

PUBLIC MEETING

SOUTH DOMINGO BACA DAM PARK PLANS

AUGUST 20TH

DETAILS ON PAGE 13.

HIGHTS HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 1997

SHHA Annual Meeting Kicks Off Issues Facing New Board

By Marshall Aungier - SHHA President

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on June 7th. A mild turnout of members heard Sheriff Joe Bowdich discuss the impact of the new Substation in our area (Grand Opening was July 3rd) and security issues facing a staff still short about 45 deputies. He indicated that a pay raise will be sought to bring them to the same level as the city police department. The Sheriff was followed by guest speaker John Slown, Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Planner, who detailed the South Domingo Baca Regional Plan for the land behind Firestation #5.

The new Kicks 66 Service Station beginning construction on Tramway at San Bernardino was a hot topic, as was the reservoir water tank planned to the west. The San Bernardino community park will be officially named Little Cloud Park and bids will be scheduled soon for a sign, benches, picnic tables, shade structure, fountain and dry-irrigated landscaping.

The Nominating Committee has done an excellent job this year, recruiting qualified board members with a wide variety of experience. The Architectural Control Committee is very well staffed with several architects and engineers. Don Hooper, former ACC Chair, agreed to serve again



Celeste Loughridge (above) greets County Sheriff Joe Bowdich, who reported on security issues in the Northeast Heights.

Board Member Jon Cashwell (left) discusses construction of the Kicks 66 on Tramway.

PROFILE: NEW BOARD MEMBERS

BOB BROWN has been a resident of Sandia Heights for 4-1/2 years, along with his wife, Jennifer and two young sons. He is self-employed as a Human Resources Consultant with an emphasis on Labor Relations. The issues Bob would like to address include safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, improved County maintenance of the Tramway bike path, and completion of the Paseo del Norte corridor from Tramway to I-25.

GEORGE HIGHT is a third generation New Mexican, born in Gallup, where he lived until he and his wife, Bonnie, retired to Sandia Heights in 1991. George owned a photography business prior to his retirement, was a City Councilor from 1981 to 1989 and Mayor Protem for two years. He also served on the State Board of Economic Development, was a Director of the New Mexico Municipal League and the National League of Cities. George looks forward to using his government experience to assist the Board in dealing with local government issues.

WELDON JOHNSON retired in 1996 after a 39 year career in Electronic Design and Manufacturing. He founded a high tech, high volume manufacturing company in 1975 which grew to a 100 employees and occupied 60,000 sq. ft. He managed the construction of the company facilities plus the frequent modifications to accommodate new processes and equipment. Other building experience includes two homes and the extensive renovation of a third. Weldon and his wife, Barbara, will celebrate their 43rd anniversary this year with their 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

JOHN KELLER, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, retired from KPMG Peat Marwick in 1989 at which time he was Managing Partner of its New Mexico practice. As a Public Accountant, he has extensive experience working with land developers, construction firms, ski areas and other recreational developments, and various Indian Tribal entities. John has served on various Boards including banks, ski areas and commercial properties since retiring. John and his wife, Kay, recently moved to Sandia Heights after residing in other parts of Albuquerque and Santa Fe since 1958.

DEBORAH MILLER has taught chemistry at TVI Community College for 7 years and is pioneering their internet-based educational efforts this summer. She has an M.S. in Chemistry from Iowa State University. She and her husband, Sam, have been Albuquerque residents since 1984, and joined the Sandia Heights community in 1995 along with her mother, Alice. In addition to authoring web sites, Deb's hobbies include therapy dogs (taking well-trained dogs to visit in nursing homes and hospitals) and various crafts.

NANCY NOREM has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arizona and an M.S. from the University of California (Berkeley). She is a Registered Professional Engineer and has been employed at PNM for 18 years, responsible for the company's air quality programs. Much of her current work involves the interpretation of and compliance with federal, state, and local air environmental regulations as they relate to PNM's operations. She and her family moved to Sandia Heights 1-1/2 years ago because of its physical beauty and reputation as a good place to live.

BARBARA ROSNAGLE has been interested in environment and land use for many years. She has served on county and state committees, is a member of the DOE Citizens Advisory Board for Environmental Restoration at Sandia Labs, and lobbies at the NM State Legislature for the League of Women Voters. She and her husband moved to Albuquerque in 1984 from Guilford, CT, where they raised three daughters. They moved to Sandia Heights three years ago after ten years in the North Valley. Barbara's other interests are reading, travel, gardening and now being a grandmother.

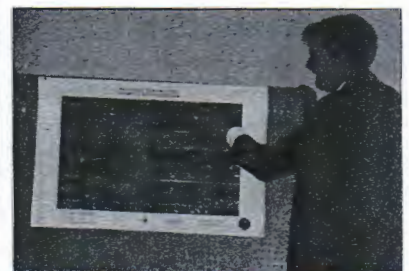
BILL WATERS is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Founding Partner of BPLW Architects & Engineers, Inc., which has been in business over 25 years, specializing in the planning and design of educational facilities in the southwest. A native of Arkansas, he attended Arkansas State Teachers College and received a Bachelor of Architecture from Oklahoma State University. He has been responsible for the design of over 75 educational facilities. He has registration jurisdiction in NM, AK, AZ, CO, TX and holds a National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Certificate.

JAMES WISE is a Civil Engineer graduate from Texas A&M. He retired after 38 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served as a construction project engineer and design project manager in Texas and Alaska, later serving as the Chief, Construction Management, Deputy Chief of Construction Division, Chief Construction Division and finally deputy Division Engineer for Programs and Project Management in Europe. Experience extends to family housing, hospitals, barracks, runways and maintenance shops, as well as other military construction.

for a one year term and will now oversee and coordinate functions of the ACC and Covenants Committee. The Communications, Membership and Community Services Committees were combined into one committee, chaired by Claire Wilcox. Many thanks to outgoing Board member, Charlotte Zerof for her work on Communications the past year.

The highest priority goals for this coming year are those most often expressed by members of the Association. They are: (1) monitor the remaining undeveloped land in or bordering Sandia Heights for new development, and continue to voice our interests in that development; (2) maintain and improve governmental relationships established by the previous Board; and (3) continue to evenly pursue enforcement of the covenants, addressing differences between units and looking once again at standardization issues.

Outgoing President and Vice President, Anne Yegge and Bob Kemble, were applauded for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Association as were all outgoing Board members, including Tom Wray, Linda Caldwell, Toni Seidel, Duke Colket, and Jerry Grayson.



John Slown, County Parks & Recreation Planner points out public access possibilities for the new South Domingo Baca Regional Park.

THE GRIT

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BOARD NEWS:

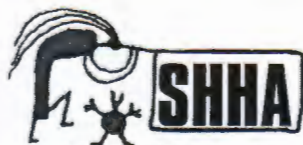


By Ruth Friesen - SHHA Secretary

The Board has been working with the following issues over the last three months:

- Kicks 66 gas station, construction and sign variance request.
- County Capital Improvements Program. Priorities suggested by SHHA: acquisition and development of open space for youth recreation activities, safety of streets, and possible pedestrian paths along some roads in Sandia Heights.
- Proposed water tank at Tramway and Paseo del Norte.
- Signage maintenance for North Sandia Heights and South Sandia Heights signs.
- Possible acquisition by county of property for a park.
- Outpost Ice Arena expansion plans.
- County Line parking lot renovation and lighting.
- Development of South Domingo Baca Dam Recreational Facility.
- Community safety - A report by Larry Buynak, Corporate Safety Director of Sandia Heights, stated that in 1996, there were 13 attempted break-ins; 4,524 calls received; 32.6 miles of road covered; and 2,005 homes patrolled in our area. The biggest security problem is open garage doors. Numbers were provided for the Fire Department: 856-6644 - Bernalillo Public Safety Dispatcher: 345-5600 - and Sandia Heights Security mobile phone: 269-3991.
- Architectural Control Committee ongoing issues.
- Membership dues.
- District 8 Coalition liaison.

Do you feel in the dark, and left out, wondering what is going on with these issues? All Sandia Heights residents are welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings of the Association, held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Firestation on Paseo del Norte. The venue may be changing to the new Sheriff's Substation in the future. So call the SHHA office to check.



BOARD MEETINGS

- ✓ AUG 13TH
- ✓ SEPT. 10TH
- ✓ OCT. 8TH

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The June 18th SHHA coffee hosted by Bonnie (right) and George Hight of Live Oak Loop was a delightful morning of delectables and discussion.

County Of Bernalillo

Summer Report



On July 3, 1997, the **Lt. William Sabrava Substation** was formally dedicated. Our new facility was named for a brave and valiant man who fell in the line of duty. May the personnel assigned to our substation always serve this community with the same dedication and compassion that Lt. Sabrava displayed during his years of service to Bernalillo County. The attendance at the **Grand Opening** was splendid; but in case you missed it, let me assure you we now have an impressive community meeting room in the substation. Let's put it to good use. I'm depending on the neighborhoods to fully utilize this asset.

The **Communication Center** adjacent to the Sheriff's Substation will be completely operational by the first of September. The center will have new state-of-the-arts communications equipment, including a **Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system**. This system will allow for efficient and effective use of emergency response units. An **enhanced 911 system** will integrate with the CAD providing more accurate and precise information. Digital radio consoles will allow dispatch more flexibility to monitor radios and eventually operate the new **County/City 800 MHz Digital Trunked Radio system**. This is good news for everyone in unincorporated areas.

The Bernalillo County Public Works Division has initiated a study of the unincorporated areas of North Albuquerque Acres and Sandia Heights South with the goal of adopting a comprehensive **drainage management and infrastructure plan**. A public meeting was held on July 9th to discuss these issues and to establish a method by which ongoing public review and comment may be obtained. Your input is invited.

The County Planning Commission (CPC) enthusiastically supported the new **Lighting Ordinance** for Sandia Heights and North Albuquerque Acres. CPC recommended adoption of the ordinance to the County Commission and they will hear the issue this summer. The proposal has met with such widespread support that I have to wonder if other areas of the county will eventually decide to adopt provisions to protect our dark skies.

John Slown, the planner for Bernalillo County Parks, is initiating more **public hearings** (see announcement on page 13) concerning the development of the **recreational /park facilities at the South Domingo Baca Dam site**. These hearings will finalize the plans and we can look forward to construction beginning this fall. A very preliminary proposal for a **hang gliders' landing site near LaCueva Diversion Channel** is on the table for consideration. There will undoubtedly be many public input opportunities to ascertain if there is community support for such a facility and to address any concerns.

Once again I would like to say what a joy it is to work with the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association. Your board has exemplary leadership. It has been a particular pleasure to be associated with **Bob Kemble**, who has been my primary contact as the SHHA Government Liaison. As Bob leaves the Board I want him to know how much I appreciated his reasoned approach to problem solving. We like to think we slew a few dragons together!

Hope you have a glorious autumn. Personally, it is my favorite season in New Mexico - warm days, crisp nights, blue skies and fresh green chile - what could be better?

Until next time...

Barbara J. Seward
Bernalillo County Commissioner
District 4



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PUEBLO CLAIM UPDATE:

County & SMC Join Forces

by Anita Miller - SMC, Legal Advisor

Bernalillo County has joined forces with the Sandia Mountain Coalition, and is now represented by the same attorneys, Carol Dinkins and Tom Bartman, of Vinson & Elkins, Houston and Washington. The County and Coalition, as "interveners" in the lawsuit filed in December, 1994 (Pueblo of Sandia vs. the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior, protesting the Secretary of the Interior's refusal to correct their patent and the Agriculture Department's obstruction of this correction), are delighted that the Department of Justice, on June 26, 1997, filed a comprehensive and revealing response to the Pueblo's Motion and Cross Motion for Summary Judgment.

In December, 1996, Federal District Court Judge Harold Greene had ruled that this case should be treated as an administrative appeal of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's refusal to withdraw the opinion of Former Interior Solicitor Ralph Tarr - which stated that the Pueblo's claim was without merit. The Pueblo had alleged that Secretary Babbitt abused his discretion in not honoring the claim, that he acted under political pressure, and that he was obligated to decide controversies between Indians and non-Indians in favor of the Indians.

The Justice Department compiled the complete record which was before the Secretary in 1994. The record, which fills two large cartons, indicates that the Assistant Interior Solicitor, Tim Vollman, who first recommended the correction of the boundaries in 1986, knew the claim would affect the titles to private property within the claim area, and yet advised that the claim be granted! The only evidence of "political pressure" in the record is a letter from then-Representative Richardson, urging Secretary Babbitt to accommodate the Pueblo, and a letter from Senator Domenici, stating his opposition to the claim based on exhaustive evidence.

The pleadings filed by the Justice Department include a "Declaration" by the current Solicitor of the Interior, John Lesly, clearly stating he was not planning to recommend the suspension of the Tarr opinion, since he did not think that it was erroneous. The Pueblo alleged that the Solicitor had recommended the suspension of the Tarr opinion to Secretary Babbitt, but that there had been political pressure by members of the Congressional delegation at the last minute, causing Babbitt to change his mind. The filing also includes a lengthy affidavit written by Stanley Hordes, Ph.D., former New Mexico State Historian, which summarizes the results of an intensive study he prepared, *History of the Boundaries of the Pueblo of Sandia, 1748-1860*. Hordes' extensive research led him to conclude that the Pueblo claim is without merit, and bolsters the Tarr opinion.

The Pueblo will respond to the Justice Department's Motion in August. The Court will then decide whether to grant the Justice Department's Motion for Summary Judgment, thus ruling against the Pueblo, or to rule in the Pueblo's favor, which would result in the claim going back to the Department of the Interior for reconsideration by Secretary Babbitt.

This case is now moving rapidly. Stay tuned!



Bird Alarms

by Mike Clark

Songbirds defend themselves against predators in many ways. When alarmed, most birds either take flight, freeze in place or fly a short distance to hide. But when their young are threatened, they become much more aggressive. Birds also work together in defense. They send alarm calls, bunch in tight flocks, or mob larger birds.

Fight or flight? On a walkway near your home, you may notice that birds regularly fly out of a shrub or tree when you reach a certain spot. You may be crossing an invisible line marking what they consider a safe distance. Adult birds will usually hide or flee predators, but if the same predators threaten their young, the birds may go on the offensive. During the crucial weeks of the breeding season, adults will guard their nests with vigor, some will feign injuries, such as broken wings, to draw predators away from their nests. Mockingbird parents will even dive down upon the heads of humans who get too near.

Alarm Calls. Jays react particularly strongly to cats and squirrels and are likely to dive at them, sounding loud jay-calls, until the predators move away. House Wrens give buzzing or rattling calls in the presence of danger. Alarm calls are often higher pitched if the predator is overhead, like a raptor, rather than below, like a snake or cat.

Bunching. In the presence of raptors, flocking birds often bunch tightly and fly in erratic patterns. This seems to make it difficult for the predator to single out a straggler to strike.

Mobbing. Flocks of species such as European Starlings may turn upon a raptor predator and mob it. A group of small birds may mob a perched hawk or owl. The small birds will surround it, call repeatedly, fly to stay near it, assume aggressive postures and sometimes strike it. Snakes are also mobbed and may even be bitten. If you hear a flock of crows making long, excited calls, look for the object of their attention. It may be an owl or raptor. Crows, in turn, are sometimes mobbed by smaller birds, particularly during nesting season.

If you have any questions about birds, call Mike Clark at the Wild Bird Center - 332-4737.

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Architectural Control

By Chris Harmon – SHHA Architectural Control Committee, Chair

The newly elected Architectural Control Committee consists of 6 members - all volunteers - Don Aunapu, Chris Harmon (Chair), Weldon Johnson, Nancy Norem, Bill Waters, James Wise and one ex-officio member, Don Hooper (former Committee Chair). Toni Seidel and Jerry Grayson both completed their service last month, after handling numerous projects for the community in the past several years. Marshall Aungier, after a year of diligent service on the ACC, has moved on to be the President of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association. Don Hooper will be assisting Chris Harmon as she takes over the responsibilities of chairing the Committee, but will be phasing out his involvement over the next few months. All of these former committee members deserve thanks from the neighborhood. Their thorough and careful interpretation of the covenants regarding architectural and landscaping projects, will benefit all of us in the future and provide long term enjoyment of our neighborhood.

The Committee would like to remind all Sandia Heights residents that the Deeds of Restrictions (covenants) for each of the approximately 30 units in Sandia Heights state that all exterior alterations to any residence or property require review and approval by the ACC before any construction or site preparation can begin.

In addition to major renovations and new houses, the covenants also require submission of plans for approval on smaller projects such as antennas, re-stuccoing, re-roofing, new fencing, painting, the installation of any outbuildings, pools, decks, mechanical equipment which is visible from the exterior of the house, and all other exterior alterations or additions.

Also any major landscaping plans, must be submitted for approval prior to proceeding with any work. Application forms can be obtained by calling Erin Frinkman, the SHHA Administrative Assistant at 296-1412.

Any new homes, or additions with a footprint area of more than 500 sq. ft. must have a grading and drainage plan prepared by a licensed, professional engineer, per County ordinance. The ACC requires a letter from the County noting approval of such plan prior to considering the application as complete. The Committee needs adequate information in the submittal for the application to be considered complete. Frequently forgotten notes on drawings (when applicable) include: readable setback dimensions from property lines; readable dimensions on fences - both length and height; color indications; maximum structure height above existing grade; grading plan indicating cut and fill; and screens for other roof mounted equipment.

The Committee greatly appreciates a complete and thorough set of plans and applications. We typically have up to 10 projects per meeting to review and a clear set of plans streamlines this process. As the neighborhood is "filling-in," the Committee is challenged with interpreting the covenants and the rights of property owners. Many residents are adding extensive additions, with ever-increasing house sizes. The Committee reviews all for compliance with the covenants.

In projects the Committee deems necessary, immediate neighbors are invited to a neighborhood review. Comments by neighbors made during the review, and letters received up to 5 days after the review, are carefully considered

by the Committee in their decision to approve or deny the project. They retain the sole authority, however, to approve or deny the project. But neighbor input is very helpful, especially on some covenant issues which are open to interpretation. If the project is approved, one Committee member is assigned the project and monitors it during construction. "Monitoring" involves checking on the construction approximately once every 2 weeks to make sure it is in compliance with the approved plans. By submitting the application, the homeowner grants the right for the ACC member to walk the site as needed to check for compliance.

There have been projects started without any submission to SHHA. Alert neighbors have called in to report such projects and we attempt to stop work as soon as possible. We greatly appreciate this help. Any work that proceeds without approval is subject to removal (or must be returned to its original state as the case may be) at the owner's expense, plus the cost of any legal fees incurred by SHHA. If you would like to serve on the Committee, please let us know, and we can include you in next year's ballot for election to the Board.

Other Committee Members:

Don Aunapu, Weldon Johnson, Nancy Norem, Bill Waters, James Wise



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Communications & Community Services

By Claire Wilcox – SHHA Vice President and Committees Chair

Get With The Grit

Working with Carolyn Hindel, editor of The Grit, is the focus of the Communications Committee. Gathering news, visiting local events, new sites and keeping SHHA Board news up-to-date for you are some of the activities that help make the Grit the fine well-rounded community newspaper it is. (Last year The Grit received an honorable mention in a city-wide competition. So read and enjoy!) If you worked on your high school or college paper and still have a yearning to write articles, visit an opening (the new Substation is a recent example) or submit a photo, contact Carolyn at 856-1868. This is our newspaper so please utilize it!

Artisans Wanted!

Organizing opportunities for Sandia Heights neighbors to come together is the goal of Community Services. The Arts and Crafts Bazaar has been a success for 4 years in a row, with area residents finding an outlet for their crafts, and the rest of us finding a place to buy unusual and homemade gifts. This year the Bazaar will be on Sunday, October 19th from 11-4 at the Sandia Heights Academy on the corner of San Rafael and Tramway. As in the past, the Academy Parents Association will



have a coffee and bake sale on the same day so you can pick up baked goods and gifts at the same time. If you have arts or crafts you would like to sell, call Claire at 856-6282.



Claire Wilcox and husband Dave do some Christmas shopping at last year's Crafts Bazaar.

Wine & Dine Was Fine

Another Winetasting evening will be planned for next March. We had over 120 attendees at our last affair and lots of special homemade hors d'oeuvres, so I know this is a favorite event of Sandia Heights residents.

Spring Fling Anyone ??

At the Annual Meeting in June some of you expressed a desire to have a picnic in the Spring, so this is one of the events we will look at. If you have any suggestions as to how to

accomplish the picnic let me know. Should it be a pot luck? A catered affair? Call Claire.

SHHA Coffees

Coffees are scheduled once a month on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday from 10-12 am, and are open to all Sandia Heights homeowners—men and women. They are held in the homes of Sandia Heights residents who volunteer to host the event. You don't have to open your home for a tour, all that's needed is a kitchen or dining room and some coffee/tea and maybe an accompanying snack. If you have a special hobby, collection or interest and want to share it, that's fine too.

At our coffee in July, Carolyn Hindel, Grit editor, explained how the Grit is put together from start to finish which was very interesting.

The September 10th Coffee is going to be a special affair held at the home of Larry and Kit Anderson, 150 Whitetail Road.

The Andersons designed their own retirement home/office and are inviting us for refreshments and a special tour. So come and enjoy a few minutes with other Sandia Heights neighbors and friends. Invite a new neighbor! Have a cup of coffee, a house tour and catch up on the news too. Thanks to Kit and Larry for inviting us.

If you would like to do a coffee or have suggestions for this event, please call 856-6282.

Other Committee Members:

Irene Middleton, Margo Roberts, Debbie Miller

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New Development

By John Keller - SHHA New Development, Chair

During the past few months, a number of Sandia Heights Board members spent their considerable energies on the following areas of resident concern. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the guidance and assistance of County Commissioner Barbara Seward in these important issues.

Kicks 66 Service Station

In connection with the current construction of a gas station, car wash and convenience store on Tramway Blvd. just south of Paseo Del Norte, Roberts Oil Company requested a variance from existing county ordinance constraints, asking for permission to erect a 92 sq. ft. sign 26 feet high. Over 200 personal letters opposing this appeal were received by SHHA after mailing notices of the variance to its members. The Association advised the company owner, Mr. Roberts, of these letters and sent a request to meet with Roberts Oil regarding signage, lighting and other matters. The variance request was subsequently withdrawn, however a meeting to address our other concerns has not been scheduled to date.

Lighting Ordinance

Bernalillo County is considering an ordinance to control illumination levels in North Albuquerque Acres and Sandia Heights, including the shielding of outdoor lighting that adds to

light pollution in our communities. The ordinance is being patterned after one recently adopted in the East Mountain area. So far it has not met with any significant opposition and is awaiting final approval by the County Commission. Enactment of this ordinance should assist us in preventing and eliminating invasive and unnecessary lighting in our area.

Liquid Waste Ordinance

A new ordinance which will affect septic tank users in the county is being developed. The project leader is Clara Cates, Environmental Engineer for the County Environmental Health Department. She can be reached at 924-3650. The SHHA New Development Committee has not taken a position on the proposed ordinance.

Ice Arena Expansion

As most of you know, last year's Board and many cooperating neighbors objected to the proposed expansion of the Outpost Ice Arena. Despite approval by the Bernalillo County Zoning Department, SHHA members were able to convince the Commission to reject the plan based on increased traffic and noise problems and the size of the structure being inconsistent with the county zoning ordinance.

Other Committee Members:

Jon Cashwell, Lester Libo, Bill Waters

Covenant Support

By Ruth Friesen - SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair

One of the committee's goals for this year is to put all SHHA covenants on the Sandia Heights home page: <http://www.nmia.com/shha>. This will allow all residents to have access to them. We will also notify real estate agents through the Board of Realtors that this service is available. However, this will not be an overnight effort. Currently, none of the 37 sets of covenants for Sandia Heights are entered into a computer. Yes, you read correctly, 37 sets! Each unit has its own covenants. We need a 100% accurate typist to enter them into the computer, enabling us to put them on our Web site. There are approximately 300 pages. Some are very similar, but the differences are crucial. If you know someone who could do this data entry, call Ruth Friesen at 856-1593 or Debbie Miller at 856-7271.

There has been some interest expressed in changing covenants. The Board's Covenant Committee will provide guidance and help units get organized to make those changes. To change any set of covenants, 75% of the homeowners in that unit must agree, and signatures must be notarized. If you would like to be the catalyst for change in your unit, call 856-1593.

How do you know what unit you are in? Most, but not all, units are determined by the following: If the address has three digits, the first digit is usually the unit number (e.g. 418 is in Unit 4). If the address has four digits, the first two digits usually indicate the unit number (e.g. 1199 is in Unit 11). To obtain a copy of the covenants for your unit, call Erin Frinkman, at the SHHA office - 296-1412.

Other Committee Members:

Lester Libo, Lorrie Rice, Robert Thomas



August 1997

Fireside Chat Series

All talks are free and will be held at the Open Space Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Picnic Area (off of Tramway, north of Academy)

SATURDAYS at 7PM

Call 873-6620 for more information

August 2 - "Colonial Hispanic Woodcarving" by Julian Romero, a Taos Santero.

August 9 - "New Mexico Dinosaurs" by Andrew Heckert, including slide show and dinosaur skin impressions.

August 16 - "The Mexican Wolf: An Endangered Species" by Wendy Brown, wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

August 23 - "Black Bears of New Mexico" by Don Jones who has worked with NM Game & Fish for 10 years studying the state's bears.

August 30 - To Be Announced

SUMMER HIKES meet at Pino Trailhead in Elena Gallegos Picnic Area at 11am

August 10 - Grass Identification with Maria Sonett, Sweetwater Reclamation

August 24 - Geology of the Elena Gallegos with Prof. Frank Pazzaglia, Earth & Planetary Sciences, UNM

Help Wanted: Data Entry

Currently, none of the 37 sets of covenants for Sandia Heights are on computer. We need a 100% accurate typist to enter them into the computer, to enable us to put them on our Web site. There are a total of approximately 300 pages. Some are very similar, but the differences are crucial.

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BATHROOMS

It's Time for Parents to Go Back to School!

By Debbie Webster - Double Eagle PTA, President



Believe it or not, the beginning of the new school year is just around the corner!!! Please take note of the following important dates regarding the Double Eagle Elementary School:

August 14: Registration. The school office will be open beginning August 1, so you may call to register early if you wish.

AUGUST 15: MEET YOUR TEACHERS! You may visit the school between 2:00-3:30 PM to find out who your teacher will be, pick up a supply list and visit your new classroom. Older children are encouraged to locate their classrooms so they can ride the bus to school on the first day to help alleviate confusion and parking problems.

August 18: First day of classes for Grades 1-5.

August 25: First day of classes for kindergarten.

September 3: Back to School Curriculum Night and General PTA Meeting.

The Double Eagle PTA will have a membership sign-up table ready when you go "meet your teacher" on August 15th. Please bring your checkbooks so you can join your school's parent organization. Your support is critical to help us provide an enhanced educational setting for our children. There are still plenty of opportunities to become involved in your organization (including the important position of chairing the Fine Arts Committee!). Please contact Lisa Hobart, Volunteer Committee, at 821-3812 if you are interested in participating in the PTA. Thank you very much for your support.

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2037 Quail Run Dr. NE
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2706 Tramway Circle NE
\$179,900



Security patrolman, Chris Baran, removes a Bull Snake from a resident's garage. If you need assistance with wildlife, call 856-6347 or Animal Control at 873-6706.

Personal Safety Checklist: From Sandia Heights Security

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. A dangling handbag invites a purse-snatcher. An unlocked window or door invites an intruder. If you eliminate the opportunities, you could avoid a crime.

AT HOME:

- A woman living alone should use her first and middle initial and surname in the telephone book and on the mailbox.
- Use of an unlisted phone number is best.
- When changing homes, change door locks.
- Install a deadbolt lock and a peep hole in the door.
- Keep house doors, garage doors and windows locked.
- Always check identification of repair persons, salespersons or police officers who wish to enter your home. If you're still doubtful, call the business to confirm the identity of the person.
- Instruct children and baby sitters not to give out any information about who is home or who is out or for how long.
- If you suspect your home has been broken into, do not enter or call out. Call the police from a neighbor's phone.
- Draw shades at night and leave a few lights on.
- Never let a stranger into your home when you are alone.
- Lights and noise deter prowlers and burglars.
- Hiding a key outside is not wise.
- You are never alone! Even when you're home alone, you must always make it seem that someone else is there with you.

Many residents have asked for a comparison of crime in our neighborhood to other areas. While the data is being compiled, we in the Security Department have provided the statistics below. To join Security services, call 857-8989.

SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY CALLS COMPARISON - 1996-1997

TYPE OF CALL:	JAN - JUN 1996:	JAN - JUN 1997:
Alarms	310	306
Open Door/Window	32	16
Motorist Assist	90	66
Breaking & Entering	7	9
Attempted Breaking & Entering.....	8	6
Construction Site Burglary.....	2	2
Vehicle Burglary	11	3
Suspicious Vehicle	97	57
Suspicious Person	47	39
Peeping Tom	5	0
Theft (Larceny)	17	17
Animal Control Assist	20	6
Lost /Found Pet	27	42
Pet Nuisance	13	10
Snake	7	5
Family Dispute	8	7
Neighbor Dispute	7	3
Loud Disruptive Party	10	4
Fireworks Complaint	3	2
Vandalism (General)	41	28
Mailbox Vandalism	52	50
Mailbox Stolen	6	0
Lost/Found Items	2	3
Deer Hunters	0	0
Speeding Vehicle	5	1
Assault /Battery (Fight)	2	3
Death Threat	3	2
Unusual Special Request	29	30
Salesperson Problems.....	11	6
Phone Problems.....	2	7
Car Accident.....	10	6
Motorcycle Nuisance	5	0
Fire	24	13
Rescue	29	5
Utility Company Assist.....	29	12
Construction Sites.....	6	12
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.).....	13	16
Specials (Extra patrols/observation)	24	40
Homeowners on Vacation.....	1152	1166
TOTAL CALLS	2189	2025



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RESIDENT PROFILE: Sandia Heights Couple Turn A New Business Idea Into A Virtual Reality.

By Carolyn Hindel – Grit Editor



Norma Young takes a break from business to smell the roses.

When Chuck and Norma Young made a trip to New Mexico in 1989, they were looking for a change from their normally hectic life in Wilmette, Illinois. Not that it wasn't a fine life, but they wanted a place with a little more magic, a lot more sunshine and quality of life visible just outside their bedroom window. Norma grew up on the high desert of inland San Diego and was missing the open spaces. And their two sons, Chris and Paul, were entering their formative teenage years in the volatile Chicago school system. It was a good time to make a move. Santa Fe was a beautiful city of art and culture, but "no middle class." Not what they wanted for their kids. So they headed south to Albuquerque and found a "working" city and a little piece of Santa Fe for an affordable price in the marvelous Sandia foothills. And as Chuck says proudly, "From my den, I can see 80 miles to the west and have 8000 square miles of scenery."

The Youngs bought their sprawling hacienda overlooking Tramway when the road was "two lanes and 10 feet lower" and the southernmost part of Sandia Heights was still a sparsely built field of dreams. The former owner was a deejay on his way to Denver and so 5000 sq. ft. of real mud-brick adobe became home. Chuck calls it a "feminine house" because of its sensual curves as opposed to abrupt angles, and all the rooms are inner-directed around a Spanish style courtyard with a fountain at its heart. It was the perfect transition for this free-spirited, family-oriented couple who had traveled the world and had experienced a very interesting and diverse lifestyle.

How they met reads like a chapter from *A Year of Living Dangerously*. Norma had been a nun for 7 years in the French Order of St. Joseph of Cluny, spending the better part of her novitiate as a teacher in Trinidad and the Caribbean Islands. In 1972 she made a difficult decision to leave the convent, but planned to take a teaching position in Grenada after a brief respite and reintroduction to secular life. Chuck was already entrenched on the struggling British colony, having left a job editing educational materials for children's books to join the Peace Corps. "It was paradise," he said, of teaching at a girl's high school, renting a beachhouse for \$12 a month, drinking rum punches at an oceanfront bar owned by John Wayne's valet, and sharing his digs with Marx – the fiddler crab who came in from the shore every night to sleep under his bed. Into this ideal situation walked Norma and she could cook.

But as paradise is bound and determined to be lost, their romance was sidetracked by a revolution over independence in 1974, when the corrupt government run by Eric Mathew Gairy and his treacherous band of thugs (The Mongoose Gang) lost control. The very school where Norma was to teach was torched. A strike paralyzed the island. There was no electricity or food shipments. In unforgettable tableaux of British irony, natives "queued up" to loot the stores. Peace Corps volunteers were being evacuated to Barbados, but Chuck remained oblivious helping Norma and her associates as chaos reigned.

They escaped to the States and were married, eventually settling in the northern suburbs of Chicago. But they brought with them the beloved style of life that the islands proffered – where "people were your entertainment" and there were no couch potatoes sitting in front of TVs. Talk was intimate and interesting. Families were the hub. They had missed the whole Nixon debacle, not to mention the drug culture of the late '60s. Chuck attended the University of Chicago at night for his MBA, while Norma segued into a career as a registered nurse. "So much of good nursing involves education and teaching, so it was a natural transition for me," she said.

In 1979, after a stint at Baxter as a sales analyst, Chuck met an account executive at Leo Burnett & Company in Chicago who persuaded him to go into advertising. He had finally found his niche. The Research Department of this advertising giant allowed him to



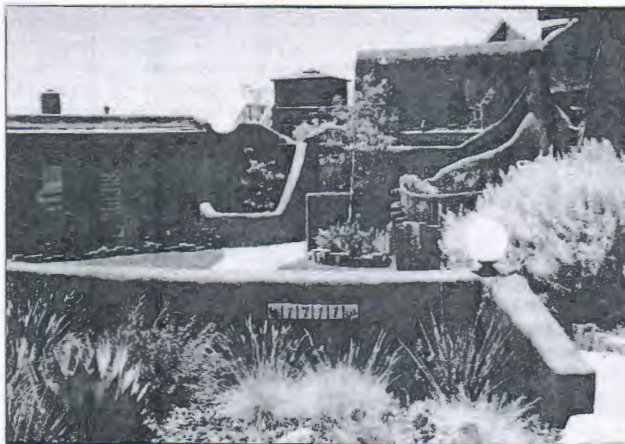
Chuck Young ponders new realms of communication in his renovated office space.

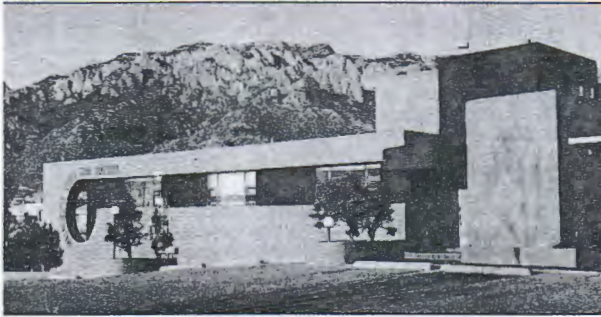
merge his math background with his love of concepts and as he puts it... "make a living off ideas." Testing those ideas through focus groups and research data became the backbone of the industry in short order. The dollars involved in producing ads and television commercials were escalating and clients wanted reliable results. Understanding the minds of people who actually use and buy products was a challenge and designing ways to apply those insights in the real world kept Chuck interested. Moving to Tatham Advertising in 1983, he became a Partner and Research Director for seven years until the spirit and simplicity of the southwest began to beckon. So in 1990, smitten by Sandia Heights, Norma took a nursing job in Santa Fe and they made the move.

Chuck thought he would write novels. But dam, this "new way to test ideas" dominated his left-brain. Scaling down quickly turned to gearing up. The Youngs hired local builder George Bowling to redesign the garage into a home office from which to launch a new business venture – Ameritest – looking for a better way to understand the consumer. And Chuck and a former associate were confident they had it.

Chuck calls their rambling adobe a "feminine house" because of its sensual curves.

(Below l. to r.) A cascade of water and rock dominate the west side of the home, while a natural rock pool beckons to the south. Inside, Bear dog guards his domain.





The new Focus Group Suite is being readied at Ameritest, 2 East San Rafael NE.

(Below left) Chuck, Norma and Paul, center, tour The Temple of Horus in Egypt with exchange students Caroline and Amr, and his family.



Well, if you can understand any of that, Chuck just might like to get your opinion one of these days as Ameritest sets up its new Focus Group Studio and office at 2 San Rafael NE, where the growing company has moved into a larger, more accommodating space. Accounts like Coke, General Mills, Unilever, NationsBank, J.C. Penny, Sara Lee, Petsmart, Arby's and Subway are keeping him BUSY.

Back in social reality, Norma and Chuck are totally engrossed in their family which, in addition to sons Chris and Paul, has extended around the world - including Ossi from Finland, Roben from Trinidad, Amr and Tarek from Egypt, Caroline from Germany and Irana from Azerbaijan. That's because of their involvement in AFS - American Field Service - which hosts exchange students and gives them the opportunity to study and live in this country with caring, nurturing families. It started with the U.S. Volunteer Ambulance Drivers in WWI who wanted to continue learning about their foreign neighbors and has burgeoned into a successful national support system now celebrating its 50th anniversary as a formal organization. Norma learned about the program while her boys were attending Sandia Prep and says "We've gotten far more out of this than the kids. You learn there's more than one way of doing things in this world."

Some of their extended family will be visiting this August. Roben, having graduated from Cornell University on scholarship is now traveling the world for BMG Record Company. Irana, who spoke only her native language when she arrived, got a 31 in English on her ACT and is attending Lake Forest College in Illinois on scholarship. The Youngs feel their own sons have benefited enormously from interaction with these international "siblings." Brothers Amr and Tarek offered many insights into Muslim ways, while they and Caroline had their first personal contact with the Jewish/Christian culture through the friends they made at Sandia Prep. Rules about drugs, driving and dating are strict and apply to the whole family. All agree that flexibility is key to hosting and student acclimation. "It's all about relationships."

After all, the old school saw research as the "ears" of the communication process, only listening to the words. They were going to add the "eyes," emphasizing the visual aspect of communication, thereby "completing the organism."

Chuck likes to describe it this way. In the 16th century, Isaac Newton theorized that light was made up of particles, while Dutch physicist Huygens said light was a wave. Coincidentally, it was Thomas Young who later showed both statements to be true. Chuck says, "The nature of communications is similar. Images flow just like a wave pattern, yet every particle of information is important in generating the idea as a whole." So he and his astute group of computer literates dissect TV commercials and print ads to show which parts are doing a superior job of getting the message across (copywise and visually), and in what order the perceptions are assimilated. Norma does the books and is "manager in general." They have won several David Ogilvy Awards for copy testing, and are also expanding this kind of testing into building brand awareness. This is where "virtual reality" is becoming a fascinating tool. "How about taking the consumer on a simulated trip through a new store full of products and logging their impressions before the store is even built," says Chuck with Roswellian glee. Cyberspatial development is definitely on the agenda!

If anyone is interested in the Albuquerque Chapter of AFS, call Sandia Heights resident Linda Picard, the new President, at 856-1332.

Leaving you in a state of "sensual reality" is no problem at the Young house. Norma's love of flora and fauna is evident everywhere you look. "It's my mental health break," she insists. Roses and bluegrass greet the visitor at the lush east entrance... along with Bear, the snow-white Husky and Remis who thinks he's a wolf. Facing south, a flowing adobe wall surrounds their new natural rock swimming pool, xeriscaped beautifully with sages, sedum, smoke trees and wildflowers. There's an unusual weeping crab apple near a covered kiva sitting area. Westward looms a tumbling array of rock and waterfall, native trees and shrubs that make one artfully unaware of nearby traffic. It's here you'll come upon turtles snoozing under the groundcover and droopy-eared rabbits nested in the cool shade.

Norma works part time for Osuna Nursery to further her interests, and also highly recommends the Desert Field Biology Course at UNM - camping out for 16 days in the Mojave, Sonoran, Great Basin and Chihuahuan deserts. She's become adamant about native plants and right now Bromus Tectoris, or "cheatgrass," the invasive impostor from Montana brought in to feed cattle, is on her hit list. Friends of the Botanical Garden had a treat indeed when the Youngs were included on their '97 GardenWalk. Maybe next year they'll host another tour. If you need a "reality check" don't miss it!

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Privately located on nearly an acre FRONTING THE NATIONAL FOREST, this energy efficient home with its rich woodwork, brick and hardwood is a delight! Such a one of his warm, central location. Features: stone windows, two new heating units and a fireplace with vent blower all work effectively together to make your life more enjoyable. And you'll find plenty of versatile space with over 3,800 SF, four bedrooms, two living areas, formal and casual dining, hobby and workshop rooms, plus a bathroom! If that's not enough, the amazing views from the wraparound deck are sure to steal your heart! \$449,000.

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QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Who is Bahá'u'lláh?** The Prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
- What is His claim?** Bahá'u'lláh claims to be the return of the Spirit of Christ or "The Second Coming".
- How could we have missed Him?** Christ warned, "But the day of the Lord shall come as a thief in the night".
- How can we believe Bahá'u'lláh?** Christ said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them".
- What are Bahá'u'lláh's fruits (teachings)?**
 - There is only one God.
 - All humanity is one family.
 - The family and its unity are very important.
 - All prejudice is destructive and must be stopped.
 - We must investigate truth for ourselves.
 - All major religions come from God.
 - Women and men are equal.
 - Everyone must receive an education.
 - Religion must be in harmony with science.
 - Economic problems are linked to spiritual problems.

For more information on The Bahá'í Faith, please call 856-1655.

THE GREAT TREE BAN

(Coming to the City of Albuquerque August 1st!)

By Shirley Medina – Master Gardener



Committees in various locations wanting to ban certain books because of their questionable content have been making headlines lately. Newspapers throughout the country covered actions by the Towne Park Homeowners Association Board attempting to ban xeriscape (as opposed to lawns) because of its appearance. Reports have shown up as far away as Orlando, Florida, about Albuquerque's City Council passing "the strongest tree ordinance yet, banning the planting of five types of trees."

Are these bans warranted? Proponents cite good reasons for their decisions, e.g., the need to control what our children read, what a subdivision should look like, and what tree pollen levels should be tolerated in the war against allergies. While their reasoning has merit to a certain extent, one cannot ignore the concerns of opponents to these bans: Why are these bans needed? Who do they benefit? What are the short and long-term effects?

Five Families of Trees Outlawed

On October 21, 1996, the Albuquerque City Council passed a stringent Pollen Control Ordinance aimed at the elimination and/or reduction of certain trees known to be high pollen producers. Bill 0-51, enactment 45-1996, sponsored by Alan Armijo, states that "certain designated trees" are a "public nuisance and health problem" and prohibits "their sale within the city of Albuquerque." This ordinance takes effect August 1, 1997. The regulated trees include: (1) *Genus Cupressus*, all members of the Cypress family; (2) *Genus Juniperus*, or male cedars that are more than two feet tall when mature; (3) *Genus Morus*, all members of the Mulberry family; (4) *Genus Populus*, all members of the Cottonwood and Poplar families (except cultivars *P. fremontii* var. *Wislizeni* "Rio Grande" Cottonwood, *P. tremuloides* "Quaking Aspen" and *P. acuminata* "Lance leaf or Mountain" Cottonwood); (5) *Genus Ulmus*, all members of the Elm family. Trees that may be sold and planted in the *Genus Populus* (above) – *Platanus* "Sycamore" London Plane Tree and *Fraxinus* or "Ash" families – must be "identified as high pollen/high allergen potential by means of individual labels." Existing trees in yards have been grandfathered into the bill and will not have to be eliminated.

Anyone violating the ordinance through the production, selling, importing or planting of a targeted tree shall be given notice and allowed 7 calendar days to remove and legally dispose of the tree. Otherwise the violator, can be "deemed guilty" of a petty misdemeanor and subject to a fine up to \$500.00. The ordinance also provides funds for the mayor to conduct pollen and tree counts, and provide public education on tree pollens.

Why discipline trees?

The ban is necessary, the ordinance states, because "many people in all age groups may be at considerable risk of developing such allergies; and that therefore actions to reduce the production of these pollens which cause the greatest health problems are essential." The Albuquerque Journal 9/26/96 reported: It has been determined that "twenty percent of the population is genetically vulnerable to allergies," and the "designated trees" comprise about "fifteen percent of the varieties that grow in this climate."

The Council's actions to help the 20% of residents who have or may develop allergies is commendable, but its solution – banning trees, many of which

have been growing in Albuquerque for twenty or more years, is not. Even with the desired reduction of pollens from these trees, people will still be affected by those trees already in existence.

Many of our trees are not native to Albuquerque or New Mexico. They were introduced here by politicians, developers, and newcomers. These trees changed the face of our high desert landscape forever, replacing the wild grasses, chamisas, shrub oaks and native plants which were regarded as dispensable, ugly and weedy. Albuquerque has seen phenomenal growth in the past four decades, bringing change not only in landscaping but also in lifestyles. To say that non-native or certain trees do not belong here can be likened to saying that non-native or certain people do not belong here! This may be stretching an analogy, but the point is that we should celebrate diversity. Man is dependent on the ecosystem, natural or man-made, to survive. The challenge before us is not to eliminate things that are unpleasant to a few, but rather to provide a variety of resources in moderate amounts, which can help many.

If Trees Could Speak...

All trees play an important role on Earth in providing essentials by which man can live: oxygen, erosion control, fruit, shade, allergy extracts, herbal remedies, shelter and more. An alternate solution to control the overabundance of certain trees is possible. First, educate developers and others against the cloning of landscapes in each subdivision as it is developed. Residents do not need the same elm, cottonwood, pine, ash, Chinese Pistache, or Desert Willow as their neighbor. It seems that throughout the course of development in Albuquerque, certain trees have received trend status. If one drives through specific neighborhoods, it is very easy to recognize which trees received "most favorable" status when the homes were built. Such irresponsible planting has now resulted in too many "unfavorable" trees. However, this irresponsible planting is still occurring. When other types of trees are deemed to cause health problems, will the powers that be decide to ban them too? Why stop with trees? Grasses, as well as

native plants such as Sagebrush and Four-Wing Saltbush are known to cause hayfever. Grasses certainly comprise much more than 15% percent of landscapes in Albuquerque!

Secondly, educate the public on proper tree selection, tree pollens, water requirements, and above all, variety. The one city councilor who opposed this ordinance was on target when he stated that funds would be better spent on educating and not mandating. This makes sense. The Albuquerque Plant List published by the City of Albuquerque Water Department is a good place to start. The Xeriscape Ordinance is a good model to follow. It allows for percentages of certain types of plant material in the landscape, and does not call for an outright ban of "certain designated" plants. Contrary to misconceptions, xeriscape does not call for the elimination of trees. Trees are important! But rather than ban, let's plant – many varieties! Using knowledge and common sense, it's still possible to do this and be environmentally and socially responsible.

Note: This article is not, in any way, meant to be insensitive to the suffering that allergies or asthma can bring. The author's family also suffers these problems. The 5 listed families of trees should no longer be planted, but a ban seems to be an extreme measure. Public education and continued monitoring offers a better solution.

References:

ABQ Journal Committee Backs Ban on 5 Trees 9/26/96
City of ABQ Council Bill 0-51, No.45-1996, passed 10/21/96
City of ABQ Water Dept. - Albuquerque Plant List
Plants and Pollen leaflet - NMSU Cooperative Ext. Service, et al
Orlando Sentinel Southwest Tries to Clear Air of Pollen- 10/26/96

Some plants that don't give hay fever: **Mimosa**, Barberry, Buddleia, **Western Catalpa**, **Redbud**, Flowering Quince, **Desert Willow**, Cotoneaster, **Hawthorn**, **Ash**, Spanish Broom, **Honeylocust**, Rose of Sharon, **Golden Chain**, **Crape Myrtle**, **Apple**, **Mock Orange**, **Pines**, flowering and fruiting **Almonds**, **Cherries**, **Peaches**, and **Plums**, **Pears**, **Pyracantha**, **Lilac**, **Snowball**, **Vitex**. (Words in Bold are Trees.)

MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE
292-7144

PLANT OF THE SEASON

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or perennial that grows 4 ft. tall with an equal spread. The foliage has a lacy appearance, is light gray-green in color and has an aromatic sagerlike fragrance. Lavender-blue flowers occur in long 18 in. spikes in summer and may last till the first frost.

Russian Sage is native to Western Asia and is cold hardy to at least -200°F. Plant in full sun to semi-shade in any well drained soil. Mix 1 part planting mix to 3 parts native soil for best results. Growth rate may be slow the first year but is much faster the following year.



Russian Sage
Perovskia atriplicifolia

Planting: Build a berm with soil 2 feet around the base of the plant. Fill the basin twice with water to insure a deep soaking. For the first 2 weeks keep the plants moist! As time passes, decrease the frequency but increase the amount of water given. How often to water depends upon many factors such as the time of year and plant maturity. Once established, Russian Sage can survive on deep soakings every 2-3 weeks during the growing season.

Recommended Use: Russian Sage is a durable, drought tolerant plant that does not grow too tall. Use in the landscape as an accent plant or to contrast against green shrubs. Fragrant foliage is an additional asset for this plant. Because the flowers attract bees, avoid planting too close to walkways, swimming pools or anywhere people may congregate.

In Winter cut back the old flower stalks and in the colder East Mountain and Santa Fe areas, cut back 6 -12 inches from the ground. Related species include: *Perovskia* "Blue Spire" and *Perovskia* "Blue Haze" (lighter blue) which are both hybrid crosses between *P. atriplicifolia* and *P. abrotanoides*.

South Domingo Baca Dam Recreation Plans

Some History:

Bernalillo County accounts for over 30% of New Mexico's population and is expected to remain the most populous area in the state for the next 20 years. In 1940, the population was about 63,000, rapidly growing during the post-war period and by 1960 reaching 262,000. From 1960 to 1990 the population increased another 220,125.

Nearly 18% (85, 019) of County residents live within the unincorporated areas (excluding the reservation, Kirtland AFB, the Villages of Corrales, Los Ranchos, Tijeras and Rio Rancho).

Citizen Survey:

In 1991, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan conducted a survey, identifying the 10 most significant issues confronting New Mexico for the next five years. The issues are as follows:

1. The decline in public funds at federal, state, local and private levels.
2. The deterioration and destruction of park and open space areas.
3. The need to control public deprecative behavior, e.g. vandalism, litter.
4. The need for strong state leadership relating to financial assistance and preservation of natural resources.
5. The need to provide a variety of recreation opportunities for all citizen groups.
6. The need for planning studies to assure appropriate protection and use.
7. The desire for recreational use to be considered part of the management, control and monitoring of waters.
8. The increasing insurance liability, creating pressure to limit and shut down facilities.
9. The increasing reliance upon volunteers and community groups.
10. The need to increase management and protection of historic sites.

The vast majority of citizens surveyed felt that public parks and recreation are important to them and their families. Out of 24 possible types of desired facilities, the top four were: Walking/Biking Trails; Indoor swimming Pools; Neighborhood Parks; and Community Centers.

The three top-ranked park programs were: Before & After School Programs, Programs for Teenagers and Youth Sports Leagues. Respondents were clearly in support of paying fees for these services.

South Domingo Baca Park Plan Specifics:

Priorities were established for this undeveloped area south of Paseo del Norte and east of Lowell NE (see #52 on map), through the survey and neighborhood focus groups which are continuing. Here are those priorities in order of importance:

- Land acquisition for neighborhood parks
- Designation of trails
- Multipurpose field-complexes
- Regional indoor aquatic facility
- More neighborhood parks
- Programs for teens
- Acquisition of land for open space
- Senior-citizen programs/facilities
- Passive recreation areas
- Physical/Mental Disability programs
- Before & After School programs
- Year-around gymnasiums
- Regional indoor complex
- Supervised late night recreation
- Large special events park
- Renovation of existing facilities
- Improve maintenance
- Area golf course

The Recreational Area Proposal was presented to AMAFCA at their June 26th board meeting. The County is requesting a lease agreement. Plans call for a day use horse arena which will include horse pens, dressage area and benches. There will be a picnic area and playground with play equipment, tables, shade structure, basketball site and a walking trail with a par course. The proposal also contains plans for future game fields, i.e. 2 or 3 soccer fields. Trail projects are being coordinated with the Public Works Department. The developed area is expected to be about 2 acres and will not be a commercial facility. It will not have lights and will not be used for competitions or fee-based activities.

Discussion proceeds on where public access to the area will be established. Parking lots may be developed along Paseo del Norte or Dubank. The North LaCueva Dam area has been requested for use by hang gliders, and the location of a landing site that will not conflict with the day horse arena is still to be determined. The community is invited to a public meeting on August 20th at Sandia Presbyterian Church to voice their opinions and get more information.



PUBLIC MEETING

Sponsored by Bernalillo County
Parks & Recreation Department

Wednesday

August 20, 1997

Sandia Presbyterian Church

from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

The topics of discussion will be the proposed multiple use park plans for the

**AMAFCA South Domingo Baca Dam
and the South La Cueva Diversion**

(Just northeast of the Ben Greiner Memorial Soccer Field at North Domingo Baca Dam.)

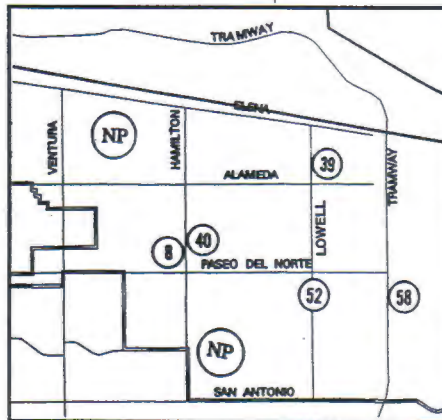
This is your opportunity for input on the central configuration of these recreation facilities.

If you are not able to attend, but would like to comment, please contact:

John Slown, Park Planner at 764-6850

or mail comments to him at

Bernalillo County Parks & Recreation,
620 Lomas NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.



KEY:

#52 - proposed area for South Domingo Baca Recreation Project

#58 - San Bernardino Park in Sandia Heights

#39 - N. ABQ Acres Cafetorium

#40 - North Domingo Baca Dam Soccer Field

#8 - Altamont Little League

NP - indicates land acquisition for a neighborhood park

SANDIA HEIGHTS SENSATION



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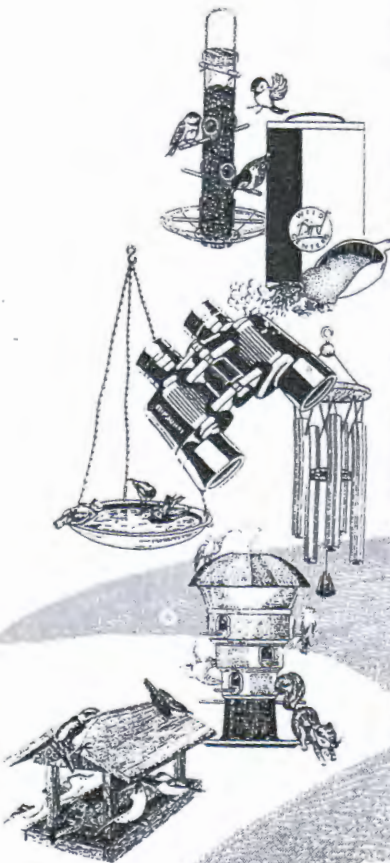
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NEW CUSTOMER COUPON

Wild Bird Center is proud to announce it will be donating up to 1000 lbs. of wild bird seed per month to the Rio Grande Nature Center as part of our ongoing community involvement.



A View from the Ranger's Station

By Floyd Thompson III - Sandia District Ranger

Dear Friends:

I dedicate this article to Mr. John Southwick, one of our most noteworthy colleagues who recently passed away. I consider him the father of the highly active volunteer program we enjoy today. In 1980, teamed with then Ranger Jerry Greer and John Hayden, he spent tremendous amounts of energy coordinating and recruiting volunteers for the trail system and the wilderness area (Sandia Mountain Wilderness was created by Congress in 1978). He left quite a Legacy. Thank you, John Southwick for what you gave back to the land.

June 1997 marks my ten year anniversary as District Ranger for the Sandia Ranger District. I thought it might be time to recount some of the accomplishments of this decade. We have enjoyed a period of increased emphasis on forest health and recreational enhancement for the Sandia and Manzanita Mountains and Cibola National Forest. In 1987, reporter Mark Taylor published some of the goals I had in mind for the District. They have expanded greatly, but let's review them.

I identified a need to establish Sandia Friends groups to assist the District in non-profit partnerships. This led to formation of the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. This group has been instrumental in costshare efforts to implement the Tijeras Pueblo site interpretation and host educational programming during most of the '90s. As our volunteer cadre on the District reached more than 100, the idea of Friends of the Forest matured. Our own volunteers began to see we needed help to support the variety of programs being developed. Through diligent efforts by individuals, the long awaited New Mexico Friends of the Forest was chartered this Spring. This group will need your support - it's your way to help give back something to the mountain just as John Southwick did so many years ago. (See the box for more details.)

I also identified the need for more emphasis on trails and access to the Forest. Our signing has greatly improved since 1987, but I never imagined the gains in

access and facilities. The Foothills Trail System is now a reality in partnership with City of Albuquerque Open Space. The Pino, Oso Corridor, Hawkwatch, Media Springs reroute, Piedra Lisa and Sandia Cave rehabilitation, Cedro Peak and Otero Canyon Horse & Bike Trails were all developed this decade. Much work has been done to keep the La Luz and other trails open and maintained for heavy foot traffic. The Crest Trail has been reworked and both nature trails at the Crest have had major rehabilitation. Trail heads in Bernalillo Watershed, Juan Tabo Basin, along the Foothills, Canyon Estates, Cienega, Otero Canyon, Tunnel Canyon and Cedro Peak have all been developed. New access has been secured for Embudito and Bear Canyons through work on the High Desert Sector Development Plan. The Tramway Trail was made a reality through agreements with the Tram. Cross-country ski trails were expanded and improved along the Crest and in the Capulin area through partnerships with the New Mexico Ski Club, UNM Ski Team and concessionaire, Jan Moore. Our horse groups have helped greatly with trail systems to improve access for these activities.

We have made great strides in interpretive programs and facilities through cooperation with Southwest Natural and Cultural Heritage Association, the Tram and the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo. Our greatest boost has come through our Fee Demonstration Program, which supports basing more of our programs and recreational management decisions on revenue support rather than appropriated dollars. The fees have allowed us to fully staff the Crest Information Center and begin limited programming at Doc Long Picnic Ground. Our goal is to have full services at all our key visitor use areas on the District.

What was not envisioned was the tremendous progress in public acceptance of Forest health treatments to meet the rising hazards of wildfires. The Forest needs fire as a key element in securing its health for future generations. With support from New Mexico State Forestry we organized the Interagency Fire Protection Association and a partnership with the Backyard Tree Farm Program. Through these programs we are now in the forefront nationally in developing Forest health treatments. In the backyards of the East Mountains, we have completed over 1200 acres of prescribed burning on this highly urbanized area, and are now practicing community forestry on an intensive scale there. Through our partnerships with the Departments of Energy and Defense, we have designed major landscape treatment plans for the Manzanita Mountains. Our wildlife waters and vegetation treatments have contributed to improved habitat for mule deer, bear and turkey.

Many things still remain. With NM Game & Fish, we continue the study phase for reintroduction of Rocky Mountain Big-Horn Sheep. During this decade we saw the last of the sheep disappear. We hope they can once again roam the high Sandias. The land claim by Sandia Pueblo still remains in litigation, pending res-

olution by the Courts as to what will be the future for the west side of the Sandias. The ethnographic study, currently in progress for the Sandia Mountains, shows many pueblos and American Indian groups, as well as Spanish land grant heirs, have traditional cultural uses. The outcomes of these issues will be crucial in finalizing the Forest Plan now in progress.

I invite you to become actively involved in the future of these mountains. They are the single greatest natural resource of the Albuquerque metropolitan area. They deserve your support in time, dollars, services and concerned actions. Join the New Mexico Friends of the Forest, Friends of Tijeras Pueblo or any other conservation group working on the mountain. You can make a difference!

SUB-ALPINE FOREST & MEADOW FIELD TRIP

Saturday, August 9. Call 281-3304 to RSVP.

9AM - 1PM. \$5 per person.

Meet at Ellis Trailhead Parking Lot.

Bring lunch, lots of water, hat and sunscreen.

FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

The program now includes the Las Huertas Picnic Ground and Sandia Cave Parking Lot. It's important to remember that the Daily Pass is good at all sites on the mountain for the entire day of purchase - that's 12 sites and over 100 miles of trails for only \$3 a carload. The \$30 Annual Pass allows unlimited visits to all developed sites within the Fee Demonstration Area and are available at the Supervisor's Office at 2113 Osuna NE in Albuquerque and at the Sandia District Office in Tijeras. Bring your car and current registration in with you. Call 281-3304 for more information.

SAVE A TREE PROGRAM

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or the memory of a family member or friend by planting a tree! A \$10 tax-deductible donation to the Forest Service will plant up to 15 seedlings. Species and location is based on need and plant availability. For a gift that keeps on growing, call Neil Marsh at 281-3304.

WHAT'S NEW?

The upper parking lot and observation deck at Sandia Crest will be under renovation this summer, but the Crest House will remain open for business. Look for better viewing stations. Bear Canyon Trailhead was opened on National Trails Day, June 7th. It provides another quality access to the Foothills Trail at the end of Spain, east of Tramway. Thanks to the High Desert Corporation, this property will be donated to the Forest Service next year. Canada Reservoir is another project associated with the High Desert Subdivision, located on an easement within the national forest. Construction already started and will take 6-12 months to complete.

New Mexico Friends Of The Forest

If you hike, bike, run, ride a horse or use the forest in any other way, we know you enjoy what nature has given us. All that traffic takes a toll on our forest lands. With limited funds and personnel, the US Forest Service is hard-pressed to take care of the thousands of acres in this area. That's why we formed New Mexico Friends Of The Forest.

Who We Are.

NM Friends Of The forest is a newly chartered, non-profit organization of local volunteers. We're dedicated to working in partnership with the US Forest Service and other groups and individuals to maintain, protect and restore the natural, cultural and scenic resources of New Mexico's forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. Our focus is conservation and education within the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts of the Cibola National Forest and adjacent lands.

What is the Need?

This uniquely beautiful land can't wait another minute. It truly needs our help! US Forest Service funds are inadequate to handle increasing land management efforts and impact control. New Mexico Friends Of The Forest will work to meet forest needs. Learn more about how you can be a part of this vital effort.

What We Do.

Conservation • Education • Restoration • Site Stewardship • Wildlife/Habitat Monitoring • Trail Construction/Maintenance • Visitor Services • Fundraising • Volunteer Services

You're Invited to Join!

You can be part of this effort. Work with friends, visitors and USFS people.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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PHONE _____

Dues/Donation:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family | NM Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Organization | Of The Forest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Benefactor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Life Sponsor | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Corporate Sponsor | |

Mail to: NM Friends Of The Forest
P.O. Box 1832, Tijeras, NM 87059

As a native of Chicago, hometown of the infamous columnist, the late Mike Royko, I have always had a keen interest in what's happenings around my community and a desire to share ideas. Being the editor of The Grit makes me privy to certain info that should be shared. Then again I'll let you be the judge. Following are my notes on occurrences over the last three months. If you have incidents to share about living in Sandia Heights, facts about our area or surrounding areas that impact ours, I'd like to hear about them. We have a lot of the same concerns and just might find some answers in between the lines.

Orange barrel alert. The upgrade of Paseo del Norte east of I-25 to Wyoming to six lanes is starting later this year and will take about 18 months. Crews may be working 24 hours a day to speed up construction. Traffic will still use existing roads while new lanes are built to the north. Trucks will be allowed on the new section and development along Paseo should take off once it's finished. Look for speed limits of 45-50 mph, and video cameras and sensors at some intersections. Bernalillo County is still acquiring right-of-way to widen the rest of Paseo to Tramway.

SANDIA HAPPENINGS

By Carolyn Hindel -
Grit Editor

Beware of renters with a green thumb. The ABQ Journal recently reported the arrest of a South Valley man on suspicion of "growing hundreds of hybrid marijuana plants in a sophisticated nursery at his home." Well we had a taste of this kind of activity right here in Sandia Heights. Renters of a 4-bedroom house in the area moved without notice, leaving considerable damage behind from the tending of marijuana plants in 5 of the rooms. Black plastic covered the windows, grow-lights were left in the ceiling and carpeting was stained with fertilizer and potting soil. Anyone involved in renting their homes should consider doing spot checks of their premises and amending their leases to allow for such inspections.

Mail instinct. If you're mailing a package that weighs more than 16 oz., don't leave it in your mailbox for pickup. It must be cancelled at the post office in the presence of a clerk for security reasons. Otherwise you might have it returned. And while we're on it, there have been a number of calls regarding mail disappearing from mailboxes lately. Scam artists? Probably not, but Sandia Heights Security recommends not leaving outgoing mail in your mailbox all day. Have important checks like Social Security and Pension automatically transferred to the bank. Never have a credit card sent to your home. Arrange to pick it up at the post office, registered mail.

Fire alarm. An electrical fire broke out in a neighbor's home in the middle of the night a few weeks ago. By the time the smell of smoke woke us up, flames were leaping high into the sky, and fire trucks were already screeching to the scene. We found out later that the fire had burned the phone lines, but that both the burglar alarm and smoke detectors had been wired to the Central Alarm number and alerted the fire department without a phone call. The family escaped without injury, and the house, though severely smoke-damaged, is being repaired. Your insurance company may help you rewire your smoke alarms to add this safety feature.



Ruth & Frank Gurd of 2032 Quail Run Drive were the first hosts on the '97 Wildflower Club Garden Tour. The Gurds moved to Sandia Heights in 1989 and started their beautiful garden with the help of local landscape designer, Judith Phillips.



The Gurds stand in front of a bevy of chocolate flowers, so sweet that a neighbor who is allergic to chocolate can't get near.

LINDA CALDWELL DOESN'T FOOL AROUND.

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FAX 897-6868

LICENSED AND BONDED

SANDIA HAPPENINGS CONTINUED...

If you're as upset as I am by seeing broken sprinkler heads and water running down the streets during dry weather, now there's an outlet for our frustration - **The Waste Hotline: 768-3123.**

Neighboring traits. The first Mormon Church in New Mexico is being planned on a 10-acre site at Eubank and San Francisco NE. Its footprint will be 15,000 sq. ft. and have a single spire. The new Jewel Osco is scheduled for opening sometime in November of '97 with 65,000 sq. ft. of product space. It will offer a full deli, bakery, fresh fish and floral departments, and new Pet Central. Bank of America will be on the premises. The medians along Academy near Tramway are to be xeriscaped with low-water-use trees and shrubs and designed to look like a dry riverbed. They will serve as models for the future re-landscaping of 11 acres of medians further west along Academy. Bluegrass was supposed to be replaced, but the city's Capital Implementation Program ran out of funds. Residents who had heard about a "lighted ball field" north of the Allegro Apartment complex can rest easy. County Permit restricts lights in that park which will be open from 7am to 9pm, according to Antelope Run Association President, Mike Creeden.

High Desert slowdown. Another trailhead to the Sandia Mountains is just about finished at High Desert. Parking for 30 vehicles will be available at the east end of Spain Rd. Look for a new information board with maps for hikers, bikers, walkers and joggers. The Highlands, a new estate lot area has opened up at High Desert with 3/4 to 2 acre plots ranging from \$175,000 to \$425,000. Whew! Jog by this new subdivision on the annual "Run For The Hills" sponsored by NM Sports & Wellness on September 7th. Proceeds benefit the ABQ Boys & Girls Club. Reservation forms are at the High Desert Office.

Fax me stuff at 856-1792!



Sandia Heights residents Pat & Duke Colket (left and right) join in festivities at Habitat For Humanity's Red & White Ball.

A Crafty New Way to Recycle: UNM's Wemagination Center

By Carolyn Hindel

The University of New Mexico's new Wemagination Center opened for business June 27th, at 4010 Copper NE. Wemagination means "people imagining together" and offers a new way to recycle, having a whole lot of fun in the process.

It's a project of the UNM Family Development Program, which has a 12-year history of bringing parents, teachers and children together as active partners in learning. It provides free assistance to all New Mexico school districts and is a recognized national education model.

The Wemagination Center collects and distributes clean, non-toxic objects, manufacturer's rejects, by-products, overruns, distributors' samples and overstock items and recycles them into craft, entertainment and learning experiences that make people really use their imaginations.

The center has rooms of "stuff" and plenty ideas on how to use it. There are qualified staff to help train teachers



Wemagination Coordinator Amy Peterson (left) welcomes visitors along with Claudia Medina, Family Development Director Maria Chavez, and Center Trainers Diana Montoya & Rosalina Hundley. Training Director Mary Dudley and Project Director Michael LaFlamme are behind.



and group leaders to develop innovative, and educationally sound projects for schools, senior centers, nursing homes, day care, scouting and craft classes. One area has a lightbox on which to examine the intricacies of certain recyclables. And there's a huge storage space for papers and plastics and bolts of fabric.

Businesses can give a tax deductible donation, while diverting their waste items from the landfill to the classroom. They can avoid the labor and

cost of disposing of excess materials on their own and have the satisfaction of contributing to our schools, families and environment. Communities gain a cost-effective, citizen-based recycling program.

Children have access to hands-on materials for the home and classroom that they would not otherwise have. Creativity can soar as project materials in many colors, textures, shapes and sizes are available. Parents and teachers can obtain large quantities of low-cost, materials and turn trash into treasures.

Contact Wemagination Coordinator Amy Peterson-277-4236, for information on how your company can help or you can benefit from this great idea. Here's a list of some of the materials offered:

- adhesives and tapes • basins, trays and containers • bottles and caps • cardboard tubes • ceramic tiles and carpet samples • electronics and wires • fabric, felt, & notions • foam punchouts & sheets • leather pieces & straps • metal cans, hardware & machine parts • mylar & plastic sheets & rolls • packaging materials • paper, printed pieces, trim • pens, pencils & markers • plexiglass • rope, yarn & twine • storage fixtures, barrels & bins • strange objects • pipes & joints • vinyl & wood in all sizes.

So go take a look and start brainstorming!

Too Many Tomatoes? Try 'em Dry!

GOURMET DRIED TOMATOES

If friends, family and neighbors are tiring of your abundance of fresh tomatoes, try preserving the excess by drying. Gourmet dried tomatoes purchased at specialty food outlets and gourmet shops are quite expensive, costing from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per pound.

The best variety for drying are Roma tomatoes. They may contain as much as 15% solids with 85% water. Most varieties of round tomatoes only have about 6% solids and 94% water.

Not all tomatoes can be dried successfully. Tomatoes occasionally develop black spots during the drying process due to low acid content or from oxidation. Select high acid tomatoes to prevent blackening. The black spots are not a food safety

problem, but are not as appetizing as the fully red dried tomatoes.

Choose firm, ripe, bright-red, vine ripened tomatoes. Don't refrigerate tomatoes before drying as it causes breakdown of the cell structure and gives them a watery texture.


To prepare tomatoes for drying, wash and remove the center stem core. Slice Roma tomatoes lengthwise in 1/2-inch slices or halve or quarter. Peel them, if desired, by immersing in boiling water 30 to 45 seconds. Immediately plunge into cold water and peel.

Sun drying requires the most time; an electric dehydrator requires the least. To dry tomatoes in a dehydrator, place them skin side down on screens and dry at 140 degrees F until tough to crisp. To use New Mexico solar power, place tomatoes on food-grade plastic screens, skin side

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

down. Do not use galvanized, copper, fiberglass, vinyl or aluminum screening; the aluminum reacts with acids in fruit. Elevate screens at least 1 inch above the table with spools or bricks to allow good air circulation below the tomatoes. Cover with a cheesecloth tent to protect from insects. Dry tomatoes in direct sunlight; move screens periodically to assure direct sun exposure. To destroy insects or eggs that may be on sun-dried tomatoes, heat them in a 150 degree F oven 30 minutes.

To store, package tomatoes in freezer bags and place inside of airtight glass jars. Refrigerate or freeze until needed. Use them like stewed tomatoes for seasoning salads, soups, mixed vegetables, casseroles or sauces. Tomatoes do not rehydrate well for use in salads. For further information give me a call at 243-1386.



SANDIA HEIGHTS RESIDENT RECIPES

FROM THE
3RD ANNUAL WINETASTING

From the kitchen of Kit Anderson CHICK PEA SPREAD

Puree in food processor until smooth:

19 oz. can Chick Peas (drained) 3 Tbs. lemon juice
1/2 stick unsalted butter (soft) Salt and pepper to taste
5 oz. cream cheese

Serve at room temperature with crackers.

(Source: Gourmet Magazine 1/86 -pg. 60)

From the kitchen of Linda & Mike Douglas SMOKED SALMON LOG

1 cup canned salmon 1/8 tsp. salt
8 oz. cream cheese 1/8 tsp. liquid smoke
2 tsp. minced onion or shallots 1 tsp. chopped parsley
1 tsp. horseradish

Mix ingredients and roll into log and refrigerate. Roll in chipped pecans and/or chopped parsley. Serve with crackers.

From the kitchen of Linda Garvin CAROLL'S CRAB DIP

1-8 oz. pkg. Philadelphia Cream Cheese
1 tin crab meat
1/2 pkg. Knorr Vegetable Soup mix

Roll into a ball, cover with sesame seeds.
Garnish with parsley.

From the kitchen of PATRICK CHIARITO ROASTED PEPPER QUICHE

1 cup puree of roasted red peppers 3 eggs (slightly beaten)
2 cloves garlic 1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 tsp. cayenne 1/2 cup grated parmesan
1.4 tsp. salt 1 pkg. (2 rounds) refrigerated pie dough

Puree peppers, garlic, cayenne and salt. Add eggs, sourcream and cheese. Mix well. In 12 cup mini muffin tin, press dough circles (cut 1/4" larger than tin). Fill 3/4 full. Place on center rack of oven. Bake 25 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 24-28 small quiches.

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 Send info to the editor, call 856-1868 or fax 856-1792.

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Marshall Aungier

Meet the New President

Marshall is an Albuquerque attorney in private practice concentrating in Tax Law and Estate Planning. He graduated from the University of Rochester with a B.A. in Economics and a Law Degree from Gonzaga University School of Law in Washington State. He took two years off from his law practice in the early 1980's to study violin making, after which he attended the Graduate Tax Program at the University of Denver, earning an LL.M. in Taxation. When not at work, you can find Marshall swimming, on the golf course or hiking in the Sandia foothills.

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