

Marley Park Matters

By Neighbors, For Neighbors

A Publication of the Marley Park Matters Newsletter Team



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Hello neighbors! We are celebrating one year since we embarked on this resident run newsletter and it has been a great experience and a fun journey learning about one another in our community and meeting new neighbors! We have welcomed many new members to our newsletter team and are continually looking for more neighbors to bring in new ideas, write articles, and provide us with input. Please email me with any questions about our team. The next meeting will be the first week in October. Check out Marley Park's Facebook page as it gets close to October for the time and place. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

September Events

- Celebration of Home New Neighbor Brunch, 11:00 AM, Heritage Club. Whether you have been living in Marley Park for a couple of weeks or several months, we welcome you to learn about the Marley Park community. Contact Bill Adams, billandespy@cox.net, 623-444-9877.
- Sept. 21: Fall Equinox
- Movie Night, 'Zombie Fest'

October Events

- Movie Night, 'Hocus Pocus'.
- Homestead Harvest Festival
 - Pumpkin carving
 - Pawstume parade
 - Chili Cookoff
- Oct. 26: Boo Bash, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Heritage Club
- Freak Flick Night, the original 'Halloween' movie.

November Events

- Nov. 2 Community Garage Sale, 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM, individual homes. Donate your unsold items to the adopted charity at the Heritage Club parking lot after the Garage Sale.
- Nov. 4 MPCA 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 PM, Heritage Club.
- Nov. 11 Veterans Commemorative Plaza Dedication, SE corner of Founders Park Blvd. & Pershing
- Movie Night, 'Home Alone'.
- Nov. 28 Community Thanksgiving

❖ **December 7** – Home for the Holidays celebration.

**Many of the events above have time and dates yet to be determined. Please check the Marley Park website calendar for more information.*

Teen Times

by Alexander Ochsner

So, school has started again and we're all settled back down into the groove after summer break. Besides school, we're all doing our favorite hobbies, whether it be making collections, writing, drawing or other things. Also, some of us are participating in sports, such as basketball, volleyball, hockey, baseball, football, etc. It is important for us teenagers to have things to do outside of school to keep us busy (smart things, like hobbies & sports, not stupid things). One of those things we could be doing is volunteering. Especially here, in Marley Park, there are multitudes of opportunities to help out in our community. I have volunteered here for 6 years; since my family moved here. Also, there are programs through the City of Surprise, such as the Teen Advisory Commission, something I am a part of as well. The city commission allows teenagers like you and me to have a say in the future of the city. All in all, it is good and fun for young minds like ours to be put to work as we contribute to the world.

Classes and Programs

❖ Current classes offered here in Marley Park!

- Kindermusik
- Bling Dance
- Pilates by LaBriecce
- 'Come What May' Yoga
- Babysitting Safety & First Aid Training

For more information log on to marleypark.net or e-mail engagement@marleypark.com



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Honor a Veteran and support the Veterans Commemorative Plaza in Marley Park by purchasing a paver. Contact Bill Adams: billandespy@cox.net

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Make-Me-A-Volunteer: A 'Glutton' Free Recipe!

by Charlotte Confer



What does it take to make a volunteer? Following are some easy step by step instructions to whip up a batch of volunteers. Who knows, it may become your favorite recipe.

Volunteer Recipe: ¼ cup Idea/Interest; 1 cup Passion; ½ cup Willingness; ½ cup Commitment; Optional add in: ½ cup Partner up; Cook for at least 3 volunteer experiences...best served with enjoyment...

First, find an area regarding an idea or interest you may have - perhaps a group you would like to start, an event you wish was available, or an existing event you would like to contribute to. Many of us may have a desire to get to know our neighbors and to build a stronger sense of community. Whatever it may be, listen to the things that come to mind and start there.

Next, examine where your passion lies. Do you like helping others, building teams, starting traditions? I have found that the most rewarding experiences, and the ones I have continued to grow in, are the ones that I continuously look forward to. These are the places I bring my heart and my desire for building a stronger community. But how does one decide which area would bring them the most fulfillment?

This brings us to the next ingredient: willingness. Ask yourself what motivates you. Maybe its increased self-esteem or building strong relationships. There is no right or wrong answer, just be willing to give it a try! It is important then to mix this with the binding ingredient of commitment. Commitments do not have to be big. Start by signing up to volunteer at an event, or ask a current volunteer if you could shadow them. Whatever it is, make sure to completely mix in the commitment.

In my professional role as a Volunteer Coordinator at Banner Del. E Webb Medical Center, I have been blessed to work alongside the minds and lives of thriving volunteers. When asked, many of them enjoy being part of something bigger than themselves and boast about the great relationships they have made. This brings me to the last optional ingredient: partnering up. Some of us like to work with someone instead of volunteering alone. If this is you, find a friend or family member to join you!

So what are we waiting for, let's whip up a batch of volunteers! Remember, this recipe is best served with enjoyment!

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer for the Community Association and with other residents to help keep the 'resident-run' events alive! Many events offered here are facilitated by resident volunteers. For these events to continue every year and for new ones to be created, we need your help! Contact Fiona at 623-466-8831 with ideas and interests and/or email me with any questions. confer@hotmail.com.

Meet Your Neighbors

by Jennifer Zimmerman



John, Jennifer, son Johnny (16) and their two dogs, Scooter and Skittles

It is with great pleasure to introduce the Lynch Family: John, Jennifer, son Johnny (16) and their two dogs, Scooter and Skittles. The Lynch family moved to Marley Park on Halloween Day, 2009. They moved here because of the look and feel of the community. Every house seemed unique, and they loved that there were so many parks and a community pool. John is originally from Peekskill, New York and Jennifer is from San Diego, California.

Jennifer is the proud owner of Come What You May Yoga Studio. Jennifer spends most of her time teaching yoga and volunteering. In January 2012, she opened the Yoga Club in Marley Park, which is free to all Marley Park Residents, their family, and friends. She teaches at 9 am on Saturdays at the Heritage Club. She is also taking new clients at her brand new studio residence, which was added to their home just recently. John is a Sergeant for the State of Arizona Department of Corrections where he has been employed for 15 years. He is currently in the Honor Guard and was recently a part of the Yarnell Firefighter Memorial. He is also a motor transport operator for explosives ordinance in the Army National Guard, where he has worked for 11 years.

John, Jennifer and Johnny love outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, camping, and yoga, of course. Their favorite thing to do as a family is taking walks around Marley Park, golfing (on the Wii that is), and getting serious with a mean game of laser tag at Uptown Alley (the boys really get into this stuff!). You may see John and Jennifer at Vogue Bistro, which is their favorite date night spot. With their favorite holiday being Halloween, they really like to go overboard in decorating the house and yard for all of the neighborhood kids. If you haven't seen it yet, you should check it out this year!

When I asked them what they love most about Marley Park, their response was, "There is nothing quite like it. Most communities you'll live next to a neighbor for a long time and never even know their name. It has a family feel to it and we appreciate the amenities that Marley Park has to offer all year round. We really enjoy the Neighborhood block parties because it gives everyone a chance to get to know everyone including those who are new to the community!"

What is the West Valley Arts Council?

by Bernadette Mills

The West Valley Arts Council (WVAC) enriches the West Valley, which includes 13 municipalities, by growing a vibrant and connected arts and cultural community. Originally founded in 1969, today the WVAC is the only regional organization that focuses on all disciplines of the arts and programs over 200 events annually, including performances, exhibits, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. We do all of this from our home base in Marley Park!

Check out our upcoming events and please visit our website for more information or stop by our office in the Heritage Pool House!

Sept. 6: Art of the Southwest Opening Night: featuring local visual arts. Free and Open to the public. Marley Park Pool House

Oct. 25: The Backyard Concert is Back! Featuring Big Nick and the Gila Monsters. Heritage Club

Oct. 26: Art of Movement featuring classes in Yoga, Pilates, Dance and more! Verrado

Oct. 29: The Read Kick-Off Event featuring Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe. Theater Works, Peoria.



If you are interested in learning more about our organization, becoming a volunteer or member or how to become more involved, please contact me at bmills@westvalleyarts.org

Marley Park Continues to Give Back with Your Help!

by Billy Bungert



The Philanthropy Committee, under the Marley Park Leadership™, has selected Sunshine Residential Homes, Inc., (a group home for local children), Fighter Country Partnership (supporting the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB), and St. Vincent de Paul as the chosen non-profit charities to support this year. The community continues to support our on-going partners too, such as the West Valley Arts Council, Eve's Place and others (found on marleypark.net under the 'Community Partners Charitable' link). Anyone can volunteer to help support these efforts. You do not need to be a part of the 'leadership program' to participate. For more information on the organizations, check out kidsr.sunshine.com, fightercountry.org and svdpusa.org.

There are many opportunities you can get involved with and they all have different needs. Throughout the rest of the year, we will offer opportunities for 'hands on help,' that we call 'Project: Hand-Up' events. Below are some opportunities:

September 21 Fall Equinox Event

We will be collecting socks & underwear (boys size ages 6-10) for Sunshine Residential. These items are in desperate need!

October 26, 2013 Homestead Harvest Festival-Boo Bash
Donation collection for Sunshine Residential Homes

October 19, 2013 7:30 – 11:30 AM
St. Vincent de Paul service project at the Downtown location
RSVP required to Jen McSweeney at jenshops@aol.com

November 16, 2013 9 AM – 11 AM
Pool House 'Making Blankets – Warming Hearts' - assemble fleece blankets for the Sunshine Residential children.

For further questions and more information please visit marleypark.net, or contact resident and Committee leader, Jen McSweeney at jenshops@aol.com or Fiona Blake at fiona.blake@marleypark.com.

Did You Know?

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

- In June 2013, there were 1,469 foreclosure starts (when a Notice of Trustee's Sales is recorded against a property) compared to 3,148 in June 2012, a decrease of 53%.
- Lender owned sales are properties that lenders took title to at the trustee's auction and then sold. In June 2009, there were 4,247 lender owned sales compared to 348 in June 2013.
- In June 2013, 749 properties were either sold to a third party or the lender took title compared to 5,126 in June 2009.
- In June 2013, short sales were 702, or 60% less than the 1,766 in June 2012
- The median single-family home sales price in June 2013 was \$205,000 compared to \$164,000 in June 2012 for an increase of 25%.