

## El Gheko Neighborhood Association



**Dates:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018; February 6, 2019; May 1, 2019

**Time:** 6:15 P.M.

**Location!:** Hudlow Elementary School Cafeteria, 502 North Caribe Avenue (enter from Caribe Avenue)

### **MEETING AGENDA:**

- 1) Reading of minutes
- 2) Program: Presentation by the TPD Fraud Unit
- 3) Election of Officers and/or By-Laws Change

### ***Newsletter Disclaimer***

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### **EL GHEKO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETINGS SCHEDULE !**

The first Wednesdays of February, May and November at 6:15 P.M. in the Hudlow Elementary School Cafeteria

## OFFICER ELECTIONS



Another year has gone by and it is getting to be time for the election of New Officers. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer plus the appointment of three or more NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS.

If you are not sure where to go to attend the meeting, go to the El Gheko website and click on the link <http://na.elgheko.us/news.php?readmore=5>.

The February 6th meeting is an important meeting as we need to elect officers and get some Neighborhood Liaisons appointed. This is my fifth year as El Gheko's President. It would be good to get some new blood into Officer positions.

Consider running for an El Gheko Neighborhood Association office. The four elected positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. As we don't have a treasury, the Treasurer position is more of a ceremonial position. However, in the event there ever would be a reason to have some money in a bank account for our Association, it would then become a working position.

We also need three, or six NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS, one or two each from each subdivision (KINGSTON KNOLLS TERRACE, GREEN HILLS, and EL DORADO). Consider volunteering for one of these three appointed positions.

We changed the month Nominations from November to February. The reasoning being that February seems to best as more attendees, especially our winter residents, are at this meeting than May or November. Maybe more interest in running for an office also?

Who can vote? According the Article Three (Membership) of the By-Laws, those eligible to vote are as follows:

The membership of this association consists of residents, property owners, and business owners within the above defined boundaries.

A. Each business qualifies as one member with one vote.

B. Each Resident, eighteen (18) years of age or older, is entitled to one vote.

C. Each non-Resident property owner is entitled to one vote.

D. Business meetings shall be open to members who are identified as residents, property owners, or business owners within the above defined boundaries.

E. There shall be no dues. All participation and support shall be strictly voluntary.

## November Meeting Topics:

- A Tucson Officer will be doing a presentation on the latest statistics for our neighbor and will take a brief Q&A session.
- Discussion on any By-Laws updates and Officer Elections changes.
- A presentation by the Tucson Police Department's Fraud unit.
- Updates on neighborhood activities.
- Any other topic depending on time left.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Tom Wills



The El Gheko N.A. is **YOUR** Neighborhood Association! To be a total success El Gheko N.A. needs you to be part of the process! Attend this and other meetings to have your voice heard. Also volunteer when help is needed.

### WEBSITE UPDATES

In addition to the duties of the President, things I will continue to do for the Neighborhood Association are running my El Gheko Neighborhood Weather Station and being the El Gheko Neighborhood Association's Webmaster for the Association's website. There have been some changes to the website. I moved them from the longtime provider to a new provider host called HostWinds due to issues the arose after the previous provider did some updates to his system that caused problems that could not be fixed, such as the ability for residents to register to have full access to the El Gheko N.A. website.

This summer I added an additional weather website to the El Gheko Neighborhood Weather Station website. It is called Meteotemplate and to get to it the URL is <http://mtp.elgheko.us>. The main difference between this weather website and the original weather website is that the MTP site has more interactive applications than the original website. Compare the two to see what you think.

The two weather websites and the official El Gheko Neighborhood Association website at are good ambassadors for our neighborhood for everyone who visits the sites.

### **MONSOON**

The monsoon was good to us so this monsoon season. It appears that the grasses and weeds are growing unabated as of this writing. We all need to get out there and clean up our yards to keep the El Gheko neighborhood looking nice. Please do your part with your property! Let's keep our Neighborhood a good looking location.

### **SCAMS**

While at the Coffee With A Cop on October 3, 2018, I was discussing something I have been doing with some success to deter spammers. This is an idea I got from a Pickles cartoon strip. In it he answers the phone saying something like "Police Department Fraud Unit. How may I help you?" The caller immediately hangs up. What I am doing is answering the phone when I get numbers or area codes I do not recognize by saying "Pima County Sheriff's Department. Fraud Unit. How can I help you?"

It is amazing how quickly the line goes dead. I have figured that if it is a good call, the caller would state they called the wrong number before hanging up. The officers thought it was a good option and they see nothing wrong with it. I just thought I would pass the idea along to El Gheko Residents in case you are, like myself, getting really tired of this calls.

## **INTERNET LINKS**



Below are some Internet links that El Gheko residents may be interested in:

- To subscribe to the El Gheko email list server, go to the following URL and fill in your email address: <https://groups.io/g/elgheko/join>. The moderator may get back to you to verify if you are a resident. Only residents of the El Gheko Neighborhood may

subscribe to the email server;

- Visit our Neighborhood Association Website at <http://na.elgheko.us>. Several areas are restricted to registered El Gheko residents such as the Calendar, and the Photo Gallery, plus the ability to do any postings. This is done to protect our privacy;
- The El Gheko Neighborhood Weather Station sites are at <http://www.elgheko.us> and a secondary site at <http://mtp.elgheko.us>;
- Hudlow Elementary School at <http://edweb.tusd1.org/Hudlow/>;
- A subject as of late has been Code Enforcement. To see the status of current violations in our Neighborhood, go to <http://neighsupport.net/codevio/cezgheko.html>

## **NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS**



What are Neighborhood Liaisons? They help with organizing activities in the Neighborhood. According to the By-Laws, they are appointed positions, not elected.

Note that there can be more than one Liaison per Subdivision. The subdivisions are defined in Article 1B of the By-Laws as El Dorado Hills, Green Hills and Kingston Knolls Terrace.

Please let one of you Officers know if you are interested in serving as a Neighborhood Liaison for your Subdivision.

## **A CITY OF TUCSON FAQ**

### **Q: What is Tucson Clean & Beautiful?**

**A:** TCB is a non-profit environmental advocacy and action organization founded in 1985 to preserve and improve our environment, conserve natural resources, and enhance quality of life in the City of Tucson and eastern Pima County. These goals are achieved through educational and hands-on programs emphasizing personal action in recycling and waste reduction, land stewardship, urban forestry and beautification.

Originally established to keep our community litter-free, TCB has grown to coordinate programs and projects with a diversity of partners including

government agencies, community groups, businesses, and the support of thousands of volunteers.

Programs are supported by grants, memberships, business and personal donations, in-kind donations of materials and services. To find out more, go to <https://tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/>.

## The Neighborhood Update

### STREETS

I am sure by now of all residents of El Gheko are aware of the upgrades to all the streets in our neighborhood. It took a lot longer than Alderman Paul Cunningham promised when El Gheko was resurrected in 2013. El Gheko has been pressuring the Ward 2 Office and Alderman Cunningham on this subject from the beginning. We finally got our streets resurfaced in the months of late May and June.

It seems as though the work still has been an ongoing project. Sand was spread over all intersections and in all cul-du-sacs. This was to help to prevent damage done to the new pavement during the hot summer months by the City's garbage trucks and recycle trucks. I think we all saw the difference in the surface of the streets where this heavy trucks were making tight turns.

The City and the County are still doing some utility work on the streets. They are most noticeably placing concrete around sewer access points and water main access points. This will help keep our streets in a better condition for a longer period of time.

Please remember that despite the inconvenience, our neighborhood will be better for it in the end. It may seem like an never ending project, but our streets are already much better than they have been for decades.

### THE BOARDED UP HOUSE

One other thing that has made a big improvement to our neighborhood was the removing of the boards from the "Boarded Up House" at 6934 East Kingston Drive. The boards were replaced by a higher grade of Plexiglass which has improved the outward appearance of the house. Now it is not the eyesore that it has been for the ten plus years. Not bad that it took the City this long to force the change considering the City Ordinance says a house can only be boarded up for 18 months.

## PUT YOUR BLUE BIN TO WORK

*Courtesy of Long Realty Advantage business partners and Dyann Miller from October 1, 2018*

We've all seen the trend in being a more earth-conscious consumer; from bringing your own reusable shopping bags to skipping the plastic straw with your drink at restaurants. At the end of the day, most of these trends are all about keeping *stuff* out of the local landfills. To help you get the most out of your blue bin, contact your local recycling management. While most tend to follow the same rules, the more you know, the more you can safely throw in the bin!

Recycling can be a great alternative to the landfill, but if you are throwing the wrong items into your blue bin it could do more harm than good. Things like plastic straws, plastic shopping bags, oily pizza boxes, or soggy paper can gum up the machines at the recycling plant and shut the entire process down until the machine can be cleared up.

Not only does recycling save things from spending a lifetime (or a few) in a landfill, it also saves energy! For most products, it is considerably more energy efficient to make it out of recycled materials than from raw materials. For example, the amount of energy saved from making one aluminum can out of recycled instead of raw materials can power a television for two to three hours.

Bottles, plastic containers (plastic types 1-7), glass containers, metal cans, cardboard, paper, junk mail, notebooks, and magazines can all be recycled. Just be sure that they are clean and dry. Leftover food gunk adds up to a mess in the machinery. Be sure to skip dirty or damp items, shredded paper, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, and plastic bags.

You can also recycle lids to containers if you put the lids back on the container. According to the city of Tucson, anything smaller than a tennis ball can fall through the machinery and cause trouble. So put the lids on bottles or throw them out. Also due to their size, prescription bottles and plastic coffee pods can't be recycled.

Some things should just skip the blue bin all together. While you can recycle glass containers, glass bowls like crystal or Pyrex are a different story. Those are best donated if unbroken. Batteries, electronics, and light bulbs can all be recycled, just not in the blue bin. Plastic bags can be recycled at local stores or donated to local pet shelter to help clean up after dogs on their walks.