

NORTHTOWN NEWS

Official Publication of Northtown Homeowners' Association, Inc. A 55+ Adult Community

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VOLUME 48 | ISSUE 3

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- Dog Barking page 14

Upcoming Events

****Northtown Crafters**** Friday, March 1st, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

Bulk Trash Placement: Saturday, March 2nd Pick-up: Monday, March 11th

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, March 12th @ 6:30 PM

****Happy Hour**** Friday, March 22nd, 6:00 – 8:00 PM





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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please send a request to <u>Ntnews@northtown85022.net</u>

Contacts: If you need assistance with any issue regarding Northtown, our board members are available to assist you.

Jeannie King, President (2026)* Emmy Morales, Vice President (2026)* Naomi McCarthy, Secretary (2025)* Linda Barvitz, Treasurer (2024)* Dennis Franks, Architectural Control/Compliance (2024)* Frank Vance, Roads and Grounds (2026)* Susan Nusall, Facilities Director (2025)*	763-244-0410 602-882-1191 602-971-6779 623-466-2842 623-322-6348 602-460-4702 602-380-3266	
Special Committee: Doug Snyder – Roads & Grounds Assistant Jacque Fraley - Social Activities	602-923-9892 602-799-7071	
Additional Contacts: Sharla Cook, Property Manager, Osselaer Bob Carver, Street Lighting	602-740-8979 602-787-0016	

* Denotes Term end.

www.northtown85022.org

Office Email: ntoffice@northtown85022.net Sharla Cook: sharla@osselaer.com

Emergency Numbers:Police, Fire, Medical Emergency911Crime Stop262-6151Animal Control506-7387Poison Control253-3334Power Outage: APS371-7171

Newsletter Email:ntnews@northtown85022.net

2024 HOA Assessment Amounts:	
Annual	\$625.80
Semi Annual	\$312.90
Quarterly	\$156.45
Monthly	\$ 52.15

Remember... all HOA dues are to be sent to Osselaer, PO Box 61475, Phoenix, AZ 85082-1475. If you have questions about your account, please call them at 602-277-4418. You will receive a statement with a tear-off coupon.

Newsletter Information: To submit information for publication in this newsletter, please send information to: <u>ntnews@northtown85022.net</u>. Information must be submitted each month if you have a recurring item. Submissions must be in **Word or similar format** and must be received by the **20th of each month**. If you do not have email, please call Naomi at 602-971-6779.

If you would like to place **an advertisement** in the newsletter, please call Naomi at 602-971-6779 or email <u>naomi.mccarthy@cox.net</u>. Resident business cards are at no cost. Full page, ½ page and business card rates are published in the advertising section of this newsletter.

Newsletter Staff:

Editors Beverly Bernal, Stephanie Shink, Naomi McCarthy Publishers, Kathleen Brezina, Stephanie Shink

"LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"

This is **YOUR PAGE** where you can share ideas, opinions and suggestions. We ask that you keep the length of your "Letter to the Editor" to 200-400 words (approximately 15-25 lines): Please stick to **Facts**, no "**Fake News**" or rumors. Letters must have your name and Lot #. Anonymous doesn't live here. Send "Letters" to: nterssol.org

I would like again to address the subject of the Northtown roads. There are typically two arguments that come up again and again.

- 1. Residents that live on public streets do not want to pay for our private streets. I understand that point of view, but we legally have to treat everyone in Northtown the same. This situation was created some 50 years ago. It was a huge error made by people that are probably dead.
- 2. Some residents that have more recently moved into Northtown think that they should pay less than those that have lived here for many years. Again, I understand that point of view. Sufficient funds should have been collected over the last 50 years to maintain the roads. This was an oversight that cannot be undone without time travel. As a physicist I can tell you that even if you could go back in time and change things, you would not get the desired result. What would happen is that you would create an alternate universe. The universe we are in would continue unchanged.

I ask that we deal with the problems of our universe. I would like to propose a permanent monthly assessment of \$18 per residence that would go directly into the road fund. This would bring in approximately \$52,000 per year. Over 20 years, that is about \$1,000,000.

Some will object that 20 years is too long to wait for good roads, but so far we have not had any luck getting the residents to agree to a large special assessments to do the roads quickly. Also, the permanent assessment would not preclude attempts to get a one-time larger assessment in the future to do the roads more quickly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Krueger, Lot 77





President: Jeannie King

Greetings Neighbors!

Safety Concern: Several neighbors reported they have seen homeless people sitting around our Community Center charging their cell phones from our outlets. Since many homeless are using drugs and if confronted, can become violent, we need to remove as many incentives for them to come here as possible. In a walk about, several outside faucets were noticed too. We took quick action and put covers on the electrical boxes and locks on the faucets.

Our Social Activity Group is now headed by Jacque Fraley. We had our first Happy Hour for the year. The next one is March 22nd, 6:00 - 8:00 pm in our Community Center. All are welcome! You can bring something to drink such as pop, flavored water, beer, and if you like, a food item to share.

Our Document Review Group is headed now by Emmy Morales. Northtown has three Plat maps which have legally binding notes and restrictions (available on our website). We have reviewed these transcribed notes by Dave Ransom. With a little fine tuning, we are now able to add this important document to our website. The County revised the Plat Map – Northtown Unit 3A. it is also available on our website and identified as Plat Map NT3A.

Our New Road: How wonderful it is! We had wonderful neighbors who worked hard to get this road paved. Then other great neighbors who worked to keep people off the closed road being worked on. There are always some who think they are too special to observe rules such as "Road Closed".

The new road location was decided on before I took office. It was chosen because it frequently floods, as our HOA is on the back of Lookout Mountain. Water takes the path of least resistance, so it runs downhill. Our lowest road is 22nd Street, which has flooded many times. The road was so damaged that patching it would have cost nearly as much as replacement. Since we had the money, it was decided to preserve the road instead of having it get any worse; therefore, it was repaved.

Some of the benefits of good roads are:

<u>For you:</u> a good road increases your safety as you walk, bicycle ride and drive over it. One neighbor had a very expensive tire destroyed as a piece of metal was caught in a crack in the road so was standing up when the tire ran over it. (Unfortunately, in the dark she did not see it.) Good roads also help to maintain our property values and make resale easier.

<u>For your family</u>: a good road increases the ability to sell your house when the time comes and brings your family peace of mind knowing your safety is increased.

<u>For your community:</u> emergency equipment can reach you and your neighbors safely and allows them to arrive as soon as possible. Your neighbors are safer with solid, smooth roads.

While none of us like to pay any more money than necessary, I ask you to reflect on the fact that when you moved to Northtown, you signed an agreement to maintain Northtown, which includes its infrastructure. The roads need to be repaved! The sooner we can come to a suitable agreement, the more money we can save to get the roads repaved. Due to inflation, we can save a lot of money using economies of scale. Paving the roads all at one time saves a lot of money – bigger equipment works faster, can come in and get the work done faster, and we only need to have it brought in one time versus multiple times. Points to Ponder!

Vice President: Emmy Morales

It's been an informative month, and I want to thank Dave Ransom for his work on the plat maps. He did a great job and we appreciate the help. We have a lot to work on in the coming months and I'm looking forward to the challenges.

Secretary: Naomi McCarthy

Welcome to new homeowners, Philip & Sandra Eherenman, we're glad you're here and hope to meet you soon.

2024 is a census year for Northtown. This census is required by the Federal Government and must be completed every two years in order to keep our 55+ status. The Census Committee will be going through our homeowner files and noting those who have not completed an Affirmation of Age Compliance form. This is a herculean task, and I thank them all profusely.

If you don't think you have completed this form, an Affirmation of Age Compliance form is available in this newsletter. Once completed, please drop it off at the Office in the Clubhouse.

The Spring Members' meeting is coming up in April, and I am currently updating our Master Roster. Notices will be mailed to out-of-town owners in mid-March. See the Notice in this newsletter.

Treasurer: Linda Barvitz

Balance Sheet Operating			
Alerus Operating 6706	\$158,921.95*		
Alerus Operating MMA 8656	64,046.25		
Alerus ICS Operating 1071	40,234.07		
Petty Cash at Northtown	137.41		

Total Cash/Operating \$263,339.68

* \$50,000.00 was deposited from The Road Reserve Account 1089 and \$73,100.00 was deposited from the ICS operating 1071 account into the Operating 6706 account in preparation for the payment of the road paving project.

Balance Sheet Reserve

Alerus Road Reserve 8567	\$17,074.18*
Alerus Cd 0168 M.D 10/16/24	32,989.03
Alerus Cd 0417 M.D 1/23.25	31,152.91*
Alerus Cd 0825 M.D 5/16/24	30,472.24
Alerus Cd 1104 M.D 7/30.24	30,863.75
Alerus ICS Reserve 1089	91,965.22
Total Cash/Operating	¢721 517 22

Total Cash/Operating \$234,517.33

* \$2,500.00 was deposited into the Road Reserve 8567account and \$2,500.00 was deposited into the Cd 0417 M.D before the renewal date.

Roads and Grounds: Frank Vance

March Greetings from Roads and Grounds.

Happy March to everyone. We have only a couple items to share in this month's article. First, it is bulk trash collection time again. If you have any bulk trash, you can place it next to your front sidewalk beginning March 2nd. Collection will begin on Monday March 11th. Please do not block the sidewalk and do not place any trash piles in any of our common areas.

A number of people have been talking about starting a community garden. In my article last month, I asked for volunteers but only one individual stepped forward. We do not need a large group but we do need more than one person to serve on this committee. If you would like to see a community garden for our residents to enjoy, this is your opportunity to decide what it will look like. Please send a note to the Northtown office with Community Garden" in the subject line. I will reach out to you during the month and we will plan to get together and see if we can transform a wonderful idea to a delicious reality.

Finally, as most of you know, we have had a group of people investing much time and energy into the improvement of the streets in Northtown. Now, we have a repaved section of the worst of our streets and the most serious potholes have been patched. While this is a long way from what we had hoped to accomplish, lots of work went into getting even this much done. I want to share a note that I received from one of our residents.

Subject: Thank You

To Each and Every One of You (and probably others I am not aware of on the committee), I know this journey has not been an easy one; but the first leg has been completed – and looking mighty fine! 22nd Streets looks great and thank you to each of you for your efforts, perseverance and patience in continuing to work on this project.

It was interesting watching the teamwork of Pinnacle Paving during the process. In addition, I am impressed that they worked diligently, starting the project on Wednesday, and completed it as promised on Friday.

Again, Thank you to the Committee, and the Board of Directors (past & present) for your dedication to and belief in the Northtown Community for all your work, from a Thankful Resident! Please stay well.

I would like to thank the person who sent us this note and for taking the time to express her appreciation in writing. Please know that we will be working toward determining our next steps as we strive to make our streets better and safer for everyone.

Facilities Director: Susan Nusall

The new rates for the Clubhouse rental have been approved by the Board, and the new forms are in the binder outside the office, as well as online. The main Clubhouse rental for residents for ½ day (less than 6 hours) will be \$50 and a full day will be \$100. For outside groups sponsored by a resident, ½ day will be \$150.00 and a full day will be \$300.00. Thank you to everyone who provided input on how best to make sure we are covering the rising costs associated with use of the Clubhouse.

Wishing everyone a "lucky" St. Patrick's Day!

SPRING MEMBERS' MEETING

Northtown Homeowners' Association Inc. 2202 E Waltann Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85022

The Spring Members' Meeting will be held at the above address (Community Clubhouse) on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00PM**

Any Lot Owner may place an item for discussion on the agenda by submitting written notice to the Secretary of the Association no less than fifteen (15) days (April 1st) prior to the meeting of April 16, 2024.

Ample time will be allowed for questions and discussion. You may bring up any subject for discussion.

Refreshments will be provided.



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2024 Biannual Census – More than just another form to fill out.

Why a 55+ Community? There are many reasons you may have chosen to live in a 55+ community. It's your security. It's your guarantee of the lifestyle and community you have chosen to live in, with the type of people you choose to live with.

Quiet, Peaceful, Neighbors with similar interests, backgrounds, and age group. No children playing in the streets and common areas, no skateboards, scooters, and boisterous yelling. No teen groups and parties, no gangs, drugs, or worse. No crying babies all night. You know we're not talking about visits to Grandparents, we truly love to share the joy of having them visit – and, then they go home.

We don't want to lose our 55+ status. We have just started the process of checking the forms we already have (AFFIRMATION OF RESIDECY AND AGE COMPLIANCE) and making a list of those that we don't have or those that need to be updated. We will be will be contacting those residents soon. Please take a few minutes to help Northtown keep its 55+ status.

Federal law requires us to have an Affidavit of Age and Residency for every occupied household in Northtown. That means that every Resident, whether Owner or Tenant, owner's Mom or Dad, son or daughter, etc. must either be in our file already or required to fill out a new census form. We need your help to reach 80% of the occupied homes in Northtown to keep this status.

Think about it, there will be homes in Northtown, either for sale or rent this year. In this economy, a two-bedroom home for under \$300k would be very attractive to younger families with kids. *("Hmmm, we could put 2 kids in the 2nd bedroom, 2 kids in the living room and the baby could sleep with us. There's a great pool and neat areas for dirt bikes and ballgames."*) Pretty attractive to a young family. The only way we have to prevent this from happening is to keep our 55+ status.

Why a 55+ Community? It's your security. It's your guarantee of the lifestyle and community you have chosen to live in, with the type of people you choose to live with.

It's your community folks – however you want it. Please help.

2024 Census Committee: Naomi McCarthy, Bev Bernal, Nora Curtin, Peggy Pennington, Jean Shelton, Bridgette Smith

northtown	
HOMEOWNERS' ASSC	
2202 E. WALTANN LANE • PH	HOENIX, AZ 85022
NORTHTOWN HOMEOWNE AFFIRMATION OF RESIDECY	•
his instrument hereby acknowledges that I,(Print I	
he undersigned, do hereby affirm that I AM \Box , ige and do reside at:	
ADDRESS:	LOT #
n the platted parcels otherwise described as NOF	THTOWN, in Phoenix, Arizona 85022
Phone #: E Mail:	
If the person signing this form is NOT at least fifty- of any resident who IS over the age of fifty-five (55 Name	5) years.)
(Print Name)	
AM 🛛 , 🛛 I am NOT 🗖 legally disabled	
DO , DO NOT have persons under the period of greater than thirty (30) days at a time.	e age of eighteen (18) who reside with me for a
RESIDENT SIGNATURE:	DATE:
Do not write be	low this line
affirm that of my own personal knowledge, the pe and is at least 55 years of age.	erson listed below resides at the above address
Name of Resident:	
(Print Name) Census Committee Member signature:	Date:
Board Member signature:	Date:
Affirmation of Residency and Age Compliance	Rev 02/12/20

COMMUNITY INTERESTS:

(This section of the Newsletter relates to Resident Organizations / Clubs / General information and is not "Official Association Business.



NORTHTOWN COMMUNITY BLOCKWATCH/PNP: Nora Curtin 602-689-9696

Hello Spring!

I would like to say Thank You to the Community for their contribution to the "Cookies for the Firemen." The response very generous, and we know they have enjoyed your thoughtfulness.

We should all say Thank You to the Board (past and present) and the Roads Committee for the initial portion of the 22nd St paving project. It looks great and the drive is very pleasant. Just remember that the speed limit is still 20 mph! The additional patches are also great!

There was a report from some neighbors that their dog(s) started barking in the middle of the night which was unusual for their pet. They looked outside and noticed motion sensor lights come on. If you experience this strange behavior from your dog, pay attention to what they are telling you — something is happening. You can look outside to see what you can see; but also call the police (911), if you are alarmed about what might be happening around your property.

The PNP quarterly meeting for the 1st Quarter will be on Tuesday, April 2nd at 4 pm at the Clubhouse. Mark your calendar, so you won't forget! All residents are invited to come to our meeting and find out what PNP is all about!

Have a good March, enjoy the Spring weather and Happy St Patrick's Day!!



Koffee Klatch will be celebrating our March (and February) birthdays on Thursday, March 7th. Thank you to everyone who contributed cookies, baked goods, and candy to the "Cookies for Firemen" event. It was a great success, and the firemen at the 2 stations were so appreciative! A special THANK YOU to all the Koffee Klatch members who helped coordinate and package the sweet treats and to the volunteers who delivered them.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, which is March 17th, there is an Irish blessing for all our Northtown friends:

May God grant you always...a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you, faithful friends near you. And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.



When: Friday, March 22nd, 6:00 - 8:00 PM Where: Clubhouse

All Northtown Residents are Welcome! Bring your own beverage and snack to share.

If you would like a reminder e-mail message and you are ok with a group e-mail, email your name and e-mail address to <u>kingjeannie79@gmail.com</u>.



Northtown Crafters! Join us the first Friday of every month (March 1st this month) in the Clubhouse library from 2:30-4:30. Bring your own projects and have some creative fun with friends and neighbors. Hope to see you there!!

Bridgette Smith, Lot 131 602-818-7390



Liz McNamara's Church Group has a "Community Service" program where several members come to Northtown the first Saturday of every month to help neighbors in need with yardwork. <u>Call Liz at: 602-971-3893 MID-MONTH</u>, and she will see that your name gets on the list for the next first Saturday. They can only help 4-5 homeowners each visit, depending on the jobs, so First Come-First Serve. It is also important to note that you will need to be at home when they arrive.

Month: By Andree'

Conundrum: Whim, enigma, puzzle, riddle

Sentences:

Understanding how our modern electronics operate is a conundrum to me.

The Bank does not appear to be anywhere close to finding the answer to that conundrum.

DO YOU NEED HELP??

Organizations that may be able to help you.

•	Duet	602-274-5022
•	Dial-A-Ride	602-716-2100
•	Maricopa Senior & Disabled Hot Line	602-264-4357
•	Mom's Pantry, 13440 N Cave Creek Road	602-992-0083
•	St. Mary's Food Bank	602-242-FOO
•	Meals on Wheels	602-264-4357
•	City of Phoenix Income Based Landscaping	602-534-4444
	through Neighborhood Services	





Wheelchair Pillow - excellent condition \$10 or best offer Shower Chair w/back - like new - \$25 or best offer Shower Transfer Bench - like new - \$40 or best offer Portable Bedside Toilet - \$10 or best offer Call 480-469-1351 for more information Gerry Roesch, Lot 209-H



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Do you have a favorite recipe to share?

Quick & Easy Crock Pot Beef Stew

(Submitted by Bev Bernal)

2-3 lbs. stew meat 1 - 16 oz frozen green beans	In a 6 qt crock pot, place stew meat & potatoes on the bottom.
2-3 whole carrots, peeled & sliced 3 russet potatoes peeled & diced	Place green beans, onions, & carrots on top.
 ¹/₂ onion, chopped 2 bay leaves Salt & pepper to taste 1 - 14 oz can crushed tomatoes 2 cups water ¹/₄ cup Worcestershire sauce 	Pour crushed tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce & water on top. Season with plenty of salt & pepper.
	Cover & cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours.
	Allow to sit for a few minutes before serving.

- 264-4357 534-4444

NEIGHBORS HONORING NEIGHBORS

Information for Dog Owners – City of Phoenix https://www.phoenix.gov/law/prosecutor/barking-dogs/information-for-the-dog-owner

There are many reasons why a dog might bark excessively, including anxiety, attention-seeking, boredom, responding to other dogs, & playfulness or excitement. Many times, if you can figure out what is troubling your dog, you can stop its barking, make the dog more relaxed, comfortable & happy, and at the same time, bring peace to your neighbors and your family. In Phoenix it is a Class 1 Misdemeanor for any person to keep a dog that is in the habit of barking or howling or disturbs the peace & quiet of another person (Phoenix Barking Dog Ordinance). If you have been informed your dog is disturbing another person's peace, you need to take action.

To assist the community in resolving barking dog issues, we recommend the following information and resources to help you prevent and stop excessive barking.

- Monitor your dog to assess the reason it is barking.
- Talk to your neighbors to find out when your dog is barking. Often a dog barks only when the owner is not home, so owners do not realize the extent of the disturbance that neighbors face.
- Make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise so your dog has less pent-up energy to burn by barking. Take your dog for walks instead of just letting it out in the yard.
- Be mindful of the access that doggie doors provide to the outside.
- Avoid leaving a lonely dog alone for long periods of time if possible.
- Give your pet toys & provide soothing sounds, like radio or television while you are away.
- Never comfort, pet, hug or feed your dog when barking for attention or out of anxiety (rewarding unwanted behavior encourages barking instead of stopping it.)
- Shouting at your dog to stop barking does not help; in fact, this may cause your dog to bark even more. A dog cannot be trained to stop barking by yelling across the yard.
- Consider a bark collar or muzzle. There are different varieties that work in different ways; your veterinarian can help you choose the right collar.
- DO NOT let your dog bark constantly outside, regardless of the reason.
- Train your dog; many books and online resources are available.
- Try confining your dog to an area away from neighbors or away from things that stimulate barking.
- Consult your veterinarian and/or trainer if you continue to face barking issues despite your best efforts. Try mediation with your neighbors who are disturbed; often these issues can be resolved when you and your neighbor are both in the room with a neutral mediator. Also see the Barking Dog Kit provided on the City on the Northtown website, https://northtown85022.org/

Joke(s) of the Month



Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of coloring.

Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

One minute you're young and fun. And next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave - I say I'm having a very good day.

Well Soon To all those with broken bones and injuries and those with wheezes and sneezes . . Get Well Soon, We Miss You!



Get

Happy Birthday to all those born in March!!

Northtown Organizations and Clubs:

Northtown has several organizations and clubs **open to all residents** that operate within the boundaries of Northtown but are not an official part of Northtown Homeowners' Association. They are as follows:

KOFFEE KLATCH

Meetings are held Thursdays in the Northtown Clubhouse. Check the Newsletter calendar and Koffee Klatch article each month for dates and times. This group is open to **all women in the Northtown community**. We share our life experiences and are always looking for ways to improve ourselves and our neighborhood. We collect non-perishable food items for St. Vincent DePaul Society. During the holidays, we contribute to various charities. We host guest speakers, and frequently, Black Mountain Police Precinct officers visit to keep us informed on ways to keep our community safe. The first Thursday of each month, we celebrate Birthdays for that month. Meetings are Brown Bag (bring your own lunch). Dues are \$ 1.00 per meeting.

NORTHTOWN COMMUNITY BLOCKWATCH/Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol (PNP)

This group is registered with the Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department - ID# 1323. Block Watch/PNP members patrol Northtown to be the "eyes and ears" for the Black Mountain Police Precinct. This group started in 2001 and has continued patrolling, applying for grants to buy safety and security items such as motion detector lights, dusk to dawn lights, and more. These are yours for the asking when available. For more information or to be trained to become a PNP member, please contact Bob Carver at 602-787-0016 or Nora Curtin at 602-689-9696, or email <u>nkcurtinaz@hotmail.com</u>.

CARDS AND GAMES:

Several different groups have regular cribbage, poker (nickel, dime, and quarter), Pokeno (pennies/nickels) & LRC (quarters) games. See the calendar on the back of the newsletter or on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse (near the kitchen).

NORTHTOWN SUNSHINE

Sends (Birthday, Condolence, Get Well, etc.) cards to neighbors when notified. Two volunteers help in this effort. One does the card distribution, and one collects the clean cans delivered to the back of the Clubhouse and carts them to the store to collect the money used for postage and cards. A huge operation!!! So, please donate/recycle your clean cans for this cause.

If you know of anyone that could use a card to brighten their day or provide some caring words, call Annabel Kipp 602-992-4373.

