

ARCADIA CENTRAL

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ACMNA Newsletter

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Doing Good in the 'Hood

This article is the first in our new series, spotlighting Arcadia residents who are contributing their time, talents and energy to make a real difference in our neighborhood. The people you will read about here show us that, in the words of Maya Angelou, "... a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people."

Meet Brigid Devney-Rye. Actually, chances are you have already met her or seen her in the 'hood. Brigid LOVES Arcadia--so much so that she picks up litter from the streets of Arcadia on a daily basis!

Like many missions, Brigid's started accidentally when, about three years ago, she saw a flyer posted in the neighborhood that a young girl had lost a charm bracelet. Brigid decided to look for it. She didn't find the bracelet, but she did find an awful lot of trash. From that day forward, she has been beautifying Arcadia.

Brigid walks between 5K-10K steps each day and collects at least one grocery bag of trash while she's walking. She rarely takes a day off (except Black Friday and Christmas Day). When she first started, she only took a bag a couple times a week. However, she got to the point where she just couldn't stand walking past a piece of trash. She began taking multiple bags and a designated pair of kitchen tongs every time she went out to walk. Not long ago, her husband gave her a gift: an extended 'grabber' (woo hoo!) Digging those hard-to-reach pieces of litter out of bushes became much easier.

Brigid has lived in Arcadia for 30 years and is passionate about keeping our streets clean. Her route starts at 46th Street and Calle del Norte. She walks up 48th Street, over Wonderview, and down 56th Street to Camelback Road, and then doubles back. In addition to helping keep our neighborhood litter-free, Brigid's walks have produced some personal benefits: she has listened to countless podcasts and books, once found \$5, keeps fit, and frequently gives directions to hikers in search of Echo Canyon or Cholla trailheads. She also completes 45 minutes to an hour-and-a-half of volunteer work each day.

So, if you're out early in the morning (she usually starts at sunrise) and you see a fit-and-trim person walking with a bag and a nifty trash picker-upper, be sure to say "hi" and "thank you". She is truly "doing good in the 'hood"!!!

THANK YOU, BRIGID!!

Do you know someone who is Doing Good in the 'Hood? Email your nomination to: info@acmna.org.



ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) at Prince of Peace, Choir Room (NW corner)

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at:

www.acmna.org/agendas

ACMNA Board Nominees



At our annual meeting on March 4th (see back page for details) ACMNA membership will vote on our 2021 slate. The following board members are up for election, photos from left to right: Denis Frank, Heather Giannangelo, Andrew Gough, Amanda McCauley, Tristahn Schaub, Sue Tessmer, Tom Thomas. Read their bios at acmna.org/who-we-are.

Heather and Andrew will be new to the board; the remainder are being reelected. Due to mid-term resignations, three other vacant board seats have also been recently filled, per [ACMNA bylaws](#). We welcome: Adam Marvin, Ryan Short, and Scott Zielinski. Their bios can also be read on the website.

Keep safe when walking on our neighborhood streets...

The events of this past year have encouraged people to get outside more than ever. Walking, riding bikes, skateboarding... are all simple, low-impact activities that people of almost any age can do to help stay in shape. However, there are still dangers, especially in Arcadia's sidewalk-free neighborhoods. To stay safe when walking, please keep these rules in mind:

- 1. Pedestrians Face Traffic.** If there is no sidewalk where you're walking, walk on the side of the road where you'll be facing oncoming traffic. You'll be able to see cars headed toward you (you might not hear an electric car coming from behind you!) and you'll have a chance to get out of the way if necessary. Be aware that if you are cresting a hill or walking around a sharp curve in the road, oncoming vehicles won't be able to see you (and you will be unable to see them) until they are too close. On those occasions, it may be best to walk on the other side of the road until visibility improves. When biking, ride in the same direction as traffic.
- 2. Make Sure You're Visible.** If you are out at dawn, dusk, or after dark, wear light-colored, reflective clothing. Consider taking a flashing light, too.
- 3. Walk Single File.** If you aren't on a sidewalk, you should walk in a single file line, or at least move into single file when a car approaches. This gives vehicle traffic the widest berth possible, so they'll be able to avoid you more easily. It might be more comfortable to walk side-by-side, but it isn't safe.



DRIVE SMART ▲ WALK SMART ▲ BIKE SMART

Visit www.phoenix.gov/streets/headsup
for more tips on staying safe on Phoenix streets.

- 4. Keep Dogs on a Short Leash.** For the safety of your pet and the people around you, dogs should always be leashed. Make sure the leash is short enough to keep the dog away from people and traffic.
- 5. Share the Road with Runners & Cyclists.** When walking, be aware of others who are also using the road for recreation. Cyclists should alert you to their approach by yelling "passing on your left (or right)!" Keep your ears open and move over to allow them to pass safely. Runners should signal their approach similarly.
- 6. Don't Blast Music.** Listening to music or a podcast makes the miles go by faster, but it can be unsafe. Keep the volume low enough so you can still maintain awareness about your environment. You'll need to hear bike bells, approaching cars, and "on your left!" callouts. If you're tempted to listen without earbuds, please don't! Respect that others may not want to hear your broadcasts.

From Officer Jared's Desk

I hope all of you are healthy and safe in this new year. 2020 was a year of many changes and hardships. As is the case in most areas of life, when faced with difficulty, this is when we have the greatest chance for improvement. The Phoenix Police Department has always tried to be ahead of the curve when it comes to policies, laws and training. Recently, Chief Jeri Williams provided an interview with AZfamily where she discussed future directions for PhxPD.

Historically, the police department has been looked to in solving an extremely diverse number of issues for the community. In an effort to provide the best service possible for all those needs, the Chief is looking to implement some changes in allocating resources to certain calls for service. With manpower still below desired levels, it is being reviewed who should respond to certain calls. For example, having a mental health team respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis, or having a community team respond to a homeless camp. While we recognize that these situations may necessitate police involvement, we are hopeful that the early addition of these social services may offer better chances of long-term success. These are some areas we are looking at changing to help the police department provide the best service possible to its citizens. (Links to full article and additional information below.)

While we have all faced our own challenges and struggles in the year prior, I look forward to coming into 2021 stronger and with a new outlook on how to best work with my communities to move us all forward.

With best regards,
Officer Jared Sherman

Chief Williams interview: www.azfamily.com/news/phoenix-police-chief-jeri-williams-reflects-on-2020-looks-ahead-to-2021/article_b6ad4eee-503f-11eb-837a-efa8f9803ac3.html

PHXCARES
www.phoenix.gov/phxcare

Oleanders Dying Due to Blight

Have you noticed oleanders dying and being removed in the Arcadia area? A fatal disease, Oleander Leaf Scorch, is spreading among oleanders. Once infected, they die over a 3-5 year period. Initial signs are leaves of certain branches being a lighter green in color. Then the outer margins of the leaves turn brown. As the disease progresses, more branches of the plant are affected and the plant dies. Note that if a branch shows signs of the disease, the whole plant is infected, and you cannot control it by simply pruning off branches.



Photo: azplantlady.com

Oleander Leaf Scorch is caused by a bacterium (*Xylella fastidiosa*) and is spread by small (1/4 inch) flying insects called sharpshooters. These insects become carriers for the disease when they feed upon an infected oleander. They then carry it to the other oleanders they feed upon. This disease was first diagnosed in Southern California in the early 90's and spread to Arizona in 2004.

There is no cure for the blight and all oleanders—even new plantings—are susceptible. When your oleanders die, you will want to replace them with a different type of plant.

Here are some recommendations:

- ◆ **Hop Bush** (*Dodonaea viscosa*)
- ◆ **Yellow Bells** (*Tecoma stans*)
- ◆ **Arizona Rosewood** (*Vauquelinia californica*)
- ◆ **Laurel bay** (*Laurus nobilis*)
- ◆ **Glossy Privet** (*Ligustrum lucidum*)
- ◆ **Silverberry** (*Elaeagnus pungens*)
- ◆ **Lemon Bottlebrush** (*Melaleuca citrina* or *Callistemon citrinus*)
- ◆ **Indian Hawthorn** (*Raphiolepis indica*)
- ◆ **Spineless cactus** (*Optuntia ficus indica*)

Read more about each plant's growth habits and characteristics on our website, www.acmna.org/oleanders.

Shemer Art Center News

Our Expansion & Legacy Campaign Continues! And we are continuing to serve our community with virtual classes and events. As of this month, we are hoping to confirm our purchase of the property to the South, so we can start remodeling with a targeted opening in 2022! Please visit www.shemerartcenter.org if you would like to contribute. We also have several naming opportunities if you would like to show your family's support or honor someone with their name on a brick, ceramic tile, classroom or art studio. THANK YOU!

ARCADIA CENTRAL

www.arcadiacentral.com

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Preserving our neighborhood starts with you

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- ◆ **ACMNA Annual Meeting Info**

ACMNA Annual Meeting: Join us from the comfort of home!

Thursday, March 4, 6:00pm

Remote Access via Link*

(meeting will last approximately 75 minutes)

We can't offer you bagels or donuts or juice (sadly) but we do hope you'll connect with us to get the latest info on public safety, legislation, construction projects and other matters that impact Arcadia.

*** How to tune in?** Anyone registered for our online mailing list will receive an invite, with the link to attend. Not sure you are on our email list?

Sign up at: www.acmna.org/join-our-mail-list.

Agenda will include:

- ◆ Annual State of the Neighborhood Address and what your ACMNA board has been working on
- ◆ Presentations from Phoenix Police Dept on new leadership and local crime and safety updates
- ◆ Presentation by Phoenix Parks Dept on Cholla Trail redevelopment
- ◆ Update from City Council District 6, by Sal DiCiccio or Sam Stone
- ◆ Updates on Short Term Rental Legislation from State Representatives Lieberman, Butler and Marsh



Doing our duty safely! The ACMNA Board is always working for Arcadia!