

PIERSON PLACE ASSOCIATION

Neighbors Creating A Better Neighborhood

Volume 7 - Edition 3 - June 2006

Committee Chairs:

President:

Charles Jones
 359-5095

piersonplace@cox.net

Block Watch:

Joanne Winter
 241-1470

jojowin@aol.com

Traffic:

Lisa Hemphill
 240-5032

lisahem@ci.gilbert.az.us

Public Grants:

Sally Thomas
 274-5771

sally_g_thomas@hud.gov

Newsletter:

Charles Jones
 359-5095

piersonplace@cox.net

Light Rail:

Emily Chang
 234-2675

cv_lightrail@yahoo.com

Survey:

Ron Szematowicz
 ronszem@yahoo.com

Historic District

Joel Pearson
 234-2675

ihaveastring@aol.com

Preservation:

Amanda Maday

piersonplace@cox.net

Want to be amazed? Take a look at what YOU have accomplished for YOUR neighborhood!

- installed Block Watch signs throughout the neighborhood,
- produced and distributed a newsletter to all residents and businesses every quarter,
- repeatedly distributed Block Watch information to hundreds of residents,
- initiated a city traffic study and installed speed humps (with our own funding),
- changed stop signs to improve traffic flow,
- reported 714 code violations (blight) over the years,
- conduct neighborhood patrols and report suspicious activity,
- held dozens of Light Rail meetings,
- participated in GAIN events (National Night Out) every year,
- trained Block Watch captains on each street,
- distributed flashlights to our residents,
- held clean-up days to clean up blighted properties,
- formed seven committees with chairpersons and annual goals,
- installed new lighting in all of our alleys and the canal bank,
- emailed neighborhood information to our members weekly,
- held general meetings every quarter,
- purchased walkie-talkies for our patrollers,
- did resident surveys (written) to determine what the association should be working on
- conducted block watch meetings regularly,
- created a data base of every resident and business address in our neighborhood for our mailing list,
- taken pictures of crimes in progress, and emailed them to police,
- created an identity and became visible by buying and installing street sign toppers (Central Village),
- held neighborhood coffee meetings with our Councilman,
- developed a logo,
- given residents a sense of ownership in their community,
- held dozens of meetings with developers about projects proposed on our borders,
- became very involved with Neighborhood Services, our Community Action Officer, and our Councilman's office,
- added "no left turn" signs on 7th Ave to mitigate cut-thru traffic,
- held hundreds of individual committee meetings,
- distributed dawn-to-dusk porch lights, locking mailboxes, and "the Club" to our residents,
- become well known in other associations, city committees and departments,
- obtained a historic district designation,
- created the opportunity to belong to "a group of fellow residents who care about their neighborhood",
- and, always looking for new methods of improving YOUR neighborhood!

**Involved residents
 are the most effective
 crime preventers,
 period.**

BLOCK WATCH

Our last project for this fiscal year was painting address numbers on our alley fences, as a way to help the police identify their location in our alleys. Over 50% of the residents who have an alley participated in this project.

We purchased five digital cameras for residents to use, to take pictures of suspected crime and email them to our community action officer. There is one camera designated per block, and users can rotate them amongst themselves whenever they wish. Please contact us if you see anything that you think a picture should be taken of.

Our Block Watch grant application for 2006 was approved! Our hats go off to Sally Thomas, our Grants Chair, (Pierson St.) for doing such a great job on the application! The approved items are: lighting, locking mailboxes, painting address numbers on curbs, patroller supplies, and newsletter expenses, for a total of \$9,634.00.

Many positive changes are happening because residents are involved and taking pride in their neighborhood.

LIGHT RAIL

Peter Zorbas (Mariposa St.) volunteered to be on the Citizen's Advisory Board for Line Section 1 (Camelback Rd.), and we look forward to his leadership guiding us through this area of construction. Thanks for stepping up, Peter!

Construction on the west side of the bridge over the canal on Central is expected to be complete in early July, and then rebuilding of the east side will begin (traffic flow moves).

Construction of the station platform at Central & Camelback is likely to start this summer, along with the cul-d-sac

on Mariposa at Central Ave, and that will bring some really big changes to our neighborhood!

OUR COUNCILMAN

Check out one of Councilman Simplot's latest accomplishments. It's the 2 acre off-leash dog park at Steele Indian School Park. Tom spearheaded this project with help from the Parks Department and private donations. It has new fencing, "mutt mitt" dispensers and dog waste receptacles.

Be sure to take part in some of Tom's other activities, like the "movies in the park" and monthly breakfast meetings. It's easy to see how Tom works to improve our quality of life! For more information, contact Tom's office at 602-262-7447.

ELECTIONS/BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

The election/bylaws committee completed a review of the existing Pierson Place Association. The committee at the conclusion of its mandate failed to follow the existing bylaws in presenting the review and suggested changes to the association members. **Therefore, the current PPA bylaws are still effective and will not be changed at this time. The PPA is still a current and affective neighborhood association.**

The "new" bylaws were informally presented to the public at an informal potluck gathering that was not sanctioned by the PPA. The supporting bylaw committee members of this non-sanctioned event (but none the less legal right of assembly) are now referred to by the PPA as the "Next Step Group" as referenced in their assembly flyer. This group of neighbors is representative of the disgruntled group that brought forth unannounced intentions to seek immediate change of the association's leadership at the October 2005 General Meeting. Since Charley

Jones did not immediately resign and hold elections; the Next Step Group ran a ballot initiative last winter and then delayed the annual January election of board members complaining of fairness. The proposed changes to the PPA bylaws does fulfill their agenda by restricting board membership and voting rights. Their stated purpose was to hold immediate elections. This was not their right under the current PPA rules. One interesting fact of the proposed changes reflects that there was no change to the board member nomination procedure. Meaning, no campaign period (visibility) or balloting (fairness?). Nor was there a change to the language concerning a "quorum".

The Next Step Group should follow their vision by forming their own association. Many neighborhoods have more than one inclusive volunteer association. The success of any association takes work, dedication to purpose and co-operation.

As a former member of the Elections/bylaws committee, I urge you to continue your support of the PPA through volunteerism, activism, and representation at local meetings and hearings on issues that affect the neighborhood. I know that together we can contribute to the future success and evolvment of the PPA and through this effort continue to be the positive influence of shared concerns over the living issues facing our community today.

However, I strongly suggest that if you are unhappy with the successes of past years of the PPA formerly known as the Central Village Association to contact the Next Step Group and step up to your potential.

Submitted by: Steve Bass (Elm St.)

Block Watch is about calling someone if you see anything out of the ordinary in your surroundings.

CRIME STATS

(3-1-06 to 5-31-06)

Burglary is up!

Assault 1, Auto Theft 5,
Burglary 21, Drugs 3, Robbery 1, Sex
Crimes 1, Theft 10.

How many crimes go unreported?

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Our Historic District unveiling ceremony was held on May 4th at the intersection of 3rd Ave and Pierson St. Mayor Gordon, Councilman Simplot, Barbara Stocklin and Liz Wilson from the Historic Presentation Department attended and spoke words of encouragement to help celebrate this new era.

And don't forget, grant funds are available from the Historic Preservation Department for renovations on houses that qualify. The grants match your funds up to \$10,000, making this a great way to do \$20,000 of improvements for only \$10,000 out of pocket.

Grants can play a big part in revitalizing our neighborhood, like a tool we can use to continue improving the neighborhood. You can already see some neighbors fixing up their houses, and one by one, whole blocks will start to look new. Revitalization is a key word to keep in mind as we approach the light rail era, and historic grant funds are an unspoken secret to making this happen.

For more information, contact Jodie Brown in the Historic Preservation Department at 602-262-6182, or jodie.brown@phoenix.org.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Lisa Hubbard - Neighborhood Specialist, Neighborhood Services
David Chambers - Community Action Officer, Phoenix Police
Mary Roestenberg - Programs Coordinator (BW), Phoenix Police
Tom Simplot - City Councilman

Phil Gordon - Mayor of Phoenix
Seventh Ave Merchants Assoc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most organizations have a core group of individuals that keep it humming along. Depending on the time of year, our core climbs to about 30 long-time, committed, hard working people who care about their neighborhood. And, that's what our association is really all about, people who care about their neighborhood. They give a bit of themselves for the good of everyone. They work at small changes one step at a time, continually making improvements in their neighborhood. As a larger functioning unit, these people are the coal in the fire that keeps it moving along.

Because of their efforts, we've moved past creating an identity, speed humps, lighting, and the historic district designation. And we've figured out how to keep our residents informed about crime on an ongoing basis. These are major milestones for a neighborhood association, and great accomplishments that were attained by functioning as a group. It's the proof in the pudding that our organization works.

Recently, our core stepped up and decided that we should continue operating as we have in the past. They like the way we do business, the way we get things done, and the harmony and common good that we share along the way. They want us to continue functioning as a unit, continue our dedication to the neighborhood, and continue attaining even higher and higher goals. And we will.

Some dissenters caused a few disruptions lately, and it's actually been a very good thing for us. It's caused us to review our objectives, revisit our commitments and goals, take a new look at our operations, and most importantly, renew our

connections with each other. Now we can say as a group, that no one will be allowed to disrupt our meetings, ignore our organizational processes, or blemish our reputation ever again. Now we know that we'll move forward regardless of what others do. And those are very big accomplishments in themselves.

Our core is comfortable with having two associations in the neighborhood. They think there is a time, place, and purpose for it in every organization, and this is our time. When thinking about two groups co-existing with different sets of goal and objectives, twice as many good things could get done for the neighborhood, and that would be great. In the end, this approach could offer immeasurable benefits to the neighborhood as a whole.

On a personal note to our core, I say you've been a mighty strong force in the past, you're a mighty strong force at present, and I bet you'll continue to be a mighty strong force in the future. We have many big challenges ahead that will require a concerted effort to accomplish. Your commitment to hanging tough when the going gets rough, or rather, your resolve to band together even tighter, is sometimes amazing, always appreciated, and truly beneficial to the neighborhood.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(area code 602)

Emergency	911
Police (crime stop)	262-6151
Comm. Action Officer	534-2637
Nbrhd. Svcs. Specialist	266-7682
Councilman Simplot	262-7447
Mayor Gordon	262-7111
Historic Preservation	261-8699
Graffiti Removal	495-7014
Code Violations	262-7844
Block Watch (x4056)	534-2424
Neighborhood Clean Ups	262-4820
Southwest Gas (leaks)	271-4277
Animal Control	506-7387
Poison Control	253-3334



PEIRSON PLACE ASSOCIATION
Neighbors Creating A Better Neighborhood

198 West Mariposa Street, Ste. 7
Phoenix, Arizona 85013

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4826
Phoenix, AZ

Would you spend 10 minutes for a safer neighborhood?
(see inside for details)

email us at:

piersonplace@cox.net

to learn about what's going on
in **YOUR** neighborhood!