

# Armory Park Neighborhood Association



Fall Newsletter

September 2014

## Announcing: September General Meeting

*An Invitation from the President*

### Grant Wille

Neighbors! I can't wait to welcome in the autumn season. This summer has been hot and busy, and the next few months should prove to be very chill indeed. Our Social and Home Tour committees are hard at work, organizing some classy events for the cool weather. But before we start giving thanks, applying face-paint for processions, or pouring eggnog, there's some important work to complete. Please join us for a general meeting:

**Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall**

**Fernando Molina, of Tucson Water**, will discuss the recent water-rate rise, effective in July, and ways in which we can save money by cutting down on use. And, **Mary Ellen Wooten**, of the Tucson-Pima Arts Council, will lead a discussion on the **Five Points Public Art Project**, which will significantly improve the aesthetics of the Five

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- 1** September General Meeting
- 1** 5 Points Pedestrian Improvement Project
- 2** Ice Cream Social & Armory Park History
- 3** Elections & New Resident Packets
- 4** Home Tour & Sidewalk Liability

## Five Points Pedestrian Improvement Project

The improvements in this project are centered around the southern gateway to Tucson at Five Points (the 6th Avenue, Stone Avenue, 18th Street intersection). Project coordinators determined that, in the Five Points area, the pedestrian-level lighting was lacking and visibility was poor. They also noted that sidewalks were discontinuous and there were inadequate ADA access ramps at intersections. Additionally, the project coordinators suggested that the "gateway" and four adjoining neighborhoods lacked community cohesion.

The primary project goals are to fill in the sidewalk gaps to provide a continuous sidewalk on at least one side of each residential street in the project area and to provide ADA access ramps at each intersection. The goal is to enhance pedestrian access to the heavily traveled bus route along Sixth Avenue. Along all the streets connecting directly to the Five Points intersection, pedestrian level lighting would be improved to increase visibility for pedestrians at night and provide a lit connection from the adjacent neighborhoods to the Five Points traffic signal and nearby bus stops.

In the final stage of the project, a gateway public art feature will enhance the intersection and provide neighborhood identity. The Five Points

*continued on page 3*

Points intersection (6th Ave/Stone/18th Street).

The APNA Board also wants to hear from *you*. How has the increased activity downtown affected your lives? Parking issues? Increased crime? And, what can we do to help improve things? Please join us to share your thoughts.

Look forward to seeing you on the 9th. ❖

## **I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream Social!**

APNA's social committee is busy planning our next event: the ever-popular Ice Cream Social. This year's social will be held on Sunday, September 21 from 3-5 p.m. at the home of Esthermarie Hillman and Linz Morfoot, who live at 544 S. 6th Ave (NW corner of 6th/16th).

We will have something for both young and "old". There will be ice cream for the kids and kids at heart but we also thought it would be nice to do a wine/beer and cheese "potluck" at the same time. APNA will provide the ice cream and non-alcoholic beverages and encourage those who can to bring a bottle of wine or six-pack of beer and/or cheese plate to share at this event.

Esthermarie and Linz also want to let those attending to know that anyone interested in taking a dip in the swimming pool will be welcome. Bring a suit and a towel and enjoy the last day of summer with ice cream and a swim! If you have any question, please feel free to contact Marty Esparza at [azesparza@yahoo.com](mailto:azesparza@yahoo.com).

## **Did You Know?:**

### **A Morsel of Armory Park History**

Early in the 19th Century, a transcontinental railroad system was proposed to join the east and west coasts of the United States. Not until 1880 did the railroad service arrive in Tucson. While the Armory Park area was surveyed as part of the 1872 town plan, it was the construction of the railroad through Tucson that had the largest impact on the development of the area.

From 1880 until about 1920, the Armory Park residential area grew from the original Military Plaza to a progressive neighborhood made up mostly of prominent railroad men and their families. Originally centered around the Plaza, it sprang up primarily along Third and Fourth Avenues in the late 1880s, near to the railroad itself.

In 1902, as the neighborhood expanded, portions of the Military Plaza were sold by the city and the remainder was converted into a public park with its new Carnegie Library. Additional development between Stone and Third Avenues occurred. By 1901, assorted buildings were constructed and had already reached 17th Street and by 1909 the area had been developed along 18th Street.



To Support the Armory Park Neighborhood Association and become a member, visit the "Become a Member!" section at

[www.ArmoryParkTucson.org](http://www.ArmoryParkTucson.org).

For more information, contact our Membership Committee Chair, Phyllis Factor, at [pefaz@aol.com](mailto:pefaz@aol.com).



## Residents Packets Now Available

*Request one for yourself or new neighbors*

As of this fall, we will begin distributing “new resident packets” to new residents of the Armory Park Neighborhood. These new resident packets will include valuable information from the Neighborhood Association, the Armory Park Historic Zone Advisory Board, and the Social Committee and will also contain a fascinating introduction to the history of our neighborhood. The packets will be available upon request through the neighborhood e-mail listserv or by e-mailing <[info@armoryparktucson.org](mailto:info@armoryparktucson.org)>. If you notice any new faces moving in next door, please make sure to tell them about the new resident packets and refer them to the APNA Outreach Committee.

## 2015 APNA Board Elections

*Tuesday, November 11 – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church*

### Grant Wille

This has been an eye-opening year for your brand-new presiding officer: I’ve met city officials, non-profits leaders, merchants, and developers; learned the ins-and-outs of managing a board; studied the ordinances that govern everything from noise levels to historic preservation; and soaked up loads of our neighborhood’s history. My thanks for all the support APNA has received this year, which in many ways has helped foster these experiences.

I’d like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in gaining this type of experience, or in simply improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. APNA will hold its yearly elections on Tuesday, November 11, 2014. Everyone is welcome—even students and renters, like myself—but you must be a member of APNA to vote. For more information, please join us during our September 9, 2014 general meeting.

project RFP (request for proposal) for artwork began in the Fall of 2013. The project received around 65 art proposals by the September 2013 deadline and seven finalists were selected. Of those seven finalists, artist Luis Mena was chosen to create the Five Points public art gateway project.

The art project will include artwork around the intersection, reflecting the history of the four surrounding neighborhoods. Preliminary designs for the public art project will be presented at the September 9, 2014 APNA General Meeting. Mary Ellen Wooten, Public Art Program manager of the Tucson-Pima Arts Council will present the designs. She will be accompanied by Jesse Soto, the City of Tucson’s project manager and Luis Mena, the artist selected to create the art.

Please join us to discuss this exciting project and share your thoughts. We look forward to seeing what Luis Mena has prepared. ❖

## How to Stay Informed:

Join the APNA Listserv for updates by e-mailing [armoryparksubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:armoryparksubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Visit our website at  
[ArmoryParkTucson.org](http://ArmoryParkTucson.org)

Or, check us out on Facebook.

To ask us a question directly,  
call (520) 955-9424  
or email [info@armoryparktucson.org](mailto:info@armoryparktucson.org)

## Sidewalk Liabilities

Who is responsible for fixing sidewalks in Tucson? Can I be liable for issues that are caused by sidewalks in poor repair? The answer may surprise you!

Tucson City Code requires “all owners or agents of owners with property abutting” a street or alley to keep public sidewalks immediately abutting their property in “good order and repair.” Further, owners of property adjacent to these sidewalks may be liable to the city or for damages to persons or property of others caused by a failure to keep the sidewalk in good repair.

Permits to make repairs are required by the city but are available free of charge for basic repairs that do not change the grade, location or dimensions of the sidewalk. For those who have questions or concerns about obtaining a permit to repair the sidewalk in adjacent to their property, contact the city’s Planning and Development Services at 791-5550.

## Upcoming Armory Park Home Tour

### *Calling All Interested Participants!*

The Armory Park Historic Home Tour will be held on November 15, 2014. If you are interested in having your home on the tour, please email [info@armoryparktucson.org](mailto:info@armoryparktucson.org) by September 13, 2014. If you haven’t been to a Home Tour before, this event will allow ticket-holders to tour parts of your historic home and other points of interest in the neighborhood to learn about the architecture, stories and community here in unique Armory Park.

Look for more information on the upcoming Home Tour on the neighborhood listserv. We hope to hear from you!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **APNA GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARISH HALL  
7:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

VISIT [ARMORYPARKTUCSON.ORG](http://ARMORYPARKTUCSON.ORG) FOR THE  
OFFICIAL AGENDA.

### **ICE CREAM SOCIAL – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**

544 S. 6TH AVENUE.  
3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

### **APNA BOARD MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH**

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARISH HALL  
7:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

### **ALL SOULS’ PROCESSION – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND**

### **APNA ELECTIONS – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PARISH HALL  
7:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

### **ARMORY PARK HOME TOUR – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

### **32ND EL TOUR DE TUCSON – NOVEMBER 22**

### **APNA HOLIDAY PARTY – TBA**

### **2014 PARADE OF LIGHTS – DECEMBER 20**

