



Housing & Community Development Department
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DUNBAR/SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD

Interview with the Green Gourmet, Anthony Johnson

By Deborah Tigie

Anthony Johnson, local chef and founder of the Green Gourmet, is always on the move and out meeting people and exchanging ideas – his and theirs. I interviewed him in late March while visiting his kitchen at the Dunbar School, and this is some of what he had on his mind:

Anthony has an ongoing commitment to peoples' health. He has been a chef, personal trainer, and nutritionist since his teen years. When he started gardening, he lived in an apartment where



Seedlings at the Dunbar School

outdoors and have a minimum of purposeful activity. Anthony feels that the outdoor garden work is an opportunity for homeless people to get involved in their own health and nutrition, and thereby increase their sense of self.

With the Dunbar Coalition, Anthony is developing curriculum regarding horticulture and culinary arts for the Dunbar Charter School. Some of his education ideas are the seed-to-plate program, children's need for education when what they get is schooling, and a sustainable

viewpoint which espouses using the world they live in to teach academic subjects, as well as values and practical skills. He pointed to Manzo Elementary School as a good example of sustainability education – a school many people in our neighborhood are familiar with.

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DSNA Elections to be Held at Annual Meeting

April 15 • Dunbar School • 7 p.m.

The Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association officers are elected each April to hold office for a term of one year. Neighborhood residents and property owners are encouraged to participate by running for office and by voting in the elections. The neighborhood board plays a vital role in keeping us on top of important issues, securing funding for neighborhood projects, and acting as a voice for our neighborhood. Please consider running for a position and attending the meeting to vote.

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Dated Material

DSNA President: Ian Fritz
 628-4318 ~ sprocket@riseup.net

Vice President: Sky Jacobs
 322-0285 ~ skyjacobs@gmail.com

Secretary: Harrison Smith
 661-6082 ~ harrisons@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gail Toomey
 903-0679 ~ gailtoomey@yahoo.com

Parliamentarian: Vince Pawlowski
 400-7517 ~ pawlowski@ultrasw.com

Dunbar Coalition: Lisa Scoblink
 792-6377 ~ lisascoblink@yahoo.com

Ward One, Councilwoman Regina Romero
 791-4040 ~ regina.romero@tucsonaz.gov

Dunbar/Spring Online:
 www.dunbarspring.org

Upcoming DSNA Meetings:
General meetings are held the third Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Dunbar School (325 W. 2nd St.). Annual meeting/elections: April 15

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Positions Available During Elections at the April DSNA Meeting:

The **President** shall act for and in behalf of the membership of the Association, contingent upon the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association's voted approval of that action; shall appoint special committees necessary for the operation of the business of the Association, and shall act as official spokesperson of the Association.

The **Vice President** shall, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of that office.

The **Secretary** shall keep a permanent record of all the Monthly Meetings and special meetings' minutes, and all documents of the Association. The Secretary shall transcribe the minutes of each Monthly Meeting, including all actions taken by the Association and the content of any discussion. The Secretary will post the minutes to the Community Garden bulletin board and on the listserv or Internet-accessible media in use at the time. Copies shall be transferred within seven calendar days of the meeting.

The **Treasurer** shall have general charge and supervision of the books, financial records, and bank accounts of the Association. The Treasurer shall present a current financial report of all receipts and disbursements at each Monthly Meeting and at the Annual Meeting.

The **Parliamentarian** shall be familiar with general parliamentary procedures of Robert Rules of Order. The Parliamentarian shall aid in the orderly conduct of all meetings; ensure the adherence to bylaws of the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association; provide direction when the Association requests changes of the rules or existing procedures; enforce and correct parliamentary procedures; and oversee Association elections.

If you are unable to attend the April 15th meeting, you can submit your absentee vote in person to the Secretary at least three days in advance. For more information or to read the Dunbar/Spring Neighborhood Association bylaws, visit www.dunbarspring.org.

Eat More Pie Party & Potluck

Sunday, May 5th

Whistle Stop Depot, 127 W. 5th St.



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The Green Gourmet was open for three months when an insurance company said it was canceling the insurance policy because 1.) the chef was too young and 2.) a public café cannot be that close to a school zone. In a way, it was a blessing in disguise because – after some time on the roller coaster of one good week, two bad weeks; make some money, lose some money; and always work 12-hour days – he had time to think about what he really wanted to do in the space. He currently does caterings and is looking for an insurance company that will work with him. The Green Gourmet vision is for living food, vegetarian and vegan food, organic as much as possible. Garden grown, as much as possible. In the period of his life when he worked as a chef and a personal trainer, he was upset that many of his clients would go out to eat after a healthy workout, and most restaurants crowd your plate with up to four times as much food as is necessary. One restaurant meal can take away the benefit of a whole week's worth of working out, he says.

Anthony is working with the Dunbar Coalition in going forward with water harvesting and gardening plans on the Dunbar School campus, and he is very interested in meeting with the Dunbar/Spring Organic Garden community and finding out what the mission of that community is, and what kind of consensus can be reached. To me, it looks like the unused land in the garden can certainly be improved by applying his goals and leadership. Do I want to give up my plot? No, not really.

To contact the Green Gourmet about catering your next event or garden ideas, contact seniofat@yahoo.com.

We're celebrating a decade of pie with this unique, tasty event that caters to meeting neighbors and enjoying a slice of pie. If you bake a pie, then entry is FREE to this impressive pie potluck. Arrive without a pie, and a \$12 donation gets you in the door and goes to support great local environmental and neighborhood organizations. No pie contest this year, just a delicious array of sweet and savory treats for all to delight in! On **Sunday, May 5**, please drop off pies between 12-1 p.m. The pie party starts at 3 p.m. and goes until the last bite. For more information, visit www.pieparty.org.

Our neighborhood's public space has been dramatically enlivened ... and you can help enhance it more

By Brad Lancaster

Many individual and community efforts in Dunbar/Spring got a huge boost by our Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant, which by the end of 2012 had funded the installation of beautiful art and benches, along with three water-harvesting traffic-calming circles (for a total of 10), 33 water-harvesting and traffic-calming chicanes/pull-outs, 50 water-harvesting basins in the public right-of-way (for a current total of more than 85), 50 water-harvesting curb cuts and 35 curb cores directing stormwater to street-side basins, and the planting of 150 additional native trees and shrubs (for a total well over a 1,000) that turned those mulched basins into true rain *gardens*. **The benefits are numerous:**

- Trees planted with mulched basins harvesting street runoff grow to be 33% larger than trees without these basins, doubling their potential carbon sequestration and passive cooling. These trees have been shown to *reduce* summer temperatures (in the shade of their canopies) by 10°!

- The native plantings have enhanced the health and diversity of our neighborhood's populations of native wildlife.

- These mulched and planted basins convert relatively sterile urban soils into very alive and healthy soils that have 10 times the natural pollutant-filtering/bioremediation ability of non-mulched soils.

- These combined public right-of-way water-harvesting strategies annually harvest *more than 660,000 gallons of stormwater* that used to contribute to the flooding of our streets. Though this is just the beginning, for we could easily harvest another 20 times this volume within the neighborhood's rights-of-way if we were to install more of these strategies.

How you can help:

- Become a steward of the plants, basins, chicanes, and/or traffic circle(s) near you. Then inspect them once a week, picking up litter. Water or weed them at least once a month. Contact bradlank@gmail.com if you'd like to sign up as an official steward.

- We'll then show you (stewards) how to identify weeds along with beneficial plants, and how to prune and mulch. We'll provide replacement plants for those that might have died, and seasonal wildflower seed.

- Identify where you'd like to enlarge basins, or create new basins and plantings along or within the street.

Celebrate Water & Community at the Water Festival



Presented by the Tucson Arts Brigade, the 4th annual Water Festival raises awareness, promotes solutions, and fosters creative expression about our water future and the health of our community. The Water Festival brings together creative and diverse activities for learning, networking, and family fun – featuring an exhibitor fair, workshops, speakers, performances, art show, Design for Water Solutions Contest, 3-mile Walk for Water, and a mermaid in a wishing well. This year, the Water Festival is partnering with the Earth Day Festival at Reid Park on **Sunday, April 21** from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Register as an exhibitor, artist/inventor, activity leader, or volunteer. Be a Water Steward! For more information or to register, contact 623-2119 or info@WaterFestivalTucson.org.

News from the Whistle Stop Depot

By Nancy Bender and Carl White

The Whistle Stop Depot is nearing the end of its sixth year of renovation. We completed our open building permits a few weeks ago and have a certificate of compliance from the City of Tucson. We now have four legal bathrooms (two of which are accessible), a three-station stainless sink for caterers, a three-phase electrical system, and a legal 42' tower! The tower was actually built to perform as a solar chimney, and the University of Arizona Environment Research staff volunteered, before it was built, to return to document its performance. If you haven't stopped by lately, all neighbors are welcome whenever someone is there.

Our focus is now on the front yard. If we succeed in getting approval, all vehicular parking will be located on our adjacent properties that currently house only the steel containers. The 20' container facing 5th Street will soon resemble a caboose.

Bicycle parking will be ample; we will be creating three large bicycle sculptures for the front of the building, designed to be used as bike racks. We'll use six of the several dozen fiber optic cable end-caps we reclaimed to modify our current "prison fence," which will undergo a face-lift of its own.

The remainder of the front yard will (hopefully) be developed as outdoor gardens, with benches, small secluded



The Whistle Stop Depot

areas for sitting, at least one community fire pit with seating, and several small more intimate ones. Watershed Management Group has agreed to use our open yard as a "host property" for community participants to attain a Water Harvesting Certification. Training sessions are scheduled at Whistle Stop on April 11 and 12. The group will provide a recommended landscape design, which will take into consideration our desire to have an outdoor community space as enjoyable as our indoor space. If timing allows, we'd like to have a neighborhood planting day, with Whistle Stop hosting food, beverages, and live music.

Lastly, we are hoping to have our website up by the end of April, featuring a calendar of upcoming events. We feel so pleased, and honored, that our first wedding was booked by Dunbar neighbors, and we have two others on the horizon. We look forward to seeing all of you for the annual Eat More Pie gathering here at the Whistle Stop on May 5, and anytime you'd like to drop by our site at 127 W. 5th Street.

Take to the Streets with Cyclovia Tucson



Come out and play in the streets! During Cyclovia anyone can bike, walk, skate, and participate in fun, free activities. Cyclovia is a Spanish word signifying the temporary closure of a network of streets to cars so that they become "open" to people. On **Sunday, April 28** from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Cyclovia will connect mid-town Tucson neighborhoods and business districts. For more information and to view the route, visit www.cycloviatucson.org.