

Weatherization Programs Highlighted At "Go Green And Save" Day

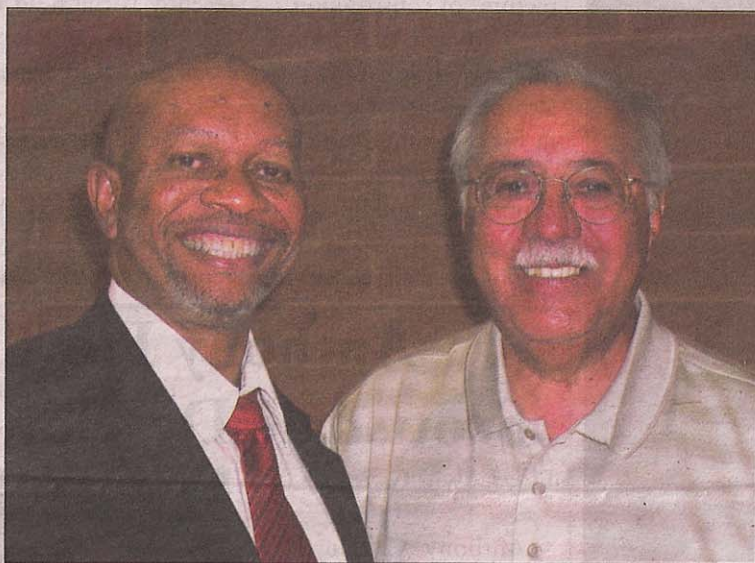
Hundreds of Valley residents learned about cost-saving weatherization programs for their homes and basic conservation measures during Congressman Ed Pastor's "Go Green and Save" community event on Oct. 24, held as part of National Energy Awareness Month.

The free green event, held at University Public School Phoenix, was offered by Rep. Pastor, D-Ariz., to help residents learn how to cut spending and conserve at home in light of the tough economy.

"Going 'green' saves money and improves your quality of life," Pastor said after the event. "Residents learned how to put 'green' concepts to work at home in useful, inexpensive ways that were easy to learn and incorporate. It's not hard to take steps to help save our planet and protect our future."

Rep. Pastor's Phoenix District Office organized the event following a suggestion by Dr. George Brooks Jr., a respected community leader and environmental scientist. Brooks held a "Grandma was Green" workshop during the event and has been an advocate for educating residents about conservation efforts.

The event focused on weatherization programs, which



Dr. George Brooks and Congressman Ed Pastor.

received a funding boost through the economic stimulus, also known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Through this legislation, funding was increased for weatherization grants, dollars that target struggling working families with assistance in providing insulation and energy conservation measures for their homes.

Simple steps such as duct sealing and weather-stripping and caulking, or more significant measures such as replacing cooling systems, can save a family hundreds of dollars on utility bills each year. One Phoenix family who went through the

program immediately experienced a \$100 per month reduction in their energy bill, Pastor said.

The city of Phoenix received \$7.2 million for weatherization grants under the ARRA.

In addition to the city of Phoenix, representatives from Arizona Public Service, Salt River Project and Southwest Gas Corp. presented information about their respective weatherization programs.

Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon was the special guest and information also was presented by Maricopa County, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the ASU School of

Sustainability, Farmer's Market, Southwest Green, Keep Phoenix Clean & Beautiful and many additional organizations.

Tips also were given on going green, recycling and pollution reduction ideas, health and wellness ideas, ways to help neighborhoods go green and how to plan a community garden.

Each participant also received a free "Green Kit" which included a CFL light bulb, re-usable shopping bag, sport bottle, and the children's coloring book "Recycling Changes Everything."

More information about conservation measures is available at www.energysavers.gov.



Jose Rivas of Congressman Pastor's office and Al Harris.

Does Your Heating/Cooling System Need An Upgrade?

The Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department Weatherization Assistance Program is offering grants to improve your home's energy efficiency. For information and income requirements call 602-495-0700