

ELVIRA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION

DAVID DENSMORE PRESIDENT PHONE 889-1241

MEETING TIME: THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH 6740 S. SANTA CLARA AVENUE 7:00 PM

Richard Miranda, City of Tucson City Manager, will be at the April 15th meeting to discuss the budget. The city has a \$15 Million shortfall as of now. This is a good chance to find out what is really going on down there at city hall and to talk to public officials. **Councilwoman Regina Romero** or her representative **Laura Dent** attends the meetings and police officers will be available to talk to you.

Gary Wittwer from the department of transportation was here talking about resealing Los Reales walkway and getting us some large river rocks to place around the trees to help hold moisture there. We need ideas on how to improve the walkway, like a few concrete benches along the way.

Elvira Neighborhood boundary change: East 12th Avenue, South Los Reales, West Interstate 19, North Valencia. That is 10,000 people! The City has the neighborhood association plan, which allows people to contact local officials and get tax money grants for projects like walking paths, streetlights and speed bumps. The Association is like a neighborhood outreach, so look at the announcements below:

Announcements

The University of Arizona Mobile Health Program supplies prenatal care and other health needs at Hope Church, 6740 S. Santa Clara Avenue, Wednesdays from 9am-12. Call for prenatal appointment. This is a low cost local service.

The University of Arizona Family Medicine offers prenatal/cuidado prenatal. Call the mobile health program 520 349 6594. This is for people with or without insurance. Teenagers welcome. Spanish spoken. Hable Espanol.

Hope Methodist Church offers a food pantry and diaper bank open Monday-Friday 9am - 1pm and guitar lessons on your own guitar Saturdays at 9am, and the rummage room is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Spring Bazaar will be April 13 from 7am - 2pm.

Elvira Neighborhood has two beautiful tile signs that need to be mounted. We need help on where to put these signs and labor and donations of blocks and a mason to build. If you have any extra blocks, let us know. Call Mikki 520-260-0947. If you would like to help place the blocks and stucco the wall to hang the signs let us know; they are 4'x6' $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Brush and Bulky is coming up in June and the **city is bringing dumpsters to our neighborhood May 4-5** for you to use free. Put out useful items you don't want so people can take them. It's fun and saves money. I found flower pots and a plant stand and even a pot of live aloes. Neighborhood cleanup meets at Hope Church at 7:00 on May 4. **Volunteer** to help your community.

Graffiti Paint is available free. Call Dave at 889-1241. **Report potholes** at 837-6691.

Historical Note: The Elvira area is one of the oldest settled areas in the state, dating back to the time of the mammoth hunters and the Clovis people and maybe even before that. This farming and hunting area by the old Rio Santa Cruz has been settled for at least 20,000 years and maybe more. Imagine mammoths playing in the water while saber toothed cats watched from A Mountain. San Xavier sits on a fertile plain where palm trees used to grow.

We can find stone tools and pottery shards on our property, which is the old Los Reales Graveyard, run by San Xavier Mission from 1864-1930, serving the Indian and Spanish communities. The Arizona Pioneers Society has a copy of the funeral rolls of San Xavier where the names of people buried in the Los Reales Cemetery are listed. If you think you have a relative buried here or just want to look at the graveyard, call Mikki at 520 260-0947.



Remember, nothing ever stays the same!

What do you want for our neighborhood? Flood control is important. How about a flood control project as part of the RTA (sales tax \$) or out of HURF (highway) funds? People tell me it didn't flood here before they put the freeway in so it looks like they caused it by backing up the water around not enough drainage, whereas it drained freely before. I'd like to see that old road by the arroyo fixed up into a walking path for strollers, bicycles and walkers. It could connect up with the other path. How about pocket parks where those flooded out houses were? Why isn't Los Reales repaved?

How can we get things for our neighborhood? **Councilwoman Romero** has been very helpful and so has **Supervisor Elias** when the neighborhood needed something like streetlights, speed bumps by the school and the walking path. Grants are available and **you** can help spend the money. That fenced off area at the end of Los Reales would make a good soccer field. I like things for families that they can walk to. The city also offers free courses you can put on resumes through the neighborhood associations.

Elvira neighborhood has significant businesses, the small mall at the corner, restaurants, a carnerceria and a day care. Do we need more businesses? Would it be good for us to have more within walking distance? Are you interested in home based businesses? This is one of the topics to talk about at the meetings. **What else do we need in Elvira? What do you want?**



Night out was held in October this past year. Our guests were **Regina Romero, Councilwoman** from Ward 1, and **Mayor Jonathon Rothschild**. The Los Reales walking path was made possible thru the grant that Regina's Office wrote to The **Tohono O'Odham tribe**, city of Tucson, Mayors office and the Transportation Department.



Supervisor Richard Elias, who represents our District, was also at the Night Out. Richard has been a long time supporter of **Elvira Neighborhood**. He

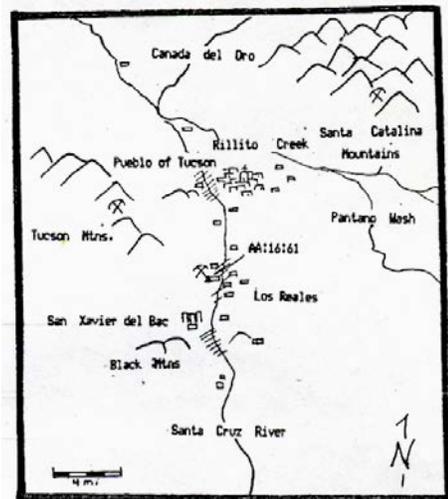


helped us along with the city obtain our street lights.

Captain Ramon Batista and two of his patrolmen attended also. The City Police are here nearly every meeting to assist the Neighborhood, answering questions and giving us reports about Elvira. Another Night Out is planned for fall.

Historian's Note: I have some questions for the people in Elvira. As a Tucson native born in 1945, I can remember this area as a cactus stronghold. My Daddy didn't hunt quail out here because of the cactus. A remnant of this cactus forest can be seen on Oahu Avenue where cactus has covered the old graveyard. Do you have memories of how the neighborhood used to be before the freeway? How about memories of when the subdivisions were new? I can remember when they put the trailer park in on the reservation. I can talk to you at the meeting or e mail me at niemicat@msn.com We have maps of the neighborhood we will bring to the meeting. It's fun to find your house on the maps.

This map was drawn of Tucson in **1860**. Los Reales at that time was a farming and ranching community, with a chicken ranch, growing fields and a hog farm. Fields stretched for miles and miles along the old Santa Cruz. Another old map shows marshes along the river and fields for grazing cattle and horses. The main trade route from Hermosillo and Nogales ran through Los Reales after leaving San Xavier. Trade goods from all over the world were here back then. **What will our descendants' future look like? It's up to us.**



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6740 S. SANTA CLARA AVENUE 7:00 PM**



Richard Miranda, Tucson City Manager and former Police Chief will be at the meeting on April 15. Mr. Miranda is a graduate of Sunnyside High School and grew up in the Santa Clara/ Valencia area. Bring your family! Mr. Miranda is an excellent role model for the children as a major success story right from our neighborhood. The city is facing major budget issues and Mr. Miranda can tell us exactly what to expect from City Hall. Refreshments will be served. Bring your favorite tapas to share

with your neighbors!

Elvira Neighborhood Association Website: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Elvira>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/352417204847569/?ref=ts&fref=ts>



Feel free to use the Facebook account for neighborhood concerns. Somebody will be checking it on a daily basis so your voice can be heard. Would you like a soccer field in the neighborhood? Picnic tables along the walking path? More access to public officials? Elvira Association is free to join and if you live in Elvira, you have a vote!



Richard Miranda