



Alta Vista Neighborhood Block Watch Newsletter

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

Schedule of Upcoming meetings

**Tuesday,
May 10th, 2022**

**Tuesday,
September 13th, 2022
November 8th, 2022
February 14th, 2023**

Our meetings are held at
Career Success Schools/
STEM Academy
8537 N. 27th 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 have changed 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 6:30pm

The pandemic has changed many things, and our Block Watch is struggling with “supply chain” issues, and police staffing shortages within the Phoenix Police Department.

We need our Block Watch more than ever, to keep our neighborhood safe and to limit crime in our area. Please consider joining us!



Our May 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 May meeting speaker will be **Andrew Wunder, Chief of Staff to Betty Guardado**, our District 5 Representative. Councilwoman Guardado has worked tirelessly for several years with our neighborhood leaders to develop a plan to redevelop the old Kmart property at I-17 and Northern, and make the Innovation 27 project a reality. This plan was approved this month by the Phoenix City Council. Andrew will explain the Innovation 27 project, and tell how this will help our residents and our neighborhood, and the city as a whole. He will answer questions on District 5 challenges and programs.
- The new **MyPHX311 app and website** will be demonstrated and explained. This app/website allows you to report neighborhood issues, seek help, and get information on City of Phoenix programs.

PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



Our BULK Trash Zone is number 11

Next collections will be
Placement July 23, 2022 - Collection begins August 1, 2022

Please place items to be picked up out no sooner than July 23rd.

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.
- Construction materials

For more specific information, visit [Phoenix.Gov/PublicWorks/BulkTrash](https://www.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 Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol 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.

Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program

Is your home in need of critical repairs, or repairs to items that affect the health and safety of those who live there? Are you struggling to pay for these repairs? This program may be for you.

The city of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department offers financial assistance designed to stabilize critical home systems, address immediate health and safety issues, eliminate hazards, conserve water and energy and address exterior code/blighting violations. Home repair is an important element in the city's strategy to enhance the quality and value of the neighborhood and to promote sustainable communities.

What is the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program?

The Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program (OOHR) provides financial assistance to eligible low to moderate income homeowners citywide for emergency home repairs and/or to address health and/or safety hazards. The program may also address non-emergency home repairs to stabilize critical home systems such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and roof systems. The assistance is the form of a zero percent (0%) interest, forgivable loan and is secured by a lien on the primary residential property. **For more information please contact the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department at 602-534-4444 Ext. 4 or visit us on line at www.phoenix.gov/nsd.**

Qualification Criteria: To qualify, the following minimal conditions must be met.

- The total annual gross household income must meet low-to-moderate income guidelines which vary by household size as published annually by federal regulations.
- The home must be located within the city of Phoenix limits.
- The home must be owner occupied, primary residence where the owner has lived for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to application.
- The property title must be clear from all extraordinary liens and encumbrances including, but not limited. to:
 1. Past due property tax liens and property mortgage payments
 2. Past due special assessment liens and judgments against the property

The rehabilitation of the property must be feasible under the time and funding constraints of the program.

What are the homeowner's responsibilities?

- Maintain the property in compliance with local city codes and ordinances, for more information visit: www.phoenix.gov/nsd/programs/compliance
- Maintain homeowners insurance coverage for the life of the lien
- Continue to reside in home as owner-occupant until all terms of lien are satisfied
- Assure property is accessible (interior and exterior) to staff and contractors for rehabilitation work and inspections
- Complete any training and/or other stipulations of the financial assistance.

For more information please contact the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department at 602-534-4444 Ext. 4 or visit us on line at www.phoenix.gov/nsd.



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

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

Operation Officer Appreciation

Have you thought about how we can show our appreciation to our courageous, overworked and understaffed police officers? Here are some ideas:

- You might want to personally thank them for their service when you see them in public or when you talk to the police dispatchers at 9-1-1 or CrimeStop
- You might want to pay for their coffee or even their meal if you run into them at your favorite fast-food establishment
- You might want to help with **Operation Officer Appreciation**. This program is run by Sandra Miller in the United Neighbors Association (UNA) who did something when she realized there was a need.

What is the need? Did you know that precinct officers provide their own coffee makers, coffee supplies and many other basic food items? A few years ago, UNA got a call because Cactus Park Precinct's commercial-style coffeemaker had "died." One of the officers had brought in his own personal Keurig to help out, but many did not like the "K-Cup" coffee. Sandra Miller, along with the residents of UNA, started raising funds. They were able to buy the precinct a coffee maker with an extra carafe, coffee filters and other coffee supplies. Since that time, UNA has been fundraising to help provide coffee, snacks, occasional subs, bagels, pizzas and portable microwavable items that officers can heat up and take with them as they go out on patrol when their workload requires them to eat "on the go." With donations, Sandra, in conjunction with a Cactus Park officer, now buys \$300-\$500 worth of food and snacks at Costco every few weeks for the three shifts with 200 officers that work out of Cactus Park Precinct. If you would like to help, we will have a donation jar at our next Block Watch meeting and will provide more information in the future.

INNOVATION 27 BECOMING A REALITY FOR THE OLD KMART PROPERTY



On April 20th the Phoenix City Council approved the acquisition of the Building Located at 2526 W. Northern Ave (the old Kmart) and Lease of Adjacent Property Located at 8114 N. Black Canyon Hwy (Crystal Palace Reception Center). This has been a project in the making for over three years ever since the old Kmart closed.

The Site along 27th Avenue has remained vacant for years and is one of the last large infill sites available for redevelopment along the I-17 Freeway. The property owner has received numerous offers for this building that would convert the property into uses such as a park-and-swap, storage, heavy industrial and multi-family uses. Studies have shown that these uses are not conducive to the revitalization and crime suppression of this area. Community visioning sessions have indicated the desire to repurpose the Site into an innovation center offering education, workforce training and job opportunities for the community.

In 2021, the City contracted for the completion of a building assessment, the results of which have outlined the opportunity and framework to transform the Site into an innovation center that will provide education and workforce training programs to the community. This strategic educational partnership with the City, Arizona State University (ASU), Maricopa Community College District (MCCCD), and Western Maricopa Education Center (West -MEC) will bring pandemic- and downturn-resistant employment training to this community.

This project will be a game-changer for the revitalization of this entire area. Children will now have their hopes realized for getting a quality education that will lead to good-paying jobs in the trades. Furthermore, adults will have the opportunity to obtain continuing education at this facility that will enhance their careers.

While it took an entire team working together to bring this project to reality, we have our City Councilwoman Betty Guardado to thank for her leadership on shepherding this vision through more than three years of work to bring us to this day. If you have a minute, please thank her for her tremendous support for our community. You can send emails to council.district.5@phoenix.gov.

SHAM DEBT RELIEF OFFERS

Debt is something that can creep up on anyone, and before long, you are looking for a way out of it. But use caution — sometimes, tempting offers of debt relief will only make your own problems worse, while lining the pockets of scammers.

HOW IT WORKS: Debt relief scams promise "guarantees" to get you out of debt quickly and cleanly. You may be asked for advance payment, or to pay ongoing fees, for the "services" they provide. You may receive an offer to enroll in a debt relief program without having your own financial situation specifically reviewed. You may even be told to stop paying your creditors.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW: There simply is no guarantee that any debt relief program will get you out of debt or stop collection calls or lawsuits. Anyone promising this is lying to you. Debt relief plans can only work for you if they are based on your specific financial situation. Offers to enroll you without considering that are bogus. It's illegal for debt relief companies to seek upfront payment before they provide services to you. In a scam scenario, you might be led to believe fees you are paying to the debt relief company are going to your creditors. If you follow their guidance to stop paying your creditors, those creditors could bring a lawsuit against you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: Check with your state Attorney General's office before working with a debt relief service to see if it has been the subject of complaints. Consider negotiating with creditors directly or connect with a debt counselor through a nonprofit credit counseling organization, such as the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. Report any debt relief scams to the Federal Trade Commission by calling 1-800-382-4357 or going online to reportfraud.ftc.gov.

WAR IN UKRAINE SPAWNS CHARITY SCAMS

Scammers follow the headlines and take advantage of them when they can. Public desire to support Ukraine in this critical time of need is no exception.

HOW IT WORKS: You receive a communication — by phone, email, text, on social media — even in person, soliciting donations for the people of Ukraine. The name of the charity sounds familiar. You may feel pressured to act quickly, and they may direct you to donate through a payment app, by text, or by purchasing gift cards and sharing the numbers off the back.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW: Bogus charities may use names similar to existing charities to legitimize themselves. The pressure to act quickly is a red flag; a real charity will take your donation when you are ready to provide it. Less common forms of payment are also a red flag, though criminals may seek checks, cash or credit card payments as well. (Always opt for a credit card, which carries greater consumer protections than other payment forms.)

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: Legitimate charities — those whose fundraisers pass through most of the donations to the actual cause — need support. They, just like you, lose out when a criminal intervenes. Research charities before you donate. It's easy to do at sites like Give.org or Charity Watch. In addition, Charity Navigator has a page specifically dedicated to high-performing charities engaged in relief efforts in Ukraine.

IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT NEXTDOOR!

The Police can only post information and events, they cannot see any posts by you or your neighbors unless the posts are directly responding to the Police post. When you or your neighbors talk about suspicious activity, burglaries, etc. on the neighborhood list, the police cannot see it. So, you need to call the information in to CRIME STOP 602-262-6151 or to be anonymous, call SILENT WITNESS 480-WITNESS.

KEEP PHOENIX GRAFFITI FREE

One ongoing program that is not new but has been very effective in fighting blight is the city's Graffiti Busters program. Graffiti Busters work seven days a week to clear graffiti, often responding to reports from residents. The

Graffiti Busters cover or remove up to 200 sites of graffiti every day, at no cost to residents or businesses. In 2021, crews used nearly 12,000 gallons of paint and cleaned up nearly 52,000 sites of graffiti around Phoenix. Report graffiti:

- App : myPHX311 (use the TELL THE CITY ABOUT tab)
- Call : 602-534-4444 • Email : blight@phoenix.gov
- Call 911 for graffiti in progress

REMINDER: YOU CAN SAY NO TO PANHANDLING.

There is a better way to give. Never give money to people begging on street corners! It enables them to continue buying drugs or alcohol without ever addressing their problems. And there are a lot of scam artists out there, too, making \$200-300 every day, tax free! Instead, give to charities with a reliable track record of helping the homeless (e.g., Phoenix Rescue Mission, UMOM, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Central Arizona Shelter Services and Church on the Street, to name just a few).

STAY CONNECTED WITH PHOENIX CITY SERVICES THROUGH ITS NEW MOBILE APP, MYPHX311.

Use the app to access your City account and pay your City Services bill, report a streetlight out or a pothole in your road, request a repair

to your trash or recycling container, or get a permit for work being done on your home. You can also use the app to connect with our City leadership, report fraud or government waste, and get details on street closures. So many services – in one place – **myPHX311**.

Access PHX Services on your iPhone®, iPad®, and Android® devices. Choose your platform to visit the store and download and install the free App. You can also access these same services from your computer desktop by accessing the City's updated web portal, ***Phoenix.gov/myPHX311***.

POOLS, SPLASH PADS

Summer pool season starts on Saturday, May 28th. The City will soon finalize which pools will be open to the public and their operating hours. Look for updates at Phoenix.gov/Parks/Pool. The City's Aquatics Division is hiring pool managers, cashiers and a mascot for the 2022 pool season. For more information, check out ***Phoenix.gov/Parks***.

SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for City of Phoenix PHXPlays Summer Camps is open. Camps will be offered at more than 20 facilities Monday-Friday for ages 6-12 featuring various prices and registration options. Some camps include lunch, sports, crafts, games and more. See ***Phoenix.gov/Parks*** for more information.

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.)

KEEP YOUR PROPERTY WELL MAINTAINED – AVOID BLIGHT VIOLATIONS

BLIGHT AND ZONING LAWS STRUCTURES: The maintenance of a home is the responsibility of the property owner. Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows, screens and other exterior parts of any structure on the property must be maintained in weather tight, sound condition and in good repair. The property owner is responsible for making sure there are no doors or windows left open and not secure to the outside. **FOR HELP** call the Preservation Division of the Neighborhood Services Dept. at 602-495-0700 to see if you qualify for a free Grant!

OUTDOOR STORAGE: All outside storage that can be seen from the street should be inside sheds or cabinets. Items should not be set in car ports in view of the street. Please use enclosed areas or backyards.

JUNK, TRASH & DEBRIS: Junk, trash and debris cannot be left in the yard or car port and must be properly disposed of. This includes junk auto parts, appliances, furniture, building and/or landscaping material, trash such as discarded papers, cardboard, plastics, etc. including tree trimmings and fallen limbs or any other items that appear to have been discarded. The only exception is during the Bulk Trash Collection weeks four times a year.

PARKING: Parking is only permitted for passenger cars and motorcycles on residential streets, on driveways or in garages. A driveway or parking area must be constructed with an approved dust free parking surface. The stone must be 1/4 -3/4 in size with a permanent border holding it in. 1/4 minus size stone is not allowed for parking. There are limits to the amount of front yard area that can be used for parking. No more than 45% of the front yard may be converted to driveway or dust free parking.

GRASS AND WEEDS: Grass and weeds must not be allowed to grow over 6 inches high due to fire hazard, allowing the weeds to go to seed and spreading throughout the neighborhood and insect infestation.



ELIMINATE GRAFFITI: Keeping the neighborhood graffiti free is something we can all do. If there is graffiti on your property, please remove it as soon as possible. The Graffiti Busters Program provides paint, supplies and training to assist groups with eliminating graffiti. The City will also remove the graffiti from private property with written permission from the property owner. Call 602-495-7014.



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 -



**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

Facebook: Alta Vista Block Watch

For more phone numbers and information, visit:

www.Phoenix.gov, and select "myPHX311"



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