

MIDTOWN NEWS

This is your GARDEN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER November 2004

MIDTOWN MESSAGE

Watch this space for more work from our young writers at John B. Wright School. Last year they did a great job supplying us with stories and poetry and we look forward to reading more of their work!

OCTOBER SUMMARY

We had a good turnout for our first meeting of the new school year. **Brad Holland**, President of MNA, welcomed us all back after a long break. We had one guest speaker, Leslie, from The Pima Council on Aging. She presented information on how to start a volunteer network in our neighborhood. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" can connect senior citizens and people in need with neighbors who can help by providing transportation to appointments or shopping, light housecleaning or meal preparation, yard work, minor home maintenance, etc. These simple services can make a huge difference in someone's life - assuring safety, comfort, and dignity, or even preventing a move to a residential facility.

Neighbors Care Alliance offers practical, effective assistance to communities thinking about starting a volunteer network. There is a How-To Manual, with step by step instructions; free volunteer training; monthly meetings for the network coordinators, and enrichment inservices open to anyone. An Outreach Specialist is available for consultation, guidance and encouragement, and for speaking engagements to explain the program or answer questions. For more information call Leslie Hunten at Pima Council on Aging at 790-7262.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

JOHN B. WRIGHT: **Ida Plotkin** reports that as a result of last year's test scores the school's status is considered "Maintaining" meaning that students are making adequate growth. Efforts are continual to increase academic scores and attendance. This is a challenge considering the over 50% yearly turnover in students. Our community could be a vital link in helping Wright School meet its goals. Interested volunteers can call Mary Flores at 232-8100.

LIBRARY/LEARNING CENTER: **Anna Marie Patti** reports that bids have been awarded and we are waiting for construction to begin. Although we did not get three things that we asked for, a steel ramada, a lawn area, and acoustic panels, it seems that the book is not fully closed on these matters.


TREES FOR TUCSON: The deadline was November 1. Watch for new trees to be popping up on your street. Planting will take place later this month.

BIKE CLUB: **David Kha** reports that the growth of the club and the abundance of bikes and parts in his back yard, has necessitated a move to Country Club and Prince, a storage and work area. David has a new assistant, Kansas, the founder of BICAS. BICUS provided the sculptures in our traffic circles.

LEGO CLUB: **David Kha** reports that the University of Arizona gave the Lego Club a new meeting place, the second floor of Flandreau Planetarium, free of charge. David will update us on the upcoming robot competition in Phoenix and ongoing fund raising.

BOTANICAL GARDENS: **Anna Marie Patti** reports there is a butterfly exhibit now running through January. In order to support the Garden in getting a variance you can attend a planning meeting on November 4th. Volunteers over 50 are needed for the Garden's educational horticultural therapy program. For more information, you can call the Garden at 326-9686.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 **FLOWER ANGEL:** **Hal Burn's Flowerland** will donate a beautiful bouquet of flowers to a deserving angel in the neighborhood. If there is someone you would like to thank for being extraordinarily neighborly please call Caroline at 795-1478.

TIARC: The Tucson International Alliance of Refugee Communities, in partnership with Microsoft, are proud to provide computer training classes. These classes are designed for individuals who want to spend their time and money wisely and expect to learning to be directly applicable to their professional responsibilities or person pursuits. For more information call 514-1588

NEXT MEETING

November 16, 2004
6:30 Potluck
7:00 Business Meeting
Bring a dollar and a dish!