

Some Words from the SHHA President

By Richard Krumbain

The first quarter of 1994 was a busy one for the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association. The shocking murder at Circle K made us realize that, even in our beautiful community, we are vulnerable. In addition the Architectural Review Committee spent long hours reviewing requests for both new construction and remodeling. With the increasing cost of land, both of these areas are on the rise. Increased development also brings an increase in covenant violations. Covenants' compliance is everyone's responsibility. The Covenants are designed to protect the quality and desirability of Sandia Heights. The Association is actively pursuing remedies to insure that all Covenant violations are corrected.

The unfortunate incident at Circle K brought to light the need for more security and community involvement. After the incident, the Board of Directors met with County officials, members of the Sheriff's Department, and Circle K officials. Although plans are under way for construction of a Sheriff's Substation in our area (see Page 7), the Board has requested that the Sheriff's Department increase its patrols in the Sandia Heights area and temporarily staff a substation at either the Firehouse, or at Circle K. Both the Sheriff and the County Commissioners are evaluating these requests.

Sandia Heights, with its unique and increasingly rare focus on a natural desert environment, is particularly vulnerable to an erosion of architectural standards in the foothills locations.

The Morgan Development at Tramway and San Bernardino has caused, understandably, quite a stir. As a result of complaints from adjacent homeowners, the Board of Directors met with County Commissioner Barbara Seward and Public Works officials. As a result, the County is closely monitoring the development to ensure compliance with all permits and requirements.

As mentioned above, the Covenant Enforcement Committee has been very busy (see page 8). The number of complaints for violation of the Covenants has increased. Violators were sent warning letters, and those who refused to take corrective action have been referred to our attorneys for legal enforcement.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, these are times of severe population pressures. Sandia Heights, with its unique and increasingly rare focus on a natural desert environment, is particularly vulnerable to an erosion of architectural standards in the foothills locations. We need to continue with a strong SHHA Board of Directors, a high membership enrollment, and plenty of support for the qualities of life we want to preserve up here. Please attend the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 4 June (see back page). Your input and support is vital.

I firmly believe that Sandia Heights is the most beautiful and desirable community in the region. The Homeowners Association is here to ensure that Sandia Heights continues to be as desirable. However, we cannot do it alone. Please support your association. It is here to work for you, but we need everyone's involvement.

THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING - 1994



Development! SHHA Watches It All For You

By Bob Kemble - SHHA New Development Chair

Look there, more construction! I wonder what impact that housing development will have on Sandia Heights? Are the building requirements and restrictions being properly observed and enforced? What will be the effect on utilities and traffic of such projects, along with the new school approval for this general area? With all the growth in our area, will the widening of Paseo del Norte come soon enough to meet the anticipated traffic flow? Is there any way to speed the process? What about the preservation of open lands? Are they adequately included in the County's long-range development plans? Such questions are among the considerable and ever-changing set of concerns related to new development in Sandia Heights and adjacent areas which come to our individual and collective minds.

One of the many voluntary services provided by the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association Board, is to assist our residents in keeping tabs on such matters. The basic purpose, of course, is to help Sandia Heights homeowners in their understanding of new developments, to aid in planning, and to head off potential problems before they materialize. Accordingly, from time to time, SHHA will provide updates and information through *THE GRIT*, as well as other channels. In this issue we will look at four items of current interest.

TRAMWAY IMPROVEMENT

While the Tramway improvement program has provided its share of orange-barrel vexations, we should happily note that the project has stayed on schedule. Latest estimates are that the work will be essentially completed by 30 July. That certainly ought to provide some welcome relief of traffic congestion in the foreseeable future. The downside, however, will probably be the temptation for some to see an use Tramway as a speedway. Moreover there will surely be renewed temptations for some late-night truckers to disobey ordinances by using Tramway as a short-cut between I-25 north and I-40 east, and vice versa.

versa. SHHA has asked both the Sheriff's Office and the State Police to be especially alert to these potential situations.

INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE

As reported earlier in *THE GRIT*, an important step was taken this year — even before the the frightful and tragic homicide at the Circle K — to enhance law enforcement presence in our area. At SHHA's request, and with the effective teaming of our supportive state and county elected representatives, a bill was passed in the Legislature providing funds for the construction of a Sheriff's Command Center in the far northeastern heights. The building will also include a much-needed meeting facility.

The Command Center should bring us a more regular presence of Sheriff's officers.

Senator Tom Wray and County Commissioner Barbara Seward, along with SHHA, have strongly recommended that Sheriff's patrolmen use the firehouse as a temporary base until the new command center is completed. We will continue to monitor this area of concern and keep you apprised.

In recognition of their collective efforts on our behalf, the SHHA Board of Directors, at its March meeting, passed a formal motion extending our sincere appreciation to Senators Tom Wray and Janice Pasteur, Representatives Kip Nicely and Mark Caruso, and Commissioner Barbara Seward for their essential work.

(Continued on Page 5)

THE GRIT

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Roundhouse Report

If the State Legislature was a guy looking to buy a used car, he would scour the classifieds; and find an ad for the old Cadillac he was seeking: "... has a few hundred thousand miles on it, late model, runs good, asking price \$2,500 ...". Then he would call the seller and offer him \$5,000 for the car! Point is, most members of the Legislature, though liberal in spending your money, become staunch conservatives when it comes to tax relief. Here's a summary of what the Legislature did both for and to you in the last session.

SPENDING

Although inflation during FY95 (begins 1 July) was estimated by State Government to hover around 3%, the Legislature passed a budget of \$2.6 billion in HB2, representing an increase over FY94 of 9%. Then another \$267 million in spending was added in so-called "HB2 Junior". In addition, \$187 million in general obligation and severance tax bond revenues were committed to being spent in FY95. When you add that to federal funds and off-balance-sheet spending (ie. Highway Department, Game & Fish Department, etc.) total spending in FY95 will top \$6 billion.

Out of the state budget, public education got an 8.6% increase, a 6% raise for teachers, and \$55 million in "bricks and mortar" money for schools. Still public education's share of the total spending pie continued its decline to 46.1% ... a very troubling trend.

TAX RELIEF

Against the backdrop of total state government spending of \$6 billion, the Legislature managed tax relief for New Mexicans of a mere \$47 million ... income taxes down by \$12 million ... a tax credit on prescription drugs worth \$6 million ... a few low-income rebates worth \$12 million, and, a suspension -- not repeal -- of 2 cents of the universally unpopular 6 cents per gallon gas tax, worth \$17 million. This suspended tax kicks back in automatically, without any action of the Legislature, on July 1, 1997 ... sort of a stealth tax increase. But it will help get incumbents in the House of Representatives re-elected, who voted for the 6 cents gas tax in 1993.

Republicans in the House & Senate offered numerous bills to provide more tax relief for New Mexicans, but all measures were not allowed out of committee for recorded up or down votes on either floor. Among these were:

- a \$200 million reduction in income taxes, resulting in a 36% decrease dropping over 100,000 New Mexicans from the annual filing requirement (This measure would have lowered our top rate of 8.5%, the highest in the continental US, to 7.5%);
- reinstatement of a low-income tax rebate on gross receipts tax paid on purchases and medical expenses, worth \$12 million (repealed in 1993);
- a tax break for public and private retirees on retirement income derived from pensions and annuities, worth \$18 million; and,
- repeal of the gross receipts tax on prescription drugs, medical services, and prosthetic devices, reducing our tax on misery by \$93 million.

These, and many similar measures remained tabled in committees, and died quietly without consideration, debate, hearing or vote ... all victims of *One Party Rule* in Santa Fe.

CRIME

Your Legislature really got tough with the career felon in New Mexico. In the so-called "3 Strikes and You're Out" bill, we said, in effect, that after you have murdered or raped your third person, we'll lock you up for thirty years! Although we managed to ban handgun possession for people under 19, and prohibit deadly weapons on school grounds, we should have done much more to deal with the epidemic of violent crime in our states. Our state's parole policies need a complete re-assessment. We should consider "truth-in-sentencing" statutes that require an inmate to serve a high fixed percentage of his sentence, as a precondition to any "good time" accrual or parole eligibility. Whatever the final evolution of criminal policy at the national or state level, the assured finality of long term incarceration for violent criminals is a legitimate component to effective anti-crime policy.

We will provide THE GRIT readers with a preview of the 1995 Legislative Session in a future issue. But the big items undoubtedly will be huge revenue surpluses and a frenzy to spend it; a battle over tax relief; health care "reform"; retail wheeling of electricity; and, more anti crime legislation.

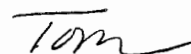
See you then, and thanks for your membership and support of our Homeowners Association.



Mark Caruso
State Representative
District 23



Kip Nicely
State Representative
District 31



Tom Wray
State Senator
District 21

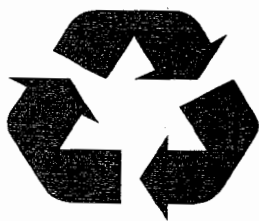


Coffee
Corner

May 11
Mary Colton
Cedar Hill Road
856-7484

June 22
Jane Rice
7729 Cedar Canyon Court
856-7224

July 13
Jan Stumph
232 Spring Creek Court
856-3551



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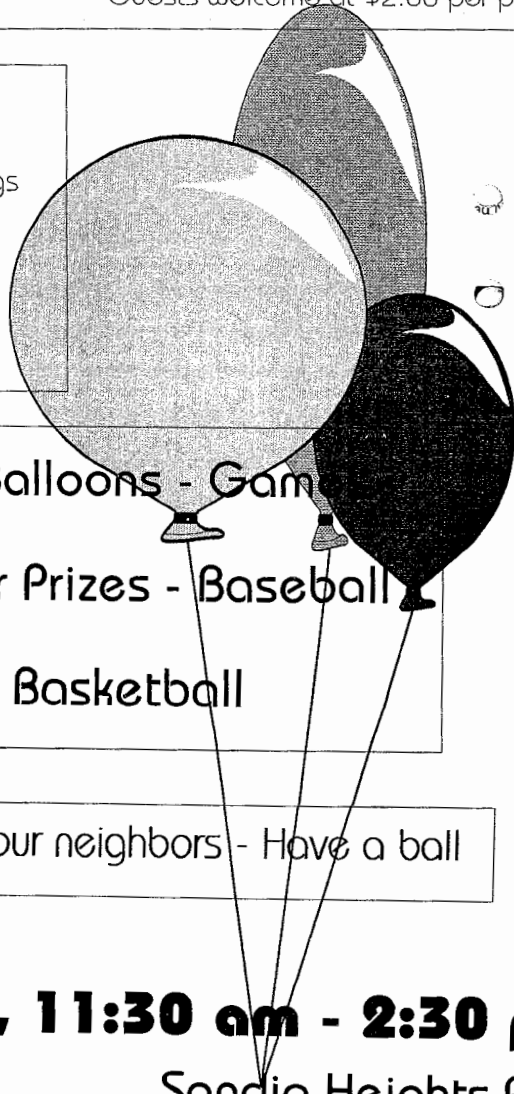
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Dick Stumph



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Saturday, May 14, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Sandia Heights Park

(West of Juniper Hill Rd between Tramway Rd & Cedar Hill Road)

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor are accepted on any subject relevant to life in Sandia Heights. Unsigned letters will not be published, although the name may be withheld on request. **THE GRIT** reserves the right not to publish letters and may abridge letters due to space requirements, but will make every effort to retain the substance of the communication.

Dear Editor

You may be aware of two traffic concerns that are not within our immediate neighborhood, but they will impact us. In fact, those two emerging issues may directly impact your neighborhood's **public safety** and **quality of life**.

I believe we share the same relative prosperity and some of the same problems, two in particular. The **Eubank Access** and **Tramway Truck Traffic**.

During my training runs... I noticed the construction of an access into Tanoan and 18 wheelers on Tramway. Both roads in use were obviously in question by me because of the construction involved. I had heard that *the city was to provide an access road into Tanoan*, so that 50 to 60 homes could be built on the north side of the golf course and that 18 wheelers were to be *banned from Tramway Boulevard*.

The truth is the city has not finished a design study to build an access road into or through Tanoan. A private contractor did an end run and built a "temporary access road" he wanted to take care of business. The city will now take possession of the road and connect it to Eubank "north" (San Antonio) as soon as the "county" asphalt from Modesto (south). The Tanoan Neighborhood Association is not informed, as well as, any other neighborhood associations. **Public Safety is at risk**. The current construction will not hold up to the traffic of the coming residential, commercial or heavy equipment vehicles.

Please call the Mayor's Office and make your voice heard. Without guard rails over the golf-cart underpasses, without proper lighting, without heavy asphalt, without proper fencing, without a barricade on San Antonio until the road meets the same Eubank specifications, the **public will not be safe**.

An ex-mayor and current trucking lobbyist wants you to ignore the fact that 18 wheelers will be using Tramway Boulevard as a by-pass around our city. Also, note that the road was not built to carry the heavy loads of 18 wheelers. Even though increased truck traffic will decrease our quality of life (smog, noise, etc.) our main concern should be **public safety**. In fact, we should remind our government officials that their mission is to insure public safety. Act now or your State Department of Transportation will approve the use of Tramway to 18 wheelers and net the lobbyist his compensation.

Please consider joining our coalition forces to ensure public safety and quality of life.

Sincerely

Tim Walsh

Vice-President, Academy Hills Park Neighborhood Association
5608 Amisted Road NE

Albuquerque NM 87111 (822-7978)

(Ed Note: Tim Walsh is a Republican candidate for the June primary District 23 House of Representatives)



Robin Otten's Campaign for the U.S. Senate

Is Lifting Off!

Our own Sandia Heights neighbor (Republican) is running for the U.S. Senate. Her campaign will be launched on Saturday, May 28 (Memorial Day Weekend) in Sandia Heights Park from 7 - 10 AM. Come and give it a push!



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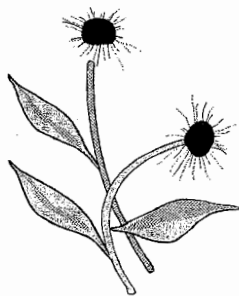
Dear Editor

Sandia Heights has beautiful surroundings, including a dazzling night sky. Unfortunately, the Sandia Pueblo Casino spotlights are cutting wide swaths through that brilliant sky. Those gyrating beacons shine even beyond Sandia Crest, letting coyotes, hoot owls, and highorn sheep (if there are any left) know that Bingo is on.

I enjoy immensely, as I'm sure many residents of Sandia Heights do, looking at the stars and the moon. Let's try to reclaim an undisturbed view of the night sky. Please give me a call if you're interested in stopping the spotlights.

Sincerely

Paul Montner
303 Spring Creek Place NE
856-6494



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(Continued from Page 1)

MORGAN DEVELOPMENT

The Don Morgan development, east of Tramway and north of San Bernardino is generally proceeding as planned and as discussed with SHHA years ago. Nevertheless, there have been recent concerns about several lots exceeding approved elevations significantly, thus blocking up the essential drainage of the arroyo on the north side and the granting of building permits without application of the full approval process. These issues were aired and discussed with County Department of Public Works officials in open forum at the March SHHA meeting. The parties involved have been addressing those matters but, as of mid-April, SHHA had received no indications of real progress in the clarification of circumstances and correction of problems.

PARKS PROJECTS

The Bernalillo County Parks & Recreation Department has requested proposals from architectural firms for design of parks projects in North Albuquerque Acres, immediately to the west of Sandia Heights. These include improvement to the Little League facility at Eubank and Paseo del Norte and construction of soccer fields somewhere in NAA. Prior to final approval of the site plans there will be a public hearing. We will keep you advised.

Obviously, there are a number of other matters related to new developments in Sandia Heights which warrant reporting. As stated, one of SHHA's *pro bono* services is to endeavor to keep a watchful eye on these matters, to provide a forum for addressing related concerns and, when appropriate, to suggest solutions. You, as homeowners with vested interests, can assist materially in two essential ways - (1) By joining SHHA and (2) by supplying thoughtful and objective information and observations.

(Continued from Back Page)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The current board has named the following Directors to the Nominating Committee:

Richard Stumph (Chair)
Christie Kawal
Ann Yegge

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility of establishing the qualifications of prospective Directors and presenting a slate of candidates to the General Membership Meeting for election. Board members with expiring terms are eligible for re-election.

All SHHA members are urged to consider the names of potential candidates for office and to submit them to Evelyn Patten, SHHA Administrative Assistant (296-1412) for inclusion on the ballot paper. Prior to the submission of a name, please determine from that person whether or not he or she would accept the position if elected.

As each issue of *THE GRIT* shows us, these are times of severe population pressures on most Albuquerque residential areas. Sandia Heights, with its unique and increasingly rare focus on a natural desert environment, is particularly vulnerable to an erosion of architectural standards in the foothills locations. Historically, the SHHA Boards have been strong and active in staying abreast of these developments and have worked hard to forestall any deterioration of covenant provisions, or legislation which may encroach on the quality of life promised in those covenants. It is even more essential today that the SHHA Board

continues to be populated with active community leaders who will devote a significant slice of their energy to this purpose.

There are many SHHA members who possess the qualities needed to keep their Board strong. Identify them and nominate them.

SHHA Supports Crimestoppers More Help Needed

The SHHA Board voted at the April meeting to donate \$100 to the local **Crime Stoppers** organization to support their efforts in solving the Circle K murder that occurred last February. We believe very strongly in promoting safety in our neighborhood and hope that residents will also support this action with their own donation to **Crime Stoppers**. Our Sandia Heights Homeowners Association will be working closely with our County Commissioner, Barbara Seward, for support for our neighborhood safety and preventative measures to discourage crime in our community. Join with us and contribute to **Crime Stoppers** with your own donation. Remember, if you have any information to contribute that may help solve this crime call

Crime Stoppers 843-STOP (7876)

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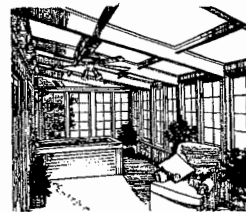
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| Live Oak Dist Rep | Vacant | |
| Yucca Dist Rep | Vacant | |

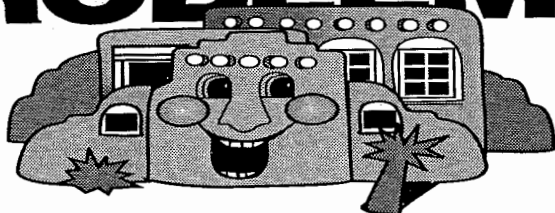
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Commissioner Seward Reports Sheriff's Substation on Track

By Barbara Seward - Bernalillo County Commissioner - District #4

Good News! All issues concerning our North East Heights Sheriff's Command Center are moving forward in a timely manner. With cooperation from the Sheriff's Department and the Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, we have narrowed the list of possible sites and at this point in time are seriously considering two possible options. When the final site is selected, we will inform the community.

We want to have our joint powers agreement with AMAFCA in place before we receive funding from the State in August. As soon as the funds are available we will go out with a request for proposal for architectural design. We will work closely with the architect and the Sheriff's Department to bring forth a design that will accommodate the Sheriff's

More Deputies Needed to Protect County Says Sheriff Gallagher

By Ray Gallagher - Sheriff, Bernalillo County

As a Sandia Heights resident myself (8/79), I too am concerned with the recent events that clearly show insufficient personnel plays a large part in the lack of officer presence in that area.

During my administration and that of my predecessors, requests for deputies have fallen on, if not deaf, then at least extremely hard of hearing ears.

Since our jurisdiction is principally in the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County, our compliment of (218) certified officers is stretched to its limits as this includes administration, criminal investigations, crime suppression, civil duties, court security (including District, Metropolitan, and the Juvenile Justice Center), and 24-hr coverage of both valleys, Paradise Hills, Sandia Heights, the Village of Los Ranchos, and the East Mountains. Approximately 1200 square miles.

I would be happy to address any group that would like further elaboration as to how to best face these problems.

We have succeeded in replacing the previously full-time young certified officers with certified but retired officers who have completed 20 years or better of service to a New Mexico law enforcement agency. This move saves the County over \$250,000 a year and puts the

young officers in the field. Progress yes, but in view of the burgeoning population, still not adequate to properly police and patrol all of the areas for which we are responsible.

You can contact me on any of the following list of numbers:

- Office 768-4100
- Home 856-6760
- Cellular 259-1451
- Anonymous Line (burglary & narcotics activity) 263-8000



Barbara Seward

requirements as well as the desires of the community.

We have been meeting with Undersheriff Joe Williamson. The talks have been very productive. All sorts of exciting ideas are coming forth concerning how our Command Center will be staffed, what units will be working from that site.

With all the good news, we have encountered less than satisfactory progress in another matter. I will continue to impress on the Undersheriff just how important we consider the placement of deputies in our area in the interim. Both Circle K and the Fire Department have offered their facilities. Surely there is a solution to this dilemma.

On May 5, staff members from the Counties Capital Improvement Program will meet with us at the Fire Station. The purpose of the meeting is to teach us how to influence priorities in the C.I.P. We are being invited into the process. This is a meeting too good to miss!

In the next issue of *THE GRIT*, I hope to have good news for you concerning the new elementary school in North Albuquerque Acres. Until then, enjoy this beautiful time of the year. Call me if you need me 768-4001.

Montgomery & Andrews

Professional Association - Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Richard M. Krumbein
Attorney at Law

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What is Progressive Revelation?

The fundamental principle enunciated by Baha'u'llah, the followers of His Faith firmly believe, is that religious truth is not absolute but relative, that Divine Revelation is a continuous and progressive process, that all the great religions of the world are divine in origin, that their basic principles are in complete harmony, that their aims and purposes are one and the same, that their teachings are but facets of one truth, that their functions are complementary, that they differ only in the non-essential aspects of their doctrines, and that their missions represent successive stages in the spiritual evolution of human society.

Each divine revelation is divided into two parts. The first part is essential and belongs to the external world. It is the exposition of Divine truths and essential principles. It is the expression of the love of God. This is one in all religions, unchangeable and immutable. The second part is not eternal; it deals with practical life; transactions and business, and changes according to the evolution of man and the requirements of the time of each Prophet

Five million members in 205 countries make it the world's second most widespread religion. What is it? Find out. For information about the Baha'i Faith, please call 856-1655

Wildflower Club Begins New Season with New Board

By Carol Treat

The following summer schedule for the *Wildflower Club* is published for the information of all Sandia Heights residents who love wildflowers and plants. New? Confused as to how to garden here and create nature in your own backyard? Come join us!

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at Volunteer Fire House #5, Paseo del Norte, at 7:30 PM.

- 18 May** Curtis Smith will speak on gardens. He will answer all questions. Bring lists. He teaches the Master Gardener's and is a horticulturalist from NMSU extension here in Albuquerque.
- 4 Jun** (9 AM to 12 Noon). Garden Tour
- 31 Jul** (9 AM to 12 Noon). Picnic Rancho de los Golondrines and tour of native plant nurseries in Santa Fe
- 28 Sep** (6 PM) Pot Luck at Maxine Jackson's, 2029 Quail Run Drive. A-M bring salads ... N-Z (the good stuff) bring desserts. Dues due ... \$5 per family.

New Wildflower Club Board:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Carol Treat |
| Vice President | Bobi Chenhall |
| Treasurer | Sue Teresi |
| Secretary | Joyce Cantergiani |
| Member | Gil Grady |
| Member | Kenneth Peterson |
| Member | Jane Rice |

Mary Colton has worked very hard to secure funds to landscape Tramway from Paseo del Norte to Tramway and Tramway. She has done this and "thanks" is much too little to say to express all our gratitude to making our neighborhood more beautiful. Mucho "thank-yous", Mary. The Wildflower Club will be planting seed when the project is finished. Watch for notification.

The members would like to thank Maxine Jackson and her board for the great job they did in 1993-94.

Only 1% of S Hts Residents Have Covenant Problems

By Jim Nachbar - SHHA Covenant Support Chair


The Covenant Control Committee has continued to be active over the past few months. With computerization of the database, we have been able to track the few chronic violations much more accurately.

Since last August, we have sent 102 letters about covenant violations to 52 residents. Of these, 23 are resolved, but 29 remain outstanding. Of that 29, 8 have just received the first letter and have not had an opportunity to respond. We have turned over 10 of the long-standing violations to our attorney, who is beginning the process of instituting legal action. This includes 3 motor homes, 2 boats, 1 camping trailer, 1 pile of dirt, 1 unapproved shed, and 1 fence and screen.

The good news is that, of over 1,800 residents in Sandia Heights, this is less than 1%. We wish to thank the overwhelming majority of Sandia Heights homeowners for their contribution to making our unique environment so enjoyable.


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Sandia Heights Security Patrol Responses
Jan - March, 1994

| TYPE OF CALL | NUMBER |
|---|-------------|
| Alarms | 202 |
| Motorist assist | 42 |
| Breaking & entering | 2 |
| Attempted breaking & entering | 0 |
| Construction site burglary | 1 |
| Suspicious vehicle | 105 |
| Suspicious person | 24 |
| Animal control assist | 4 |
| Lost &/or found pet | 4 |
| Snake | 0 |
| Family dispute | 1 |
| Neighbor dispute | 3 |
| Loud/disruptive party | 2 |
| Fireworks complaint | 0 |
| Vandalism (general) | 52 |
| Vandalism (mailbox) | 52 |
| Speeding vehicle | 5 |
| Unusual special request | 37 |
| Salesman problems | 33 |
| Phone problems | 2 |
| Car accident | 11 |
| Fire | 10 |
| Rescue | 14 |
| Utility company assist | 18 |
| Construction sites | 5 |
| Vacant houses (for sale, etc.) | 10 |
| Specials (extra patrols or observation) | 28 |
| Homeowners on vacation | 414 |
| TOTAL CALLS | 1042 |




Sandia Heights' "Peak Performer"

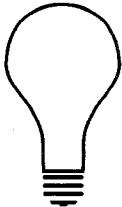
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Foothills Trails Access Survey Finds No Solution

By Pete Alexander SHHA Parks & Recreation Chair

Last issue's article on points used by residents to access the foothills trails was intended as a simple enquiry into Sandia Heights resident's interest in developing alternative access points to the foothills trails area.

The SHHA Board has the following *official position* regarding access to the foothills.

Authorized access is through the Gallegos Picnic Area and the top of Cedar Hill ONLY. There is parking available at Elena Gallegos but NOT at the top of Cedar Hill. The Board does not have the power to enforce this authorization, nor deny it in any way. Denying (or permitting) access at other points is a responsibility left up to the affected homeowners. Any further inquiries should be directed to Floyd Thompson of the Sandia Ranger District (281-3304).

I apologize to anyone who feels that my prior article was misleading in any way. That certainly was not its intent. To those who would enjoy more convenient access, the Board extends its own apologies that it is unable to assist.

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Circle K - Report to Board Members

By County Commissioner Barbara Seward & State Senator Tom Wray

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association, Carl Bottenus, Operations Manager for the Circle K Corporation, provided a status report on their activities. He indicated they were approximately 60% complete in their efforts to double staff in their area stores, and they were continuing with interviewing, hiring, and training new clerks. Circle K has completed installation of an interactive video system in all of their Albuquerque stores. Their *Light Bright Program*, designed



Commissioner Barbara Seward

store parking lots, is continuing. Mr Bottenus indicated they currently do not plan to add parking lot lighting at their Tramway store.

In other remarks, he added that there had been little progress in the apprehension of the felons involved in the killing of Russell Nelson. Crimestoppers has offered a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to a conviction. Circle K has added a donation of \$10,000 for Crimestoppers' use in this case. In related action the Board unanimously approved a \$100 donation to Crimestoppers. We want to encourage every resident in our community to consider donating, as well.

County Commissioner Barbara Seward has indicated that she is continuing to work on details with the Sheriff's Department (see story elsewhere in this issue) for a temporary Sheriff's Command Center, while we await construction of our new permanent facility. Circle K continues to offer space in the Tramway store to

In closing, Mr Bottenus indicated their current plan is to operate their Tramway store by changing store hours from 5 AM to midnight, daily, and not return to 24 hour operation at this time. Circle K has also agreed to assist us with our *Spring Fling* planned for May 14th (see separate story this issue), with donations of food, soft drinks, and ice.

We sincerely appreciate Circle K's collective efforts and their genuine attitude of continuing their good neighbor policy in Sandia Heights.



David Stoliker - Engineering Manager
Department of Public Works

substantially improve surface illumination in their accommodate this interim security initiative.

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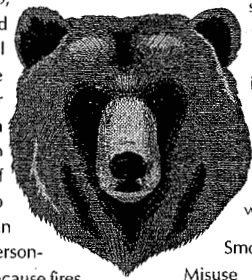
A View From the Ranger's Office

By Ranger Floyd Thompson

On August 9, 1944, Smokey first appeared on a poster carrying the message "SMOKEY SAYS: CARE WILL PREVENT 9 OUT OF 10 FOREST FIRES!" The campaign grew into one of the most successful advertising campaigns of all times. In 1950, a small cub survived a terrible fire on the Lincoln National Forest in Capitan, New Mexico. Forest Rangers nursed him to health and the agency made the bear a gift to the National Zoo for all of the children of America. In 1976, the aged bear died and a new, adopted son carried on the tradition to 1990 until he too died. Both are buried in the State Park in Capitan, dedicated to their honor in service to Smokey. Smokey lives on and this year we celebrate his 50th anniversary. Smokey Bear had a goal of introducing forest fire prevention to young children, saying, "Only you can prevent forest fires". Preventing person-caused fires is still an important goal, because fires started in dry times with dangerous winds can produce devastating impacts to the land and its community of life.

Yet, we are learning that fire is a natural force in our ecosystems. Many communities, or plants and individual species, are dependent on fire for their

health and regeneration. Aspen, for example, is a phenomenon of hot fires. Ponderosa pine forests have fire histories showing regular intervals of low intensity fires every 7-10 years that reduced the competition of many small plants in the understory.



Fire history is being studied through tree research on the Sandias, showing that ever since European settlement in the 1600s to the present, humans have been using or controlling fire's role in the ecosystem. Fire must be returned to the forest, but, due to the high levels of human occupation of the Sandias, in carefully planned and managed ways

Smokey is right. Prevent wildfires. Misuse of fire can be extremely destructive. Our science and history is showing us professional ways to return fire to the ecosystem in careful ways that will begin to restore health to many of these fire-dependent communities. It will take close cooperation with our neighbors, Game and Fish and the City/County Air Quality Board, but I am beginning to see progress.

I am coming up on seven years as your Ranger on the Sandia/Manzanita Mountains. My beginnings were in New England from a long line of descendants, going back to Plymouth Colony. I have a degree in Environmental Science and Landscape Architecture. I still speak broken Spanish from volunteer service in Chile and Easter Island and have been a professional landscape architect since 1974.

I have been a leader in wilderness program development in the Southwest and am an avid supporter of cultural heritage and maintaining living history traditions on the land to the extent they do not destroy the national heritage *in situ*.

I believe in customer service as part of our name, FOREST SERVICE, just as I do conservation of the FORESTS. I see the forest as a community of life which includes the species *homo sapiens*. I see that we are spiritually out of balance with this community and part of my role is to help find that balance, for all cultures, not just one. I like my job, those I work with and those I serve. I realize that we cannot have democracy, nor can we have land stewardship without an informed, responsible citizenry. To that end I am also committed.

Hope to see you on the trail, in the woods, or in town.



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Spring Season Stirs Tramway Landscaping Program

By Mary Colton - SHHA Tramway Landscape Task Force Chair

Now that Spring has arrived, landscaping should resume along Tramway. *Baca's Trees* is scheduled to complete the planting from Simms Park to Paseo del Norte beginning in May. The High Desert Development will be adding to the plantings along their frontage during the summer, using natives and other low-water-use plants similar to the rest of the Tramway project.

Watch for an announcement of a seed planting day the latter half of July. The Tramway Task Force has 60 pounds of native flower seed to plant when the contract work is finished. With the help of the landscape designer and the Sandia Heights Wildflower Club, the Task Force will organize teams to plant the seed in designated stretches of the roadside. All neighborhood help will be welcome!

For the roadside north of Paseo del Norte, landscape plans are also progressing. During the winter the county secured funds, and landscape plans are in the final design stage. Once environmental clearance has been received, the county will advertise for bids and will hope to have irrigation work begin in June. The planting of trees and shrubs should be completed this season. The planned seeding of native flowers and grasses may have to wait until next year.

While not all of us view the construction along Tramway as an *improvement*, we hope that the results will be attractive. *Have patience*, however; native plants do most of their growing underground for the first couple of years; only when their root systems are well established can they fill out and provide the greens and blossoms that we are expecting. Please don't make a U-turn across the medians; chamisa have been planted there.

Spring Fling Is Here - Holiday Bazaar Just Around the Corner

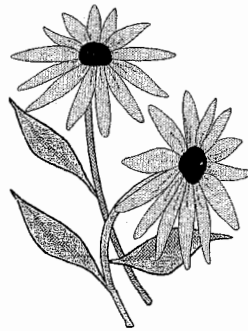
By Barbara Bensonhaver

It's time for the annual Spring Fling Picnic. This year's date is May 14th, so grab a lawn chair and join us for lots of food and fun. It's a great way to get together with people you haven't seen all winter. Remember, it's free for all Sandia Heights Homeowners Association members. Non members are just \$2.00 each (or sign up at the gate and come in free).

We would like to remind people to clean up after their dogs, not just before the picnic, but year round, so that we can all enjoy the park.

Calling all artists and crafters. The Holiday Bazaar will be held in October again this year. We'd like to invite all who are interested to enter, whether or not you have participated in the past. I do need someone to help with the organization. Please call if you can help (856-9110).

Neighborhood coffees are a great way to get to know your neighbors. Plan on attending, and meet some friendly people! (see dates and hostesses in the Coffee Column) If you would like to have one in your home, please call and pick a date.



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Recycling

By Pete Alexander - SHHA Recycling Chair

You may not have heard, but three of our most popular "green" magazines are on the verge of bankruptcy. Has ecoawareness suddenly become "un-cool"? Is it possible that recycling, for instance, is no longer "fashionable"? Actually, no, it has not. In fact, recycling -- in Greater Albuquerque anyway -- is going along smoother than ever. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the rest of Bernalillo County and, as a consequence, Sandia Heights.

The Recycling Committee of your Homeowners' Association continues to work the issue, but no near-term resolution appears in sight. So, in the interim, we are providing those who wish to continue to "do their part" with a list of locations which accept recyclable materials. Quite frankly, I can tell you first hand that collecting materials for a month or so, then making one big trip to one or more recycling centers not only becomes effortless, but actually makes you feel pretty good, to say nothing of what it's doing to help our environment. Here, then, is where you can take your recyclable materials:

Hazardous Waste (batteries, oils, paints, etc.)

Hazardous Waste Collection Center
6133 Edith NE (between Osuna & Montano)
Friday 8:30 - 4:30
Saturday 8:00 - 3:00

Glass

Bear Canyon Senior Center
4645 Pitt NE (North of Montgomery)
First Saturday of each month 9:00 - 3:00

Aluminum Cans

Reynolds Aluminum Trucks
Exit: Menaul & Eubank

Cardboard

Master Fibers
116 Industrial NE
Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00

Used Oil

Mesa Oil
4701 Broadway SE
Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00

Newspaper - Cardboard - Paper (plain, white, colored, computer - no magazines) - Plastics (milk & water jugs only) - aluminum cans

Waste Management of New Mexico
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Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:00

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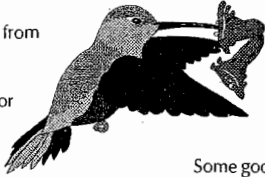
All proceeds for public viewing go to ARCA, The Association For Retarded Citizens Of Albuquerque

How to Attract Hummingbirds To Your Garden

Here are a few tips on attracting hummingbirds to gardens in the high-desert area. It draws upon the experiences of staff in the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's Aviary and upon what they have learned about the birds, their needs, and the plants they depend upon.

PROVIDING FOOD & WATER

Flowers: Because some hummingbirds may winter in your garden, food should be provided year around. Hummingbirds drink nectar from flowers and also eat insects. Native plants provide recognizable food sources for the birds and also support native insects.



Hummingbird feeders: If no flowers are available when hummingbirds are present, set up an artificial feeder. Use sugar water (1 part table sugar to 4 parts water). Food coloring is not necessary. Clean your feeders at least once per week during cool weather and more often when it's hot. Use a diluted bleach solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water).

Food for the Birds, whether flowers or feeders, should be provided at all times. A gap in the food supply will cause the hummers to look elsewhere.

Bathing Water: For their baths, hummingbirds prefer moving water, either dripping or flowing.

PROVIDING PROTECTION AND SHELTER

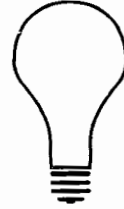
Roosting: Although hummingbirds are most often observed in flight, they actually spend most of their day resting. They prefer low, evergreen bushes and trees which are moderately dense with horizontal branching.

Some good examples are: *Simmondsia chinensis* (jojoba), *Ilex vomitoria* (Yaupon Holly), *Rhamnus californica* (California buckhorn), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), *Leucophyllum frutescens* (Texas Ranger), *Berberis haematocarpa* (barberry), *Vauquelinia californica* (Holly-leaved cherry), and *Rhus choriophylla* (sumac).

Nesting: Hummingbirds will nest where they feel comfortable and safe. To encourage nesting, you can provide nesting materials such as spider webbing, animal fur, plant down, cotton thread, strips of tissue, or clothes dryer lint. Other birds may use these materials as well.

Cats are accomplished predators of hummingbirds. To protect the birds, keep cats indoors and hang the feeders beyond their reach.

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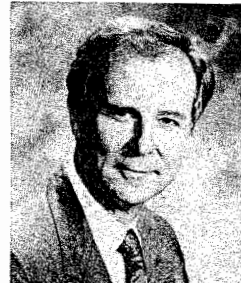
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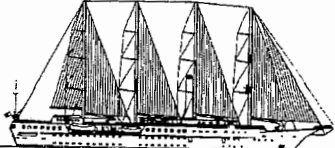
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THE GURRL



SHHA Annual General Meeting - 4 June

The Annual General Meeting of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association is scheduled for 10:00 AM, Saturday, 4 June, at the Paseo del Norte Fire Station. In accordance with Article 1.6 of the Bylaws of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association, this article constitutes the required written notice to SHHA members.

Although the meeting may consider other business, the principal purpose will be to elect directors to the SHHA Board to serve for a three-year period. The Board currently consists of 21 Directors (the Bylaws provide for 19 - 25). Nine Director positions will be vacated and available for election from the membership at large.

Of the 21 positions, 11 of them are appointed as District Representatives and it is a requirement that a Director resident in each District be appointed to those positions.

Each SHHA member household is allowed one vote.

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Spring Fling Picnic ... Saturday, 14 May
See flyer inside

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