

PIERSON PLACE TIMES

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March 2017

BLOCK WATCH NEWS

After a much needed break, we are back to doing crime prevention and neighborhood improvement projects.



Recently, we installed iron gates in the abandoned alley on 3rd Ave between Mariposa and Pierson. That area was a haven for transients, and ironically, a guy was sleeping under the bushes on the morning they were installed! "Block Watch" and "No Trespassing" signs and a multi-user lock system are coming soon. This will keep the bad guys out, and reduce crime in this area.

We also painted several irrigation stand boxes in the neighborhood, and boy... do they look good. Many thanks to Roland Reagan (again!) for knocking out another great project. Look around and see if you even notice them anymore!

And speaking of Roland, you might know he carried the ball on the ally gate project, but you might not know he also volunteered to paint over graffiti in the neighborhood. Talk about a superman, Roland is really stepping up! Many, many thanks go to him for helping improve the neighborhood.

The 2016 Block Watch grant year ends June 30th. We purchased lamp/radio timers, flashlights, refrigerator magnets with important phone numbers, and funded the lighting in our timers, flashlights, refrigerator magnets with important phone numbers, and funded the lighting in our alleys for another year. We still have plenty of these to distribute, so be sure to attend our next Block Watch event to get yours.



The 2017 Block Watch grant year starts July 1st, and we think our application will be approved. It will fund driveway alarms, personal safety lights, dead bolts, floodlights, Block Watch signs, alley lighting, and the newsletter. The approvals should be announced in June, so please keep your fingers crossed!

Our main mission is reducing crime in the neighborhood. We have been doing it for years because we know the effort is worth it. Currently, Charley Jones, Pam Perry, Henry Harding, Roland Reagan, Ray Muench and Robert Donat are working together, and we would love to have more folks join us in improving the neighborhood.

Another long-standing member, Andy Mezulis, passed away last month. Most residents knew him as the always friendly guy who painted over graffiti in the neighborhood for almost a decade. Our thoughts and prayers are with Andy and his family.

Have you ever thought about coordinating crime prevention on your street? Most things take very little time, but they can make a huge difference in reducing crime. Having someone on each street working crime prevention would be great, and a few people on each street would be even better. So, if you want to work together to protect your street, get in touch with any of us to get started. No commitment, no strings, nothing, just volunteer to do whatever parts work for you.

We are planning a Block Watch event on April 26th featuring Police Chief Jeri Williams for a one-on-one about crime prevention. It's likely to be a front yard event, and we sure hope you join us. Come out and meet some neighbors, have a snack on us, and best of all, chat with the Chief! And, don't forget to pick up a lamp/radio timer, flashlight, door lock, at this event. Mark your calendar now, details to follow by email, Nextdoor and fliers. We hope to see you on the 26th!

Neighbors Creating
A Better Neighborhood



Pierson Residents Rock!

Phoenix Block Watch Advisory Board News

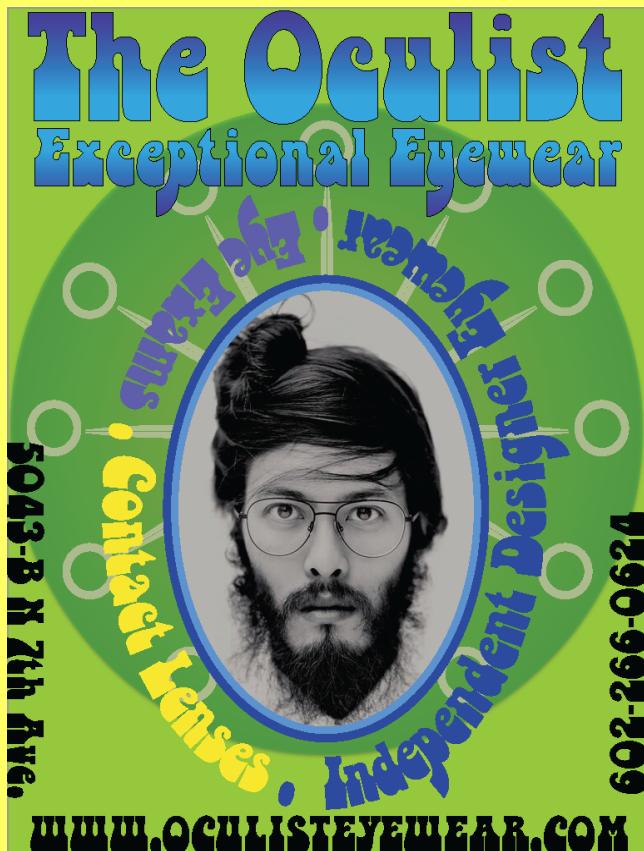
Scam Alert: "Can You Hear Me?" Calls Reported in Arizona

PHOENIX – Attorney General Mark Brnovich is warning Arizonans to beware of the “Can You Hear Me?” robocall scam. Over the last few days, concerned Arizonans have contacted the Attorney General’s Office to report suspicious calls from someone asking “Can you hear me?”

Here’s how it works: You get a call from someone and there may be some static on the line or fumbling around. The caller then says something like, “I’m having trouble with my headset” and asks “Can you hear me?” Their goal is to get you to answer “Yes.” Scammers use the recorded response to place unauthorized charges on phone, utility, or credit card bills.

“It’s a new twist on an old scam and we need to put an end to it immediately,” said Attorney General Mark Brnovich. “Answering ‘Yes’ to any question can later be used to make it sound as though you authorized a major purchase.”

Previously, scammers have also asked other questions



to get a consumer to say “Yes” such as “Are you the lady of the house?” or “Are you the homeowner?”

In reports to the Arizona Attorney General’s Office, consumers say the calls appeared to come from a local phone number.

AG Brnovich offers the following tips to avoid the “Can You Hear Me?” robocall scam:

- * Hang up if you receive a suspicious call. If you don’t recognize a phone number, let the calls go to voicemail.
- * Don’t reply or interact in any way especially if someone asks “Can you hear me?” Don’t talk to a live person which can lead to more calls. Don’t give details if asked for your personal information.
- * Check your **utility bill and your bank and credit card statements** regularly. If you find suspicious charges, immediately report them to your provider.

If you believe you have been a victim of consumer fraud, please file a complaint with the Attorney General’s Office.

To do so online, CLICK HERE ([http://azag.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?
u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=d56f7d6cab&e=ce593e5145](http://azag.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=d56f7d6cab&e=ce593e5145)) . Consumers may contact the Attorney General’s Office in Phoenix at (602) 542-5763, in Tucson at (520) 628-6648, or outside the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas at (800) 352-8431.

To sign up for the National Do Not Call Registry, please CLICK HERE ([http://azag.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?
u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=6d4e5582e9&e=ce593e5145](http://azag.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=6d4e5582e9&e=ce593e5145)) .

*Article written by/or information provided
by PBWAB*

Neighborhood News

By Charley Jones

Boy, we accomplished a lot last year. We did lots of crime prevention projects, neighborhood improvements, several giveaways, some beautification projects, several social events and lots of good old-fashioned comradery. Some new board members provided great ideas and additional horsepower, and the results were phenomenal. Needless to say, it was a very productive year, and our hats go off to everyone who helped accomplish all that we did.

We distributed tons of crime prevention information, to help everyone know how, where and when to look for (and report) crime. We researched our burglaries and distributed the reports, so everyone could see the details. High-level cops spoke at our meetings, and street-level detectives described crime prevention techniques that everyone can do. We started closing off the abandoned alley on 3rd Ave between Mariposa and Pierson, and add permanent lighting in that area. We started a project to reduce the number of transients hanging around the light rail station at 7th Ave & Camelback. All of these projects help keep folks aware of crime prevention, which helps reduce crime in the neighborhood. Please report anything you see, hear or smell that seems suspicious.

Police non-emergency: 602-262-6151.



We planted new trees in 19 front yards in the neighborhood, which was our greatest beautification project of the year. We know they will provide more greenery, scenery and oxygen, and help reduce the heat island affect in the neighborhood. We repaired, painted and provided new metal tops for the irrigation stand boxes, which makes these concrete blobs blend into the neighborhood better. We also refurbished the

message boards on 3rd Ave, to make them more attractive. Feel free to post things on them whenever you want.

We distributed lots of crime prevention items, such as driveway alarms, door viewers, solar lights, refrigerator magnets with important phone numbers, logo t-shirts for patrollers, dead bolt door locks and metal Block Watch signs for yards. We sponsored a shred-a-thon for residents, and everyone got rid of lots of stuff. And oh yea..., we also gave away the 19 new trees mentioned above!



We had great quarterly meetings with great speakers, excellent food and roundtable discussions where everyone could provide input. We hosted a neighborhood bar-b-que party in the middle of Elm St for our G.A.I.N. event, and folks from every block had a chance to meet new neighbors. We sponsored a booth at the 7th Ave Street Fair in March, and showed 20,000 people what Pierson Place is all about.

We are working on improvements at the entrance to Canalscape on 3rd Avenue, which would be a huge improvement for the neighborhood. And speaking of big improvements, we are working to have a sidewalk installed on 3rd Avenue, to provide safety for those who walk there. A big improvement we did this year was installing a new monument marker at Central & Highland, a nice big red brick structure with "Pierson Place Historic District" on it. Finally, we are working with the City to build a park at the end of 3rd Avenue, and name it Donor Network Park. Whew, great stuff.

We is the operative word here. Every project started with we, and none of them would have happened without we. We are thinking of we who volunteered countless hours to get things done. We are talking about we who added value to the neighborhood. We know that we like doing what we do, and we look to do more this year!

SPRING GARDENING

By Pam Perry, Maricopa Master Gardener & Board Member

Even non-gardeners find the allure of summers past and present is defined by sweet, warm from the sun tomatoes from the garden. Make that happen here by planting tomatoes after the February 15th frost date!

Successfully harvesting tomatoes begins with soil prep. The next most important factor is selecting healthy, vigorous plants. Choose from All America Selections, AAS, guaranteed to succeed even here, lots of wonderful heirlooms, new introductions, and old favorites. Tomatoes come in all colors, sizes and shapes! Follow local guidelines and remember this is not the Midwest! Your goal is to grow a plant with sufficient maturity to set fruit by mid to late April. That is about 8 weeks if you get them in right on the 15th!

- Choose “Short Days to Maturity” varieties with a maximum 85-90 days to first harvest. Those with fewer Days-To-Maturity produce an even earlier crop; some can be ready in 60 days! Those 100 plus day plants just are not mature enough to make viable flowers before we get too hot here.
- Tomatoes flowers are self-fertile. They **do not need** bees or too much fussing. They **do need** moderate temperatures! Once daytime temperatures reach above 95 degrees the pollen is no longer viable; fruit will not set! The window for tomatoes setting fruit here is late April thru May. By June it is often just too hot.
- Keep your plants consistently moist; never too soggy or dry for best results.
- Tomatoes need a minimum of 6 hours of full sun, more is better, even here.
- Fertilize regularly with a balanced fertilizer following directions per the label once plants begin to flower.

Hopeful tomato growers with little sunny space like to use containers. Containers should be the size of a 5-gallon pot; larger is better. Pots must have holes in the bottom. Cover the holes with a bit of screen or an old coffee filter and fill with soil mix. Do not make a layer cake of various soil components in the pot; no layer of rocks on the bottom, please. Use a soil mix developed for container vegetable gardening. Select a “determinate tomato”; they mature and set a crop, but will not outgrow the container. Soil must always be evenly moist, never too dry or too wet!

In raised beds or in the ground you can plant determinate or indeterminate plants sometimes called “pole” tomatoes. These continue to grow and set a new fruit every few inches. They get Big! Follow spacing recommendations on the labels. Planted too closely plants compete for light, nutrients and water.

- Do seasonal soil preparation. Soil prep includes digging in additional compost and balanced fertilizer applied per package directions. Digging in about a quart of alfalfa pellets at the bottom of the hole seems to give the plants a real boost.
- A leggy tomato start can be planted deep into the hole. It will grow new roots up the stem for a bigger stronger plant!
- Make sure to support plants as they grow; keep fruits off the ground where insects will enjoy them before you can.
- Mulch the plants by mid-April with straw or pine needles to insulate the soil and keep moisture from evaporating too quickly.
- Tomatoes ripen in the heat, but benefit from shade cloth installed by May first. By then the sun is high and intense overhead; those treasured tomatoes need protection! Fully covered plants are also protected from the birds.
- Monitor plants for pests and make sure the irrigation is sufficient.

Planting dates for other spring planted crops can be found at: <http://uacals.org/497>. Click on AZ1005



HOMES in Pierson Place Historic District, go to:

www.PiersonPlaceHomes.com

MARK MARTIN REAL ESTATE

Info@PiersonPlaceHomes.com

Cell: (602) 277-4220



What is Block Watch?

This is a simple program of neighbors watching out for each other. It is designed to enlist the participation of citizens in cooperation with the police to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.

- It is becoming acquainted with your neighbors.
- It is working together to identify and solve problems in your neighborhood.
- It is helping the police by being aware of and reporting any unusual activities as they occur. You know best what is “normal” in your neighborhood.
- It is implementing crime prevention techniques to enhance home security.

Crime Statistics

Source: www.raidsonline.com

Dec 1, 2016 – Feb 28, 2017

- Robbery: 1
- Sexual Assault: 2
- Auto Theft: 3
- Burglary: 5
- Aggravated Assault: 6
- Theft/Larceny: 9

NEW SKILLS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Is learning something new on your resolution list for 2017? If so check out the calendar section at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org. They have something for everyone: from kids to seniors and everyone in between. Want to learn computer skills, how to start a small business, self defense, job seeking skills? – there are classes for all of these and so much more.

Historic National Register Nomination

The Historic Preservation folks advised our application to the National Register might not be approved at the Historic Preservation Committee and the State Historic Sites Review Committee on March 20th and 24th as originally hoped. More work needs to be done, and then it should go thru these committees, and ultimately the Keeper in Washington DC. For more info, contact Michelle Dodds, AICP, Historic Preservation Officer, 602-262-7468, michelle.dodds@phoenix.gov.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

If you see anything suspicious...

Please tell the cops & your neighbors:

Emergency: **911**

Non-emergency: **(602) 262-6151**

And, tell your Community Action Officers:

Mario Lozoya: 602-534-1745

mario.lozoya@phoenix.gov

Matt Makinster: 602-534-0347

matt.makinster@phoenix.gov

Phoenix At Your Service

Check out www.phoenix.gov/atyourservice - your one stop for City of Phoenix service requests, reports and information including: graffiti removal, property violations, litter and debris, weed or dead plants, city planning, permits, street lights, recycling programs, abandoned shopping carts, mayor's office, neighborhood services, parks and recreation, public transit, public works, crime victim services and non-emergency crime reporting.



PIERSON PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Neighbors Creating a Better Neighborhood
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**“Save the Date”
Police Chief Jeri Williams is coming to Pierson Place!
April 26, 2017**

PIERSON PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Contents

Block Watch News, Pg. 1
Advisory Board News, Pg. 2
Neighborhood News, Pg. 3
Spring Gardening, Pg. 4
What is Block Watch? Pg. 5
Crime Stats, Pg. 5
New Skills for the New Year, Pg. 5
Historic Nat'l Register Nom., Pg. 5
Important Numbers, Pg. 5
Phoenix at Your Service, Pg. 5

Everyone is invited!

**Chat with Police Chief Jeri Williams
at our Block Watch event on April 26th!**

See inside for details.

We want to thank Ron and Alan at **A-1 Mailing Service** for the excellent graphics, printing and mailing they provide. Shop local, and call them for all your printing/mailing needs.
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