

THE

GREEN

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

Holiday Issue 2001



Have a
Wonderful
Holiday
and a
Happy
New Year



Letter from Sandia Security

Dear Sandia Heights Residents;

In response to the letter submitted by Mr. Sauvage in the most recent Grit, I feel some clarification is in order.

There are approximately 47 miles of road in Sandia Heights. Sandia Heights Security operates a single vehicle to patrol these 47 miles of roads. A new vehicle was purchased in December of last year. Since that time the vehicle has amassed a total exceeding 42,000 patrol miles within Sandia Heights. We have therefore averaged 4,200 miles per month patrolling within Sandia Heights. That translates to the security vehicle passing by your house approximately 89 times per month. These mileage figures are provided to SHHA for publication in the Grit, but for some reason the Grit staff have chosen to omit them from the publication.

The Services Department as of November 2000 entered into a contract with High Desert Homeowners Association. to operate a patrol service in that community. We purchased an identical vehicle to accomplish this patrol. The High Desert vehicle has a gold "Security" sticker on both sides, with the patrol mobile number on the rear. The Sandia Heights vehicle has a blue "Security" sticker on both sides with the patrol mobile number on the rear, so some confusion may be caused by this. The reason for the sightings on Spain Rd., Paseo del Norte and Tramway Blvd. Spain Rd. is part of the High Desert patrol area. Because of the atrocities of Sept. 11 and subsequent FBI warnings we have increased the observation of security sensitive areas of Sandia Heights, this requires the use of Paseo del Norte by the patrol vehicle. When a call comes in to the patrol that happens to be in another part of the subdivision from where the patrol is operating, the fastest way to respond is by using Tramway Blvd.

With respect to the level of service you the customer receive since Will Jackson's passing, I can tell you we have added more staff on the administration level (myself) so as to allow the patrol officers to do more of just that, patrol. We have virtually the same personnel we had when Will was here, aside from the aforementioned addition.

It is my sincere hope that this letter will clarify any questions you may have with our service. If any homeowner would like to discuss any of these issues or any other pertaining to security please call the Services office at 856-6347 between 8am and 5pm Monday through Friday.

Sincerely, John R. Pickering,
Sandia Heights Services Manager

Security's mobile number
263-4654
SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY
(A division of Sandia Service
Phone 857-8924)

	Nov	YTD	Nov	YTD
Attempted Breaking & Entering	0	7	0.0%	0.4%
Breaking & Entering	3	3	2.3%	0.2%
Animal Control Assist	0	13	0.0%	0.8%
Alarms	37	449	28.0%	28.0%
Assault/Battery	1	5	0.8%	0.3%
Car Accident	0	19	0.0%	1.2%
Construction Site Burglary	0	6	0.0%	0.4%
Deer Hunters	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Fire	0	21	0.0%	1.3%
Fireworks Complaint	0	8	0.0%	0.5%
Front Office	6	29	4.5%	1.8%
Loud Music	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Lost/Found Item	1	5	0.8%	0.3%
Lost/Found Pet	3	26	2.3%	1.6%
Motorist Assist	23	186	17.4%	11.6%
Motorcycle Nuisance	1	11	0.8%	0.7%
Open Door/Window	4	88	3.0%	5.5%
Peeping Tom	0	1	0.0%	0.1%
Pet Nuisance	4	40	3.0%	2.5%
Loud Disruptive Party	0	14	0.0%	0.9%
Rescue Assist	2	9	1.5%	0.6%
Snake Call	1	46	0.8%	2.9%
Speeding Vehicle	4	19	3.0%	1.2%
Suspicious Person	7	77	5.3%	4.8%
Suspicious Vehicle	16	174	12.1%	10.9%
Salesman Problem	3	39	2.3%	2.4%
Theft	3	19	2.3%	1.2%
Threat/Personal	0	4	0.0%	0.2%
Utility Co. Assist	2	33	1.5%	2.1%
Special Request	4	100	3.0%	6.2%
Vandalism	4	130	3.0%	8.1%
Wildlife Report	3	21	2.3%	1.3%
Subtotal of Calls	132	1602	100.0%	100.0%
Special (Extra patrol or observation)	16	111		
Homeowners on Vacation	181	1584		
Total Calls	329	3297		
Vehicle start mileage	41899	2789		
Vehicle end mileage	46131	41899		
Total mileage	4232	39110		

Letter from a resident

We're puzzled by the letter to the Grit with complaints about Sandia Security. We live on the northern end of Quail Run Dr. in Sandia Heights and the security cruisers pass through this area fairly frequently. They are also wonderful keeping an eye on our place when we're away (we know because our son is up here at our house sometimes and has seen and talked with them) and are quickly available when / if a problem arises. They deserve plaudits!!

Louise and Alex Milyko



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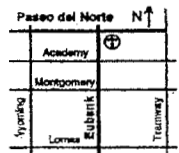
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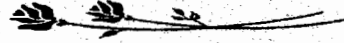
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The Sandia Mountain Settlement Agreement

Stewart Paisano, Governor of Sandia Pueblo

"The most important aspect of the agreement, I believe, is that it provides real and lasting assurances that the pristine face of the Sandias will remain in its current wilderness state and forever protected from development. At the same time the area will be accessible, as it is today, for the enjoyment of future generations of families, nature lovers and environmentalists."

William Sapien, Sandoval County Commission Chairman, 11/27/01

Since its announcement in April 2000, the Sandia Mountain Settlement Agreement has been a topic of significant controversy and misunderstanding. Much of the opposition to the Agreement appears to be based on misconceptions and fears, not facts. Following is some brief background on the Settlement Agreement and a summary of some of its key provisions. I ask that each of you take the time to read the entire Agreement, ask questions and express your views. By doing so, and by talking with each other and with Forest Service officials, it is my sincere hope that we can end the distrust and fears and work together to implement the settlement.

Background of the Settlement Agreement

- Negotiations occurred over a period of more than 15 months and involved representatives from 3 federal departments, the Pueblo, the Tram Company, Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque, and the Sandia Mountain Coalition.
- The County, the City and Coalition withdrew from the negotiations before the Agreement was finalized to pursue further litigation, but the remaining parties worked to ensure that the final agreement fully protected the interests of the parties who withdrew.
- In November 2000, the County and Coalition's appeal of two federal court decisions in the Pueblo's favor was dismissed and the Pueblo's claim sent back to the Department of Interior.
- In accordance with the court decisions, and at the written request of the County and Coalition, the Department of Interior undertook to reconsider the Pueblo's claim, gave all interested parties the opportunity to submit any additional information or argument, and on the last day of the Clinton administration issued a 31 page legal opinion ruling in the Pueblo's favor. This was after analyzing the historical and legal issues surrounding the claim. Despite this opinion, the Pueblo, the federal government and the Tram Company remain committed to the Settlement Agreement until it expires on November 15, 2002. Congress has until then to decide whether or not to pass legislation ratifying the Agreement, thereby making it permanent.

Key Points About the Settlement Agreement

- It essentially preserves the status quo.
- The Area's wilderness designation remains and the Area continues to be managed by the Forest Service but with added protections against the possibility of development or changes.



- No part of the National Forest is transferred or placed into "trust" for the Pueblo; and future Pueblo leaders cannot later sue to change the Agreement. Once Congress ratifies the Agreement, only Congress can change it.
- The Pueblo's claim is "permanently extinguished."
- Private property interests are protected and enhanced by guarantees of clear title, continued county jurisdiction, no further development of National Forest lands, and by the Pueblo's granting of permanent road rights-of-way and permanent utility corridors for the Sandia Heights and Tierra Monte subdivisions. These rights-of-way, as well as important trail rights-of-way, across Pueblo lands will only be granted if the Settlement Agreement is ratified by Congress and cannot be obtained through litigation. Without them, certain trails and roads (including Forest Road 333 that provides the only road access into Juan Tabo Canyon) are in trespass and legally could be closed by the Pueblo.
- It is binding and enforceable against the Pueblo, and includes a waiver of the Pueblo's sovereign immunity to permit suits to enforce it.
- It is not ambiguous; it grants the Pueblo certain specific, limited rights and specifically provides that it "shall be deemed to recognize only enumerated rights and interests, and no additional rights, interests, obligations, or duties shall be created by implication."
- The Pueblo has no right to close any parts of the Area, even temporarily, and cannot "exclude persons or governmental entities from the Area."
- It does not expand hunting in the area, it will continue to be limited to those areas, seasons and means (i.e. no firearms) permitted under State and Forest Service laws and regulations, and the Pueblo, in exercising jurisdiction over our own members is specifically required "to enact, maintain and enforce" such regulations.
- The Pueblo's traditional and cultural uses of the Mountain will continue to be in full accordance with its wilderness designation and character.

For the Pueblo, the Settlement Agreement represents a difficult compromise, but one which we were willing to accept in order to assure the protection and preservation of the Mountain and our right to continue to use it for cultural and religious purposes.

In closing, I once again urge you to learn for yourself about the specifics of the Settlement Agreement. The full text of the Agreement is available on our website at www.sandiapueblo.nsn.us or please feel free to call my office at 867-3317 to request a copy. If you have questions or want to learn more, contact local Forest Service officials or us.

Thank you and happy holidays.

Sandia Pueblo's "3 Kings Day" Celebration is open to the Public. Date: January 6, '02 Time approx. 10:30AM to 3PM

The Finance Committee

By: Rick Nelson, Treasurer

This report is for November '01,
the third month of our Budget year.



Assets and Liabilities

As of 11/30/01

Cash and in Banks

Cash and in Banks	\$ 7,788.61
CD's local Banks	45,585.68
Petty Cash	100.00
Total Cash and in Banks	\$ 53,474.29

Other Assets

Equipment and Furniture	\$ 10,695.56
Prepaid Postage, Rent and Etc.	2,220.16
Security Deposits	1,272.75
Total Other Assets	\$ 14,188.47

Total Assets \$ 67,662.76

Liabilities

Open Space, Legal and Operating Reserve	\$ 45,585.68
Collected advertising for 2002 Directory & Grits	7,000.00

Total Liabilities \$ 52,585.68

Assets less Liabilities \$ 15,077.08

Inflows and Outflows

September 2001

Inflows

Architectural Control	\$ 50.00
Advertising	2,520.00
Interest earned	117.03
Members dues	8,023.95

Total September Inflows \$ 10,710.98

Outflows

All Committees expenses	1,471.96
Collection of Dues	1,050.36
Insurance	309.00
Office, lease, utility, telephone, supplies, Etc	1,427.84
Staff	2,261.63
To Postage Meter	500.00

Total Outflows \$ 7,020.79

Inflow over outflow for month \$ 3,690.19

NOTE: The \$3,690.19 surplus was in part caused by the receipt of prepaid advertising for the year 2002 that is shown as a liability.

A detailed breakdown of this report is available for SHHA members to examine at the SHHA office from 11am to 3pm Monday-Friday. If you call first I will meet you.

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THINGS TO NOTE

The Sandia Mountain Coalition [SMC] has a new
address, it is:
24 Tierra Monte, ABQ, NM 87122.

The Sandia Pueblo Supporters [SPS]
Mail: PO Box 93716, ABQ, NM 87199
Email: pueblosupporters@aol.com

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BAC

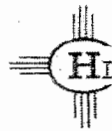
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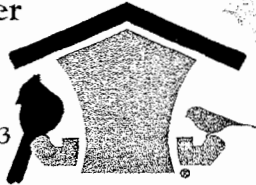
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SPECIAL REWARDS FOR INFORMATION leading to convictions:
\$2000 for major vandalism in Sandia Heights, \$1000 and \$5000
additional for arson at 96 Juniper Hill Rd. on Jan. 14, 2000. Call
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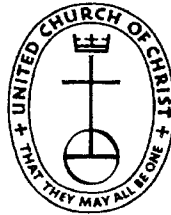
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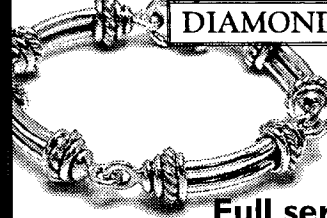
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SHHA extends its deepest sympathy to families and friends of victims
involved in the September 11th terrorist attacks.
SHHA believes in the principles of freedom that founded the United States.



THE **GRIT**published bi-monthly
as the official newsletter of the**SANDIA HEIGHTS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**2B, San Rafael, NE
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Fax: 505-856-8844**Email:**
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**Lower Your
Property Tax**

There are two exemptions that will reduce the amount of property tax you have to pay. The first exemption is available to homeowners who reside in their home. This is the homestead exemption and it will reduce the taxable assessed value of your home by \$2,000. The second exemption is available to veterans of the US armed services (or their surviving spouses) who served during WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, or the Persian Gulf War. This exemption will also reduce the taxable assessed value of your home by \$2,000.

You can claim the homestead exemption by simply signing a form at the County Assessors office. You only have to do this once and you will receive the exemption as long as you occupy your home. This exemption will reduce your annual property taxes by about \$60.

To claim the veteran's exemption, you need to fill out a form and return it along with a copy of the veteran's DD214 discharge form showing dates of service and proof of New Mexico citizenship to the Veteran's Service Office in Santa Fe. This office will return a certificate that you then take to the County Assessors office to claim your exemption. You only have to claim the exemption once. This exemption will reduce your annual property taxes by about \$60.

The County Assessor's office is located at 501 Tijeras. For your convenience, we have obtained the application form for the veteran's certificate you need to claim the veteran's exemption. You can pick up this form at the SHHA office located at 2B San Rafael Avenue during posted office hours. Simply follow the instructions on the back of the form to obtain your veteran's certificate for the property tax exemption.

Continued on top of next column.

It was necessary for Dan O'Bryan to resign from the Board of Directors for personal reasons. His dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated and will be missed.



Lower Your Property Tax, Continued

If you apply for these exemptions before May 2002, you will receive your exemptions for property taxes from November 2002 on. This article is the result of a suggestion from a Grit reader

**Club Postings**

Information about existing groups and requests to start new groups.



Scrabble: a fan married to confirmed non-Scrabbler looking for three people to set up monthly or bi-monthly games. Prefer people who are fairly good players, yet consider the fun of playing more important than winning.

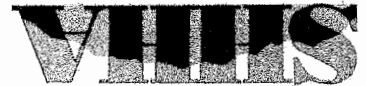
Rotate providing location. Rotate or share providing snacks and drinks
 Leave message at 797-0561.

Computers: Hello. My name is Jim Cook and I've just recently moved to Sandia Heights from Seattle, Washington. I'm interested in starting or finding a Sandia Heights Computer Club if one already exists. send email to jcook@usermail.com if you know of a club or would like to form one.

Sandia Heights Wildflower Club: Sandia Heights residents are welcome to attend any of the bi-monthly meetings. To become a member, please send a check for \$5.00 [for one years dues] to the:
 Sandia Heights Wildflower Club
 c/o Susan Cook,
 1842 Tramway Terrace Lp,
 Albuquerque, NM, 87122



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
2-B San Rafael, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
(505) 797-7793
SHHA@sandiahomeowners.org



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What Gets In The Grit?

One of the challenges for the staff of any newsletter is what content should be included in the newsletter. Since the Grit is a community newsletter, the content should be of relevance and interest to the community at large. We dedicate space in each issue for the SHHA committees to report on their activities and accomplishments since they are working for the community and you can't get this information from any other source.

Another major source of content ideas is the feedback and suggestions we receive from the readers of the Grit. For example, the *Lower Your Property Tax* article in this issue was the result of a suggestion we got from a reader.

We are also looking through old issues of the Grit and bringing back things that seem to be of interest such as the Sandia Security call statistics.

We also try to devote space to topical issues such as County Home Rule. Topical issues often have more than one perspective so we will strive to make space for all perspectives on an issue.

In this issue, you'll find two articles about the Sandia Mountain dispute. The Co-Chairs of the Sandia Mountain Coalition wrote one article. The Sandia Pueblo Governor wrote the other article. No matter which of the two articles you most agree with, you may learn something new by reading the other article. The Grit is not taking any position on this dispute, we feel our reasonability is to present all sides of all issues.

We will try out new content ideas occasionally that we think readers may find useful or interesting. As always, we invite your suggestions and comments, criticisms, or compliments about the Grit. We've set up a permanent email address to receive content submissions and reader feedback. Please feel free to send us an email at:

grit@sandiahomeowners.org

We need your help to make the Grit useful and interesting to you. Thanks to all the readers who've shared their thoughts with us so far.

The Grit Staff

If you are not an SHHA member please join, your help and support will be greatly appreciated by your neighbors. \$5.00 is the small monthly fee. Call 797-7793 to join.