

ROOTS FOR WELLS

2010 a Success



Photo by: Susan Mantle

For everyone who experienced the Roots for Wells tree planting event on April 24, 2010, we have seen once again how incredible things can happen in the neighborhood when we all put our efforts toward one goal. 70 trees were planted in the parkway strips between Holcomb and Wells from Moran street all the way south to Wonder, and even one on Arroyo. 50 volunteers planted all 70 trees in just under three hours! It was great to see so many neighbors out working together, and it was incredible to have volunteers from all over the city come out to help us plant the trees. Thanks to the Green Team from The Paul Mitchell Hair Academy, located at the Wells roundabout, for joining us! They worked hard! These trees will provide years of enjoyment, beauty and shade to everyone who lives in and visits our neighborhood. This is the second year of the project and lets hope we can continue to repeat our successes every spring.

This project would not have been possible without the guidance of Steve and Matt from the Urban Forestry Commission. The parkway strips are the property of the city, and the Urban Forester must approve any planting that takes place in the strips. There are numerous things to consider, such as the width of the strip, which may limit the tree species, spacing of trees, overhead obstacles such as power lines and keeping vision triangles open at the intersections. Steve and Matt surveyed the entire neighborhood in November 2009 and selected the addresses that had room for trees in the adjacent parkway strips. Then letters were mailed to all the property owners asking if they wanted trees planted and if they would agree to care for the trees. Those property owners who responded to the mailer received trees.

The Ward Three Neighborhood Advisory Board provided the funding for the purchase of the trees and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful provided shovels and tools for the volunteers to borrow. Professional photography was provided by Susan Mantle and Dragonflies Café provided coffee and muffins. Thank you everyone for helping make the West of Wells Neighborhood the best little neighborhood in Reno.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING UPDATE

The West of Wells Neighborhood Group had a busy April and May! In addition to the tree planting we had a great turnout for our April meeting on crime reduction and lighting. NV Energy was at the meeting to distribute free energy efficient light bulbs, and Officer Rodriguez was there from RPD to hear concerns about speeding on Wheeler and other issues. We also discussed strategies to reach out to landlords who are not accountable for keeping their properties clean and crime free. Everyone is encouraged to keep their porch lights and other outside lights on throughout the night- this is an easy and cheap crime deterrent.

At our May meeting Officer Rodriguez returned to report about speeding on Wells. In addition to the recent mortality, there have been fender benders and regular confusion due to the fact that we only have two-way stops at each corner along Wheeler. After a lively discussion we decided that we needed to continue being the squeaky wheel - call Reno Direct (334-info) every time you see a speeder or someone run a stop sign in our neighborhood. Also, please email us to fill out a one-page Traffic Engineering request for your block. The more calls and the more attention we bring to this issue, the more progress we will be able to make towards installing more stop signs or other measures that will increase safety.

Our next meeting is June 8, 6pm at El Cordero de Dios on Wheeler at Crampton. All are welcome. At this meeting Alex Woodley, head of the City's Code Enforcement Department, will be there to give us a presentation on problem properties and what we can do to keep our neighborhood clean and safe. Alex's annual presentation to our group is a great one and he is very knowledgeable - so please join us! At this meeting we will also have a follow-up discussion about reaching out to landlords and traffic issues on Wheeler Avenue.

FIESTA ON WELLS AVENUE IS SUNDAY JUNE 13TH!

The Annual International Fiesta on Wells Avenue is coming up on June 13th! This year's event will feature a parade along Wells Avenue as well as food and entertainment for the whole family. The Fiesta is a community and neighborhood celebration that drew over 7,000 people to our neighborhood last year! The event will start at 9 am and go until 7pm; the parade will start at noon and go north from Grand Canyon up Wells to Crampton; and local bands and entertainers will perform on two stages throughout the day. This event is organized by the Wells Avenue Merchants Association with help from the City of Reno.

If you would like to purchase a booth or be in the parade, please call 324-4677. Also volunteers are needed to help along the parade route, please call 848-8004 if you are interested in helping out.

For more information about this event please visit: www.fiestaonwells.com

HISTORY

THEY GAVE THEIR NAMES TO THE STREETS OF RENO

Wells Avenue Honors Leading Stockman

Sheldon O. (Shed) Wells for whom Wells avenue is named, was identified for nearly all his adult life with the livestock industry.

Wells avenue became a main artery when in the late 1930s it was extended north with an underpass of the Southern Pacific Track. At the same time it was cut through at the southern end to Casazza drive to join South Virginia street. On the north it crosses East Fourth street and continues to the north end of the fair grounds.

Mr. Wells was born in Canada in 1845, and came west to Austin as a young man. Later he went to the White Pine mining district during the excitement of the 1860's. He soon realized that mining was not his game, and turned to the

livestock business to which he devoted all his energy and resources for many years to come. He was rewarded for his industry as he accumulated a fortune in the sheep business.

In 1886, Sheldon Wells moved to Eureka, and the following year to Reno. Here he formed a partnership with L. D. Folsom in a general merchandising store in the Masonic Temple building at Commercial Row and Sierra streets. The Mercantile Store occupies the same space now in the same building. Folsom and Wells were commission merchants and handled all kinds of farm produce. Their partnership was dissolved in 1892 and Mr. Wells went into business for himself.

He opened his store at the corner of Plaza and North Virginia street and soon was doing flourishing business. At the same time he kept up his sheep business and bought a large ranch southeast of Reno to be used as headquarters for his livestock industry. This ranch was subdivided after his death by his son-in-law, Samuel Wheeler, who named the street Wells avenue to honor the memory of his father-in-law.

In 1899 he sold his store to J. R. Bradley. This year was his last and he spent much of it outdoors supervising a wood yard he owned. He died May 10, 1900. His daughter, Mrs. Sam Wheeler lives in Reno.

Printed courtesy of the Reno Gazette-Journal

UPCOMING MEETINGS & DATES

Ward 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board meetings – May 27th and June 24th, 5:30 pm, location TBA
WOW Neighborhood Meeting – June 8, 6pm at El Cordero De Dios, Crampton & Wheeler
Fiesta on Wells Avenue – June 13, 9am to 7pm, parade at 12 noon
Wells Avenue Merchants – July 15, 6:30pm at Treasured Memories on Wells Avenue

designed by
sasquack 

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER: EMAIL INFO@WESTOFWELLS.COM - AND PUT "WOW, SIGN ME UP!" IN THE SUBJECT LINE. OR CONTACT US AT (775) 544-6744