



## Alta Vista Neighborhood Block Watch Newsletter

This newsletter is funded by City of Phoenix Block Watch Grant Funds

### Schedule of Upcoming meetings

**Tuesday,  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Tuesday,  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Our meetings are held at  
Career Success Schools/  
STEM Academy  
8537 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave

### Meet your neighbors!

**Come to a Block Watch meeting** Come get involved in our **BLOCKWATCH** and together we can help preserve and improve the Physical, Social, and Economic Health of our **NEIGHBORHOOD**.

Beginning in 2022, we are changing our meeting day!

Alta Vista Neighborhood Block Watch  
holds our meetings on the

**2nd Tuesday** of the following months

**Feb., May, Sept. & Nov.** beginning at 6:30p

### Curb Painting will begin soon!

The Block Watch is funding this program. We will begin in the area adjacent to 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. House numbers will be painted on curbs by a professional painting company, using high quality reflective materials. This will add to the safety of our neighborhood, making it easier for Police and Fire to locate and respond to residents' calls for assistance.



### Our November Meeting Agenda:

- One of our **Community Action Officers** comes to every meeting with current information on activity in our area, get to know them, and share your concerns.
- Our February meeting speaker will be Jeff Spellman, Chairman of the Violence Impact Project (VIP) Coalition. The VIP Coalition area is 19<sup>th</sup> to 35 Avenues, and Dunlap to Indian School, with the primary focus on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The City of Phoenix will be directing additional resources to address the crime in this corridor, and Jeff will share this information. Jeff is also involved with other groups and redevelopment in our area, and he will be available to answer questions.
- New metal Block Watch signs are going up throughout our neighborhood, replacing old, faded signs. The new signs feature the Virtual Block Watch program. Learn how this program is helping police keep our area safer.

**PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**



## Our BULK Trash Zone is number 11

Next collections will be  
Placement April 23, 2022 - Collection begins May 2, 2022

**Please place items to be picked up out no sooner than April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

If you have curbside collection, crews will only pick up piles placed close to the edge of your property, which must be at least 5 feet away from fixed objects. If you have alley collection, place pile along the alley wall. Avoid touching wall and blocking alley access.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

**What is Bulk Trash:** any material that cannot be placed in a refuse or recycling container, such as furniture, large appliances, rugs, mattress, or large amounts of vegetation. Small amounts of vegetation should be bagged and placed in the refuse container. Bulk trash is collected from city-serviced residences four times a year.

**DO:** Follow the dates for bulk trash placement.

- Sweep or rake area after collection, if necessary.
- Securely bag or box all grass, leaves, weeds, twigs and hedge clippings before placing out for bulk trash.
- Cut tree trimmings down to less than 12" in diameter and 4' in length.
- Place broken down cardboard in your recycle container.

**DON'T INCLUDE:** More than 20 cubic yards in your pile, which is similar to the size of a SUV.

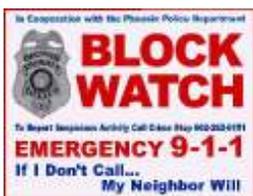
- Loose grass, leaves, weeds, twigs and hedge clippings.
- Household hazardous waste (HHW), such as antifreeze, pool chemicals, oil, batteries and paint.
- Tires, any shape or size.
- Appliances that use refrigerants.

For more specific information, visit [Phoenix.Gov/PublicWorks/BulkTrash](http://Phoenix.Gov/PublicWorks/BulkTrash)

## BLOCK WATCH IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS

Block Watches come in all sizes. They can be a few houses in a cul-de-sac to a whole square mile neighborhood. They help to develop a "sense of community" and strengthen and sustain neighborhoods by bringing residents/neighbors together with a common interest.

Every Block Watch starts with one person and their concern for the safety and well-being of themselves and their families. Their motivation may be to meet or get to know their neighbors, to protect the children, to keep property values up by eliminating blight and graffiti, to stop speeding on the streets by installing speed humps to protect the children, to have peace of mind by discouraging barking dogs and loud parties, and to be safe from crimes like burglary, theft and assault.



We all want to live in a safe and secure environment. Our homes should be safe havens. By rights there should be several layers of protection from the national level to our own neighborhoods. National and state governments provide control of our borders; state and city governments provide police and fire protection, education, and other resources, community member groups provide Phoenix Neighborhood Patrollers and the posting of PNP signs on neighborhood streets;

Block Watch provides neighbors watching out for neighbors; and we provide our own home security alarms, lighting and burglary prevention measures.

## **Metrocenter Redevelopment Moving Forward!**

Big changes are coming for Metrocenter! In December it was announced that an agreement was made on June 28, 2021 for the purchase of Metrocenter Mall. Although the sale isn't closing until the second half of 2022, Carlyle Development Group (current owner) and the new developer coalition (Concord Wilshire Capital and TLG Investment Partners) reached an agreement to start demolition on the mall ahead of closing. The new developer has formed a strategic alliance with Hines (a huge international real estate investment firm) and plans to invest approximately \$750 million to redevelop the property into a walkable residential and mixed-use, self-contained community.

Here's what's coming: • 2,600+ residential apartments (at different price points) • Amphitheater • 100,000 sq. ft. of retail (including services) and restaurants • Pet-friendly parks and green space • Pedestrian and bicycle pathways • Water features • Around 4,100 parking spaces in public parking garages. What will remain at Metrocenter Mall? • Harkins Theaters • Dillard's Clearance Center • Life Storage

And of course, the Walmart Supercenter, Castles 'N Coasters and Cholla Library, while not part of the mall, will still be nearby.

## **Let's Take Pride in Our Neighborhood!**

We have a great neighborhood, with many wonderful people. One of the best things we can do to discourage blight, graffiti and other area crime is to keep our neighborhood looking its best. Litter or garbage, outside storage and clutter, overgrown landscaping, etc makes an area look really "trashy" and blighted. Trashy, blighted areas are prime targets for criminals. It sends a message that people who live there don't care.

While most of us appreciate not having to answer to an HOA, we also know that things can get out of hand quickly if people are not held to some basic standards—those which are in the City of Phoenix ordinances and laws. These Phoenix street standards were created to make neighborhoods safer for pedestrians and drivers and to make them more walkable. With a little awareness and action, our neighborhood can be one of the best areas for walkability!

The spring rains always perk up vegetation in our yards. But don't let weeds get out of control. Remember, grass cannot be taller than six inches.

## **WHEN YOU CALL 911 KNOW THE 10 W's**

- **What** - is your location? GIVE EXACT LOCATION
- **What** - happened? WHAT TYPE OF CRIME?
- **When** - did this happen?

*(These questions will determine if it is a priority call. Give as much of this necessary information as you can.)*

- **Was** - anyone hurt?
- **Weapons** - are there weapons involved?
- **What** - manner did they leave or arrive – foot, vehicle, bicycle...?
- **Who** - did it? –Suspect description
- **Where** - did the suspect go? – What direction
- **What** - did the suspect obtain? – type and amount
- **Who** - is calling? – Give your name location and phone number (You can remain anonymous. If you do give your name, the info is redacted from the public record access.)

## **CRYPTO — SAME SCAMS, DIFFERENT CURRENCY**

Cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Dogecoin are soaring in popularity these days. Indeed, these virtual currencies, which are not regulated, can lead to profit for some investors. And scammers are more than happy to adapt traditional scams to this new space to try to line their own pockets along the way.

*HOW IT WORKS:* Websites promising huge returns if you invest in crypto with the company. “Celebrities” offering investment opportunities in virtual currency. Online love interests who either ask for financial help via cryptocurrency or seek to convince you to invest in crypto with them.

*WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:* Pitches that claim virtual currency investments offer little or no risk are seeking to deceive you. The value of virtual currencies is driven entirely by supply and demand, which can create wild swings that can produce big gains, but also big losses. Most celebrities do not manage their own social media accounts, and those who do typically won’t engage directly with fans, especially with unsolicited investment opportunities. “Romance” scams proliferate online, and not only on dating apps. Be wary of those you meet online who seek to grow a personal relationship with you.

*WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:* Understand the risk — even if it’s not a scam, cryptocurrency is a new and highly volatile way to invest. Never invest in a virtual currency (or in anything for that matter) at the urging of someone who contacts you out of the blue or whom you have only met online. Never share your “private keys”, the long letter-and-number codes that allow you to access your virtual currency, with anyone. Keep them in a secure place.

## **2021: THE YEAR IN SCAMS**

We look back on 2021 as a year in which COVID continued to be a major player in our daily lives. And the scammers, as always, were ready to pounce, deploying not only new

scams, but adapting tried and true scams to the unsettled times.

*COVID Scams:* As the pandemic has evolved over the course of 2021, the scams associated with it have evolved as well. Bogus “post-vaccine” surveys — An email or a text message containing a link to a “post-vaccine” survey promises free rewards if you click the link and provide payment information to cover a small fee. (Don’t click links.)

*COVID-19 funeral expense support scams:* A particularly heinous scam emerged earlier this year after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened up a program offering funds to help with COVID-related funeral expenses. Scammers impersonating FEMA contacted individuals offering to help them register for the program — for a small fee, of course. (Government agencies don’t operate this way.)

*Unemployment compensation scams:* A massive wave of identity fraud occurred in the form of criminals using stolen identities to file for unemployment compensation. The victim typically only found out when they received a letter confirming their benefits, or received a tax form indicating they had received unemployment. (For help recovering from identity fraud, go to [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov).)

*Gift Card Payment Scams:* Gift cards are popular and convenient ... and not just for gifts. Over the course of 2021, we have seen explosive growth in gift cards being used as a form of payment in scams. A target gets an urgent call from (Social Security, the IRS, your utility company, a tech support company, etc.) claiming a pressing issue needs immediate attention. Convinced of the story, the target agrees to the form of payment requested to address the problem. They go to a specific store, pick up a specific gift card or cards, and load a specific amount of money on them. Then the target, as directed, shares the numbers off the back to pay for the alleged obligation. Once the criminal has the card information, they are able to drain the value of the card within minutes. Anytime anyone

seeks payment for anything with a gift card, it is a scam — full stop.

*Amazon Impostor Scams:* Impostor scams are on the rise, and in 2021, impostors posing as Amazon have been among the most common. The target receives a phone call alerting them of a suspicious charge on their Amazon account. If the target engages, the ploy could be anything from getting payment information, login credentials to their Amazon account, or even to convince the target to allow them to have remote access to their computer to "solve" an alleged problem. Know that Amazon will never ask you to disclose sensitive personal information or your login credentials. If you have an Amazon account, access it online or via your app to check for any problems; if you don't have an Amazon account, you have nothing to worry about.

### **DON'T BE FOOLED BY A FAKE**

There's a fake letter being circulated by fraudsters that impersonates JPMorgan Chase and asks our clients or their business partners to change remittance instructions for ACH and wire transactions. It's a fraud attempt that will redirect payments to criminals—and this one in particular, looks very real. It happens; fraudsters fake a bank's letterhead (ours and other financial institutions) to trick clients and their business partners into changing payment instructions. This tactic—often used in business email compromise scams—impersonates banks, vendors, even the client company itself. When a company employee is fooled by the fake communication, it can be very expensive if payments staff don't follow proper controls, especially callback procedures. Remember, you're liable for payments released by your authorized persons. Protect yourself and your organization; always use strong callback validation procedures, and make sure your vendors and business partners do as well. Learn more about callback procedures in our [Guide to Business Email Compromise Prevention](#) or contact your relationship team for more information.

### **THAT "AMAZING" INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. IS IT?**

We've all received the pitch — that one investment opportunity that sounds just too good to pass up. But 99.99% of the time, passing it up is exactly the right thing to do. Investment fraud siphons billions of dollars from investors every year. Here's how to spot a phony investment opportunity coming your way.

*HOW IT WORKS:* You get an offer for a "once-in-a-lifetime" investment opportunity. There's always a catch — you have to act quickly or lose the amazing opportunity. You may see the investment pay off at the beginning, giving you confidence to stick with it.

*WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:* A pitch that uses phrases such as "incredible gains," "breakout stock pick" or "huge upside and almost no risk" suggests high risk and possible fraud, according to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The pressure to act now is the key: If the scammer can convince you to engage before you take the time to do any research or think more critically about the offer, they get your "investment" money. Early dividends in investment scams are a ploy to make you believe the investment is legitimate; often the money you receive is simply the scammer paying existing "investors" with money from new "investors." Investment scammers often target older adults, believing they may be more trusting or have more available assets — but anyone of any age can be a target.

*WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:* Be proactive: If you're interested in investing, do your research rather than react to a pitch from an ad, a phone call or other source. Investigate investment opportunities by learning as much as you can about the offering (whether stock in a company, gold coins, real estate or any other investment). The SEC offers a database to research publicly traded companies, and FINRA provides one to check the background of brokers. Have an exit strategy: Come up

with a line that makes it easy to end unwanted contact. Simply "No, thank you" and ending the conversation works!

## **WE'RE ONLINE MORE THAN EVER ... AND SCAMMERS ARE, TOO**

It's easier to be safe when you know what cyber-scam attempts to look for.

### *HOW IT WORKS:*

*Phony websites:* Fake websites and bogus mobile apps have long been the territory of online shopping scams. More people than ever are shopping online since the start of the pandemic, and scammers have created more fake shopping destinations to keep up with demand.

*Phishing:* Emails, texts and instant messages abound, impersonating legitimate senders (like a bank, shipping company, retailer, charity, or friend, among others). The typical goal is to get you to click on a link to address a problem or learn about a free federal grant, or some other ruse. Increasingly, we are seeing fake emails from Amazon, claiming they need you to click on a link to verify a purchase made on your account.

*Spear-phishing:* When criminals have obtained someone's personal information (from social media, data breaches — even public records), they use it to make a targeted attack. Whereas scammers cast a wide net with phishing, spear-phishing targets an individual or organization.

*WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:* Fake websites and apps seek to lure us in, get us to pay for a product that never comes, or load malicious software on our devices to steal logins and passwords. Phishing relies on the criminal's ability to impersonate a trusted entity. Clicking on the provided link could lead to loading dangerous malware onto our device that can steal logins and passwords. It can also lead to identity fraud. Spear-phishing is often focused on businesses to obtain access to systems and confidential information, but it isn't limited to this. We also see it used in what we call, "Can you do me a favor?" scams. It might involve a scammer impersonating a leader of a faith community, for example, sending a quick email

or text to you as an active congregant and asking you to buy hundreds of dollars in gift cards for a family in need. He directs you to snap a pic of the front and back of the card and share it, with a commitment to reimburse you later. Only the criminal impersonator drains the cards as soon as you send the pictures (and the faith leader didn't know a thing about it).

*WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:* Engage your inner skeptic when looking at emails, texts and social media messages. Scammers are banking on getting us to act without first thinking things through. Set your device's operating systems and protective software to update automatically, so you don't miss out on changes that are intended to address vulnerabilities. Enable two-factor authentication everywhere it's offered; it confirms that you are indeed the person seeking to access a password protected site. With this, the site will require you to prove it's you by sending you a code by text, email or automated phone message, and having you enter that code before being able to access the site. This is intended to stop a criminal from accessing your account.

## **GET FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS**

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days.

Order your tests now so you have them when you need them.

Request free at-home COVID tests online at [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov).

**All crime is based on opportunity.  
You control your fate!**

**Report any suspicious activity  
to the Police ASAP Crime Stop  
(602) 262-6151**

## KEEP YOUR PROPERTY WELL MAINTAINED – AVOID BLIGHT VIOLATIONS

*This includes:* stray trash, weeds, dead landscaping, property perimeters including sidewalks, side yards and alley ways.

The spring rains have the flowers, trees and shrubbery growing well and looking very healthy. Unfortunately this has also helped the weeds to flourish in our yards, gardens, sidewalks, street curbs, driveways and alleys.



Did you know you are responsible for the areas around your property?

*When the zoning enforcement folks* come through our neighborhood, the most reported violations are in the areas around our property where some may think the city is responsible or maybe they think it is their neighbor's responsibility.

**You are responsible to keep clean the half of the alley that borders your back property!  
Also the sidewalk and half of the street area that borders your front yard!**

(This means stray trash and grass that grows in the cracks of the sidewalk and curbs.)

The yards that are between our homes are a shared responsibility with your neighbors... You are responsible for the half surrounding your home on both sides.

Please remember to clean out the weeds from around your home and especially in the alleys. *Overgrown weeds covering the items placed in alleys for trash pick-up do not get removed.* The trash collectors have enough work already.

As the *weeds begin to dry out* from the heat they *become a fire hazard.* These little brush fires spread quickly and can consume homes before the Fire Department can respond.



As we are a neighborhood in constant transition we all have new neighbors in our area. Please be kind and neighborly and find a nice way to inform them of their responsibility to prevent blight. Please be safe and remind your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Zoning enforcement is through *City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department.* You may contact them at *General Information – 602-262-7344* or *Neighborhood Preservation – 602-262-7844* Private Property, Right-of-Way Widths and Lot Dimensions -

262-6878

Phoenix City Code Chapter 39, Sec. 39-7D

Property owners are responsible for keeping their properties, and the adjacent rights of way, free of dead or dried vegetation (weeds, tall grass, tumbleweeds, shrubs, trees, palm fronds, etc.). All dead or dried vegetation must be removed and disposed of properly. Property owners are also responsible for assuring that grass and weeds on their property and in the adjacent rights of way do not exceed six inches in height.



**Career Success Schools – STEM Academy  
and Principal Dameon Blair**  
for hosting our Neighborhood meetings.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police -- Community Action Officers  
South of Butler – Eric Boardman 602 534-6988  
North of Butler – Austin Diaz 602 534-1249

Emergency in progress 911  
Non-Emergency (Crime Stop) 602 262-6151  
General Information 602 262-7626  
Cactus Park Precinct 602 495-5009  
Speeding Enforcement 602 534-7733  
Abandoned Vehicles and  
Parking Complaints 602 262-6151  
Loud Party Reporting 602 262-6151

Neighborhood Narcotic Complaints 602 262-6771  
Drug Enforcement Unit 602 275-5886  
Prostitution Hot line 602 426-1231  
Gang Hotline 602 262-4264  
Silent Witness 602 948-6377

### Neighborhood services

General Information 602 262-4444  
Zoning Enforcement 602 262-7844  
Illegal Construction 602 262-7844  
Zoning inspector 602 495-0143

### Streets

Repair, potholes, grading 602 262-6441  
Lights, repair & maintenance 602 495-5125  
Traffic signs, damage 602 262-4659

Solids Waste (Alleys) 602 262-7251  
Illegal Dumping 602 262-7251  
Residential Appliance Pickup 602 262-7251  
Shopping Cart removal 1-800 842-2278

Graffiti IN Progress 911  
Graffiti Busters 602 495-7014  
Graffiti Reward Hotline 602 262-7327  
Animal Control/Rabies 602 506-7387  
Barking Dogs 602 262-6466  
City Bus Service 602 253-5000  
Dial-A-Ride 602 253-5300

City Council District 1, North of Butler 602 262-7444  
City Council District 5, South of Butler 602 262-7446

Neighborhood Contact: Ginger 602-793-1354

Email: [AltaVistaNBW@gmail.com](mailto:AltaVistaNBW@gmail.com)

Facebook: Alta Vista Block Watch

For more phone numbers and information, visit:  
[www.Phoenix.gov](http://www.Phoenix.gov), and select “myPHX311”



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