

Volume 8
Issue 1
1st Qtr

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

East Sunnyslope Neighborhood
Association & Block Watch



2023 YEAR END RECAP

Wow! Yet another year is ending! As Phoenix's largest community group, we are half-way through our seventh year. And what an inspirational year -- so many coming together to better our community.

Councilwoman Debra Stark, District 3, helped us into the pilot Gated Alley Program (GAP), making a dramatic difference in our area. Burglaries from our twenty gated alleys are at zero! And more gates are coming.

Sadly, our Block Watch trailer was burglarized (p. 2). However, we saw Phoenix's Finest do an amazing job (p. 3). I have lived all over the world, but nothing holds a candle to the East Sunnyslope community.

Building community is truly about relationships. Relationships with neighbors, police, elected officials, city departments and employees, and other community and business groups-- all supporting each other. When you see an email requesting response to a survey or to attend another group's activity, please do so. Relationships work two ways.

Our area is served by two City Council Districts, 3 and 6. Congratulations to Kevin Robinson on his election to District 6. We welcome the chance to grow our relationship.

Official Thank You's: First, my wife Sandra, who allows me the time to do this. Councilwoman Stark, Dist. 3 and our Neighborhood Services Specialist, Krista Roy, who facilitate so much. ESSBW Captains and Board Members, whose work is immeasurable. Special thanks to Andy Sobczak (Secretary), and Chelsey McCluskey (Treasurer), for their enormous behind-the-scenes contributions.



I do have a request...we need new leaders, supporters and ideas to carry this group forward. It is vital to our continuing success. We are all busy; however, it just takes a few minutes to spread the word, invite your neighbors to a General Meeting or share some time. The people you meet, the investment in your community, the enjoyment and satisfaction are unforgettable. Hope to see you, and have a great 2024!

Thank you,
Jeff Tisot, President

We were Burglarized!

If you have been to any of East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association and Block Watch's (ESSBW) events, like 'Slope Fest, G.A.I.N, Christmas on 10th Street, you know we pull out all the stops. We provide music, hot coffee, and lights powered by generators, give-a-ways and more. Typically, all our belongings are in a locked trailer, which is stored nearby.

Unfortunately, someone broke into our trailer on or about Oct 18th, and stole much of our equipment. Thanks to one of our neighbors spotting someone suspicious in our area wearing one of ESSBW's t-shirts, the police were able to move as quickly. (Remember: "See something? Say something!")

With police aid, we were able to recover some equipment, but it was not in the best condition, and we were still missing a lot. Arrests have been made, but the equipment needed to be replaced as soon as possible. We had upcoming commitments where that equipment would be needed, like the G.A.I.N. event later in October.

So, we reached out to our community for help... and what a response we got! We received donations from everyone! Local businesses, neighbors and other organizations. And thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to replace the equipment in time. We owe each and every one of you a huge **THANK YOU!** for your support, kindness and generosity.

We would like to acknowledge the open hearts of the following who were there for us:

- *3A Auto & Diesel
- *North Mountain Brewery
- *Barry's Ace Hardware #3
- *Preach Building Supply
- *Kate & Bob Brophy McGee
- *Cactus Park Community Alliance
- *Caroline Lobo
- *Bruce Gaffney
- *Fred & Margaret Moar
- *Dennis & Susan Rosendahl
- *Carol Blumentritt
- *Rene Wirtjes
- *Peggy Wright
- *Bo Rietz
- *Mary Moore
- *Casey Thompson
- *Marjorie Lindenbaum
- *Wallis Hardie
- *Patrick Cantelme
- *Frances Montasir
- *Matt Mandile
- *Tammy Alexander
- *Matthew Morgan
- *Carol Creque



And now the good news...

Yes, we were burglarized, BUT watching the system in action was amazing! From a citizen noticing something “off,” to our Community Action Officers (CAOs) and our Bike Squad getting involved, three (3) arrests were made within days! Plus, some of our equipment was located.

thank you ❤️
FOR ALL THAT YOU DO
TODAY + EVERY DAY!

THIS is what it looks like for a community to come together. THIS is the difference we can make by paying attention and letting the authorities know with as much information as possible when something does not seem right. THESE actions are what make our community safer for everyone.

At the Oct 24th General Meeting, we acknowledged and thanked these wonderful people.



Jeff explaining the steps of identifying the thieves, finding and arresting them, finding some of our equipment, and showing who has been convicted so far.



Debra Stark, Dist. 3, handing out our first ever **COMMUNITY HERO AWARD** to CAO Joseph Kaplan, CAO Caleb Zimmerman, sharp-eyed neighbor, Sandra Tisot, and Officer Chris Fessler, Bike Squad.



What does the Block Watch do? (Just the 4th Qtr)



In mid-October we participated in the G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event held at the Sunnyslope Elementary School. It included multiple Block Watches, our City's finest Police Officers, the Mayor, our Councilwoman, local businesses, and more. Food, music, fun and smiles were had by all.

First Annual Halloween Event



At the end of October, we had our first Halloween Event, which was a smashing success!

Offering free candy, plus a haunted house usually will do the trick.



APS Light & HUB Parades



In December we were in the APS Light Parade for the first time! And then took our float to the HUB (Hatcher Urban Business) Parade & Market, too.



Early November our fearless leader was nominated by Officer Matt Morgan for the Pay it Forward program from CBS channels 3 & 5. Jeff won a check for \$500!

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnlSxtkKAtw>

Trees! Trees! Everywhere Trees!

Who doesn't love trees? They provide shade, block noise, light, and clean our air!



The City of Phoenix has recognized that more trees gets them closer to their goal to of providing 25% shade cover to mitigate heat by 2030. The focus has been on schools and neighborhoods with less tree canopy. APS is working with the City to meet these goals

and offered a \$10,000 grant for free trees. Thanks to the efforts of your neighborhood Block Watch, we qualified! (Another program from just the 4th Quarter.)

Our priority was Desert View Elementary school, one of the oldest and smallest schools in the Washington School District. The goal was to create a barrier between the school and the neighborhood, as well as blocking the light, air and noise pollution coming from 7th Street.

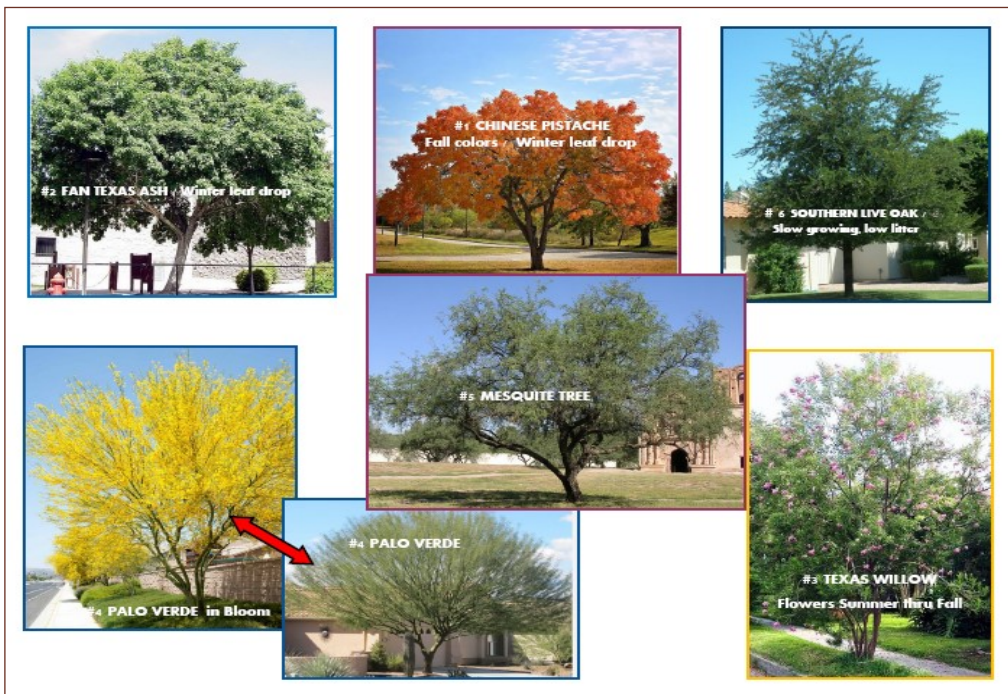
The secondary benefit of being able to get these desert adapted, low water usage trees, was to add a sound and light barrier protecting the neighborhoods on either side of 7th Street. These trees will help to create a quieter, less light filled night sky... in a few years.

Working with the great folks at **Whitfill Nursery** (824 E. Glendale), we were able to create a program where residents received a certificate, which they then took to Whitfill Nursery and used to choose one of six varieties of trees.



Each of these trees is being tracked and their condition will be reported on one-year from their planting.

However, years from now, when you note a cool breeze in summer, enjoy a walk through the neighborhood shade or realize the sirens and lights from 7th Street are not as loud or annoying, thank your local tree population... and APS!



Tree selection, Lt to Rt, Top to Bottom:

1. Fan Texas Ash
2. Chinese Pistache
3. Southern Live Oak
4. Palo Verde
5. Mesquite
6. Desert Willow

Great choices for your yards!

Opportunities Abound to Help Us, Help You

Want to be a part of the largest, most active Block Watch in Phoenix, but are not sure what you can do? Do not fret, My Pretty*. There are a variety of ways you can help out.

- Have 15-20 minutes once a quarter to help hand out newsletters on your block?
- Have ideas on how to improve the neighborhood?
- Have a topic you would like addressed at a General Meeting?
- Have an hour to help out at one of our events? ('Slope Fest in April, GAIN in October, Clean ups through out the year, Halloween, Winter Holiday Fest, and parades... yes! Parades!)
- Come to a Captain's Meeting and get the inside scoop. (Contact us in advance for meeting site location, which varies.)



All kinds of skills and ideas are appreciated. It doesn't take much time or effort. Remember, many hands make light work. Plus, it is a great feeling! Call us, email us, snail mail us... whatever your favorite method of communication is, do it! (See box to the right.) Let us know what we can do to make the Block Watch even better. And if you can, give us an hour of your time and we'll show you how the magic works!

(*Wizard of Oz)



What is a Block Watch Captain? (and what do they do?)

There are many misconceptions about what a Block Watch Captain is, what they do, and how much time it takes. Here are the facts:

- ◆ Give an hour once a month for meeting with like-minded folks to figure out how to improve your neighborhood.
- ◆ Pass out quarterly newsletters on your block...or more.
- ◆ Learn to direct yours and your neighbors' questions to the right people to get results/answers. (By attending meetings and asking questions.)
- ◆ Get involved as much as your schedule allows.



That is it. Not so scary, right? Come on down and check us out sometime. We do not bite!



New Block Watch Captain

NATALIE CALLAHAN: For the last 11 years I have enjoyed my work as an IT Program Manager for a financial firm. I have lived in Sunnyslope for just over 6 years, but grew up a half mile away from my current house. I love Uptown/ Central Phoenix and it has been great being back in the area with all the restaurants and amenities that Uptown has to offer. I decided to join the Block Watch and be a captain to help Sunnyslope be a better, safer place to raise my daughter. I am happy that we're cleaning up the parks, washes, and locking up alleys. I love all the hiking and canal biking in our area! As the saying goes, "It takes a village!"



For Your Information

Block Watch Captains & Board

QUESTIONS?

Ideas? Problems?

602 . 545. 2472

(no text/ VM)

essbw16@gmail.com

1108 E. Ruth Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85020

www.EastSunnyslope.com

Jeff Tisot—**President** / Captain: Diana, Alice * 10th —12th St /602.545.2472

Chelsey McCluskey—**Treasurer** / Captain: Ruth & Butler * 12th St to Mtn.
602.748.5680

Andy Sobczak—**Secretary** / Captain: Orchid * 8th—10th St / 602.826.5596

Julia Sayre—Captain: Seldon * 8th St to cul-de-sac / 602.309.9925

Vicente & Leticia Garcia—Captains: El Camino * 10th—12th St / 602.295.3499

Debbie Sosa—Captain: Las Palmaritas * 12th St to Mtn / 602.330.1835

Grace Stuckey—Captain: Loma Ln * 15th St to cul-de-sac / 602.908.3236

Cheryl Hallman—Captain: Orchid Ln *10th—12th St / 602.413.3333

Gretchen Stetter—Captain: Continental Plaza Condos / 8th St 602.403.6643

Robert Anderson - Captain * 8th—10th St El Caminito / 602-321-4360

Natalie Callahan—Captain * Harmont 13th—15th St / 602.653.7301

Roseann Higgins—Captain * Butler / 8th St to 12th St—602.241.1800



Important Phone Numbers

City of Phoenix Police (non-emergency): **602.262.6151**

Neighborhood Services Dept: **602.534.4444**

District 3 (Deb Stark): **602.262.7441**

Report Speeders: **602.534.SPED**

Phoenix CARES (Homeless Aid): **602.262.6251**

City Streets (Pot holes/ Road Issues): **602.534.6440**

District 6 (Kevin Robinson): **602.262.7491**

Animal Abuse: **602.997.7585 ext 2073**

Community Action Officers CAO Off. Joseph Kapla, Desk (602)-495-5634, Joseph.Kapla@phoenix.gov

CAO Off. Caleb Zimmerman, Cell: 602-684-0947, Desk: 602-534-1747, Caleb.Zimmerman@phoenix.gov

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

GENERAL Meetings:

Last Tuesday of the Month @
North Village Baptist Church
1010 E. Alice

- JAN 30 @ 6:30P
- FEB 27 @ 6:30P
- MAR : **No meeting/ 'Slope Fest**

CAPTAIN & BOARD Meetings

~ Open to the Curious ~

Locations vary, so please let us know
of your intent to attend.

2nd Tuesday of the month:

- JAN 9 @ 6:30P
- FEB 13 @ 6:30P
- MAR 12 @ 6:30P



Yep! It's that time of year again....

'Slope Fest 2024

&

Tour de Sunnyslope!

Palma Park

Saturday, April 6

...and it is going to be **BIG!**

Want to be a part of the fun? Let us know!

We need help doing things like monitoring the bounce houses, directing folks to booths, handing out flyers. Have an hour? We'll take it!

Official Fun Dates:

JAN

10 - House Plant Appreciation Day

15 - National Hat Day & Bagel Day

FEB

02 - National Wear Red Day

04 - Thank Your Mailman Day

21 - National Sticky Bun Day

MAR

08 - National Proof Raeding Day

10 - National Hug Your Dog Day

26 - National Spinach Day



Did you know ...? The original name for the search engine Google was Backrub. It was renamed Google after the googol, which is the number one followed by 100 zeros.