



Department of Neighborhood Resources
 PO Box 27210
 Tucson AZ 85726-7210



November 2008

DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Dated Material

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- Vice President:** Natasha Winnik
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- Secretary:** Lorraine Stockdale
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- Parliamentarian:** Jeff Simpson
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- Newsletter:** Turtle
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- Dunbar Coalition:** Lisa Scoblink
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- Ward One, Councilwoman Regina Romero**
791-4040 ✉ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov
- Dunbar/Spring Email Listserv:**
groups.yahoo.com/group/DunbarSpring
- Upcoming DSNA Meetings:**
General meetings are held the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar auditorium (325 W. 2nd St.).
Next meeting: November 17

BICAS ART AUCTION: The 13th Annual BICAS Art Auction will be Sunday, November 23rd from 6-9 p.m. at 299 S. Park Ave. in the “Lost Barrio.” Come enjoy live music, entertainment, and the best silent auction in town. Any donations of artwork depicting the bicycle or cycling in any form are welcome until November 20th. For more information, call 628-7950 or visit www.bicas.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD CAPOEIRA CLASSES: Capoeira dos Malandros has added a free capoeira program for youth 13-18 years old on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. Program ends in December. Participants will learn the basics of capoeira movement attacks and defenses and will gain strength, flexibility, and agility. They will also have an opportunity to participate in a community presentation in December. No experience is necessary. Regular classes are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from noon-2 p.m. There is also an open gym on Sundays at 11 a.m. Classes are held in the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood. For more information, contact Xochitl at 270-6489.

{free}
**Rainwater Harvesting
 & Earthworks
 Workshops**

The Ward I Council Office is pleased to invite you to help implement sustainable practices that will conserve water, reduce energy use, create more green space, and reduce flooding.

Partnering with Watershed Management Group (WVG) and the Sonoran Institute, the Ward I Council Office plans to implement water-harvesting features and native landscaping while providing educational opportunities for the community.

There will be a series of free weekend workshops starting this fall and into the winter. Participants will learn how to create a site assessment map, evaluate site characteristics, measure slope, and calculate water available from roof runoff and greywater. Learn about native plants and implement passive water-harvesting earthworks to comply with the new ordinance passed by Mayor and Council in October.

Workshops will be held at the Ward I Council Office at 940 W. Alameda from 1 to 5 p.m. Scheduled dates are November 15, December 6, January 17, and January 24.

Please RSVP to Lisa Shipek at lisa@watershedmg.org if interested. For a link to the new ordinance, visit www.ci.tucson.az.us/agdocs/20081014/oct14-08-564.pdf.



You are invited to Desert Harvesters' sixth annual
**Mesquite Milling Fiesta and
 Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, November 8th
 Mesquite pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon
 Mesquite milling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 at the Dunbar/Spring Community Garden (11th Ave. and University)

We proudly serve mesquite/whole-wheat pancakes made with all organic, local ingredients. The mesquite flour is made from native velvet mesquite pods hand-picked by Desert Harvesters around Tucson – with most of the pods picked from trees planted within the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood. The organic wheat is from Glendale and is ground just a week before the event. The pancakes are served with prickly pear syrup, mesquite syrup, agave nectar, and sometimes (if we are really lucky) saguaro syrup.

There are also a variety of locally made teas and organic coffee for people to try with local backyard honey. The price of the pancake breakfast is \$1 per

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER POSITION AVAILABLE: Interested in volunteering to put together the Dunbar/Spring newsletter? Basic responsibilities include acquiring content (including monthly meeting minutes), layout, and forwarding it to the City once a month in PDF format. Time commitment varies each month. Please contact Turtle for more information at 628-4318 or mydogellen@greenbicycle.net.



MINUTES FROM DSNA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2008

I. Call to Order; Sign-in; September Minutes not available; Approval of two months to occur during November meeting

II. Treasurer's Report

\$2,200 in account; \$700 earmarked for sign at 9th Ave. and University; \$100 earmarked for the 9th Ave. bulletin board mural; City High now unable to do the mural, so the \$100 was returned.

III. Announcements

•Downtown Links needs volunteers to represent neighborhoods to oversee the art design component of the project; deadline is 11/12/08; \$650,000 budget; Tucson Pima Arts Council may be contacting neighborhoods regarding finding individuals interested in gathering artists for this project; they may do this through the Ward offices.

•Many Mouths, the organization that oversees the All Souls Procession, set the date for this year's procession a week later than usual; there will be a small procession on Saturday, November 1st at 5 p.m. at the Tucson Museum of Art.

•Officer Morin, our TPD liaison, can be reached at 791-4499 (ask for team #5, then ask for Officer Morin); answered questions from residents regarding recent crime in neighborhood.

•Turtle still looking for someone to take over the newsletter.

•Sohail Qureshi and his three children, residents of Dunbar/Spring who live at the northwest corner of 1st St. and 10th Ave., appealed to neighborhood for approval of a zoning variance for a structure they built that is a combination aviary and tree-top balcony of sorts; the City approached him after a neighbor complained; the City stated that permits are not required because of its small size; however, it does not meet requirements for a setback from the street; to avoid tearing it down, he was directed to obtain approval for the zoning variance from DSNA; many neighbors supported endorsement of the variance; however, the new bylaws state that votes need to be announced ahead of time on the monthly agendas to give opportunity for wider input; so, there will be a vote on this item in November.

IV. Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant

Jonathan Crowe, Karen Greene, and Natasha presented the grant proposal last Friday before the selection committee; it took about 10 minutes; the committee asked only a few questions; there are five members on the panel and two were absent; one person had some concerns regarding how Dunbar/Spring's needs compared to the needs of other neighborhoods; the next step is scheduling a site

visit by the committee; they will let us know how to prepare for it; may want residents to be available; we may need to organize neighbors; within the next month; the formal vote will take place in December; Pima County said they think we are in good shape and that the project is worthy of the funding (\$500,000); timeframe for actual funding is delayed due to backlog; it may take about a year to start and two to three years to complete, as the engineering, design, etc. takes time; the City will pay the contractors who will be involved; Ward I will try to accelerate funding start-up; artists must be on the TPAC roster to do any of the artwork; deadline for artists to apply is in November; Jonathan will make a copy of proposal available through email.

V. Downtown Links Update

Ian attended the last CAC meeting; there was a lot of dialogue regarding the section of the roadway on St. Mary's between Old Main and the Frontage Road; they want to start early on this piece; discussed El Paso & Southwestern Greenway; possibly swapping location of greenway in Barrio Anita; discussed some parking issues; some discussion of a Pelican-type road crossing that was unpopular with the bike folks; a HAWK crossing is preferred; discussed lane widths for this section at 11 feet versus the usual 12 feet in order to slow traffic; Daniela, Dunbar/Spring's representative on the CAC, moved that the entire roadway be at 11 feet; her motion passed; Corky Poster gave some feedback regarding the design proposal; they plan to be finished with the urban design component by December; they will present to the CAC then; plan to start with Barrio Anita; Barrio Anita residents are concerned about closure of some of the access points into their neighborhood, especially at the south end; HDR also presented.

VI. Art Signs at 11th Avenue & 1st Street

Some neighbors expressed concern regarding maintenance of the signs in the traffic circle, specifically one of them that has been askew from some time now; Susan Hutzler obtained a couple of estimates for the repair work, one of which came in at a total of \$50 to do the repair; **Motion made that DSNA pay \$50 for the repairs; motion seconded; 1 abstention; Motion carried.**

VII. Committee Reports

•**Community Garden** – 10/19/08 clean-up was successful; electricity has been repaired; leases are available; the annual Mesquite Milling/Pancake Breakfast will occur on 11/8/08.

•**DNARC** – The El Paso Greenway is in the design process, and they are working with Downtown Links to connect Dunbar/Spring with Barrio Anita, downtown, South Tucson, all the way to Kino

Sports complex; bike safety classes are being offered; attendees can get a free helmet, light, and lock; working with police to offer a bike diversion class to work off tickets received while on bicycles; this can remove points from driver's licenses; new streetcar to be bicycle accessible; the Bike Advisory Committee meets the 3rd Monday of each month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Public Works Building, 6th Floor; City has bikes available for City workers to use to run errands; also looking to put this program in place at the U of A, the County, and at Raytheon; Regina Romero would like one of the public art pieces at one of the downtown modern streetcar stops to be a "ghost bike" memorial.

•**Dunbar Coalition** – Museum renovation to start in December; they are concerned about future financing delays; getting donations; some scholarships to be offered for the barber school; more security cameras installed; damaged door has been repaired.

•**Block Captains** – Looking for someone to keep block captains going; possibly Vince can do it in January; last weekend's block festival with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church was successful and a lot of fun; Pro-Neighborhood grant helped cover expenses.



Growing Community Success by Brad Lancaster

This year's neighborhood tree planting planted 45 more native shade trees along our Dunbar/Spring streets and in neighborhood yards for a total of 1,150 trees planted since our annual tree-planting program started in 1996. These trees help reduce neighborhood flooding (especially when planted within water-harvesting earthworks), dramatically reduce summer temperatures, clean air and stormwater, create habitat for native songbirds and butterflies, beautify our neighborhood, and produce food and medicine.

A big thank you to all those neighborhood volunteers who helped plant such as Dylan Byron, Moses Thomson, Jaqueline Foxx, Nicole & Emerson Koch, Lincoln Perino, Brad & Rodd Lancaster, Diana Rhoades, Jude Boccio, Pam Baker, Matthew Bertrand, Sky & Lynn Jacobs, Claire Zugmeyer, Ian Fritz, Omar Ore-giron, Octavio Ulloa, Steve Weaton, Robert Redding, Jonathan Crow, Carrie Presnall, Arlo Todd, and Ignacio Rivera de Rosales. Thanks also to the others who helped, but whom I apologize for not listing. It was hard to keep track of everyone with all the activity going on, and I missed some.

These folks made for a fun, fast planting, which also helps our neighborhood grow into more of a community. More than 25 neighbors came to work together, improve our neighborhood, and get to know one another. It was one of many great ways to better ensure we live within a community of friends rather than a neighborhood of strangers. Nicole Koch really enhanced this by doing most of the organization, serving a home-cooked breakfast before our 7 a.m. start, and then feeding those who stuck it out with delicious cobbler. Thanks to Trees for Tucson for providing the subsidized trees!

More thanks to all those who are caring for trees planted in past years, and the trees newly planted. *Don't forget to water the new trees.* They need a good watering every other day for the first three weeks, then water them once a week after that through next summer. That done, they should be well established to largely make it on their own. Mulching the surface of the soil around the trees with compost, straw, wood chips, or cut up prunings will further help the trees by creating a mulch sponge that will increase the rate of water absorption into the soil, while reducing soil moisture loss to evaporation and inhibiting weed growth.

Don't worry if you missed out this year. You can plant trees anytime. For more info on tree planting and how to use the trees' fruits and seeds for food (like mesquite pancakes) and medicine, see www.DesertHarvesters.org.

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pancake, and you get a raffle ticket with each pancake purchased. Local foods, crafts, teas, and gift certificates are raffled off throughout the event. There's also great live music and a playground for all to play in. If it rains, we move just north of the garden to the Dunbar Auditorium.

In addition, local, organic, and wild foods are for sale. These can include local mesquite flour; prickly pear syrup, jam, and juice; mesquite pancake mix; baked goods; chiltepinos; cholla buds; olive oil; cured olives; fresh mole mixes; and more. You'll also find native herbal medicines and teas, organic cotton Desert Harvesters t-shirts, and rainwater harvesting books for sale. And we try to feature educational sampling booths on other local/native foods such as acorn flour and baked goods.

People can bring the pods that they have harvested (up to 15 gallons) and grind them into flour for an additional donation. The minimum milling fee is \$3 for any amount under three gallons of whole pods. If you have more than three gallons of pods to grind, you pay \$1 per gallon of whole pods. The idea is to encourage folks to bring at least three to five gallons of whole pods (five gallons of whole pods will provide you with about one gallon of fine, edible flour in about five minutes of milling).

This event is hosted by, and is a fundraiser for, Desert Harvesters. For more information on mesquite foods and harvesting, see www.DesertHarvesters.org.