



Spring 2024 Newsletter

Published for the 2400+ members of the Miramonte Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting – Saturday April 27, 2024 from 1 pm - 3 pm at the Ward 6 office

More details on page 2.

Meet Me at Miramonte Park!



- bring the kids
- meet your neighbors
- donuts, coffee, juice, and hot chocolate!



It has been nearly a year since the shade structure and play area improvements were added to Miramonte Park. Since September 2023, MNA has been promoting twice monthly gatherings to encourage use of this valuable community asset. Events are family-friendly, free, and routinely scheduled for the first and third weeks of each month, though days and times vary throughout the year based on weather and available daylight.

We encourage Miramonte neighbors of all ages to join the fun!

Moving forward, we would love to expand our events to include special themes and activities. Ideas include music and arts performances, a community thrift day, a weekend outdoor market, group walks or exercise sessions, kids' story time, bring your dog/pet day, and a food truck night. But we can't do it without your help. We need volunteers to lead/organize, set up,

donate, and get the word out. If you are interested in helping bring these ideas to fruition – or if you have a talent or hobby to share – we would love to hear from you. Please email us at mna@miramontena.org.

Meanwhile, watch for future park event notifications on the Miramonte Facebook page, website, neighborhood email (Google group), or look for the banner posted at the park.

See you at Miramonte Park!

Alvernon-Fifth Crime Coalition

Do you have concerns about criminal activity near you?
If you do, come to the monthly Alvernon-5th Crime Coalition meetings, where you can talk directly with Tucson police.
Help prevent crime and improve safety in our neighborhood.

WHEN: 4th Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m.
WHERE: Ward 6, 3202 E. 1st Street (and via Zoom)

For reminders and Zoom links, subscribe to the email group.

Send an email to: Miramonte-neighborhood-association+subscribe@googlegroups.com



President's Letter

Mark your calendar for the Miramonte Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. The meeting will be in person at the Ward 6 City Council office, 3202 E. First Street.

By now, you probably know that our longtime city councilman, Steve Kozachik, has resigned his position. Steve has worked tirelessly and has made service to his constituents his first priority. Steve was always willing to help us solve neighborhood problems and get the appropriate people at the city involved. We will miss him. The members of the MNA board have made a donation in Steve's honor to Casa Alitas, and we invite other neighbors to do likewise.

The City Council will appoint someone to the Ward 6 council seat for the rest of Steve's term. We hope to have that new council member attend the Annual Meeting and fill us in on his or her priorities, interests, etc. In addition, we will have updates during the meeting on street improvements (such as Fifth Street and the planned chicanes for Camino Miramonte) and the proposed route of the Miramonte-Palo Verde Bike Boulevard.

We expect to have officers from the Police Department available to answer our questions and provide information on addressing crime and issues related to homelessness. Finally, board elections will be held. The following individuals have been nominated for a two-year term: Ann Baldwin, Ravi Kumar Bewtra, Anne-Marie Laurian, Dave Meko, Morris Palter, Marc Salerno, and Richard Webster. (Note that there are six additional board members, who still have one year left on their two-year term: Jan Howard, Brenda Kazen, William Kuitert, Betsy Lubis, Theresa Webster, and Ellen Wheeler.)

I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 27!

Glass and Plastic Recycling

Glass and plastic recycling continues at Ward 6. The glass is crushed, and the resulting silica sand is sold into the secondary market by the city's contractor. The city receives \$5 per ton of the glass delivered and gets 10% of the silica sand for use in city construction and roadway projects.

Plastics are processed by By Fusion into construction-grade building blocks. In the first week of 2024, more than six tons of plastics were dropped off at city collection sites and diverted from the landfill.

Stay connected – Join Miramonte Neighborhood's email group, MNA-Email!

MNA-Email is an electronic line of communication for the Miramonte Neighborhood Association. It is the **best** way to stay informed about what is happening in Miramonte and learning how you can be involved!

To subscribe, simply send an e-mail to:

Miramonte-neighborhood-association+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Website: <http://miramontena.org/>

Miramonte Neighborhood Assoc. PO Box 40602 - Tucson, AZ 85717

2023 MNA Board of Directors

President-Ellen Wheeler, **Vice-President**-Morris Palter, **Treasurer**-Ann Baldwin, **Secretary**-Theresa Webster
Board Members-Anne Marie Laurian, Sam Behrend, Jan Howard, Richard Webster, Brenda Kazen, Ravi Bewtra, Betsy Lubis, Linda Dobbryn & William Kuitert



Upcoming traffic calming chicanes

Left: Neighborhood signage designed for chicanes at the north and south ends of Camino Miramonte

Five chicanes designed to calm traffic are expected to be installed by early summer along Camino Miramonte between 2nd Street and 5th Street. The chicanes are landscaped islands set about five feet from the curb, which are designed to narrow the roadway to slow traffic.

Two chicanes will be near the northwest and southeast corners at Hawthorne, two near the northwest and southeast corners of Edgemont, and the fifth near the northwest corner at Terra Alta.

In addition, the city plans to paint white striping about five feet from the curb on each side of the street to indicate to drivers that area is used by bicyclists and pedestrians.

Plantings will be native wildflowers, shrubs and cacti. Some planting may have to wait until cooler weather in the fall, depending on when the chicane installation occurs. Many thanks to our neighbors who live near the chicanes who will be helping to ensure that the plants get enough water in the hot months to thrive and get established.



Rancho Center To Have New Dining, Shopping Options

Melissa Lal, president of Larsen Baker, offered an update on new retail and restaurant businesses for the Rancho Center. The real estate developer, which acquired the property in 2022, is transforming the exterior and bringing in a new locally owned restaurant, as well as the Midtown Mercantile Merchants and a Pinkberry yogurt shop.

Deborah Tenino, the creator of Contigo and Locale restaurants, will bring her culinary expertise to Rancho

Center when she opens “Miramonte” in the space that once was occupied by Cuvée World Bistro. The location most recently housed a pop-up Halloween store. Renovations to the restaurant space will include outdoor seating, using some of the current parking lot between the restaurant space and Whole Foods.

On Rancho Center’s west side, next door to the new restaurant, the space previously occupied by Bookmans will have new life when the Midtown Mercantile Merchants moves its local antiques and art booths from the current location farther east on Speedway. They anticipate a soft opening April 8 and a grand reopening/8th anniversary celebration on April 13. Midtown Mercantile Merchants will house 100 booths and will be open every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May through October.

In addition to the Miramonte restaurant, Lal said that a Pinkberry Frozen Yogurt shop will be opening next to Jersey Mike’s Subs. Pinkberry is a national chain noted for healthy and nutritional desserts featuring fresh fruits paired with a variety of frozen yogurt flavors.

Lal is hoping the renovation and construction projects will start in late spring/early summer.

Miramonte-Palo Verde Bike Boulevard

The final route for the voter-approved Camino Miramonte-Palo Verde Bike Boulevard is still up in the air, as of the writing of this newsletter. It appears the route will continue to follow Camino Miramonte between Speedway and 5th Street.

South of 5th Street, the city is still considering possible alternatives to the voter-approved route, which was designed to go through the El Encanto and Colonia Solana neighborhoods. Residents in those neighborhoods have expressed opposition to the route due to their narrow winding streets.

A community meeting was held on March 23 to gather input on a draft recommendation by city staff as to the final route. The staff's draft recommendation is that the original route through El Encanto and Colonia Solana be maintained. You can participate in a survey and find information on the draft recommendation and alternative route segments at <http://tinyurl.com/cmpvBB>.

The city staff will be presenting draft recommendations at the April 10 Miramonte board meeting. The meeting is set for 6 p.m. at the Ward 6 office, 3202 E. First St.



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**Miramonte
Neighborhood
Newsletter**

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