



## **NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**      **December 2017**

### **Menlo Park Elects New Board**

Neighbors at the September meeting of the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association elected the following neighbors to serve on the Board:

**Zach Yentzer**, President

**Wendy Sterner**, Co-Vice President

**Raul Ramirez**, Co-Vice President

**Isabel Doe**, Treasurer

**Liza Grant**, Secretary

**Steve Brown**, Parliamentarian

**Matt Perri**, Historian.

The new Board is enthusiastic, ambitious, and eager to work toward the goals and action steps set out by Menlo Park neighbors.

### **MPNA 2019 meeting dates**

Neighborhood Association meetings happen the second Thursday of the month, 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the Pima County Housing Center, 801 W Congress. Come to the meetings to learn what's happening in the neighborhood, and let your voice be heard.

Meeting dates:

January 10<sup>th</sup>

February 14<sup>th</sup>

March 14<sup>th</sup>

April 11<sup>th</sup>

May 9<sup>th</sup>

June, July, August – no meeting

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting to elect a new Board

October 10<sup>th</sup>

November 14<sup>th</sup>

December - no meeting

Website: [menloparktucson.com](http://menloparktucson.com)

Facebook: **Menlo Park Neighborhood Tucson**

### **MPNA President Sets Priorities**

At the November meeting, Neighborhood Association President Zach Yentzer presented a framework of items to guide MPNA's work in the following year, to promote the well-being and protect the future of Menlo Park. These items are based on input from neighbors at the September MPNA meeting. Neighborhood Association meetings will educate, inform, engage, and provide feedback on the following topics of interest:

- Transportation/Traffic
- Development of Open Spaces/Historic Preservation
- Housing Affordability/Gentrification
- Children, Youth and Families
- Water/Environmental Sustainability
- Fundraising
- Engagement and Outreach
- Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee
- Events
- Clean and Beautiful.

At the November meeting, neighbors formed committees based on some of the above topics.

If you would like to join one or more of these committees, or are curious about what a committee is working on, please email Zach Yentzer at [zach@menloparktucson.com](mailto:zach@menloparktucson.com). Committees will be updating neighbors on their activities at the neighborhood association meetings.

## Menlo Park Votes to Pursue Formulation of a Neighborhood Plan

At the September neighborhood association meeting, Rebecca Ruopp from City of Tucson Planning and Development Services talked to the neighborhood about what a Neighborhood Plan is, how it is used by the City, and an overview of the steps necessary to produce a Neighborhood Plan. Following are some highlights from her presentation:

- The City of Tucson is required by statute to write a General Plan, a comprehensive planning document which includes goals and objectives for development in city limits. The General Plan is ratified by the voters, and is good for ten years. The current General Plan expires in 5 years. Area Plans and Neighborhood Plans are more specific plans incorporated into the General Plan.

- The City Planning Department uses the General Plan, including neighborhood plans, to guide land use and development, implement the goals of the General Plan, and on occasion to pursue grants. The Planning Department looks for guidance from the Neighborhood Plan when a proposal for development of a property in that neighborhood is reviewed. For this reason, a Neighborhood Plan must be consistent with the policies and land use within the General Plan.

- Menlo Park does not have a specific Neighborhood Plan, but is part of the Santa Cruz Area Plan, which spans neighborhoods along the Santa Cruz River, from Los Reales Road to the south, to Orange Grove Road to the north. The Santa Cruz Area Plan was prepared by the City of Tucson Planning Department in 1983, with input from a Citizen's Advisory Council. Unfortunately, the City of Tucson Planning staff has been cut significantly since that time, and City staff no longer has the time or resources to devote to formulating or updating neighborhood plans. The task now falls to neighbors to initiate and guide the process.

In light of this information, with the fact that Menlo Park is slated for more development in the near future, neighbors voted to establish a committee to pursue development of a Menlo Park Neighborhood Plan. This committee of 10 neighbors is already active in researching what steps to take, and what resources are needed to create a plan. Wendy Sterner has volunteered to chair the committee. The Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee will provide updates on their activities and progress at MPNA meetings. If you are

interested in being on the steering committee, please email Wendy at [wendysterner@gmail.com](mailto:wendysterner@gmail.com).

**What do YOU like about Menlo Park? What would you like to see improved or changed?**



Cushing St/Luis Gutierrez Bridge



Tiled mural, John Paul Amparano Plaza



Mural, Ward 1 Council Office

Menlo Park is unique for many reasons. The history, cultural heritage, and architectural styles in Menlo Park are all elements of a Neighborhood Plan. The Plan can also address neighborhood preferences for zoning uses, density, and development.

**Your opinion matters!** Please send your photos and comments to [menloparktucson@gmail.com](mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com) Your comments will contribute to formulation of the Menlo Park Neighborhood Plan.

**Menloparktucson@gmail.com**

## Menlo Park, Clean and Beautiful!

A "Clean and Beautiful" committee has been formed to assist with property upkeep in Menlo Park. Committee members intend to build a team of volunteers geared toward beautifying Menlo Park by picking up litter, pulling weeds, and trimming bushes and trees. The committee plans to coordinate clean-up activities with the City of Tucson Brush and Bulky neighborhood pickup.

Another goal of the committee is to target problem areas of the neighborhood for litter pick-up, such as the Santa Cruz River bed near Congress and I-10, as well as vacant lots in need of upkeep located throughout the neighborhood.

Committee member Gene Einfrank anticipates that Clean and Beautiful volunteers will start the beautification process by making contact with elderly or infirm neighbors who would like the team to assist them with cleaning up their yard. Ideally, the Clean and Beautiful volunteers would meet up at a qualifying and participating property every two weeks or so to assist with cleaning up the yard and landscaping.

**The Clean and Beautiful Committee is in need of volunteers!!!** Please call Zach Yentzer at 401-4305, or email [menloparktucson@gmail.com](mailto:menloparktucson@gmail.com), to volunteer.

## Menlo Park Elementary 100 Years Old

Many residents of Menlo Park Neighborhood have fond memories of attending Menlo Park Elementary School.

Menlo Park was established as a subdivision in 1905, and was subsequently developed by two real estate agents starting in 1912. The neighborhood was named after the city in California. The Menlo Park Elementary School was built in 1918, a mere 6 years after Arizona achieved statehood.

Menlo Park School served the entire westside community, with an ethnically mixed student body, though the neighborhood itself was predominantly Anglo until after World War I. Students who attended Menlo Park Elementary school attended Safford Junior High and Tucson High School, which was the only high school in Tucson at that time.

In more recent times, Menlo Park Elementary School served pre-kindergarten students, through fifth grade. Students

Statistics gathered before the school closed indicate the student body was 97% Hispanic, and the majority of

students qualified for the free lunch program. The Menlo Park Cougars student body numbered around 230, with 15 teachers on staff.

Sadly, due to low enrollment, the Tucson Unified School District Board decided to close the school in 2014.

## Mystery Photo



Do you know where this Menlo Park sign is located? (\*answer at the end of this newsletter)

## You May Qualify for a Property Tax Reduction

Menlo Park Neighborhood has been designated as a Historic Neighborhood, which means if you live in an older home in the neighborhood, you could receive up to 50% reduction in your property taxes. To find out if your home qualifies, and how to apply for the tax break, contact Matt Perri at 833-1082 (se habla español), or the Historic Preservation Office, 837-6968

## Menlo Park Neighborhood contacts:

Zach Yentzer, MPNA President, 401-4305

Raul Ramirez, MPNA Vice President: 250-1615 (se habla español)

Wendy Sterner, MPNA Vice President: 203-4596

## City of Tucson, Ward 1 City Council Representative:

Regina Romero

940 W. Alameda St.

Tucson, AZ 85745

(520) 791-4040

[ward1@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:ward1@tucsonaz.gov)

## Pima County Board of Supervisors, District 5:

Richard Elias

130 W. Congress St. 11th Fl.

Tucson, AZ 85701

Phone: (520) 724-8126

[http://webcms.pima.gov/government/board\\_of\\_supervisors/supervisor\\_richard\\_elias\\_district\\_5/](http://webcms.pima.gov/government/board_of_supervisors/supervisor_richard_elias_district_5/)



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Neighborhood Services  
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P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, AZ 85726

## **MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD**

### **Dated Material**

Vecinos, si tienen asuntos o preguntas tocante la Asociación Menlo Park por favor de comunicarse con Raul Ramirez 520-250-1615.

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

To stay informed about neighborhood events, activities, and ways to get involved, email the Menlo Park Neighborhood Association at the address on the bottom of this newsletter, and ask to add your name to our contact list. Feel free to include your comments, questions and concerns. Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of the month, from 6 – 7:30 pm at the Pima County Housing Center, 801 W Congress St.

\*Mystery Photo Answer: El Rio Health Center campus on Congress

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