

THE

GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

January 2008

President's Corner



I hope that all of you had a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. Your Homeowners Association is back in full force and working for you and our community. We have our monthly board meeting at the SHHA office the second Wednesday of every month at 7 PM and you are welcome to attend.

This month I would like to take a few minutes of your time to discuss our community and what makes it so very special. The next time you walk out of your home take a few minutes to look around and then listen for the sounds you hear. Most in our community will find an exceptional panorama and a quiet stillness that make Sandia Heights very special. You have entrusted your homeowners association to maintain our community and, through that, our property values. While our covenants are not all inclusive, and they certainly vary some between units, they do offer our basis for maintaining our community.

I just had a new garage built and I, too, went through the process set out in our covenants and the guidelines. While it did take 30 days to get through the ACC, it was approved and under construction shortly thereafter. That included a neighborhood review, where my neighbors got a chance to review the plans and comment on our proposed construction. Ideally, I would have just contacted a builder and put up what I wanted--but--maintaining that panorama for all in the community is very important. The only way to do that is to make sure that when each of us makes changes on the outside of our homes or land that it goes through a review process. I have an obligation to my neighbors to make sure that I do not interfere with their enjoyment of this wonderful community.

This same concept applies to the quiet nature of our community. It takes all of us understanding that we can maintain what we all enjoy through cooperative effort. Does your neighbor's dog bark excessively? Maybe they are looking at the pile of scrap wood in your side yard or the RV stored in your driveway. Does your neighbor's tree block your view of Mount Taylor? Maybe your poorly built and non-approved shed is all they see when they look toward the Sandia Peak. We get plenty of complaints and try our best to sort them all out--seldom to the satisfaction of all parties. However, the real test in maintaining this community is each of us looking at our property through our neighbor's eyes. What do you see and hear when you look at your property? I would ask each of you to assess how you have contributed to making this a better community and helped everyone enjoy the beautiful panoramas and quiet nature of Sandia Heights. Are you being a good neighbor?

November 2007 Treasurer Report: Ed Whitten, Treasurer

CASH FLOW		ACCOUNT BALANCES	
		Bank Accounts	
INFLOW		CD #1	\$91,359.41
ACC income	\$50.00	CD #2	\$35,852.73
Directory Advertising	\$0.00	CD #3	\$15,000.00
GRIT advertising	\$5,633.63	Checking	\$17,305.62
NM Gross Receipts Tax	\$288.23	Cash Accounts	\$1,877.08
Membership Dues	\$13,042.99	Total Bank & Cash	\$161,394.84
TOTAL INFLOW	\$19,014.85		
		ASSET ACCOUNTS	
OUTFLOW		Miscellaneous	\$1,379.21
NM State Corp Tax	\$10.00	Office Equipment	\$4,973.06
Executive Committee	\$1924.00	Office Furniture	\$5,651.99
Office Expenses	\$7452.61	Software	\$932.34
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$9,386.61	TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$12,936.60
		Liability Accounts	
		Improvements & Legal Reserve	\$86,421.96
OVERALL TOTAL	\$9,628.24	OVERALL TOTAL	\$87,909.48

Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series Presents . . .



Nashville Country Singer & Composer **James Talley in Concert** Sat., January 19, 7:30 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd

Join us for an extraordinary, all-ages, alcohol-free evening of music and food! **FREE TO SHHA MEMBERS!** Non-member tickets, \$15, seniors & teens, \$10, kids over 6, \$5.

“James Talley's music owes as much to Woody Guthrie as it does to Hank Williams, and draws on the same wellspring of American folk, blues and country music that made their work so powerful.” J. Poet, CMA Close-up

The Church of the Good Shepherd is at 7834 Tennyson. From Tramway Blvd., turn west on Tramway Terrace (first traffic light south of Paseo Del Norte) then turn north on Tennyson.

Doors to the Church Lower Hall will open at 6:45. No reservations are needed, there is plenty of seating. Refreshments will be available, but feel free to bring a favorite dessert. For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Bolton, 856-7100/nlightsmgt@aol.com.

Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series is an all-volunteer production of your SHHA Community Service & Membership Committee.

Community Services and Membership Committee News ~ Kerney Bolton, Chair

Tram Passes are available for SHHA Members. The world's longest aerial tramway, an attraction for visitors from around the



world and located right in our own backyard, has become a little more accessible to Sandia Heights Homeowners Association members. Beginning November 15, 2007, up to 4 round-trip Tram Passes will be available for SHHA members, each day, free of charge! (A \$17.50 value for adults, \$15.00 for seniors, \$10.00 for kids under 12, for a total savings of up to \$70.00 per day)

Here is how it works:

- First come, first served.
- Pick up your pass(es) at the SHHA office, 2B San Rafael, and provide a deposit of \$5.00 per pass (check or cash).
- Turn in your used ticket stub(s) at the SHHA office and receive a full refund of your deposit.
- Passes will be issued for a particular date and may be used only for that date.
- Of course, passes are available only during days and hours that the Tram is available to the public.
- Depending on demand, preference may be given to first time Tram Pass users before repeat users.
- You must come into the office to reserve your date.



Letters to the editor

Everyday, these are the top stories in the news. In the Albuquerque Journal, Saturday, November 3, 2007 the feature article was "Not Green Enough." According to the National Recycling Coalition, recycling 1 aluminum can save enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours and 5 plastic soda bottles can yield enough fiber to make one square foot of carpet or enough fill for a ski jacket."

I'm writing this letter because I am very concerned. We, as Sandia Height's members need to take a more active stand. We need to have curb

side recycling, so that we can help salvage the materials that can be recycled. According to the newspaper, NM has 1.9 million tons of waste that we produce. It is a very simple process. We get a recycling tub that we put newspapers, plastic, and glass into it, and every week we put it on the curb for the company that recycles to pick up. We may have to pay a couple of dollars more for our water and sewage but it's worth it. We do not need to transport our trash to a drop-off site and we are actually making a difference.

We NEED to do our part in helping the planet to become a better place. We need to push our subdivision to be more conscious and more politically correct to help REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE.

Sharon R. Mayo ~ resident

The Bernalillo County Animal Ordinance is changing. Please attend the District 4 County Commissioner's Hearing, there is strength in numbers and County Commissioners count physical presence first, a letter second, and a phone call a distant third. This hearing has not been scheduled at the time writing, but www.bernco.gov will post the meeting notice. You can also get a copy of the ordinance from the Bernalillo County website.

It is my opinion that the proposed changes to the Bernalillo County Animal Control Ordinance are a vast improvement. The biggest remaining problem is that the proposed Bernalillo Animal Control Ordinance continues to allow dog chaining (see sections 6-39 and 6-45). The City of Albuquerque HEART ordinance limits the amount of time a dog can be chained to 1 hour per day. The proposed Bernalillo County ordinance has no restrictions on the amount of time a dog can be chained.

If we in District 4 do not voice our support for the ordinance and express our desire for kinder laws in regards to animal restraint we may not get the provisions that protect us from the negative impacts associated with irresponsible pet owners. Remember the County ordinance applies to south valley, north valley, east mountains, and far NE heights. We have a small population, so we need to be loud to combat the voices that support cruelty.

Vivian George ~ resident



Executive Committee

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Steve Walsh
Mike Winokur

Office Staff

Lena Martinez – ACC
Administrative Assistant
Sheraz Saint-Lôt – Publications
& Communications Editor

SHHA Office

2-B San Rafael Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87122
Office Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm
Phone: 505-797-7793
Fax: 505-856-8544
Web site:
www.sandiahomeowners.org
Email:
shha@sandiahomeowners.org

GRIT Editorial Policy is:

- Attempt to publish both sides of every issue, including constructive criticism; no abusive or insulting remarks.
- Reserve the right to edit any submission.
- Not to print any unsigned letters or articles.



Stats and more from the Sandia Heights Security Patrol:

Month of November Call Type	# of calls	Month of November Call Type	# of calls
Breaking & entering	1	Suspicious person	6
Alarms	20	Suspicious Vehicle	6
Family Dispute	1	Salesman problem	2
Fire	1	Theft	3
Fireworks complaint	1	Customer Assist	10
Loud music	1	Dumped/Spilled Material	4
Lost/found item	1	S.O. Assist	
Lost/found pet	3	Parking Problem	3
Motorist Assist	4	Vandalism	8
Motorcycle nuisance	2	Newspaper Pickup	29
Pet Nuisance	2	Special Extra patrol or observation	17
Snake Call	1	Homeowners on vacation	219
Speeding vehicle	1	Total Calls	346

If you have questions regarding these stats please call Security at 856-6347. Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Security is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership. Membership in SHHA does not include SHS membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them.

Mark your calendars . . . Saturday January 26, 2008 – SHHA Office Open House



Come join us for a MEET 'N GREET on Saturday, January 26th, 11 am to 3 pm, at our SHHA office, 2B San Rafael Avenue

We'll be serving Hors d'oeuvres and beverages. All Sandia Heights residents are invited to meet our SHHA office staff and volunteer Directors, and committee members. New members and non-members – come on out, join with association members and discover the many resources of your Homeowners Association.

Hosted by the SHHA Community Service and Membership Committee.

Parks & Safety Committee ~
Frances Desonier

As most of you know, a survey was sent out last year regarding numerous issues including some regarding the trimming of vegetation along the roadside that borders each homeowner's property. One question asked whether the homeowner currently took responsibility for trimming such vegetation. Results: 240 of you answered, "Yes," and 40 answered, "No." In addition, 17 homeowners included comments about their answer. Of those answering, "No," 6 indicated that they did not believe there was vegetation requiring cutting and 2 indicated that they were not physically able to do the job. A few homeowners who answered "Yes" were concerned that others in their vicinity did not.

A second question referred to the county's providing such maintenance. The question was stated thus: "Do you prefer to leave the trimming to County Road Maintenance?" Results: 187 of you answered, "Yes," and 170 answered "No," with 50 of you providing comments in addition to your answers. The greatest number of responses (16) had to do with complaints regarding overgrown vegetation along roadsides. Three comments indicated that the homeowners were not pleased with the way the County cuts the vegetation. Another 3 complained that the trimming did not occur often enough. Three more indicated that trimming of "common areas" not private property, is what is needed. It seems most homeowners would be happier if ALL homeowners would trim their own vegetation along roadsides.

The Parks and Safety Committee wishes to inform all SHHA residents that there is a County law that requires the homeowner to trim the vegetation along the road. The law also allows the County to "bill" the homeowner if they have to trim the vegetation. Since overgrown vegetation is a safety hazard, the Parks and Safety Committee will continue to work with the County to coordinate a "courtesy mowing project" to keep the edge of the roads trimmed of vegetation to allow for safe driver and pedestrian visibility. These mowing projects will probably occur no more often than once every 6 months, so

homeowners are encouraged to continue to trim along their own roadside as needed. Most likely this committee and the County will not proceed with the "courtesy mowing project" as long as our roads provide safe driver and pedestrian visibility.

Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue
Paramedic Response to Sandia Heights
~ Sy Caudill, SHHA President

As most of you know, Station 5 on Paseo Del Norte normally responds to Sandia Heights in the case of a medical emergency. We heard a rumor that the paramedic truck was being pulled from the station. As part of our ongoing effort to insure a safe and secure neighborhood, your Volunteer organization initiated an immediate response. Numerous calls finally led to Operations Chief John Garcia, Bernalillo County Fire & Rescue (BCF&R), who provided a clarification of the issue. Chief Garcia can be reached at 761-4225.

He explained that staffing at the station only allowed for one paramedic to staff the truck, and that was not an acceptable situation in providing emergency response. At least two paramedics are required. He elected to reassign that truck and transfer emergency medical response responsibility to Engine #5 at the station. In this manner he could properly staff the responding vehicle and assure that Sandia Heights and surrounding areas would continue to receive effective and timely response to medical emergencies.

Operations Chief Garcia assures us that the capability of our local station has not changed and that the responding unit will be fully staffed with qualified personnel and supporting equipment, along with a move-up plan from neighboring County and City fire stations. Bottom line, the same great service from our friends with BCF&R continues.

I hope this assuages any concerns that you may have if you heard the rumor of changes at Station 5. This article has been reviewed and approved by Operations Chief Garcia, who by the time you read this, will have met with your Volunteer Board of Directors to answer any questions on this issue.

ACC Activity Log

The following is a summary of your Architectural Control Committee's activity since the last GRIT.

20 Eagle Nest Court – Replace door and window. Approved.

37 Rock Ridge Drive – Expand driveway, retaining wall and flower bed. Approved.

45 Rock Ridge Court – Repave driveway. Approved.

49 Cedar Hill Road – Replace garage door. Approved.

64 Juniper Hill Loop – Driveway & landscaping. Approved.

117 White Oaks Drive – Re-stucco & refinish trim. Work started prior to ACC approval. Owner immediately submitted application. Approved.

125 Whitetail Drive – Walls & mailbox. Disapproved. Freestanding walls in front setback, materials not in harmony with natural surroundings, portions of wall potentially in street right-of-way.

161 Juniper Hill Road – Replace roof. Approved.

169 Big Horn Ridge – Replace windows and re-stucco. Approved. Replace heating and cooling equipment. Approved with conditions.

335 White Oaks Drive – Re-stucco. Approved.

401 Live Oak Loop – Re-stucco. Approved.

558 Black Bear Place – Repave driveway & enlarge garage door. Approved.

669 Blackhawk Drive – Replace roof. Approved.

725-10 Tramway Vista Drive – Re-stucco and refinish trim. Approved.

726-2 Tramway Vista Court – Remodel. Neighborhood Review held. Approved.

726-6 Tramway Vista Loop – Replace roof. Approved with conditions.

726-11 Tramway Vista Court – Replace front entry beam. Approved.

726-16 Tramway Lane – Replace windows. Approved.

727-2 Cedar Hill Road – Replace windows, doors, garage door, evaporative cooler, and add gutters. Approved with conditions.

807 Tramway Lane. Replace roof. Approved.

886 Tramway Lane – Replace doors & windows, re-stucco. Work started prior to ACC approval. Owner submitted application. Approved.

914 Tramway Lane – Replace windows, doors, and re-stucco. Approved.

940 Bobcat Boulevard – Re-stucco house and freestanding wall. Approved.

1051 Red Oaks Loop – Remove portal & enlarge windows. Approved.

1127 Marigold Drive – Repave driveway. Approved.

1232 Goldenrod Drive – Replace entry roof with shed roof. Approved.

1420 San Rafael Court – Replace windows. Approved.

1483 Morning Glory Road – Landscaping. Approved with conditions.

1531 Eagle Ridge Drive – Re-stucco. Approved.

1708 Quail Run Court – Refinish trim. Approved.

2304 Calle De Rafael – Refinish trim. Approved.

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2007 Quail Run Drive – Plant tree. Approved.

2019 Quail Run Drive – Re-stucco. Approved.

2706 Tramway Circle – Wall, Replace windows, re-stucco, refinish trim. Windows, re-stucco & trim approved. Wall disapproved. Incomplete application.

2722 Tramway Circle – Re-stucco house and freestanding wall. Approved.

2760 Cliffrose Drive – Replace windows & doors. Approved.

2767 Wolfberry Place – Replace windows & doors.

2803 Tramway Circle – Arbor. Approved.

2819 Tramway Circle – Replace roof. Approved.

2864 Tramway Circle – Replace roof, re-stucco. Stucco color disapproved, switched to approved color. Approved.

2868 Tramway Circle – Replace roof and re-stucco. Approved.

8241 Raintree Drive – Replace deck & repair stucco. Approved.

Check the ACC Project Log 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.

Community Event Bulletin Board

Not all of these groups are sponsored by SHHA. Information is provided to keep residents informed

SOSH - SINGLES OF SANDIA HEIGHTS

The SOSH is a group of Sandia Heights residents formed to attend social events and participate in activities around the area. If you are interested in joining the group (age range is 40s to 80s), please call Marsha Thole (856-3352) to be placed on the membership list. If you tried to contact the SOSH coordinator in the past two months, she has been experiencing "technical problems" as they say, with her answering machine, so your call may have been lost to the nether world. In addition, if you called and left a message, if you did leave your phone number, then she could not call you back. So, it isn't because we don't want any new members, just blame it on "pilot error."

SOSH is looking forward to 2008 with great anticipation of some great activities and fun things to do. So don't miss out on what could be some interesting adventures in the new year. If you haven't joined us yet, then you have missed out on the following from this past year: cooking classes at Le Cafe Miche, trips to numerous concerts in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, tea, Santa Fe Opera, July 4 celebration picnic, Memorial Day events, movies, chile supper, Isotopes game, BB King farewell concert, and much, much, more. If you are sitting home, you are missing out on some great fun and great company. So, why not pick up that phone and call Marsha at 856-3352. If you don't hear from her, call the office to find out if she is dead from over celebrating the new year!

The Sandia Heights Wildflower Club cordially invites you to attend the January 16, 2008 meeting featuring Rick Hobson as the guest speaker. He is the owner of Jericho Nursery and loves to present question and answer seminars. He will also talk about irrigation, xeriscape, pruning trees, and how to prepare for spring gardening. The meeting will be held at Dave and Norma Leeper's home at 801 Tramway Lane NE (phone 856-6996) at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome. Future events for the Sandia Heights Wildflower Club:
March 19, 2008: Rock Gardens presented by Margo Murdoch
May 17, 2008: Progressive Dinner
June 14, 2008: Garden Walk



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

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Thank you to everyone who submitted a photo for the 2008 Directory. The photo chosen for the cover is by Virginia Porterfield. Her photo along with the other submissions will be featured on our website beginning January 2008. I encourage you to go to the website: sandiahomeowners.org and take a moment to enjoy the beautiful photographs!

Just a note of clarification, we mail the GRIT to both members and non-members as a courtesy to the few in Sandia Heights who are non-members to encourage them to join. However, the services and benefits of membership are limited to members of the association. If you are a non-member we encourage you to join.

