



**Housing and Community Development
Neighborhood Services**
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

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RHNA
RINCON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
FALL/WINTER 2012



COMING SOON: Rincon Heights Community Garden

In the spring of 2011, the University made a first tentative offer of land it owns in Rincon Heights for the use of a community garden. A team of dedicated volunteers quickly sprang to action and has been working closely with the University to identify a suitable location and to work out a lease agreement. We are happy to announce that at long last we have signed an agreement with the University for the use of the fenced double lot just west of the greenhouses on 8th St. and Fremont Ave. We have paid a year's worth of liability insurance (required by the U of A), had the water connected, written rules to ensure safe and conflict-free operation, and drawn up plans and submitted them to the Campus Edge Committee. We are hoping to start construction in mid-August or early September.

The neighborhood association will be responsible for all garden construction costs, insurance and water bills. In our first phase of construction we are hoping to plant fruit trees along the southern border, establish a communal herb garden, dig and amend soil for several dozen garden plots and start a drip irrigation system. In spite of these expenses, we will endeavor to keep the costs as low as possible for the gardeners. Garden dues of \$120 per annum (payable annually or semi-annually) will entitle you to a plot that is 3' wide by 21' long. (The going rate for most Tucson community gardens is \$15 per month for a plot that is 3' x 20', so ours is a comparatively good deal.) Organic gardening methods will be used here. We will purchase in bulk organic amendments formulated specifically for our local desert soil and will mostly likely be able to obtain manure either for free, or at a nominal charge, from local farmers.

There is much to be gained by joining an organically-run community garden. Any gardening will give you a sense of connection with the great and wonderful web of life. Your harvest of fresh organic produce will be better-tasting and more nutritious (and cheaper) than the conventionally grown vegetables you can buy from the supermarkets. Working alongside supportive fellow gardeners will also give you a heightened sense of community - not to mention that heavy jobs, such as deep digging and sifting caliche from the soil, can be done more easily if done cooperatively. We are even thinking of hiring a backhoe to break up stubborn caliche deposits! If you have never tried to grow vegetables in Tucson, do not fear! Here in southern Arizona fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers can be grown year-round. At the RHNA garden you can get to know seasoned gardeners who will be happy to share their gardening knowledge with you, as well as teams of university students from several academic disciplines contributing their skills and manual labor.

If you are interested in joining, contact Melody at melodypeters@cox.net to be added to the list of prospective gardeners.



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CURRENT RESIDENT
RINCON HEIGHTS
1307 E 9TH ST UNIT C
TUCSON, AZ 85719-5422



Dated Material

RHNA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday September 11, 6:30 p.m.
Ha: san Prep School
(NW corner of 10th Street & Highland)

Rincon Heights is a neighborhood of action. Four times a year we come together to share food, hear updates on neighborhood projects, connect with community partners, and vote on official actions. This is your chance to meet new neighbors and find where you can plug in and play a part in making Rincon Heights the best neighborhood in Tucson. You can see the agenda on our website at RinconHeights.org.

For our September meeting potluck, bring a dish to share that represents your cultural or ethnic background.

RHNA Listserv

A great way to become a part of RHNA and keep up with news & events is to become a member of our listserv. Email a request with your name and street address to RinconHeights@gmail.com.

Rincon Heights Website RinconHeights.org

With so much going on in Rincon Heights, our community website is a great way to keep informed. You can find the latest updates and pictures about our many projects, read about the rich history of our neighborhood, find previous newsletters, or check the calendar for the upcoming events and meetings. The website is also our face to the Tucson community and beyond.

Perhaps the best part is that the website thrives on contributions from residents - you can submit news of personal interest such as graduations, awards, or gallery exhibits. You can also submit pictures for our soon to debut "Photos of the Month" page. Submissions or updates can be sent to Mark Homan at mbhoman@msn.com

LET THE FUN BEGIN!

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Yard/Plant Sale

The sale will be in March 2013 and we are in need of volunteers and donations!!!

Now collecting GENTLY USED ITEMS: 1607 E. 10th St.

DROP-OFF TIMES: Mon-Fri 5:30 p.m./8:30 p.m. Sat-Sun: CALL FIRST 792-9477

Items include (but are not limited to): Clothing, Shoes, Toys, Books, VHS/DVD, Tools, Furniture, Plants, Kitchenware, Holiday decorations, Electronics.

Call Bernie at 792-9477 with any questions or if you want to help!!!



Tile Project Update

The tile project has been in a holding pattern for this summer. Things will begin again in October. Notice will be sent out on the listserv and posted on the website as soon as things are up and rolling. We have created most of the tile we need. The next steps are to design the layouts, glaze the tiles, make a few missing pieces and then tile and grout the benches. Plan to join us in October. At each session we will celebrate with food and drink and together create this neighborhood masterpiece!

Rincon Heights Walk Audit



Living Streets Alliance (LSA), a local non-profit, wants to do a walking audit in Rincon Heights and we need your help! A walking audit assesses how easy or difficult it is to walk in your neighborhood, where you like to go, what routes you prefer, and what changes you would like to see in order to make your neighborhood a better, safer place to walk. Come learn from LSA staff how you can participate in the Rincon Heights Walk Audit at our next quarterly meeting on September 11th.

Welcome to Rincon Heights by Mark Homan

The neighborhood comes to life again as days begin to shorten, desert dwellers awake from summer hibernation, and neighbors returning to or starting their studies at the University add new life to our community. Those of us who have lived here for a while know that Rincon Heights is one of the most friendly, dynamic neighborhoods in the city. Those who are new residents will find that they are welcomed and valued as neighbors.

Rincon Heights is so connected to the University that the start of the new academic year is kind of a New Year for us as well. Might be a nice time to introduce our new residents to the neighborhood and remind us all of some of the history and other things that make this place so special.

Rincon Heights extends west to east from Park to Campbell, and north to south from 6th Street to Broadway. One of Tucson's older neighborhoods, Rincon Heights was the first private development east of downtown. Substantial build out occurred in the 1920s and indeed many of the small but well-built stuccoed brick homes in our neighborhood date from that period. Today, approximately 70% of houses in the neighborhood are considered historic. Due to the proximity to the University, students comprise a large percentage of the population, along with a strong core of more permanent residents.

The Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA) is well known for being active in promoting neighborliness and protecting the neighborhood. Neighbors work together to make Rincon Heights the most beautiful, friendly, and safe neighborhood in Tucson. RHNA was formed in 1988 in response to a number of development issues. Of those, the University of Arizona's intent to move into the area and destroy scores and scores of homes south of 6th Street was of most pressing importance. In 1994, the City of Tucson, recognizing that the security of homeowners and long-time residents was threatened by the unpredictable nature of University expansion, initiated a cooperative planning process between the City, RHNA and the University to set boundaries to the University's planning and acquisition area. This resulted in a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the three parties, which provides clear boundaries and other guidelines to safeguard the neighborhood. In addition to working to protect neighbors from destructive development, unruly parties, and buffelgrass invasion, the neighborhood association has undertaken numerous activities of a more positive nature. It has planted over 1,000 native street trees, established roadside water harvesting basins, worked with the City on bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Highland Avenue and built a pocket park that survives entirely on harvested rainwater, inspired the University to add water harvesting to its landscape designs, and so much more. Projects still underway include making tile for benches in the pocket park, obtaining historic designation (which has received preliminary approval), and the establishing of a long anticipated community garden. RHNA is one of the leaders of the Broadway Coalition, an organization of neighborhoods, businesses, and others that is working with public officials to design improvements on Broadway that would enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, or move through the area. We also participate with other neighborhoods in the CORE Barrios and Neighborhoods Coalition and the Downtown Neighborhoods and Residents Council.

Anyone who resides, owns property or runs a business in Rincon Heights is eligible to join the neighborhood association, which is different from a homeowners association. We welcome both renters and homeowners. In fact many of our officers have been renters. The interests and opinions of all neighbors are important. Joining the neighborhood association, signing up for the listserv, attending its quarterly meetings or casually participating in its many and varied projects and social events has numerous benefits. First of all it will give you immediate connection to a stable community of friendly people. Secondly the association might support and advise you if you encounter problems or conflicts while living in the neighborhood. What you give to the association in return is up to you. Dues are a nominal \$10 a year and voluntary. What we really value above anything is your participation.

Happy New Year, neighbors. Enjoy and contribute to this wonderful place where you live.

Campus Community Relations Committee (CCRC)

Rincon Heights actively participates as a member of the Campus Community Relations Committee (CCRC). The CCRC is a committee of 8 neighborhoods around the UA, staff from UA, and City Council Wards III and VI representatives that meets monthly to exchange information on topics of mutual interest, resolve problems, and improve the relationships between the UA and its neighbors. Mark Homan and Roger Thomas are the representatives from Rincon Heights. We encourage other neighbors to take part, including serving as a neighborhood representative if you are interested. Contact Mark at mbhoman@msn.com if you would like to know more about this committee. You will find minutes of CCRC meetings and other information related to the CCRC.

Rincon Heights' proximity to the University of Arizona provides us with access to many scientific, cultural, and entertainment events. We also benefit from the time and talent of enthusiastic student organizations, such as Blue Chip and Mortar Board. The Drachman Institute has contributed expertise to help with our neighborhood planning and beautification efforts, and professors like Jim Riley and Brooks Jeffery and their students have helped with our water harvesting improvements and historic district.

Our relationship with UA administration has had times of good cooperation and times when cooperation is far from the scene. We have developed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote a better relationship with the University and to work with them to improve the residential character of Rincon Heights. This agreement has been a very important step in strengthening the neighborhood and making Rincon Heights a wonderful place to live.

You will find the text of our MOU with the University and the brand new University Comprehensive Plan Update. Both documents provide important directions for the mutual relationship between Rincon Heights and the U of A.



Little Free Library

RHNA's Pocket Park (8th & Martin) has a Little Free Library - Check it out!



RHNA Dues

Annual dues of \$10.00 are requested from each household for the RHNA Treasury. All monies go into the neighborhood fund. No officers/volunteers are paid for their time. Expenses include the RHNA post office box, organization filing fee with AZ Corporation Commission, and approved expenses related to the annual neighborhood night out and pot luck, and neighborhood beautification, yard sale and cleanup efforts.

Please make check or money order to RHNA and clip and mail this form with your payment to:

Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 44194
Tucson, AZ 85733-4194

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number/Email: _____

Your Neighborhood Leaders

Colby Henley, President (psalm116@gmail.com)
Mark S. Homan, Vice-President (mbhoman@msn.com)
Michael Carson, Treasurer (michaelj.carson@gmail.com)
Barbara Homan, Secretary (mbhoman@msn.com)

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and Historic District Coordinator (lauratabili@live.com)
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Chris Wilke, Tiling Project Coordinator
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