



Housing & Community Development Department
 PO Box 27210
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DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Water Harvesting, Native Plants, and Public Art Coming to Dunbar/Spring!

Dated Material

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Dunbar/Spring Online:
 www.dunbarspring.org
 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 school (325 W. 2nd St.).
November 21, December 19, January 23
 (4th Monday), **February 20, March 19,**
April 16 (Annual meeting/elections)

Helping Neighbors in Need: Let's Start in Dunbar/Spring



By *Patty Sue Anderson*

We are blessed with the residents that have lived here many years. This neighborhood is full of stories. In our respect for our history, our legends, and our awesome unique richness of home living in Dunbar/Spring, we have connections through our long-time residents who have witnessed so many wonderful things. They are still here. And they are elders in need of some assistance. These homes are old and need repairs, as well as swamp coolers maintained. Weeds take effort and strength to get rid of. Local food stores now are at least one to two miles away. Making that effort is hard, especially because we all are trying to work extra to make our lives affordable.

This neighborhood has a great community feel, let's make it real. Together with a group, lots can be accomplished. We don't have to start from scratch: Pima Council on Aging has a program to assist the formation of the Neighborhood Care Alliance. Several are in place around the city already. We can also align with neighborhoods nearby. Please see this link <http://www.pcoa.org/neighbors-care-alliance> for lots of online information.

Contact Patty at ps@nestemail.com with "Dunbar Neighbors" in the subject if you'd like to volunteer. (If you don't have email, please feel free to get in touch with any of the Dunbar/Spring officers listed in this newsletter and who can help provide additional information.)

It's been a long time coming, but 37 new water-harvesting chicanes (curb extensions) and three new traffic circles were built this past summer as part of the Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment grant that was awarded back in 2009. The neighborhood had the basins designed to collect storm water from the streets and will be planted with native trees and shrubs this fall – similar chicanes exist in the Rincon Heights neighborhood along 9th Street. City landscape architect Gary Witwer has designed the landscaping that will be installed in the basins this fall, including a long list of native trees, shrubs, cactus, grasses, mulch, rip rap, and boulders. Street curb cuts will also be made at selected locations throughout the neighborhood to bring street runoff into landscaped basins in the public right of way.

To make the chicanes safe at night, the City installed solar-powered lights and reflectors on the chicane curbs (these will be changed from blinking to steady lights in the near future). The three new traffic circle intersections are signed with four-way yield signs, which is the current City policy, and the neighborhood has asked to change all the other traffic circle intersections to four-way yields as well. In addition to the chicanes and landscaping, there are several sculptures and other public art projects that will be coming to the neighborhood, described below in more detail.

The public art projects include a street mural, a fish sculpture, a water gauge sculpture, an historic crossroads sign, and several benches. Artists for each project were selected in August/September by a volunteer panel of Dunbar/Spring residents. The process was guided by the Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) who had requested artists to apply for the project. Out of more than 30 applicants from Tucson, the State of Arizona, and around the country, the neighborhood panel chose the following artists:

Local muralists **Joe Pagac** and **Rocky Martinez** will team up to work with the neighborhood to design and



Neighborhood street mural painting, 9th Avenue and University

create a street mural at the intersection of 11th Avenue and University Boulevard. The project will be similar to the street mural project we did several years ago at the intersection of 9th Avenue and University. Everyone will be invited to give input on the design and participate when we paint the street.

Artist **Ray Salas** will create a unique sculpture to be installed somewhere along 1st Street that will include a water gauge to draw attention to the water that flows down this street. Ray typically creates interactive, kinetic sculptures, and he proposes a sculpture to collect rainwater that will create soft chimes when the water drips to the ground. He is inspired by the poetry of African American poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar, after whom our neighborhood was named.

Tucson sculptors **Joe Lupiani** and **Tony Bayne** will team up to create a fish sculpture that draws attention to native aquatic species and the Tucson Arroyo that runs underneath the neighborhood just north of 6th Street. The wash is visible as it passes west of the old TEP headquarters building on Old Main Avenue.

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Local artists **Troy Neiman** and **Zach Lihatsch** (both work at BICAS) will create a “crossroads” sign inspired by the one that exists at the intersection of 9th Avenue and University Boulevard. For this sign, they will research historic neighborhood places, people, and events and create artwork that will be attached to a signpost in the new traffic circle at 11th Avenue and University Boulevard, near the community garden.

The artist team of **Jason Butler** and **Hiro Tashima** and the team of **Cade Hayes** and **Jesus Robles** will create several artistic benches to be located throughout the neighborhood.

Once the artists are under contract, they will meet with the neighborhood and hear our ideas for the projects and begin the design process. Three artist teams – for the historic crossroads sign, fish sculpture, and water gauge sculpture – have been invited to the monthly DSNA meeting on Monday, November 21 (7:00 at the Dunbar School auditorium) to meet with neighbors and begin talking about the art projects and design ideas. More discussions will be continuing at the December 19 DSNA meeting. All are welcome! The design process will take several months and include public input, with installation of the artwork likely occurring sometime next spring.

For more information on the grant project, contact neighborhood resident Jonathan Crowe at 270-1269.

Book bike takes library for a ride

Story from Tucsonvelo.com

The Pima County Library is putting a new spin on the bookmobile. The newest vehicle in its fleet has one less wheel and a giant sunroof. The library’s new book bike will make its debut this winter.

The books on the bicycle library will be free for people to take. Library cards and information about library services will also be provided. The idea is to educate people who may not have been to the library in a long time.

The bike is a project of Pima County librarian and Dunbar/Spring resident Karen Greene. She said she first wanted to do it more than a year ago when a friend forwarded her a link about the Chicago book bike.

“I was really excited about it, but then I got caught up in life,” she said. The book bike was shelved for more than a year until Greene read Mia Birk’s book *Joy Ride*, which inspired her.

“I said, ‘I want to be Mia Birk, but since I can’t be Mia Birk, what can I do to make a difference in Tucson using bikes?’ I wanted to do more for the cycling community and the community at large.”

Greene secured \$4,000 from a state grant aimed at funding special projects for libraries across Arizona. The bike is being made by Haley Tricycles in Philadelphia, which also made the Chicago book bike. Greene is planning some customizations, including an umbrella to provide shade.

The bike will be ridden by Pima County and City of Tucson staff as well as Pima County Bicycle Ambassadors. Matt Zoll, the county’s bicycle and pedestrian program manager, said the ambassadors will ride the bike to various events around the region – contributing between 40 and 60 hours a month.

Greene said she envisions the bike going to various big events like Tucson Meet Yourself and more. She is hoping to debut the book bike at the Festival of Lights in December.

In addition to events, she said she “would like to try to setup some kind of regular schedule like the bookmobile, but it would be the book bike.”



photo courtesy bookbike.org

BICAS’ 16th Annual Art Auction

December 3rd and 4th
Location TBA

Call to Artists: BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Art and Salvage) is accepting submissions of bicycle-themed artwork for its annual silent auction to support BICAS’ community programs. All media accepted. Donations of artwork depicting the bicycle should be ready to install and may be dropped off during business hours at BICAS, 44 W. 6th St.

Located in the Dunbar/Spring neighborhood, BICAS is a bicycle education and recycling center where you can fix your bike, learn basic bicycle maintenance, make bicycle art/jewelry, buy or rent a refurbished bicycle, and much more. BICAS hosts community rides, bicycle movies, and an annual art auction. People of all ages and walks of life are welcome. Donations of bicycles, money, volunteer time, and skills are accepted.

Please contact BICAS at 628-7950 or art@bicas.org for more information. 🚲

9th Annual Mesquite Milling & Bake Sale Fiesta



photo by Ian Fritz

When: Sunday, November 20, 8 am – 2 pm

Where: Dunbar/Spring Organic Community Garden

The 9th annual Mesquite Milling and Fiesta at Dunbar/Spring Community Garden is still on, but host Desert Harvesters is flippin’ it! We are so much more than pancakes! This year will skip the pancakes in favor of a mesquite bake sale to highlight what foods are made more delicious with mesquite.

All in all, the event will have the same “flavor,” but will offer *more* than pancakes. Desert Harvesters is **looking for volunteers to bake goodies** for the Mesquite Bake Sale! They need YOU! Can you commit to making a couple dozen scones, muffins, cookies, or other bake-sale-y goodness? Sign up now (or ask questions) by sending an email to hammermill@desertharvesters.org.

Many hands are needed for the event to run smoothly, especially to help with pod inspection and the mesquite-milling operation. If you’d like to be part of the crew that makes it all happen, email chaff@desertharvesters.org. Anyone who volunteers at least four hours on fiesta day receives a free Desert Harvesters’ t-shirt!

If you haven’t already, you’ll be able to purchase a copy of Desert Harvesters’ cookbook, *Eat Mesquite!* In addition to Amy’s famous pancake recipe and nearly 50 other delicious recipes in celebration of mesquite flour, this cookbook contains the culinary and medicinal uses of *Prosopis* in arid lands, secrets for cooking with mesquite flour, and how you can harvest, store, mill, and enjoy mesquite pods with tasty, fun, and nutritious results.

Local organic and wild foods will also be for sale – including mesquite flour; prickly pear syrup, jam, juice, and popsicles(!); mesquite pancake mix; chiltepinos; cholla buds; olive oil; cured olives; fresh mole mixes, and more. You’ll also find native herbal medicines and teas, organic Desert Harvesters’ t-shirts, and rainwater harvesting books for sale.

You can bring your harvested pods (up to 15 gallons) and get them ground them into flour. The minimum milling fee is \$5 for any amount under three gallons of *whole* pods. If you have three or more gallons of pods to grind, you pay \$2 per gallon. Folks are encouraged to bring at least three to five gallons of whole pods (five gallons of whole pods will provide one gallon of fine, edible flour). If you do not want to wait in line to mill your pods, after they have been inspected to ensure they are clean enough to mill, you can prepay and leave them in sealed containers labeled with your contact information. Desert Harvesters will grind them within a week and give you a call when your flour is ready for pick-up.

Plant a tree with your neighbors

When: Saturday, November 19, starting at 8 am

Since 1996, Dunbar/Spring residents have come together to plant more than 1,200 trees that shade, cool, and beautify our footpaths, streets, and yards, while cleaning air and soil and enhancing wildlife habitat. Thanks to native tree plantings, we have far more native songbirds in our neighborhood than we did 10 years ago – even Gambel’s Quail are returning.

Volunteer tree planters are needed. Help others plant their trees, and they will help you plant yours. We’ll begin with a rainwater, tree planting, and mulch demonstration at 813 N. 9th Ave., so you can set things up for rain to be the primary irrigator of the trees once established.

Tree order forms include five- and 15-gallon trees. While it may seem counter to promoting shade in our neighborhood, the five-gallon trees are a better choice – they cost less, get established faster, and are less likely to be root bound. They typically surpass the growth rate of the 15-gallon trees in just a few years. Five-gallon shade trees are \$8; five-gallon street trees are \$12. Deadline for ordering is Monday, November 7. Please contact Robert at 490-8951 or robert@nestemail.com for more information.

Free Tree Pruning Workshop

Tentative date: Saturday, January 21

Start time: 9 am

Meet at: 813 N. 9th Ave.

Come learn how to prune native shade trees in the public right of way to clear footpaths throughout the neighborhood. A week or two later, we’ll chip up the prunings so they can be recycled as organic mulch under the trees from which they came. This turns “wastes” into “resources.” Forty to 60% of our waste stream is organic matter that could instead be used as mulch and compost. The mulch increases soil fertility and the rate water infiltrates into the soil. This improves soil and water quality, while also reducing moisture loss to evaporation.

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.DESERTHARVESTERS.ORG