

THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION WINTER ~ 1997



Disappointing Ruling Breaks Legal Inertia in Pueblo Claim

by John Thomas - Sandia Mountain Coalition

On December 10th, US District Court Judge Harold Green acted on the US Department of Justice motion to dismiss the Pueblo of Sandia's land claim, denying the motion. Judge Green's ruling allows the Pueblo to proceed with its case, and the next US District Court ruling could be on the Pueblo's motion last summer for summary judgment on the merits of their entitlement to 9,500 acres in the Cibola National Forest, the Sandia Wilderness Area, Sandia Heights North, Tierra Monte and Evergreen Hills subdivisions.

Judge Green's ruling still leaves two motions pending: separate motions to intervene by the Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC) and individual property owners within the claim area; and by the Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners. The SMC had agreed to wait for a ruling on its motion to intervene until after Judge Green had ruled on the motion to dismiss.

Being designated as an "intervenor" would allow the SMC to participate in the trial and discussions of the merits of the Pueblo's claim. With intervenor status, the SMC could also appeal a decision adversely affecting the claim area. There is a possibility, however, that Judge Green will not permit the SMC this vital access to proceedings, despite the impact of any decisions on its members, according to Carol Dinkins, SMC attorney of record with Vinson & Elkins of Houston.

However, the district court opinion does depart from a Pueblo "party line" regarding the primary concern of owners of property within the claim area. In it, Judge Green notes that the Pueblo Lands Act would not allow Sandia Pueblo to exempt property without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior. Dinkins says her firm's research shows that the Pueblo probably does not have the authority to "disclaim" private property, even with the consent of the Secretary. From early in its claim, the Pueblo has insisted it would exclude private property.

In making his decision, Judge Green completely rejected the Department of Justice's case that Sandia Pueblo's claim was not "time-barred" under the Quiet Title Act, said SMC co-chair Anita Miller (also chair of the SMC Legal Committee). Under the Act, the Pueblo was allowed 12 years to make its claim known, but had failed to do so.

During his deliberations, Judge Green was apparently impressed with the Pueblo's request that the land be held "in trust" for it by the Department of the Interior, a status that would ensure all Pueblo demands regarding the land would be met before those of other area users. Despite the Pueblo's demand for a "boundary adjustment" - a "corrected survey" of the claim's eastern boundary and a revision of the land patent so it would conform with this correction - Judge Green ruled that the Pueblo's case was, therefore, not a claim for "title" to the land, but merely to have the land held "in trust" for it.

By asking for "in trust" status, the Pueblo not only presented the judge with a seemingly more acceptable request, but also managed to dodge some legal restraints regarding the transfer of land ownership;

Belated Holiday greetings and good wishes for the New Year from the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association Board. I hope that by the time you read this, the snow on the roads and our driveways has melted and the temperature has warmed up a little.

Anne Yegge



Future Construction Project Update:

Word from City Hall is that plans for the new Jewel Osco store at the corner of Tramway and Academy are under review and a City building permit for the project could be issued by mid-February.

The Day Spa planned for the corner of Tramway and San Rafael has cleared one hurdle at the County level; a correction to the plat has settled the question of whether the property is within a unit in which the covenants allow commercial activity. Both the owner and the Covenant Committee are relieved to have the matter resolved and clarification that the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has jurisdiction over the project. Mr. Maestas indicates that he is investigating technology and design alternatives and it will be several months before plans will be submitted to the ARC.

On the subject of architectural review, please take some time to read the article by Don Hooper, Chair of the ARC on page 4. He and other committee members spend a great deal of time and effort reviewing and discussing proposed projects in order to come to fair and consistent decisions. The committee performs a service for us all and the article covers some issues that may not have occurred to many of us.

Election Season:

By now you will already know the results of the city's first "mail-in" Open Space Election. Although as county residents we were not eligible to vote in the election, we will pay the additional 1/4 cent gross receipts tax on goods and services purchased within the city limits and benefit from additional open space and park development. Nearby projects to be funded through this two year tax include preserving portions of the

South Pino & La Cueva arroyos that are located within North

ABQ Acres; acquisition of additional land north of the Balloon Fiesta Park to provide more parking and better access; and preliminary planning and development of the North Domingo Baca Park between Wyoming and Louisiana and Wilshire and Signal.

The next elections, on February 4th, give us a chance to participate in the decision making. We will vote to elect members to both the Albuquerque Public School (APS) and Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) Boards. In addition, a mill levy increase to fund a new TVI Workforce Training Center will be on the ballot. The cost would be shared through State Severance Tax Bonds and fundraising by the TVI Foundation. TVI and APS are both important to the economic health of the region. You can read additional information in this issue on page 14 to help you make an informed decision. Please vote.

We are all waiting for further details on the Sandia Pueblo land claim litigation and will continue to inform residents as soon as we have substantiated information from the legal advisors involved.

President's Message

both while retaining the option to later, at any time, move the "trust" land into full, outright Pueblo ownership. While the land was "in trust," the Pueblo would control use of the area because interior, as trustees, would have to satisfy the Pueblo's needs before those of other area users or the general public.

Because Judge Green ruled that the Quiet Title Act did not take the Pueblo out of the running, it is now free to challenge the Department of Interior's refusal to re-survey Sandia Pueblo boundaries, according to a summary from Dinkins. Perhaps most surprising was the judge's conclusion that Secretary Babbitt's 1988 decision to deny the Pueblo's request for a corrected patent could have been a response to political pressure - chiefly from Senator Pete Domenici and Representative Steve Schiff - and that Interior, in effect, owed a favorable decision to the Pueblo.

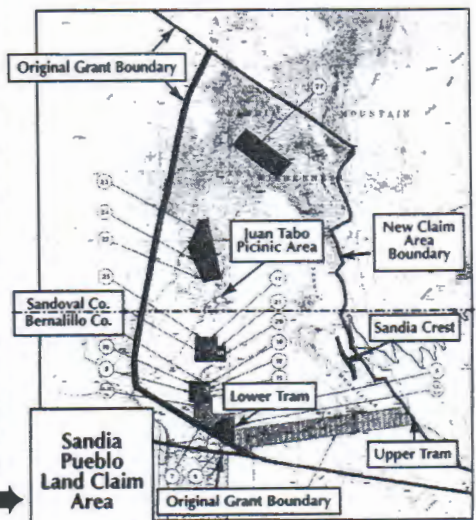
Equally surprising, according to Dinkins, was the judge's use of the Pueblo's arguments without mentioning that they were merely its allegations. These included portrayal of the US Surveyor's work in 1857 as "suspect" and "inept," although it had been confirmed as accurate and reliable by independent sources.

"It's still in our interests to have a seat at the table during the litigations and negotiations and to have our interests satisfied," said Anita Miller.

"We still believe passionately that the mountain belongs to everyone," says SMC co-chair Lynne Behnfield. "We are hoping for a favorable ruling allowing us to be part of this suit. When the judge makes his move, we will hold a full membership meeting to activate our next plan of action," Behnfield says. "Meanwhile, we will keep local and national decision-makers informed."

The claim area being a Pueblo holding would have enormous impact on Bernalillo County, not the least of which would be an enormous loss of taxes and other revenue, as well as loss of public use and enjoyment of the region's open space.

"We shouldn't give up," says Shannon Gurbaxani, SMC co-chair. "So far, Judge Green has only heard arguments about why the case should be dismissed. He hasn't heard our argument or evidence about whether the Pueblo's case has merit. We need to stick to our guns while those parts are being argued."



THE GRIT

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SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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County Of Bernalillo

Winter Report



Thank you for your overwhelming support of the County's seven bond issues. Although our needs far outweigh our income, with the approval of the bonds we will be able to address some of our more pressing priorities. The benefits to County Commission District IV were articulated in the autumn report and we look forward to the implementation of the projects.

We learned recently that the City Council had moved some funds from the Harper/Barstow Library project. Those funds were originally ear-marked for another purpose and were moved back to the original intent. The groundbreaking for the library was initially scheduled for September Of 1996. We have been assured the program will be delayed no later than March 1st. The County and the State have committed funds to the City for construction and for books and other reference materials. We anxiously await this much needed facility.

Your neighbors in North Albuquerque Acres have requested a lighting ordinance to help protect our beautiful dark skies. Since Sandia Heights will benefit from such a regulation in NAA, you may be interested in knowing the draft document has been submitted to our legal department for review and soon will be going out for public comment.

High on the County's list of priorities is the acquisition and development of new parks in the northeast quadrant. The County Parks and Recreation Department has identified potential sites; however, some property owners have an unrealistic expectation of value. The quest continues.

Weren't you proud of our Public Works Department during the snow and ice storms? They made such a valiant effort to keep roads open in Sandia Heights and North Albuquerque Acres, often beginning their work day at 2AM. They deserve a great big thank you!

1997 is a promising year for Bernalillo County. We have new leadership on the Commission, new challenges and a resolve to meet those challenges. I send my best to each of you for a fulfilling New Year.



Barbara J. Seward

Bernalillo County Commissioner
District 4



Wednesdays 10am - Noon

February 12th

Helen Bergman
1478 Morning Glory Road NE
823-1036

March 19th

Tamara Griffin
1558 Eagle Ridge Road NE
856-1283

April 16th

Susan Teresi
1480 Morning Glory Road NE
856-1669

All residents of Sandia Hts. welcome. Enjoy contemporary art from the Fisher Gallery.



A View from the Ranger's Station

National Forest Service Wants Your Input

The Cibola National Forest is currently engaged in rewriting the Forest Plan and would like to hear your concerns and opinions. They have been conducting public meetings to discuss existing conditions on the Sandia Ranger District and the future. What is most important to you about the forest? Is it an activity, particular place, use, product, or just the scenic beauty? What would you like to see for your children or community if you returned in 100 years?

The final meeting will be February 5, 1997 at the Placitas Community Center, 41 Camino de Las Huertas in Placitas from 6:30pm to 9pm. If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the Sandia Ranger Station by March 5, 1997. Existing condition reports are available. Call Beverly de Gruyter for more information - 281-3304.

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Ask about our Referral Plan!

League of Women Voters Funds Live PBS Broadcast on Safe Drinking Water

By Charlotte Zerof - SHHA Communications, Chair



Charlotte Zerof

We're Communicating! How About You?

On March 19th, PBS will televise a live nationwide broadcast "Tools for Drinking Water Protection" from 12:30 to 2:00 pm MT, sponsored by the League of Women voters US Education Fund, NMLWV and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) are establishing sites around the state and providing them with telephones, faxes and monitors for the meetings.

Schedule of events - March 19th:

- 12:00 - Check national PBS signal
- 12:20 - Welcome, overview
- 12:30 - Tools for Drinking Water Protection
- 2:00 - Break
- 2:15 - NMED State Panel moderated by NMLWV
- 3:15 - Local program, conclusion, collect evaluations



There will, in fact, be two telecasts. The nationwide program will end at 2:00, and after a 15 minute break, a state satellite broadcast will be presented to discuss some of the implications of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 for New Mexicans.

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (PL 104-182) establish a new charter for the nation's public water systems, states and the Environmental Protection Agency in protecting our drinking water resources. The amendments include new prevention approaches, improved consumer information, changes in the regulatory program and funding for states and local water systems. President Clinton signed the Amendments on August 6, 1996.

Two of the sites of public participation in New Mexico are in Albuquerque. One at the UNM Continuing Education Center and one at Intel. The site in Santa Fe is at the Runnells Building. The New Mexico League of Women Voters web page (<http://www.nmlwa.com/twvnm>) has a link to the national Drinking Water web sites for this program. The information is updated regularly and worth viewing. Additional New Mexico sites will be listed on their page.

Please pre-register by calling NMLWV at 884-8441 and indicating which site you prefer.

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association has developed many ways to communicate with residents. In addition to The Grit, we have a web page, we put special notices in the utility bills and mail information to members regarding public meetings and hearings. In some cases we have had inquiries via e-mail to which we respond in a timely manner. Probably the best means of communication is still the telephone and with the SHHA office staffed by administrative assistant, Erin Frinkman, homeowners get prompt replies to their calls and faxes.

This year the Guide for New Homeowners was revised and The Grit has been a delightful publication providing unique stories about Sandia Heights and some great photos. Residents are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor and notices of interest for the community. Let us all hear from you!



Communications Committee members meet to discuss Gritty issues, (l to r) Margo Roberts and daughter, Chair Charlotte Zerof, President Anne Yegge, Erin Frinkman and Linda Caldwell.



If you can, please bring a favorite Hops d'oeuvres dish AND a written recipe. We plan to feature them in the next Grit!

3rd Annual SHHA Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 8
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 Phone _____

I certify that each person attending is over 21 years of age.
 Signature _____

Amount enclosed _____ (\$8 per person)

Send order and check to: Wine Tasting, Claire Wilcox
 308 Big Horn Ridge NE, ABQ, NM 87122

Please check this box if you are bringing an Hops d'oeuvres dish!

The ARC and the Covenants

Reviewing The Situation

By Don Hooper – SHHA Architectural Review Committee, Chair

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association continues its very active program of reviewing, approving (or disapproving), and monitoring new construction, exterior modifications and additions to existing homes throughout the community. The authority of the ARC derives from the Declarations of Restrictions (covenants) which accompany the deeds to all property, residential and commercial, in each Unit. These covenants require plan submission and approval by ARC for any construction or exterior modification prior to commencement of work.

The ARC presently is comprised of five committee members: Marshall Aungier, Jerry Grayson, Chris Harmon, Don Hooper (Chair), Toni Seidel (Vice Chair) and one ex-officio member, Jon Cashwell (former Committee Chair). We are very ably assisted by Erin Frinkman, the SHHA administrative Assistant, who maintains all files, plans and specifications; carries out the committee correspondence; fields most of the resident inquiries; and keeps the committee members updated on the activity status of the projects under committee control. Typically, at any given time, there are from 15 to 20 projects in the review/approval stage and 40 to 50 projects in construction or pending. The entire committee meets twice a month, however, discussions and meetings among individuals continue on nearly a daily basis.

Most new construction in Sandia Heights consists of infilling, whereby homesites previously passed over due to design or other site difficulties are now being developed with ever-increasing house sizes due to ever-increasing property values. Difficult sites, coupled with more stringent County erosion setback requirements, are resulting in a growing number of architecturally demanding projects. Furthermore, homeowners are understandably reluctant to accept the inevitable construction on nearby sites that have been long vacant, in some cases believed unbuildable, and have become part of the open view space to which they are accustomed. These circumstances are ever more challenging to the committee in meeting its responsibilities to the community as a whole while recognizing the prospective owner's right to develop their property in a reasonable manner within the scope of covenant restrictions.

Upon receipt of an application for construction and/or modification by the ARC, it is reviewed for completeness and then assigned to a committee member for detailed review. The application must be accompanied by plans and other information to sufficiently describe the project. If the ground area or "footprint" of the building or addition is 500 feet or more, a drainage and grading plan by a civil engineer must be prepared for submission to the County as well as ARC. County approval in writing is necessary for ARC to complete the application. If circumstances require a neighbor review, those affected who are members of SHHA are advised in writing of a date to view the plans and submit comments.

The ARC studies plans for compliance with the covenants for the specific unit in which the property lies, to include the following:

- height of structure.
- setbacks.

- colors (finish and trim).
- harmony with the surrounding neighborhood.
- compliance with all other restrictions in applicable covenants.

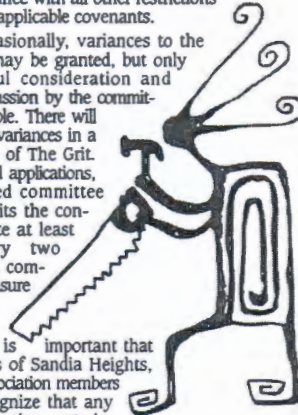
Occasionally, variances to the covenants may be granted, but only after careful consideration and detailed discussion by the committee as a whole. There will be more on variances in a future issue of The Grit. For approved applications, the assigned committee member visits the construction site at least once every two weeks until completion to ensure compliance.

It is important that all residents of Sandia Heights, whether Association members or not, recognize that any new construction, exterior renovation, additions, and major landscaping need to go through the ARC approval process. This also applies to any solar equipment, exterior air-conditioning/heating equipment, antennas, satellite receiver dishes, walls, fences, storage sheds, re-stuccoing, painting, patios, patio covers, decks, swimming pools and other work affecting the exterior appearance of the structure.

There are approximately 32 Units in Sandia Heights, each having its individual and unique covenants. Some of the above items are specifically covered in certain covenants, but not in others, or only by implication. If in doubt, please contact the committee through the SHHA office at 296-1412 for clarification. Please contact the office to report any covenant violations or construction thought to be proceeding without ARC approval. Violations are handled by the separate Covenant Support Committee.

Establishments in the commercially-zoned areas within Sandia Heights also must comply with the applicable Unit covenants. They must submit to the same ARC approval process for any new construction or changes such as those described above, as well as signage, lighting, parking facilities and the like, regardless of any permits/approvals issued by County agencies. It should be noted, however, that although ARC has review authority over architectural design, SHHA has no veto authority or legal intervention potential over commercial developments that are in compliance with County zoning ordinances and building codes and applicable Sandia Heights covenants.

It should seem clear from the above, that the ARC has its hands full. All members are volunteers, and all, I think, find their participation challenging and rewarding. However, the committee is presently understaffed and we would appreciate hearing from any Association member who might be interested in joining the Board to work with us. A call to 296-1412 would be sincerely welcomed.



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Creating a New Transit Plan

...continued from cover page.

Lack of mobility options hits home the minute we don't have access to our car. If it's in the shop or for some other reason we can't drive, we have no alternatives. And that is the case every day for seniors too old to drive, young people too young to drive, mobility-impaired residents unable to drive and those unable to afford a car.

The need to expand transit services is evident to most people in the region. The question is: How do we do it? Answer: In 1995, Bernalillo County completed a Feasibility Study which confirmed that:

- markets for transit already exist in the region, and many commute trips could be captured by expanded services;
- the institutional model best suited for expansion is an independent transit authority which could plan and implement a broad range of transit services throughout the region;
- a dedicated funding source for a transit authority would be required to support long-range planning for light rail and other capital-intensive investments;
- a regional, market-based transit service plan is needed to justify increased investment in transit services.

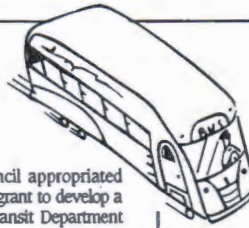
Public involvement is the key to developing a good transit service plan. Expansion of services should be market-segment based and should be designed to accommodate major commute patterns as well as non-work trips. The plan must provide a strategic geographic travel demand in local areas as well as throughout the entire region. In 1993,

the Albuquerque City Council appropriated matching funds for a federal grant to develop a regional transit plan. The Transit Department has established a Technical Team to which all counties, municipalities, pueblos and other large institutions in the region have been invited to appoint representatives. The Team is working with a consultant to draft a plan which will include a variety of types of transit services and propose a funding and management structure for a regional authority.

An expanded transit system would look very different from the present system. Not only would it include the large buses you see on the streets of Albuquerque today, transit service would also include:

- neighborhood service with small buses or vans that circulate in neighborhoods or rural areas and feeds fixed-route commuter express buses;
- improved transportation services for elderly and handicapped which are coordinated with ADA-mandated paratransit services;
- expanded park and ride services;
- conventional fixed-route bus service along major streets;
- improved ridersharing, bicycle and pedestrian commute programs;
- long-term planning for light rail or other high capacity modes along priority routes.

For more information on how your community can get involved, please refer to the box on the cover page of *The Grit*.



Trees Need Their Prunes

By Shirley Medina - Master Gardener

When planning a landscape, one of the first considerations should be where the type of tree you want will grow best. Is there plenty of room for its branches to spread? Is it in an area where its roots won't tangle in underground utility lines? Do you need it to shade a certain part of the house? And perhaps, less obvious but just as important, what kind of "winter interest" will this tree lend to the landscape?

In most of our natural or xeric landscapes, the low shrubby forms of most of the plantings do not seem to be as outstanding in the winter as they are in the summer or fall. Trees which have been well-chosen for their distinctive branching shape or color during the winter, will not only add beauty to your yard but also value and protection to your home when other plants are not at their best. So when you decide on a landscape plan, don't forget to include trees!

The next step is to keep your trees fit. Besides watering and izing, trees need to be pruned. Late winter is the best time, especially for deciduous trees. First, take a good look at the tree and tag the branches to be removed. Pruning should not be severe and should be limited to the following: dead wood; stubs; suckers; sprouts; broken or diseased branches; crossing, rubbing or crowded branches; and long or awkward-looking branches. Topping is not an appropriate pruning method, and will only cause the tree to be grotesque, weak and eventually lead to death.

Secondly, make sure your pruning equipment is clean and sharp. Unclean, jagged cuts will encourage disease and decay. Scissor-style hand pruners will cut smaller branches up to 1/2" in diameter. Long-handled loppers will cut branches up to 1-3/4" thick. A bow saw will be needed to cut larger limbs. Hopefully, if pruning has been maintained through the life of a tree, such large cuts will be unnecessary. For hard to reach places, a pruning saw or a pole pruner will come in handy.

Perhaps the most difficult part of pruning is knowing how to do it properly. This takes practice, but don't despair. The following basic tips will help you get started:

1. **Young trees (1-2 years old):** Prune sparingly, only damaged or badly crossing branches, and no more than one foot up the main trunk from the bottom. Using hand pruners, cut back to the tree or to a bud. The cut should be slanted slightly in the same direction as the bud and slightly above it.

2. **Maturing trees (3-4 years old):** Prune only crossing or awkwardly placed branches on upper portion of the tree. Lower branches may be shortened but not removed at this time. Use hand pruners, loppers or a pruning saw, depending on the thickness of the branch. Cut as close to the branch collar as possible without injuring it, at a slight angle. Do not prune on a vertical line with the tree.

3. **Maturing trees (4-5 years old):** Prune only awkwardly placed branches. Lower branches can now be removed without causing disruption in tree growth or sun scald.

4. **Mature trees:** Branches removed from large trees must be cut in steps. First cut off the major portion of the branch to within two feet of the trunk. Then cut just outside the branch collar, being sure not to cut into the trunk.

Remember not to leave long stubs or tear branches off. Dead wood should be pruned down to healthy wood and suckers should be pruned to the ground. Cut only to the branch collar (swollen area at the branch base). Position hand pruner or lopper blades closest to the branch that will remain on the tree for the shortest stubs.

If after reading this, you decide to hire someone to prune your trees, make sure they are certified, liability-insured arborists. If someone tells you that your trees need topping, it's a strong indication not to hire that person. There's information on qualified arborists in the Yellow Pages or call the County Extension Service at 243-1386 for an H-156 Pruning Guide.

Summer-flowering shrubs (except roses) can be pruned now. Roses should not be pruned until late March through mid-April. Lilacs, fuchsia and other spring-flowering shrubs should not be pruned until after they've bloomed.



Xeric Garden Club of ABQ will meet February 15th and March 15th. Call 268-8305 for more info. Everyone welcome!

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Some Saturdays: 9:30 am-2:30 pm
292-7144

Trail News at Elena Gallegos

Many of you may have noticed an increase in trail building at Elena Gallegos. With the annual visitation at the park exceeding 150,000 people, the Open Space Division is trying to keep up with the demands placed upon the area's natural resources. Several trail projects are underway or being completed, including the Simms Park Road Trail, a new nature trail and other renovations throughout the Sandia Foothills.

The Simms Park Road Trail

The park commonly referred to as Elena Gallegos is officially known as Albert G. Simms Park, named after rancher, banker and politician who purchased much of the Elena Gallegos Land Grant in the 1930's for \$1.00 an acre. Upon Simms death in 1964 the land was left to the Albuquerque Academy and a portion of this land was purchased by the City of Albuquerque in the 1980's.

The Simms Park Road Trail starts at the Tramway Trail and parallels Simms Park Road to the entry booth at the park. There is also a horse spur which starts to the north of Simms Park Road where Tramway Boulevard crossed the Pino Arroyo. The horse trail follows the arroyo before crossing Simms and joining the main trail up to the park entrance. Work on this trail was completed the end of last year.

The New Nature Trail

The Open Space Operations Section is currently constructing a new wheelchair accessible Nature Trail. This trail will start at a new parking lot area and restroom facility located to the north of Kiwanis Picnic Area. The trail will be paved with earth-toned concrete, have three wooden bridges over arroyos and will be approximately one third of a mile in length. There will be interpretive signs and rest areas along the way. This trail will hook up with the existing nature trail at the wildlife blind overlooking the pond. Construction began in July with volunteers from the Kiwanis Club roughing out the trail and preparing the area for the Open Space Operation crew. Completion is expected some time this year, weather permitting.

Youth Conservation Corps

This summer the City of ABQ Open Space Division and the Sandia District of the US Forest Service formed a partnership to administer a state grant for a Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program, providing young people between 16 and 25 with outdoor conservation jobs. The YCC can be traced back to President Roosevelt's New Deal (Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's), responsible for much of New Mexico's State Park development and extensive work with the US Forest Service. The YCC is continuing this tradition by providing trail crews for Open Space.

Now that school is in session, the YCC program will continue through the cooperation of the APS Work Study Program, which allows high

school juniors and seniors to take their classes in the morning and work in the afternoon. A great deal of progress rebuilding and stabilizing the trails at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area was aided by these youths. So next time you see YCC out on the trails, tell them to keep up the good work.

Trail maintenance

Maintaining those unpaved hiking, biking and horse trails on Open Space lands is an ongoing job. Once a trail is built, the bare soil is exposed to the erosive natural forces of wind, water and time. It is important to remember that erosion is a natural process which, given enough time, can create a wonder such as the Grand Canyon. But these natural forces are accelerated by the actions of human use.

We build trails in order to minimize human impact on the landscape. By limiting the access of users to designated trails, we are preserving the rest of our environment. Please help us and follow some fundamentals of trail etiquette:

- Use only official designated trails. Do not create your own trails!
- Remember most trails are multi-use. Be courteous and share them.
- Mountain bikers should control speed at all times.
- All users should avoid going out on trails after heavy rain or snow melt to minimize damage to fragile soils.

Trail Closures and Reroutes on the Pino Trail

Certain unmaintainable trails were closed by the Open Space Division and reroutes were built to provide more stable treads. A mix of native grasses is planted on old routes and keeping people off is the first step to reclamation. If enough moisture reaches the seeds (and this winter looks promising), the old trails should be barely visible by summer. Pick up the latest Trail Guide at the park entrance before venturing into our wonderful recreational area.



TRAILWATCH VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

February 22, 1997
9AM to 3:30PM

Open Space
Administrative Offices
3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
Pre-registration required
by February 21
Call 873-6620 for more
information

Rents start
at only \$995

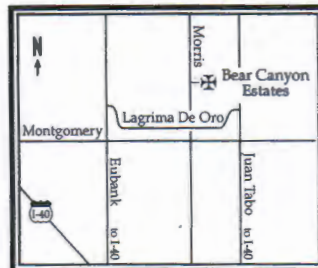
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SANDIA HAPPENINGS

Stop Whining...Start Tasting!

By Claire Wilcox - SHHA Community Services, Chair

3rd Annual Wine Tasting - March 8th, 5-7pm - \$8



SHHA Secretary, Ruth Friesen, toasts last year's tasty evening.

Whining bout the bad weather or your New Year's resolutions? Well here's some good news that should change your spirits!

This will be our 3rd annual wine tasting and as in past years will be held at Fumes For Children, 9600 Tennyson (right across from Circle K. This year we're decreasing the ticket price and requesting that you bring an appetizer to accompany our wine offerings, but it isn't required. If you have a special hors d'oeuvres to share, bring your creation and a card with the recipe. We'll publish it in a later edition of The Grit. (But if you want to keep Granny's Hot Chili recipe a secret, omit the card - just bring the Chili!)

There's a reservation form in your Sandia Heights bill and one here in the Grit on page 3. They must be returned by March 1st. The Wine Tasting is from 5-7pm this year so you can continue your evening and go out to dinner afterwards.

IT'S MARCH! SO COME IN LIKE A LION - INVITE A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND TO THIS "WINEDERFUL" EVENT!



There's a refurbished Bulletin Board for your use at the SHHA Park on San Bernardino and Tramway. Check it out.

Recyclables Added to List

Starting in January, the following additional items will be accepted for recycling:

Magazines, Computer Paper, Phone Books & Junk Mail.

Please separate magazines and newspapers and either tie your newspapers in bundles or put them in paper bags. We use the papers as "bricks" to build a wall in the recycle container behind which we can throw the aluminum cans, plastic jugs and cardboard.

Each month, as an attempt at ecology education, we are encouraging Sandia Heights youth groups to participate in the recycling program. They are wonderful at stomping down the jugs and aluminum cans so we can load the recycling container more efficiently and completely. So far, the Sandia Heights 4-H Club (Andrea Carvey, Leader), Boy Scouts (Laurie Williams, Leader) and North Albuquerque Acres Children's Horse Association (Diane Severns, Leader) have been a great help. The latter group uses the money they get from the aluminum cans to provide needed articles for a riding club for disabled children. And the 4-H Club is putting together a recycle sign with examples of acceptable and unacceptable plastics which will be displayed at the site in the future.

We are aware of the new drop-off center opened in the Smith's parking lot on Tramway. We will be monitoring its success and commitment to recycling in the long term.

Many thanks to the following volunteers for their help:

In November

Bob Owens
Jeff Brinker
Jay Hartfield
David Wilcox
Mary Henderson

N. Albuquerque Acres
Children's Horse Assn.
Lindsey Schultz
Kirsten Severns
Diane Severns, Leader

In December

Mary Henderson
Jeff & Stephanie Brinker
Sam Bensonhaver
John Thomas
Jay Hartfield

Boy Scouts
James Villeneuve
Alex Welli
Joseph Parks
Andy Huffstodt
David Gonzales

In January

Sam Bensonhaver
Jean Ottmer
John Simmons
Fran Luftschein
Arnold Ronnebeck
Debbie, Arthur,
Ashley & A.J. Dillard



Claire Wilcox



Calling all Doers!

Special Interest Groups Forming

Calling all enthusiastic newcomers and all established, long-term residents of Sandia Heights! Come join your new and old neighbors in forming some fun and novel interest groups that tickle your fancy. Are you curious, or perhaps passionate about exploring new territory - certain activities or topics - with like-minded souls?

Take the plunge and try one or two of the following activity groups: nature hikes; birding; creative writing; drawing/painting; book reading/discussion; womens' chorus; once-a-month-outings seeking out rageously divine restaurants or rich and unusual destinations in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos and surrounding areas.

We are now actively forming special interest groups and anticipate having initial meeting around the 2nd or 3rd week in February. Please call Holly Wilkenfeld, the contact person for formation of these groups, at 821-7204. If you don't hear back right away, don't give up, please try again! Do something different and join us for some good times.

Double Eagle Before/After School Program Starts

Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a Before/After School Recreation Program for children attending Double Eagle Elementary. It includes arts and crafts; gross motor, leisure skills programming; and field trips almost every Wednesday. Snack times are available, but snacks are not provided. The recreational staff is exceptional and quality programming is provided at a reasonable cost.

Prices are as follows:

BEFORE SCHOOL:	1st child	Additional child
	\$55 /mo.	\$32.50/semester
AFTER SCHOOL:	\$70 /mo.	\$32.50/semester

For more information, please call Daniel Garcia, Site Supervisor at 797-9607.



WHERE: CIRCLE K ON TRAMWAY
WHEN: 1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 9AM-12 NOON

Want to help?
Call 856-6282.



Clean Air Enthusiasts Can Breathe a Little Easier

By Carolyn Hindel - Grit Editor

Take in a deep breath of fresh air and be glad we live where we do. Albuquerque has met federal clean air standards for the last 5 years, but if the city grows as predicted, the challenge to improve our air quality will grow with it. Since I'm into breathing, I decided to honor an invitation from the city to see what they're doing about this inevitable problem.

I attended the Grand Opening of the ABQ Transit Department's Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Facility on January 8th. Sound exciting? It actually turned out to be quite a winter morning. Mayor Chavez was there to assist Anne Watkins, ABQ Transit Director with ribbon cutting and introductions. Also attending were Blake Rideway, PNM Sr. VP of Energy Services, City Councilwomen Ruth Adams and AnneMarie Chenoweth, President of Neoplan USA, which is building the new CNG buses for the city.



▲ Mayor Martin Chavez cuts the ribbon at dedication of the new Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility. On the far left is ABQ Transit Dept. Director, Anne Watkins.

I learned why clean-burning, compressed natural gas fuel is one of the most significant environmental steps ever taken in Albuquerque. It reduces air pollution, is safe, and is more economical than traditional gasoline and diesel fuels. CNG vehicles will result in the reduction of 90% of carbon monoxide, 50% of nitrogen oxides and 85% of reactive hydrocarbons (the principal ingredient in smog). CNG engines don't emit smoke. Fewer engine deposits mean fewer tune-ups and oil changes. Groundwater pollution is eliminated since CNG is a gas and non-corrosive.

The safety advantages are numerous. CNG is the same fuel used in homes to operate many of our

▲ The Mayor tries out the wheelchair assist device on one of 40 new NeoPlan CNG buses being built for the city in Lamar, Colorado. ▶



▲ The old maintenance facility is being upgraded for the new buses.

▶ Jerry Montoya, is one of the very able maintenance mechanics experienced in the new CNG technology.



stoves, furnaces and water heaters. For transit vehicles, however, it must be compressed into enough volume to be a practical and portable. Thus the fuel system construction is mechanically stronger than its gasoline counterpart, so there's less likely to be damage in a collision. If a leak occurs, natural gas will simply dissipate into the atmosphere because it's a vapor as opposed to a liquid and lighter than air.

CNG has an ignition point two times higher than gasoline and a very narrow range of flammability, making it safer to use. A nationwide study of 21 CNG fleets, with a total of 434 million miles combined, showed that injury rates were reduced by 84%.

After touring one of the 6 impressive new Neoplan buses with Mayor Chavez, everyone headed for some warmth and some lunch in the main offices of the Transit Authority at 601 Yale Blvd. But I really wanted to see who was behind the sign touting "the best maintenance personnel in New Mexico."

I was fortunate enough to meet Joe Montoya, a 17 year veteran on the team of 40 or so very able maintenance mechanics. He took the time to give me a private tour of the "state's largest CNG fueling station" and the facility where all the old and new vehicles will be serviced. It's Joe's job to learn and implement the new technology. "It's a completely different engine and fueling system," he pointed out as we compared an old gasoline intake line with the new compressed-gas valve. The entire maintenance area is being renovated to accommodate the new CNG vehicles, which will include 40 Sun Tran buses, new Sun Trolleys, Sun Vans, and Sun Shuttle and staff vehicles. Joe says most of these need different floor-lift designs, equipment, parts and work space for servicing.

Joe Montoya was one of seven mechanical technicians chosen from New Mexico to supervise maintenance of the transit system for the city of Atlanta during the 1996 Olympics. He spent two busy weeks making sure everything was "running" outside the Olympic stadiums as well. He enjoyed the experience and did Albuquerque proud (even though some people in Atlanta never heard of New Mexico).

All the mechanics are being trained in the new technology by Neoplan instructors as part of the City's contract. Older GMC buses made in Detroit will eventually be replaced by new "clean gas" vehicles. The City hopes to have half of its public transit fleet CNG powered by the end of 1997. Joe says a CNG bus can rack up 400 miles before refueling, which takes only about 5 to 7 minutes at the Transit's new Fueling Island.

After admiring a new 43-passenger Sun Tran with Lift-U wheelchair access, wider aisles and rooftop climate control, I thanked Joe Montoya profusely and headed guiltily to my gas-guzzling Single Occupant Vehicle. Okay, I wasn't that guilty but I did think about it. Albuquerque intends to give people choices besides the SOV, so that we don't become a Phoenix or a Los Angeles where dirty air and frayed tempers have burgeoned with the population. A breath of fresh air, indeed, and worthy of our support.





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OR

DAILY VISITS

MATURE RELIABLE ADULT

REFERENCES

JANICE 299-4768

HAPPY 1997 FROM THE SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL!

Time to Think Crime Prevention

HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Put your address on both sides of your mailbox. You'll be easier for Security, the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department to find as quickly as possible. If you have a group mailbox, please put your address numbers in a prominent, well lit area.
- Call your alarm company to update important phone numbers. Include our mobile number and give them the name of a reliable party entrusted with your key and code.
- Call Security before you leave town, so we can put a heavier watch on your home. Make emergency names and numbers available. We check for strange vehicles, lights inside and newspapers in your driveway.
- Form a neighborhood Watch Program. Among the 31 subdivisions in Sandia Heights, only 5 such programs have been established. Studies show that Watch Programs typically reduce residential burglaries, vandalism and theft by 30% over a two year period.
- If you don't like door-to-door salesmen, put up "NO SOLICITATION" signs near your front entrance.
- Report suspicious vehicles, persons and activities to the Sheriff and the Security Patrol. It's impossible to patrol every neighborhood 24 hours a day. You can be the eyes and ears that help to protect our community.



Sanitation Engineers,
Fred Gessner and Danny Sullivan

**The Security Patrol
Pager Number (822-2500)
is no longer in service.**
**Please call the mobile phone
at 269-3991
or the manager at 856-6347
to reach the guard on duty.**
**With any emergency,
do not hesitate to call 911.**

Sanitation Department REMINDERS:

- Refuse containers should be at curbside by 7AM.
- 40 lbs. maximum per bag.
- 10 bag limit.
- Newspapers & magazines must be bagged.
- Moving boxes must be flattened.
- All yard waste must be bagged.
- No open piles of weeds or chamisa will be picked up per County ordinance. Commercial haulers and landscapers should be used.
- Special pick ups, such as household refuse, move in/out items & yard clean up should be scheduled on Mondays of each week.



John Evans,
Sandia Heights
Security Patrol

SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY PATROL RESPONSES

January - December 1996

TYPE OF CALL:	NUMBER:
Alarms	641
Open Door/Window	59
Motorist Assist	165
Breaking & Entering	12
Attempted Breaking & Entering	13
Construction Site Burglary	3
Vehicle Burglary	22
Suspicious Vehicle	170
Suspicious Person	79
Peeping Tom	6
Theft (Larceny)	35
Animal Control Assist	33
Lost/Found Pet	58
Pet Nuisance	20
Snake	18
Family Dispute	9
Neighbor Dispute	8
Loud Disruptive Party	17
Fireworks Complaint	7
Vandalism (General)	92
Mailbox Vandalism	59
Mailbox Stolen	6
Lost/Found Items	9
Deer Hunters	0
Speeding Vehicle	12
Assault/Battery (Fight)	4
Death Threat	6
Unusual Special Request	64
Salesperson Problems	30
Phone Problems	11
Car Accident	15
Motorcycle Nuisance	6
Fire	40
Rescue	41
Utility Company Assist	52
Construction Sites	20
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.)	29
Specials (Extra patrols/observation)	48
Homeowners on Vacation	2568
TOTAL CALLS	4524
Total Mileage	46256

THE **GRIT**

MAY ISSUE
Deadline for articles,
advertising,
classifieds,
letters to the editor:
APRIL 15th!

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RESIDENT PROFILE: The Moodys – Exploring the High Seas and the High Desert

By Carolyn Hindel – Grit Editor



Pat and Frank Moody show off their ship's cannon at the entrance to their home on Spring Creek Lane.

The 18th century replica of a ship's cannon greeting you at the front door is an appropriate welcome to the sea of activities going on inside the lovely home of Frank and Pat Moody of Sandia Heights North. Their beautiful contemporary-adobe was designed and built 2 years ago by Foy Curry. Not many were interested in this boulder festooned acre near the National Forest boundary on Spring Creek Lane. "It was considered a no-view lot," says Frank. But Mr. Curry took advantage of every view opportunity with great aplomb, placing windows away from neighboring houses and surrounding the very private patio with a flowing, wave-like adobe wall that allows only sunning mountain views.

Inside is a mix of cozy nooks and open living space with angled walls and skylights to display Pat's passion, oil and watercolor painting (she's in *Who's Who of American Women*), and Frank's – elephant art. "Paw prints embedded in the saltillo tile here and there are considered a sign of good luck," they say. Their cats, Sadie and Star, frolic happily amidst the eclectic decor. The Moodys are world travelers and it shows.

Although purporting to be retired, this fascinating couple are busier than they've ever been. They are part owners of Blue Chip Cookies of San Francisco which rivals Mrs. Field's in mouth watering ditties. They also share ownership of Direct Worldwide Travel in Albuquerque. But their foremost

endeavor centers around water, the very thing there's least of in our part of the southwest. Years of escaping their high-stress jobs by drifting on the ocean has led the Moodys to a new lifestyle. Now dividing their time between the high desert and the high sea seems to be their cup of tea and they think a lot of others here would be interested.

So Pat and Frank have opened Cruise Holidays here in Albuquerque to offer anyone who misses the salt air a chance to get wet and see the world while they're at it. And to them the ultimate getaway, one they've taken 5 times and counting, is a luxury safari aboard the *Windstar*. This unique vessel is a fully equipped, motoring cruise ship that is also capable of operating and maneuvering under sail power. It's designed first of all to accommodate the sails, and second, to provide a maximum amount of outside deck space. "It's the sexiest and most physically appealing cruise ship afloat," says Frank rather frankly. But for desert people it's an oasis of water, sun, fun, relaxation and subtle luxury that can't be beat. *Windstar* has two sister ships that together sail the warm climates of Tahiti, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

Each ship has four levels with 74 identical passenger cabins all with TV, VCR and CD. There's an exercise room, sauna,

Frank was a coach at Sandia High School until 1971.



PLANT OF THE SEASON

Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) is a small evergray shrub that grows 2 feet tall and three feet wide. Yellow buttonlike flowers appear in summer and the tiny foliage has a delightful sage fragrance.



Lavender Cotton
Santolina chamaecyparissus

Lavender Cotton is a native to Spain and Northern Africa. It is cold hardy down to -40°F, so it can be grown successfully in Santa Fe or the East Mountains too. Plant in full sun or part shade anytime of year as long as the ground is not frozen, using 1 part planting mix to 1 part native soil.

Planting: Build a berm with soil 2 feet around the base of the plant. Fill the basin with water twice to ensure a deep soaking. Keep the plant moist but not too wet for the first two months. As time passes, decrease the frequency of water and increase the amount of water given. After the first year, monthly soakings will suffice, except in mid-June and July, when waterings every two weeks will help this plant to thrive.

Recommended use: Lavender Cotton is a fast growing shrub and a real advantage where quick establishment is needed. Use it as a groundcover, a low border or edging plant or in rock gardens. Because of its gray-colored foliage, it provides a nice contrast to green under trees or taller shrubs. Lavender Cotton is also a deer and rabbit repellent.

A related species is Green Santolina (*Santolina virens*) which is evergreen not evergray. Growth habits and plant characteristics are the same, however Green Santolina is also a fire retardant.

If you have any questions regarding this plant, please call Dan Caudillo at 856-6617.



Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

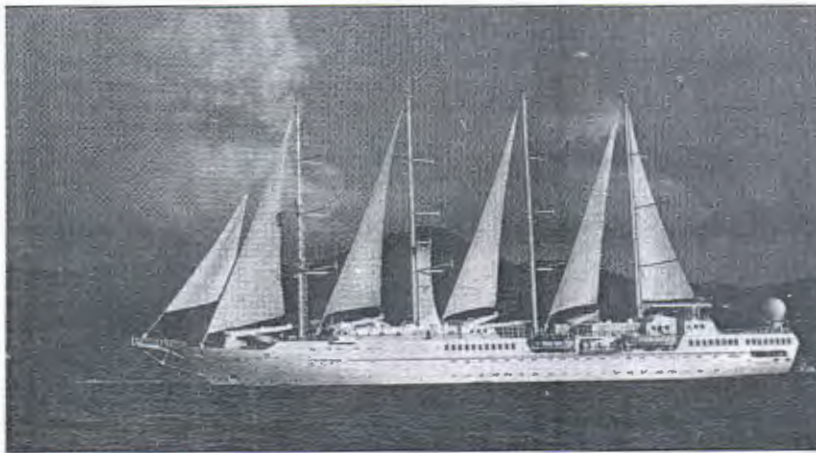
"What's that little purple flower growing by my driveway
"What native plants would do well in my garden?"
"Am I watering too much?"
"Who ate all my flowers?"

If you would like to learn more about wildflowers and share your gardening questions and experiences with interested neighbors, check out the Sandia Heights Wildflower Club. Friendly, informal meetings every other month, featuring: talks by experts in the fields of wildflower identification, native plants of our area, water-wise gardening, natural landscaping, and more; panel discussions on topics of interest; June garden tour; summer field trip; fall pot luck. It's a great way to explore the beautiful natural environment in which we live. Join us for our next meeting.

Trees That Please
By Michael Melendres, Tome Nursery

Wednesday, March 19th
7:30 pm
Home of Peggy Owens
1434 Honeysuckle Drive

For more information on the Wildflower Club: 856-6844



"The Wind Star, Wind Spirit and Wind Song are the sexiest and most physically appealing cruise ships afloat," says Frank.

rugged terrain out her window provides an excellent milieu for ideas.

Frank says he bought their house without Pat seeing it. And the southwest design took some getting used to after years in the Midwest and California. But while they considered many places to settle down—Phoenix, Scottsdale, Prescott in Arizona; Monterey Peninsula, Marin County in California—the open space, views and hiking paradise of the Sandias won out.

Frank still finds himself consulting part time for the shopping mall industry. And Pat is hankering for her brushes and canvas. But the business of cruising and the "inaugurals," or coming-out parties aboard the new and refurbished ships thrown several times a year by various cruise lines are hard to pass up. One of their last trips was on the Carnival's new Destiny, the largest ship in the Caribbean; a floating resort weighing 104,000 tons with room for 3300 passengers. "The Statue of Liberty would fit in its atrium hub. Awesome!" say the Moodys. And for their 30th cruise, they are accompanying a small group on the Radisson Seven Seas' Song of Flower from London to Malaga in July 1997. So give them a call if you need water or just want to talk about it!

swimming pool, library, casino, gift shop, lounge and cozy restaurant. The unpretentious decor is tastefully done in subtle colors and the size of the vessels give you the feeling of being on a private yacht rather than a cruise ship. The theme is casual, but elegant. "For many men it's a treat not to have to wear a tie for a week while there's always an opportunity to dress up in a fun relaxed way," says Pat.

These cruises are designed for active people. Two full-time sports directors provide equipment for snorkeling, scuba, sunfish sailboating, wind surfing, kayaking and banana boat rides. The rear swimming/sports platform is lowered at most stops to accommodate all of these activities and 4 zodiac power boats are ready for waterskiing and transportation to shore and sites.

So where did all this love for the sea come from? And why are they in Sandia Heights? Well let's back up a bit. Frank hails from Winslow, AZ, so the southwest is no stranger. He received his Masters in American History from NAU in Flagstaff in 1967 and had his first taste of Albuquerque, teaching, coaching at Sandia High School (Candelaria and Pennsylvania) till 1971. "There was nothing in the foothills back then... no homes," Frank remembers. Sandia Heights was just beginning when he segued into another career—management and investment in large regional centers—taking him to San Bernardino, CA, Northbrook, IL, Chico, CA, and finally to San Francisco in 1981, where he eventually became part owner of Yarmouth Inc., a commercial real estate investment company with \$8 billion in property and the 4th largest institutional investment advisor in the U.S.

It was there he met Patricia Murray. She was a divorced mother of four with a Masters degree in Psychiatric Nursing and an accomplished painter, having attended the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Their first real adventure together was aboard Racy One, Pat's 40 ft. sailboat docked in the British Virgin Islands. It was the beginning of a wet and wonderful relationship. Pat was also a certified skipper, with a Coast Guard Ocean Operator's License, often sailing San Francisco Bay, the Pacific coast and most waters of the Caribbean.

She had come a long way from paralyzing polio at the age of 12 in Muskegon, MI. While raising her children, working at medical centers in Michigan, Missouri and California, and learning to sail, she still found time to satisfy her alter ego by bidding for tuition to art school at hospital fundraisers.

She has painted and taught for years under the name Patrice Murray. "I would call my forte... Realism," says Pat. Her studio in Sandia Heights attests to her keen ability to see unique design in the world of light and shadows that surround us. And the



Pat would like to spend more time painting. Her favorite work entitled "Support Group" (right) has the faces of colleagues hidden in the art.

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Song of Flower

July 28, 1997
London to Malaga

Special Group Rates

Captain Moody's Cruise Tip

Pat and I will be escorting this special group. Learn more about this exciting cruise at a Coffee, Wednesday, March 12. Please call for your personal invitation and details.



THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH PASO DEL NORTE FIRESTATION — 7:00PM

✓ FEBRUARY 12 ✓ MARCH 12 ✓ APRIL 9

The Bobcat:

By Robert L. Harrison, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor of Biology, UNM

Controlled power. Stealth. Camouflage. Acute sensory perception. Warm and fuzzy? Purring? Behold the bobcat, symbol of the American wilderness and countless schools and sports teams. The image of the bobcat, like that of the tiger, is widely used, but relatively few people are knowledgeable of the habits and inner lives of either species.

Bobcats are larger than most housecats, weighing between 10 and 35 pounds. Their coats are various shades of gray, yellow and brown with dark spots or lines. They have very short tails for which they are named. Living throughout most of the United States and Mexico, bobcats make their homes in almost any habitat: mountains, deserts, forests, swamps and farmland. Only intense agriculture or urban development are known to keep them out. Bobcats occur all over New Mexico although there are fewer in the eastern plains.

Rabbits are the main course of a bobcat's fare, but they also hunt other small animals, such as rodents and birds. They are fully capable of killing adult deer, but do so rarely. Hunting primarily at dawn and dusk, bobcats use their keen senses of sight and hearing to locate prey. Their camouflage coats and stealth allow them to approach unseen behind cover before a final deadly pounce.

Adult bobcats lead solitary lives except during mating seasons. Females live in separate territories, with one dominant male overlapping the ranges of several females. Usually two or three kittens are born in the spring. When food is scarce, such as during extra dry years, the social system breaks down and bobcats roam widely in search of food.

They do purr but are usually silent. During mating season, they may emit loud screams, hisses and ghostly growling sounds. Curious as any housecat, they are attracted to shiny pieces of metal or unusual scents. However, it may take them up to half an hour to approach a strange object, all the while alert to danger.

American colonists considered the bobcat as a threat to livestock and wild game, and established



Unseen Dweller of the Wilds

bounties to reduce their numbers. They were never as persecuted as larger predators such as wolves. But in 1975, the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) prohibited export of the skins of endangered spotted cats such as ocelots and cheetahs. European furriers turned to the bobcat as a substitute and the number killed soared to over 90,000 per year in the 1980's. The possibility that bobcats might be wiped out led to regulated hunting and trapping seasons. The demand for their fur has declined with the general decline of fashion furs and now most states, including New Mexico, pay little attention to management of bobcats.

Despite the decrease in trapping, other threats to the bobcat are growing. Urban expansion is gradually filling their habitat. Bobcats do occur in many refuges, but home ranges of individuals can be as large as 33 square miles for females and 60 square miles for males. Most refuges are likely to fully support only a few. For comparison, the Sandia Mountains contain about 100 square miles of national forest, and probably a relatively small number of bobcats. If the Sandias become fully surrounded by development in Tijeras Canyon, the East Mountain Area and Placitas, the small population of bobcats may become isolated and in danger of dying out.

Another threat to bobcats is the expansion of the range of coyotes, which will prey on them. With the extirpation of the wolf and extensive habitat changes in the lower 48 states, coyote populations have grown. In 1989, the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish reported that our bobcats were dying younger than in the past. Increased numbers of coyotes may be the reason.

Presently, the bobcat is not listed as endangered and many areas appear to have healthy populations. However, their numbers have not been closely monitored since the peak trapping years of the 1980's. Habitat loss and expansion of coyotes are stealthy hunters in themselves, capable of depleting a species' population virtually unnoticed. Survival of bobcats in the future will be a matter of careful planning and understanding of their needs.

The Department of Biology at the University of New Mexico is beginning a study on the effects of housing development on bobcats in Sandia Heights, the East Mountains and Placitas.

In a few weeks, residents of these areas will receive a questionnaire about their observations and attitudes toward bobcats.

Watch for it in the mail!



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Xeriscaping: It's Not A Style, It's A Philosophy

By Bob England - Designer & Horticulturist

THE 9 MOST MISGUIDED THINGS PEOPLE REQUEST WHEN THEY WANT XERISCAPING

1. I want all rock. (Let's make Albuquerque ugly)
2. I want plants that take no water. (Plastic desires)
3. I want grass, so I can't have xeriscaping. (Uninformed)
4. I don't need a design. (They don't carry road maps either)
5. I don't want any maintenance. (Found a car there)
6. I don't need a watering system. (Plastic plants)
7. I don't like that cactus look. (Options are good)
8. I want to save water, but weeds - no thanks! (Options?)
9. I'm allergic to weeds. (Plant hummingbird plants)

These statements mean that
Xeriscaping is misunderstood.

so

WHAT IS XERISCAPING?

**Definition: "Quality Landscaping that
Conserves Water and Protects the
Environment"**

THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD XERISCAPING

1. PLANNING AND DESIGN:

Developing a landscape plan is the first and most important step. A properly planned Xeriscape landscape takes into account the regional and micro climatic conditions of the site; existing vegetation and topographical conditions; the intended use and desires of the property owner; and the zoning or grouping of plant materials by their water needs. A landscape plan also allows landscaping to be done in phases. Many individuals can develop their own plan, but for best results, consult a landscape professional.

2. SOIL ANALYSIS:

Soils will vary from site to site and even within a given site. A soil analysis based on random sampling provides information that enables proper selection of plants and any soil amendments needed. When appropriate, soil amendments can enhance the health and growing capabilities of the landscape by improving water drainage, moisture penetration and a soil's water holding capacity.

3. APPROPRIATE PLANT SELECTION:

Plant selection should be based on their adaptability to the landscape area, the desired effect and their ultimate size, color, and texture. Plants should be grouped in accordance with their respective water

needs and arranged to achieve the look you want. Most plants have a place in Xeriscape landscape. Maximum water conservation can be achieved by selecting plants that require a minimal amount of supplemental watering in a given area. Landscape professionals can be of assistance when selecting various plant material.

4. PRACTICAL TURF AREAS:

The type and location of turf areas should be selected in the same manner as all other plantings. Turf shouldn't be treated as a fill-in material but rather as a major planned element of the Xeriscape landscape. Since many turf varieties require supplemental watering at frequencies different than the other types of landscape plants, turf should be placed so it can be irrigated separately. While turf areas provide many practical benefits in a landscape, how and where it is used can result in a significant reduction in water use.

5. EFFICIENT IRRIGATION:

If a landscape requires supplemental watering and/or if an irrigation system is desired, the system should be well planned and managed to conserve water. Watering only when plants need it and watering deeply encourages healthy root growth and more drought tolerant landscape. Consult landscape and irrigation professionals when planning irrigation for a Xeriscape landscape.

6. USE OF MULCHES:

Mulches applied and maintained at appropriate depths in planting beds will assist soils in retaining moisture, reduce weed growth, and prevent erosion. They can also be used where conditions are not adequate or conducive for growing quality turf or ground covers. Mulches are typically wood bark chips, wood grindings, pine straws, nut shells, small gravel or shredded landscape clippings.

7. APPROPRIATE MAINTENANCE:

Proper landscape and irrigation maintenance will preserve and enhance a quality Xeriscape landscape. When the first six principles have been followed, maintenance is easier and less expensive, because a "responsible" landscape is healthier and uses less water, fertilizer, pesticides and other chemicals to maintain the plant material.

People often ask if blue grass is drought tolerant? Only "1" answer yes, if it's in its native, natural home (Kentucky). It's a cool season grass, which means it grows during the winter months. It can tolerate a short term drought during those months if normal precipitation occurs the remaining part of the year. To force it to grow in Albuquerque is to create a situation that is not normal. By forcing it to grow in the hot part of the year; cutting it short; planting it on very shallow soils that are not tilled, or tilled only 2-3 inches deep; and watering it only 2-3 inches deep is



Xeriscaping - not all rocks.

neither normal for the grass nor a responsible way to landscape. Plants mistreated in this way are prevented from growing naturally. Stressed plants, even though adaptable to garden care, demand special treatment and lose their drought tolerance.

**Of all the principles, irrigation is the
most confusing.**

So here's a step-by-step:

- A valve can be manual or automatic - turning off and on the supply of water. Automatic valves must open and close with low volume.
- Controllers keep time - What day(s) to water, what time to start, how long each valve allows watering. They should have multiple programs; multiple start times; 15 or 30 day calendars; and a run time from 1 minute to 9 hours.
- Pressure in lines need to be no more than 25 pounds per inch (psi). Most Albuquerque homes have a pressure above 50 psi.
- All systems that will have drip devices also need to be filtered.
- Infiltration is the amount of water that soaks into the ground in one hour.
- Precipitation is amount of water deliver by a watering device.
- Precipitation must be less than infiltration, if not, runoff occurs.
- Each plant needs a sufficient amount of water to wet the root ball thoroughly each time it is watered, about one gallon for each square foot of root mass. Usually the root mass will equal the mass of plant material above ground.
- How often a plant needs to be watered is determined by its ability to tolerate or demand drought. Once established, high-water-use plants can go without water for only about 7 days; moderate-water-use plants can tolerate dryness for about 15 days; and low-water-use plants are tolerant for about 30 days.

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856-6617



New TVI Training Center Goes to the Voters February 4th

By Sally MacDonald Ooms

The Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute will seek voter approval on February 4 for a new workforce training center that would offer training based on businesses' specific skill requirements, budgets and timelines. "TVI has always done a good job at training entry-level employees," says President Alex Sanchez. "Now we need a new tool in our toolbox so we can respond rapidly."

The funding plan is for \$9 million, which calls for a request of an additional \$4 million from the state Legislature and for TVI to raise another \$1 million. If voters approve the measure, the mill levy increase will be \$2.66 per year for 10 years for the owner of a property with a market value of \$100,000.

Sanchez says there are not yet any architectural designs. The center would include two concepts: an open bay area he says TVI could have used when it trained new employees for General Mills, and an office-type training space with computers and computer accoutrements.

TVI has already been fashioning programs to meet certain industry needs, says Noel Behne, a retired Albuquerque-area banker who chairs the committee to support the initiative. But the space for training equipment is cramped and New Mexico's existing and prospective businesses are clamoring for a large expansion in workforce training. A new facility would provide space for companies' own equipment so employee training would be completely up-to-date and germane. Behne says General Mills and other industries have put existing facilities to this use. Other ABQ metro area industries like Intel and Motorola have voiced strong support for a larger center.

The appeal to Albuquerque economic development groups and businesses is threefold, says Behne. Those thinking of settling in the city would be served by having workers trained "before they even get here." And the center would be available for expand-

ing NM businesses to use, supplying their own new equipment. A "hidden secret bonus" falls in line with the current "work fair" drive, the effort to get people off the welfare rolls. "I perceive that there will be a transition period in which we can use this center to train people. It would be a tremendous benefit to the state," says Behne.

Sanchez says small businesses would realize significant benefits from the center because, while they must remain competitive, they often do not have the resources to do in-house training. The center could aggregate their needs and consolidate group training. And it would allow TVI to respond quickly to requests from companies needing short-term concentrated employee training in highly specific areas.

The center's focus would vary from TVI's regular certificate and degree programs which are more comprehensive and take up to two years to complete. "It will help workers to remain competitive and get better paying jobs. We can have rapid response to any growth in the economy. Workers receiving training would benefit. Companies needing trained employees would benefit. And the general public would benefit via positive effects on the economy," says Sanchez.

Behne says his support committee of community leaders, formed only a month ago, has already raised \$6,000 in cash and received large monetary pledges toward the campaign. The 15 committee members represent area industries, businesses and banks as well as the school. "If we are going to prepare for the year 2000 and keep Albuquerque growing the way it has been, this is a way to do it."

"The more we're able to provide skills and train workers to be more competitive, the better off we all are," says Sanchez. "That's what it's all about."

ELECT DICK BARR

- Former CEO of Presbyterian
- Past United Way Campaign Chairman
- Former Member TVI Foundation
- Active TVI Supporter Since 1969

His vision for the future of TVI..

"TVI must effectively fulfill its multiple missions to train vocational workers for existing and new jobs; to provide educational options for associate degrees and preparation for baccalaureate degrees; and to offer numerous continuing education or skill opportunities."

Vote for Dick Barr paid for by Dick Barr for TVI Campaign, Maureen Luna, Treasurer

BARR / TVI

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BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

Sheriff Sets Goals for 1997

by Joe Bowdich - Bernalillo County Sheriff



When I was elected to this office, it was with the intention that I make a difference in the Sheriff's Department. During the past two years much progress has been made, however I believe we can and will do better in '97. The goals I have set include a continued concentration on our recruiting effort; to facilitate the building of two additional Command Centers; and to provide more responsive service to the citizens of Bernalillo County.

Our recruiting effort remains paramount on my list of priorities for 1997. The County Commission granted us new positions for Deputies in 1996, so that we may have a total of 247 Deputies (including Undersheriff Kenneth McWethy and myself) on board. Last December, 13 Deputies graduated from Bernalillo County Sheriff's Regional Academy. Those 13, which include 6 women, are now assigned to on-the-job of training. We are left with 30 vacancies,

which I plan to fill by holding two Academies in 1997. You can assist in this effort. If you know someone interested in a law enforcement career, have them call our Recruiting Office at 242-1798.

Many of you are aware of the building of the NE Heights Sheriff's Substation, to be named in memory of Lieutenant William Sibrava. Construction on that facility is expected to be completed this Spring. This is part of our community policing effort, "to locate in the heart of the community." The substation is intended to be a place where community groups can gather. Plans are in the works to build two new command centers - in the North Valley and in the South Valley. We also need to make some improvements on our command center in the East Mountains. While we may not see the fruits of our labor until next year, the planning stages are well underway now.

The substations go hand-in-hand with what we've got planned for our community policing effort.



Joe Bowdich

They allow us to be closer and more responsive to the community. I believe we can better tackle crime issues when

law enforcement and the citizens are in sync. Another beneficial element to our problem-solving approach to policing is the establishment of a Crime Analysis Unit, to better determine where our resources should be utilized. Technology can be a huge asset in fighting crime. It won't be long before our Communications Center is operating with CAD-Computer Aided Dispatch. Deputies will be online with the Center through computers in their squad cars.

While this is a brief overview of what I would like to see happen in '97, I am constantly open to new ideas and am willing to consider what will work in your particular community. It has been proven time and time again - people are our most valuable resource.

New Sheriff's Command and Communications Center is Right on Schedule

by Bob Kemble - SHHA Vice President

According to Nat Arrieta, Bernalillo County Communications Manager, construction of the Sheriff's Command/Communications Center near the corner of Eubank and Holly is progressing on schedule and is expected to be completed by mid-March. The sheriff's staff should begin moving in about that date, although all communication equipment will probably not be installed until mid-June or July. Short of unexpected problems, such as severe, long-term weather, no serious delays are anticipated by Longhorn Construction Services Company.



New Command Center is nearing completion at Eubank & Holly NE.

The idea for a Sheriff's Substation in this area began in earnest when the SHHA Board made it known that their first priority for capital projects was establishing a greater law enforcement presence in the far Northeast Heights area. That concern took on even greater magnitude with the homicide at Circle K on Tramway Boulevard in early 1994.

With the assistance and substantial support of our County Commissioner Barbara Seward, Sheriff Bowdich and other officials, the substation concept was expanded to eventually encompass the current plan; i.e. a combination command and communication center with sufficient space for in-service law enforcement training and meetings for appropriate public entities like local homeowner's associations. Led by then Senator Tom Wray, a member of SHHA, our local legislators were able to obtain matching funds within two consecutive legislative sessions, which made the building plan financially feasible.

The building will be 13,500 sq. ft. including a meeting room of 1400 sq. ft. and ample parking space, but will have only a single story without unsightly towers or external communications apparatus. It is designed for future expansion as needed. The cost is around 1.7 million and it will house some 2 million in sophisticated communication equipment, functioning as a dispatch center for both sheriff patrols and fire calls. It will also serve as an alternate emergency operations center and training facility as needed.

The SHHA Board has been pleased to observe the progress of this important addition to our neighborhood for which we feel a bit of parental responsibility. We again express our thanks to all who have assisted in this project.



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Win a Free Flight for Too at the Rio Grande Zoo!

Winter Zoo '97 Photo Contest!

The Rio Grande Zoo is having a Winter Photo Contest sponsored by Southwest Airlines. You can enjoy the seasonal beauty of the zoo, have fun, take photos and maybe win round-trip airfare for two. The contest is open to all amateur photographers and there is no limit of entries per person. There are categories for B/W and color, animals alone, or animals with people and separate age groups for children and adults. Winners will be announced at noon, Saturday, March 8th and 9th at the 1997 Rio Grande Zoo Winter Photo Show. Winning photos will be displayed at the zoo's entrance during March and will become property of the Rio Grande Zoo afterwards.

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FEBRUARY 8-9

Contest Rules: Each entry is \$5.00 and must be either black and white or color (minimum size = 5"x7" - maximum size = 11"x14"). Prints must be matted only, no frames or glass, and have a completed entry form attached to the back. The photos must feature Rio Grande Zoo animals and have been taken after January 1, 1997. Deadline for all entries is 5pm, Monday, March 3rd. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to Best of Show, First, Second and Third place in each category and age group. Best of Show wins the round-trip tickets on Southwest. Other prizes are donated by participating Albuquerque businesses. Winners not present at the photo show will be notified by mail.

Let's take our cameras and do Sandia Heights proud by snapping a winning photo! We'll feature it in the next Grit. So take the family and start shooting.



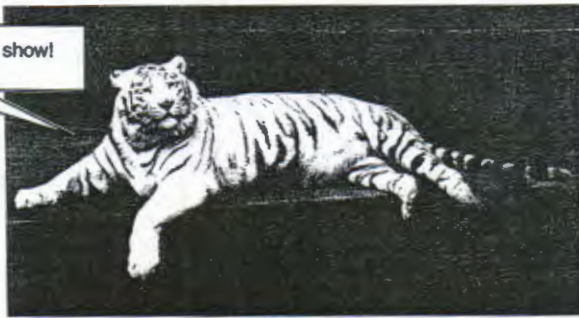
1993 photo
by Becky Harris

Name	_____	
Address	_____	
City	State	Zip
Day Phone Number	_____	
Title of Entry	_____	
CHECK ONE CATEGORY:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals Only: Black/White	<input type="checkbox"/> Ages	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-16
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals Only: Color		<input type="checkbox"/> 17 & older
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals with People: Either Black/White or Color		
A \$5.00 Service Fee must accompany each entry.		
Where did you find out about the contest?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brochure	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> ZooScope	_____	

Only wussies won't show!



Rio Grande Zoo
EDUCATION
903 Tenth St. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102



1993 photo by Dianne Moreland

Your Tub's a Mess? You Need Renew-A Surface

By Page Turner

Are you expecting company soon? Are you planning to put your home on the market in the near future? Or are you just tired of dealing with ugly mineral deposits, mildew, or soap scum in your bathroom?

If any of these situations sounds like yours, now's the time to pick up the phone and call Renew-A Surface, the bathroom revitalization expert, at 332-4612.

Renew-A Surface is a bathroom restoration service owned and operated by Jeff Miller, a leading authority on dealing with the problems caused by Albuquerque's infamous hard water. Renew-A Surface is not a franchise. In fact, Miller decided to start Renew-A Surface in 1995 after years of bathroom revitalizing experience while he was the principal owner of New Surface, Inc., the company he made famous for resurfacing countertops, tubs, tiles, and appliances. "While I was there, I found that revitalizing surfaces was often a much less expensive way to give bathrooms a great look, rather than installing a completely new surface," Miller recalls. "At the same time, I came to realize that doing this kind of work — cleaning peoples' tiles and bathrooms — was something I enjoyed. It satisfied my perfectionist nature, and it allowed me to get all the praise.

"I thrive on blowing away my customers with the incredible improvements I make to

their bathrooms," he continues. "I actually prefer to work on the really 'grungy' jobs; the worse it is to begin with, the more dramatic the end result."

If you haven't had the opportunity to see what Renew-A Surface can do for your bathroom, you're in for a surprise.

"Ugly mineral deposits and stains are just about impossible to eliminate with household cleaning products," says Miller. "Calcium, lime, and other inorganic scale in our hard water bonds solidly with just about all kitchen and bathroom fixtures — from porcelain, ceramic tile, fiberglass, cultured marble, glass, plexiglass, and vitreous china to chrome, aluminum, brass, and stainless steel. Soap scum gets absorbed into the scale, or mildew and algae grow on the damp surface, or other stains form from red rust or green copper oxide."

Miller has a background in chemistry that enables him to come up with solutions to even the toughest bathroom revitalization chores. "Our method is the most cost-effective and hassle-free solution to unsightly and embarrassing bathrooms," says Miller. He uses the correct chemicals needed to eliminate all mineral buildup, soil, and discoloration. He uses special stain removers, deoxidizing agents, de-scalers, and solvents in conjunction with the proper tools to totally eliminate all forms of grime that have



There's nothing that Renew-A Surface owner Jeff Miller relishes more than the opportunity to revitalize a "grungy" bathroom back to its original luster.

bonded to or gotten inside the fixture. Other chemicals and devices are used to eliminate build-up of calcites on porcelain, fiberglass, and a host of surfaces. With his extensive background, Miller knows which chemicals and concentrations are best for each surface.

As the revitalization proceeds, Renew-A Surface touches up minor surface dings, and re-grouts and re-caulks as necessary. After the fixture has been revitalized — including thorough deodorizing and disinfecting — Miller applies a protective coating to seal and polish the surface and protect it from potential problems in the future. After that, all revitalized surfaces are guaranteed to stay looking like new for years with just minimal routine cleaning.

To see how customers like each job, Pat Miller, Jeff's wife, follows up with a quality

assurance telephone call. "Jeff always gets rave reviews," says Pat. "but if there's ever a problem, he fixes it right away, no questions asked."

To see what Renew-A Surface can do for your bathroom, call to arrange a free consultation and estimate with Jeff Miller. He'll show you dozens of before-and-after examples of how he has revitalized bathrooms throughout Albuquerque. We bet one of them is sure to remind you of the problem in your bathroom.

He'll give you an on-the-spot quote that's likely to be less than what you expect for such a thorough cleaning. After that, just arrange for a convenient time to have Renew-A Surface revitalize your bathroom. Most jobs take less than a day.

You don't have to live with an unsightly bathroom any longer. To see for yourself, call Renew-A Surface today!



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FREE REVITALIZATION ESTIMATE TODAY

Winter BioPark Doings

MORNING IN THE CONSERVATORIES

Saturday, February 8
9am - 11am
Aquarium/Garden
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

Through a special guided tour, you'll learn secrets about the plants exhibited in the desert and Mediterranean conservatories and explore their habitats. *For adults, families and unaccompanied children over age 8.*

SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES

Sunday, February 16
10am - Noon
Rio Grande Zoo
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

You'll go on an endangered species tour and get an update on the breeding programs to save them. Meet Esperanza, our cheetah born as a result of a unique international experiment. *For adults, families and unaccompanied children over 12.*

PROJECT WILD AQUATIC

Saturday, February 22
9am - 4pm
Rio Grande Zoo
Fee: \$15 (\$13 members)

This nationally recognized environmental education program is designed for classroom / homeschool teachers, parents or anyone who works with children (grades K-12). Join us for a day of hands-on learning about the aquatic world. You'll take home 40 aquatic-related activities at the end of the day. *For adults.*

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Saturday, March 15
7:30am - 9:30am
Rio Grande Zoo
Fee: \$15 (\$13 members)

Share the zoo at dawn with wood chicks, bison, sea lions and condors! Savor a breakfast at the Cottonwood Cafe, then tour the zoo to see the animals who are active and at their best in early hours.. *For adults, families and unaccompanied children over 8.*

MIME, BIO-VAN STYLE

Saturday, March 22
10am - Noon
Rio Grande Zoo
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

Communicate with humor but without words. The BioVan's professional mime will show you techniques to interpret wildlife and habitats. Come and learn to mime your own business! *For families and students age 8 and older.*

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BIOPARK VET

Saturday, March 29
1pm - 3pm
Rio Grande Zoo Barn
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

Learn how BioPark vets cope with a wide range of job functions and maladies for patients that include bonnet-headed sharks, leopard geckos, and helmeted curassows. *For adults, families and unaccompanied children over 12.*

FISH KIDS

Saturday, April 12
10am - Noon
Aquarium/Garden
Fee: \$10 child or \$15 child/parent combo (\$19/\$13 members)

Encourage your budding young "marine biologist" to explore through fish crafts, guessing games and touching the likes of hermit crabs, sea stars and other educational animals. *For ages 3 to 6; one adult is encouraged to attend.*

GET READY-SET-GARDEN

Saturday, April 19
10am - Noon
Aquarium/Garden
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

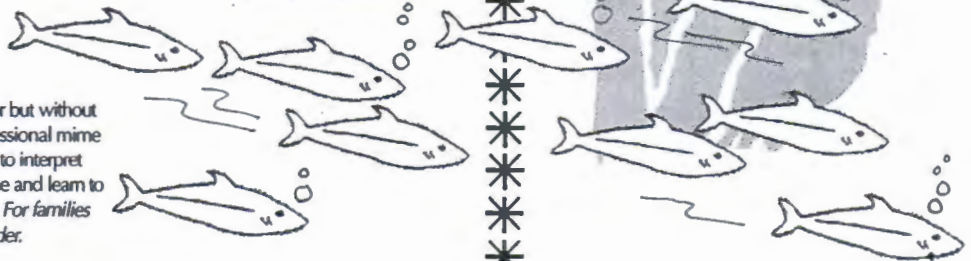
Albuquerque's climate, soil and water situation make good preparation essential for a successful growing season. Discover new plants that you may want to try in your garden from our Botanic Garden experts. *For adults.*

ROSES FOR YOU

Saturday, April 26
10am - Noon
Aquarium/Garden
Fee: \$10 (\$9 members)

Roses mean beauty, but do they also mean work? Find out what is involved in Albuquerque. Experienced gardeners will give tips on how to make the most of your roses - if you have one bush or many. *For adults.*

Pre-registration is required and is on a first come, first serve basis.
Call BioPark Education at 764-6245 to reserve your place.
Gift certificates available.
Sorry, no refunds.



Vote to Elect !!!

Richard

Toledo

Board of Education

District 7

Albuquerque Public Schools

- A proven track record of Progress and Concern for all students
- Endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce
- Educator and businessman
- A resident of District 7 for 20 years

Vote February 4 !

Paid for by Dale & Diane Dekker because we believe Richard Toledo will be a good school board member for District 7!

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A HAPPY ALTERNATIVE FOR YOU AND YOUR PETS!!
YOUR PETS -

- Stay in their secure, familiar environment
- Follow their own customary routine and diet
- Avoid exposure to illness of other animals
- Do not have to be transported to another location
- Receive loving, individual attention
- Are exercised, if requested
- Given medicine, if required
- Receive medical attention, if necessary
- Are cleaned up after - yard, cat box, bowls, etc...
- Are visited and played with

I bring in your mail, newspapers, adjust lights and drapes, and water indoor plants and yard - all crime deterrent measures.

I value your call. If I can be of service, please call me. I have your pet's best interest at heart!

REFERENCES BONDED INSURED EXPERIENCED



Cooking with Carob

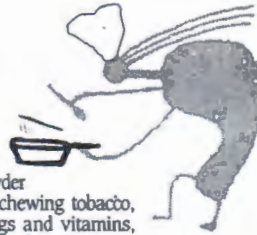
By Patricia Aaron - Home Economist
Cooperative Extension Service, NM State University

Perhaps you're familiar with the "no-more-chocolate" diet that's supposed to begin immediately after Christmas, but is postponed until after Valentine's Day. In the future, if you love chocolate but shrink from consuming all those calories, try carob.

Carob is a naturally sweet (about half as sweet as sugar), high-protein, low-fat tropical bean. It has the same rich color, consistency and sweet taste of cocoa and can be used in all the ways we use chocolate. And it costs about one-fifth as much as chocolate.

Carob has as much thiamine as asparagus or strawberries; as much niacin as lima beans, lentils or peas; more vitamin A than eggplant, asparagus or beets; and is low in fat. One hundred grams of carob contains no caffeine and only 3 milligrams of theobromine (a milder stimulant than caffeine); 100 grams of chocolate contains 180 milligrams of caffeine and 2320 milligrams of theobromine. Carob is ideal for anyone with chocolate, cocoa or milk allergies.

Pods of the carob tree are roasted and carob powder or flour is milled from the roasted pods. A light brown roast gives the best flavor and maximum nutritional value. Carob powder sells for about \$1.20 per pound in Albuquerque.



Carob powder is used to flavor chewing tobacco, dog biscuits, drugs and vitamins, but the primary use of carob powder is in baking. To substitute it for chocolate, 3 Tbs. carob flour plus 2 Tbs. liquid equals 1 oz. unsweetened chocolate. To replace cocoa use the same amount of carob powder. Use less sugar as carob is sweet.

For a chocolate-like flavor in baked goods such as banana nut bread or zucchini cake, substitute carob powder for part of the flour. Measure 1/4 cup carob powder and 3/4 cup flour for every cup of flour called for in the recipe. If substituting carob powder for other specialty flours such as oat, soy or rye, reduce the oven temperature by 25°F to prevent burning.

Because of its low fat content, carob powder has a long shelf life. It attracts moisture, so store in a tightly closed container in a cool, dry place. If it becomes lumpy, crush and then sift out the clumps. Refrigeration is not necessary if used in 6 to 12 months. Freeze for longer storage.

You can reach me at 243-1486 if you need further information. Enjoy these delicious and nutritious brownies and have a very Happy Valentine's Day!

Carob Brownies*

1/2 cup butter
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. orange peel
1 tsp. lemon peel
1 cup pitted chopped dates
1/2 cup carob powder
1 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup carob powder
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup wheat germ
3/4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
2/3 cup lowfat milk
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom of a 10" x 15" baking pan. In a large bowl, cream butter and egg. Mix in vanilla, orange and lemon peels, dates and carob powder. In another bowl, combine oats, flour, wheat germ, baking powder and spices. Stir dry mixture into creamed mixture, add milk and beat until blended. Pour batter into prepared pan. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake in preheated oven 25 minutes. Cool and cut in squares. Makes about 2 dozen.

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For recorded information about **The Baha'i Faith** call 856-2911, (out of area 800-884-4993).

City Needs Help to Create a New Transit Plan

by Anne Watkins - City of Albuquerque Transit Department Director

Transportation is surely a hot topic in Central New Mexico these days. The population is growing steadily, and traffic congestion is growing noticeably, resulting in longer commute times, more traffic accidents and more time spent in traffic jams. Air quality continues to be a concern; even though Albuquerque got through one more winter without a violation of the federal air quality standards. The "brown cloud" is still all too evident overhead. Montaño

At present, residents of this region have almost no alternatives to the Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV). Sun Tran, Albuquerque's bus system, has a very limited budget and provides limited hours of service with far fewer vehicles than are needed to make transit a viable alternative in such a large area. RIDEPOOL helps match commuters into carpools and encourages employers to provide benefits to employees who use alternate transportation, but a limited budget keeps its impact small. Some residents would like to bicycle or walk, but lack of a safe and friendly pedestrian-oriented environment limits that choice. So the car has become a prosthetic device - we just can't get around without it.

Continued on page 5...

WE NEED HELP FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OR COMMUNITY GROUP TO CREATE A GOOD PLAN FOR EXPANDED TRANSIT SERVICE!

We would like to work with your group to identify your mobility needs, look at maps of your area to see what kind of transit service is appropriate, and think creatively together about how to design a transit system that works for YOU!

To set up a Transit Planning Meeting or a speaker for your organization, call Elsie Davis at 764-6164. TTY users - call the New Mexico Relay at 1-800-659-8331.

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Bridge is finally underway, but traveling from West to East is still a challenge in the East Mountain Valley. And in the next several years we will see more construction on I-40, I-25 and the "Big I."

It is clear that we need to make significant investments of public dollars in improving and expanding our transportation infrastructure in the next decade. It's also clear that our decision about *HOW* that money is spent will affect the livability of our area in the next century.



Anne Watkins, ABQ Transit Director



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