

## Central Village Neighborhood Association - Ready For The Future!

At the cornerstone of one of the most widely known intersections in the city of Phoenix, the Central Village neighborhood is poised for significant changes in the near future. Traffic mitigation centered on speed humps, creation of a noticeable identity, application for historic designation, and various commercial development spurred by the new light rail, are just a few of the changes coming to this neighborhood. The association borders are Central Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Camelback Road to the Grand Canal.

In the past 18 months, the association has grown to 48 active members with 9 different committees and quarterly general meetings. It produces a quarterly newsletter with a circulation of over 900 households, and members routinely work with city leaders and private industry to accomplish their goals.

This year, the association obtained a Block Watch grant from the city to help fund their crime reductions programs. They are purchasing a digital camera to document crime in their neighborhood (which can be downloaded and emailed to the police), and their new Block Watch signs will be going up soon.

The city of Phoenix recently completed a traffic study of the neighborhood, at the association's request. The study indicated high volumes of speeding traffic on almost every street, and a sizeable amount of cut through traffic. The association is presently working on having speed humps installed throughout the neighborhood.

A Survey Committee was created to monitor the opinions of all residents on association matters. A four page survey questionnaire was completed earlier this year, and the survey answers guided the association in their annual goal setting process. The survey committee's function will become even more important as neighborhood decisions about light rail options need to be made, and the association plans to be ready with clear answers and strong opinions when decision deadlines arrive.

The association's Preservation Committee actively calls in violations of zoning ordinances, run down conditions, illegal parking, and various other infractions of city codes. On a daily basis, key members ride their bikes throughout the neighborhood and document the cases, and other members call them in and follow up on their progress. Over 50 cases have been called in to date, and more than 75% of them have resulted in improvements in the neighborhood.

The eleven member Light Rail Committee is working to answer questions about station lighting, security, pedestrian access, noise abatement, and the possibility of neighborhood "park and hide". The committee wants to establish relationships with other neighborhoods adjacent to this station, as well as, other neighborhoods adjacent to other stations. A coalition of "station" neighborhoods would surely have many common concerns about the light rail, and as a group, they would benefit from discussing similar issues and showing strength in numbers when necessary.

The association always welcomes new members to simply come and listen or to actively get involved in issue-oriented activities. The general meetings are held after the end of each quarter at the Camelback Sunset Chapel Mortuary, and all residents, guests and visitors are invited to attend. For more information about our association, call us at 602-359-5095.