



sam hughes neighborhood association

News on Hughes

Spring-Summer 2010

O'Dowd's Overview . . .

Several months ago Paul Mackey, a former SHNA Board member and former PAG Director, and I began meeting with Mark Homan and Laura Tabili, members of the Board of Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA), to discuss our common concern that the City's planning process for construction of the Broadway Corridor Project (BCP) lacked transparency. The BCP is a project to improve Broadway Boulevard between Euclid and Country Club. Both SHNA and RHNA will be significantly impacted by this project if a 1987 Study conducted by the City is implemented. That study concluded that all widening would be along the north side of Broadway. Although SHNA opposed the 1987 Study, the BCP lay mostly dormant for 23 years due to lack of funding. It was revived when funding for the project was included in the Pima County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) passed by Pima County voters in 2006. The RTP scheduled implementation of the BCP from 2011 to 2016 but the City has already spent \$21 million to acquire property along Broadway and employed a transportation consultant over a year ago to acquire data and determine scoping of issues. When Paul and I began meeting with RHNA members Mark and Laura, no public meetings had been held to address concerns associated with the project and the City's Department of Transportation (TDOT) officials showed no interest in forming a Citizens Task Force to participate in the planning process for the BCP.

With the assistance of a SHNA resident Farhad Moghimi, a member of City's Transportation Advisory Committee, the issue of lack of public participation in the BCP planning process was placed on the Agenda of the April meeting of the Committee. At the meeting TDOT announced that a public meeting was being scheduled in May and a Citizens Task Force would soon be formed to participate in the planning process. Since then, Councilman Kozachik has listened to our concerns and at its meeting on April 13, the City Council adopted a Resolution authorizing TDOT to form a Citizens Task Force for the Broadway Corridor Plan.

The central issue to be addressed in the public process is whether the expenditure of \$71 million of County Bond and Transportation Authority funds plus \$21 million (so far) of City road funds to widen this two-mile portion of Broadway into an eight-lane highway with bike lanes will provide a transportation benefit to the community that outweighs the damage to the livability of the adjoining historic neighborhoods and the damage to the City's economy by loss of the commercial activity and tax revenues generated by the small businesses that would be displaced.

A serious obstacle to consideration of this central issue is TDOT's position that unless the RTP description is changed by a majority vote of Pima County residents, the City is mandated to comply with the description of the project shown on the RTP ballot: "widen roadway to six lane arterial plus two dedicated bike lanes & sidewalks". But state law does not require such an inflexible adherence to the ballot language. State law requires a vote only when a change is "substantial". A "substantial change" is defined as an increase in the cost of the entire roadway element (\$2 billion) by over ten percent. A change that reduced the width of the roadway should decrease the cost of the BCP. It certainly would not increase the cost of the roadway element over \$200 million. Unless the City abandons this fallacious interpretation of the law, use of the public process to examine the central issue of this project will be frustrated and ultimately futile.

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Board meetings:
3rd Tues. each month
7pm Himmel Library

Everyone Welcome

INTERVIEW WITH MARTHA ORTIZ . . .

Martha Ortiz and her family have lived here in Sam Hughes for over 30 years. She especially enjoys her good neighbors and the convenience of being able to walk or bike ride to the campus, library, and neighborhood stores. She also benefits from the Sam Hughes Cares for Seniors Program. Martha is originally from Illinois, where she attended the University of Illinois. She met her husband Augusto there. They were married and eventually moved to Chicago so he could attend medical school. She also got her degree and worked at settlement houses similar to Hull House. The family, which now included three daughters, would later move to Phoenix, where Dr. Ortiz served in the Air Force. After being discharged, he joined another Spanish speaking physician in the barrio. By this time, two sons had joined the family. Martha was a homemaker but also served as office manager in Dr. Ortiz' private practice. Dr. Herb Abrams from UMC met Dr. Ortiz and approached him about starting a community health center in southern Arizona. The family moved to Tucson and Dr. Ortiz began the process. He would approach people in a rural community like Continental and see if they were receptive. The community would be asked to provide a building and two volunteers. Satellite centers were developed all over the state in rural communities. "He hired me again, at no salary, to travel with him throughout the state," Martha commented. "I wrote reports for him, I typed up letters and I put things in order. He created and I organized," she explained. Many of their health care centers are still in place. The one in Picture Rock is named the Ortiz Community Health Center after these two exceptional people. Today Martha spends her time doing fundraising and sending faxes to Washington. "There's still plenty to do," she says with a smile.



--Interviewed by Wallis Downer

▶▶▶▶▶ URGENT NEWS FLASH . . .

Due to budget cuts, this is the LAST ISSUE of *News on Hughes* to be circulated by the City. If you have enjoyed receiving this bulletin and would like the SH Board to consider funding circulation of future issues, please email gschuessler@yahoo.com or wallis85719@yahoo.com.

SPRING CLEANING OPPORTUNITY!

SHNA is looking for "missing" minutes to the meetings of the Board of Directors. In particular, minutes prior to 1990 are being sought. If you, or someone you know, have old minutes to Board meetings, please contact Wallis Joyner at 327-0443 or wallis85719@yahoo.com.

SAM HUGHES CARES FOR SENIORS UPDATE . . .

While still a vital part of the SHNA, we find we need to take a brief hiatus at this time. The coordinator, Trudy Mills, needs to travel to North Carolina to help with her mother who has some healthcare concerns. So, at this time, we will not be training new volunteers or signing up any new seniors for the program. Current volunteers will continue assisting seniors who are already signed up with the program. In the meantime, we suggest that any senior needing assistance call Interfaith Community Services at 297-2738, Ex 206. They operate very much like SHCS. The senior will need to be visited by someone from Interfaith Community Services in order to register for the services. The registration is simple and free (as are the services). The folks there are really nice and helpful. Updates on SHCS will be posted at www.samhughes.org and on the listserv. Also, you can call our number 561-0113 for any updates.



PRIZES PRIZES PRIZES . . .

Himmel Park Library is having its annual summer Reading Program for kids, teenagers and adults from May 27 to July 24. Reading incentives will be provided. Prizes will be awarded to all age groups for most books read.

The kids program is ***Make a splash at your library***

Teens program is ***Make waves at your library***

The Adult program is ***Make a SPLASH! READ***

Go to library.pima.gov for more information.

CASITAS ON BROADWAY . . .

Available on a 1st-come 1st-served basis at 2121 E. Broadway on August 1st - 56 one-bedroom apartments for very low income seniors, 62 years and older, under HUD qualification guidelines. Applications are available by calling 624-7392 or going to 124 W. 18th St. (Barrio Viejo Elderly Housing). Office hours: M-F 9-5; closed 12-2.

SAM HUGHES ELEMENTARY UPDATE . . .

Thanks to the steadfast dedication of our Principal, teachers, parents and community volunteers our students have truly excelled this year both in the classroom and with school-related activities such as: chess, OMA, after school sports and track meets, Huskies basketball team, after school Spanish and German, glider and rocket building, field trips, mural design, gardening, citrus harvest and juicing, milk carton recycling, poetry with the UA, theatre productions, band and orchestra, talent show, Stories that Soar, literature night (a showcase of student published books) and a visit by author Adam Rex....the list goes on!

Like all public schools in Arizona, inadequate State funding has left our school facing a 10% reduction on top of our already slim budget for the 2010-11 school year. Cumulative cuts over the past two years have resulted in the loss of a teaching position, office manager, counselor, and librarian. Our library remains open thanks to volunteers and a part-time library assistant. The PTA has designated money for custodial and classroom supplies.

State funding for all-day Kindergarten has been eliminated. However, parent and teacher input resulted in a plan to provide all-day Kindergarten. The goal is class sizes of about 20 students supported by a participation fee of \$200/month. If you have not yet registered your child, please do come to the office! Principal Janet Jordan is available for questions (232-7400).

In response to education cuts, parents have created the Bridge Fund. This gift fund will bridge the gap between insufficient State funding and what our students need. Quality public education is no longer completely free and small but collective donations can have a significant impact. To support this endeavor please consider a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. Checks payable to "Sam Hughes School-Bridge Fund" can be directed to the office (700 N. Wilson Ave., 85719). Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for classroom aides for the 2010-11 school year. Contact Amy Bosco (881-1463) with questions.

Your 2009 tax credit contributions will be funding our extracurricular programs next year. Students will benefit from chess, physical education, reading tutors and Opening Minds Through the Arts. Thank goodness for our devoted and consistently supportive neighborhood – without you these programs could not continue!

The Greening Group continues to beautify our campus and teach valuable lessons about reusing, recycling and reducing. We hope neighbors enjoy the new plantings on 4th St. Our courtyard barrel garden is thriving. This compact garden produces enough veggies for weekly lunchtime tastings. Kindergarteners do the picking and all grades have sampled kale, lettuce, radishes, peas, carrots and various herbs. Gardeners and salad lovers have been born! Used ink cartridges and cell phones can be left in drop boxes outside the office to earn money for our school.

Stay tuned for future neighborhood events held at the school. We invite neighbors to join the Sam Hughes School community!

--Amy Bosco



Housing & Community Development Dept.
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Sam Hughes Neighborhood

Dated Material

MEMBER NEWS ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Please mail a \$20 payment along with the information below for your 2010 membership to **SHNA, c/o Membership, PO Box 42931, Tucson, AZ 85733**

When your membership is paid you will receive a Certificate of Membership postcard and can start saving \$\$\$\$\$ with the **Deals and Discount Program**. The program currently has over 30 offers with more coming soon. The offers include Home Services, Personal Interests, Restaurants, Health/Beauty, and Retail Shopping.

Name: _____ Address _____
Ph: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in volunteering:

- Historic Preservation
- SH Cares/Seniors
- Home Tour
- Traffic
- Zoning
- Park/Library/Water Tower
- Website
- Board of Directors
- Newsletter
- Campus/Community Relations

See our website - www.samhughes.org for more information
We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in the future

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