



# MENLO PARK

TUCSON'S BIRTHPLACE

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

June 2013

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### PHOTOS FROM PAST FIESTAS



### EL DÍA DE SAN JUAN FIESTA: MONDAY, JUNE 24

Bring the whole family to Mercado San Agustín, 100 S. Avenida del Convento, from 5 to 10 p.m. for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual grand celebration of the beginning of *El Chubasco* – the season of monsoon rains. Each year El Día de San Juan Bautista Fiesta features a traditional procession and blessing of the altar followed by an evening of live entertainment. Performing this year:

- Viva La Mujer Mariachi
- Charros del Rincon dancing horses, with mariachi singer, Genaro Moreno
- Roskrige Middle School Ballet Folklorico
- Gerti and the T.O. Boyz from the Tohono O'odham nation

Enjoy food and beverage booths, as well as games and activities for the entire family. This event is open to everyone and attendance is free.

The celebration of St. John's birthday was once one of the most important and colorful events in the Southwest, a tradition brought to this region by Spanish missionaries in the 1600s. Tucson's Westside neighborhoods resurrected this tradition in 1998, and proudly continue a celebration that helps everyone remember the importance of water in the desert. El Día de San Juan is sponsored by a partnership of public, private and neighborhood organizations.



## MISSION GARDEN: MENLO PARK'S UNIQUE PIECE OF HISTORY

Mission Garden, at the foot of "A" Mountain, is becoming more of a reality every day. For two years Friends of Tucson's Birthplace, a non-profit volunteer organization, has been working to re-create the garden that once grew near Mission St. Agustin west of Santa Cruz River. Mission Garden contains an orchard of fruit trees descended from trees missionaries brought centuries ago, as well as plants native to the Sonoran Desert which were used by local inhabitants before the Europeans arrived. The garden will showcase a vineyard of heritage grapes and two fields of crops that were cultivated in the original Mission Garden. A series of time-line gardens are planned which will showcase plants grown by generations of distinct cultures and peoples responsible for the wealth of cultural diversity in our community: the Hohokam, Tohono O o'dham, Spanish, Mexican, Chinese, African American and Anglo cultures.

Volunteers involved with this project are excited about what has already been accomplished, and Mission Garden's role in the Tucson Origins Heritage Park. Get involved! Volunteer for gardening, construction, administration, teaching, online promotions, coordinating volunteers, and more. If you are interested please call (520) 777-9270 or email [missiongarden.tucson@gmail.com](mailto:missiongarden.tucson@gmail.com).



*Mission Garden Orchard May 2012*



*Mission Garden Orchard May 2013*

## FILL THE DUMPSTER!

It's time to clean up our backyards, streets and alleys!

- **Date:** Thursday, June 27 through Tuesday, July 2
- **Dumpster location:** 2 dumpsters in the large vacant lot ½ block south of Grande Ave. and Cushing St. traffic circle. Bring your refuse!

Meet at the dumpsters for a special cleanup day on **Saturday, June 29 at 7 a.m.** You'll get a trash bag, trash 'grabber', gloves and a street assignment. In about an hour we can make a lot of progress cleaning up the neighborhood. **Bring water, wear a hat and sunscreen.** Contact Gene Einfrank at 971-2348 or [gene.einfrank@gmail.com](mailto:gene.einfrank@gmail.com) for more information.

## JOIN THE CLEAN TEAM!

Volunteers needed to pick up trash in our streets and washes. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and get a little exercise. Interested? Contact [MenloParkTucson@gmail.com](mailto:MenloParkTucson@gmail.com) or call 327-4749.

## REPORT GRAFFITI

If you witness an act of graffiti in progress, call 911 immediately.

If you see graffiti, there are 3 ways to report it:

- <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/graffiti/report>
- Download 'MyTucson' - a free smart phone app that's easy to use.
- Call 792-city

## CODE COMPLAINTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

The City of Tucson's Code Enforcement Division is responsible for enforcing property maintenance codes throughout Tucson. Common complaints include:

- Vacant/boarded up structures
- Excessive storage
- Junked motor vehicles
- Illegal dumping
- Debris, trash and refuse
- Overgrown weeds
- Illegal signs
- Commercial -sized vehicles on residential property

There are two ways to report a code violation:

1. Call 791-5843
2. Online complaint form:  
[cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/violation](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/violation)

## **NEW EL RIO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER BREAKS GROUND**

On May 31<sup>st</sup> El Rio Community Health Center broke ground on a new state-of-the-art building at 839 W. Congress. Construction is expected to take one year and will be LEED certified, featuring a demo kitchen where dietitians and staff will work directly with patients to teach healthy eating essentials. A community garden will be added in a later phase of the project. A coffee shop will be built inside as an area of respite and an elevated viewing gallery will face east to the downtown skyline. A new “centering room” is planned for expectant parents who will enjoy expanded space for educational purposes, while they are being served by El Rio midwives. The site will also include lab, radiology and pharmacy services offer comprehensive services under one roof.

During construction, current El Rio patients will have access to valet parking. When the new facility is complete, the current one story Robert Gomez building will be demolished to make way for a new parking lot. The existing two story 26,000 square foot building made possible thanks to funding from Angel Charity, Inc. in 1991 will remain intact and will be connected to the new building with unique walkways. El Rio Community Health Center is the largest provider of medical and dental services to uninsured and Medicaid patients in Pima County. El Rio serves the medical and dental needs of more than 79,000 patients annually, and employs over 800 people. A national model of health care excellence, El Rio’s mission is to “improve the health of our community through comprehensive, accessible, affordable, quality and compassionate care.”

You can learn more about El Rio services online at [www.elrio.org](http://www.elrio.org).

## **MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

Neighbors and City of Tucson officials gathered on May 11, 2013 to celebrate the Menlo Park Neighborhood Revitalization Project. This project improved pedestrian safety and mobility for residents and visitors alike, and supported the environmental sustainability goals of Pima County. The improvements serve as an attractive entry way into Tucson’s downtown business and cultural sectors.

Funding for this project came from the 2004 Pima County Bond and was administered by the Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, providing \$498,975. Some of the administrative costs were covered by the City of Tucson Department of Transportation, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation

Department, and Ward 1 Back to Basics, which provided \$30,000. Pima County invested 1997 Pima County Bond funds of \$850,000 to improve the soccer field facilities, City of Tucson provided 2000 City of Tucson Bond funding of \$318,000 to construct a new restroom building and the plaza in the center of the park, and a Community Development Block Grant of \$180,000 helped pay for the remaining sidewalks, lighting, chain link fencing, and another group picnic ramada.

This project included traffic calming and park improvements, constructed by the City of Tucson’s Transportation and Parks and Recreation Departments. The transportation project included: median/entry islands with neighborhood signage, traffic circles, speed tables, ADA curb access ramps, xeriscaping and water harvesting chicanes. The park improvements include: a group picnic ramada, fabric shade sails over the pool deck and playgrounds, concrete decks and plazas, concrete masonry unit and brick walls, poured-in-place concrete walls, wrought-iron signage, landscape planting, support irrigation and site furnishings.

The offices involved in the project include: Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías, District 5, City of Tucson Vice-Mayor and Ward 1 Council Member Regina Romero, Pima County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Project Coordinator Cam Juárez, City of Tucson Department of Transportation Project Managers Jesse Soto and Zelin Canchola, City Of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department Project Manager Howard Dutt, and Menlo Park Neighborhood Association members, especially, Mac Hudson, Bob Rodriguez, Lorraine Bartlett, Gene Einfrank and Lillian Lopez-Grant.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL:**

**Menlo Park Pool hours:** Tues – Sat noon to 6:00 pm, May 30<sup>th</sup> through July 31

**Historic Property Tax Credit** enrollment: to find out if your home qualifies for the 50% tax credit, go to [cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/historicdistricts](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/historicdistricts), or call (520) 740-8071 for more information.

**Menlo Park Neighborhood Association** meets the second Thursday of every month from 6 – 8 pm, at the Pima County Housing Center, 801 W. Congress. If you are a resident of Menlo Park, you are automatically a member of the neighborhood association.



Housing & Community Development Dept.  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

# **MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Dated Material**

## **MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETINGS**

To stay informed about neighborhood events, activities, and ways to get involved, contact the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association and add your name to our contact list. Feel free to include your comments, questions and concerns. You can also join your neighbors at our regular meetings, the second Thursday of each month from 6 – 8 pm at the Pima County Housing Center, 801 W Congress St.

**Contact the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association:** [menloparktucson@gmail.com](mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com) 327-4749  
[menloparktucson.com](http://menloparktucson.com)  
[facebook.com/menloparktucson](https://facebook.com/menloparktucson)

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