



PRO Neighborhoods

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People, Resources and Organizations in Support of Neighborhoods PRO on the web: www.proneighborhoods.org

It's Not the Road, But the Journey That Counts

— By Dan Willhite

Our story begins on a dry and dusty private road east of Catalina. Edwin Road winds through our neighborhood, Charouleau Vista, and serves more than fifty homes, some that have been here since the late 1960s. Residents have always complained about that road — how rough it is, how dusty it is.

In the past, people in these parts used their own graders to take care of the road. Some neighbors would offer the grader man an occasional 10 or 20 bucks in payment; many never contributed anything in twenty years of living here. But the grader men are gone now.



Soil Sement® being applied to Edwin Road

According to a recent estimate, it would cost \$1,300 to grade the road today, and after a couple of hard rains it would need to be graded again.

"We should do something about this," the neighbors kept saying, so we started meeting to discuss it. After listening to everybody's thoughts and ideas, we asked PRO Neighborhoods to help us define our goals. The road wasn't the only neighborhood issue, but it was a good focal point to get people involved because everyone uses it. These are the goals we set:

- To provide a fair means of maintaining the road.
- To create a safer and healthier neighborhood.

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No es el Camino, Sino el Viaje Que Cuenta

— por Dan Willhite (Traducido por Michelangelo Cordano)

Nuestra historia comienza en una seca y polvorienta carretera al este de Catalina. Los vientos de la carretera Edwin Road resoplan en nuestro vecindario, más de cincuenta casas algunas desde 1960, sufren sus ventiscas. Los vecinos siempre nos hemos quejado de la carretera que polvorosa y desigual esta.

Tiempo atrás, la gente de esta zona contrataba "aplanadores" [persona que opera una maquina aplanadora o apisonadora] y así tratar de nivelar el camino. Algunos vecinos pagaban al "aplanador" entre \$10 o \$20, muchos otros ni siquiera colaboraban con un centavo. Esto ocurría por más de 20 años. Hoy, no existen "los aplanadores" en el vecindario. Según un estudio realizado, se necesitaría \$1,300 solo para nivelar el camino, claro esta que después de un par de lluvias se tendría que volver a apisonar la carretera.

Fue entonces que nos dijimos: "Hay que hacer algo al respecto." En el año 2004 iniciamos las reuniones vecinales. Luego de debatir nuestras ideas, decidimos contactar con PRO Neighborhoods para que nos guiara a consolidar nuestros objetivos. Entendimos que la carretera no era solo un problema, sino también una buena razón para que los vecinos nos involucremos en lograr una solución en conjunto, ya que ella es algo que todos compartimos. Estas fueron las metas trazadas:

- Colaborar con una "caridad" justa para la manutención de la carretera.
- La creación de un vecindario limpio y seguro para todos.
- Aprovechar nuestras habilidades y ponerlas en práctica en conjunto, y disfrutar más nuestras vidas.

PRO Neighborhoods nos brinda apoyo, información, motivación y un objetivo

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• To network our skills, enhance our sense of community and enjoy our life more.

PRO Neighborhoods provided support, information, and motivation. Oh yes, and that carrot in front of our noses called "the grant." In November 2004 we were awarded \$2,100.

Fixing the dust problem is as simple as driving slower, but there was no way we could get people to slow down, so we found an alternative. Soil Sement® is a non-toxic, spray-on treatment to control dust with no negative environmental impact. We raised about half the money we needed to grade and treat the road, and some of our members also contributed labor to the project.



Dan & Wendy Willhite, Judy Freeman, Annemai Baker, Todd Vossler

In June 2005 Edwin Road was freshly graded and crowned, then the Soil Sement® was sprayed on in multiple passes. It soaked down into the dirt and when dry formed a hard outer shield to water and wear.

While the primary purpose of Soil Sement® is dust abatement, many variables affect how long it lasts, including soil composition, vehicular wear, weather and maintenance reapplications. Initially we were very happy with its effectiveness at reducing dust, but after some time it started to break down. Considering its cost and durability, we do not think it's feasible to continue to use this product for ongoing care of our road.

That doesn't mean our grant project was not a success. Charouleau Vista is a rural neighborhood. Our initial project brought us together and gave us a common focus that helped us get organized. Now over 50 percent of our residents contribute to our association. We've done road cleanups, tree and brush trimming along our road, fundraising for our bridge, and we even have our own website (www.charouleauvista.com). As we continue to address the original issues that spawned our organization, we are a successful neighborhood association and proud of it.

claro: Obtener el "subsidio financiero," el cual en Noviembre del 2004 nos lo fue otorgado con \$2,100.

El problema del polvo tenia soluciones tan simples como manejar despacio. Pero, era imposible que todos los vecinos lo hagan. Entonces, encontramos una alternativa innovadora, Soil Sement®. Este producto es rociado sobre la superficie, solidificándose con el suelo para así controlar el polvo, totalmente en armonía con el medio ambiente. Recaudamos un poco mas de la mitad del dinero necesario para apisonar y mejorar el camino de la carretera, algunos miembros trabajaron in situ, su ayuda fue muy valiosa.

En Junio del 2005 la carretera estaba totalmente apisonada. Luego, se le aplicó el Soil Sement® vía spray. Al secar, se solidifico con la tierra de carretera formando una capa dura en la superficie, resistente al agua y a la erosión.

Si bien el Soil Sement® tiene como propósito controlar el polvo, hay muchos factores que influyen en su desempeño. La composición química de suelo, la fricción que sufre con los vehículos, el clima y el mantenimiento que se le da, por mencionar algunas. Al principio estuvimos satisfechos con su efectividad contra el polvo. Pero, después de unos meses, poco a poco comenzó a desquebrajarse. Considerando su costo y durabilidad, no creemos que sea posible su uso en futuros trabajos con la carretera.



Preparing the road before Soil Sement® is applied.

Esto, no quiere decir que el proyecto fracasó, Charouleau Vista es un vecindario rural. Este proyecto unió a los vecinos compartiendo objetivos comunes y fortaleció nuestra organización. Hoy, más del 50% colabora activamente con la asociación, habiendo realizado diversas actividades, como por ejemplo: Limpieza de la carretera, poda de árboles y arbustos junto a ella, colecta de fondos para nuestro puente, y es mas, ahora tenemos nuestro propio sitio web (www.charouleauvista.com). Aquel problema, dio origen a nuestra organización, gracias a ella, somos un vecindario más unido y orgulloso de nuestros logros.

Upcoming Workshops

All workshops are FREE. Space is limited. You must register to reserve your spot.
Call 882-5885 or go to our website: www.proneighborhoods.org

WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA COMPASSION INITIATIVE

CREATING NEWSLETTERS FOR YOUR GROUP

Co-sponsored by PRO Neighborhoods

*Presented by Leticia Bermudez of the City of Tucson
Department of Neighborhood Resources
and Joanie Sawyer of PRO Neighborhoods*

Saturday, April 29, 2006, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Mountain Avenue Church of Christ,
2848 N. Mountain Ave.

Newsletters are an excellent means for getting the word out about your activities. Topics will include: planning and writing; funding your project; tips for layout and design; meeting mailing requirements; and distribution. Anyone interested in how the City of Tucson can assist registered neighborhood associations with printing and mailing is invited to stay for a 30-minute presentation after the workshop.

BUILDING PROFITABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONORS

*Presented by Laura Alexander, Executive Director of the
Birth and Women's Health Center*

Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 9:00 AM to noon
Every Voice in Action Foundation, 2851 N. Country Club Rd.

Your organization or group now has a list of people who have participated in your programs. These are also people who might financially support your group! During this workshop, you'll learn how to develop your fundraising program by building relationships with your constituents through the mail and one-on-one visits.

SEEKING 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT STATUS OR FISCAL SPONSORSHIP? PROS, CONS, AND HOW TO'S

*Presented by Luis Ochoa, Lawyer and Partner,
Quarles and Brady,
and Barbara Brown, Senior Program Officer Community
Foundation for Southern Arizona*

Wednesday, May 24, 2006 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
320 N. Commerce Park Loop (Sentinel Building)

This workshop will help groups understand what it means to have 501(c)3 non-profit status, the benefits and drawbacks of becoming a 501(c)3, and alternatives such as fiscal sponsorship. Participants will get an overview of the paperwork and process involved in obtaining non-profit status.

SUPPORTING SENIORS — CULTURAL COMPETENCY

*Presented by John Evans of the Arizona Attorney General's
Office and Donna Wagner*

Monday, June 12, 2006 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Murphy-Wilmot Branch Library, 530 N. Wilmot Rd.

Learn how to work effectively with people of different cultures and how seniors can be understood as a cultural group. Participants will understand issues about elder abuse and resources to help prevent or intervene in abusive situations.

AGING IN PLACE: MAKING YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD MORE LIVEABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH CHANGING NEEDS

*Presented by Debbie Smith, Fire Marshal for IBM/Tucson,
Annegrethe Christensen, Occupational Therapist, and
Suzy Bourque, MSW and Caregiver Specialist*

Friday, June 30, 2006 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Pima Council on Aging, 8467 E. Broadway
(Large Conference Room)

Staying in one's home as one's physical needs change can be greatly facilitated with some support systems and modifications. Come and learn about changes one can make to the physical environment of a house, as well as social services and neighborhood support networks that can keep seniors and others in their homes over many years.

WORKSHOPS SPONSORED BY PRO NEIGHBORHOODS

HOW TO GET PEOPLE INVOLVED

*Co-sponsored by the City of Tucson, Department of
Neighborhood Resources*

*Facilitated by PRO Neighborhoods, DNR staff, and
neighborhood leaders*

Saturday, May 20th, 2006, 9:00 AM to noon
320 N. Commerce Park Loop (Sentinel Building)

Does this sound familiar? "The same small group of people do all of the work!" "Why don't people come to our meetings?" "No one is willing to take leadership and the current leadership is getting burnt out." Join other neighborhood leaders in finding ways to get more people involved in your neighborhood's activities, whether it be attending meetings or getting things done. Learn from neighborhoods that have been successful in involving lots of people. Come prepared to share your challenges and your successes and to learn new things.

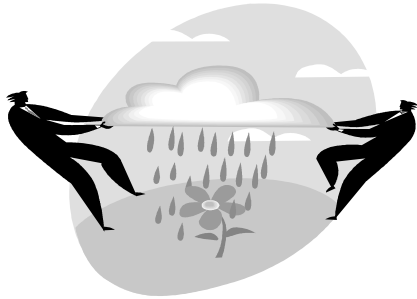
Harvesting the Monsoon: Your Neighborhood Is Your Watershed

Presented by water-harvesting experts from the Sonoran Permaculture Institute, the Tucson Dept. of Urban Planning, and several Tucson neighborhoods

Saturday, July 29, 2006, 9 AM – noon

Location to be announced

When the monsoon finally comes, does all that precious water rush off the hardscape into your neighborhood storm drains? Do your streets turn into torrents? If you'd rather slow the runoff to nurture roadsides, parks and yards, learn to look at your neighborhood as a watershed. This workshop will show you how to work with your neighbors to change the contours and porosity of your community with gabions, swales, catchment systems and creative planting.



PRO Neighborhoods Has Moved!

We've moved, but not very far. Our new office is still in the same complex, the City Community Resource Campus, but we're now in the Santa Rita building, across the courtyard from our old office. Our mailing address is:

310 N. Commerce Park Loop

Tucson, AZ 85745

The rest of our contact information remains the same:

Phone:(520) 882-5885

Fax:(520) 882-5811

Community Information Exchange

Raza Youth Philanthropy Project - Every Voice in Action Foundation is proud to share with you the Raza Youth Philanthropy Project's request for proposals. The Raza Youth Philanthropy Project is an initiative of the Social Justice Education Project. Through this grant round, this group of young people will award small grants of \$500 - \$2,000 for Ethnic and Gender History/Literacy Programs, Art Murals and Neighborhood Beautification Projects (related to addressing urban decay and environmental injustices). Proposals are due by May 1, 2006. For more information, contact one of the project's co-directors: Selina Rodriguez (Srod3@email.arizona.edu or 225-6229) or Kim Dominguez (KimDominguez@rock.com or 401-1119).

Tucson Community Earth Day Celebration - The Second Annual Tucson Community Earth Day Celebration will be held at the Reid Park Outdoor Performance Center. Opportunities to connect with Tucson's environmental community and local and national environmental organizations. Live music, educational workshops and speakers, kids activities,

and food. www.communityearthday.org. This is a free event. Saturday, April 22, 2006, 11 AM - 4 PM. Reid Park DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center. Contact: John Douglas (245-7629 or gyokuro@gmail.com).

Fiesta Grande - Barrio Hollywood's fourth annual street fair. Saturday and Sunday April 22-23, 2006, 10 AM - Dusk. 9:30 AM Saturday: opening ceremony and parade. Live music, food, carnival rides and a classic car show. Grande Ave. between Speedway and St. Mary's Rd.

Household Hazardous Waste Program - The HHW Program, a joint project between the City of Tucson and Pima County, is designed to collect household hazardous waste from residents of our community. Common household and automotive products become a hazard to the environment when disposed of improperly. Leftover quantities of these products should never be poured down the drain, put in trash, or stored for excessive periods of time. Bring them to the household waste collection sites for safe disposal at no charge. The site at 2440 W. Sweetwater Drive is open every Friday & Saturday, 8 AM to 12 noon.

Healthy neighborhoods include thriving small businesses and engaged residents

The Microbusiness Advancement Center and PRO Neighborhoods Invite You to an Open House and Volunteer Celebration

Learn more about how each of these organizations can support your part in making neighborhoods vibrant and rewarding places to live and work.

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Recognition at 5:00 p.m.

330 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson

Courtyard, City of Tucson Resource Campus

At this Open House and Volunteer Celebration, You Can:

Meet people from small businesses and neighborhood groups

Tour MAC's and PRO's new offices

Learn more about each organization

Celebrate our industrious volunteers

Enjoy tasty refreshments

For more information, call MAC at 620-1241, or PRO at 882-5885



Dear PRO Neighborhoods



Dear PRO: I have neighbors that are trying to start a neighborhood association, but I don't want anyone telling me what color I can paint my house! They say it's not a homeowners association. What's the difference?

- Muddled in Midtown

Dear Muddled: A neighborhood association represents the entire neighborhood and operates through an open, democratic process to improve or maintain the overall quality of life for all individuals within those boundaries.

Membership is typically open to all residents (renters and homeowners) as well as businesses and organizations located in the neighborhood. A neighborhood association is usually formed for the following reasons: to create a sense of community among residents; to identify and resolve neighborhood issues in an organized and timely manner; and to provide a united voice to government entities. The City of Tucson has a process to recognize and support neighborhood associations (see www.tucsonaz.gov/dnr) and people come together as neighborhood associations throughout the rest of Pima County with similar structures. Members of neighborhood associations determine how they want to organize themselves, including governance structures and whether or not to have dues. Neighborhood associations have no legal power to enforce restrictions on private property.

A homeowners association is an organization established to govern a private community. Typically it owns and manages some common property for owners of private houses or condominium units. By buying a lot and/or home, an owner automatically becomes a member of the HOA of which it is a part. Most HOAs are corporations established under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. The primary purpose of the association is to protect and preserve the value of the privately and commonly used property. To meet this goal, there may be restrictions (called Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions or CC&Rs) concerning pets; requirements as to fence height; or limitations on the number of cars allowed in the driveways.

You probably know if you are in a HOA because you pay mandatory dues and your property is governed by CC&Rs. Many HOAs exist within the boundaries of a neighborhood association, so you are free to participate in both organizations. You can find out if you live in a neighborhood association by checking with the Department of Neighborhood Resources (tel. 791-4605) if you live within city limits, or calling PRO Neighborhoods and we'll try and find out. If you don't live within a neighborhood association, we can help you start one!



An Ongoing thank you for sponsoring our 2005 Fiesta de los Barrios

WAL★MART
ALWAYS LOW PRICES. *Always*

Wal-Mart Foundation

Eligible Activities: General support; operating expenses; emergency grants; employee matching gifts supporting social services; community affairs, including economic development, environment, safety, zoos, and botanical gardens.

Grant Range: \$25 - \$4,000

Deadlines: Application process is continuous

Contact: Local Wal-Mart store managers

Our Newest Grant Recipients

PRO Neighborhoods Wishes to Congratulate the Following Groups

Casa Alegre Neighborhood

Casa Alegre Neighborhood Community Center

Awarded: \$5,000

Casa Alegre Neighborhood Association plans to turn an empty lot into an outdoor meeting space for neighborhood meetings and events, and a place where youth can play. Developing the lot will also serve to mitigate flood issues and promote neighborhood cohesiveness.

Rosemont Beautification Group

Triangle Park

Awarded: \$4,815

Rosemont Beautification Group will enhance their neighborhood by beautifying a small, undeveloped park owned by Tucson Parks and Recreation. The area will be landscaped using low water use plants, and residents will add a bulletin board where neighbors can post upcoming events.

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association

The Linda Avenue Project

Awarded: \$4,500

Menlo Park Neighborhood Association will bring together residents of all ages to create a mural under the direction of David Tineo, a well-known local artist. Youth will learn the neighborhood history from elders and in turn develop imagery that reflects what they have learned. The project will address negative issues by inclusion, reclamation of space, skill building, and develop the pride of place.

English Ivy Norteños

The Garden Party

Awarded: \$2,655

The English Ivy Norteños project will restore displaced flora and fauna to several common areas within their neighborhood, Barrio Norte. They will employ permaculture and water conservation techniques, educating residents about these issues and creating a library of landscaping and permaculture materials for use by the community.

"A" Mountain Community Association

Clean "A" Mountain

Awarded: \$1,000

"A" Mountain Community Association will organize a cleanup committee, recruit volunteers, and purchase tools and equipment to clean the community on a regular basis. The cleanups will instill pride in the neighborhood and will be used as events where neighbors can get to know each other.





About PRO Neighborhoods

PRO Neighborhoods builds community by nurturing grassroots neighborhood groups in Tucson and Pima County. The newsletter is published three times a year by United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, 330 N. Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745.

PRO Neighborhoods envisions a Tucson/Pima County community made up of groups of diverse residents and associations working effectively together and in partnership with existing institutions, businesses and organizations to mobilize resources essential to enhance their neighborhoods. Our ultimate goal is that everywhere you go in Pima County, neighbors are helping neighbors, diversity is celebrated, and people are proud of where they live.

PRO Neighborhoods believes that communities are built upon the assets of individuals, groups and organizations. Based on this belief, PRO Neighborhoods upholds the following values:

People's Abilities

People have the experience, skills and knowledge to make their neighborhoods more liveable.

Associations

Associations composed of volunteers magnify and mobilize the gifts of individuals.

Grassroots Change

Action at a grassroots, neighborhood level is critical in bringing about positive community change.

Responsiveness

PRO Neighborhoods is committed to flexibility and creativity in our work so that we are most responsive to our community.

Partnerships

Founded on the private-public partnership that is PRO Neighborhoods, we encourage efforts that bridge gender, racial, cultural, generational and economic boundaries. We also promote collaborations between individuals, groups, organizations and institutions.