



Across the Back Fence

January 2008

News For Neighbors From The City of Mesa Neighborhood Services Department

Foreclosure Prevention Assistance

Foreclosure prevention assistance is available to Mesa residents. The City of Mesa contracts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds with Labor's Community Service Agency to provide foreclosure assistance. Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) provides foreclosure intervention consisting of comprehensive default counseling, advocacy (negotiations with lenders), and arrearage assistance. In the last twelve months, LCSA has received 1,056 calls from people in danger of losing their homes. LCS counsels 100% of their calls.

The Phoenix Business Journal reported in an article dated November 14, 2007, that the Phoenix area ranks 15th for foreclosures. About one in 87 homes in the Phoenix-Mesa area are in foreclosure—a total of more than 18,000 in the third quarter of this year. According to the source, Information Market, there have been 2,295 foreclosure notices filed through October 31, 2007. This number has more than doubled since the same reporting time frame last year. One of the main causes for foreclosures are families who took out adjustable rate mortgages and now are unable to pay the increased payments.

LSCA (602) 263-5741

HUD (602) 379-7100

www.hud.gov

Housing counseling , foreclosure assistance

Hope Now 1-888-995-HOPE

www.hopenow.com

Non-profit, HUD approved credit counselors

NeighborWorks America

www.nw.org

National network of housing counseling programs working in partnership with Hope Now

FHA Secure 1-800-225-5342

www.fha.gov

Refinancing option, matched homeowners with participating lenders

Mesa Arts Center Free Campus Tour

Did you know you can tour Arizona's largest arts complex? Mesa Arts Center offers free public campus guided tours on Wednesdays at noon. Tours include all theaters, Art Studios, Mesa Contemporary Arts and the Shadow Walk*. Guests learn about the incredible architectural history of this unique structure, hear about the public art installations, tour our arts galleries and learn more about the visual and performing arts. Tours are 90 minutes long and comfortable walking shoes are encouraged.

Reservations are required by calling the Tours Hotline at least 24 hours in advance at (480) 644-6626.

Call today to make your tour reservations!

**Mesa Arts Center will make every effort to visit each of the four theaters and the arts studios on the first level. However, because this is a working facility, we cannot guarantee that all of the theaters or art studios will be available. We will do our best to keep you informed of any last minute conflicts that may arise.*



8th Annual Mesa Historic Home Tour

The Mesa Historical Museum is excited to present its 8th Annual Historic Home Tour on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's tour will be in the West Second Street Historic District, and will showcase nine private homes in addition to a variety of historic buildings, such as the Serrine House, Antique Wedding House, and the Irving School. Tickets are only \$25 per person and include visits to more than a dozen historic buildings, complimentary lunch at RigaTony's, a visit to the Mesa Historical Museum, and dessert. All proceeds benefit the museum.

For more information, contact the Mesa Historical Museum at (480) 835-7358 or www.mesahistoricalmuseum.org

Spirit of Mesa Awards

If your neighborhood group participated in a project, program, event, or activity within the 2007 calendar year, you are invited to submit a Spirit of Mesa Award nomination. Nomination forms must be submitted to the City of Mesa Neighborhood Outreach Office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

Information and forms are available online at www.cityofmesa.org/neighsvc/AboutAwards.aspx or by calling Susan Frabotta, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, at (480) 644-5432

Maricopa County Special Pet Offer

Maricopa County Animal Control Center (MCACC) is offering a free pet spay/neuter for residents. (Not for Feral cats) More information can be found at: <http://www.maricopa.gov/pets/pdf/MCACCvoucherholidaygift.pdf>

Safety Message from the Gas Division

It's that time of year where we make our New Years resolutions. Why not start off the new year with your annual natural gas safety check. Maintaining your natural gas appliances is the best way to ensure they are operating properly and efficiently. Use the following checklist to help make your home a safer place and ensure that you protect the ones you love:

- Everyone in your household knows how to identify the smell of natural gas (rotten egg smell).
- The flame on your natural gas range is steady and blue.
- Clutter and flammable objects are stored away from natural gas appliances.
- Natural gas appliances are installed and serviced by qualified repair people.
- Appliances and appliance connectors are inspected periodically and replaced as necessary.
- The natural gas oven or gas range is used only for cooking, not to heat the room or dry clothes.
- Your furnace air filters are replaced monthly throughout the heating season.

For additional information on natural gas, please visit our website at www.cityofmesa.org/utilities/gas.

Mesa Fire Dept. Connectors Now Recruiting!

The Mesa Fire Department/Mesa Community College Connector Program is now accepting applications.

Connectors are Mesa Fire Department volunteers who perform a variety of non-emergency duties including but not limited to:

- **Fire Crew Support**
- **Crisis Support**
- **Motorist Assists**
- **Social Service Referrals**
- **Transports**

Applications are being taken from January 14 through January 25, 2008. No experience is necessary and all training and equipment is provided. Interested candidates can visit our website at www.cityofmesa.org/fire. Applicant packets can be downloaded from the Connector Program web page or call (480) 644-5042 to request an applicant packet.



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