the fabric (not your skin) with mosquito repellant containing over 20% DEET. If you prefer a non-pesticide option, studies have shown oil of wild oregano to be effective.

To protect yourself when indoors, fix any holes in your screens. Mosquitoes need water to breed, so keep them out of your cooler with properly fitting cooler pads (no gaps) and eliminate any container that might accumulate standing water during monsoon rains, including bottles, cans, old tires, outdoor pet dishes, and tarps. Water can also accumulate in flower pots, the saucers under the pots, gutters, low spots in the yard, wherever condensation drips from air conditioners, or bleed-off drips from evaporative coolers. Fill any wet spots on your property with soil or gravel. Water in coolers or birdbaths and wading pools can be treated by adding a small amount of bleach, a cake of soap, or Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). Bti is safe for humans, pets, and birds, but lethal to insect larvae. A product containing Bti can be found with the pesticides at most garden and hardware stores.

Fall Neighborhood Clean-Up

November 11, 2006

Saturday
8:00 am – Noon

Southwest corner of Park and Drachman

What to Do, What to Do

Pima Partnership High School students are once again participating in the knit-crochet club and providing computer tutoring for seniors at St. Luke's Home, located at 615 E. Adams St. These activities are now taking place on Friday afternoons at 1:05 PM.

Game Night continues on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Students from Pima Partnership High School, residents of St. Luke's Home, and neighbors are all invited to participate. Board games are provided at no charge. Dinner is available for \$4 and must be requested in advance by calling St. Luke's at 628-1512.

The neighborhood Computer Room at St. Luke's Home contains two computers, two printers, a scanner, and a wireless DSL Internet router. The computer room is available Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, except Friday from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Computer tutoring is available free to neighborhood seniors.



Maybe This Sign Is Clear

Following is an update on traffic issues discussed at the last FNA meeting.

Large trucks using Drachman:

Drachman is posted with signs forbidding trucks over 3 tons Gross Vehicle Weight. Although the existing signs are small and hard to find, the city traffic engineering staff refuses to provide more or larger signs.

But, there are options. If it can be determined when the truck traffic is heaviest, targeted enforcement from TPD can be requested. So please notify Diana Lett at 623-8233 or paruni@dakotacom.net each time you see a large truck on Drachman for the next couple of weeks.

Stop sign at Helen and Fourth: This intersection does not meet state and federal criteria for a four-way stop. Therefore, the city traffic engineering staff will not approve additional stop signs.

Again, there are options. City staff recommended a petition for a traffic circle at Fourth and Drachman. Although Fourth is a secondary emergency route and the City has stated in the past that traffic circles could not be placed on Fourth, this restriction appears to have changed. A traffic circle at this location would have a calming effect on two of our biggest problem streets. Please volunteer to collect signatures for a traffic circle at Fourth and Drachman.

Art Lives On

Many downtown area neighbors were distressed to hear last year that The Muse was being torn down to make way for a new development. The Muse was a nexus of community art and studio space.

But ArtFare/The Muse lives on, inspiring art at its new location, 55 N. 6th Avenue.

ArtFare/The Muse offers a variety of art classes and workshops for both children and adults.

For additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Palmeri at Maryellen@artfare.org or by phone at 682-3224. Ongoing information will also be available online at www.artfare.org.

A DEVELOPING STORY

Two developments in adjoining neighborhoods have hit a red light. The Lofts at 5th Avenue, a proposed condo and mixed-use development in the space formerly occupied by The Muse on 5th Avenue and 6th Street, has been halted by an appeal filed with the city by a group of neighbors in the West University neighborhood. The developer, a small group out of San Francisco, had thought that the approval process was at an end point, but neighbor concerns over zoning issues and the public input process have resulted in the city withholding final plat approval until the appeal is resolved. The developer and the neighborhood association, as well as the smaller group who filed the appeal, are continuing to work toward a final agreement. The discussion around this project can be viewed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WUNA>.

A DEVELOPING STORY, CONTINUED

In August, the Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association took a vote to approve or disapprove One West's new proposal of a 111-condo development with mixed use, LEED certification and 10 affordable housing units, to be located on the southwest corner of Speedway and Stone. This project also offers solar power, rainwater harvesting, an internal garage, terraced roof gardens and a substantial grant to the neighborhood association. The association voted in favor of the development with approximately a 2/3 majority.

However, earlier in the year the Association had voted that it favored 33% affordable housing in all new developments, so there has been some question as to whether the new vote is compatible with the previous vote. The Dunbar Spring Neighborhood Association is working on resolving the internal debate so that a clear message of approval or disapproval can be sent to the city. If you wish to read the discussion on this project, please check out their online group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dunbarspring>.

Feldman's Enters 21st Century



In the September 2006 Feldman's Neighborhood Association meeting, a neighborhood web site was approved. The web site will be created by a volunteer and is expected to be online in November 2006.

This new communication tool will allow Feldman's to offer expanded news and information on the neighborhood and its ongoing projects.

Stay tuned for more news on this great new undertaking!