

Report on Last Meeting!

At the Mountain/1st Neighborhood Meeting June 16, 2005, 15 people attended including Officers Ron Zimmerling and Robert Webster, Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) Outreach Coordinator, Abbie Stone, and Ambassador for our neighborhood, Maria Patricia Rojas, and finally, Alba Jaramillo, Community Educator at the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault. Bennett Bernal, Aide to Kathleen Dunbar, presided as chairperson in Judi and Reid's absences.

Officers Webster and Zimmerling answered questions about drug activity and sex offenders in the neighborhood. Officer Webster explained that our neighborhood is within the bounds of a special initiative spearheaded by the police department to reduce crime from 1st Ave. to Alvernon and Grant to River. More officers have been deployed in this area, businesses have been surveyed down the Campbell corridor, and they have a top 60 offenders list whom, if arrested, are guaranteed to be prosecuted by the Attorney's office. He reminded us that if we, as neighbors, see any suspicious activity, to report it right away to 911.

Next, Officer Zimmerling talked about sex offenders and what we can and cannot do as a neighborhood to protect our children and ourselves. The adoption of Megan's Law in June 1996 led to the formation of the Police SORT unit (Sex Offender Registration and Tracking). All sex offenders are required to renew their Arizona driver's license once a year and report their place of residence. If they are a Level 2 or Level 3 sex offender (the most serious), their picture and address are available to the public from the Police (791-5159) or online at <http://az.gov/webapp/offender/searchZip/results.do?zip=85719>

This URL (linked to from www.mtn1st.org) will give you a list of all Level 2 and 3 sex offenders in the 85719 zip code area, or you can search for individual names. 1000 offenders are living in Pima County, 500-600 of them are in Tucson, and 99% of them have been convicted of abusing a minor. Officer Zimmerling emphasized that not all sex offenders are on this list (Level 1 offenders, or offenders that fail to register when they move to AZ from another state). He also reminded us that a high percentage of offenders are people we know (family, neighbors, and friends), so we need to stay vigilant. Although it is against the law to harass known sex offenders, if you suspect anyone of sexual abuse, call the Police at 791-5159 and ask for the SORT unit. They can send an officer to the suspect's house and investigate it further. If you live in the foothills or suspect someone in this area, call the Sheriff's department.

Bennett asked which part of the city has the highest proportion of sex offenders, and Officer Zimmerling will get back to him with the information. There were also questions about tracking bracelets to be worn by sex offenders. This would require putting offenders on lifetime probation and there may be a Senate Bill to facilitate these measures (call Bennett Bernal at the Ward 3 office for more information).

We next heard from Alba Jaramillo from the Center Against Sexual Assault. Her center provides education to middle schools and high schools in Tucson as well as therapy services for all level of income. They also have a 24-hour hotline (520-327-7273 or toll free 1-800-400-1001) for survivors of sexual assault as well as for parents who are unsure what to do if their child is abused. They

Agenda For Next Meeting!

Thursday, July 21, 2005
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Open Forum

Have a neighborhood issue you want to discuss?
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exclusively work with survivors, not sex offenders. Alba supported what Officer Zimmerling had to say and added that the vast majority of assault is not reported to the Police and only 5% of adult assault is successfully convicted. 80% of assaults involve alcohol and rape drugs are still commonly used. Signs that your child may have been abused include drop in grades, overeating, depression, isolation, and drug or alcohol use.

Our last speaker, **Abbie Stone**, from Pima Council on Aging (PCOA), came to speak to us about the organization and to encourage us to join with Rose Burn from Samos and Linda Drews from Hedrick Acres neighborhoods, who are also leading PCOA groups, to apply for United Way's last round of funding for this year. Abbie says we can call her anytime at 790-7262 if we have any questions.

At the end of the meeting, Cindy wanted to know if we, as a neighborhood, would be willing to leave the traffic circle edge unpainted. She talked to Eddie Sainz from the city and this shouldn't be a problem. A motion was made by Phil to leave the traffic circle (south of the park) concrete edge unpainted. Larry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy also expressed interest in being part of a traffic circle committee (had some ideas for artwork and Ally said she could donate a solar-powered light for the circle)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Minutes compiled by Celine Hayden

Clip this Coupon to pay your Annual Association dues. Make checks for \$12.00 per household payable to: **Mountain/1st Neighborhood Association**. Bring to our next meeting or mail to our Treasurer: **Elva Davis, 2714 North Tyndall, Tucson, AZ. 85719**

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