

THE
LITTLE

GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

September 2005

JAZZ UNDER THE STARS



The Membership and Community Services Committee will be sponsoring its second Jazz Under the Stars event. Please join us for music and margaritas on Sat Sept 17, 7-9 PM. Resident Rick Fairbanks will be bringing his jazz quartet along with vocalist Pam Jackson. Ms. Jackson received the 2004 NM Music Award for best jazz vocalist.

This event will be at the SHHA office courtyard on San Rafael. Please call Chairperson Vicki Criel at 615-3333 or email her at vcriel@comcast.net if you have card tables, chairs, lights or candles the committee can borrow for the evening. Please contact her if you can help set up or serve refreshments. Appetizers and chips are greatly appreciated. Please join resident Dr. John Milewski, who will be sharing his telescopes that evening. Jupiter and Mars will look lovely as you swoon to tunes!

W. L. Jackson Park - Bob Christman

The park is well used as more people have been hearing about the features provided. We hear many comments from visitors on the great addition to the neighborhood.

The area surrounding the artwork (Lizards and benches) has been cleared to be more accessible. At the present time woodchips have been spread in the area. We do not know the final decision on what surface will be used.

The County has expressed its gratitude on how those using the park have kept it clean. As a thank you to the neighborhood, they have added another "doggie station" to provide plastic bags for owners to clean up after their dogs.

A frequent comment that SHHA receives from park users is: there are too many weeds in general and the County should remove them. The county specification, when the park was built, required the contractor to spray hydro mulch on all areas that were left dirt from all the grading. This hydro mulch contained about 12 types of wildflowers and native grass. All of this has been growing as required since last October per the plan. This is to prevent erosion on the graded dirt areas. Native grass will take over with time, and some flowers will reseed.

At the present time, there is a large number of purple aster in many areas. Some people have mistaken this for tumbleweed and have called the office asking about removal. There is almost no tumbleweed in the park, and any that does blow down to Tramway Blvd will be cleaned up by the County.

Enjoy the park.

TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Mark Boslough

Reckless Driving in Sandia Heights

Sandia Heights residents were endangered on Sunday afternoon, August 14, 2005, by an unknown person who drove a dark blue off-road motorcycle (no visible license plate) at extremely high speed up and down Bobcat, Tramway Lane, and other nearby streets. One witness estimated that the motorcycle was traveling at least 45 mph and maybe as much as 55 mph north on Bobcat before turning east on Tramway Lane at about 4:10 pm. The person in question appears to be a male between 15 and 17 years of age, light colored short hair, and of medium to thin build about 5'6" to 5'8" tall. There is reason to believe that he either resides on Bobcat, or has friends who do. At the time of the incident, several schoolchildren were riding bicycles on a nearby street. This could have been a disaster.

The Bernalillo County Sheriff's office indicates that patrols in the Sandia Heights area will be stepped up in an attempt to catch this individual in the act of reckless driving. If you observe this violent and out-of-control person or anyone else engaging in reckless behavior on our streets, please call the Bernalillo County Sheriff on their non-emergency number at 798-7000. If you feel that someone is in imminent danger, do not hesitate to call 911.

Speed humps installed on Tramway Lane

Bernalillo County has installed speed humps at the request of residents of Tramway Lane between San Bernardino and Bobcat. This neighborhood had experienced a serious safety problem over the years, associated with extreme speeding, high pedestrian traffic, school bus stops, and poor

visibility. Residents had been waiting since their first petition in 1998.

The SHHA office has received a few inquiries from residents of other streets regarding the process. Callers wanted to know why speed humps were installed, why they were not contacted, and why SHHA encouraged the County to install them.

The speed humps were installed because the homeowners on that part of Tramway Lane requested them from the County. Their street met Bernalillo County's criteria for traffic volume and degree of speeding. Tramway Lane homeowners submitted a petition in which their support for speed humps met or exceeded a 3-to-1 ratio, as required by the County.

Residents of other streets were not personally contacted by the petitioners or by the County, because the County's process does not require that step. There is also no requirement for petitioners to tell SHHA of their effort to have speed humps installed in their neighborhood. When we do learn of petition efforts, we try to provide the service of keeping other neighborhoods informed. Several articles have appeared in the Grit informing the community of the Tramway Lane speed hump petition.

The SHHA supported the Tramway Lane speed hump installation because it has been our longstanding policy to support our residents in their dealings with the County. It is not our policy to try to interfere with established processes, or to tell residents what they may or may not do to enhance the safety of their own streets.

The best way for residents who object to traffic calming on streets other than their own is to drive the speed limit everywhere within Sandia Heights, and to work directly with residents of the streets they use for transportation when safety problems arise.

COMMUNITY AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- Vicky Criel

LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS

It may seem early to be advertising our holiday events, but Sandia Heights residents have a great opportunity to enjoy wholesale prices if they order early! The Membership and Community Services Committee will be sponsoring luminaria and hot chocolate nights on the Saturdays in December. If you would like to order luminaria so you can participate, please refer to the order form on page 7. The committee will also be providing a list of handy people who would be willing to help install the luminaria. Show your pride in the community!

TEENAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Chairperson Vicki Criel is proud to announce that a number of middle school, high school, and college kids have approached her about helping with the SHHA events. This is fantastic! The Membership and Community Services Committee is inviting any interested people to meet at Vicki Criel's home on Mon Sept 12, 6:00 PM for a pizza and pool (indoors) party. Address: 1155 Laurel Loop, off San Rafael. Come just to meet kids in your neighborhood!

MEET THE SANDIA HEIGHTS CORK AND FORK

As part of our ongoing program to bring more “fun” activities, the Membership and Community Services Committee has organized a home-based dining activity called the Sandia Heights Cork and Fork. Members will meet for dinner in groups of four couples, every second month, in individual homes. The kickoff event will be a cocktail party at the home of Larry and Kit Anderson on September 24. There is still room for a few more couples, so if you're interested, call Larry Anderson as soon as possible at 821-3158.

WET CRIME

- Ed Whitten

Several weeks ago the SHHA office received a call from a concerned resident regarding a van with a large water tank trailer taking water from one of Sandia Heights fire hydrants. The resident had recently seen a special on TV channel 4 regarding “water stealing” and was suspicious of the activity being witnessed. Several photographs were taken and submitted to our office. In the photographs, the van was clearly identified via the logo on the side (not evidence of a smart thief) as that of a local service company. The company was contacted and questioned on the activity. The company owner said they had permission from the city of Albuquerque to take water from the hydrants using a meter provided by the city. They then pay the city monthly for the water they use. Unfortunately the water they were taking was that of Sandia Heights, not the city. In addition, it was clear from the photo that no meter was connected to the hydrant. The Sandia Peak Utilities (SPU) was contacted and followed up on the issue. SPU indeed determined that water was being taken illegally. The company was fined plus charged for the water.

The resident was thanked by both the SHHA and SPU for the responsible action and we would like to thank them again. All of us are paying for these kinds of activities and it behooves us all to be observant and report activities that we feel are out of line.

COVENANT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

- Tom Coyne

PLEASE, NO MORE ANONYMOUS LETTERS

The Covenant Support Committee (CSC) of the SHHA consists of volunteers, many of whom have constraints on the time they have available to resolve covenant violations. To assist the CSC in its resolution efforts certain guidelines have been established which include:

- A. The CSC will not respond to any complaints received via anonymous letters, signed letters, phone or e-mail messages if the complainant is not willing to file a complaint using the form available from our web site or the SHHA office.
- B. The complainant must be a member of the SHHA. The Association can not pursue violations, to the point of legal action if necessary, in support of a resident who does not participate in SHHA Membership.
- C. Experience has shown that resolution of covenant violation problems is more effective when the involved parties have discussed the problem prior to submitting a complaint. The CSC normally respects valid reasons given by a complainant for not having made the effort to resolve the situation. When a CSC member is assigned a complaint, personal contact with the alleged violator is the first step toward resolution.

The CSC requests your cooperation.

The Sandia Heights “Hum” – by Ralph Rudolph

I am a retired R&D scientist in electronics and physics. I spend a reasonable amount of time walking about Sandia

Heights. One “hum” source is electrical supply boxes located on most properties. Many of these have a distinctive 60 cycle (plus harmonics) hum caused by loose transformer laminations, a common problem. I will also note that stucco houses are excellent at reflecting sound. When I’m outside and hear noises, I sometimes think they are coming from one direction and find that what I was hearing was reflected sound originating from an entirely different direction. My opinion of the “hum” is that it is primarily from swamp coolers, air conditioners, supply boxes plus some roadway (Tramway) noise just reflecting about and blending. There’s no need to invoke anything esoteric such as microwave towers or vertical sync pulses (which cannot radiate from coax cable). Load your Ipod with some good music and the hum will be gone.

ArtsView – By Ralph Rudolph

Last October, ArtsView drew as many as 55 visitors to some artists’ homes to view their work. This year, some artists had as many as 150 visitors (!), so the interest has grown strongly. On comment sheets, most visitors gave rave reviews. We truly have some superb artists living here, talented enough to give any art gallery a feeling of insecurity.

We had scheduled another ArtsView for mid-October and already had several artists who expressed an interest in participating. However, scheduling problems (my wife will be traveling extensively to promote her novels) have prevented this from happening and I apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please call me at 828-3938 or e-mail

Rudy11@comcast.net.

Holiday Lights in the Heights

The fifty annual *Lights in the Heights* is getting under way. This project celebrates the holiday season in Sandia Heights with electric luminaria. Electric luminaria sets that you see elsewhere at the retail price of \$20/set or more will be available to SH residents at the wholesale price of \$13.25/set (plus tax for a total of \$13.96/set).

There are ten luminaria in a set, covering thirty feet. Made in New Mexico, they have plastic unframes, all-weather plastic bags, and 7-watt candle-shaped bulbs. They come with instructions and diagrams. We will also include a few hints, about attaching them to stucco, since that is not always obvious. Do you have a hint that you'd be willing to share? Send it to us and we'll include it.

Sandia Heights resident Kit Anderson has volunteered again to head this project. She will purchase electric luminaria sets through her company, Anderson Organizing Systems, passing along the wholesale price to SH residents (making no profit, adding only the required tax). Her husband Larry will compile the information on attaching and displaying the luminaria. The Andersons and other volunteers will pick up the pre-ordered and pre-paid luminaria sets and have them available for pick-up at their home, 150 Whitetail Road, from 9:00am to 1:00pm on two Saturdays, November 26th and December 3rd.

Questions? Call Kit at 856-3667.

To order electric luminaria at the wholesale price, **clip and mail to Anderson Organizing Systems, 150 Whitetail Road, NE, Albuquerque 87122-1921. Deadline for receipt of order and check is October 31, 2005.** If you miss the deadline, try again next year.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (in case there is a question) _____ -

I would like to order _____ sets of luminaria @ \$13.96/set which includes tax.

_____ My check # _____ is enclosed, made out to Anderson Organizing Systems, for \$ _____ (\$13.96 x the number of sets).

_____ I've enclosed ideas or experience for attaching or displaying electrical luminaria.

_____ I have a truck, SUV or other similar vehicle, and would be willing to help pick up cases of luminaria sets during business hours on the week of November 21st. Please call me.



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
 2-B San Rafael NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87122

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SHHA MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

These ads are also published on our website (free for SHHA members as space allows)

<p>TUTORING: All Grades – Math, Sciences, Reading and other Subjects. High School Teacher, Former UNM Instructor. Call Lynn at 856-6605 References Available</p>	
<p>FOR SALE: Gas mower, slide discharge mulch, \$130; electric trimmer, \$60; both excel. cond. Pilates exercise machine, new, \$200. Hot tub, Cal Spa, seat 6-7, inspected, very good cond. \$2200. Please call 250-6231</p>	<p>17-year-old ready, able, and willing to do your yard work/odd jobs. Available: 1st half of August 7 days a week; 2nd half weekends. Call Alexander at 856-1587.</p>
<p>FOR SALE: Quality Bumper Pool Table w/Chalk and two sticks \$200.00 O.B.O., Canon T50 camera w/additional lens extension and flash \$50.00, Hitachi 8mm Video Camera \$25.00, Computer Monitor ViewSonic \$250.00. Call 821-0482 or email Louiseswartz@msn.com</p>	
<p>FOR SALE: 2002 White Lexus LS430, like new, 20,000 miles, loaded, power moon roof, heated front/back seats. Kelly blue book is \$46,315. Asking \$42,000. Call 856-2739</p>	
<p>FOR SALE: Patio furniture. Two taupe chaise lounge sets. Good looking and serviceable. Each set (chaise and reversible pad) \$20. Call 856-6816.</p>	<p>Looking for a babysitter who is responsible, outgoing, and fun with kids? Call me, Rebecca 13 years old, Red Cross certified. 858-1672</p>
<p>JEMEZ MOUNTAINS WEEKEND GETAWAY/VACATION HOME. Great views, rustic ambiance and quiet calm at 8400 ft. 2BR/2BA on 2+ wooded acres. Minutes from many recreational areas. Just 90 min. from ABQ. \$219,900. Ready to move in. Call 856-2080.</p>	