



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

February 2006

WAITING TOO LONG AT INTERSECTIONS?

by Marsha Thole

After waiting up to 7 or more minutes (my patience goes only so far) on the side street at some intersections (Eubank & Paseo, Tramway & San Bernardino), I decided to find out what was happening, and contacted Bobby Baker, Bernalillo County Traffic Engineer. This is what I learned. One of the reasons may be that the intersection does not have detection cameras. Also, the sun can affect the detection as well when there are cameras.

When there are no cameras, during the peak times (6-8 am; 11:30-1:30; and 3-8 pm), the lights run on a 90-second cycle length. It takes 90 seconds to completely cycle around the entire intersection. If you arrive at the signal right when it turns red, the longest you should have to wait is 68 seconds during those hours. However, any additional green time not used on the side streets goes to the main line, which is added to the 68 seconds. So technically, the absolute longest you could wait would be approximately 78 seconds during the peak times. If you are waiting any longer than 90 seconds, then you're probably not getting detected. Do not stop beyond the first white line--that can cause a longer wait until someone on the opposite side of the street triggers the signal. If you are experiencing problems, then please contact Bobby Baker at: rbaker@bernco.gov. He is very responsive and will go out to check the location where someone is experiencing problems.

Announcements & Notices:

- SHHA Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 8, at 7pm at the William Sibrava Substation.
- Office Hours: 9am to 3pm, Monday through Friday.
- Notary public services are free to members only. Please call to make an appointment.
- 2006 Directories have been mailed to every SHHA member. Please notify the office if you have not received yours.
- Check out the SHHA website at: www.sandiahomeowners.org for updates and neighborhood resources.
- The Treasurer's report is available each month at the office. The Annual Financial Report will be presented at the annual meeting.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Ed Whitten

SHHA needs you.

We are always in need of volunteer help for our community and the SHHA administrative activities.

Office Help;

The SHHA office assistants (Lena Martinez and Sheraz Saint-Lot) could use some help with WEB site management. We currently pay for WEB site support and we are satisfied with that work; however, there are many tasks that the assistants could handle with a minimal amount of training or volunteer support. If you or someone you know could volunteer some help in this area, please contact the SHHA office.

Legal Help:

The association could use a board member with legal expertise. We have excellent legal representation for major efforts, but there are many issues that require legal advice or recommendations. It becomes expensive when we use our attorney for various simple questions. If you or someone you know can help our community by providing legal advice, please contact us.

Committee Help;

We are always in need of more help on our various committees. So far this SHHA year (since June of 2005) we have lost four valuable members of the Board Of Directors (BOD) due to attrition for personal reasons. This attrition rate is not unusual, but it always puts a strain on other directors. The Architectural Control Committee has been particularly affected. If you can help and want to serve your community, please step forward. New director candidates and committee volunteers are needed. In June we will have several members ending their 3 year commitment. A nominating committee to recruit new candidates will be identified and put in place in a couple of months. Please consider your availability as a new director and contact any current BOD member. At present, there is no representation in North Sandia Heights and only one member of the BOD North of Live Oak. The board could also use more female members and parents with young children, to help bring more diversity to the needs of our community.

The GRIT

Update to the Waste Water Ordinance

The county will have voted on the new ordinance on January 24, 2006. It is expected to pass by the time you receive this GRIT. It would then become effective the end of February. The following is a summary of the relevant questions and answers provided by the County Environmental Health Department:

Why is the County changing the ordinance?

There are two reasons to change the wastewater ordinance.

1. We need to update our ordinance to meet the changes to the State statutes.
2. There are some conflicts in the existing ordinance that need to be resolved.

What is this lot size requirement?

There are actually two factors that must be considered. One factor is the total calculated flow (number of bedrooms). With this and the lot size, the amount of treatment required is determined. This is based on the amount of dirt needed to properly treat the wastewater. The less dirt available, the more treatment required. This is regardless of the presence or absence of on-site wells.

Is this lot size requirement part of the new ordinance?

The lot size requirements have been in place since December 2000. The State matched the requirements in the September 2005 revisions.

Can I develop a lot smaller than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre?

Yes. The total flow (number of bedrooms) will determine the required amount of treatment.

What is this 2015 requirement?

All wastewater system must meet the existing ordinance requirements by January 1, 2015. Systems installed starting in 2001 already meet these requirements.

Will I need to replace my system by 2015?

It depends. Any system installed under the current regulations that is not failing already meets the requirements. Some systems may only require increased disposal field size and the addition of an effluent filter. Some systems may require more modifications.

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Is there a way around these lot size and upgrading requirements?

Yes. A homeowner may apply for a variance using their water meter readings. This variance would be valid until the house is sold, at which time the system must be upgraded.

Do I need to upgrade my system when I sell the house?

No. Upgrades need to be performed when there is a flow addition, the system fails, or 2015. The system must be inspected, however, by a NAWT certified inspector and the new homeowner must apply for a wastewater operator permit using the inspection record.

PARKS & NEW DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Mark Boslough, Acting Chair

Walking path along San Bernardino

Sandia Heights residents have repeatedly sent this message to the Board over the years: "We want walking paths!" A 1998 survey showed that homeowners were overwhelmingly in favor of pathways, with 193 YES votes and 21 NO votes. In a 2005 poll, residents were given 10 choices on how to make San Rafael safer. By far, the most popular choice was a walking path, which was preferred by 47 out of 65 respondents. The Board is finally listening. We have allocated funding- a portion which will be matched by the County—to build a walking path from Little Cloud Park eastward. This is admittedly a modest project, but may be the first step in a larger network of trails if desired by the neighborhoods and community.

One thing else we have learned is that nearly everyone wants trails, but not everyone wants a trail in front of their house. We are working on ways to release homeowners from any maintenance and liability burden so that residents will be more accepting of trails in the right-of-way in front of their own lot.

Capital Improvement Projects

Volunteers are urgently needed to help write Capital Improvement Project proposals. This is

your tax money and the Board wants to bring some back into the community, but we need your help! Traffic and Safety projects (road resurfacing, trails) will be handled by Bill Wiley (nmtriman@aol.com, 797-4949). Parks projects (more grass, trees, playground equipment, etc.) will be handled by Ed Tull (tulled@unm.edu, 856-1954). Little Cloud Park is in dire need of re-sodding with more kid-friendly turf.

W.L. Jackson Park (on Cedar Hill) never got many of the amenities and only about half the grass area contained in the specifications because of County budget shortfalls. This is an opportunity to upgrade both parks. For this to happen we must get community volunteers to write proposals. There are not enough Board members available for this job at this time.

Free money for bus stop improvement

The Board also wants to give money back to our residents for projects that improve our neighborhoods. We allocated \$200 to improve a school bus stop in Sandia Heights, so children can have a safer and more pleasant wait every morning. We will award \$200 toward improving an existing bus stop. This can be as simple as a park bench or wildflower garden. If you are interested, please contact the SHHA office.

Parks Committee needs members

The SHHA president, in his message, called for new Board members. I would like to make a special plea for parents of young children to serve on the Board, and especially on the Parks Committee. Sandia Heights demographics are changing, with many young families moving in. This demographic has been grossly under-represented on the Board. As the only Board member with a child in elementary school, my primary goal has been to make Sandia Heights a kid-friendly and kid-safe community. I will be stepping off the board after five years this June, and hope someone else will join to take on that role.

Lifescapes NAIL SPA MASSAGE JEWELRY BOUTIQUE

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At Lifescapes, our mission is to provide our clients the ultimate experience of relaxation for mind, body and spirit. We also believe we have an ethical responsibility to create a pristine and healthy environment.

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Nail enhancement: Get in style with the latest name brands like O.P.I., Tammy Taylor, Creative (Solar Nail), LeChat (UV GEL), EzFlow (Shimmering Powder). We use only the best name brand products to ensure safety and quality for our clients. Our products contain **no MMA**.

Jewelry Boutique: All of our jewelry is made in New Mexico. We offer a wide range of toe rings, anklets, earrings, rings and necklaces from turquoise to precious stone.

If you bring in this article you will receive a 20% discount

TRAFFIC, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- Mark Boslough

Speed humps on Upper Tramway Lane

In January, county workers installed speed humps on Tramway Lane east of Bobcat. Residents had petitioned Bernalillo County for the humps because of a chronic speeding problem on their street. Despite several articles in the GRIT and a number of SHHA meetings, a few residents of other streets have again inquired about the county's process. The Association has no role in the process, and takes no official position on whether our streets should or should not have speed humps. The decision is entirely up to residents of the street on which speed humps are proposed. Bernalillo County has a well-defined process that neighborhoods must follow. As a service to our members, SHHA fosters communication and cooperation between residents and the county, but we do not tell our residents or the county what to do regarding speed humps. For more details on how to get speed humps on your street, please refer to the December 2005 Grit.

First Sandia Heights Coffeehouse a Success!

The First Sandia Heights Coffeehouse took place on Saturday, January 14, at Church of the Good Shepherd. Around 70 people enjoyed listening to music by internationally-known duo Acoustic Eidolon and chatting with friends and neighbors over coffee/tea/desserts before the show and between sets. That the audience enjoyed the music became quickly evident when the CD table was crowded with folks anxious to take home the duo's music. CD/DVD sales totaled \$530!



Volunteers – l to r Philip & David Esquibel,
Zach Alkire, Hannah's son



Acoustic Eidolon – Hannah & Joe

We would like to thank our many wonderful volunteers, who helped make the evening a success: Sue and Sy Caudill, Eric Bolton, Lori Templeton, Marsha Thole, Bill & Gloria Johnson, David, Robin & Philip Esquibel, and Dick Cline. Special thanks to Kerney Bolton for professional sound and lighting, to Syi Caudill for picking up/bringing back our heavy equipment in his truck, and to Community Service & Membership Chair Vicki Criel for her support and the use of her realtor signs. Thanks also to everyone who brought a dessert. We had a great spread of goodies.

We'd also like to thank the Church of the Good Shepherd for the use of the downstairs hall and for their enthusiastic response to having a coffeehouse at the Church. Thanks to Pastor Dr. Sue Gallagher, Vice Moderator Judy Gilman, Secretary Kirk Wortman, and special thanks to Custodian Max DuBoisTerre, who was enormously helpful.



Acoustic Eidolon – Ready to Perform



Audience

The Second Sandia Heights Coffeehouse will be Saturday, April 29, with Vermont singer/songwriter Lisa McCormick, whose performances feature spicy upbeat original songs on acoustic guitar, soaring vocals, and a sharp sense of humor. Call Linda if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Linda Bolton, Coffeehouse Chair, 856-7100, nightsmgt@aol.com

SHHA MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

(free for SHHA members as space allows)

These ads are also published on our website and updated with each GRIT or Little GRIT publication.

<p>Excellent Housekeeper: Has some days available. Dependable and hard worker. Call Maria at 831-5358 or 306-5242</p>	<p>For Sale: Schrader Fireplace stove, 20”D, 30”W, 25”H \$300. Whitefield Pyro Industries Inc. Pellet Stove. \$600. Contact Bill Jacobson, cell phone 602-561-3130</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>TUTORING Services available through a licensed, 3rd grade, elementary schoolteacher with 11 years teaching experience. Tutoring available in reading, writing and math. If interested please call Wendy at 823-9181.</p>
<p>Retired Hospice Nurse Available for pet care. Call Anne @ 856-6896</p>	<p>TUTORING: All Grades – Math, Sciences, Reading and other Subjects. High School Teacher, Former UNM Instructor. Call Lynn at 856-6605</p>	<p>Experienced Pet Sitter Hardworking, positive attitude, 15 yr.-old. Loves pet sitting & odd jobs. Call Andy: 821-0482</p>	<p>Excellent house cleaner. References available. Call 332-9155.</p>
<p>Need House Sitting, Odd Jobs? Call Patrick: 856-1283</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>Experienced 17 yr.-old worker. Available for odd jobs. Call Jordan: 856-1483</p>
<p>Pet Sitting: 14 yr old boy available to pet sit and walk your animals. Please call 858-3304</p>	<p>Call Yev Koup age 15 for any of the following: Yard work, Babysitting, Housewatching, Pet Care, available afternoons, evenings or weekends. Call Yev Koup at 856-7513 or contact by Email wkoup@comcast.net</p>		<p>For house cleaning call Dora 832-9891 or 319-9802. References are available upon request.</p>
<p>FOR SALE: Electric string trimmer, \$45, excel. cond. Pilates exercise machine, new/never used, 2 instructional videos & poster, orig. \$250, asking \$180. Please call 250-6231</p>	<p>Guitar player looking for others to play with. Call Ed Cohen at 363-7653 or email eddiecohen@aol.com</p>	<p>FOR SALE: \$100.00 a Dog Run and Dog House – perfect for a dog size of a lab. Black chain link 4’7” by 11’10” – 4’ tall. It will come apart for transportation and has enough chain links to put on top of it. Dog house is 4’6 “ by 3’. Contact – Conway at 856-2744</p>	
<p>JEMEZ MOUNTAINS WEEKEND GETAWAY/VACATION HOME. Great views, rustic ambiance and quiet clam at 8400 ft. 2BR/2BA on 2+ wooded acres. Minutes from recreational areas. Just 90 min. from ABQ. \$219,900. Ready to move in. Call 856-2080.</p>			

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

- Kerney Bolton

Coming Next Month

Beginning with the March GRIT, your Architectural Control Committee (ACC) will be publishing a summary of all actions taken during the preceding month. Committee actions will include applications approved or disapproved; requests for variances and deviations granted or disapproved; and covenant enforcement for construction projects that have no prior written ACC approval.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about building activity in Sandia Heights and that this summary will help you gain a better understanding of the Committee's work on your behalf.

Is there construction in your neighborhood? Do you want to know what is going on? The ACC Project Log is still available at the Sandia Heights Homeowners (SHHA) website sandiahomeowners.org. Click on THE A.C.C. then on [Architectural Control Committee Project Log](#) and read about all projects currently under ACC management.

PLANNING AN ACC PROJECT? ACC TO PROVIDE ADVISORY SERVICE

If you are planning to make alterations to the exterior of your property, including additions, landscaping, or remodeling, you may wish to run your proposed project through an Architectural Control Committee member before you hire an architect or contractor. For the next three months on the third Wednesday, members of the ACC will hold office hours from 6 to 6:30 pm at the SHHA office, prior to its monthly meeting. They can help steer you toward the appropriate resources and procedures, and save you time (and perhaps money). Please call the office to schedule your appointment and give the nature of your project. Appointments will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis.



Executive Committee

President – Ed Whitten

Vice President – Thomas Coyne

Treasurer – Dick Cline

Secretary – Marsha Thole

Board Members

Kerney Bolton

Mark Boslough

Gene Church

Vicki Criel

Larry Desonier

Jim Irving

Bill Johnson

William McCall

Victoria Smidt

Frank Soper

Ed Tull

William Wiley

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Lena Martinez – ACC Administrative Assistant

Sheraz Saint-Lôt – Publications & Communications Editor

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GRIT Editorial Policy:

- Attempt to publish both sides of every issue, including constructive criticism, but neither abuse nor insulting remarks.
- Reserve the right to edit any submission.
- Not to print any unsigned letters or articles.

2006 Legislative Session from State Representative Kathy McCoy:

I'll start by wishing you all the best for 2006. By the time you receive this, we'll be well into the "short" session of the legislature. This is when we craft the state's budget, arguably the most important work we do. Gas and oil revenues have generated unprecedented funds for the state coffers. The good news is that New Mexico has critical needs that will likely be addressed the bad news is that these revenues will not last forever. It is crucial that we do not create expensive programs that will face deep cuts in the future. This will likely be the greatest challenge we face.

In addition to the budget, other issues we'll likely debate are eminent domain, price gouging, minimum wage, and possibly a vote on whether to change the State Treasurer's office from an elected to an appointed position. As a member of the committee that grappled with the Treasurer's possible impeachment, I can only say that I hope it's a process we never have to repeat. Our good state suffered much damage, not only in the investment community, but also in government confidence. We'll also be considering proposals to change the way the Treasurer's office operates.

And of course we'll be dealing with trains, planes, and rocket ships we clearly have a governor who plans on going places—and fast! To say that I've been busy this year is an understatement. I sat on five interim committees that met all over the state. Because urban and rural interests often collide, balancing the needs of both is often a precarious act. I also traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify in front of a U.S. Senate committee in support of a nationwide law to add a bittering agent to antifreeze. We passed this law in New Mexico, but we are only one of three states to do so. For anyone who has ever lost a pet to antifreeze poisoning, my motivation requires no explanation.

Because of my interest in conservation issues, I was invited to a White House Conference aptly named "Cooperative Conservation." We heard optimistic speeches from top Washington officials who were advocating more cooperation among stakeholders and less polarization and litigation. Many success stories across the country were highlighted—about 20 of which were in New Mexico.

I was also extremely fortunate to be selected to attend the Council of State Governments Legislative Academy, which is aimed at newly elected legislators. Although much of what we learned was government related, the strongest message was to be honest, fair, and open minded. These are traits we were taught in third grade and ones that need constant reinforcement—especially in politics. During this interim period, I have also had the opportunity to hear from lots of you. Not a day goes by that I don't get a call for information or help, so I've learned much about your concerns and needs.

Finally, I'd like to extend an invitation to come visit me in Santa Fe—there's nothing like firsthand experience to understand how we work in the Capitol. It's not always pretty, but the knowledge you gain will be worth the effort.

Are you a member of Sandia Heights Security? You can find out by checking your monthly Sandia Heights Services utility bill. Membership in SHHA does not automatically mean you are receiving services from SH Security. SH Security can respond within 2-4 minutes on average when it receives calls. If you're not a member, please join. See the adjoining chart for the 2005 security log.

SECURITY STATS provided by Sandia Peak Services, Inc.:

	December	YTD
Attempted B & E	1	6
Breaking & Entering	0	4
Animal Control Assist	0	4
Alarms	25	361
Assault/Battery	0	3
Car Accident	0	17
Construction Site Burglary	0	10
Deer Hunters	0	0
Family Dispute	0	1
Neighbor Dispute	0	2
Fire	2	25
Fireworks Complaint	1	17
Front Office	8	38
Loud Music	0	13
Lost/Found Item	3	6
Lost/Found Pet	9	51
Mailbox Vandalism	2	30
Motorist Assist	12	153
Motorcycle Nuisance	2	8
Open Door/Window	8	35
Peeping Tom	0	0
Pet Nuisance	4	42
Loud Disruptive Party	0	22
Rescue Assist	0	16
Snake Call	0	24
Speeding Vehicle	2	14
Suspicious Person	7	86
Suspicious Vehicle	15	206
Salesman Problem	0	24

Theft	3	32
Threat/Personal	0	0
Utility Co. Assist	3	35
Special Request	12	120
Vandalism	14	119
Wildlife Report	1	9
Vehicle Burglary	3	15
Vehicle Burglary–Tram	0	1
Newspaper Pickup	25	218
Subtotal of Calls	162	1767
Special (Extra patrol or observation)	15	116
Homeowners on Vacation	175	1715
<i>Total Calls</i>	352	3598



On January 3, 2006, **The Flower Company** will be opening for business at its new location thanks to the help of Steve Lyon of Grubb & Ellis.

The new location at 11030 Menaul NE is just West of Juan Tabo next to Woodfield's, across Menaul from Wild Oats.

Beth Anderson, who has owned The Flower Company for the past eight years and has 32 years experience in the floral business, says the new location will focus on plants, containers, vases and food baskets, as well as fresh floral arrangements. She will continue the ever popular dozen roses for \$10.95 and "Happy Hour" which features 2 for 1 cut flowers from 4 – 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

The Flower Company can send your floral gift worldwide, via FTD and Teleflora wire-services. Come visit their new location and receive a free rose just for stopping in.



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association
2-B San Rafael Ave, NE
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Your Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Needs a Few More Good Volunteers

Do you enjoy meeting and working with new people? Do you share our Community's passion for impartial, fair, and firm covenant enforcement? Can you spare a few hours each week for Sandia Heights? Your ACC needs you!

A desire to help and a willingness to learn (training provided) are the main ingredients for success as a member of the ACC. There is no need to understand construction or read plans, (if you do, that's a bonus.) The Committee shares that expertise among its members. You can make a significant difference to the quality of life in Sandia Heights!

Please contact Kerney Bolton if you are interested. Phone 505 856 7120, email kernarch@aol.com Thank you!