



Our Neighborhood



Winter 2010

Move-in Ready Homes Available for Sale

Stimulus Funds at Work

The federally funded Phoenix Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) continue to help stabilize neighborhoods hit by foreclosures. The city's "Move-in Ready" (MIR) program purchases vacant, neglected homes and remodels them to sell to eligible homebuyers. The MIR program offers a newly remodeled home with energy conservation features, friendly guidance throughout the process, and a \$15,000 (zero payment/zero interest) loan to use for closing costs and partial down payment. MIR homes are close to amenities, jobs and public transportation, and the \$15,000 is due only if the owner resells or refinances the home.



This renovated home in West Phoenix is available now through the Move-in Ready program.

Tito Maysonet was the first buyer to take advantage of the program. A dairy-industry worker and father of an 18-year-old daughter, Maysonet experienced little success trying to secure a home until his lender suggested that he explore the city's MIR program. Maysonet was very impressed with all the inspections and assistance from the developer, National

Farm Workers Service Center, and with their attention to energy efficiency. The home was pressure-tested, sunscreens were installed, all doors and windows were sealed and new appliances were added.

Maysonet now lives in the home in west Phoenix. "It's an awesome house. When I wake up every day I still can't believe this all happened and I have this beautiful house. It was well worth all the hard

work," he said. His sister also is now interested in the program.

"Stimulus dollars that continue to flow to cities and states are making a difference," said Phoenix Deputy City Manager Jerome Miller. "For a family in the low- to moderate-income range, receiving \$15,000 can

make the difference in helping them become homeowners. Several Phoenix neighborhoods that have been hit hardest by foreclosures are going to see vacant homes on their block, that once were eyesores, transformed by renovation and inhabited by new neighbors who are invested in that community."

Jimmy Davis and his wife, Lora, live across the street from two MIR homes that are being renovated in north Phoenix. "The residents in our neighborhood really appreciate that these houses were purchased," said Davis. "The city of Phoenix and the partners involved in this program are helping to keep our property values up by doing a complete renovation on these homes – it's a real plus."

Thirteen MIR homes are available for purchase. To see a list of "Move-in Ready" homes and program information, visit phoenix.gov/nsphome, call 602-262-6602 or e-mail info@nspphoenix.gov.

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St. Mary's Food Bank – 2831 N. 31st Ave.

Where was the first food bank in the world? Right here in Phoenix, with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance. It all started in 1965, when John van Hengel was volunteering for a community dining room. He learned that grocery stores disposed of food that had damaged packaging or was near expiration. He started collecting that food for the dining room, but soon had too much for that single program. He thought of creating a central location from which any agency can receive donations. With the help of St. Mary's Basilica, the first food bank was born in 1967, on South Central Avenue.

Today, the St. Mary's Food Bank that serves Phoenix residents is located at 2831 N. 31st Ave. Together with more than 500 nonprofit agency partners, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance serves approximately 200,000 unduplicated clients in Phoenix each year. In 2009, St. Mary's distributed more than 67 million pounds of food.



Food banks quickly spread across the United States. So St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance not only has a rich history of providing emergency and supplemental food to individuals and agencies in Arizona, but began a world-wide movement. St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance is still one of the largest food banks in the country.

The clients St. Mary's serves are the working poor living at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty rate. These are families who have jobs, but don't earn enough to provide for their families as monthly expenses rise. The food distribution programs are the last safety net for people who are having problems coping with the economic downturn.

More than ever, St. Mary's can use monetary donations to help them help others. For more information on St. Mary's, including how to donate, visit firstfoodbank.org or e-mail development@firstfoodbank.org or call 602-242-FOOD (3663).

“How to Put the Diamond Back Into Your Neighborhood” – Tips and Resources

Now is a great time to clean up outside storage and clear your property of any unwanted, inoperable vehicles. This keeps your property free of code violations and helps improve the appearance of the whole neighborhood. With the weather cooling down, it's an excellent time of year to have an annual yard sale to sell items that are no longer needed. It's also a great time to donate unwanted items, including vehicles to charities for year-end tax purposes. Donating or reselling items has the added benefit of recycling household goods for use by others – and keeping them out of the landfill. For additional information on this or other tips to spruce up your home or neighborhood, contact the Neighborhood Services Department at 602-262-7844.

Help Turn This Newsletter Green!

We realize everyone does not have computer or Internet access. For our readers who do, instead of receiving the printed copy of “Our Neighborhood,” you can request your copy be sent by e-mail. Make your request at lists.phoenix.gov/subscribe/nsdsubscribe.html. Taking this simple step will save paper, toner, postage and time. Your response to date has already made a difference, as you'll see by the numbers below – thanks for your support!

For more information, call 602-262-7344 or e-mail nsd@phoenix.gov.

Issue	U.S. Mail	E-mailed
Jan-March	1,075	419
Sept-Oct	971	625
Current issue	955	841



Energize Phoenix

On Oct. 26, Mayor Gordon officially launched the \$25 million Energize Phoenix program, a partnership of the city of Phoenix, Arizona State University and Arizona Public Service, funded by a federal grant from the Better Buildings Program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Phoenix is one of the first cities in the nation to roll out its program using these funds.

“Energize Phoenix will offer incentives to perform energy efficiency retrofits for up to 2,000 single- and multi-family residences and approximately 30 million square feet of office and industrial space,” said Mayor Gordon. “Most important, it will create up to 2,000 jobs – many will be green jobs.”

Energize Phoenix is a pilot program focusing on a 10-mile stretch of the light rail line, from Camelback Road and Central Avenue to 44th and Washington streets. It’s designed to reduce energy consumption by up to 30 percent; reduce commercial energy use by up to 18 percent; and eliminate carbon emissions by up to 50,000 metric tons per year.

Along with APS and ASU, three city departments are major partners in implementing Energize Phoenix: Neighborhood Services (NSD), Public Works and Community and Economic Development. Retrofitting



homes for energy efficiency is one of the major strategies for Energize Phoenix, and NSD is the lead for residential retrofits, including multi-family. Retrofits include audit tests for energy loss, duct sealing, HVAC replacement, shade screens, and insulation, among other items. Jobs created through the program will include contractors, auditors, construction workers, and outreach workers.

NSD will use contractors from APS’ Trade Ally Certified Vendor List, and will coordinate with ASU to install 200 dashboard devices (energy feedback devices) in homes and provide customer education and training.

While the Department of Energy awarded similar grants across the country, Energize Phoenix is unique because Phoenix is one of the few grant recipients targeting commercial buildings in addition to residential properties

The program will be evaluated to determine if it could be expanded to other portions of the city in the future.

Owners of multi-family apartment complexes serving low- to moderate-income residents within the corridor can begin the application process and owners of single-family residences within the corridor can register interest at energizephx.com or by calling 602-495-5275. To watch a video about the program, visit phoenix.gov/11.

Ask the Expert: Truly Sielaff, MSW, Community Outreach Supervisor, Neighborhood Services Department – Revitalization, 602-495-0700

Q: Why is home maintenance important?

A: Regular preventative home maintenance can help minimize more costly repairs down the road. Check out these five easy tips for proper and ongoing maintenance:

1. Replace batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year. Make it a family activity so the kids will remember how important the smoke detectors are. Check pressure levels on fire extinguishers and service/replace if necessary.
2. Caulk exterior joints around all windows and doors, which helps keep the house weather-tight and reduces energy bills. It also can help keep insects and vermin out of the house.
3. Change your furnace filter every month, winter or summer. A dirty filter slows down the airflow through the system and creates many performance problems.
4. From the ground, examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during monsoons and summer sun. If your home has an older roof, you may want to start a budget for replacement. Shingles that are cracked, buckled or loose or are missing granules should be replaced.
5. Cracked or defective/leaky washing machine hoses are one of the leading causes for homeowners insurance claims. Check your hoses periodically for leaks, and replace plastic hoses every three years.



Training Tomorrow's Leaders Today

NSD's TILT program (Tomorrow's Involved Leaders Today) is a grassroots leadership program for Phoenix teens. TILT focuses on youth ages 15 to 18 and works with neighborhood groups, schools and local businesses to form partnerships. The goal is to give Phoenix youth an opportunity to develop skills in leadership and facilitation, networking and partnership building, along with the self-confidence to take the risks necessary to succeed. The program also introduces area youth to local grass roots organizations to foster volunteerism, learn the importance of community involvement, and gain a sense of pride in their neighborhoods.



speakers that I can relate to, who have accomplished their dreams though it seemed impossible – and that inspires me to work harder," she said. "The best part of being involved in TILT is knowing that I have mentors who are there for me whenever I need them, who support and encourage me everyday, and making friends with people that I would not have met outside of the group. I am more involved in my community and look forward to still being involved in the future."

For more information on the TILT program, call or e-mail Ray Yocopis at 602-495-0116 or ray.yocopis@phoenix.gov, or Michael Pinder, 602-495-0380 or michael.pinder@phoenix.gov.

Sponsored by the Kroger Foundation (Fry's Food and Drug), the program is in its fourth year. This year TILT Alumni are participating in the Annual Stock Market Challenge, sponsored by Junior Achievement (JA). The JA Student Stock Market Challenge, a fast-paced, interactive simulation of the stock market, was held October 29 at the Arizona Biltmore.

After a JA volunteer leads the Take Stock in Your Future in the classroom, this high-energy simulation gives high school students first-hand experience with trading as they buy and sell stocks from a list of 26 fictitious companies. Student teams also practice math, communication, team-building, and critical thinking skills while working to build the biggest portfolio within the two-hour live simulation. This is the first year that the City of Phoenix will sponsor a team to compete against 300 other high school students representing teams statewide.

How can TILT impact a young person's life? Brenda Calderon is a high school senior at Phoenix's North High School and member of the TILT program

"Sometimes I just felt like giving up on my dreams, but then TILT brought in

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 13 Landlord/Tenant Workshop**
6 – 9 p.m.
Devonshire Senior Center
2802 E. Devonshire Ave.
- 15 Eliminate Graffiti Paint Sprayer Training**
8 – 10 a.m.
NSD West Facility
3325 W. Flower Street, Suite 100
- 27 HOA Legislation**
6 – 8 p.m.
Neighborhood Resource Center
2405 E. Broadway Road

FEBRUARY

- 16 Put the Diamondback into Your Neighborhood**
6 – 8 p.m.
NSD West Facility
3325 W. Flower Street, Suite 100



TO REGISTER FOR LANDLORD/TENANT CLASSES, CALL 602-262-7210
FOR ALL OTHER WORKSHOPS, PLEASE CALL 602-495-0380
phoenix.gov/nsd

Tool Trailer Available to Neighborhoods – Thanks to Private Sponsor

Thanks to private donations, neighborhoods have an additional tool to assist with community cleanup events. A tool trailer, to be exact. In partnership with the city's Neighborhood Services Department (NSD), the Support Sky Harbor Coalition donated funds to refurbish and retrofit an existing city trailer that was about to be sold at auction. The donation also includes tools and all additional equipment needed for a neighborhood tool trailer. The tool trailer is wrapped to include logos from the Coalition and the city of Phoenix, and a phone number neighborhood groups can call to reserve the trailer for the purpose of community cleanups: 602-495-0323.

The Support Sky Harbor Coalition will reserve the trailer twice a year for community cleanups around Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. During the remainder of the year, neighborhood associations throughout Phoenix will have access to the trailer to conduct neighborhood cleanups. There will be no charge for neighborhood groups to use the trailer.

The Support Sky Harbor Coalition is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation with 15 board members and more than 75 contributing companies and organizations, whose mission is to educate the community about the economic and quality-of-life benefits that Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport brings to the greater Phoenix region.

"We look forward to creating a positive impact in the community surrounding Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport through our partnership with the city of Phoenix and surrounding neighborhoods," said Ralph Ketchum, Support Sky Harbor Coalition chair. Coalition activities include outreach with community members and leaders, businesses, and elected officials.

"More than ever, the city appreciates the private sector stepping up and



The refurbished tool trailer was introduced Nov. 20 when more than 100 volunteers conducted a cleanup in the area bounded by Seventh Street to the west, 14th Street to the east, Sherman Street to the north and Durango Street to the south. The cleanup was in partnership with



residents of the Nuestro Barrio and El Campito communities, Support Sky Harbor Coalition, and the city's NSD, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation departments.

making a difference in our community in these times of a reduced budget and employee workforce," said Councilman Michael Johnson. "Phoenix thanks

the Support Sky Harbor Coalition for showing its dedication to community involvement by donating funds and volunteers."

"The tool trailer sponsored by Support Sky Harbor Coalition is the only one of its kind. Any other private-sector companies or organizations interested in a similar sponsorship are encouraged to call the Phoenix Neighborhood Services Coordination Division at 602-534-2393," said Jerome Miller, Phoenix deputy city manager.

Contact NSD

Neighborhood Services Department 602-262-7344
 or nsd@phoenix.gov
 Code Enforcement 602-262-7844
 or blight@phoenix.gov
 Graffiti Busters 24-Hour Removal Hotline 602-495-7014
 or graffiti.busters.nsd@phoenix.gov
 Housing Rehabilitation 602-495-0700
 Landlord/Tenant counseling 602-262-7210
 or landlord.tenant.nsd@phoenix.gov
 List your Neighborhood Association 602-495-0113
 Neighborhood Economic Development 602-495-5249
 Neighborhood Specialist Program 602-534-2393
 Neighborhood Stabilization Program 602-262-6602
 Partnerships with Purpose Free Classes 602-495-0380
 Tools for neighborhood clean-ups 602-495-0323
 Shopping Cart Retrieval 602-CRT- PKUP (602-278-7587)
 or shopping.carts.nsd@phoenix.gov
 Illegal Sign Removal 602-534-7100
 or illegal.signs.rightofway.nsd@phoenix.gov

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To receive this information in alternative print /audio formats, contact the Neighborhood Services Department ADA Liaison, 200 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85003. Voice number 602-495-5459. TTY 602-495-0685.

Para recibir boletín informativo en español, haga el favor de llamar 602-262-7344.



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