



sam hughes neighborhood association

O'Dowd's Overview . . .

Across the neighborhood we are busy enjoying the wonders of Spring. As always there seems to be little time for rest or respite from events and activities that crowd these vibrant days. But despite an economic recession and two wars to deal with, there is excitement in taking on our challenges. The **Home Tour** brought us together to celebrate the hard work it takes to preserve homes in this part of town where the age of our structures poses a challenge to renovate and restore them in a historically compatible manner. At the school's **Chuckwagon Roundup**, the parents and staff showed the intensity of their caring for our children's education by raising money while celebrating a major event in our cultural past of cattle ranching. At Himmel Park our **Randolph Soccer** parents made it possible for their children to develop a spirit of teamwork and develop the physical confidence they will need to meet the rigors of their adult lives. The Wildcats men's basketball team taught us that we don't have to win to have a great team and a good coach.

Have you visited the **Himmel Park library** recently? The Himmel Park Coalition of Neighborhoods, formed by SHNA and the Blenman-Elm, Paloverde and Miramonte neighborhoods, was created through the efforts of SHNA V.P. Soltys to implement the recommendation of professional planners in a study commissioned by SHNA. In a letter to Supervisor Elias it stated, "The library is crowded and should be expanded." Molly McKasson is SHNA's representative to the coalition.

The SE corner of 6th Street & Tucson Blvd is now home to a **restaurant featuring submarine sandwiches**. The improvement of the site is noteworthy and the restaurant may even be serving beer and wine, once approvals of the Board of Adjustment and the State Liquor Board are obtained. The SHNA Board voted not to take a position on the issue of sale of alcoholic beverages at the site.

A **neighborhood author** recently published a novel in which a single mom named "Meg" residing in our neighborhood is the main character. When Meg falls in love with a handsome City official residing in the neighborhood, her infatuation for him leads her to praise him for making Sam Hughes neighborhood a good place to live. But Meg quickly adds: "With the glaring exception of providing good sidewalks." Thus, Meg provides an example for us. Despite our affection for our neighborhood, we cannot be blind to its flaws. We cannot allow our government officials to ignore our lack of infrastructure or fail to enforce laws that protect us from exploitation by those who engage in behavior that disrupts our quiet enjoyment of our property. **EACH OF US MUST BE AN ADVOCATE** for preserving, improving and sustaining this neighborhood. -- John O'Dowd

After the new owner of Ronald McDonald House sought a parking variance, City staff required that the dumpster be moved to the front of the building where it would disrupt the streetscape of the historic Murphy mansion. SHNA obtained the pro bono services of neighborhood resident and former City Planning Director Don Laidlaw to persuade the City Environmental Services Dept. to allow the developer to continue having the dumpster on the property's east side. This is a definite victory for historic preservation and adaptive reuse of a landmark of the City's history. The neighborhood is indebted to Don Laidlaw for his effective advocacy in this case.

Spring 2009



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Board meetings:

3rd Tues. each mo.,
7pm Himmel Library

Everyone Welcome



Around the Neighborhood . . .



Betty Rowe is one of those fortunate people who has returned to the family home she had lived in as a young girl until age 19. Her father was Dr. Robert Morrow, Superintendent of Tucson Public Schools, now TUSD. Betty was in junior high when her family first moved to 3rd Street in Sam Hughes. She attended Mansfeld Junior High. "I rode my bike to school. I went down 3rd Street and picked up classmates and we all rode together," she said. There was no pool at Himmel Park so children sneaked into the El Conquistador swimming pool. After Mansfeld, she attended Tucson H.S. The rodeo was always a big deal. She laughed, "I always ditched school to go to the rodeo even though my father was superintendent." She later graduated from the Uof A and spent many years raising her family and teaching in TUSD. After the death of her parents, she decided to move back to the family home, built by Henry Jaastad in 1928-29, which has been beautifully restored. The hardwood floors shine and the house is filled with lovely antiques and family mementos. The kitchen has been restored with tile counters and the original cabinets. "The house has all the memories. It's just home," she said, "It was good to come back." When asked what made Sam Hughes unique, Betty replied, "I would like to see it stay the family neighborhood it has always been." She hopes that more families will buy homes in Sam Hughes. --Interviewed by Wallis Downer

Ruth Wenberg, recovering from hip surgery and using a walker, has a whole different perspective on the safety of Sam Hughes sidewalks. She is concerned about overhanging branches and shrubs, which are a hazard to the less mobile. She also has literally run into sections of sidewalk, raised due to tree roots underneath. Mrs. Wenberg wondered if perhaps the raised edge of the sidewalks might be painted with something that could catch one's eye.

Congratulations to **Connie and Ray Carroll**, whose home was featured in the Arizona Daily Star February 22nd. Rather than tearing down the small Sam Hughes home they bought but needed to enlarge, they did a spectacular job retaining the integrity and character of the original house while adding on a large and attractive addition.

Did you know that you have a community garden in your neighborhood? **Community Gardens of Tucson (CGT)** just started a new community garden at the Benedictine Monastery, 3rd & Country Club where the Sisters have set aside the land to use as a garden space. CGT is an all volunteer not-for-profit organization with 4 other gardens around Tucson and has been gardening in Tucson for nearly 20 years. The garden is a serene place where neighbors can grow flowers or vegetables on their own 3'x20' plots. Tucson has year-round gardening. **Winter crops** are leafy greens like lettuce, arugula and spinach, **cruciferous vegetables** like cauliflower, brussel sprouts and broccoli, and **root crops** like carrots, radishes and beets. **Warm season crops** are squash, cucumbers, okra, beans, corn, melons, etc. A drip irrigation system is installed to supply water to the plants. A monthly meeting gives each gardener a chance to learn more about their plants by working directly with a local gardening expert. A bimonthly newsletter also provides gardening tips. Cost is \$12 per month. Check out <http://www.communitygardensoftucson.org> or phone 795-8823 for more info.



Sam Hughes Cares for Seniors is still going strong and is happy to provide assistance (rides, friendly visits, light yard work, errands, or simply a friendly phone call) to our senior neighbors. Give us a call at **561-0113** if you have questions or would like to sign up with us. There is no charge for our services. You can also call this number if you would like to volunteer. By the way, the steering committee meets at 6pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Rincon Market. Feel free to stop by! --Trudy Mills, Coordinator

Mansfeld Middle School is offering open houses for anyone interested in learning more about this **First Choice Middle School** on April 14th and May 12th. Sessions will run from 8 to 9:30 AM and will be held in the library. Representatives will present information on curriculum, extracurricular activities, and middle school transition. This will be followed by a school tour and classroom visitations. Mansfeld offers accelerated academic classes which include high school algebra, Spanish and science, as well as elective high school English G.A.T.E. 6th/7th/8th grade honors classes. Extracurricular activities include interscholastic sports, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and track and field for all students. The after school academy provides tutoring by certified teachers and college student volunteers. Clubs include, but are not limited to, Pokemon Club, Math Counts Club, Cooking Club, and Folklorico.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection . . .

The annual household hazardous waste collection, sponsored by neighboring Blenman-Elm Neighborhood Association (BENA), will occur this year in the Himmel Park north parking lot, along 1st Street between the and tennis courts, on Saturday, April 18th. Items will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Please go online to www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw for items accepted. Contact BENA Pres. Alice Roe, 795-7310, for more info or if you would like to help on Saturday, April 18th.





The SHNA 2009 Home Tour, A Roaring Success . . .

We featured five beautiful and diverse private residences and numerous “points of interest”, including the Adobe Rose Bed and Breakfast, Second Street School and Edge High School. In total, we grossed almost \$12,000 in five hours. The proceeds will go to support neighborhood projects.

We would like to specifically thank our homeowners and the numerous volunteers who monitored the homes, as the tour would certainly not be possible without their tireless effort and cooperation.

And the following other participants: Santa Barbara Ice Creamery, Pure Beauty Horticultural Services, Tucson Tamale Company), Rincon Market, Bob Dobbs, Rosati's, Karma Day Spa. Arizona Flower Market, Tim Fuller, photographer and Libby McWhorter, graphic designer.

Our raffle was highly successful due to the following businesses that made generous donations: Adobe Rose Bed & Breakfast, Authors Robin Brade, Laila Halaby & Laura Fitzgerald, Casa Video, Elle Wine Country Restaurant, Frame of Mind, Fronimo's Greek Café, Galeria La Sirena, Home Decorator Fabrics, Jimmy's Broadway Automotive, Karma Day Spa, Kiwi Knitting Company, The Loft Cinema, Picante Designs, Mark Speers Hair Salon, Prasada Nails, Sam Hughes Place Championship Dining, Santa Barbara Ice Creamery, Seven Cups Fine Chinese Teas, Sunday's Spa & Salon, Sunflower Farmer's Market, Whole Food Market and Zocalo Fine Colonial Furniture.

A heartfelt thanks again to all of you from your 2009 Home Tour Committee: Sherry Medina (419-7694), Denice Blake (323-7891), Betty

SH Quality of Life Survey to Help Focus on Neighborhood Issues & Solutions . . .

Surveys are excellent tools to measure the pulse of a community. When it comes to gauging the perceptions of neighborhood residents, surveys can provide a portal to exploring key neighborhood sustainability issues and understanding the concerns of residents.

Last fall, the Sam Hughes Community Action Committee (SHCAC) was formed, and members began holding meetings to discuss and explore various actions to decrease the rate of household break-ins, car theft, and other incidents that undermine our neighborhood's quality of life.

According to Captain David Neri, TPD's Midtown Division Commander, creating a strategic plan to address crime and its associated impacts is imperative. Through the SHN Quality of Life survey, the SHCAC is seeking to validate or dispute opinions about our neighborhood's crime rate, precursors for crime, and neighbor-to-neighbor communications. In addition, the survey will be able to help identify neighborhood community building activities that would receive the most support. The Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association supports our efforts, and it is funding the printing and online version of the survey.

The survey is scheduled to be distributed during the first week in April. A group of neighborhood volunteers will be going door-to-door to residences only (including apartment complexes) and hanging the short version of the survey in a plastic door hanger. This distribution method ensures neighbors without internet connections are represented in the survey results. The completed surveys will be manually picked up during the week of April 20th, so please be sure to leave your survey in an accessible location on your front porch or doorway. Surveys can also be mailed to Tania Capin at 727 N. Plumer Avenue, 85719. Since this effort is 100% volunteer driven, we would appreciate if those residents who are able to pay for the cost of a stamp can return their surveys via mail.

Neighborhood businesses and residents with internet connections who are interested in taking the survey can also go online to participate at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2bHbrS9tlvrzTRq4qdpM2fTA3d3d

In order to obtain a statistically valid sample, a total of 300 surveys need to be returned. Please encourage your neighbors to take a few minutes and fill out the survey online, mail a copy back, or leave their surveys in an easily accessible place. The survey responses are meant to be anonymous, so that no particular residence or resident is identifiable.

Your participation will help the Sam Hughes Neighborhood with a series of focused actions that will lead to neighborhood improvements.

-- Tania Capin

Congratulations to the Raffle Prize Winners!

Thad & Julia Hardeman, Bonnie Phelps & Cece Putman, Merideth Bliss-Troxel, Graciela Wilcox, and Barbara Snyder won 2 tickets to THE SHNA Home Tour. The Membership Committee **THANKS** the Home Tour Committee for their generous donation! Thank you to all the members that have already sent in their membership!

Don't miss out on future raffles & special offers. Send your membership in today!

Take Action Now! Sam Hughes Neighbors are known for their involvement. Please get involved in our neighborhood association by becoming a member. For a list of the many neighborhood association supported benefits, see the membership page on the neighborhood association website <http://www.samhughes.org>.

Special Offer! Join between 01/01/09 and 06/30/09 and first time members get 1/2 off their paid first year membership. Quantities Limited. Offers cannot be combined. Some restrictions apply. Membership runs from 1/1/09 thru 12/31/09.

Thank you, to all of our current members for supporting our neighborhood association!

Membership Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

_____ Annual Membership: \$20. _____ First Time Membership: \$10.

Please include a check payable to SHNA, and mail to SHNA, c/o Membership, P.O. Box 42931, Tucson, AZ, 85733

I am interested in volunteering: _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Historic Preservation _____ SH Cares/Seniors _____ Home Tour _____ Traffic

_____ Campus/Community Relations _____ Special Events _____ Membership _____ Zoning

_____ Park/Library/Water Tower _____ Board of Directors _____ Newsletter _____ Website

I am interested in participating in neighborhood watch: _____ Yes _____ No

My current watch captain is: _____

Voting members must be 18 years of age and reside within the Sam Hughes Neighborhood which is bounded by Broadway, Speedway, Campbell, and Country Club. Businesses, organizations, and non-residents may join as non-voting association members.

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