

Pueblo of Sandia vs. Bruce Babbitt et al

By John Thomas – Chairman, Public Relations Committee, SMC

On December 6, 1994 Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt decided not to withdraw the 1988 opinion of the former Interior Department Solicitor. That opinion recommended denial of Sandia Pueblo's claim to 10,000 acres within the Cibola National Forest. On December 7, the Pueblo filed a lawsuit, *Pueblo of Sandia versus Bruce H. Babbitt, et al*, against the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture.

The legal committee of the Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC) applied to the US District Court to be "intervenor" on the side of the government defendants. Because the same Department of Justice attorney would represent the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture in the same case, the committee felt the attorney could not then adequately defend the interests of the Sandia Mountain Coalition as well. It was also believed that a mere amendment to the Pueblo's complaint – one "excluding" private land – would not settle the matter once and for all for the SMC.

On March 15, the Pueblo of Sandia filed an amended complaint in the lawsuit. It supposedly excluded "all land claimed in this action held in private ownership and all leases, rights-of-way, or other encumbrances in favor of private parties." The Pueblo now wants the land held "in trust" for it by the Department of Interior rather than transferred directly to the Pueblo.

Although it appears to be a "softening" of the case, this would still ensure that interests of the Pueblo would be served over the interests of other users of the claim area.

Because of federal restrictions on the inalienability of Indian land, the Pueblo cannot legally give away land just by "excluding" it from the complaint. If US District Court found that the Pueblo is entitled to all the land within its claim, it is doubtful whether the amendment excluding private land would be binding on the Pueblo if they change their minds later. Also the description of the "excluded" property, which included various subdivisions and taxable land, *did not* include Tierra Monte, Evergreen Hills or unplatted land within the claim area.

The Pueblo filed a response to the SMC's motion to intervene on March 20. The response called the SMC's interest in the matter "specious" because private land was now excluded from the claim area. It also said the SMC's interest in protecting public access to public forest and wilderness land was not sufficient to grant SMC any standing in the case.

FIVE REASONS WHY GUARANTEED TITLES ALONE WOULD NOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEM

1. The law prevents Native Americans from giving away "Indian land." If our property is found within their reservation, they are not allowed to give it away "gratuitously."
2. According to established legal precedent, property surrounded by Indian land can be administered by the tribe or pueblo, rather than city, county or state.
3. Even if titles are exempted or "guaranteed," the pueblo can still deny access.
4. Sandia Pueblo has already denied expansion of utilities, where pipes or lines would have crossed Pueblo land.
5. Whatever agreements are made, pueblo governments can change their minds. They are not bound by promises made by predecessors.

That same date, the US District Court filed a response to the SMC's motion to intervene, stating it would be moving to dismiss the case. The Court also said that if it lost its motion to dismiss, it wanted to be allowed to determine if SMC was a proper intervenor.

On March 24, the US District Court filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. Although the Justice Department is confident that its motion will be granted, it is impossible

to predict the outcome. The Pueblo will have an opportunity to respond to the motion to dismiss and the Department of Justice will then have an opportunity to reply. The case is likely to continue for several months and, if not dismissed, for even longer as the Justice Department investigates the merits of the claim.

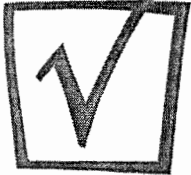
It is essential for the SMC to be represented and to have a place at the bargaining table to meet the goals set by the members at the last full membership meeting:

- to protect all public access to public land
- to protect any private property rights within the claim area
- to resolve the matter once and for all

NOTICE OF SHHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, 10:00AM

Paseo del Norte Fire Station



The principle purpose of this meeting is to elect directors to the SHHA Board to serve a three-year period. The Board currently consists of 21 directors, while the BYLAWS provide for 19-25. Eight positions will be vacated and available for election from the membership at large. Each member household is allowed one vote.

- BOARD MEMBER CHAIRS UP FOR ELECTION JUNE 3RD:**
- COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR
 - ARC CHAIR
 - COMMUNITY EVENTS CHAIR & CO-CHAIR
 - COVENANTS CHAIR
 - BOARD LEGAL ADVISOR
 - NEW DEVELOPMENTS COMMITTEE

THE GRIT

THE GRIT
is published quarterly
as the official newsletter
of the
**SANDIA HEIGHTS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**
P.O. Box 20021
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0021
Phone: 505-296-1412

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ROUNDHOUSE REPORT

At Noon on Saturday, March 18th, the sixty day session of the 42nd New Mexico Legislature was gaveled into history. The session was hectic, even frantic at times, with a new governor, a new cabinet and a slate of freshmen representatives assuming their chairs on the floor of the House of Representatives for the first time.

The new Governor faced the Democratic Leadership with his non-political brand of fiscal conservatism; a contempt for the plethora of boards and commissions in New Mexico; a desire to rid the state of the managerial constraints brought on by the Duran Consent Decree (read here as: build more prison bed space); and a conviction that the continued growth of state government should be attenuated. He also voiced his support for the outright repeal of the notorious 6¢ gasoline tax; the provision of adequate funding for public education; constraining the growth of gaming beyond a state lottery, the Indian Gaming Compacts and limited gaming at the racetracks; and extending general relief for all New Mexicans where possible.

Spending was held to an increase over last fiscal year of \$165,000 million. The majority party in the Legislature had recommended that spending increase by \$190,000 million; thus, the vetoes by the governor.

Governor Johnson's veto pen worked overtime rejecting practically every other senate and house bill, irrespective of the party affiliation of the bill sponsor. He carved money from the general appropriations budget, and used his line-item veto authority to reduce the capital outlay appropriations requested by lawmakers.

In our area, the Sandia Heights legislative delegation combined our efforts to obtain funding for the following projects:

1. follow-up funding of \$200,000 to complete the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Command Center building. Last session the Legislature appropriated \$350,000 to this important and much-needed law enforcement for our area;

2. capital improvements to Roadrunner Little League facilities will be forthcoming with an appropriation of \$150,000;

3. Del Rey NE will be paved with the \$200,000 appropriation obtained for the County; and,

4. blading and grubbing road maintenance in the North Albuquerque Acres area - \$100,000.

Additionally, financing of \$350,000 was obtained for a new public library in the Harper/Barstow area; \$100,000 to provide improvements at the Altamont Little League facility; and \$100,000 for a senior citizen meal site in the Academy/Wyoming area.

Other highlights of the past session include: appropriations for new state prisons in southern and eastern New Mexico; and a state lottery, with no expansion of gaming beyond the Indian Gaming Compacts, including no action to "legalize" video gaming machines currently in use by fraternal and charitable organizations.

The Sandia Heights legislative delegation is committed to working with Governor Gary Johnson in his effort to restrain the runaway growth of state government and the subsequent waste and mismanagement of the taxpayers' money.

Any Grit reader wishing to determine the fate of a particular bill should contact one of us at the numbers below. See you next issue.

Representative Kip Nicely
House District 31
881-2323

Senator Tom Wray
Senate District 21
888-9560

Representative Frank Bird
House District 23
823-4770



Wednesdays 10am - Noon

May 24th

Phyllis Miranda
545 Black Bear Loop
828-1670

June 21st

Pat Colket
1523 Eagle Ridge Road
856-1753

July 12th

Sally Churan
46 Cedar Hill Road
856-6503



WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR REFURBISHING OR REPLACING SANDIA HEIGHTS SIGNS. ANYONE WITH IDEAS, EXPERTISE, PLEASE CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

President's Comments

This is my last President's Message. Sandia Heights Homeowners Association's fiscal year is coming to a close on June 3rd, 1995. It has been a great honor and a very rewarding experience to serve as its president. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with an outstanding and dedicated group of people who volunteer countless hours for the benefit of all residents in our unique community.

At the June 3rd Annual Meeting of the SHHA, new board members and officers will be elected. To maintain the desirability of this community and protect our quality of life, as well as our property values, The Association needs the involvement of all residents. I know that many of you have concerns and suggestions about the direction this Association should take. This is your opportunity to affect change and make your views count. I encourage all of you to volunteer your time and valuable input.

Toni Seidel is the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. If you would like to serve in any capacity, contact her at 821-1791.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Evelyn and Andrew Patten, who efficiently ran the administrative section of the SHHA. They resigned effective April 30th. Their dedication and professionalism will surely be missed.

This has been a good year for the Association. Through membership drives, our numbers have increased substantially, although 30% of the Sandia Heights residents remain non-members. The New Mexico Legislature appropriated funds for a new Sheriff Substation in our area. The Park issue is not yet resolved, primarily because of the renewed attempts by Sandia Pueblo to claim rights to almost 10,000 acres of open space.

Enforcement of the Restrictive Covenants remains the primary responsibility of the SHHA. Various lawsuits have been filed and an injunction stopping construction in violation of Covenants was issued by a District Court. The Association will continue its efforts to ensure that our community does not deteriorate.

SHHA is your organization. Please volunteer your time and skills. Thank you for your support and for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president.

Richard Krumbein



From the desk of...
Barbara J. Seward

Bernalillo County Commissioner, District 4

We have reason for celebration concerning the help and support our area received for capital projects during the 1995 legislative session. Of most immediate concern to us is the additional \$200,000, for a total of \$550,000, Senator Wray was able to secure for the **Sheriff's Command Center**. The County will conduct interviews the week of April 24th for the selection of the design team. Our dream is getting closer to reality!

A new public library the city will be building is also a step closer to reality with the \$250,000 Senator Paster's bill has allocated. The library is to be located near Harper and Academy and the major funding will be a bond issue on the next City election. This facility will be a convenient and most welcome site for the entire far Northeast Heights. Frequently the County provides funding for books in City libraries and I will urge that we support this site, since it will be serving County residents.

County Parks and Recreation continues its struggle to determine an appropriate location for soccer fields. The decision is near and I will have definite news for you in the next issue of *The Grit*.

County Public Works is securing right-of-way for Paseo del Norte as quickly as agreements can be reached. Thus far we have not been forced to enter into condemnation proceedings; and it would be in everyone's best interest if that can be avoided.

Paseo del Norte is our number one priority and will remain our number one priority even though a corridor study has begun on Alameda. This study is a "look into the future." I hope many of you were able to attend the first public comment meeting held on April 12th. If you missed that one, it was only the first in a series. County Public Works is anxious to receive your input. Your association will be notified of these subsequent meetings and there will be public notice in the newspapers.

Thank you, Sandia Heights residents, for your support and encouragement. Working with you, your board and committees is a privilege.

County Of Bernalillo



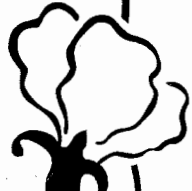
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Tom Wray

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**Sunday, May 21,
11:30am ~ 2:30pm**

**Elena Gallegos Park
Kiwanis Picnic Area**

Take the Elena Gallegos turnoff from Tramway Blvd.
Mention the SHHA Picnic at the gate and get in FREE!

Keeping a Sharp Eye on New Developments in Our Area

By Bob Kemble – Chairman, New Development Committee, SHHA

I would like to expound upon County Commissioner Barbara Seward's mention of all the exciting new developments around our community. First the good news! Under the sponsorship of Senator Tom Wray, a member of the SHHA Board, a \$200,000 appropriation for a new Sheriff's Substation Command Center to be located near the the North Domingo Baca Dam passed the legislature – and eluded the governor's veto pen. These monies, augmenting the \$350,000 appropriated last year, should help assure that the center will be fully adequate to meet operational needs. Our thanks to Senator Wray!

The first round of planning is nearing completion and initial bids for design have been submitted. Using that facility for in-service officer training continues to be considered in the planning concepts. Since that additional use would add law enforcement presence to our area, SHHA and Commissioner Seward strongly support that option.

A separate appropriation of \$350,000, sponsored by Senator Mike Weimer, for a Foothills Albuquerque Police Department Substation was also approved promising additional law enforcement in our general area. Those two bills were part of several successful coalition endeavors by Senators Wray, Weimer and Paster. (For a more detailed account, please see *The Roundhouse Report* in this issue.

Bringing better library services closer to Sandia Heights has been, as previously reported, a priority interest of the SHHA Board for some time. Accordingly, we have publicly encour-

aged and supported Senator Paster's initiatives to establish a new public library near Harper and Academy NE. We happily note that the legislature approved his bill for \$250,000 toward the construction of that facility. The SHHA Board applauds the work of all our area legislators in both the House and the Senate on behalf of this sector of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Since its last report in the February Grit, The New Development Committee has been monitoring several on-going matters. Of particular importance is a current request by owner and developer, Joe Santangelo, for a special permit to develop 3.75 acres on Cedar Hill Road between Tramway Blvd. and Tramway Lane. Neighbors adjacent to the proposed townhouse development have expressed their serious concerns regarding proper drainage; two-story construction blocking views and solar devices; traffic flow and controls; and excessive density.

SHHA supports cautious and extremely thorough review of these issues and has so stated in writing to The County Planning Commission. The Commission, in turn, has advised the developer of his need to work cooperatively with SHHA and the neighboring residents. A lengthy discussion of these matters ensued at the April Board meeting. An on-site, more detailed review of the plans was scheduled in anticipation of the next hearing before The County Planning Commission on May 3rd. Mr. Santangelo also agreed to submit his revised plans to the SHHA Architectural Review Committee for its approval in the near future.

A "public open house" providing information about The Alameda East Corridor Study was conducted by Bernalillo County Public Works Dept. and other agencies at La Cueva High School on April 12th. Members of the New Development Committee were present to assess the study.

These matters were discussed at the regular monthly meeting of The Committee and Commissioner Barbara Seward, along with complaints about the intrusive lighting along Tramway south of Paseo del Norte. Modification for brightness has still not occurred due to on-going "construction phases" in the vicinity. Discussions will continue with The County Public Works to seek an appropriate solution to the problem.

**Sandia Heights
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June 3rd, 9am-Noon
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more information

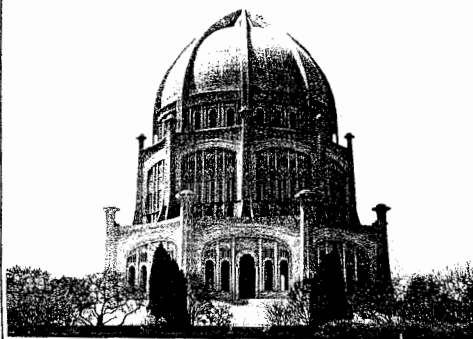
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BearWatch Committed to Saving Wildlife



By Lefty Folkman

Sandia Mountain BearWatch is a grass roots conservation group dedicated to protecting not only the black bear population in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, but other wildlife as well. This group was conceived when two young bears were trapped for disturbing a beehive and removed to Mt. Taylor. Due to outraged East Mountain residents, petitions were signed asking for a change in the New Mexico Game and Fish policy of trapping and removing bears needlessly. Almost a year later, the group has become recognized by New Mexico Game and Fish as an educational resource committed to conservation of all wildlife.

Wildlife biologists tell us that without a strong conservation group like BearWatch, we may lose our bears, cougars and other wildlife in the Sandia Mountains. Because of rapid population growth, we must act quickly. The fate of these animals is in all of our hands. Remember, it is we who are encroaching on wildlife habitat, and the responsibility

for preserving that wildlife should be ours. For these reasons we need your support.

Due to another dry winter, residents can expect more bear encounters this summer. However, through responsible actions you can minimize any problems associated with these encounters. Things you can do:

1. Keep your trash in sturdy, closed containers. (For major problems, call us.) Keep trash cans clean and non-smelly. Put trash out on the morning of pickup.
2. Don't feed pets outside. Don't store food outside.
3. Feed only enough birdseed to last the day. Bring in hummingbird feeders at night. Remember to feed suet and peanut butter to birds only in winter when bears are in hibernation.
4. Keep barbecue grills clean and stored inside.
5. Don't add melon rinds or fruit to compost piles except in winter.

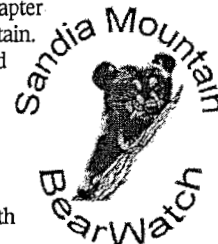
6. Don't feed wildlife (fox, etc.) in summer/fall months. A bear will become habituated if he gets free snacks, and it will ultimately lead to the destruction of this bear.

7. If you have fruit trees or berry bushes, in dry years you may have bear visitors at night. Be compassionate and know that this comes from living in or near mountains.

8. If a bear appears to be unafraid, is running in traffic, etc., please call New Mexico Game and Fish at 841-8881. They have tranquilizer guns to remove the bear humanely.

BearWatch does not take extreme positions on issues. Our vision is for BearWatch, the New Mexico Game and Fish and Sandia Ranger District to build a common-sense, humane, wildlife conservation program that will be used as a prototype for other communities in our state.

As a member you will receive issues of the SMBW newsletter filled with "living with wildlife tips." It will also highlight our goals which include, wildlife presentations, Sandia Ranger District summer field trips, educational programs and more. Annual membership dues are only \$5.00. Joy Solow of Sandia Heights is starting the first BearWatch chapter on the west mountain. She can be reached at 856-6466. Jan Hayes, at 281-9282, represents BearWatch on the east side. Feel free to call with any questions.



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Community Events Abound

By *Barbara Bensonhaver* — Chairman, Community Services, SHHA

This is a very busy time of year for community services. The wine tasting at Futures For Children was attended by about 125 people. The wine selection made by the knowledgeable and friendly staff of National Distributing Co. was broad, varied and well received by attendees. Everyone brought their favorite appetizers to share, and having so many people helping to serve and describe the various wines led to a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Volunteers from Futures For Children offered tours of this beautiful facility as well as assistance in running the party and art sale. A sincere thanks to all. And thanks again to National Distributing Co. for the wine and expertise. I hope we will be able to repeat this wonderful evening with even more artwork in the future.

Our next event is our annual **Spring Fling Family Picnic** which is sponsored by the Homeowners Association. Due to the construction at Sandia Park on Juniper Hill, some changes were necessary. First of all, the location will now be the Kiwanis picnic grounds at Elena Gallegos open space. Secondly, because of the popularity of this site, we had to change the day from Saturday to Sunday.

So join us on **Sunday, May 21, 1995 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm**. Once again, Circle K will not only be providing the food, but also the cooking and serving. Senator Tom Wray is picking up the tab on any miscellaneous expenses as his donation to SHHA. The picnic grounds have a sheltered area, volleyball net and horseshoe pit. We're hoping to also have games for the children as we have had in the past. Parking is available on a limited basis, so car-pools are welcome! If you can find an alternative method of transportation, such as a bicycle, it would be helpful. As usual this event is free to members of SHHA and only \$2.00 for guests and non-members. At the gate, notify the attendant that you're going to Kiwanis picnic ground for the SHHA Spring Fling and there will be no fee. Sandia Heights T-shirts will be on sale (also available all year).

Don't forget to attend neighborhood coffees. Residents from all Sandia Heights units are welcome! To host a coffee, please call me at 856-9110.

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By Arnold Ronnebeck – SHHA member

Residents, joggers, walkers and bikers were outraged in March by a particularly offensive bit of graffiti on the west side of Tramway north of San Rafael. By 10:30 in the morning, calls were made to the Ford "G Team" by residents of Unit 20 – Quail District and by 1:00pm it was painted out. All homeowners in Sandia

Heights and Albuquerque Acres are grateful to the "G Team," who've been eradicating graffiti all over Bernalillo County for a year now. To reach the G Team, call Julian Martinez at 269-2355.

A call to the **Graffiti Hot Line** – 768-4725 reaches voice mail that will request the exact location, private property or business, and *your* name (that will remain confidential). Other numbers are available if you are witnessing tagging in progress or if you want to volunteer for the program. Stop graffiti. Call now.

Let's not Gloss Over Graffiti

For many of us the words graffiti and vandalism go hand in hand. The problem that graffiti poses to our schools and the County of Bernalillo is a complex issue at best. However, we can no longer afford the luxury of not addressing this task in a comprehensive and collective manner. Together we can tackle this very public concern *and* help our environment, our schools, our communities and our private sector organizations.

The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of developing a multi-faceted plan that will aggressively seek solutions to the graffiti problem that continues to drain our community resources. We greatly encourage your input via the following number – 764-6850 – as the outreach phase of our program will begin soon.

This new initiative will assist the effort to strengthen law enforcement and concentrate on community concerns. A key factor in this plan is a public education program that sets priorities for schools, community centers and neighborhood organizations as critical intervention and prevention channels. Plans are in progress to implement a graffiti removal phase as well.

Providing innovative lesson plans that enhance pride in personal and public property, will help to create an understanding of ownership and responsible behavior in both youths and adults. Incentives and rewards will be built into the curriculum to reinforce positive behavior and encourage participation in activities to eliminate graffiti. I look forward to meeting the various community leaders and working hand in hand with you on this very important project.

Garrett M. Young
Program Coordinator – Anti-Graffiti
Bernalillo County Parks & Recreation

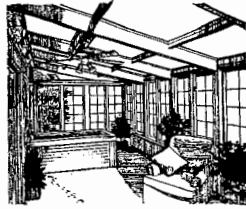
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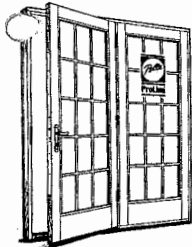


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A Deluge of Information about the ARC

By Toni Seidel – Chair, Architectural Review Committee, SHHA

There continues to be a lot of confusion in Sandia Heights about the role of the Architectural Review Committee. Residents seem to be unsure about its jurisdiction and authority. The main purpose of the ARC is to ensure that all new construction, remodeling and landscaping is planned and carried out in accordance with the covenants. Since all 34 units in Sandia Hts. have their own set of covenants it can be confusing.

The committee has been criticized for inconsistency in the past and we have been working diligently to correct the problem. The first step we took was to no longer grant conditional approvals. We found that many contractors felt they no longer had to deal with ARC once they received *this* approval. So we decided to grant no approvals until all pertinent information was received. Contractors are given a list of requirements when they submit plans. Our one month approval time starts when all requested materials are in our hands. We have stopped construction with a temporary restraining order when it was begun without ARC approval.

Our next step was to establish criteria for granting variances. First we look to see if similar variances have been granted in that area before. Secondly we determine if not granting the variance would cause undo hardship. Sometimes it is the only option. Thirdly, we consider the surrounding residents' opinions and feelings. We may even ask parties who are requesting a variance to pole their neighbors and bring us the results. How *they* feel about the project has a lot of influence on our final decision. The committee would like to formalize its criteria in a published format sometime in the future.

Many residents feel we have no authority to enforce our requirements. That is absolutely false. If a project is violating our covenants and has not received a variance from ARC, we will take whatever action is necessary to stop construction. We are trying to establish a consistent set of rules that applies to everyone, and the ARC feels that this will have a positive impact on the neighborhood.

Unfortunately, there are some important factors over which the ARC does not have control. One of these is a drainage study. The county has direct control over this aspect of construction in Sandia Heights. The ARC requires a

copy of the approved study and the approval letter, but the design approval is done by the Public Works Department.

Likewise, building heights are determined by the County Zoning, Building & Planning Departments. Their interpretation of the height requirements has resulted in some very tall houses in Sandia Heights. The covenants vary widely on this issue and never give an exact numerical restriction. The county has also been inconsistent in its enforcement of building restrictions, but is currently working toward improving the system.

Having a formalized set of criteria will hopefully make the process easier for everyone. And the ARC continues to develop a cooperative relationship with the county building officials to ensure that our questions and concerns will be heard.

If you have any suggestions for improving the committee, please submit them in writing to the SHHA Office, P. O. Box 20021, Albuquerque, NM 87154.

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Recycling Comes Full Circle



Recycling has returned to Sandia Heights as of Saturday, March 4, 1995. Bernalillo County is providing the collection bins for this Pilot Program. The success or failure of this effort depends on us – the Sandia Heights community. To date, two collections have been made; the second on Saturday, April 1st.

WHERE: CIRCLE K ON TRAMWAY

**WHEN: THE 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
9AM - 12 NOON**

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PLASTICS -
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NOS. 1 & 2]
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CAPS OR RINGS

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ENVELOPES/JUNK MAIL
TRASH OR KLEENEX

Please contact **Judy Christopher** – 856-6576 or **Jane Goins** – 856-1847 if you can volunteer to help us on any upcoming first Saturday of the month from 9am -12. Effective in June, Arlene Riddiford will be chairing the Recycling Committee with Jane Goins.



Special thanks to Circle K Regional Manager, Carl Bottenus and Recycling Co-Chairs, Judy Christopher and Jane Goins.

County Park Plan Revisited

By **Edwin K. Mehne** – Communications Committee, SHHA

The winter edition of The Grit outlined the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department's plans for park development in the acreage surrounding the **South Domingo Baca Dam**. The public hearing held in November at Sandia Presbyterian Church apparently bore some fruit, judging by the number of proposed uses that are being recommended by the Park Department. Among these are a multi-purpose game field, a hang-glider landing field, both horse and pedestrian trails, bicycle paths and a children's play area or small neighborhood park.

The next step is presentation of this plan for consideration by the County Planning Commission to coordinate with the Master Plan. Funding is currently not determined but could be county bonds, state funds or some combination.

As for the **North Domingo Baca Dam site**, the Recreation Department has arranged a **public meeting for May 3rd**. Your questions and input should be addressed to Nano Takuma, Program Planner/Parks and Recreation, 768-4025.

Our Northeast Heights area combining Sandia Heights and North Albuquerque Acres is sadly devoid of public recreational facilities such as playing fields, children's parks, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc. Your particular interests are at stake at this critical time in planning. Please make your ideas known.

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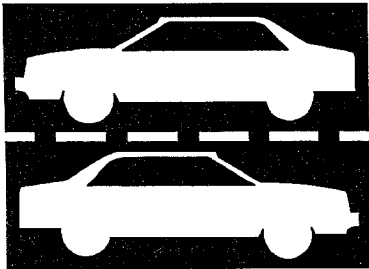
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Speeding up Safety Issues

By Jane Goins – Chair, Traffic & Safety



As Traffic and Safety Chairman, I've received several calls about safety issues on the roads in Sandia Heights. As a result, a small committee has been formed to meet with the county on a regular basis.

Speed tops the list of major concerns. This is not only a safety problem for vehicles, but also for those enjoying a walk or riding their bicycles. Many residents use our winding roads for their daily workouts. And children playing around their homes are often unaware of approaching cars.

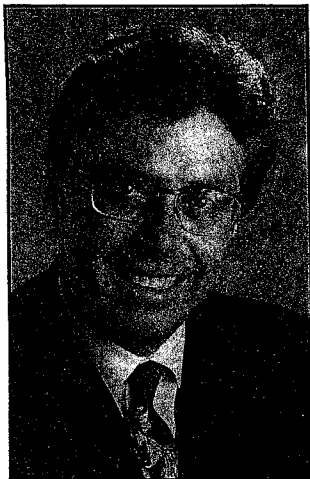
The county has conducted a series of speed checks and more are scheduled. We hope to get the posted limits changed from 15 mph. to 25 mph. on San Rafael, Cedar Hill and Live Oak. The county has also agreed to do some trimming along roadsides and work with the Sheriff's Department to encourage drivers to slow down. Speed humps are being considered and the Sheriff's Department has agreed to be more visible.

A meeting with county and sheriff representatives is planned for the near future. We're hoping for a good turnout. Please join us and voice your concerns.

SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL RESPONSES January – March 1995

TYPE OF CALL:	NUMBER:
Alarms.....	152
Motorist Assist.....	36
Breaking & Entering.....	2
Attempted Breaking & Entering.....	2
Construction Site Burglary.....	1
Suspicious Vehicle.....	50
Suspicious Person.....	32
Animal Control Assist.....	3
Lost /Found Pet.....	3
Snake.....	0
Family Dispute.....	6
Neighbor Dispute.....	5
Loud Disruptive Party.....	4
Fireworks Complaint.....	0
Vandalism (general).....	17
Vandalism (mailbox).....	12
Speeding Vehicle.....	2
Unusual Special Request.....	10
Salesperson Problems.....	2
Phone Problems.....	3
Car Accident.....	5
Fire.....	8
Rescue.....	15
Utility Company Assist.....	10
Construction Sites.....	6
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.).....	5
Specials (extra patrols/observation)	22
Homeowners on Vacation.....	394
TOTAL CALLS.....	807

MAKE A NOTE: AUGUST '95 GRIT
 Deadline for articles, advertising, classifieds, letters to the editor:
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SANDIA HAPPENINGS

by JANEY BRINK — SHHA VICE PRESIDENT

A new season is here again... we welcome spring! as with every new season, changes have also come to your SHHA Board. Our affiliation with Patten International is coming to an end and your Board is in the process of hiring a new administrative assistant for the Association. This change will occur over the summer and some understanding from the community will be appreciated as we go through the transition. We were very fortunate to have such professionals working for us, **Evelyn Patten** as Administrative Assistant and **Andrew Patten** producing the Grit and The SHHA Annual Directory.

Look over The Grit

Our new Editor for the Spring issue, **Carolyn Hindel**, has come to us from the Windy City (Chicago) after many years in the advertising industry. Hindel Advertising and Design Services will bring Sandia Heights a top quality newsletter. We welcome the opportunity to work with Carolyn and her husband, Fred. Call **856-1868** with any comments.

What's Happening with Our Trails and Parks?

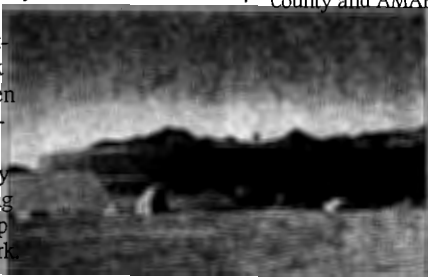
Over by our small park on **Juniper Hill** and you will now find a

water tank in the former out-field. The tank is painted green and we understand that the Tram Company will be working with us to help restore the park.

Agreements must be made with the SHHA,

Sandia Peak Services, Sandia Pueblo and the County. We hope that we will be able to preserve this park for our community. Park lands are almost non-existent in the far northeast quadrant of Bernalillo County.

The trailhead park at San Bernadino at Tramway will be landscaped with the final phase of Tramway and equipment will be installed with the cooperation of the County. This small pocket park is part of the Master Plan recently adopted by the County and we want to make sure these neighborhood parks remain part of the planning process. Open space and park space are priority issues when dealing with new developers. In the past, they did not consider this important.



Landscaped tank & park due to open in Fall '95.

It was only after the 1992 Parks Ordinance that monies could be set aside for this purpose.

The SHHA was a strong supporter of this ordinance and is also supporting AMAFCA in the development of the **North and South Domingo Baca Floodway** which will impact upon Sandia Heights, the North Albuquerque Acres and many of the surrounding northeast heights neighborhoods.

Bernalillo County Parks Master Plan — will be heard in the Commission Chambers

on **May 23, 1995 at 5:30 pm.** The County Planning Commission heard the general plan presented on April 5th, and gave it a **DO PASS** with a few comments. One recommendation was to also look at "transportation issues" (we understand this also means trails) and to "post" every "floodway dam" site and "open land" with a sign:

County and AMAFCA will hold the right to develop these large acre sites into community parks. SHHA spoke in favor of the Master Plan with the understanding that the County will work with us regarding our community needs.

Three Years from Now I Wish This Community Would...

...well, how do you feel about where you live? The time is now to get involved. Bring your skills or develop new skills working (FOR FREE!!) with those people who care just as much as you do. There is more to living in Sandia Heights than just being critical about what's happening that may not be to your liking. We'd like to hear from you about serving this unique community your way! **Contact the SHHA Nominating Committee Chairperson, Toni Seidel, or members, Dave Hursig or Linda Caldwell** to relay your willingness to join the Board. Call **296-1412**. Those who feel we "have a great life," and those who think we should "get one" are all invited to get involved.

Fantastic Volunteers

Graffiti is kept off our walls

because **Arnold Ronnebeck and his alert 5:30am bicycle crew** take it out before most of us even travel down Tramway. So now you know. Arnold's quote is: **I HATE GRAFFITI... AND WE WILL GET RID OF IT!** We thank you Arnold et al.

Recycling is Back!

Thanks to County cooperation, Circle K and SHHA volunteers! Whatever funds are raised will go back to Sandia Heights for com-

munity improvements (like updating our outdated signs). Over \$1600 was raised from 1990-1993 to purchase wildflower seeds that were planted along the Tramway Trail. So mark your calendars for **RECYCLE SATURDAY, the first Saturday of every month, 9am -12, at the Tramway Circle**

High Desert Development

Along Tramway all eyes are on the 1000 acres owned by the Albuquerque Academy and the development going on there. The center land is being developed first, by the builders who own the lots. The outside and eastern perimeter will be developed by High Desert as lots sell to individuals who can choose their own builders. The Board will hear from them at the August Board meeting. Community is welcome.

Committee Reports for the Year

Come to the **Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 3, at 10am, and meet the SHHA Board.** Each household has a vote and you can elect 1/3 of the board members for a three year term. The membership rotates so 2/3 of the Board will remain. Some topics of discussion will be: Contract with the Tram Company; County Parks, both regional and neighborhood; dues; recycling; new developments; Tramway-Paseo del Norte-Alameda roadway plans; and many other exciting works in progress.

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support I've received as your 1994-95 Vice President. The issues have always been important and the results worthwhile. I look forward to my last year on the board.

Janey Brink

The **Simms Park Road Trail** is scheduled to begin design soon. The City of Albuquerque is in the process of retaining a consultant to assist with the design of the trail and anticipates having the consultant, **Walt Weaver, Inc.**, begin work around **May 1st.** The City plans to work with a design team, which will include representatives of Sandia Heights neighborhoods. The trail will parallel **Simms Park Road** along its south side, from **Tramway Blvd.** to the **Elena Gallegos Open Space.** It is scheduled for construction not later than **Spring of 1996.** For additional information, please call the **Parks & General Services Dept., Design & Development Division** at **857-8640.** **Carol Dumont**
Trails & Park Planner- City ABQ



A View from the Ranger's Station

By Floyd Thompson III – District Ranger

Many of you did not know him, yet he was a tireless promoter and advocate for conservation and protection of our wildlife heritage in New Mexico. I am referring to recently deceased, Mr. Corry McDonald. Corry was a special person to me, always kept me thinking about the effects of our management on the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. You see, Corry worked very hard to see that wilderness designation be enacted to help us protect the mountain against many strong economic interests which are difficult to address from a District management perspective. Yes, the Forest Service found itself on opposite sides many times with Corry, but personally always loved the man and respected his sincere commitment to his ideals.

That is what is so remarkable about administering public lands – we can agree to disagree and still hold our self esteem and common respect for each other. I for one will greatly miss Corry, his free spirit; the wild youthful man who used to go "free skiing" (as he called it) through the forest; a man of unparalleled conservationist ideals. Yet, as I travel through the beauty that is Sandia Mountain Wilderness, I know I will hear him speaking in the wind and in the call of eagles as they soar over its precipices. Thank you, Corry McDonald, for the legacy you have left for us and our children.

Our 1995 budget had some significant swings in appropriations. As a result we will have to reduce some services delay services and partially close some of our recreational facilities. We will do everything we can to minimize reductions to your favorite areas as long as we can meet health and safety requirements and protect the capital investments made in these areas.

One big result of the budget direction is the need to provide quality customer service through partnership with the private sector. Our district team is completing a feasibility study to expand user fees for the developed parking and picnic areas along the Sandia Crest

National Scenic Byway (SR 536) and in Las Huertas Canyon. The Forest Service would authorize collection of fees under a permit similar to the small operation now in place at the Capulin Snowplay area, but more oriented to yearlong operations.

Air, water, soil and fire – these are the major components that make up the ecosystems of our earth. Fire is part of the natural components and yet we have a hard time letting it play its role in maintaining healthy forests when it comes to urban interface areas. There is much we need to learn about the role of fire in maintaining healthy grasslands and forests. To improve our knowledge we are planning a research burn in the far southwestern zone of the Bernalillo Watershed Area. The burn will be closely monitored by researchers from UNM and Rocky Mountain Experiment Station. Forest biologists, hydrologists and forest archaeologists will be studying the effects on cactus, cultural artifacts, water runoff, vegetation and soils. The fire will not pose a significant threat to any homes. We will also be conducting a prescribed fire behind the Sandia Park area based on the success we had last fall on Tejano Canyon burn.

Finally, you have been reading and hearing much about the potential closure of Kirtland Air Force Base. This has had an effect on our timetable for analysis of the DOE fuels project. We are postponing any decision on the Public Land Order Withdrawal (approx. 15,000 acres) until after final word comes on the closure proceedings. We do have support from the DOE to proceed with analysis on adjacent National Forest land and this is nearly complete. The formal comment period for this portion of the ecosystem plan (also about 15,000 acres) should begin in August. Some projects which qualify for "categorical exclusion" will be implemented this summer.

It is an exciting year with many new challenges and changes in the wind. It's great to have your support for the concept of a National Forest and the premier open space heritage that the Sandias represent to Albuquerque's growing metroplex communities. Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSN. BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 12, 1995

Summary Financial Information

Revenue:	MAR '94	MAR '95	BUDGET
Architectural Review	\$ 5,025	\$4,285	\$7,000
Total Communications	11,456	9,418	12,500
- The Grit		5,483	8,000
- The Directory		3,935	4,500
Membership Dues	34,471	38,346	48,300
All other	1,455	1,346	800
TOTAL REVENUE	\$52,407	\$53,395	\$68,600
Number of Paid Members:	1,096	1,292	n/a
Expenditures:			
Architectural Review	\$6,341	\$5,726	\$7,100
Communications	10,693	12,974	18,100
- The Grit		5,458	10,000
- The Directory		2,194	4,000
Membership Drives/Dues	8,416	9,546	14,700
Indirect/Administration	8,919	11,458	9,400
Parks	7,994	4,780	11,100
Covenants	1,036	4,481	6,000
All other	902	1,171	2,600
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$44,301	\$50,162	\$69,000
CASH ON HAND – 3/31/95:	\$21,993	<i>Anne Yegge – SHHA Treasurer</i>	

NEXT SHHA BOARD MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH, 1995
7:00 PM – PASEO DEL NORTE FIRE STATION



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- Roundhouse Report 2
- SHHA Annual Meeting 2
- Coffee Corner 2
- President's Message 3
- Barbara Seward 3
- Spring Fling Picnic 4
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THE **GREEN**

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SPRING ~ 1995

Going...Going...Gone!

By Richard Stumph — Communications Chair, SHHA

This is exactly what could happen to approximately 10,000 acres of Sandia Mountain "open space" and "wilderness area" that is being claimed by the Sandia Pueblo in their lawsuit. Most of this land is presently available for everyone's use, including the Sandia Pueblo. So why not leave things alone and let everyone continue to enjoy this marvelous natural terrain?

It is my understanding that research conducted by historians, translators, archaeologists and surveyors has indicated that the claim has no merit. The original grant to the Pueblo from the Spanish Crown was for 17,000 acres in 1748. An additional 7,000 acres was given to the Pueblo in 1891 by the Court of Private Land Claims, expanding their holdings to 24,000 acres. Now the Pueblo is claiming another 10,000 acres which would bring their total holdings to over 34,000 acres.



A recent article appearing in the editorial section of the Albuquerque Journal (*dated March 29, 1995*) relates a saga that may recur here if the Sandia Pueblo is awarded its claim in court. Venilla Ridge, a hang-glider site near the Cochiti Pueblo, was used by the Sandia Soaring Assn. with a Forest Service Permit. In 1985, Federal Law 98-544 was passed, transferring ownership of the surrounding territory to the Cochiti Pueblo with the stipulation that all permits would be honored for a period of 30 years. Shortly after the bill was signed into law, the Pueblo closed off access to the site and it remains closed today.

All of the folks who currently enjoy the Sandia open space should remember this: Whatever assurances or agreements are made, Pueblo governments can change their minds as in the case of Cochiti. No tribal council is bound by promises or statements made by their predecessors.

GOING...GOING...GONE! can soon become a reality, unless the concerned citizens of Bernalillo County and our state act now and act aggressively, by letting their elected government officials and the media know exactly how they feel about this issue.