



Hometown Celebrations

Hometown memories inspire community events



Hangin' Out

Neighborhoods offer teens a social scene beyond the mall

Front Porch

FALL 2007



Fondest Memories

Communities of today evolve from memories of 'yesteryear'



NEIGHBORHOOD
MEMORIES:

"I REMEMBER
MAKING UP DANCES
WITH MY SISTER,
THEN PUTTING
ON A SHOW
FOR THE ENTIRE
FAMILY ONCE OUR
'PRODUCTIONS'
WERE COMPLETE."

— Kim, Peoria



Hometown Celebrations

Marley Park inspires fondest memories with hometown events

By DEBRA GELBART

Billy Bungert loved growing up with the celebrations of her hometown, a small suburb of Oklahoma City.

"Our community life revolved around school and church activities," she says. "My fondest memories are of the parties, ice cream socials and carnivals that seemed to happen all the time. I loved being part of them."

Shortly after marrying her husband, Bungert moved to Des Plaines, Ill., just outside of Chicago. She quickly found that her new neighborhood was very different.

"I lived in Des Plaines for 20 years and never knew my neighbors across

the street," she notes. However, when Bungert and her husband relocated to Surprise, Ariz., and found a home in Marley Park, she was able to experience again the same memorable celebrations as she did in her hometown in Oklahoma.

"Organized events are the real glue of a community because they bring people together," she says.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

To help Marley Park residents get to know their neighbors and create cherished memories, the Marley Park Community Life Team plans year-round celebrations for the community.

"We work hand-in-hand with residents to encourage them to interact with their neighbors and the community," says Kelsea Vescova, Marley Park's community life manager. "That leads to a sense of ownership within the community. Part of the intent and mission of what we do is to help everyone who lives here feel like a stakeholder."

Vescova and 13 team members put together five signature events every year. The inaugural Star-Spangled Celebration was held on July 3.

"We wanted this one to have a familiar hometown festival feel to it," Vescova says about the event that featured live Dixieland music, potato sack racing, a watermelon-eating

Front Porch

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contest, a balloon toss, a pie-baking contest and a resident parade.

Every October, the “Homestead Harvest Festival” features park decorations, a carnival, pumpkin carving, a pumpkin patch and a costume contest.

In December, during “Home for the Holidays,” residents can enjoy holiday carolers, festive music, Mrs. Claus reading stories to children, holiday photos, a tree-lighting ceremony and a home-decorating contest.

In March, baseball is a big draw for residents attending Spring Training Day at Marley Park and nearby Surprise Stadium.

“We hold a pre-game picnic in the park and then shuttle between 250 and 300 residents to the stadium for an afternoon game,” Vescova says.

On Arbor Day in April, all of the students from Marley Park Elementary School have an opportunity to participate in a walking field trip along the community’s Arbor Walk, the pedestrian-friendly planned trail system within the community.

“Every student receives a guide that teachers can use to familiarize the students with the plants along the trails,” Vescova says. Next year, Arbor Day will be part of a larger Founders’ Day



celebration to honor the community’s first residents and civic partners.

JOINING THE FUN

In addition to attending the signature events, residents can join a variety of clubs geared to special interests. Bungert is a member of the community’s welcome committee, the garden club, the



**NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIES:
“NOTHING COMPARES TO
CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF
BIRTHDAYS IN THE SAME
HOUSE – THE SAME FRIENDS
AND SAME FLAVOR OF
CAKE EVERY YEAR.”**

– Stephanie, Wickenburg



Aces Up (poker) club and the Grape Nutz (wine) club. There is also a bunko club, a computer club, a club for 21 and older, a children’s playgroup and an about-to-be-launched scrapbooking club.

For John and Nancy Wachtman, moving to Marley Park has had the unexpected affect of widening their social circle. Getting involved in the community has initiated new relationships. Nancy helped start the garden club and John started the wine club. Through those and other activities, they’ve turned neighbors into friends. “This is just what we were looking for,” says John.

“The events and the clubs represent the heart and soul of this community,” Vescova says. “We’re finding that with these recurring opportunities for residents to get together, an amazing spirit is emerging at Marley Park.”

That spirit was demonstrated recently when the community rallied around a 7-year-old resident with bone cancer.

Residents organized a community garage sale and raised \$6,000 for the family. And that inspired a coin drive from which another \$5,500 was raised.

“To be able to generate that kind of support in such a young community is amazing,” Vescova says.

A Sense of Home

What does “home” mean to you? Is it just a place to hang your hat, or is there something more?

For many, the physical structure where we live is only part of what evokes a feeling of “home.” The rest is an intangible mix of people, events and memories. The place we live, however, can go a long way toward providing the ideal setting for creating great memories of home.

When polled, prospective homebuyers and homeowners in the Surprise community of Marley Park, related a number of community and lifestyle elements that are important when they are considering a place to call home:

- Community barbecues and block parties
- Seasonal parties
- Open spaces, path and trail systems for outdoor recreation and exercise
- Neighbors who are engaged in the community and spend time together
- Community gathering spaces such as recreation centers and parks, that invite neighbors to relax together
- A variety of choices in home styles and colors
- Community schools

“Consistently we learn from individuals that the character of the neighborhood and the sense of community are major deciding factors when choosing a place to call home,” said Kimberley Clifford, director of marketing at Marley Park.

– Kathy King



The Art of R



"ALL GREAT PLACES
HAVE A STORY."

—Dan Kelly, General Manager,
Marley Park, DMB Associates

By KATHY KING

Occasionally, you come upon an incredible building, a cathedral, a downtown district or a neighborhood and there is no escaping the fact that you have discovered a great place. There is an indefinable quality that strikes you, the recognition that you've discovered something special – a distinctive sense of place.

How do great places come to be? Often, the impression that a place has its own story, a strong history, its own memories, adds to a sense of familiarity and character. Like an author carefully develops the characters of a novel, thoughtful developers, architects and land planners use the history of a region to create a sense of place.

In preparing for the development of Marley Park in Surprise, Scottsdale-based DMB Associates drew inspiration from



the history of the land, the architecture of the region and the knowledge of how people lived in the Northwest Valley during the mid-20th century to create this charming 956-acre community nestled in the heart of Surprise. DMB also drew upon an understanding of the cherished elements of hometowns that live in memory.

Upon entering Marley Park, it is immediately evident that the neighborhood is unlike any other development in the area. The elevated yards, authentic regional architecture, community layout and design are immediate visual cues that set Marley Park apart. It is in the fine details of the community that the history of the land, the region and its people are reflected in Marley Park.

A TRIBUTE TO HISTORY

The design of Marley Park's land plan, architecture and community life was

modeled explicitly to honor the locale's bountiful history.

"All great places have a story behind them," says Dan Kelly, DMB Associates general manager at Marley Park. "We wanted to move this region's story forward through time."

For the previous 50 years, the land where Marley Park now sits was home to cotton fields and rose gardens. And throughout that time, families in the area expanded and prospered.

Rose gardens sprinkled throughout Marley Park pay tribute to one of the land's original uses. Tree-lined streets, sidewalks and front porches, a neighborhood school, and abundant parks are a natural fit in a place intended to feel like a historic American neighborhood.

"We've created a unique, yet familiar neighborhood, with a look and feel that's very welcoming," explains Kelly. "It's like an old agricultural town."

IMPRESSIVE EXECUTION

Paying homage to the gathering places and lifestyle of classic communities, Marley Park's Heritage Club, the community's 6,000-square-foot private residents' recreational facility, was meticulously planned to replicate an early 1900s farmhouse. As they planned the design and décor for the Heritage Club, designers at Phoenix-based MICE Interiors envisioned a typical family who may have lived in the Surprise area in the early 20th century, and considered how the family would have grown and prospered and added to their home.

"Back then, as families grew in wealth and size, so did the home," explains Claudia Gerster, account executive with MICE Interiors. "The Heritage Club represents a place where families can put down roots and grow."

Just as a home of the early 1900s

Placemaking

How history and tradition create a sense of place



would have been planned to do, the Heritage Club envelops guests with its Early American setting. Inside, wainscoting and reclaimed hardwood floors complement the seeded glass set in solid wood doors. The bow-back hallway bench, the sepia-tone photographs and wall-mounted farm-tool artifacts hint at possible attic discoveries.

Some rooms are named as they would have been back in the day. The best parlor receives guests and the keeping room welcomes meeting attendees to its oversized table and tapestry-covered chairs.

The kitchen and dividable dining area are the heart of the home, hosting groups, small and large. Its state-of-the-art technology brings cooking demonstrations up-to-date with crowd-pleasing video monitors. The space then opens onto a

spacious back patio with an expansive green lawn and a quaint gazebo.

“In the early 1900s, neighbors and families gathered in their homes and on the porches of their farmhouses to socialize,” says Kelly. “The Heritage Club’s wide porch, patio and interior gathering areas recreate that neighborly setting, and since the Club

opened in May, residents of Marley Park have already claimed it as their favorite place to gather and socialize.”

BUILDING ON TRADITION

The homes at Marley Park incorporate authentic regional architecture and

include features such as wide overhangs and covered porches, which historically shielded homes from the hot desert sun in the eras preceding air conditioning. Natural stone, wood and iron details found in Marley Park homes reflect the historic use of native materials to build early homes in the region.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEMORIES:

“MY BUDDIES AND I WOULD MEET EARLY ON SATURDAY MORNINGS WITH JUST OUR BICYCLES AND A FEW BUCKS IN OUR POCKETS.... THE PLACES WE TRAVELED, THOUGH IN REALITY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM OUR HOMES, SEEMED A WORLD AWAY AND ONLY OURS TO EXPLORE.”

— Jeff, Surprise

“We’ve spent a lot of time researching Craftsman, Bungalow and other styles, right down to the sizes and shapes of the columns and the types of stone used for each design,” says Roger Lewis, vice president of sales for Scott Communities, one of the five homebuilders whose

creativity and craftsmanship helped bring the vision of Marley Park to life.

Homes are designed to create a neighborhood that feels familiar.

“It’s the look of the home that reminds us of our old hometowns,” says Lewis. Inside, he says, homeowners want it quiet, efficient and technologically advanced. “You can have the best of both worlds.”

The incorporation at Marley Park of cherished elements of hometown and the history of the region have created a place that already lives like a long-established, familiar neighborhood.

Lewis enjoys seeing DMB’s vision for the community come to life. “People go out of their way to say, ‘Hi,’ to their neighbors, and they watch out for each other,” says Lewis. “Kids can play catch, throw a Frisbee or baseball close to the house,” he adds. “It gives you a good feeling.”

Hangin' Out

Teens find a diverse social scene at Marley Park

By DEBRA GELBART

Kick-the-can, hide-and-seek and other games children used to play in neighborhood streets have largely gone by the wayside as families' lifestyles have changed and technology has lured kids inside.

At Marley Park, however, getting together with friends outdoors is typical for teens, as they gather to share laughs, solve homework problems and fulfill a competitive spirit.

"I love all the different activities for kids in Marley Park," says 13-year-old Carly Ganz, one of the many teens who call Marley Park home.

OUTDOOR FUN

Kids and teens at Marley Park don't necessarily play kick-the-can, but they're creating their own childhood memories through spontaneous and structured activities. They love bike riding and skateboarding along the community's Arbor Walk. The numerous parks provide ideal places for kids to get together to play baseball, soccer, basketball and flag football. And you can usually catch a good game of street hockey.

An active teenager, Carly participates in the community's athletic organizations. She and her sister Lexi, who is 12, play soccer in Arbor Park as well as softball at the Heritage Park softball field.

Carly's mom also appreciates the social and athletic activities Marley Park offers her daughters.

"This is a really active community, and with so many parks, kids have lots of options," Meg Ganz notes.

THE HANG OUT

Marley Park also offers teens a place to gather when they want to hang out indoors: The Teen Room inside the Heritage Club, Marley Park's 6,000-square-foot private residents' recreational facility.

The Teen Room was established following a focus group comprising

approximately 20 pre-teens and teens. The design of the Teen Room was based on the focus group's answers to questions about what games, equipment and décor they would want to see in the room.

"The Teen Room is a colorful place with a foosball table, a 52-inch plasma TV, an Xbox, tons of games and puzzles,

"(THE TEEN ROOM IS) THE PERFECT PLACE FOR THEM TO STOP AFTER SCHOOL. THEY CAN DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND MEET WITH THEIR FRIENDS. I LOVE THAT THEY CAN HAVE SOME INDEPENDENCE WHILE BEING IN A STRUCTURED ENVIRONMENT." – Meg Ganz



a study area and a sectional sofa," says Kelsea Vescova, Marley Park community life manager. "We wanted to make it a place where kids would really want to spend time."

Carly and Lexi were two of the Marley Park teens who participated in the focus group.

"When I look at the Teen Room now, it's cool to know I helped design it," says Carly.

Lexi agrees.

"It's awesome to see that it's exactly how we wanted it," she says.

Parents also welcomed the addition of the Teen Room.

"I think it's great that they incorporated so many of the kids' ideas about color and design," says Meg Ganz. "Carly and Lexi both love to go there now and they feel like they're so much a part of the room."

She added that, in addition to fun, the room also provides a great place for studying.

"It's the perfect place for them to stop after school," she says. "They can do their homework and meet with their friends. I love that they can have some independence while being in a structured environment."

FEELING AT HOME

The Teen Room supports the Community Life Team's mission to engender a sense of connection among Marley Park residents.

"We work as partners with our residents," says Vescova. "That's why we invited the kids to help us design the Teen Room. Because it's their room, we wanted them to feel completely at home."

The Family that Plays Together...

Looking for something fun to do as a family that doesn't require packing up the kids in the SUV? There are plenty of great memory-making activities for families that can take place right in their own back (and sometimes front) yards.

- Got a good ghost story? Gather your camping gear and set up camp in your own backyard.
- Forget the movie theater! Set up your own private screening on your driveway, using the garage door as the screen.
- Picnicking anyone? Plan weekly neighborhood picnics, visiting a new park every time.
- Who's up for Scrabble? Bring back the tradition of family game night.
- Find some birds of a feather. Join



- a community club.
- I've got the dessert! Plan a traveling dinner party, in which a group of neighbors travels from house to house to enjoy one of the dinner's courses.
- Abracadabra! Encourage the kids

- to coordinate a magic show to perform for the adults.
- Give something back. Volunteer for a charitable organization as a family or community.

– Kennes Apodaca

Bring Home the Memories

When you choose Marley Park as your home, you win a chance at a memory-making getaway. Purchase a home at Marley Park from

September 7 to
December 31, 2007,

and enter for a chance to win a vacation package for four to San Diego – including accommodations, airfare, two San Diego excursions, and \$1,000 spending money.

Visit MarleyParkFrontPorch.com for details.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

September 15

Fall Gardening with the Garden Guy

Discover the heritage of Marley Park in Surprise with Dave Owens, the Garden Guy. Learn how to plant and prune a rose garden, as well as tips for fall desert gardening. From 12 to 2 p.m. at the Marley Park Welcome Center, the event is free of charge. More information: www.MarleyParkEvents.com

September 15

Fiesta Glendale

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the City of Glendale will host the annual event from 12 to 10 p.m. This celebration of Mexican heritage and culture highlights traditional music and dance, such as mariachi and ballet folklórico, as well as contemporary Latin music. There also will be plenty of great Mexican food! More information: www.glendaleaz.com

September 22

Performance in the Park

Enjoy an evening of live music and entertainment at the Surprise Community Park. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy this free event from 6 to 9 p.m. More information: www.surpriseaz.com

October 19

Movie Night at the Surprise Stadium

This free event features a family movie on the Cox Video Board inside Surprise Stadium. Bring your blankets and pillows, stretch out on the stadium grass and enjoy the movie. Gates open at 6 p.m.; the movie starts at 6:30 p.m. More information: www.surpriseaz.com



October 27 – 28 USTA Southwest Sweet 16 Junior Tennis Tournament

This tournament, held at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, is one of the four major tournaments for the Southwest's best junior players, ages 8 – 18 years old. Entries are limited

to the top-ranked 16 players in each age division. Come out and watch some of the game's emerging stars! More information: www.surpriseaz.com

November 23 – 24 Glendale Glitters Spectacular Weekend

This "must see" event kicks off Glendale's annual

holiday light display in Historic Downtown Glendale. The celebration combines music, dance, food, horse-drawn carriage rides and a children's wonderland—all illuminated by one million multi-colored lights. More information: www.glendaleaz.com





The day I told Jason he was going to be a daddy for the first time.
Wisdom Park, August 2007.

Home. Where Your Fondest Memories Are Inspired.

Home is a celebration of your life...where you feel comfortable in your surroundings, inside and outside. It's where you feel a deep and abiding connection to those you love—family, friends and neighbors. It's a place filled with parks, where you can spend an afternoon you'll remember for a lifetime. Home is at Marley Park, where your fondest memories are inspired.

Visit MarleyParkFrontPorch.com. Broker participation welcome.

Ashton Woods Homes • Element Homes • Engle Homes • Randall Martin Home • Scott Communities



A Celebration of Home™



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