



Across the Back Fence

December 2007

News For Neighbors From The City of Mesa Neighborhood Services Department

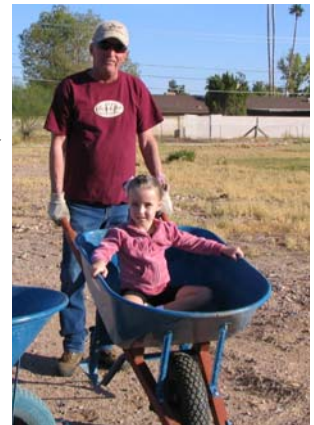
Volunteers Make A Difference

Volunteers from Word of Grace Church and nearby residents gathered Saturday, November 17 at Hawthorne Elementary School, 630 N. Hunt Drive for "Take Pride in Your Neighborhood Day."

Sixty-five volunteers cleaned playground equipment and repainted safety zones at Hawthorne Elementary School, trimmed and removed debris and weeds from vacant parcels under the power towers at 545 N. Hunt Drive and re-stripped the basketball court north of Williams alley. The City of Mesa provided Clean Sweep and Green Sweep dumpsters, along with gloves, dust masks, tools and garbage bags.

The cleanup project was part of the Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative underway in Council District 2. The neighborhood lies within an area bound by University Drive on the south, 8th Street on the north, Williams and Hall on the east and the S.R.P. substation on the west. The main purpose of the initiative is to preserve and strengthen neighborhoods by providing residents and businesses with education, training and access to existing resources to address neighborhood issues. "This was a wonderful opportunity for volunteers and neighbors to come together and make a difference in the community," says Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Susan Frabotta.

The City is conducting one Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative in each City Council District from now through June. For more information, contact Mesa District 2 Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Susan Frabotta at (480) 644-5432.



"Jim Henson's Fantastic World"

Without "fences" to limit where his imagination could roam, Jim Henson (1936-1990)—artist, puppeteer, film director and producer—created elaborate imaginary worlds filled with unique characters, objects, environments and even languages and cultures. His work is enjoyed in dozens of languages in more than 100 countries. "Jim Henson's Fantastic World," a new exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the Jim Henson Legacy, offers a rare peek into the imagination and creative genius of this multitalented innovator and creator of Kermit the Frog, Big Bird and other beloved characters.

"Jim Henson's Fantastic World" will open at the Arizona Museum for Youth (AMY) December 15. It will remain on view through March 9, 2008, and will then continue on a 12-venue national tour through 2011.

AMY is the only museum in the Southwest—and only the second in the nation—to host this unique exhibit that documents Henson's remarkable process of visual thinking.

The exhibition features 100 original artworks, including drawings, cartoons and storyboards that illustrate Henson's talent as a storyteller and visionary. Among the variety of exhibition objects are puppets, television and movie props, photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work, and original video productions, including excerpts from Henson's early career and experimental films. Tickets for the exhibition are \$7, which includes admission to the museum.

How Far Will \$1 Go

ABC: A Better Community Program provides an opportunity for City of Mesa Utility Bill customers to easily contribute to their community by donating money with their monthly utility bill payment. For 2007-2008 the Office of Human Services allocated \$153,300 to the community. Non-profit agencies that benefit from ABC include Mesa Boys & Girls Club, MARC Center of Mesa, East Valley Senior Services, Mesa YMCA and United Food Bank.

Utility customers can voluntarily add \$1 or more to the total bill amount each month. SurePay customers can call City of Mesa Customer Service at (480) 644-2221 to request that the additional amount be added automatically each month.

If you are not a City of Mesa utility customer, you can still donate and take a charitable contribution deduction on your taxes. Just send a check to City of Mesa and add ABC: A Better Community to the memo area. Mail the check to City of Mesa Customer Service, P.O. Box 1466, Mesa, AZ 85211-1466.

Recycle Christmas Trees

Residents choosing to purchase a fresh cut Christmas tree this year are encouraged to use one of the following disposal options.

Landfill disposal

The Salt River Landfill, located at Gilbert Road and the Beeline Highway, will accept trees Monday through Saturday, 6am-5pm. There is no charge but residents will need to show a current driver's license.

Free drop-off collection

24-hour drop-off sites will be available Dec. 26-Jan. 13



East Mesa Service Center,
6935 E. Decatur

Solid Waste Management Department
730 N. Mesa Drive

Superstition Springs Police/Fire Station,
2430 S. Ellsworth

Mountain View Park, 845 N. Lindsay

Dobson Ranch Park, 2363 S. Dobson

The Central Christian and St. Timothy's locations used in the past will be closed this year. Residents are asked to avoid illegal dumping by using any of the alternative sites instead.

For more information or to request curbside collection for a minimal fee, call (480) 644-2688.

Spirit of Mesa Award Packets Available

The Spirit of Mesa Neighborhood Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements of Mesa residents and neighborhood groups. If your group participated in a project, program, event, or activity within the 2007 calendar year, you are invited to submit an award nomination. Nomination forms must be submitted to the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Office by 5pm. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

The five neighborhood award categories are Events/Community Building, Public Safety, Beautification, the Margie Frost Neighborhood Advocacy & Organization Award, and the Virginia Lamb Award.

Past award projects have included community fairs and festivals, crime prevention and G.A.I.N. activities, a building renovation, neighborhood cleanups, breakfast with Santa, holiday toy drive, a Memorial Rose Garden, and neighborhood welcome baskets. **Nomination forms are available online at www.cityofmesa.org/neighsvc/AboutAwards or by calling Susan Frabotta, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, at (480) 644-5432.**

Household Hazardous Waste Event

Mesa residents looking for a way to get rid of old cans of paint, batteries, pesticides, compact fluorescent light bulbs or tires are invited to bring these and other household hazardous waste materials to City sponsored collection events. **The next event will be held from 8am-Noon on Saturday, December 8 at the Center Street Facility, 2412 N. Center St. (Center St., north of McKellips).**

There is no cost to take advantage of this service, but Mesa residents are asked to show their most recent trash bill upon arrival.

For more information, please call the Mesa Recycling Hotline at (480) 644-2222 or visit the City's Web site at www.cityofmesa.org.



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