

Some members of the West of Wells Neighborhood (and that means you if you would like to contribute!) have come together to publish this monthly newsletter about goings on, ideas, meetings, and projects that are happening in our neighborhood. We plan to bring you neighborhood news as well as thoughts from your neighbors. Like our neighborhood group, we hope that this newsletter will be a forum for the West of Wells, or "Island" residents to connect, communicate, and come together around the neighborhood that we love ♥

## NEWS

The ordinance to put stricter controls on the small liquor and convenience stores in the Wells Avenue area was passed unanimously by City Council last week. This change will make it more difficult for the small liquor stores that attract crime and panhandling to continue to increase in our neighborhood. News about this issue and our neighborhood's efforts was on the front page of Friday's newspaper, and featured on the main page of the City of Reno's website. A group of residents and business owners testified at City Council and brought more recognition to the efforts that this neighborhood is making to reduce crime and improve the quality of life and sense of community in the Wells Avenue area. The City Council also acknowledged that the existing number of liquor stores on Wells was too many and recognized that the overabundance of these stores is occurring throughout the central Reno area. Hopefully more work will be done outside of our neighborhood on this issue, as these stores have now increased on S. Virginia as well, while we watch to see if the new rules have a positive effect on Wells Avenue.

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING UPDATE

At our last neighborhood meeting we had a turnout of almost twenty people from the West of Wells area and beyond! There was a lot of excitement about the new West of Wells logo and name. We had a discussion with many contributions and thoughts about how the logo should look and ideas about ways we could use the new logo to promote our neighborhood. Some suggested adding "Wells Bungalow District" as a tagline and in anticipation of our upcoming historic designation project. And many agreed that the lettering and colors shown on the logo above were a fitting recognition of the Arts & Crafts architectural style of many of the existing homes in the neighborhood – Thanks go to Sadie for her design work on the WOW logo! Let us know what everyone thinks of the logo above and we can discuss in February.

A flier is in the works that will advertise our meetings to everyone in the neighborhood. This flier will also have information about how keeping properties well lit can reduce break-ins. At our meeting we also had our usual discussion about crime in the neighborhood and updates from different neighbors, including a debriefing from the Peters family about the car fire that happened earlier this month on Moran Street.

The next meeting of the West of Wells neighborhood group will take place Tuesday February 9, at 6pm, at El Cordero de Dios (corner of Wheeler and Crampton). Upcoming meetings will include a beat officer from RPD, a presentation on how to recognize and reduce graffiti in the neighborhood from RPD's Angie Borrayo, and a presentation on crime prevention tactics accompanied by a giveaway of CFL light bulbs. In addition, there are some exciting neighborhood events coming up including the annual International Fiesta on Wells Avenue and the Roots for Wells tree planting project! See you around the neighborhood....

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & DATES

Next Neighborhood Meeting Feb. 9, 6pm at El Cordero De Dios, Crampton & Wheeler

Next Neighborhood Advisory Board Meeting, Thursday Feb 25, Airport Holiday Inn, Market Street

Women's Self Defense Classes will be offered free Feb 17, 19, 20, email Veronica at Hee-GarciaV@reno.gov for more info

Fiesta on Wells Avenue, May 2nd 2010 - call Roseanne at 324-4677 to sign up to be in the parade or reserve a booth. All are welcome!

# HISTORY

## THE WELLS ADDITION

Scott Powell

Reno Nevada was founded in 1868. For the first ten years most of the community was situated on the north side of the Truckee river. By 1878 the city had begun to spread to south side of the Truckee and by the turn of the century Reno had firmly established itself on both sides of the river.

During the 1890's Sheldon O. Wells owned a sheep ranch on the south side of the Truckee and a store on the corner of Plaza and North Virginia in Reno. After his death in 1900, his estate was managed by his son-in-law, Samuel Wheeler, who was also a successful sheep rancher. In 1905 the Wells Estate company was approved to sub-divide Sheldon Wells' sheep ranch into the Wells Addition.

The Wells Addition was bordered on north by South street, now known as Ryland Street, and to the West by the Virginia and Truckee railroad. Today, Holcomb avenue follows the path of the V & T railroad. The newly approved addition to Reno added Wells avenue as its eastern boundary and extended the existing Cheney street for its southern boundary.

Also extended into the Wells addition from existing streets were Stewart, Moran, Roberts and Thoma. Wheeler Street, named for Samuel Wheeler, was added and ran from South street to Cheney.

Samuel Wheeler had already begun selling lots on the ranch before the Wells Addition was officially created. Lots in the Wells Addition originally sold for \$100 and up. By 1907 the Nevada Portable House Company was advertising ready made houses for sale from \$300 up to \$975 for fully erected houses. Many of these homes, including the model homes, were erected in the Wells Addition.

Trolley service was added in 1909, giving residents of the Wells Addition, and the later Burke Addition, easy access to the commercial areas of Reno. Many of Reno's successful merchants and it's middle class could now afford to live outside of the downtown area and still have an easy commute into work. The trolley ran from Virginia Street, down Moran and then south on Wells Avenue.

As the area around the Wells Addition grew, Wheeler was extended south to Vassar Street. Brick became the predominant building material and bungalows were the home style of choice. Today the "West of Wells" area is truly an island. While most of the grand Victorians that were built around South Virginia Street are gone, most of the original houses in the Wells Addition remain. Its unique mix of Victorian and Queen Anne homes, brick bungalows, contemporary style homes and apartments add a character to the neighborhood that is not found elsewhere in Reno.

# ROOTS FOR WELLS



## Roots for Wells 2010

Barrie Schuster

50 new street trees are coming to the West of Wells neighborhood on April 24, 2010! The second annual Roots for Wells tree planting campaign is focusing on our neighborhood this spring. The Ward 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board and the City of Reno Parks department donated funds to purchase 50 trees which will be planted by volunteers (hopefully you) in the public right of way planting strips between the curb and sidewalk along the residential streets. City of Reno Urban Forestry staff surveyed numerous planting locations and mailers will be going out to the property owners next week! If you receive a mailer and want trees planted in the parkway strip in front of your property, please respond immediately as there may be more respondents than available trees. Last year the project was kicked off in the residential neighborhood east of Wells and over 80 volunteers planted 100 trees in 2 ½ hours! We wanted to wait until the sidewalks were replaced to bring the project to our side of Wells Avenue, and we are lucky because the Public Works Department worked with us to make sure PVC sleeves were installed under our sidewalks which makes it much easier for the property owner to run drip irrigation to the trees. Sleeve locations are marked with a notch at the edge of the sidewalks where they meet the planting strips. If you own a property in the neighborhood that has at least a

five foot wide planting strip adjacent to it, and there is room to plant trees without blocking intersections or overhead lines, you should receive a letter next week for your FREE TREES!! Tree species were selected by the Urban Forester to fit within the limited space of the planting strip and have minimal root intrusion. This year, we will see Robinson Crabapple, Eastern Redbud, Flowering Pear, Golden Raintree, and Amur Maple species. All are flowering trees which will add to the beauty of the neighborhood each and every spring.

# HAIKU

## Neighborhood Haiku

Christina Barr

White cat springs from shrub  
The speeding car's lights blink red  
Eight lives left to live

Car abandoned.  
Will the owner ever return?  
Tickets flutter in the wind.

Fluffy snow falls light  
in a dark night – freezing rain.  
Beware! Icy roads.