



Mesquite Ranch Community Crier

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

Fall 2007 Volume II Issue 3

2007-2008 Board of Directors

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can't believe how quickly time has passed and all the recent events that have occurred in our community. The monsoons have come and gone, the temps are out of the 100's, the Fall community yard sale and clean-up are all complete, eight community volunteers supported the Ward IV Back to School Bash, we broke in Fall with a Hawaiian Luau and residents are now preparing for cooler weather, planting flowers and making arrangements for the holidays. The MRNA also has a brand new Board of Directors and has inherited some community issues that will likely involve mobilization of residents in the very near future.

The most challenging of all issues will be the Houghton Widening Project and how the City is planning to route traffic from Poorman, Forest Glen, and Bilby Roads to Houghton Road. Psomas has been selected as the project planner for Houghton between Valencia and 22nd Street and is currently at the 20% planning stage. One of the issues on the table is making Poorman a right turn ONLY onto Houghton, which would require all drivers to execute a U-turn at Bilby Road in order to traverse southbound. MRNA does not agree with this option, and if this plan is recommended by the City, MRNA will initiate an effort to influence the decision, but it will require a community effort to be meaningful and effective. A community town hall meeting will be held by the City in November which residents may attend to learn of planning progress and voice their concerns. MRNA is also seeking the installation of a traffic signal and lighting at the Poorman/Houghton intersection for increased safety, and the retention of the traffic light at Bilby Road.

The Poorman Road cattle guard public safety hazard reported last newsletter was resolved after the City of Tucson closed Poorman Road until repairs could be made. The Arizona State Land Department granted Vulcan Materials the authority to maintain the cattle guard which was promptly reinforced to allow safe crossing. Thanks Vulcan for a quick response!

MRNA residents continue to contribute volunteers for Ward IV and community events. Eight Mesquite Ranch volunteers contributed time and services to the 7th annual Back-to-School Bash in August, distributing thousands of dollars in school supplies, backpacks, and raffle tickets to all participating students within the Ward IV boundaries. MRNA salutes Gail Kocourek, Paige Calloway, Joyce and Dwight Ganoë, Cindy Copley, Joel and Joseph and Randall Pierce for their unselfish contributions to this important community event.

If you haven't attended a MRNA monthly meeting, or if you've wanted to attend a meeting but haven't due to a scheduling conflict, I would encourage you to make the extra effort to attend our next meeting. The MRNA makes every attempt to keep meetings interesting and relevant to the community. Over the last few months, we've heard featured presentations from the Tucson Police Department, the Vail School District, the Principal of Senita Valley Elementary School, and next month we will have the very special opportunity to learn about the varied aspects of gun handling and ownership. The Pima County Attorney's Office sponsors an interesting and educational program called "Communities Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership" or CARGO. This is an EXCELLENT opportunity for middle school and high school students and parents to hear about gun ownership from a law enforcement, trauma surgeon, and physical therapist perspective. Read more about the program elsewhere in this newsletter! Next meeting is Nov 6th and I hope to see you there!!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If you would like to establish a Neighborhood Watch program on your street, contact the MRNA via email at mrna@mesquiteranch.org for information that will help you get started. You can also call our Neighborhood Watch coordinator, Tucson Police Department Officer Corina Chavez, at 791-5735.

SHOOTING - Last July, the Mesquite Ranch subdivision experienced it's first community shooting which occurred at Haymarket and Wheaton Streets. The incident was a result of a party that got out of control and resulted in two non-resident, non-life threatening injuries. The shooters were also not from our neighborhood and were not caught. None of the individuals involved were original invitees, rather, they were invitees, of invitees, of invitees. Within two weeks, the occupants of the dwelling were evicted by the Mesquite Ranch Homeowner's Association. This unfortunate incident should serve as a wake-up call for parents who plan parties for older children where alcohol or drugs may be available. Please understand that parents are liable for their actions and the actions of others that may attend such parties. If you plan a party and people begin to show up that you don't know, DON'T be SHY, ask them to leave or call law enforcement for assistance. Better to be safe than sorry!

VANDALISM - Our Mesquite Ranch neighborhood continues to be regarded as a community with a very low crime rate, however, our community does experience some vandalism and other crime. Please check the "Community Activity" link on the MRNA website for the latest crime statistics for our community. Vigilance is key and DON'T be afraid ... keep your eyes and ears open for unusual activity and do not hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious or criminal activity.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES - Recently our community has suffered from the inconsiderate actions of a few. Residents should know that it's not ok to operate unlicensed off-road vehicles, including four wheel ATVs and dirt bikes, within the Mesquite Ranch subdivision OR on adjacent state owned land within city limits. MRNA is working with law enforcement to tackle this problem and the fines are high. If you like to ride, please transport your off-road vehicles to an approved off road riding site.

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

MRNA DONATIONS - All residents should know that the MRNA does not require dues to be a part of YOUR neighborhood association. Over the last year MRNA has sponsored several community events that were FUN and enjoyable for those residents who chose to participate, and we look forward to sponsoring more innovative and creative activities that will mean fun for all ages. MRNA is seeking donations from residents so that these activities may be funded without incurring personal debt from board members. If you would like to contribute monetary donations to MRNA, you may do so by mailing your contribution to MRNA at the address at the bottom of this page or contacting the MRNA Treasurer at mrnatreasurer@mesquiteranch.org. MRNA has a long list of activities which YOU have suggested...with your help, we CAN!

Karina Trumbull, MRNA's Social Director, would also like to reach out to community residents who would like to participate in the planning or execution of any social event. There are a lot of creative people out there who have excellent social skills and enjoy supporting worthwhile events that raise the quality of life in our community. If you would like to contribute your time or expertise putting together a community event, email Karina at mrnadirector1@mesquiteranch.org or call MRNA at 444-2024.

PLANS & DEVELOPMENT

SENITA VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Construction continues on Senita Valley Elementary School, directly east of the US Homes quadrant of the Mesquite Ranch sub-division. MRNA residents met with Vail School District in September and October and worked out a community position on how to manage the five foot area between residents' view fences and the existing barbed wire fence on the eastern sub-division perimeter adjacent to school property. The result was that the barbed wire fence would remain and the five foot buffer area would remain natural desert and would NOT become a pathway for walkers or school children. The Vail School District authorized perimeter residents to relocate any desert plants on it's land to beautify the five foot area. Residents who own east-facing perimeter property wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact Mr. Al Flores either through MRNA, or personally, BEFORE vegetation is removed. In addition, the Vail School District is seeking funding to fence off access to the five foot perimeter area at several appropriate locations.

The access road from Marquette Street to the school will provide pedestrian and bike access and emergency access if required. Residents should know that a collaborative effort between the City of Tucson, the Vail School District, and MRNA will analyze anticipated school access routes and will make appropriate road signage and road paint changes to ensure children remain safe when walking to and from school. School construction is scheduled to be completed in time for the July, 2008 school year. Visit the MRNA website's Community Activity page for a link to the school planning website.

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association

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HOW ABOUT THEM KIDS!

This segment recognizes students who have been successful in their endeavors to participate in academics, the arts, or community involvement and is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance. If you know of a K-12 student that you would like to see recognized in future newsletters, please forward an appropriate description of the student achievement to info@mesquiteranch.org for newsletter consideration. Congratulations to the student highlighted below for his exemplary personal achievement and character.

TYLAN MAGNUSSON - son of Wayne and Heather Magnusson of Woodland Hills Drive, is in his senior year at Cienega High School. He is the second of five kids and serves as National Honor Society Vice President, is Secretary of the Read to Kids Club, is a member of the Future Farmers of America, and also serves as Seminary Council President. He enjoys music, and plays the cello, piano, organ and trombone. Tylan is a Life Scout and is currently awaiting approval for his Eagle Project which will seek to benefit Tucson residents by providing Hygiene Kits through the Primavera Foundation. He takes academics seriously and is looking forward to attending Brigham Young University for his undergraduate degree, serving a 2 year mission for the Church of Latter Day Saints, and then to Colorado State to pursue a degree in Veterinarian Medicine.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

WATCHFUL EYES ... It's getting close to that time when snakes and other critters prepare for the colder days of winter by eating more. Eating more means hunting more and the possibility of becoming more visible. If you find a dangerous critter call animal control first. If people or pets are in immediate danger, you may call MRNA at 444-2024 to help resolve the issue.

MESQUITE RANCH VOLUNTEERS MAKE CLEAN SWEEP - Twelve volunteers enjoyed a crisp Saturday morning on October 5th, meeting at the East Pool for the 2nd annual Fall Cleanup event. After a brief gathering to consume donuts and bagels, the group split into teams and covered all four quadrants of the Mesquite Ranch community. The teams focused on litter in the common areas and walking trails, gathering several bags of trash and making a big impact on the beauty of our neighborhood. Many thanks to all that came out to help, including Page Calloway, Paula Brown, Jose Castillo, Ruben Castillo, Kevin Soo, Terry Hlivko, Sylvia and Martin Katvala, Randall Pierce, Della Ellis, Jane Ellis, and Chip Ellis. Keep an eye out on the MRNA website for announcements of future community service activities, and contact Chip Ellis at mrnasecretary@mesquiteranch.org if you have questions or suggestions for a future activity.

CLUTTER TURNS TO CASH AT FALL COMMUNITY YARD SALE - Saturday, September 29th marked the 4th semi-annual Mesquite Ranch Community Yard Sale, and several Mesquite Ranch families took the opportunity to clean out their closets and garages and rake in the cash. The signage and advertising provided by MRNA helped bring in a large number of bargain hunters, and all indications are that the sale was another community success. The next sale will be in the spring, so watch the MRNA website for future announcements.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

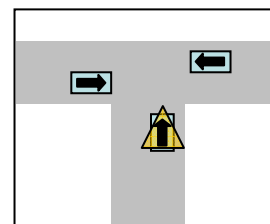
YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE BUT - Blocking sidewalks, parking on the street (in either direction) or next to a cul-de-sac island, and parking against traffic, WHETHER OR NOT in a cutout, is a violation of City Ordinance 9196, Section 20-277, and may result in a traffic citation or fines imposed by City ordinance inspectors or the Tucson Police Department (\$25 - \$150 per violation). MRNA periodically requests community sweeps by Parkwise to enforce parking statutes so please help keep our neighborhood safe for kids and accessible to emergency vehicles by following established traffic and parking rules.

POOP AND UNLEASHED PETS - Mesquite Ranch still has some residents who walk their dogs but don't leash or pick up after them. Unleashed pets are a serious safety issue, and it goes without saying that pet waste is a health and sanitary problem, especially in the heavily used grassy play areas throughout our community. City statutes are not sympathetic to violators and fines are very high. Residents are asked to PLEASE leash and pick-up after pets and dispose of appropriately.

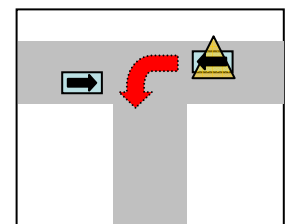
WATCH THOSE "T" SECTIONS - Recently several concerned residents have raised the issue of inattentive drivers or drivers that are not properly yielding the right-of-way to other vehicles or pedestrians. Of particular concern is the intersection at Bach and Malta where there have been several close calls. Residents are also reminded that when the Senita Valley Elementary School opens, there will be several "T" sections that will experience increased foot traffic due to students walking to school within the community. Because East Marquette Street will be a main access for foot and bicycle traffic to the school complex, "T" sections with increased risk will be Bach and Marquette, Metropolitan and Marquette, Bach and Malta, and Metropolitan and Malta. The illustration to the left depicts proper "T" intersection yielding.

Yielding 101

There are 21 "T" intersections in Mesquite Ranch. Be sure to yield the right of way according to basic traffic rules. Need a refresher?



Vehicles in the stem of the T always yield.



Vehicles turning left always yield.



MESQUITE RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Regular Meeting:

Tuesday - November 6, 2007 - 6:30 P.M.

Desert Sky Middle School - 9850 E. Rankin Loop

Multipurpose Room (Next to Gymnasium)

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association (MRNA) meetings are held on the **first Tuesday** of each month. All Mesquite Ranch residents are encouraged to come and learn about a project called "**Communities Addressing Responsible Gun Ownership**" or **CARGO**. The program is a collaboration between the Pima County Attorney's Office, trauma surgeons, law enforcement, and physical therapists, and has three components: 1) the legal aspects of firearm possession and parental responsibility, 2) securing firearms and gun safety, and 3) the physical, social, and financial costs as a result of gunshot wounds. Professionals from each component will provide a discussion and address questions that residents may have. This meeting will provide an extremely interesting and educational discussion forum in a non-threatening environment and will be an excellent opportunity for teens AND adults to consider the responsibility of gun handling and ownership. Check the MRNA website for the latest news & updates. This is YOUR Neighborhood Association! Come Happy...Leave Happy!

MRNA Debuts "MRNAInfo" Information List

MRNA has implemented a very innovative and useful communication tool in our community. MRNAInfo is a subscription service that places subscribers on an information email list that will quickly and efficiently inform them of meetings, agendas, and community happenings on a periodic basis. Subscriber emails are not shared or sold to anyone so you won't have to worry about getting strange emails from people you don't know! If you would like to subscribe to MRNAInfo, please email mrna@mesquiteranch.org for instructions. Its fast, efficient, informative and you'll always know what's happening!

For questions, please contact Randall Pierce at mrna@mesquiteranch.org or call 520.444.2024.