



# WUNA Newsletter

December 2007

## Board of Directors

Lori Boston	President
Gallagher Witmer	VP
Joe Wasiak	Secretary
Cheri Wiens	Treasurer
Bridget Werchen	Historian
Brian McCarthy	Past Pres.

## Area Representatives

- 1 Jan Labate and Dave Knudsen
- 2 Adrienne Parry
- 3 Joel Ireland
- 4 Carolyn Niethammer
- 5 Brian McCarthy
- 6 Noah and Judy Sensibar
- 7 Dave Boston
- 8 Chris and Mary Nichols
- 9 Robert Pitts and Patricia Pinzon-Pitts
- 10 Barbara Kennedy

## At Large

Dave Croteau, Chris Gans, Jerry Juliani, Sandra Morse, Jenn O'Connor, John Patterson and Matt Williams.

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*Editor: Carolyn Niethammer*

*Layout: Cheri Wiens*

## Next Board Meeting December 6

at 6:30 p.m. at the Postal History Museum 920 N. First Ave.  
Park in rear of building.  
Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month.

## President's Message

by Lori Boston

It was a beautiful day in October for the 2007 West University Neighborhood Historic Home Tour! About 200 people took advantage of the beautiful day and came out to tour our historic homes. Everyone enjoyed the artist-themed event and we heard from many attendees that they enjoyed the warehouse gallery, the intimate peek into artist's homes and studios and of course, our feature house, The Big Blue House! The tour would not



*Volunteers selling tickets*

tickets sales locations, free pizza for the volunteer after-party and a few donations from local business to help defray the costs involved. I'm already excited about the possibilities for our 27<sup>th</sup> Historic Home Tour.

Now it is time to look forward to upcoming changes and neighborhood events:

It has been wonderful to have our meetings at the Postal History Foundation over the last three years, but we are beginning to outgrow the space. Thanks to a new partnership with Trinity Presbyterian Church, WUNA will have an office and new meeting space at the church. The new WUNA office will be located in Room 10 of the Trinity Church educational wing. We hope to have the office open for neighborhood use on a regular basis. Beginning in January 2008, all WUNA meetings will be held at Trinity. I thank the Postal History Foundation for hosting our meetings and look forward to collaboration with them on some events and joint fundraising possibilities.

Please check out the latest updates on contact information, events and activities at [www.wunaonline.org](http://www.wunaonline.org) or through our Yahoo Group forum at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WUNA>.

Look for more information for the upcoming events in this newsletter and online.

As always, please continue to contact me or other board members for information, comments and suggestions.



*Party held at the Bly's residence*

have been a success without the hard work of many volunteers. My deepest thanks go out to the 2007 Home Tour Committee and those who worked behind the scenes. Thanks to the homeowners and artists who opened their homes and studios for the tour. I witnessed many homeowners sprucing up their houses the day before the tour and I can't thank you enough for your efforts in opening your homes to benefit of the neighborhood. Thanks to all of the wonderful housesitters and ticket sales staff. Even with all of our wonderful volunteers, the home tour would not have been a success without our sponsors. We had generous assistance on the ticket, poster and brochure design, advanced

**West University Neighborhood Association**

P.O. Box 3336 Tucson, AZ 85722 520.623.1664

[www.wunaonline.org](http://www.wunaonline.org)

# Meet John Patterson WUNA Board Member at Large

With a house on University Blvd, just a few blocks from the University Main Gate, John Patterson and his family experience both the problems and the pleasures of urban living. “We have the stress of the noise, the parking problems and the chaos,” he explains, “but we love our historic house, the proximity to major bike routes, and the ease of getting to cultural events.”

It’s also a very easy commute for John’s wife, Jeanne Davenport, who was born and raised in Tucson and is a program coordinator for the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies.

John is a WUNA Board member-at-large. For about 20 years he has been WUNA’s representative to the Campus Community Relations Committee (CCRC) and every month brings back a report to the Board of Directors. The CCRC is a joint problem-solving group of representatives from the University of Arizona, the 12 neighborhoods that border the campus, Tucson Wards 2 and 6, and the city and



campus police departments.

That’s a long time for such an involvement, but John says, “It’s my niche – being aware of University issues and how they affect our neighborhood. Through the CCRC, I’ve been involved in some developments that really have an impact on us.”

John moved to the neighborhood in 1984, renting the house at 720 E. University for a year. When it went on the market a year later, he purchased it.

John grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and came to Tucson in 1975. After getting a master’s in special education, he began a 27-year career as a teacher specializing in learning disabilities at Hudlow School. He retired two years ago and has since concentrated on his yard and his family.

John loves growing things and has extensive plantings with lots of citrus in his yard. The family also has three chickens.

“They make great yard pets,” he says, “and give us all the eggs we need.”

John’s daughter Emily, age 10 and a fifth grader at Miles School, is in 4-H and hopes to show chickens as her project. Stepson Joseph is in college in New York.

## Workshops on WUNA Design and Development

By Jenn O’Connor

The WUNA Neighborhood Planning Committee is organizing two dynamic workshops to take place on December 1, 2007 and January 26, 2008. The future construction of the modern streetcar along some of our main corridors will likely place considerable development pressures on our neighborhood and we want to be prepared.

These workshops, entitled “*Envisioning Our Future!*”, give our community the opportunity to work with four local architects to identify the physical characteristics that we value and hope to see in the future of our neighborhood. We will discuss and learn about the basics of architectural design concepts and brainstorm ideas for what future residential and commercial sites could look like in our neighborhood.

The workshops will be facilitated by Rebecca Ruopp from the City of Tucson Department of Urban Planning and Design, and small group brainstorming discussions will be led by architects Johnny Birkinbine, Luis Ibarra, Bob Vint and Gal Witmer. We plan to use the results of these workshops to engage developers in positive, proactive conversations about our vision for future development as they look to build in our neighborhood.

So come, be a part of an important conversation in our community, learn about design principles and strategize about the future of our neighborhood.

Both workshops will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Trinity Hall at 400 E. University Blvd. Bagel breakfast will be provided

**WUNA Workshop I**  
**Saturday, December 1, 2007**  
**9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Workshop I** - Learn about design principles from local architects and strategize about the future “look and feel” of the neighborhood.

**WUNA Workshop II**  
**Saturday, January 26, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**Workshop II** – Check out the architects’ sketches based on our input from Workshop I and help refine our design preferences.

## WUNA Phone Number Change

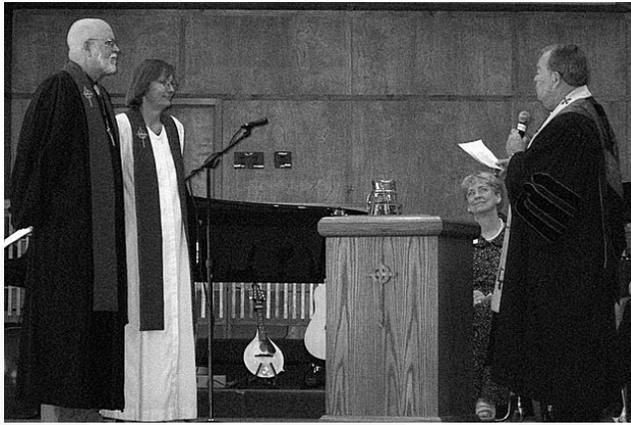
The listed WUNA phone number has been discontinued. All calls concerning West University can now be made to 623-1664. Additionally, all board members are available to take comments and hear concerns. Look for more contact information for all WUNA Board of Directors and Committee members soon on the WUNA website and group forum.

*Monthly Board Meetings  
are open to all. Come and be part of your  
neighborhood association and make your  
voice heard.*

## ***New Co-Pastors at Trinity Presbyterian Church***

Marney and Dave Wasserman are the new co-pastors at Trinity Presbyterian Church. They are interested in interacting with the surrounding community and have started several programs to that end. A book club meets the fourth Monday of the month, a watercolor class meets the first and third Wednesdays and a digital photography group meets on the second Saturday. If you are interested in any of these classes, call the church office at 623-2579 for exact times.

The congregation will also host 10 to 15 homeless men screened through the Salvation Army for four nights in January and February. The men will



be bused from the Salvation Army Hospitality center, given dinner, a warm bed and breakfast as well as informed of available services to help them get off the street. After breakfast they will be returned to the Salvation Army. Any neighbors willing to become involved with this effort are invited to call the church office.

## ***News Flash: Random Acts of Kindness in WUNA Land***

Here are two true “feel good” stories that happened right here in West University.

An older woman in our neighborhood walked to her bank to deposit a royalty check and had difficulty using the new ATM, which now scans in your check deposits. She came home all flustered because the ATM jammed when she inserted a deposit slip along with the check. She looked online when she returned home and there was no record of the deposit, so she went back to the bank and filled out all the paperwork for an adjustment.

When she got back home there was a message on her answering machine from a neighbor. The neighbor was next to use the ATM and found the woman’s check

hanging out of the scanner. Apparently, the ATM had returned the check. This honest neighbor was calling to make arrangements to get the check back to the rightful owner.

In another incident, a man inadvertently dropped his fancy electronic car key in the street upon leaving his car. A Turkish student, walking in the street found it. He could have just pressed the “unlock” button, identified the car by the light coming on, and driven away. But instead he knocked on all the front doors in the area until he found the rightful owner.

We’re quick to complain about the problems we face, but it is good to share the wonderful things as well.

## ***Plant Wisely To Conserve Water***

We traditionally think of spring as the time to plant new trees and bushes, but in Tucson, fall is the best time. And in these times of drought and increasingly scarce water, native plants are your best bet. This doesn’t limit you to cactus.

For an idea of the wide variety of plants to choose from, take a walk by the newly planted University of Arizona Visitor Center on the corner of Euclid and University. All the plants at the Visitor Center are Sonoran desert natives, installed with the advice of the director of the UA Campus Arboretum, Dr. Elizabeth Davison.

The trees include ironwood, Lysiloma (wolfberry), desert hackberry and kidneywood (formally called Eysenhardtia). An Arizona Cyprus is planted on the west side, closest to the neighborhood to transition to the houses west of the center. As a lesson in water use, the site also has a Meyer lemon tree to demonstrate that if you harvest water you can grow a thirstier plant without increasing your usage.

Another place to go for landscape ideas is Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, near the corner of Grant Road. The Xeriscape Garden there demonstrates how lush a drought-tolerant landscape can be. Since it is a mature garden, a stroll through the pathways can help you understand what a little one-gallon plant will look like after a few years of care in your garden. Tohono Chul Park, 7366 N. Paseo Del Norte, also has a demonstration garden.

## ***Security Office at Tucson High Magnet School Offers Help Keeping Order***

***Here are numbers to call for problems:***

General Misconduct/Public Nuisance  
Loitering  
Large Gathering of Students  
Littering  
Disrespect  
Obscene Language or Gestures  
Bullying or Hazing  
**Call THMS Security Office at  
520.225.5012**

Potential Danger:  
Car racing  
Speeding  
Illegal parking  
Vandalism  
Sitting on Moving Vehicles  
Threats and Intimidation  
Suspicious Activity  
**Call 911**

Fighting  
Graffiti  
Displaying a weapon  
Drug Related Activity  
Assault  
Trespassing and/or Burglary  
Theft  
**Call 911**



Department of Neighborhood Resources  
P. O. Box 27210  
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

## West University Neighborhood

### Dated Material

#### *The Backyard Fence*

*By Carolyn Niethammer*

Congratulations to **Matt Williams** and **Kyra Jones**, seven-year residents of WUNA, who got married in Custer, South Dakota this summer on 7/7/07.

**Yvonne Arden** is looking to hire someone who lives nearby who can come over occasionally to help entertain her three young sons while she takes care of other things or runs an errand or two. This would amount to probably two hours a day, three or four times a week. An occasional evening out would be nice, too! She is looking for someone who is at least 14 years old. Call her at 882-3920 or 977-6550.

The **Farmer's Market** has come to the University of Arizona Mall every Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You'll find organic vegetables, salsas, bakery goods, preserves, organic beef, and freshly roasted coffee. Walk or bike over and fill your backpack with locally produced food.



**David Lovitt** of DM Lovitt Insurance Agency located in the Ronstadt House, recently received the Spirit of Philanthropy Award on October 30. The award is given by local non-profit agencies. Lovitt is president of the board of directors of Tucson Botanical Garden and is also active in the Boys and Girls Club. He made a generous donation to the WUNA spring clean-up.

## *Join in the Fun at Street Fair Beer Booth*

WUNA will once again be selling beer and soda at the Fourth Avenue Street Fair, held this year December 7-9. It is always great fun to work in the booth – we have a good time getting to know each other and interacting with our customers.

Learning to draw a perfect glass of beer with not too much foam is a precise skill that can be learned in a few minutes and may be of considerable use later in your life.

Income from the winter and spring beer booths constitutes two-thirds of the annual income WUNA uses for neighborhood projects.

Joe Wasiak is overseeing the staffing of the booth this year. Please give him a call at 622-6892 to reserve your shift.