



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



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WINTER 2021-22



DATED MATERIAL

The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Planning and Development Services Department and all other offices neither agrees nor disagrees with the views expressed or implied in this communication or any referenced websites and are not therefore responsible. The distribution requester is solely responsible.

Connect with RHNA

RHNA Listserv

The best way to stay informed about neighborhood events, meeting announcements, lost/found pets, crime issues, etc. is to subscribe to the neighborhood listserv by sending a blank email to: rincon-heights+subscribe@googlegroups.com and typing "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Facebook

"Like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RinconHeights) for updates on neighborhood meetings/events, important announcements, and more. Please email questions to: evrensonmez@gmail.com.

2022 Calendar of Events

- Jan 10 RHNA Meeting
- Jan 22 RHNA Trees for Tucson Planting Day (*order trees by Jan 2*)
- Feb 3 Fire Safety Presentation
- Feb 12 RHNA Free Swap
- Feb 12 RHNA History Bike Tour
- Feb 19 RHNA Porch Jam
- Mar 14 RHNA Meeting
- May 9 RHNA Meeting
- Sep 12 RHNA Meeting
- Nov 14 RHNA Meeting



Visit RHNA's [website](#) and/or [facebook](#) page for updates on these events.

RHNA Officers/Representatives

President – Lee Marsh
Vice-President – Moira Poje
Treasurer – Rose Veneklasen
Secretary – Laura Tabili
CCRC Rep – Melody Peters (interim)
Community Garden – Melody Peters

Join Us in Planting Neighborhood Trees!

When: Saturday, January 22, 2022 9:00 am

Where: Feld Davis Pocket Park, 220 N Martin Ave (SE corner of 8th St and Martin Ave)



Rincon Heights volunteers, together with the UA Students for Sustainability and qualified arborists from Trees for Tucson, will be assisting neighborhood residents in **planting trees at no cost** to the homeowner/resident. Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association's (RHNA) tree-planting history dates back to the late 1980s; however, this is the first time the association has paid for trees. We are doing so in support of Mayor Romero's pledge to plant one million trees in Tucson by 2030 to slow climate change by providing shade and sequestering carbon.

RHNA will pay for up to 40 trees, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees for Tucson is coordinating the event; they will identify utility lines and ideal planting locations, and provide mulch and planting instruction to volunteers. If you are too late to nab a free tree, you can purchase one for a minimal cost (\$25-\$30). Use the coupon code **rinconheightsfree** at checkout and place orders by Sunday, January 2nd here: <https://tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/rincon-heights/>.

Trees can be long-lived, so take time to choose ones that will address your needs and enhance your home's environment. The Trees for Tucson website lists characteristics for each of the trees it offers. TEP will also provide up to three trees per customer at the amazingly low price of \$5 each (<https://www.tep.com/trees-for-you/>); however, they will not deliver trees or help with planting.

We are seeking additional volunteers for the January 22 planting. Although you are welcome to simply show up at the event to lend a hand, we would prefer knowing in advance how many volunteers to expect. To sign up as a volunteer, please send an email to: rinconheightstrees@gmail.com.

Tucson Gastronomy Collective

Local Tucson developers, Randi Dorman and Moniqua Lane, have joined together to launch the Tucson Gastronomy Collective, a culinary focused community space housed in seven historic bungalows on Broadway's Sunshine Mile. This innovative, adaptive re-use project will serve as a platform for experiences and education about Tucson's [City of Gastronomy](#) designation and further highlight Tucson's unique agricultural and culinary heritage.



The concept consists of four core elements – a Rotating Chef Restaurant, a Locally Sourced Bar, a Teaching Kitchen/Film Studio/Commercial Kitchen, and a Global Food Market.

The **Residency** is the rotating-chef restaurant. It will house core staff and a limited regular menu. Every three months, different City of Gastronomy chefs (local and international) will come in to create special menus rooted in heritage and local foods. The **Regional Bar** will be stocked with local wine, beer, and spirits and will service the whole Gastronomy Collective block.

The **Teaching and Commercial Kitchen** will be a new construction that will allow chefs and food purveyors to showcase local and heritage foods, their history, enjoyment, and preparation.

The **International Marketplace** will include local regional foods as well as imported foods from other Cities of Gastronomy.

The remaining bungalows will be leased to complementary local businesses, such as a kitchenware concept, coffee/bakery concept, and other food concepts. One bungalow may house information about the Tucson City of Gastronomy, as well as the other local non-profits leading the way in our food discourse.

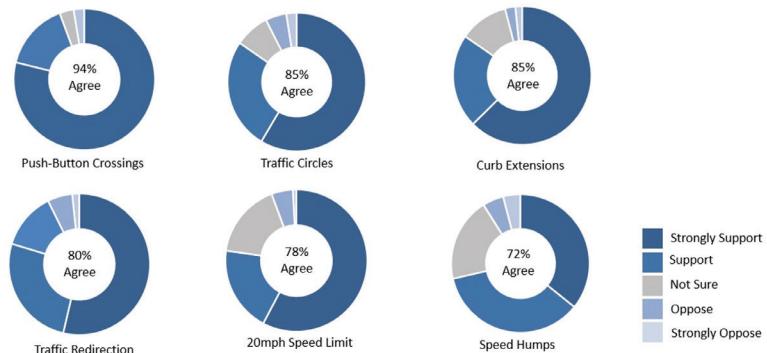
Lane and Dorman are honored to create this new community space where guests can become more immersed in the experience of a UNESCO-recognized City of Gastronomy. They expect to open in 18-24 months.

Long-Awaited Bike Boulevard Improvements Headed to 9th Street

9th Street, which goes through the heart of our neighborhood, was identified as a future bicycle boulevard in the 2017 Bicycle Boulevard Master Plan. Four years later, we're excited to share that the City of Tucson Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) is moving forward with the project. When completed, the 2.1-mile 9th/8th Street Bicycle Boulevard will extend from Fourth Avenue to Treat Avenue providing a safer route for traveling on two wheels.

Bicycle Boulevards are a cost-effective way to provide low-stress routes for getting around by bike. They improve safety not just for people on bikes but for everyone who uses the street by slowing and reducing cut-through traffic and making it easier for people walking and biking to cross busy streets. When traffic calming features such as neighborhood traffic circles are installed, there may also be opportunities to add landscaping that shades, cools, and beautifies the street.

City staff has been soliciting feedback from people who live, work, or travel on this corridor to better understand the traffic safety concerns and fine-tune the project design elements. Input received through virtual and in-person community engagement events, the online project survey, as well as on-street surveys conducted with people biking on 9th Street show notable support for traffic calming treatments including traffic circles and speed humps. Overwhelming support has also been documented for push-button crossings at major intersections and the project team has been evaluating two different crossing alternatives for Euclid Avenue and 9th Street: A Bike HAWK (similar to the crossing on 9th Street and Campbell Avenue) and a TOUCAN (similar to what's in place at 3rd Street and Stone Avenue).



Opinions on Specific Treatments (Source: City of Tucson)

You can get more information about the project at bit.ly/5th9thBB and follow the announcements for future community engagement events. We hope you get to enjoy the neighborhood on foot and by bike this winter while we have great weather to be out and about!



City staff engaging with neighbors about the project at a Curbside Ice Cream Social on 9th Street



Neighborhood Preservation Zone Update

Rincon Heights is a neighborhood that has thrived on diversity throughout its rich history as one of Tucson's first suburban neighborhoods. Dating back to the 1890s, Rincon Heights was one of the slowest neighborhoods to grow. The decades-long build-out of our barrio has resulted in an eclectic spattering of architectural styles that illustrate the evolution of local urban development.



Our neighborhood is currently undergoing an effort to preserve this legacy through what's called a Neighborhood Preservation Zone (NPZ), a type of rezoning that is available through the City's ordinance code. It is a tool for preserving the unique character and style of the area by way of providing guidance to homeowners who seek to remodel, rebuild, or reinvigorate the exteriors of their houses. An NPZ is much less restrictive than a Historic Preservation Zone (HPZ) and, therefore, provides property owners with ample flexibility while renovating.

The rezoning was initiated in April 2020 and Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA) is currently working on a series of design guidelines (referred to as "design manual") that will help direct future improvements in the area. The design manual will soon be available for public review and feedback. RHNA will be hosting an in-person event in the near future to give residents and property owners an opportunity to meet and become better-educated on the effort and how it will impact the neighborhood.

To learn more, get involved, and/or provide input, please email: rinconheightsnpz@gmail.com.

Little Free Libraries ... and a Food Pantry!
Rincon Heights is home to several Little Free Libraries, one of which also functions 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!

continue being a friend of Little Free Libraries everywhere!

**KGUN 9 On Your Side Story:
[Little Free Pantry Project is Growing in Tucson](#)**
Neighbors Helping Neighbors During Tough Times

**This is Tucson Story:
[Little Free Libraries are Helping Tucson Neighbors During the Coronavirus Crisis](#)**
Neighbors are sharing books, food and the occasional

Join RHNA: \$10 Annual Dues (per voting member)

To pay via credit/debit card, please send an email to trvene@gmail.com and request an invoice.

To pay via check, clip and mail this form with your payment to:
Rincon Heights Neighborhood Association (RHNA)
c/o Rose Veneklasen
129 N Warren Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719



Name _____ RHNA Dues \$10 check enclosed

Email address _____ Phone number _____

I would like to join the RHNA Listserv I would like to donate to RHNA \$_____

Name _____ RHNA Dues \$10 check enclosed

Email address _____ Phone number _____

I would like to join the RHNA Listserv I would like to donate to RHNA \$_____

Note _____