



Planning and Development Services Department  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson AZ 85726

**DATED MATERIAL**



**2023 Calendar of Events**

- Mar 13** – RHNA Meeting (6-7:30pm)
- Apr 16** – Cyclovia (9am-3pm)
- May 8** – RHNA Meeting (6-7:30pm)
- Sep 11** – RHNA Meeting (6-7:30pm)
- Nov 13** – RHNA Meeting (6-7:30pm)

*RHNA meetings are currently being held via Zoom and the links will be sent to the listserv several days in advance of each meeting. Visit RHNA's [website](#) and/or [facebook](#) page for updates on these and future meetings/events.*

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**RHNA Officers**

- President** – Stacey Plassmann
- Vice-President** – VACANT
- Treasurer** – Rose Veneklasen
- Secretary** – Laura Tabili
- Community Garden/CCRC Rep** – Melody Peters

**Connect with RHNA**



**RHNA Listserv**

The best way to receive info about neighborhood events and meetings, report crimes and lost & found pets, etc. is by joining the neighborhood listserv. To be added to the RHNA listserv, send a blank email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to: [rincon-heights+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:rincon-heights+subscribe@googlegroups.com).

**RHNA Website**

Visit our website: [rinconheights.com](http://rinconheights.com)

**Facebook**

Like our facebook page: [facebook.com/RinconHeights](https://facebook.com/RinconHeights)



**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**  
Spring 2023

**On Zoning Topics**

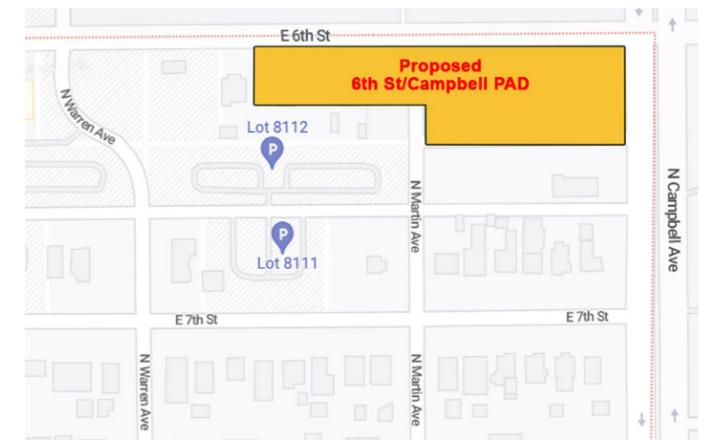
The excellent *Guide to Tucson's Historic Neighborhoods* (a publication of the Blenman-Elm Neighborhood Association, Historic Districts, and the City of Tucson Historic Preservation Office) describes Rincon Heights' historic neighborhood as such: "Developed as one of Tucson's first suburban neighborhoods, Rincon Heights exhibits an eclectic blend of 1920s-1940s revival styles and vernacular designs, including Craftsman Bungalow, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Modern Ranch. A unique feature of this walkable neighborhood is High School Wash, a natural riparian area with WPA era curbs, sidewalks, and culverts. Neighborhood planting and beautification projects continue to make this a popular housing area intent on keeping its historic character."

The architectural diversity of Tucson's historic neighborhoods is vital to defining Tucson's unique sense of place. Rincon Heights is especially unique because it has one of the most eclectic mixes of architectural styles in the city. Our streetscape is very special to us, and to help protect it, historic Rincon Heights, along with historic Pie Allen Neighborhood immediately to the west, is in the process of adopting a designation within our local zoning code, known as a Neighborhood Preservation Zone (NPZ). The NPZ was developed by two other historic neighborhoods to the north, Feldman's and Jefferson Park, to encourage developers to preserve streetscapes, and as new developments occur, as a means for neighborhoods to provide input on the impact they could have on streetscapes. The NPZ has had a positive effect on other neighborhoods, prompting Rincon Heights and Pie Allen to also seek the NPZ designation. Currently, the draft of our NPZ is being revised by the design firm hired by the City, but it's certainly exciting to anticipate the next steps toward our goal!

Good development projects that are enhancements to the area, as well as to the Tucson community, receive the support of Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA). A Planned Area Development is currently being prepared by a developer for a project of considerable density in the sizable area along the south side of 6th Street from Campbell to Warren in Rincon Heights. RHNA has assembled a working group to be involved in the efforts of shaping a project that will benefit the area and the larger community. If this interests you, the working group can bring you up to speed and welcomes your participation! Please contact Stacey Plassmann at [stacey.plassmann@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.plassmann@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to become involved in this effort.

**Proposed Development at 6th/Campbell**

As mentioned above, a proposed rezoning for a Planned Area Development (PAD) on the SW corner of 6th St & Campbell is back. The proposed PAD would generally allow the property to be developed into multi-story apartments, retail space, a restaurant/bar, and parking. RHNA is actively engaging with the property owner's representative and working to ensure that the development is the right size, has an appropriate mix of uses and services, and allows for the safe circulation of people driving, biking, and walking around and through the site. RHNA is advocating to protect the surrounding area from potentially negative impacts, such as excessive noise, while also seeking inclusion of amenities that would benefit both the neighborhood and entire community, such as affordable housing. We are hopeful that we can come to an agreement with the owner on these key items and offer our support to a proposal that sets a new standard for benefiting the community for many decades.



**Little Free Libraries**

Rincon Heights is home to several Little Free Libraries (LFL), with one LFL also doubling as a food pantry.

**WHAT IS A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY?** A Little Free Library is a free book exchange. It belongs to everyone, and everyone can use it! **TAKE BOOKS** If you see something you would like to read, take it. When you're finished, share it with a friend, bring it back, or leave it in another Little Free Library. **GIVE BOOKS** Bring books to share when you can, and continue being a friend of Little Free Libraries everywhere!



## Leadership and Volunteer Opportunities

One of the strengths of our neighborhood is that we receive contributions from many of our neighbors to help make Rincon Heights a wonderful place to live. Everyone is invited to provide leadership or take part in other ways. One of the ways to serve is as an elected officer of the neighborhood association. Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA) selects new officers annually in March. As a result, we have a rich supply of experienced neighbors to help with the transition of new officers. Working as a team we can accomplish a lot and have built a reputation of being one of the most effective neighborhood organizations in Tucson. March is upon us and we'd like to invite you to nominate yourself or another neighbor for an open officer slot. The RHNA President represents us on community matters, guides our neighborhood meetings (we officially meet 5 times per year), and is attentive to neighborhood concerns and opportunities. Other officer roles include Vice-President, who assists the President to meet neighborhood goals; Treasurer, who manages the financial affairs; and Secretary, who records the meeting minutes and sends out communications on behalf of the neighborhood. Really, we all work together as a team, whether as officers or as neighbors with particular interests.



We hope you will consider serving as an officer of our neighborhood association and/or encourage another good neighbor to serve. This year's officer election will be held **Monday, March 13, at 6 pm** via Zoom. Please email nomination(s) to Stacey Plassmann at [stacey.plassmann@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.plassmann@gmail.com) by **Sunday, March 12, 2023**, with interested person's name, contact information, and specific officer position. We would love to get your involvement in any capacity, so if serving as an officer is not something you feel comfortable doing but you'd like to become more involved with the neighborhood, please do let us know. There are many other ways to volunteer and we can find the one that suits you best.

## Rincon Heights, Get Ready to Roll!

With its central location "in the middle of everywhere" and its close proximity to key destinations like Downtown Tucson and The University of Arizona, the Rincon Heights neighborhood is one of the most bikable locations in Tucson, and traveling on two wheels is soon to get even better! 9th Street, which cuts through the heart of Rincon Heights, was identified as a "Bicycle Boulevard" in the 2017 Bicycle Boulevard Master Plan. The project is now moving forward with an estimated construction timeline of mid- to late-2023. When completed, the 2.1-mile 9th/8th Street Bicycle Boulevard will extend from Fourth Avenue to Treat Avenue, providing a safer route for biking. Bicycle Boulevards are neighborhood streets that make biking safer and more comfortable through treatments that calm traffic — such as traffic circles and speed humps — and add improvements such as push-button crossings so that people can safely travel across busy streets. These bicycling enhancements also make streets friendlier for walking as people on foot benefit from slower traffic and safer crossings. The City of Tucson staff has been soliciting input from our neighborhood regarding this project and we're excited that a TOUCAN crossing is now proposed on 9th Street and Euclid Avenue, which was the option that was highly favored by many Rincon Heights neighbors at a project meeting last year. This kind of toucan doesn't come with a colorful beak; this type of crosswalk was named as such because "two can" (meaning pedestrians and bicyclists) cross at the same time. If you'd like to see one in person, some nearby examples include 5th Street & Euclid Avenue and 3rd Street & Country Club Road. You can get more information about the project at [bit.ly/5th9thBB](http://bit.ly/5th9thBB) and review all of the proposed treatments.



Proposed 9th Street Bicycle Boulevard improvements

Speaking of biking, we're also thrilled to announce that **Cyclovia Tucson** is returning to the Lost Barrio — Himmel Park route this spring (Sunday, April 16, from 9am-3pm) and is running through our neighborhood. Cyclovia is a like a 3-mile-long block party where people can walk, bike, roll, connect, and play in car-free, care-free streets. There will be lots of fun activities for all ages, music, food trucks, and free bike repair stations to choose from. Rincon Heights will once again host an Activity Hub on 9th Street and Martin Avenue to add to the festivities during the event. Please contact Evren at [evren.sonmez@gmail.com](mailto:evren.sonmez@gmail.com) if you'd like to volunteer for an hour (or more) to help out at our activity station and enjoy seeing all the big Cyclovia smiles. Either way, we hope to see you out there! More info can be found at [cycloviatucson.org](http://cycloviatucson.org).



Rincon Heights Activity Hub 2018: Bringing Cylovia fun out to the neighborhood streets

## A Good Time to Join our Community Garden is NOW!

Rincon Heights Community Garden (RHCG), located at 1053 E. 8th Street, currently has openings for new members. If you have been considering growing your own organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers but are put off by the hard work of digging up caliche-riddled soil, the community garden is your perfect solution. Our garden beds, deeply dug and backfilled with screened soil 10 ½ years ago, feature fertile soil due to organic gardening methods that include generous applications of organic compost and mulch. The RHCG membership fee of \$75 for 6 months, or \$140 for a whole year, is lower than the standard local community garden rate and entitles you to a plot roughly 3' by 20' equipped with drip irrigation, organic compost, mulch, use of tools, and free gardening advice. The community garden is run entirely by unpaid volunteers, so we ask all members to contribute two hours a month to the maintenance of communal space. The month of March, when overnight frosts taper off, marks a new planting season in Tucson, so now is an excellent time to join the garden. While some cool season vegetables like peas, greens, beets, kohlrabi, and broccoli are at peak production, others, such as arugula, lettuce, and fennel are starting to bolt. To get a good crop of tomatoes before the summer heat shuts down pollination, Tucsonans are advised to plant as early as February 15, though if frosts persist many gardeners will wait through mid-March to put their tomato plants in the ground. From March 1 through April 15 is also an ideal time to transplant starts of other warm season veggies such as eggplant, peppers, and tomatillos. You can save money on costly starts by planting these other crops directly from seed in this same period: basil, bush bean, sweet corn, cucumber, Malabar spinach, melon, sesame, and squash, both summer and winter varieties. Herbs and flowers that serve as companion crops to summer veggies, and that can be directly sown in March, include basil, sage, marigold, sunflowers, and zinnia. Companion plants will benefit your crops by enhancing their flavor, and attracting pollinators and a host of beneficial insects that prey on garden pest insects.

If you are interested in renting a garden plot, please email [RHNAgarden@gmail.com](mailto:RHNAgarden@gmail.com) to request an application.

### Recent Garden News

RHCG members continue working with two UA student clubs on a sustainability project that they are doing at the community garden. **Engineers Without Borders** (EWB) has been working on repair and activation of the rain jar. In November, EWB installed gutters on the shed to capture rainwater and connected the downspout to the rain jar via an underground pipe. There is still a bit of fine-tuning needed to close out this project but the work is largely done.



### Join RHNA!

Membership Dues are just \$10 per voting member annually.

Complete and mail this form with your \$10 dues payment to:  
**Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA), c/o Rose Veneklasen, 129 N Warren Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719**  
 To pay via credit/debit card, please send an email to [trvene@gmail.com](mailto:trvene@gmail.com) and request an invoice.

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribe me to the RHNA Listserv  I would like to volunteer

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribe me to the RHNA Listserv  I would like to volunteer