

If you live here, you belong here.

March 2022

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A Peek Behind the Scenes

Stuff we're looking at or working on that you might not know about

56th & Thomas: New development or not?

We thought a new 40-unit townhome development was coming to the north-west corner of 56th St. and Thomas Rd. The roughly 2-acre site that's been vacant for the past decade was to be developed by Hawkins Companies, a closely held company with origins in Boise, Idaho. But, the hearing officer denied the request for a variance. That doesn't mean it's over, however. We're waiting to see what the developer does.

AONA and neighbors worked with the developer who heard our concerns and addressed some of them in an open manner. We'll keep you posted on what happens next.

Short-term rental bills at the AZ Leg

Short-term rentals (or STRs--used to describe AirBnB or VRBO, etc.) are popping up everywhere in Arizona, and while it's not always bad, it's not always good, either.

We are working with other neighbors across the state to monitor and encourage good behavior by owners and operators (and their guests). We also want to make certain that enforcement provisions are in place for bad actors.

To learn more about STRs:

www.bit.ly/NeighborsNotNightmares

www.bit.ly/AZneighborhoodAlliance

Phoenix PD: changes coming in May

Phoenix PD announced that it will be pulling more sworn officers from specialty details to shore up the depleted ranks in patrol. One of the specialty teams is the Community Action Officer, or CAO. The citywide CAO unit is being cut in half; our precinct of 200,000 people will have only 3 CAOs. We're more than disappointed. Hiring of officers should be a primary focus for our city leaders.

The BIG, BIG Yard Sale Lived Up to Its Name



Thanks to more than fifty yard sale hosts and many bargain hunters, the community wide yard sale on February 25 & 26 was a big success. This was our second sale event in the neighborhood. We were also able to host a sale as a fundraiser for AONA's coffers. The 'purge or purchase' world of garage sales should be a sociological study. For now, we're happy with a cleaner garage.

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast (Or: How to Get Asphalt Speed Humps on Your Block)



Speed humps are asphalt mounds placed on roadways for the purpose of slowing traffic. The City of Phoenix only installs speed humps on public streets.

Why are speed humps desirable?

Speed humps can help control speeding on local neighborhood streets: They could reduce average speeds up to 6 mph or more. Unlike traditional police enforcement, speed humps provide continuous service. They may also help discourage cut-through traffic by diverting it elsewhere.

First step: get a petition going

Petitions help show whether strong resident support for speed humps exists. The City will designate an "affected area," usually consisting of homes along the street where speed humps are proposed. Residents must obtain support from at least 70 percent of residents in the affected area, and must obtain support from every resident whose home is within 100 feet of a proposed speed hump.

Who pays for speed humps, and how much do they cost?

Residents pay a portion of the cost, depending on a street's average speed after a traffic study. For most side streets within AONA boundaries, expect about \$250 per speed hump. Residents can collect and pay their portion of the cost of speed humps any way they like.

If you and your neighbors want to learn more about getting speed humps on your street, visit:

www.bit.ly/PhxSpeedHumps



Well, Here's an Encouraging Sign

Have you noticed these popping up around the neighborhood? Since we introduced the sign topper program last spring, we've installed 28 and counting throughout our area. Many of these have been sponsored by neighbors. The donations cover our sign costs and add more funds for activities. Want to find out about getting a sign topper on your street? Send an email to aonainfo@gmail.com to learn more.

Spoil your loved ones: support our local restaurants

OK, so it's getting better for local restaurants, but still, they could use our help. Local restaurants and their employees define our neighborhood. Consider these points when making your meal plans:

- **Plan your take-out/delivery meals**

Restaurants aren't busy every day and night, but you and your family are. Think about when to schedule a weekday meal that destresses your day and helps out a business. Try takeout or in-house delivery directly from the restaurant to maximize your financial impact.

- **Spread the joy; share the wealth**

We all have our favorites and now

we can support them. It's also a time to branch out to other restaurants that you've wanted to check out, but somehow never gotten around to it.

- **Tip up the tip**

Waitstaff are having a tough time. If people aren't in the restaurants, they're not earning money. Consider tipping more generously than usual, even on takeout & in-house delivery.



Encourage Safety On Scooters, Mini Bikes & Phat Cycles

We're the first ones to say just how cool all the electric scooters, e-bikes and phat cycles (above) are.

But suddenly they are everywhere. We've heard from a number of you that this is a concerning trend in our 'hood and we've talked with Phoenix P.D. about some of the problems. So, adults, please model and teach good behavior on electric bikes:

- **Follow traffic laws:** Ride in the same direction as cars.

- **Stay off the sidewalks:** Sidewalks are for walking and strollers.

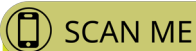
- **Wear a helmet:** A crash at any speed is not safe; protect kids with helmets.

We'll be monitoring the issue and working with PPD to make certain that we have safe streets for all.



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and you'll be in the know on local neighborhood issues like public safety, zoning and events. It's simple and easy and we won't litter your inbox. Promise!



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We would love to hear from you!

Interested in building a safer and more connected community? We are looking for volunteers to help with social media & fundraising. Let us know.

AONA Boundaries



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AONA newsletter sponsored by
City of Phoenix Block Watch Grant

Since 1997, AONA works to connect neighbors & protect our community through information & advocacy.