

# THE GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

April 2009

## President's Message ~ Sy Caudill

### Spring Time and Water

As I sit writing this today, we are getting our first precipitation of the year, anticipated to be about a quarter of an inch. While this is good news, the bad news is that we recently went 70+ days without rainfall. With an average annual rainfall that is not much more than 8 inches, we do not expect too much and all of us greatly appreciate the rain when it does come.

However, all of us expect to turn on our water taps and have fresh pure clean water anytime of the year. Have you ever considered just where your water comes from and how it gets delivered to your home? Our friends at Sandia Peak Utility Company (SPUC)

(<http://www.sandiaheightsservices.com/spu/index.htm>) are our water providers and have been since the inception of this community.

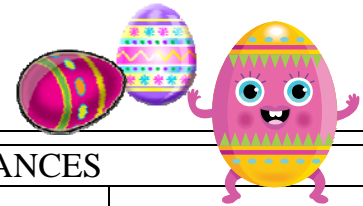
As many of you know, our water comes from a deep underground aquifer that provides us with some of the best water in the world and with minimum treatment. You can read about this in the annual report provided by SPUC. As explained by SPUC management, our source of water has remained remarkably stable since the inception of the utility; however, we need to be aware that any aquifer may not be infinite. Albuquerque found that out over the last five decades and is now converting to river water as an additional source of their drinking water, and they have instituted an extensive water conservation effort as well. Of course they get even less rainfall than we get annually, which is the recharge source for

most aquifers in this area. The Rio Grande may provide some recharge, and Albuquerque is working with some surface recharge but most of our water comes from rain. What we have tapped into with the aquifer is the stored remains of thousands or millions of years of rain or snow fall. Lucky for us the Rio Grande Valley is a continental rift (split) that has many thousands of feet of gravel below the surface which makes for extremely good storage of water! So when you take your shower or get that glass of water, think of it as very old and something to be cherished—especially in our semi-arid environment.

Even so, our water is somewhat like the current situation with oil: we are taking eons of stored or accumulated product and using it for our current needs. While oil is most likely not being replenished at any significant rate, aquifers are a different story. Most aquifers are subject to depletion and will fall as Albuquerque's has, if the amount withdrawn exceeds the amount put back into the aquifer by rainfall.

Now I don't know about you, but I do like my cup of coffee and a good hot shower every day. With that in mind, I began to wonder just what demands have been placed on the aquifer that supplies us and how it has fared over the last couple of decades of use. In addition, especially since many of us have 30-year home loans, what is the projection for the next 30 years and what can we do to ensure that water is still available 30 years from now? So I turned to the experts and have asked SPUC to answer some questions and provide their views on our future supply of water. The interview will appear in the next issue of the GRIT. *Continued on page 3*

## February 2009 Treasurer Report: Ed Tull, Treasurer



CASH FLOW		ACCOUNT BALANCES	
<b>INFLOW</b>		<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
CD Interest	1225.19	CD #2	37625.22
Parks & Safety	0.00	CD #3	15586.21
GRIT advertising	0.00	CD #5	105152.30
NM Gross Receipts Tax	0.00	Checking	2905.67
Membership Dues	13754.33	Cash Accounts	1660.81
<b>TOTAL INFLOW</b>	<b>\$14,979.52</b>	Money Market	22044.42
		<b>Total Bank &amp; Cash</b>	<b>\$184,974.63</b>
<b>OUTFLOW</b>		<b>ASSET ACCOUNTS</b>	
Community Service & Membership	1607.61	Miscellaneous	1,379.21
Communications & Publications	2906.74	Office Equipment	4,973.06
Executive Committee	919.00	Office Furniture	5,651.99
ACC	0.00	Software	932.34
Parks and Safety	253.00	<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>\$12,936.60</b>
Office Expenses	7561.46	<b>Liability Accounts</b>	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$13,247.81</b>	Improvements & Legal Reserve	147,342.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,731.71</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,569.23</b>

### 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, April 8 at 7pm in the SHHA Office.
- Committee meeting dates and times are posted in the monthly calendar found on our website: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://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.
- Coffeehouse, Saturday, April 18 at Church of the Good Shepherd.



*Continued from front page*

Speaking of SPUC, their affiliates also supply our refuse collection services, our security patrols and the Four Seasons Club. While we all support the refuse collection, the other two are voluntary subscriptions, and they add immeasurably to the community. I have written on this issue before and will continue to do so, as the Security Patrol provides additional protection for everyone in our community by just being present and driving around at all hours of the day and night. However, they are limited in coverage and equipment by lack of funding from the community.

I'm asking that each of you review your bill from Sandia Heights Services to see whether you subscribe to the Security Patrol. For those of you not on the service, *Sandia Heights Security is offering free service until June 1, 2009* as an incentive for you to join with your neighbors. If you are interested in this exclusive offer, please contact Jackie Sexton at 857-8924. Please consider joining to allow them the resources they need to better protect all of us in the community.

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## **WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT**

~ Andy Anderson, Nominating  
Committee Chair

The SHHA is a volunteer organization with the prime objective of maintaining the unique character and exceptional living conditions in our community. In order to do this we need the support and help of the community in running your organization.

We need volunteer directors for 2008. Board members are elected for 3-year terms, with elections at the Annual Meeting in June. The 3-year commitment is flexible if your personal circumstances change. The qualifications for the job are a love of this wonderful neighborhood and a desire to work with others to keep it vibrant.

We need representation on the board from all of the units, and we urge you to consider taking this opportunity to become a board member. Please review the duties of the committees and other functions of the board that are listed in the Directory of Residents. If you are willing to serve as a board member, please call me at 856-7116 or call the office at 797-7793.

### **New Board Member nominees:**

Larry Desonier, 1452 Honeysuckle Drive,  
Unit S14

Michele Munson, 23 Cedar Hill, Unit S1

Dick Wavrik, 601 Cedar Hill, Unit S6

### **Returning Board Member nominations:**

All have already served on the board for 3 years and will begin their second 3<sup>rd</sup> year term.

Ed Tull, 1456 Bluebell Drive, Unit S14

Mike Winokur, 747 Tramway Lane, Unit S7

Burt O'Neil, 1156 Laurel Loop, Unit S11

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### **Looking for someone...**

Late last spring, I was very new to NM, when I met you & your daughter at the Albertson's. Your daughter is/was in 5th or 6th grade & going to ABQ Academy for summer classes. I asked for your ph # so my granddaughter could meet & play with your daughter because I too live in Sandia Heights. I apologize because I have not been able to locate the small piece of paper on which I wrote your ph #. Please contact me, Mary Ann at 856-7994.



**Executive Committee**

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

**Board Members**

Phil Abshere  
Kerney Bolton  
Bruce Childs  
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  
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](mailto: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 February Call Type	# of calls	Month of February Call Type	# of calls
Breaking & entering	4	Suspicious vehicle	12
Alarms	30	Salesman problem	2
Car accident	3	Theft	0
Neighbor / Family dispute	2	Utility Co. assist	4
Fire/fireworks complaint	3	Dumped / spilled material	2
Front office	0	Customer assist	8
Lost/found item / pet	11	Sheriff Office assist	2
Loud disruptive party	1	Noise complaints	0
Motorist assist	1	Wildlife report	0
Motorcycle nuisance	1	Vandalism	7
Open door/window	6	Vehicle burglary	1
Pet nuisance	0	Newspaper pickup	23
Special request	1	Special patrol	13
Speeding vehicle	2	Homeowners on vacation	36
Suspicious person	7	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>182</b>

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](http://sandiahomeowners.org) or call the office to see how it works.



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**NOTICE:**

Sally the abandoned cat mentioned in last month's GRIT now has a permanent home.



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**BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

~ Marsha Thole, Chair

Based in part on comments received at last year's annual membership meeting, the SHHA Bylaws Committee has drafted and the SHHA Board has approved amendments for the Association Bylaws, and seeks ratification by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 6. These amendments will be published on the SHHA website by April 17 and available in the office as well for review. The amendments are being posted to the website to save postage and printing costs, which would have been approximately \$3000. To help members better understand and to answer your questions, the Bylaws Committee has scheduled three Q&A sessions to be held at the SHHA Office on the following dates:

- Tues, Apr 21, 10:30-11:30 am
- Wed, May 6, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Wed, June 3, 11:30 am -12:30 pm

We thank everyone for their suggestions and input. Come by to meet your Bylaws Committee members and learn more about the amendments.

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**Parks & Safety Committee**

~ Frances Desonier

Hello, Neighbors, Spring is about on us and we have noted that many of you are out preparing your lawns and gardens for the warmer days ahead. We have been very happy to see that many of you are cutting

back the vegetation from the curbside to make our roads a little safer for pedestrians. Good for you!

The last P&SC article printed in the March GRIT reminded our neighbors about the dangers of thick vegetation along driveways. Unfortunately, there are still many who have chosen to ignore this potential hazard. PLEASE consider cutting thick vegetation away from the entrance/exit of your driveways so that both you and oncoming cars and pedestrians have better visibility.

As you know, the County has been working closely with the P&SC and SHHA to cut along all roadsides at a 45-degree angle in order to help improve visibility. This has helped a great deal, but it does not solve all problems for pedestrians. We want to encourage each of you to call the SHHA office if you note specific areas where either the chamisa is too overgrown or perhaps signs are being blocked by trees and vegetation at intersections. (The county prefers to have one contact with SHHA for reporting such nuisance areas.)

It has come to our attention that there may be increasing instances of vandalism and break-ins in Sandia Heights recently. For this reason, the Sheriff's Office is being contacted for information and to ask how SHHA might be able to assist them and our residents in preventing such instances. We will keep you posted.

We also want to remind you that the SHHA office has safety vests for sale that have reflector strips down the front and back. These are sold below cost at \$2 for SHHA members and \$4 for non-members. I am told we have already sold well over 150 such vests! Go, Neighbors! Sure hope I begin to see more of them on pedestrians, particularly during evening hours.



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## Community Service & Membership ~ "Good news"

SHHA is currently negotiating with the Four Seasons Club to obtain a limited number of passes to the swimming pool for use throughout the summer. These passes will be available to SHHA members and their guest on a limited basis. Please check our website and future GRIT articles for details. The program is intended to provide our members an extra benefit and promote potential membership in the Four Seasons Club.



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## ACC Activity Log

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

92 Juniper Hill Road – After-the-fact free-standing wall in setback. Disapproved, remedial action required.

Approved projects:

92 Juniper Hill Road – Landscaping.

207 Live Oak Road – Repair & re-stucco.

364 Juniper Hill Road – Garage & driveway modifications.

987 Lynx Loop – New wall gates.

990 Lynx Loop – Gutter & fascia replacement and repairs.

1569 Eagle Ridge Court – Replace doors & repair windows.

1907 Quail Run Drive – Replace garage door.

1936 Quail Run Loop – Replace garage door.

2535 Tramway Terrace Court – Roof mounted ventilator turbine.

2803 Tramway Circle – Parapet repairs.

*Check the ACC Project Log at the Sandia Heights Homeowners (SHHA) website [sandiahomeowners.org](http://sandiahomeowners.org). Click on THE A.C.C. then on Architectural Control Committee Project Log and read about all projects currently under ACC management.*

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## *Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series Presents . . .*



Internationally-acclaimed hammered dulcimer virtuoso Walt Michael, with Alexander Mitchell on fiddle and Ralph Gordon on cello and bass.

Considered to be a virtuoso of tremendous influence in the revival of the hammered dulcimer,

Walt's wide repertoire ranges from old-time Southern Appalachian, to Celtic, to breath-taking original compositions.

Walt has performed at the **White House, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center**, and throughout the U.S., Canada & 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](http://www.waltmichael.com) and [www.commongroundonthehill.org](http://www.commongroundonthehill.org), which he founded.

**Admission for SHHA members & their houseguests will be FREE!** General admission will be \$15/adults, \$10/teens and seniors 60+, \$5/12 & under, under 5 free.

**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, [nightsmgt@aol.com](mailto:nightsmgt@aol.com)

## Community Event Bulletin Board

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

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**Church of the Good Shepherd:** at 7834 Tennyson St NE will hold a Maundy Thursday Tenebra Service and Communion on April 9th at 7:00 p.m. The Easter Sunday sunrise service is at 6:30 a.m. at Elena Gallegos Park followed by a pancake breakfast at the Church. A Service of Celebration with Communion will be at 10:30. Call 505-856-1004 for more details. *"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

### Save the Date May 2, 2009 For.....Daisy Days!

The Church of the Good Shepherd Children's Outreach Programs will host their annual Spring Fling Daisy Days Carnival on Sat. May 2, 11-2 p.m. in the upper parking lot of the church at 7834 Tennyson NE. Your toddlers and preschoolers can enjoy a day of age appropriate and developmentally fun entertainment with us! Come by and enjoy the pony rides, a fun jump, face painting, and much more. The Silent Auction and Raffle will be announced starting at 1:30 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors! For more information, visit [www.cogschildreoutreach.org](http://www.cogschildreoutreach.org)

## April is Parkinson's Awareness Month

HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS

*To Ease the Burden and to Find a Cure*  
**JOIN US FOR WALK-A-THON**  
on April 25.

Raffle tickets available for many prizes.  
For details: [www.nmapda.org](http://www.nmapda.org)  
email: [nmchapter.apda@gmail.com](mailto:nmchapter.apda@gmail.com)

**877.515.4560**



New Mexico Chapter  
[www.nmapda.org](http://www.nmapda.org)

American Parkinson  
Disease Association

**Support Group Meetings**  
on the third Saturday  
of each month.

## Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

The Sandia Heights Wildflower Club is planning a Memorial Garden for recently deceased member Cathy Harman. The Progressive Dinner (and presentation of the Slate of Officers for 2009-2010) will take place May 16th; and the Garden Walk, June 13th. Information about sites for the Progressive Dinner and Garden Walk will be presented in the May GRIT. Questions may be directed to current SHWC President Dan Caudillo, 856-6617.



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

**PRESORTED STD.**  
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