

MIDTOWNMUSE



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MIDTOWN URBAN LIVING TOUR

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1**

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What is your MMDNA doing this quarter?

MMDNA Board members and volunteers have been busily preparing for the 2nd Annual Midtown Urban Living Tour, which will be held on November 1, from 1-6 pm. Each of our featured multi-family communities has a building representative who works with our Board and within their own Community to plan for the smooth welcome of 500-1,000 visitors on a single afternoon. Last year we did a survey after the tour and the consistent comment from our visitors was, "We felt so welcome." This is a great tribute to the people of Midtown who want the rest of the Valley to know that high rise living does not exclude a sense of community.

We are already beginning to plan for Sunday Off Central, to be held on March 1, 2015. This event, funded in part by our Block Watch Grant, features music, food trucks and children's activities and is a fun opportunity for our neighbors to get to know each other better. It will again be on Vernon Avenue, a lovely tree lined street in the Ashland Place Historic Neighborhood, between Central and Third Street. Neighbors there have been so welcoming.

Board members and others from MMDNA have continued their active involvement with ReinventPHX, the Downtown Voices Coalition, the Hance Park Conservancy and other community groups, lending our voice to efforts aimed at making the city a better place to live. The MMDNA gets regular notices of Liquor License applications in the area and proposed changes to property uses. We monitor these issues, attend regulatory hearings when appropriate and report to you when something is interesting or needs action. If you have ideas or want to get more involved in these efforts, please contact us and we will be glad to let you know what opportunities are available.

In December we will have our annual meeting (date and location to be announced) at which we will review the year's activities and elect four Board members. Please consider joining us and make a difference in Midtown.

The Midtown MUSE comes out quarterly, but we have an email list of almost six hundred people. This is an inexpensive, fast way to keep you informed of events and issues in the neighborhood. To join the list, send an email to info@midtownmuseumdistrict.org. Reach us by phone 602-758-3129 and find us on Facebook.

The MMDNA Board:

Susan Thompson	President
Margaret Dietrich	Vice President
Margaret Wright	Secretary
Jason Mazanek	Treasurer
Dan Carroll	President Emeritus
Glenn Cushman	
Paul Estes	
Gerald Muniz	
Marc Shuman	

www.midtownMUSEumdistrict.org, 602-758-3129 or like us on Facebook. Please support our advertisers who make the Midtown MUSE possible.

The Midtown Urban Living Tour is Back Again

By Susan Thompson



Midtown Museum District Neighborhood Association invites you to attend our 2nd Annual Urban Living Tour on Saturday, November 1st from 1pm to 6pm. Last year's tour brought in over 500 visitors. This year we expect to double in attendance!

We have added two more buildings to the tour: Phoenix Towers and Executive Towers, bringing us to eight buildings and up to fourteen residences.

The goal of the tour is to highlight what it is like to live, work and play in Midtown. Not only will we expand our travel capabilities with more bike racks and a trolley, we are also partnering with local restaurants in the area so you can really enjoy the Midtown experience.

MMDNA's involvement with Reinvent Phoenix, a city-appointed council of Midtown residents, business owners and organizational leaders, will be reinforced by this cultural event. How we navigate our section of the city is a main focus of discussion and we look forward to using our experience from this event to inform the city in future planning and zoning concerns.

Finally, we are excited to announce we will be joining Regency House for their ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating their new remodel and 50th Anniversary.

Look for our Urban Living Tour registration table at Regency, on Central at Hoover (*just north of the Heard Museum*).

If you are interested in volunteering on the day of the event – we need you. Please contact Susan Thompson at susan.mmdna@gmail.com.

Tickets are on sale now at www.URBANLIVINGTOUR.com for \$15.00

Thanks to Steve O'Callaghan who assisted with graphic design for our cover.



photo by Brien Thompson

Midtown MUSE National Award

At our June 19th quarterly meeting Lisa Huggins-Hubbard, our City of Phoenix District 4 Neighborhood Specialist, presented Margaret Dietrich a Bronze Award from the 2014 Neighborhood Newsletter Competition sponsored by NUSA (Neighborhoods USA).

The award was announced at the Neighborhood of the Year 30th Anniversary Luncheon on May 23rd in Houston. Margaret thanked Lisa for entering the MUSE in the competition and said that a lot of the credit goes to our great writers and especially our editor, Jill Bernstein, who handles all the layout and design.

Also, we are grateful to Tom Lanser and his AlphaGraphics team at Central and Columbus. They have provided us all a beautiful finished product over the three plus years of the Midtown MUSE.

Clarification: The reference to “lawyers (general thievery)” in the article on Vernon Plaza (July issue) was intended as a tongue-in-cheek reference to the fact that the lawyer who occupied that space for many years may have practiced criminal law and was not intended as a comment on the character or dealings of the lawyer himself. The MUSE apologizes if any disrespect to the lawyer or the legal profession in general was implied or inferred. None was intended.

A Message from Councilwoman Laura Pastor, District 4



Most Phoenixians can agree that the heat of the summer is well worth it for the gorgeous fall and winter weather. And as the weather cools down in Phoenix, I am thrilled to embark on the upcoming season of outdoor events! Participating in one or more of our signature events this fall is a great way to enjoy our city, and it's an even better way to

get out and connect with neighbors and friends. I am sure to see many of you at G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) Events, Home Tours and Cultural Festivals.

Phoenix has so much to offer, and as Midtown dwellers, we are in the heart of it all. We are very lucky to have access to so many of these events by bicycle, train, bus or our own two feet. Whether it's Rainbows Festival in Heritage Square this October, the second annual Urban Living Tour right here in Midtown on November 1st, or the Phoenix Festival of the Arts at Margaret Hance Park in December, we are close to all the action. As our city continues to develop, the Phoenix General Plan is also taking shape. Mark your calendars for the PlanPHX Summit on Saturday, November 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Community members are encouraged to attend to review the General Plan proposal, which will be voted on by residents next year.

The General Plan is the long-range planning guide for the city, addressing issues like energy, natural resources, transportation and land use. This is a great opportunity to support and build on initiatives like bicycle infrastructure, historic preservation and parks that have helped to make Midtown so unique.

Lastly, I hope you will join me for coffee in the upcoming months! We have launched a series of Coffee Chats on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 am at a local District 4 business. To keep updated on our Coffee Chat locations, contact my office at council.district.4@phoenix.gov or 602.262.7447, or connect with me on Facebook or Twitter. See you soon!

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Midtown Mural: Generations

By James Bullough

The mural at 1st Avenue and Thomas Road is titled “Generations” and was painted in 2013 by Addison Karl and James Bullough, formally known as JBAK. It was a commission from Bob Karber and Tim O’Neil, owners of One Thomas, as a means to do something for the community and make the building special.



This mural is very close to home and heart. The two people in the painting are real Phoenix residents. The first is Chris Nieto, a Phoenix native who has been very active in community issues and the concept of giving back. The second was my very own Grandmother, who has given me support and love in all my undertakings.

The composition of Chris and Maxine speaks to the community, its history and future. We positioned them to be looking in different directions connecting the local neighborhoods and providing more subtlety with “past/present” and “current moments/new beginnings.” For everything we put in to our work, we also want the imagination of each viewer to wonder and create their own meaning for the mural.

Phoenix is well known for the colors in the skies at dusk, making the most intense sunsets you could ever see. The hues are bright and blend from yellows, oranges, magentas, blues and purples. This was the foundation for the color theory behind the mural: to represent the natural skyline. We

broke up the color range into two parts – one of lighter tones that would paint the first layer with the hatch lines for the Arizona sunset. The second would be the darker tones painting in the details for realism.

continued at top on next page

Contemporary muralism is unlike painting in a studio on canvas. There are a variety of factors that become important when painting in public spaces: the community, location, size, colors, interaction of the space and the logistics of time and materials. Within all of this, we feel very proud of the mural we created for Phoenix to enjoy.

Spotlight on Midtown Business: Pizza People Pub
1326 N Central Ave

By MaryBeth Scanlon

Pizza People Pub is proud to announce that we are now almost a zero percent waste restaurant! We are now composting 100% of our food waste and recycling 98% of what we thought was trash.



Pizza People Pub has been open just under one year, but I have been in the industry for over 20 years. I've always been bothered by the amount of food that is wasted daily in restaurants and

also bothered that recycling is uncommon.

Earlier this year I was inspired by the growing popularity of urban farming, especially programs like Waste Not and the Phoenix Renews project at Indian School Road and Central Avenue. I began to wonder if anyone could use our food scraps for compost. Coincidentally about this time I was contacted by Recycled City, a locally owned low-water-use composting business.

I met with owner, JD, and was thrilled to find out how easy and affordable the process would be for us. After a two week trial, Pizza People signed on. Once we started the composting process we began to notice that most of our trash is recyclable. I made a call to Republic Services and after consulting with our representative, realized we could recycle about 98% of our trash. So with a few employee training sessions, we changed our habits!

Not only does it feel great to reduce the trash we send to a landfill, it feels even better to collaborate with another local small business to make it happen. Our wish is to inspire other restaurants to give it a try. It is a small change with a huge impact!

Pizza People Pub and Recycle City are members of Local First Arizona.

How To Get The Most Out Of Your Extended Warranty

By Roger Cahill



So what's really covered? Today's vehicles are very high tech and the cost of some repairs can be overwhelming, so having an extended warranty makes good sense. In some cases the cost of just one repair pays for the warranty itself. So when purchasing an extended warranty, it's important to know exactly what's covered and what's not covered. Too many times consumers fall victim to what they "thought" was covered by their extended warranty only to find out that what they thought isn't even close to what they have. Here are some "must ask" questions before purchasing an extended warranty:

- 1) Do I have a choice of repair facilities, or do I have to take my vehicle to a specific place?
- 2) Is my deductible per visit, or is it per line item on the invoice? (Example: 4 different repairs are made making for 4 line items and your deductible is \$100.00. 4 line items x 100 = 400.00 out of pocket)
- 3) Is consequential damage covered? (Example: you have an oil leak from the engine and as a result while driving, you've lost all the oil consequently destroying the engine)
- 4) Are new factory parts used during repairs? (Some extended warranty companies prefer used or remanufactured parts)
- 5) Are seals and gaskets covered?
- 6) Is there a limit or maximum dollar amount for specific repairs?
- 7) Does a component or part have to be broken, or can it be just worn?
- 8) Are fluids covered during repairs?
- 9) Are taxes, miscellaneous fees such as shop supplies covered?
- 10) Are rubber components and electronic actuators covered? (Example: rubber components like engine mounts, electronic actuators such as door lock actuators, power window motors, and switches)

Minor Repairs in Your Apartment



By Tom Simplot, President and CEO, Arizona Multihousing Association, licensed attorney and real estate agent

Dust mites, pollen or even your furry friends may cause allergies to worsen. Replacing air filters in your home is a simple change that can make a major difference in the quality of the air inside. For renters, this is usually your responsibility. When you move in, the landlord should have conveyed the apartment or home with a clean air filter, but changing those filters is the responsibility of the renter.

While apartment living can be mostly hassle-free, there are a number of important safety and welfare maintenance actions that are your responsibility. At move-in, your landlord is responsible for ensuring all smoke alarms are operational. You may also want to double check plumbing (all sinks, toilets and drains) to be sure they are working properly. If not, notify your landlord right away. Broadly, the landlord is responsible for maintenance and repairs that ensure your housing unit is safe and meets all applicable building codes.

On a monthly basis, however, it is a good idea for you to change out your air filters, even if your apartment manager assumes that responsibility. Fall cleaning presents a great opportunity for you to determine what needs to be updated and cleaned in your apartment. Use this checklist to be sure that you are taking proper care of your apartment:

Tenant's responsibilities:

- Change your air filters (monthly or every other month in the winter)
- Replace light bulbs (including exterior lights)
- Change the smoke alarm batteries
- Use the gas, electrical and plumbing properly
- Repair/maintain appliances owned by the tenant (ie: washer/dryer not included in the apartment)
- Dispose of trash and refuse to maintain a clean living area
- Your landlord also has key responsibilities to provide a clean and habitable living space.

Here's a list of their responsibilities:

Landlord's responsibilities:

- Provide adequate and safe heat
- Maintain weatherproofing, including windows and doors
- Provide properly functioning appliances
- Keep housing free of pests and vermin
- Ensure that plumbing and electrical is functioning properly

If you need repairs in an apartment, be sure to follow your lease rules to request maintenance. Your lease outlines how many days your landlord has to make the repairs in the apartment. Be sure to keep track of your communications with your landlord or management company in case you need this as backup later.



MIDTOWN, MY HOME

We asked some residents a few questions about their life in Midtown and we propose a regular series with residents' answers. Please let us know your answers to the questions below:

My favorite Midtown restaurant is...

- *Switch* Hilda & Kevin P., Julia T.
- *Wild Thaiger and Oven & Vine* Anon.
- *Pizza People Pub for casual, Durant's for more "dressed up."* Margaret W.

Living in Midtown is unique because...

- *there's so much within a short light rail ride – sports, great restaurants, interesting shops, the library, beautiful churches, and more* Anon.
- *it's living in the city but with a small-town feel. I know my neighbors but I'm still in a high-rise with an elevator.* Margaret W.

I explain Midtown to my friends as...

- *a neat, convenient place to live and work.* John I.
- *a great place to live: urban sophistication without any "inner city" disadvantages.* Anon.

You know what Midtown needs is...

- *an affordable, small grocery store such as Fresh & Easy and a ban on leaf blowers.* Anon.
- *more community social events i.e. block parties.* Anon.
- *more small retail outlets.* John I.

What other questions should we ask? Send your suggestions to info@MidtownMuseumDistrict.org Please include abbreviated name and your building or street name.

COMMUNITYCALENDAR

Arts & Culture

ASU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

602-543-6440 www.lifelonglearning.asu.edu
Many short series and single classes for the 50+ group

ASU Institute for Design & the Arts

www.Herberger.ASU.EDU/Update
Many and various performances. Check it out.

Actors Theatre at Black Theatre Troupe

1333 E Washinton
602-888-0368 www.actorstheatrephx.org
10/24-11/9 Seminar

Arizona Humanities Council

602-257-0335 www.azhumanities.org
Programs and events nearby and around the state

Arizona Opera at Symphony Hall and 1636 N Central Ave

602-266-7464 www.azopera.org
10/10-12 A Mariachi Opera
11/14-16 Rigoletto
Brown Bag Lunch Recitals - free
10/1, 11/5, 12/3, 1/7 at 12:45

Arizona Theatre Company at the Herberger

602-256-6995 www.arizonatheatre.org
10/9-26 Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike
11/13-30 Wait Until Dark
12/31-1/18 Murder for Two

Ballet Arizona 2835 E Washington and Symphony Hall

602-381-1096 www.balletaz.org
Classes in Tango, Jazz, Zumba, Ballroom and Ballet
10/5 Open House (free classes) noon-4:00
10/30-11/2 Swan Lake
12/12-28 The Nutcracker

Burton Barr Public Library - 1221 N Central Ave

602-534-5208 www.plfriends.org
602-262-4636 www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org
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Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center

122 E Culver 602-241-7870 www.azjhs.org
Geneology classes, exhibits, films and book discussions
Exhibit: Judaism in the Desert 1920-now

Great AZ Puppet Theater - 302 W Latham

602-262-2050 www.azpuppets.org
Great schedule-check their website

Hance Park north of Roosevelt between

3rd St & 3rd Ave
Enjoy 32 acres of green space-see our events section

Heard Museum - 2301 N Central Ave

602-252-8840 www.heard.org
Native + You on First Fridays - free
11/8-9 Spanish Market
11/28-30 Ornament Marketplace
12/5-7 Guild Book Sale & Treasure Market

Irish Cultural Center - 1106 N Central Ave-Hance Park

602-258-0109 www.azirish.org
Classes, dances and special events

Japanese Friendship Garden

1125 N 3rd Ave-Hance Park
602-256-3204 www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org
Classes are being offered this Fall. Check them out.

Phoenix Art Museum - Central and McDowell

602-257-1222 www.phxart.org
Multitude of films, talks and exhibits

Phoenix Center for the Arts - 1202 N 3rd St-Hance Park

602-254-3100 www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org
Many forms of art classes for children and adults

Phoenix Chorale

602-253-2224 www.phoenixchorale.org
11/2 Requiem: Day of the Dead
Central United Methodist Church
12/19-22 A Chorale Christmas at various churches

Phoenix Symphony

602-495-1999 www.phoenixsymphony.org
Season is full of great performances. Check it out.

Phoenix Theatre - 100 E McDowell
602-254-2151 www.phoenixtheatre.com
Until 10/12 Memphis - The Musical
10/29-11/23 Shear Madness
11/19-12/28 Mary Poppins

Phoenix Trolley Museum - 25 W Culver St-Hance
Park www.phoenixtrolley.com

Rosie's House
602-252-8475 www.rosieshouse.org
Music classes for kids and events

The Nash - 110 E Roosevelt
602-795-0464 www.thenash.org
Jazz Jam Sessions on Sundays at 6:00, other jazz
events

Valley Youth Theatre - 525 N 1st St
602-253-8188 www.vyt.com
10/10-26 Narnia

MMDNA Events

602-758-3129 www.midtownmuseumdistrict.org
Board meetings - first Wednesdays except January
11/1 **2nd Annual Midtown Urban Living Tour** 1:00-6:00
Information and tickets at www.urbanlivingtour.com

Home Tours & Events in the Area

ARIZONA STATE FAIR at 19th Avenue & McDowell
10/10-11/2 Wednesday-Sunday www.azstatefair.com

First Fridays and Third Fridays every month
www.artlinkphoenix.com

10/4 **Phoenix Oktoberfest** - Hance Park noon-9:00
www.phoenixoktoberfest.com

10/11 **Cruise on Central Car Show** - Park Central 1:00-
9:00

10/18-19 **Rainbow Festival & Street Fair**
Heritage Square www.phoenixpride.org

11/1 **2nd Annual Midtown Urban Living Tour** 1:00-6:00
information and tickets at www.urbanlivingtour.com

11/2 **39th Annual 3TV Phoenix 10K & Half Marathon**
www.phx10k.com start/end at City Scape Plaza

11/8 **10th Annual Certified Local Fall Festival**
10:00-4:00 Portland Parkway - Roosevelt Station
www.localfirstaz.com

11/8 **6th Annual Grand Avenue Festival** 11:00-10:00
www.grandavephoenix.com

11/9 **Historic Roosevelt Home Tour** - 11:00-4:00
www.rooseveltneighborhood.org

11/22 **Cook Phoenix at Hance Park** - east side
noon-4:00 \$25 www.hrc.org/cookphoenix

F.Q.Story Home Tour & Gift Sale
12/6 6:00-9:00 12/7 11:00-5:00 www.fqstory.org

12/12-14 **Phoenix Festival of the Arts** - Hance Park
www.phoenixfestivalofthearts.org

Nightlife/Happy Hours

Alexi's Grill - Happy Hour M-F 3-7pm - 3550 N
Central Ave 602-279-0982 www.alexisgrillphx.com

Fez - Daily Happy Hour - 3815 N Central Ave
602-279-0982 www.fezoncentral.com

Gallo Blanco - Happy Hour 3:00-6:00 daily - 401 W
Clarendon 602-252-7252 www.galloblancocafe.com

Kobalt - Daily events - Park Central
602-264-5307 www.kobaltbarphoenix.com

Macayo's - Happy Hour M-F 4-7pm - 4001 N Central
Ave 602-264-6141 www.macayo.com

Oven & Vine - Happy Hour M-F 11-6 - 14 W Vernon
Ave 602-687-7632 www.ovenandvine.com

Pizza People Pub - Happy Hour 3:00-6:30 daily
602-795-7954 www.pizzapeopleaz.com - 1326 N
Central Ave

Sochu House - Happy Hour M-F 3-6pm & 10:30-1am
2801 N Central 602-340-9777 www.sochuhouse.com

Switch - Daily Happy Hour 4-6:30 - 2603 N Central
Ave 602-264-2295 www.switchofarizona.com



The Central Avenue Palms

By Donna Reiner, PhD

If one were able to safely stand in the middle of the Central Avenue and McDowell Road intersection and look north, two distinct characteristics would stand out.

One, the street is straight, long, and multi-lanes. Two, uniform trees line both sides at least as far as the eye can discern. These elements help define a boulevard streetscape.

As early as 1895, Phoenicians planned to have trees line this section of Central Avenue. Originally ash trees were selected for their ability to grow quickly and provide a canopy to shade the roadway.

This concept blended in with the Garden City and the City Beautiful Movements which highly influenced Phoenix in the 1920s, but by then the trees were different.

Dwight B. Heard and his partners can be credited for the change in tree type, for when the Los Olivos subdivision began circa 1906, they decided that stately palms would be planted on both sides of Central from McDowell to Encanto.

Over the years, other developers continued the practice to Camelback Road, but only in sections.

So while the image of Central Avenue has for years been with towering palms, what may be most interesting is they keep moving. What? Yes! Every time Central Avenue has been widened, the trees have been removed and

transplanted. That can be done with palms much easier than with other types of trees. In 1948, Central was widened from 39' to 64' (four lanes and two parking strips). The palms were carefully removed, temporarily stored, and then replanted.

In late 1951, a zoning case began which would change the zoning along Central from McDowell to Earll from residential (apartments) to commercial.

For a variety of reasons, this case was eventually withdrawn, but it did raise the hackles of a number of people and some concerns of how to make accommodations to preserve the line of palm trees. Phoenicians were protective of these trees even then.

There was even some talk and action to create a "Wilshire Boulevard" feel along Central from Thomas Road north prior to the completion of Park Central Mall in 1956. Yes, we love the look of our palm trees.

Gruen Associates filed a report in 1989 suggesting that this boulevard image of Central Avenue should go its full length (at least to Camelback).

And now that the palms were so tall, Palo Brea trees could be added to provide shade. Some may remember when this came to fruition in brief sections - although the horrendous practice of pruning the Palo Breas has hardly allowed them to provide the desired shade.

When the Light Rail project got closer to actually beginning, again the palms created a "problem." By now, most people loudly objected to their destruction and/or removal.

Ok, they could be moved, but must be replanted. After all, this was now an historic streetscape even if it did not have the official designation.

Advertise in the Midtown MUSE

*1,300 copies distributed to residents
and businesses along Central Avenue*

602-758-3129

info@midtownmuseumdistrict.org

IRS Updates Phone Scams Warning

The IRS is again warning the public about phone scams that continue to claim victims all across the country. In these scams, thieves make unsolicited phone calls to their intended victims. Callers fraudulently claim to be from the IRS and demand immediate payment of taxes by a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. The callers are often hostile and abusive.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration has received 90,000 complaints about these scams. TIGTA estimates that thieves have stolen an estimated \$5 million from about 1,100 victims. To avoid becoming a victim of these scams, you should know:

- The IRS will first contact you by mail if you owe taxes, not by phone.
- The IRS never asks for credit, debit or prepaid card information over the phone.
- The IRS never insists that you use a specific payment method to pay your tax.
- The IRS never requests immediate payment over the telephone.
- The IRS will always treat you professionally and courteously.

Scammers may tell would-be victims that they owe money and that they must pay what they owe immediately. They may also tell them that they are entitled to a large refund. Other characteristics of these scams include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers to identify themselves.
- Scammers may know the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Scammers spoof caller ID to make the phone number appear as if the IRS is calling.
- Scammers may send bogus IRS emails to victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up.

Others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and caller ID again supports their claim. If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what you should do:

- If you know you owe taxes or you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS employees can help you with a payment issue if you owe taxes.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or don't think that you owe any taxes, then call and report the incident to TIGTA at 800-366-4484.
- If scammers have tried this scam on you, you should

also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at www.FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

The IRS encourages you to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. Visit the genuine IRS website, www.IRS.gov, to learn how to report tax fraud and for more information on what you can do to avoid becoming a victim.

Source: *Internal Revenue Service*

Funding for this article was provided by a Block Watch Grant provided by the City of Phoenix. Block Watch is a program to detect, deter and prevent crime.

Safety Tip

When writing a check to pay a credit card bill, put only the last four digits of your credit card number on the "For" line. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through the check processing channels, won't have access to it. The same goes for your Social Security number on a tax payment.



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How the Streets Got Their Names: Encanto Boulevard

By Derek D. Horn



From Spanish to English, the word “encanto” can translate to mean “charm” or “charming.”

Those terms would certainly apply to the homes and neighborhoods that run along the Encanto Boulevard corridor west of Central Avenue.

This road did not always have this name, however. The early subdivision plats that created the neighborhoods north of McDowell and west of Central Avenue had a different name for it: Oak Street.

Back at the turn of the last century, Central Avenue north of Van Buren was an enclave of large estates where merchants, bankers, developers, and civic leaders built their homes. It was informally known as “Millionaire’s Row.”

As the city grew, the introduction of the automobile and expansion of the streetcar system to the north along Buena Avenue (3rd Street) and 5th Avenue encouraged the development of subdivisions, neighborhoods, and homes along the Central Corridor north of McDowell.

The Las Palmas subdivision plat, recorded in 1910, created Oak Street from Central Avenue west to 3rd Avenue along the alignment where Encanto runs today.

As the land along this corridor between Central and 7th Avenue was developed into neighborhoods and homes over the next 18 years, the subdivisions created after Las Palmas followed suit and also named this street Oak.

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Regency House—a New Beginning

By Derek D. Horn, President, Regency House Association

If you live or work in the area or have recently driven along Central Avenue near Hoover and Vernon, you likely have noticed the construction activity at the Regency House and perhaps wondered what all the dust and noise was about.

Quite simply, the Regency has undergone a transformation and a new beginning. After nearly 50 years of standing tall on Central Avenue, the building needed repairs and updates.

After the Regency House Community successfully completed an interior remodeling in 2004, we launched a multimillion dollar project to repair the structure and physical plant to restore the building to its mid-century grandeur.

The project will be complete in October. To commemorate this milestone, the Regency House will have a new beginning.

On November 1st, in conjunction with the Midtown Museum District's annual Urban Living Tour, Regency will be open for touring and a new name will be unveiled.

Please stop by and check out the new Regency House.

You can view firsthand the elegant interior, newly landscaped grounds and reconstruction that honor our midcentury heritage while ensuring the Regency will stand tall for many years to come.

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