

P.O. Box 42825 Tucson, AZ 85733

WUNA Newsletter January 2020

www.westuniversityneighborhood.org

Message from the President, Judy Sensibar

Hello Neighbors,

2019 has proven to be a very rewarding year to be part of WUNA. Funds were just released for the “Phase I” upgrades to Anza Park. This historic park, stuck between three Wards, has long been neglected. After a six-month intervention by TPD last year brought attention to the area, Ward 1 was able to channel unspent 2014 Impact Fees to lead the way towards a rehabilitation plan.

We should see a modern restroom to be located nearer to Stone Ave, better lighting, and in the northeast quadrant, a dog park divided for both small and large dogs with water fountains for each side. The condemned restroom will be torn down. New signage has also been budgeted for Anza (being rebranded without the De; apparently, historic records show “Anza” as the correct name). All of this should happen within the year.

Catalina Park will also see new signage stating a sunset closure. We’ve made great inroads with TPD to increase patrols and are thankful for the new community police officers (they wear yellow vests and do not carry guns) who make daily stops at both parks. A new Parks Concerns Committee, chaired by Lisette DeMars, meets the third Thursday of each month if you would like to help with the effort to keep our parks safe and open to everyone.

After our successful tree planting in February, which included five new Pistache trees along the west side of Catalina Park, we continued to partner with Tucson Clean and Beautiful, learned more from Tucson Water at a board meeting, and wrote a water harvesting grant proposal for Catalina Park.



Volunteers planting trees at Catalina Park

We have been told that we’re a “high priority” and that the grant has been accepted. The grant specifies landscaping both the north and south edges of the park with swales, chicanes and native plants. Because 1st and 2nd Streets are our de facto storm drains as water makes its way towards the Santa Cruz, it’s smart if we can “catch” some of this water to beautify and update our public spaces.

Please join us January 11 at our Annual Meeting to hear more and share your ideas to help our neighborhood.

Yield for Traffic Calming Projects Ahead!

Many problems in our neighborhood start with our streets. We have been studying how to accommodate all of the infill, increased population, and multimodal forms of transportation to create safer, more usable, and more beautiful streetscapes.

Strong advocacy from neighbors for slowing down 6th Avenue made the board aware of what residents were facing and we’ve come up with a plan. Thanks to resident Betsy Besenick, who gathered the necessary signatures, TDOT has just approved two speed tables on 6th Avenue north and south of University Blvd.



We are also partnering with Living Streets Alliance to capitalize on their work at 6th Avenue and 7th Street. We will replicate aspects of their intersection design by bringing in the corners at University Blvd and 6th Avenue and paint a similar checkerboard pattern with a simpler color palette. March 7/8 is our target weekend for the installation; we hope to take advantage of the closed streets to throw a neighborhood block party. Everyone is encouraged to participate!

At December’s board meeting we approved funding for three traffic circles on 4th Street. Our long-term traffic plan, approved by TDOT many years ago, calls for circles on 4th St. at the 5th Avenue, 3rd Avenue and 1st Avenue intersections. We’ve learned a lot since our original 7th Avenue circles were installed 17 years ago and expect our newest additions to reflect more progressive water harvesting and landscaping plans.

Traffic circles require maintenance. We finally have caretakers for all five of our current circles (thank you, neighbors!) but will need many more people to volunteer their time, effort, talent and skill if we are going to make these spots a source of pride.

Some Useful Phone Numbers

City of Tucson Code Enforcement
791-5843

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services
791-3171

Park Tucson (Parking Enforcement)
791-5071

Graffiti Removal
792-CITY (2489)

TPD Red Tag Unit
837-7318

TPD Non-Emergency
791-4444

Message from the Vice President, Lenor Glover

“Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered...just one kind word to another person.” -Fred Rogers

In WUNA’s continued effort to increase a sense of community and greater cohesion, we enjoyed quite a few neighborhood events throughout 2019. Yard signs were a new addition this year, advertising details of our monthly meeting, and we encourage residents to join us the first Thursday of the month to share your ideas and concerns and get involved. Check the website for exact dates.

One of the most exciting accomplishments was the neighborhood wide tree planting that added 100 trees to West University. We collaborated with Trees for Tucson, and in one February morning with many volunteers, put all those trees in the ground in a matter of a few hours. It was invigorating to see such an effort from our community.

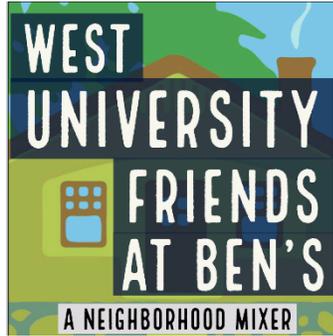


Trees for Tucson volunteers at Catalina Park

March brought the return of our annual Plant Swap. Members of West University, along with others from all over Tucson joined at Catalina Park to exchange cuttings and seedlings. As always there was an abundance of plant knowledge to share!



Our happy hour series, Friends at Ben's, included talks from the UA Museum of Art and the Tucson Audubon Society. Gentle Ben's has graciously hosted these events for us, providing a venue and appetizers for neighbors to mingle and learn a little about businesses in our neighborhood.



a voluntary basis in small groups. Each group stayed within a 4-household limit and moved together to each home enjoying a snack or beverage at each. This provided an opportunity to get to know others in a low stress and more intimate setting. The feedback we received from those who participated was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to continue with more in the future.

In closing, we encourage those in the neighborhood who are not yet members to get involved. Come to events and meetings and share your ideas!

Thanks to Volunteers

The beer booth at the 4th Avenue Street Fair is always a great opportunity for members of our community to participate in a fun event while raising money for our community. All of our tips are donated to Roskrue Elementary School's library and the Trinity chapter of the Community Food Bank.

Some numbers:

Spring Fair -- We sold 2,500 beers. We sold 28 coozies. We made \$774 in tips. This translates into selling an average of 128 beers an hour (that's just over two beers a minute!).

Winter Fair -- We sold 1,290 beers. We sold 39 coozies. We made \$609 in tips. This translates into selling an average of 66 beers an hour (that's just over one beer a minute!).

Thanks to all who volunteered and especially to Jim Glock and Danny Kirk who were instrumental in the smooth operation of the booth.

A few more thank you notes: Rick McDonnell has graciously served as our Development Committee chair and helped us to stay informed on the many changes happening throughout our neighborhood. Henry Werchan has participated in the Development Committee, served as our representative in the CCRC and as the liaison to HFAC, the Historic 4th Ave Coalition. Thank you both for giving your time and energy!



2nd Annual Plant Swap

Last year's successful "WUNA Alley Walk" encouraged 2 more this year. We met at Catalina Park at dusk and were taken on a tour of lesser known areas of West University by our treasurer, Jim Glock, who is well informed on the hidden gems of the neighborhood.

Finally, this year marked the inception of the "Progressive Porch Party". Neighbors participated in



West University Neighborhood Association Memberships for 2020

It's time to send in your \$10 WUNA membership dues. All memberships run from January through December. Dues help pay for the website fees and maintenance, the post office box, and insurance. All members will receive via email our Recommended Vendors List. The vendors have been submitted by your fellow members of West University Neighborhood Association. You can save the \$10 dues many times over by hiring the right person the first time.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: West University Neighborhood Association

Three ways to join:

- 1) Fill out this form and mail it with your check for \$10 to: WUNA, P.O. Box 42825, Tucson, AZ 85733
- 2) Pay at the annual meeting
- 3) Go to www.westuniversityneighborhood.org and fill out the form and pay by PayPal/credit card

Thank you for your support!

Name(s)							
Address		City		State		Zip Code	
Mailing Address (if different)							
Email Address							
Phone Number		New Member		Returning Member			

**WUNA ANNUAL MEETING
POTLUCK
PIZZA AND DRINKS
PROVIDED
JANUARY 11, 2020
1:00PM
CATALINA PARK**