

THE GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

March 2009

President's Message ~ Sy Caudill

Frostbite and Survivors

My wife asked me in mid January why our front porch light, which is motion sensitive, was going on and off in the evenings. Being one to always have answers I told her it was the wind. That lasted for a few days until I noticed that it was happening in the early mornings as well. One morning I caught a glimpse of a dark shape moving across our porch. I paid greater attention—which I should have done earlier—and low and behold it was a cat. Turns out it was living in the heavy evergreens in front of our home. My wife took over from there and began to put out food and water in an attempt to approach the shy and reclusive feline.

Let me digress for a minute to discuss our environment and domesticated animals. Most of you have seen the pictures or have actually seen bobcats and coyotes feasting on the rabbits and birds. I have had a very large owl enjoy rabbit meals on the roof of our home. As I've mentioned before, we have had a bear in our backyard and Sandia Heights Security has had reports of cougars near the Tram. We have a very diverse and active natural environment, which is one of the great features of this great community that we call home. It is one of the prime reasons we selected this to be our home and I'm sure that is true of a lot of others who live in Sandia Heights. We and our domesticated pets enjoy this environment from the security and safety of our homes. The animals living off the land have survived by being resourceful, clever and successful over an extended period. How they manage with a lack of water, sub 20-

degree temperatures and limited vegetation for food is beyond me—but they have survived and prospered. Quite the opposite is true for the domesticated animals that escaped or have been “released” into this environment. They are accustomed to having dinner served up in a bowl and a warm place to sleep. They have neither the skills, nor the endurance, to survive long, and most will likely become dinner for one of the predators that I mentioned earlier.

I am hopeful that the signs we all have seen posted for “lost” pets ended happily but, in at least two instances I know of, that was not the case. I would encourage each of you to take a look at your pet sleeping quietly by your side and imagine that cat or dog fending for itself—against the pack of eight coyotes that I had in my driveway early one morning. Take a few minutes to consider how they could “escape” your home and take preventive steps. Do you let your dogs “out” for a free romp in the neighborhood? I know I have seen some that appear to get released on a regular schedule; maybe you should reconsider. I have no knowledge of, but have heard discussions of people “dumping” pets—I hope that is not the case, but I can't rule it out. Take a few minutes to consider how you might avoid your pet's facing the life the cat under our evergreens faced.

Oh, the cat—now Sally—yes, my wife was successful and a couple of very gracious neighbors helped Sally. She was obviously a pet at one time, previously spayed, no diseases, but a bit underfed. She had frostbite on her ears, nose and paws from the 15-degree temps.

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January 2009 Treasurer Report: Ed Tull, Treasurer

CASH FLOW		ACCOUNT BALANCES	
INFLOW		Bank Accounts	
Coffeehouse income	450.00	CD #2	37,332.58
Parks & Safety	64.00	CD #3	15,586.58
GRIT advertising	1,622.39	CD #5	104,219.75
NM Gross Receipts Tax	94.31	Checking	1,956.99
Membership Dues	13,164.34	Cash Accounts	2,017.97
TOTAL INFLOW	\$15,395.04	Money Market	22,016.67
		Total Bank & Cash	\$183,130.17
OUTFLOW		ASSET ACCOUNTS	
Community Service & Membership	2,630.69	Miscellaneous	1,379.21
Communications & Publications	6,225.40	Office Equipment	4,973.06
Executive Committee	4,006.00	Office Furniture	5,651.99
ACC	7.48	Software	932.34
Parks and Safety	0.00	TOTAL Asset Accounts	\$12,936.60
Office Expenses	11,709.30	Liability Accounts	
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$24,578.87	Improvements & Legal Reserve	147,257.00
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$9,183.83	OVERALL TOTAL	\$48,809.77

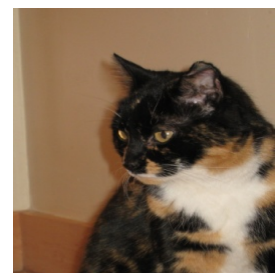
ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- Notary and office services free to members.
- Tram passes free to members; please check with the office for your reservation.
- Contractor Evaluation binder free to members. Remember to turn one in!
- SHHA Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 11 at 7pm in the SHHA Office.
- Committee meeting dates and times are posted in the monthly calendar found on our website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.
- Classified ads can be found on the website under the News & Information page.
- Safety Vests for sale in the SHHA office. \$2/vest for members, \$4 non-members.
- Services are provided to members only. Please consider joining to take advantage of our many benefits.

Continued from front page:

No one has claimed her and she needs a new home. If you are her owner or if you would like to adopt a true survivor, please call 400-0390.

Sally has earned a forever home here in Sandia Heights - can you help?



*Sandia Heights
Coffeehouse Concert Series
Presents . . .*



On April 18 the *Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series* will present internationally-acclaimed hammered dulcimer virtuoso Walt Michael, with Alexander Mitchell on fiddle and Ralph Gordon on cello and bass. Walt has performed at the **White House, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center**, and throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. His music has been heard on **ABC-TV, NBC's "Tonight Show," Broadway, PBS**, and other networks. Read about Walt on www.waltmichael.com and www.commongroundonthehill.org, which he founded.

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Linda Bolton, 856-7100, nlightsmgt@aol.com.



Bylaws Committee
~ Marsha Thole

Amendments to the bylaws as voted on by the Board of Directors will be presented to the membership for a ratification vote at the annual meeting in June. Members wishing to propose an amendment must do so in writing to the Bylaws Committee, and must cite the current wording, the proposed change(s), and the rationale for the change(s). Proposed amendments are accepted throughout the year.

To meet the time constraints for the Board and for voting at the annual meeting, though, submissions that members wish to be voted on at the 2009 annual meeting must be received by the SHHA office no later than March 14, 2009. (Note: This information was posted to the SHHA website on 2/11/09.)



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS for
SATURDAY, March 28, 2009**



**SHHA Office
Meet 'N' Greet
11am to 2pm**

Join your friends and neighbors at the SHHA office, 2B San Rafael. Enjoy our delicious hors d'oeuvres; learn more about SHHA and . . . Corkey Baca, owner of Baca's Trees, will attend from 11am to 1pm to share information about trees.



Hosted by your SHHA Community Service and Membership Committee.



Executive Committee

President – Sy Caudill
Vice President – Andy Anderson
Secretary – Marsha Thole
Treasurer – Ed Tull

Board Members

Phil Abshere
Kerney Bolton
Bruce Childs
Alyson Clark
Frances Desonier
Pete Heinstejn
Jim Irving
Phyllis Moore
Burt O’Neil
Mona Lee Schilling
Mike Winokur

Office Staff

Betsy Rodriguez – ACC
Administrative Assistant
Sheraz Saint-Lôt – Publications
& Communications Editor

SHHA Office

2-B San Rafael Avenue
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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 January Call Type	# of calls	Month of January Call Type	# of calls
Breaking & entering	1	Suspicious vehicle	9
Alarms	18	Salesman problem	3
Car accident	1	Theft	0
Neighbor dispute	2	Utility Co. assist	2
Fire/fireworks complaint	2	Parking problem	3
Front office	0	Customer assist	7
Lost/found item / pet	10	Dumped/spilled material	1
Loud disruptive party	1	Noise complaints	5
Motorist assist	6	Wildlife report	1
Motorcycle nuisance	5	Vandalism	8
Open door/window	5	Vehicle burglary	2
Pet nuisance	5	Newspaper pickup	21
Special request	4	Special patrol	18
Speeding vehicle	1	Homeowners on vacation	170
Suspicious person	11	Total Calls	322

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.

TRAM PASSES

Tram Passes are available for SHHA Members. Up to 4 roundtrip Tram Passes are available for SHHA members each day, free of charge! The Tram will be closed for maintenance from March 30 through April 24. Visit our website sandiahomeowners.org or call the office to see how it works.



Trees Obscure Our Beautiful Views

~ Burt O'Neil

The spectacular city and mountain views available from our Sandia Heights' homes give us the security of being able to maintain our exclusive real estate values. Without our views SH would just be another ordinary residential area.

Many homes, and the landscaping that goes with them, are well over 25 years old. Before the development of SH, the area was used to graze cattle. This allowed for the growth of various native grasses. After the disastrous drought of the 1950s, the land was zoned for homes. Shortly after, the famous Sandia tram was constructed, and lots were sold and homes constructed. The lots had some grass and picturesque rock formations and incredible views. The large lots and forever views were the selling points used by the developers. The old-timers tell of seeing the San Francisco Mountains in Arizona from the top of the Sandia Mountains.

Many of us planted bushes and trees and put in landscaping consistent with desert conditions. Some varieties of trees over time grew well over the maximum 25 feet current policy. The current landscaping policies, based on our covenants, can be found on the SHHA website. Go to the internet and type in "sandiahomeowners.org". Then click on the Architectural button and then the Landscape button. One can read about acceptable tree types and other useful landscaping information.

The point I hope to make is that SH owners have done an amazing job of beautifying the landscape surrounding their

homes, but it is time to consider some pruning and even tree removal.

Figure 1 shows a large pine tree that currently blocks a homeowner's view of the Sandia Mountains. The picture is taken from their patio. This tree is more than 22 years old. Figure 2 is a Photoshop image rendered so as to remove the tree to allow one to evaluate the recovered view. This simulates the effect of the tree removal. The result is striking and allows for a full vista view of the mountains.



Figure 1: a large pine blocking a view of the Sandia Mountains.



Figure 2: Photoshop rendering depicting the restoration of the spectacular view of the mountains after the large tree is removed. The outline of the tree is purposely left in the scene to orient the viewer.

Parks & Safety Committee

~ Frances Desonier

Howdy, Neighbors!

As I write this article, it looks like winter has returned to our neighborhood once again. It has snowed off and on for the past couple of days, yet there is still only a small accumulation of snow on the ground. How fortunate we are in Albuquerque that the snow stays on the mountain where it belongs and not long on our roads.

We are pleased to announce that SHHA has now sold **150** reflective safety vests! Way to go, Neighbors! Although our supply is currently depleted, more will be ordered and available for sale at the SHHA office at the price of \$2 for members and just \$4 for non-members. As you know, reflective safety vests are particularly effective at making pedestrians visible to drivers at dusk and during the evening hours. Several of you have already been seen wearing them. Fantastic!

It is also important to **walk facing traffic**, making eye contact with drivers as they approach you. Although more and more neighbors have been seen doing just that, there are still a few of you who walk facing the same direction as the cars in your lane. Remember, making eye contact with approaching drivers assures that drivers are aware that you are in their lane. In addition, please walk in single file, especially during peak traffic hours (7-9AM and 4-6PM).

Drivers, please, be vigilant when driving our roads and do not speed. We are working diligently with the county to improve visibility, but nothing can take the place of due vigilance. Also, be particularly careful at dusk.

We also need to remind our homeowners to maintain curbside property. By law, each homeowner is responsible for doing so, and our county has agreed to help us out by

trimming vegetation along our roads at a 45-degree angle to improve visibility for both pedestrians and drivers. Please, also take particular note of any bushy vegetation along the edge of your driveway.

Overgrown vegetation often makes it difficult, if not impossible, to see low-riding cars when they are exiting private drives.

The P&SC wants to acknowledge the good works of Marty and Dave Evans. They have initiated their own "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" campaign by assisting other homeowners along their cul-de-sac by trimming overgrown vegetation. Thank you for being such good neighbors! Hopefully, their good example may encourage more of us to do similar neighborly acts. (Just be sure you check with the homeowner before you begin any such project.)

Hope to see many of you at our next Meet 'N Greet at the SHHA office on March 28th.



ACC Activity Log

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

140 Big Horn Ridge – Replace doors & windows. Approved

1133 Marigold Drive – Landscaping. Approved with conditions

1158 Laurel Loop – Install metal roof. Approved

1928 Quail Run Drive – Roof repairs. Approved

2313 Calle de Rafael – Replace garage door. 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*

Church of the Good Shepherd: The Lenten Series through the month of March at 9:15 a.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St NE is "Giving Up When It Really Matters." Join The Lenten Theme is "A Time To Keep, and A Time To Throw Away." Call 505-856-1004, if you have questions. *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Smart Meetings: Are you the president or chair of an organization or committee? Frustrated by meetings that don't seem to go anywhere? Want to learn more about how to make your meetings more effective? Then you may want to attend the workshops offered by the NM State Association of Parliamentarians. "Smart Meetings 2009," will be offered Saturday, March 28 at the Courtyard by Marriott (at I-25 & Paseo Del Norte), from 9:00-12:30. This annual workshop series is sponsored by the New Mexico State Association of Parliamentarians and includes six topics from which the attendees select three. These are: *Basic Meeting Procedures, Presiding Skills, Boards and Committees, Exceptions to the Rules, Dealing with Difficult Situations, and Planning and Conducting Electronic Meetings.* Courses are taught by Professional Registered or Registered Parliamentarians. Registration postmarked before 3/20/08 is \$40 and includes a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. On-site registration is \$50. To register, send your name, phone, address, email and a check payable to NMSAP to Barbara Posler, 7708 Spring Ave NE, Albuquerque NM 87110. For more information, please call Sandia Heights resident, Marsha Thole, at 856-3352.

Sandia Presbyterian Church: Many today are seeking answers and fulfillment in their lives. Alpha is an opportunity to make friends and ask questions in an earnest, yet frequently humorous, non-denominational exploration of key issues and beliefs in the Christian faith. Participants get to know each other over dinner, watch video presentations, and meet in small discussion groups.

Join us at Sandia Presbyterian Church (10704 Paseo del Norte NE) March 3rd at 6:15 to 8:30 pm for a preview dinner and video. The course meets Tuesday's at 6:15 pm to 8:30 from March 10th through May 26th, with dinner, snacks and childcare provided.

Please RSVP via www.sandiaprs.org and click on "sign up" tab or call 856-5040, so we can plan meals and seating.

Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

The Sandia Heights Wildflower Club will meet Wednesday, March 18th, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Connie and Charlie McDonald. Tish Resnik, new owner of Great Outdoors prospective members are invited to attend. Call SHWC President Dan Caudillo for further information at 856-6617.



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

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Don't forget to:

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Forward

on Sunday, March 8th!

