



BOARD DIRECTORS NEEDED

By: Jack Wolfe

It's time once again to seek candidates to fill forthcoming vacancies on the Sandia Heights Homeowners' Association's (SHHA) Board of Directors (Board). This year there are five Director positions that will need to be filled. The Directors are elected for a three-year term by the SHHA membership at the Annual General Membership Meeting held the first Saturday in June of each year. This year's meeting will be held on June 7th.

What qualifications are required to be a Director? The most important qualifications are the interest and the ability (skills and particularly time) to support the mission of the SHHA Board. This mission is to coordinate planning and implementation of selected services and activities to promote the common interests and welfare of the home and property owners within Sandia Heights and to assist in maintaining the quality of life for which the development was established. Each Director functions as a Board member and also as a member of at least one of the Board's major committees. A complete list of major committees and their general responsibilities is contained in the yellow pages of the SHHA's 2002 Directory of Residents. In terms of time, most Directors generally spend an average of four to six hours per week doing Board and related Committee functions and duties.

The Board continues to pursue having at least one representative from each of the 12 "Districts" within Sandia Heights. It's felt that such representation is necessary to ensure that the interests, concerns and etc. of those within each District are represented on and recognized by the Board.

This year the Board is looking for one representative from each of the Districts noted below. The specific "Units" encompassed within each of the Districts is as noted.

<u>District</u>	<u>Encompassed Units</u>
Sandia	0, 1, 2 & 3 North
Live Oak	3 & 4 South
Road Runner	5 & 6 South
Quail	16, 19 & 20
Bear	26, 27 & 28

If you reside in one of the above noted Districts and are interested in joining your SHHA's BOD, you are requested to submit a short resume reflecting your pertinent skills and experience that would be of value to the SHHA. Anyone having questions on becoming a candidate for the Board should call the SHHA office at 797-7793.

Watch for more articles on this subject to appear in your Grit as the General Membership Meeting and election of Directors draws closer.

SANDIA HEIGHTS - THE PEAK OF LIVING



Covenant Support Committee Covenant Review Project

Frank Soper, Chair

The covenants are established to provide a level of control over the Sandia Heights area to assure the homeowner that property values are maintained and that the area retains the "open space" atmosphere that most moved here to enjoy. It seems that the members of the Covenant Support Committee (CSC) are asked to interpret somewhat vague statements in the numerous sets of covenants within Sandia Heights. In fact, Sandia Heights has 38 individual sets of covenants, each of which does not necessarily carry the same requirements as neighboring covenants. For instance, some covenants allow walls on property lines while others do not, some have 35 foot setbacks from streets while others have 45 foot setbacks, some state no visible lawns while others do not address this issue, and some require screening for all mechanical equipment while others do not. These are only a very few of the differences between the various covenants and for the CSC member it becomes a very difficult task sorting out what is okay and what is not okay. Clarity and enforceability of covenants across Sandia Heights is an issue that should be addressed.

In that spirit, the CSC along with several volunteers from the community are undertaking the task of reviewing the covenants so that the property owner can be assured that property values are enhanced. The current covenants, while different in many instances, are similar in many others. Covenant interpretation by a property owner or a CSC member can differ, subsequently causing enforcement problems. If we all want our property values to be enhanced, one way to assist this effort is through the development of a consolidated, more useable, easier understood set of covenants, therefore the covenant review project of the

Covenant Support Committee. This is not an attempt to make covenants more restrictive. In fact, we are identifying which covenants might be problematic and how they might be clarified. This effort will not be an overnight task. Instead much work will have to be accomplished with respect to consistency among the units, defining terms to make them more easily understood, and making the covenants more reader friendly and therefore useable and enforceable. The CSC review effort has started. Three committees have been established to address problem areas with the current covenants. The first is looking into how covenants might be consolidated throughout Sandia Heights. The second is reviewing language and interpretation issues and how they might be resolved, and the third is focused on reaching out to the residents of Sandia Heights to provide information and updates and to seek and receive input as the project progresses.

As you know, none of the covenants can be changed unless a specified majority of the property owners concur with the changes. As the CSC review effort comes more into focus, detailed information will be made available to all homeowners through separate mailings, through website postings, through door-to-door campaigns, and through community meetings to solicit comment and input to the process and to the final result. We who are currently engaged in this effort would welcome any input from the residents of Sandia Heights. If you have comments or suggestions, they may either be left at the SHHA office or e-mailed to the office.



Traffic and Safety Committee

Mark Boslough, Chair

I am pleased to be the new chairman of the Traffic and Safety Committee. I believe that the greatest safety problem we have in our community is speeding. This morning, as I was crossing Tramway Lane, two trucks (AAA Gas and WM Pumping) sped passed me going at least twice the posted speed limit.

Please help keep our streets safer for everyone. When you call to request service, please consider reminding companies that we have 15 mph speed limits on most of our streets.



Architectural Control Committee

Jack Wolfe, Chair

During the period November thru December 2002, the ACC reviewed 13 applications submitted to it for review and approval. These applications were submitted to the ACC in compliance with requirements set forth in the Restrictive Covenants applicable within the various Units within Sandia Heights. As all should be aware, these Restrictive Covenants are a part of the deed to each property within Sandia Heights. All should also be aware that the Restrictive Covenants within each Unit are distinct and different. The ACC's review process is to ensure that actions set forth in each application are in compliance with the Unit covenants within which the property is located.

The following is a summary of those applications reviewed to include those that were approved and those that remained under review/pending approval at the end of December 2002. This summary reflects the property address and the specific action detailed in the application.

Applications Approved:

141 Big Horn Ridge Drive	Landscaping
20 Sandia Heights Drive	Swimming Pool
9101 Lynx Loop	Re-Stucco
1107 San Rafael Ave	Wall & Patio
1170 Laurel Loop	Addition
755 Tramway Lane	Addition
19 Cedar Hill Rd	Landscaping
1858 Tramway Terrace Loop	Re-Stucco
649 Cougar Loop	Wall/Fence
910 Tramway Lane	Addition
1444 Honeysuckle Dr	Wall, Patio & Re-Stucco

Applications Pending:

1907 Quail Run Dr	Fence
735 Tramway Lane	Garage Addition



From the President

Bob Francis

The SHHA Board of Directors has been working very hard the past six months to improve the management of your association. The by-laws have been revised and the revisions are now in the process of being approved by the board. The covenants are being reviewed to determine if they can be streamlined. A more uniform set of covenants will help the covenants committee enforce the SHHA restrictions.

The Architectural Control Committee continues to stay busy. *See article this page.* The legal liaisons on the board have helped SHHA deal with several sticky issues. The Communications Committee continues their tireless work to produce the "Grit". The Finance Committee continues to ensure that our cash position is manageable.

The point is, that all this effort, and there's a lot more I didn't mention, is being done by volunteers. Your SHHA volunteers are the backbone of this organization. The next time you talk to a member of the SHHA board, please thank them for the hard work they are doing.

Neighborhood Review Article

There have been many questions regarding the ACC's use of neighborhood reviews relative to new construction and major remodeling efforts. These questions have ranged from the purpose of such, why have them, why some residents were not notified of such and etc.

One member of the ACC has taken the time to write an article covering the ACC's neighborhood review purpose, process and etc. Needless to say, this turned out to be a lengthy article because of all the detailed information contained therein. In fact, the article turned out to be too lengthy for this issue of the Grit. However, a copy of the article can be picked up at the office. It is also posted on the SHHA's website and is accessible to all SHHA residents and property owners. The SHHA website address is:

www.sandiahomeowners.org



Security's mobile number 263-4654

SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY

Calls

	December	2002 Total
Alarms	38	480
Animal Control Assist	0	11
Assault/Battery.....	0	5
Breaking & Entering - Attempted....	1	4
Breaking & Entering	1	9
Car Accident	5	30
Construction Site Burglary.....	0	7
Fire.....	1	24
Fireworks Complaint	0	19
Front Office Assistance	5	29
Lost and Found Items	0	8
Lost and Found Pets	4	41
Loud Music	2	2
Motorist Assist	10	203
Motorcycle Nuisance	0	24
Open Door/Window	6	89
Peeping Tom	0	2
Pet Nuisance	1	40
Loud Disruptive Party	0	14
Rescue Assist	0	6
Salesman Problem	0	17
Snake Call	0	59
Speeding Vehicle	1	19
Special Requests	12	141
Suspicious Person	3	102
Suspicious Vehicle	22	202
Theft.....	3	20
Threat/Personal	1	7
Utility Co. Assistance	6	34
Vandalism.....	13	109
Wildlife Report	2	20
Vehicle Burglary	0	22
Homeowners On Vacation.....	201	1,900
TOTAL CALLS	346	3,832
Vehicle miles driven	3,452	44,125



From Sandia Heights Services

[Security - Sanitation]

John Pickering, Manager

I would like to thank all the residents of Sandia Heights for the Christmas "goodies" that we at Sandia Services received. Your gifts are appreciated and remind us of the great people we serve.

On the Sanitation side, I would also like to thank all of the residents who participated in the Christmas tree recycling program that Rowland's Nursery co-sponsored. It not only makes our job a little easier, but it is also a great way to help the community.

A resident has expressed concern over some of our security officers carrying sidearms. For the purpose of information dissemination the following is submitted

- The policy of this company under which these officers may discharge their firearms is for **the protection of human life only.** Theirs or others.
- Our officers that carry sidearms are licensed by the State of New Mexico to do so. They are trained by a NRA certified instructor and are required to re-qualify annually for re-certification.
- The individual who conducts our firearms training is also in our employ. He is a former member of the U.S. Navy shooting team (command level) and is certified not only to instruct at the security officer level but at the law enforcement level as well. Additionally, he is currently a shooting range safety officer. Anyone interested in taking a shooting or firearms safety course from him should contact Walt Small @ 293-4811

IMPORTANT FACT:

Sandia Heights Services is not in anyway a part of Sandia Heights Homeowners Association.

This company provides many important services to the residents of Sandia Heights, and Sandia Heights Services is paid, under a contract with SHHA, to collect the monthly membership fee with the utility bill.

If you are not helping pay for the security provided by Sandia Heights Security we urge you to call Jackie at 857-8924 and join up, their service does help protect all Sandia Heights residents.


It is interesting to note that in over thirty years of service, none of our officers has yet to discharge their weapon in the course of their duties.





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If SHHA receives 3 or more written complaints about an advertiser the ad will be stopped

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Jacqueline (Jackie) Carson
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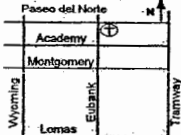
Sandia Presbyterian Church
 10704 Paseo del Norte NE, 856-5040, www.sandiapres.org

Community Invitation
 "ALPHA Series"
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 Dinner & childcare provided
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 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:45 AM
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Treasurers Report

Rick Nelson, Treasurer

Cash Flow – December 2002

RECIEVED

ACC	\$ 75.00
Interest	220.00
Members Dues	<u>7,741.82</u>
Total Received	<u>\$ 7,816.82</u>

DISBURSED

<u>Committee Expense</u>	
Communications	911.15
<u>Insurance</u>	
Directors Officers Umbrella	525.92
<u>Office expense</u>	
Clean Office	86.62
Computer Lease	105.22
Comcast –Internet Service	58.00
Electricity	79.29
Equipment Upkeep	396.80
Misc.	12.00
Office Lease	915.55
Permits, bulk mail	150.00
Security	163.95
Telephone	163.92
<u>Office Staff</u>	<u>2,828.88</u>
<u>Sandia Service Collection of Dues</u>	<u>1,062.75</u>
Taxes, IRS 2002, final for year	<u>35.20</u>
Total Disbursed	<u>\$ 7,495.25</u>
Received less Disbursed	<u>\$ 321.57</u>

Condition December 31, 2002

Cash and in Banks

Checking	\$ 19,133.63
CD	36,209.19
Petty Cash	<u>154.67</u>
Total Cash and in Bank	<u>\$ 55,497.49</u>

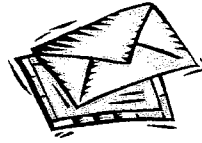
Other Assets [at cost]

Computers & Software	\$ 3,955.37
Office Accessories	1,448.85
Office Furniture	5,396.44
Prepaid Postage	625.08
Prepaid Expense	300.00
Prepaid Rent	991.10
Refunds due	150.34
Security Deposits	1,075.75
Wine Tasting Inventory	<u>749.09</u>
Total other Assets	<u>14,692.02</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 70,189.51</u>

Liabilities

Pledged Open Space Reserve	\$ 19,000.00
Legal Reserve	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 48,111.23</u>

Cash & in Banks less liabilities	<u>\$ 7,386.26</u>
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Letter to the Editor

Submitted too late for the last Grit

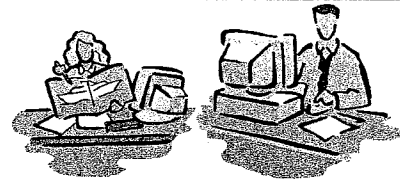
Over the last few years the covenant and architectural control committees of SHHA have caused residents stress and financial loss over the committees' often incorrect and arbitrary interpretation of the covenants. The committee members have rather imposed their personal taste or opinion. These issues often involve trees and view blockage as well as Committee members' tastes in color and design, supposedly for a concept of "architectural harmony", but such requirements are not in the Covenants. This has led to legal battles, which are given as a reason for the new dues increase from \$5 to \$8.

The Board of SHHA has spent money from the SHHA reserves for purposes other than those for which the money was collect without submitting their proposed action to the membership for a vote. For example, \$19,000 was taken from SHHA reserves as a "donation" to the development of Cedar Hill Park at the same time the Board claims to need more money for pursuing the legal actions mentioned above. (The Cedar Hill Park project is a County and State open space project and fully funded by them.)

The Board, in the Grit, solicits "comments" from the membership on issues such as the proposed budget, but then neither prints comments submitted nor are they distributed to members of the Board.

If you, also, have concerns about matters such as these please contact any of the following:

Jane and Terry Matthews - 797-9433, Kim Federici - 797-1710, Chris Harmon - 856-1953 or Jim Sauvage - 856-7658.



NOTICE NEW OFFICE HOURS

It has been decided that keeping the office open from 11am to 5pm each day did not cause a significant increase in the use of the office and staff.

Therefore the office has reverted to its original hours and in the future will be open from:

11am to 3 pm Monday through Friday

ABOUT "CEDAR HILL PARK"



Parks Committee Seeks Homeowner Input on Cedar Hill Park Design

By: Mark Boslough
Parks & New Development Committee

Two years ago, county taxpayers spent \$635,000 to purchase 3.75 acres of land for a new park at the corner of Cedar Hill Road and Tramway Blvd. Last year, the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association committed \$19,000 of its members' money to help get the project started. Our park is now in the design phase, and the Parks & New Development Committee wants to hear from you. Since you are footing the bill, we want to make sure that we hear your opinion. We will also keep you posted of county meetings and encourage you to attend and present your views directly.

There are a lot of factors to consider, and we will seek a consensus. How much of the acreage should be park, and what fraction should be left undeveloped? Should there be shade trees or should views be left unobscured? What kind of playground equipment is most desirable? What about ball fields and courts for our kids? Please watch the Grit for further announcements



Cedar Hill Park Update

By Bob Christman

This park will be located on the property that is on the southeast corner of Tramway Blvd. and Cedar Hill Rd. Bernalillo County Parks & Recreation Department was very enthused when they received the \$19,000.00 donation from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association on January 15, 2003. As those of you who have been following these updates know, community involvement is very important to the Parks & Recreation Dept. This support from SHHA was the catalyst needed to get the park project on track for 2003.

The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department will be holding their normal public meetings during the next several months for input on the park. They want the community to have input regarding the overall scope and equipment that will be provided for the enjoyment of all who see and use the park. The schedule for the public meetings will be published in the Grit.



Communications and Publications Committee

Rick Nelson, Chair

The busy time of the year is about to conclude, and you will not hear me complain about that.

The Grit: The Grit was delayed a bit this month while we finalized the advertising that will appear in the year 2003. Once we had the copy and the layout completed we could get this issue printed. Once again we thank those advertisers that support your association by advertising in our publications.

The Directory: We should have the 2003 Directory printed and mailed to you in the later part of February. A great deal of time has been spent working on our database to make certain all the listings are correct.

The Residents Guide: This will not be a part of your directory this year. We hope to have it revised, printed and mailed sometime in May.

The Web Site: At last it is getting posted in a timelier manner. All approved Board Meeting minutes are posted for 2002 and the January minutes will be posted shortly after approval at the February Board meeting. Work is being done to post things of interest, such as a complete year of Dan Caudillo's Garden Calendar and some of the articles he has written over the years.

A personal comment: It has been a pleasure working on the Grit since SHHA started its production "in-house" in the later part of 2000. But that, as all good things, will soon come to an end as my three-year term on the Board is completed this June. The March and April issue will be the last issue for me, and I know I will be too sad to say much then, so I say it now, thanks for your support and input these past years, enjoy life and have good health.

Rick :((



Community Service and Membership Committee

Chuck McLeod, Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

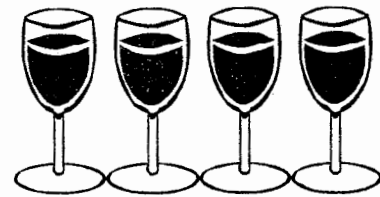
MARCH 29TH

That's the date for

the

2003

Wine Tasting Event



Information about the event and how to purchase your ticket will be published in a special Little Grit. There will also be a stuffer in your Utility bill.

Don't forget

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 29TH

That's the date!!!

Public Service Announcement

"All Residents of Sandia Heights are invited to a five week series on Islam beginning Sunday, February 2 and continuing thru Sunday, March 2. The sessions, open to the public, will take place in the Fellowship Hall of Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson Street NE, on Sunday evenings from 4:00-6:30, including a supper. Bring something simple to share, i.e. pizza, subs, etc. in environmentally friendly containers and please bring your own table service.

Two PBS videos on "Islam, Empire of Faith" will be shown; a PBS Bill Moyers interview with Huston Smith on Islam; a Barbara Walters interview of Islamic people taped after 9/11 and a speaker from the Islamic Center of New Mexico at the last session. Feel free to come to any one or all of the sessions. There is no admission fee.

For more information, you may phone 856-1004 M-F from 9am - Noon.....

FORMER SHHA BOARD MEMBER DIES

The SHHA Board of Directors regrets that William L. Stabler, a long time member of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA) died this past Thursday, January 23, 2003, after a long battle with cancer. Bill is particularly recognized for his service on the SHHA Board for over a decade where he held various positions including President, ACC Chairman and ACC member.

Bill's contributions and accomplishments for the SHHA shall always be remembered.

More Classified Ads

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Call 332-9155

Wanted: Puppy play date. Our one-year-old dog needs another energetic dog for roughhouse and play. Call 332-9155

Unsigned letter to the editor:

[Editors note: in most cases we don't publish unsigned letters, however this subject matters seemed important]

To our friends and neighbors on Cedar Hill Road, Cedar Hill Place, Pinon Hill Place, Rock Point Place, Juniper Hill Road south of Cedar Hill Road, and others in Sandia Heights: Please be considerate of our safety and tranquility and the safety of our property, pets and wildlife. Please obey the law by adhering to the posted speed limit when driving on our block.

Some of the residents of
#1-#14 Juniper Hill Road

BOULDERS WANTED

Preferable large ones!!!
If you need to remove boulders call
Doug Flax
856-3406

Check the Web Site www.sandiahomeowners.org
A full year of Dan Caudillo's Garden Calendar is now posted in the Nature Corner

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

To place an ad please call the SHHA office at 797-7793 or send a text copy of the ad to:

SHHA@sandiahomeowners.org

Submission deadlines for 2003 are 3/14, 5/9, 7/11, 9/12 and 11/14

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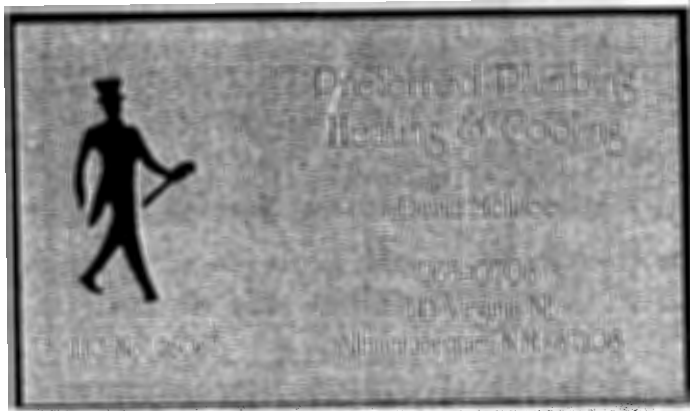
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GARDENER'S CALENDER

By Dan Caudillo

EARLY FEBRUARY

February is the second driest month (tied with April), third coldest and snowiest month (tied with March).

- Prepare vegetable/flower beds now by tilling in mulches for future spring plantings.
- Apply last application of winterizer fertilizer to lawns, shrubs, and trees.
- Finish up Fall/Winter clean-up chores, pruning and raking. Perennials are cut to the ground, shape trees and shrubs except early bloomers such as lilac, forsythia, and wisteria.
- Thin and headback fruit trees up to the end of February.
- Check watering frequency for this time of year. Deep soak about every 10 to 21 days, depending upon plants and temperatures.

MID-FEBRUARY

Start seedlings of cool season vegetables indoors.

- Use a quality seed starter mixes for lettuce, broccoli, brussels sprouts, kohlrabi and cabbage.
- Cut branches of early blooming shrubs/trees, bring indoors, and place in a vase. In two weeks blooms will appear. Forsythia, winter jasmine, deciduous magnolias, and many fruit and ornamental trees work well.
 - Begin to dormant spray fruit trees with lime-sulphur and again in early March.
 - Plant sweet pea seeds.
 - Allergy season begins first with one-seed junipers and Siberian elms.
 - Don't for get your Valentine this year or you may be in a lot of trouble!

LATE FEBRUARY

- Dethatch and/or aerate cool season lawns (Kentucky blue grass and fescues) but hold off on fertilizing until mid-March.
- This is a great time to begin planning your garden design for a spring installation.

- Check plants (especially coniferous types) for winter aphids. Outer leaves have a shiny residue and the ground beneath look wet.
- What is blooming in February? Winter jasmine (shrub); Crocus (bulb).

EARLY MARCH

- March is the third snowiest (tied with February) and the third windiest month.
- Apply second application of dormant spray to fruit trees.
- Plant pansies plants now.
- Tomatoes plants become available. Repot in a larger pot and set indoors by a sunny window.

MID-MARCH

- Fertilize cool season lawns (Kentucky blue grass and fescues) with a growth food. If weeds were a problem for you last year, use a fertilizer that contains a pre-emergent.
- Plant cool season vegetables and annuals. If you started them inside by seeds, harden them off gradually to acclimate them for the outdoors.
- Prune rose bushes now up to the first week in April. Leave climbers until after they bloom. Do not feed yet.
- Plant onion sets after the 15th of March.
- This is a great time to install any hardscape items (flagstone, boulders, ponds, ramadas, walls, gravel, or concrete projects) in your new garden that you planned last month.
- As temperatures begin to warm, the watering frequency may need to be increased to about 1 to 2 times a week.

LATE MARCH

- Plant strawberries, rhubarb, asparagus, and bramble fruits such as raspberries.
- Many cold hardy perennials become available at local nurseries.
- Seed, re-seed or sod cool season grasses (Kentucky blue grass and fescues).
- What is blooming in March? Bradford pear, apricots, and purple-leaf plum (trees); Forsythia, rosemary (some), and flowering almond (shrubs); Pasque flower (perennial); Hyacinth and daffodils (bulbs); Snapdragons, primrose, stocks, pansy, and viola (annuals).



Pesticides in today's world,

by Dan Caudillo



Pesticides in today's world are a necessary evil. Few of us enjoy the inconvenience of using them and the risks they present. On the other hand, the benefits offered to us are an environment free of pests that destroy our fruit and ornamental crops. In this article I will explain the types of pesticides available, the pros and cons of their use, and safety tips to consider as you dispense them.

Pesticide Defined

A pesticide is substance used to control pests. Examples of the types of pesticides are insecticides to control insects, fungicides to control fungus, herbicides to control plants, and so on.

Types Of Pesticides

Pesticides can be classified in several ways, but in this article, I will break pesticides down into the three following categories; Synthetic Organic, Organic, and Biological Pesticides.

Synthetic Organic Pesticide

Synthetic organics are the chemically processed pesticides. They are the most readily available, give long-term control, and kill the greatest variety of pests. They also pose the greatest health risk to man and his environment. Examples include; Diazinon, Roundup and Funginex. These pesticides should only be used when organic and biological pesticides give poor or ineffective results.

Organic Pesticides

Organic Pesticides will be defined as any chemical derived from a natural source to control pests. Organics are safer to use on plants and have a lower toxic risk to you, the applicator. But caution should still be observed as many organic elements can be harmful. Organics also have a low pollution hazard to the environment. Disadvantages in using Organic Pesticides is frequent application is often needed and they control a limited number of pests.

Types Of Organic Pesticides;

Diatomaceous Earth - Diatoms naturally mined for control of slugs and snails.

Horticultural Oils - Distilled to remove sulfur impurities is highly effective against soft-bodied insects and is an excellent dormant spray to kill over-wintering insects and insect eggs.

Insecticidal Soaps - Is a water-soluble potassium salt used to kill a variety of soft-bodied insects. Certain insecticidal soaps can be used to control weeds.

Neem - Azadirachtin is extracted from the Neem tree for use on ornamental plants only. Effective on whiteflies, leaf miners, caterpillars and leaf beetles.

Nicotine Sulfate - Nicotine is derived from the leaves of the nicotine plant to control a variety of insects.

Pyrethrem - Pyrethrins are found in crushed flowers of daisies for the control of a variety of sucking and chewing insects.

Rotenone - Resinous rotenoides derived from several leguminous plants. This is many times mixed with pyrethrem.

Sabadilla - Veratrine alkaloids is the active chemical from ground seeds of a Central American plant used to control a variety of insect pests.

Biological Pesticides

A special class of pesticide that is living entity, to control pests. This is a predator/prey relationship that exists in nature.

A common example that you may use in your own home is having a cat to control mice. This form of pesticide is the safest for the applicator to use while being the most environmentally friendly. But like the organics, they do not control every pest.

Types Of Biological Pesticides

Bacillus thuringiensis - Commonly referred to as B.t. for control of caterpillars.

Green Lacewings - Adults eat aphids and small insects.

Lady Beetles - Consumes small insects and mites.

Microsporidia - A protozoan that debilitates rather than kill grasshoppers. Sold as NoLo Bait.

Parasitic Nematodes - Live in the soil to control cut worms and root weevils.

Preying Mantis - Kills and consumes a variety of insects both pest and beneficial.

Trichogramma Wasp - Used to attack eggs of cabbage looper and corn earworms.

Other 'Safe' Controls

The use of sex pheromones to lure insect pests (usually males) into a 'sticky trap' can prove effective. Principally used by government agencies to detect new pests, they are also a great method for trapping familiar pests such as pine-tip moth (tip damage on pinion pines) and codling moths (worm in apples). Pheromones not only reduce overall pest numbers but also eliminate breeding males, which would otherwise be able to mate with females and produce offspring.

As you can see there are a number of ways to control pests in and around your home. The best control however, may include using more than one of the types of pesticides - this is commonly referred to as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Remember, that no single pesticide will control every pest. Sometimes there will not be an organic or biological solution for your pest problem and the use of a synthetic organic pesticide may be needed. If you wish to explore this subject further, I suggest reading 'Pest of the West' by Whitney Crenshaw. Pheromone traps and biological pesticides, not normally found at nurseries, can be ordered from Gempler's. Obtain your catalog by phoning 1-800-382-8473.

Safety Tips For Applying Pesticides

Most pesticides are available in a liquid form to be diluted with water. Here are a few tips to consider when applying pesticides.

- 1) Always read label directions. I know everybody tell you this, but there is information on the label you will need to know about.
- 2) Pesticides can poison you through inhaling, or by having spray droplets contacting your skin. Protect yourself with a rubber gloves, rubber boots, and a rain suit. Use a respirator (suitable for pesticide use) to protect you from breathing in pesticide particles. Use goggles to protect your eyes.
- 3) Do not spray on windy days and know where the direction the wind is coming from.
- 4) Keep family members indoors.
- 5) Allow enough time for pesticide vapors to dissipate before re-entry.
- 6) Close windows and turn swamp coolers off.
- 7) Spray at the proper time of day (usually earlier in warm weather and later in cooler weather).
- 8) Take a cool shower after application (it will close skin pores) and wash with soap.
- 9) Seek medical attention in the event of a pesticide accident.

published bi-monthly
as the official newsletter of the
**SANDIA HEIGHTS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**
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Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

The Sandia Heights Wildflower Club recently had two excellent presentations. In November, Betty Chowning, local artist and Master Gardener, demonstrated how she creates beautiful ornaments using the wild gourds grown in our area.



Betty Chowning

In January, Dan Caudillo, owner of Sandia Environmental Design and resident of Sandia Heights, presented a very interesting and informative program on *Designing the Hummingbird Garden*. The presentation was everything we wanted to know about hummingbirds and more. We had a very nice turnout for each of these very worthwhile programs.



Dan Caudillo

Our next meeting and program will be on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Peggy and Al Owens 1434 Honeysuckle Drive. Laurie Lange, local landscape designer, will present the program, *Little known Native Plants for Landscaping and Enjoyment*.

Note: If you are a member and plan to bring a guest, or are not a member of the Wildflower Club and wish to attend, please call Khondeh Payne at 797-4306.

To become a member please send a check for the annual membership fee of \$5.00 payable to the Sandia Heights Wildflower Club to Susan Cook, 1842 Tramway Terrace Loop, Albuquerque, NM 87122.