

ARCADIA CENTRAL

Newsletter of the Arcadia Camelback Neighborhood Association

Jan/Feb 2022

Rev Up Your Engines at *Arcadia Auto Rama*

The 4th Annual Arcadia Auto Rama will take place on Saturday, March 26th from 8 – 11 AM at the LDS Church (4225 N 56th ST). This event is free for lookers and spectators. Last year's show featured nearly 100 show cars with over 400 spectators.

If you have a car you would like to show, the Show Registration Fee (donation) is \$20 with advance sign up, and \$30 on event day at the gate. Acceptable show entries include: cars, trucks, motorcycles, and specialty vehicles such as ice cream trucks, military vehicles, trailer, lawn Mower, tractors, scooters, or most anything on wheels! Exhibitor staging begins at 7 AM. Register online at <https://www.acmna.org/events/arcadia-auto-rama-2022>.

Trophies Include:

"Best In Show" (People's Choice) and "Best in Arcadia" (Judges Choice).

The "Best in Arcadia" award includes front page recognition in the May edition of the Arcadia Central newsletter.



ARCADIA UNDERGROUND

In our October 2021 newsletter, we featured an article on the benefits of eliminating overhead utility lines. Feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly supportive in eliminating utility poles in the Arcadia Camelback Mountain area and having all the utility lines buried underground.

To recap, State law ARS 6.1 § 40-341 to 40-356 provides how property owners may form Underground Conversion Service Areas (UCSA) for the purpose of having overhead utilities converted into an underground system in their neighborhood. The advantages of underground utilities are aesthetics, reliability, safety, and upgrades such as fiber optic internet to every home.

In order to make this a reality in our neighborhood, the following processes must be followed:

1. Create a map of the area to be converted. The starting point for our map is the ACMNA boundaries.
2. First Petition: To indicate interest in forming a USCA. The petition must be signed by 60% of the property owners, who own at least 60% of the property on the map. Once the 60% threshold is reached, the petition is delivered to the utility companies, who then have 90 days to develop a cost commitment for the conversion. Property owners are then notified of the exact cost to each of them for the underground conversion (the cost to each owner is based on the area of their parcel).
3. Second Petition: To determine agreement once costs are known. As with the first petition, the 60% threshold of owners/area must be reached. If this petition is successful, it is given to SRP, who then petitions the Phoenix City Council to form the UCSA. The Council holds a hearing, and upon their approval, the UCSA is created. More information can be found on the ACMNA website at <http://www.acmna.org/underground>.

At the ACMNA annual meeting on March 5th (see page back for details), a presentation will be given on the process to create a UCSA, and how we need to organize for success. At that time, a vote will be taken from all homeowners at the meeting on whether to go forward with the project or stop. Assuming the decision is to go forward, you will also be able to sign petitions after the meeting (note if your property is owned jointly with another person, both must sign). Help will be needed by homeowners to circulate petitions and collect signatures.

See *before and after* example photos on page 2.

ACMNA Board Nominees

At our annual meeting on March 5th (see back page for details), the ACMNA membership will vote on our 2022 slate. The following board members are up for election (photos from left to right, Row 1:) Marvin Borsand, Brian Flader, Jody Moman, Kelly O'Connell, (Row 2:) Joe Prewitt, Ian Quinn, and Craig Steblay. Read their bios at acmna.org/who-we-are.



At this time, we have one open board position. If you are interested in being a member of our board please email your bio and a short write-up of why you are interested in being a part of our board to:

<mailto:info@ACMNA.org>.

Arcadia Underground: Looking North from Camelback Road

(article on page 1)



BEFORE

sample photo



AFTER

sample photo

Shemer Update

After recently completing a strong 2021, the Shemer Art Center is pleased to kick-off a new slate of classes January 10 and open our annual **New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibition** January 12-February 17. Last year we were able to bring visual art education and experiences to the lives of nearly 7,000 people ages 6 - 96 **and** we continued adding donations to our fundraising campaign. This year we will kick off Phase Two of the **Shemer Expansion & Legacy Campaign** following a site survey scheduled for early February, from which we will begin assembling our design team. We hope to have some great news about our vision to create a one-story, purpose-built building on-site, to share at the ACMNA annual meeting March 5, after deciding **not** to acquire the house and lot to the south. We'd like to thank everyone who has and continues to support the Shemer Art Center and wish everyone a Happy New Year!



Newsletter

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ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 6pm on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) 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 website: www.acmna.org

Newsletter Archive: www.arcadiacentral.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/ACMNA

Sign up for our Email notices (sent only when important issues occur):

www.acmna.org/join-our-mailing-list

Catalytic Converter Thefts Skyrocketing

All gasoline engine cars have been required since 1975 to have a catalytic converter in their exhaust system to reduce pollution from the tailpipe. Hot exhaust gases flow through the catalytic converter – which is filled with precious metals such as platinum, palladium, and rhodium – which catalyzes chemical reactions that lower the emission of noxious pollutants.



Not much bigger than a toaster – one person could easily carry several – they are increasingly being stolen. Palladium sold for about \$500 an ounce in 2016 but is recently valued closer to \$1800 today. Rhodium sold for \$640 an ounce in 2016 but is closer to \$12,000 today. Thieves often work alone or in two-man teams to obtain these valuable metals – one to lift the car, the second to slide under with hand-held power saw and cut out the converter. The theft can take as little as two minutes. A thief may sell it for scrap for \$150 to \$200, but it will cost you \$1,000 to \$3,000 to replace. Due to supply chain issues, some people are reporting long waits to get a replacement part.

Theft of catalytic converters has skyrocketed in Arizona. In 2019, 142 thefts were reported. In 2021, this had risen to 1501 thefts – an increase of 956%! Arizona has the second highest theft rate in the nation, after Colorado, which has seen thefts rise 1254%. Toyota and Honda cars are often targeted – with the Toyota Prius, Honda Element, Toyota 4Runner, Toyota Tacoma, and the Honda Accord experiencing the most thefts. Pickups and SUVs are also targeted, as it is easy to get under them to cut out the converter.

Thefts often take place at large, unmonitored parking lots – such as those at schools, malls, park & ride lots, big box stores, apartments, and condos. Secluded areas such as regional parks, boat launch ramps, and airports are also targeted. You can also have it stolen from your driveway or the street in front of your home.



To protect yourself against theft:

- ◆ Always park in your garage. If you must park your vehicle in the driveway, have continuous lighting on the car and your driveway to deter theft.
- ◆ Always park in well-lighted areas.
- ◆ At shopping centers and similar parking lots, park close to the entrance of the building or near the access road where there is a lot of traffic.

- ◆ If you own or work at a business or factory, park within a fenced area that is busy during the day and secured at night.
- ◆ Visit a local muffler shop and have your car's VIN number etched onto the catalytic converter. The muffler shop may also be able to further secure the catalytic converter to the frame by welding a couple pieces of hardened steel to the frame to form a cage, or install various catalytic converter theft deterrent systems that are starting to be sold.
- ◆ Occasionally local police departments may hold a free VIN etching event.
- ◆ Install a skid plate if it is available for your vehicle.
- ◆ When you see suspicious activity, call the police right away.

If your Catalytic Converter has been stolen, you will know right away when you start your vehicle. It will sound like you do not have a muffler at all. It is okay to drive your vehicle directly to a muffler/dealer shop to get the Catalytic Converter replaced (although you may want earplugs). You do not need your vehicle towed to the shop.

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www.arcadiacentral.com

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Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Bury those unsightly power lines!
- ◆ 4th Annual Arcadia Auto Rama
- ◆ ACMNA Annual Meeting & board nominees
- ◆ Catalytic converter thefts on the rise
- ◆ Shemer Update



Sat, March 5
8:30 AM

Prince of Peace
Church
Gymnasium

Don't miss this chance to socialize with your neighbors and get up-to-date on important issues affecting Arcadia and surrounding areas. The 35th annual ACMNA annual meeting offers all this and more.

This year's agenda includes:

- ◆ ACMNA State of The Neighborhood
- ◆ Cholla Trail update
- ◆ Real Estate update
- ◆ Undergrounding Utilities
- ◆ 56th Street Improvement update
- ◆ Short Term Rentals
- ◆ Good in the Hood award
- ◆ Shemer Art Center update
- ◆ Police update and news
- ◆ Meet neighbors & the ACMNA board

Doors open at 8:00 AM. The meeting will last approximately 90 minutes.

Water will provided, but due to the pandemic, no food or other beverages will be served.

Upcoming Events

ACMNA Board Meetings

February 3, 6 PM

March 3, 6 PM

Prince of Peace Choir Room

www.acmna.org/agendas

Annual Meeting

March 5, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

(doors open 8:00 AM)

Prince of Peach Gym

Auto Rama

Mar 26, 8 – 11 AM

(exhibitor prep at 7 AM)

LDS Church

4425 N 56th Street

**HOPE TO SEE
YOU SOON!**