

Protecting Himmel Park and Library . . .

Twenty people attended the introductory meeting of the Himmel Park and Library Preservation group on November 27th. Participants included representatives from the four neighborhoods (Blenman Elm, Miramonte, Palo Verde, and Sam Hughes) that meet at Speedway & Country Club, along with the Ward 6 Council office, Library branch manager, and Parks district superintendent. It was an exceptional turnout, to say the least!

Himmel Park has contributed to our community for 65 years and the Himmel Library (one of the oldest and most used) is in its 47th year of service. The adjacent Tucson Water facility (SW corner of First St. and Tucson Blvd.) dates to the 1920's and enabled the development of the neighborhood and park. The top 20-30 feet of its iconic *tower* was lopped off in the early 1960s to reduce maintenance costs.

Three distinct themes emerged from the meeting. To work together to 1) Protect our park; 2) Enhance our library; 3) Explore reconstruction and adaptive reuse of water tower for community education and outreach. (SHNA already has raised and earmarked \$30K for this purpose.)

The neighborhood reps agreed to collaborate on a survey sent to all four neighborhoods to solicit ideas for protecting the park, enhancing the library and the adaptive reuse of the water facility. We will also invite nearby park/library users such as Second Street School, Edge Charter School, Catalina Methodist daycare and the Himmel Tennis Club, to participate in the discussions.

For more information and/or if you would like to get involved in this exciting project, contact Frank Soltys at 795-4059 or fsoltys@cox.net



REMINDER TO ALL SAM HUGHES DOG OWNERS . . .

Barking Dogs - Please be sure to quiet down your dogs, particularly at night and early morning hours. It is extremely annoying to try to sleep when dogs are barking. Be aware that there are City and County Ordinances covering excessive noise and you can be cited. (If you suspect an intruder, call the police and let them handle the situation.)

Walking Your Dog - When you are walking your dog, be sure to take along a plastic bag to pick up after your dog after it has done its business and dispose of it properly. It is a dog owner's responsibility to do so (Ord. No. 5219, §5, 9-22-80). It is unlawful to take your dog onto school property, unless it is an official police dog or a guide dog (Ord. No. 6043, §20, 6-25-84). Also, please be aware that for your safety and that of your dog(s), please be sure to wear light clothing and/or use reflective tape on your clothing, and carry a flashlight. Streetlights do not make you as visible as you would think, and you could be hit by a vehicle, especially if you are walking in the street.

Animal Control Rules can be found online under "Tucson, City of" for both City and Pima County. Your cooperation in complying with rules and ordinances are greatly appreciated.

MIKO'S CORNER PLAYGROUND

Reid Park now has a new off-lease dog area. The opening celebration was held on December 1st. The area was named in honor of the Tucson Police Dept. canine that died in the line of duty. A plaque will be erected in Miko's honor.

The new two-acre area features a specially-designed irrigation system meant to handle the wear-and-tear of the turf, separate large and small dog areas, a ramada, doggie drinking fountains, park benches and trees. Sounds like a great place to let your dog(s) run and play!