

# THE GREET

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

April 2010

## President's Message

~ Andy Anderson

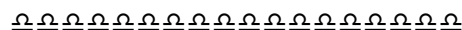
Our recent Meet 'n' Greet featured a presentation by Dr. Mark DiMenna, Environmental Health Manager Vector Biologist with the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department. Dr. DiMenna is with the Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease Division. Given the elaborate title, he is in essence in charge of the City/County organization that is responsible for keeping the community free from diseases transmitted to humans from insects and animals. Although the division resides within the City of Albuquerque structure, they also serve all of Bernalillo County as well.

His discussion was very insightful for those who attended and the bottom line for Sandia Heights was that we live in an area susceptible to plague, hantavirus and encephalitis. For Sandia Heights there is not a problem with hantavirus or encephalitis, however, we do need to be aware of and alert for plague. The exposure to plague-infected animals and fleas increases as you get further into housing developments in the foothills of Sandia Mountains and in the East Mountain area. Exposure can increase during recreational activities, such as hiking and camping.

Plague can be contracted if one is bitten by infected rodent fleas and/or handles plague-infected tissues of sick or dead animals. Domestic cats can also contract plague and transmit it to humans. In addition to cats, dogs may carry plague-infected fleas into the home. If you encounter any dead

animals near your property, please call 311 to report the sighting and ask for the Environmental Health Department to come out to remove the animal and test it for plague.

Additionally, if you note any animals that appear to be rabid or sickly, report them and the department will respond. You can also call Dr. DiMenna and his task force at 505-452-5301 or he can be reached personally on his mobile line at 505-263-3299. The goal of his organization is to keep the City, County and Sandia Heights healthy and happy and free from animal-borne diseases.



## Spring Landscape Maintenance

by Margo Murdock

Spring is the time of year when I do about 95% of my landscape maintenance. It's not by choice. I'd spread it over the year if I could it is just that spring is the best time for the plants. I've enjoyed the seed heads over the winter; have left the dry stalks standing so the base and roots are protected, and retained my lavender wands on the plant to help keep snow from sitting on the foliage. But it is spring and I have to think about what needs to be done and in what order to do it. Pruning sends a signal to the plant that it needs to put out new stems or branches to replace what's been cut. For more information about what and how to prune visit the Sandia Heights Homeowners website at [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org) and go to the news and information page.



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**Odds & Ends from Parks & Safety Committee**

By Larry & Frances Desonier

By now everyone should have heard about the break-ins and mail theft in Sandia Heights. That being the case everyone should be vigilant of any activity around your neighborhood that looks suspicious. Do you ever wonder what might be on line that shows the crime in our neighborhood and all over Albuquerque? If you want to see what is happening go to [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) then enter "Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87122" to get a map of Sandia Heights and surrounding neighborhoods. You'll see where autos have been stolen, houses broken into, and any assaults. There are many other types of crimes that are also reported.

Being that we are still in winter or early spring there isn't much or any vegetation

growth along our streets. However, with spring coming we will see a lot of growth. If there are any street edges that need trimming please let us know at SHHA so that we can consolidate areas into a list and give this to the county for maintenance.

Also please, please, please follow the safety reminders below.

**Pedestrian Safety Reminders**

- Walk **Facing** Traffic; make eye contact with drivers approaching you.
- Wear reflective vest or brightly-colored clothing, particularly in the evening.
- If you are walking a dog, keep the dog to your **left**.
- Whenever cars approach, a group of pedestrians should walk in **single file**.

**Safety Vests for sale**

in the SHHA office.  
 \$2 per vest for members and \$4 per vest for non-members.



**BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

In anticipation of the annual meeting, members are invited to submit amendments to the bylaws. Please cite the current section, and then the proposed amendment, and provide a rationale for the change. Email submissions are preferred (send to the office at [shha@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:shha@sandiahomeowners.org)), or you may drop off your proposed amendment to the office. Please put the subject in the subject line when sending an email to the office. Thank you.





## **SHHA Tree Removal Lottery Update**

**Dear Reader – Now Is the Time to Act!**

Eighty-nine percent of our residents have stated that they were either very or somewhat concerned with undue obstruction of views by trees\* Now is the time to act on our convictions and do our part to curtail, reduce, and reverse the otherwise relentless advance of trees into our distant mountain and valley views. *The SHHA Tree Lottery* now provides a excellent chance for all Association Members to have all or part of their tree removal costs paid for by the Association!

This winter has been particularly cold and snowy. Trees in the clutches of winter cold, winds, and drought appear dormant with no apparent growth. But under the ground, their roots continue to explore for new sources of water and nutrients, thus preparing for the burst of renewed growth which comes with spring. Once again, our larger tree species will resume their slow but deliberate assault on our valley and mountain views!

The CS&MC urges you to take action now. Are any of your trees interfering with your enjoyment of Sandia Mountain or the Rio Grande Valley? Are they interfering with the views of your neighbors? If the answer is yes, the time for action is now. Plan to have them removed before the SHHA Annual Meeting in June 2010 and enter the Lottery for a chance to have the cost reimbursed.

### **Lottery Rules**

- Must be a member of the SHHA
- Trees must have been cut and removed after January 1, 2010
- Any size Siberian Elm\*\* may be entered (including young sprouts)
- Siberian Elm\*\* stumps must be treated to prevent re-growth
- Trees of all species over 26 feet high are eligible
- Trees on County rights-of-way are eligible
- Only Tree Owner can give permission

for tree removal

### **To Apply**

- Fill out a Lottery application at the SHHA Office
- Provide a paid copy of the invoice for tree removal

### **Winners**

- Drawings will follow the SHHA Annual Meeting in June 2010
- Need not be present to win
- Winners will receive actual cost of removal up to a maximum of \$750.00 per tree
- Drawings will continue until a total of \$5,000.00 has been awarded

Please see the SHHA website at [sandiahomeowners.org](http://sandiahomeowners.org) or drop by the SHHA office for complete Lottery eligibility, entry, and rules.

Not a member of the SHHA? Join with your neighbors now to do your part to support Sandia Heights and enjoy the many benefits of membership, including the Tree Lottery. Drop by the Office to join!

\*Extrapolation from the January 2006 ACC Covenant Enforcement Survey

\*\* Siberian Elms, often confused with Chinese Elm, are prohibited by the Covenants.



## **SHHA Membership Cards & Merchant Benefit Program**

Your membership cards and tags can be used to expedite: admission to SHHA sponsored events, picking up Sandia Peak Tram Passes, access to SHHA Office benefits & services, and for claiming SHHA Merchant Benefits.

Current SHHA member benefits and services include: office and notary services, annual classified ads, Coffeehouse Concert Series, Sandia Tram Passes, covenant enforcement, no-fee ACC applications, and discounted safety vests.

*Continued on page 7*



**Officers**

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Secretary – Frances Desonier  
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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
Alarms	12	Newspaper pickup	14
Animal control asst.	3	Noise complaints	2
Breaking & entering	1	Open door/window	10
Assault/Battery	0	Parking problem	2
	0	Pet nuisance	0
Car accident	1	Rescue assist	1
Customer assist	2	Salesman problem	1
Dumped/spilled material	0	Special patrol	21
Family dispute	0	Special request	3
Fire	1	Speeding vehicle	0
Fireworks complaint	2	Suspicious person	15
Front office	9	Suspicious vehicle	19
Loud music	1	Theft	3
Lost/found item	1	Threat/personal	0
Mailbox vandalism	0	Utility Co. assist	2
Motorcycle nuisance	0	Vandalism	4
Motorist assist	1	Vehicle burglary	2
Neighbor dispute	0	Wildlife report	3
	0	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>136</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.



**Recycling:** If you have not signed up for the recycling pilot program please contact Sandia Heights Services at 857-8924 or visit their website at [www.sandiaheightsservices.com](http://www.sandiaheightsservices.com)

**TRAM PASSES:** SHHA has purchased 6 corporate tram passes per day! Please visit our website for all the details: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org). The Tram is closed for maintenance from April 5-16. It will reopen on the 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.



Here to serve our Members!

Office Hours: 9am to 4pm, Mon – Fri

Tel: 505-797-7793

Fax: 505-856-6544

### Member Benefits

- Office Services: faxes, copies.
- Notary Services
- Annual Resident Directory & Guide
- ACC applications at no charge
- Contractor Evaluations Binder
- Discounted Safety Vests
- Free Classified Ads
- Free Sandia Peak Tram Passes
- Merchant Benefits Program: great discounts with cooperating merchants
- Free Admission to the Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series
- Covenant Control
- Architectural Control
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After hours: 856-6419

Email: [jsexton@sandiapeak.com](mailto:jsexton@sandiapeak.com)  
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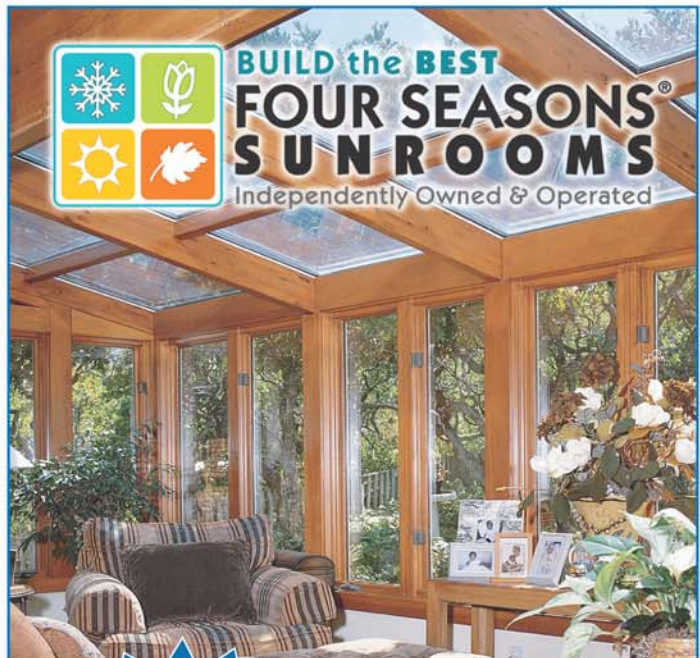
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Continued from page 3

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**Bair Medical Spa - Best Way Carpet - Black Diamond Taekwondo - Bob's Painting - Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC - County Line of Albuquerque – Curves-Granite Transformations - High Finance Restaurant & Sandiago’s Mexican Grill at the Tram - Jade Enterprises - Massage Envy - The UPS Store**

To see the discounts offered by each merchant visit our website: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org).



**Volunteers Needed!** It is hard to believe we are planning for our upcoming



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



The next concert in the Coffeehouse Concert Series will be Saturday, April 17, with two extraordinary singer/songwriters: John Wort Hannam from Fort Macleod, Alberta, and Jon Vezner from Nashville.

Hannam has performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and he was the Grand Prize Winner of the Calgary Folk Festival Song Writing Competition in 2004 and 2009. Grammy-Award-

winning songwriter/producer Jon Vezner's songs have been recorded by such artists as Faith Hill, Patti Page, Martina McBride, and Vezner's wife, Grammy-Award-winning country music star Kathy Mattea. Check them out at [johnworthannam.com](http://johnworthannam.com) and [jonvezner.com](http://jonvezner.com). Don't miss this one-- with not one, but TWO wonderful singer/songwriters swapping their songs!

Concert will be at Church of the Good Shepherd at 7:30 p.m. Doors will open for members at 6:45 and for non-members at 7. Admission for SHHA members and their houseguests will be free, general admission will be \$15/adults, \$10/teens & seniors 60+, \$5/12 & under, under 5 free.

For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Linda Bolton, 856-7100, [nlightsmgt@aol.com](mailto:nlightsmgt@aol.com).



SHHA Annual meeting on 12 June. (Mark your calendars!) However, your current Board members are starting to think, prepare and plan for that meeting. As we plan we are very cognizant that we will be losing five Board Members effective in June. We need Sandia Heights residents to volunteer to replace these Board Member positions and/or volunteers to serve on a committee.

As your current Vice President, it is my responsibility to recruit volunteers. Please give me a call if you are willing to serve our Sandia Heights community. You will learn more about the area in which you live, you will get to know additional residents who are also volunteering and care about our community. Please drop me an email: [pamoore367@msn.com](mailto:pamoore367@msn.com) or give me a phone call at 828-1639. We certainly hope we can count on you to serve.



## ACC Activity Log

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

- 15 Juniper Hill Road – Wall. Approved
- 111 White Oaks Drive – Re-roof. Approved
- 177 Big Horn Ridge – Replace swamp cooler. Approved
- 186 Big Horn Ridge Circle – Addition. Approved
- 207 Spring Creek Drive – Stucco Repair. Approved
- 208 Spring Creek Drive – Re-roof. Approved
- 320 Big Horn Ridge – Re-stucco. Approved.
- 355 Live Oak Road – Fence. Approved
- 503 Black Bear Loop – Re-roof and Patio Additions. Approved
- 668 Blackhawk Drive – Window Replacement. Approved
- 760-4 Tramway Lane – Re-roof. Approved
- 1103 Marigold Drive – Re-roof. Approved
- 1215 Rockrose Road – Re-roof and Replace Windows. Approved
- 1510 Eagle Ridge Road – Retaining Wall and Landscaping. Approved
- 1536 Eagle Ridge Drive – Door Replacement. Approved
- 2301 Calle de Rafael – Paint & Trim. Approved
- 2431 Tramway Terrace Court – Replace Garage Door. Approved
- 8209 Indigo Court – Re-roof. 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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- **Notary and office services** (faxes – copies) free to members.
- **Tram passes** free to members, please check with the office for your pass.
- **Contractor Evaluation binder** free to members. **We are in need of evaluations for Pesticide companies and Septic Tank companies.** If you have used someone and would like to write an evaluation, please download the contractor evaluation form from the website or contact the office and we can email you one.
- **SHHA Board Meeting** – Wednesday, April 14 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**, free for members, can be found on the website under the News and Information page.
- **Safety Vests for sale** in the SHHA office. \$2 per vest for members and \$4 per vest for non-members.



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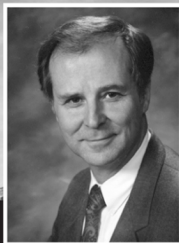
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## Community Event Bulletin Board

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

**Church of the Good Shepherd** has several services during Holy Week. The church is located at 7834 Tennyson Street NE. For more information call 856-1004. There are two services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>, Palm (Passion) Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. join us for a Foot Washing and the Last Supper. On Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 Noon is a Service of Tenebrae. The Celebration of Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup> includes services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with an Easter Breakfast between 9:00 and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

**MasterWorks of New Mexico:** Several Sandia Heights wall artists will be participating in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual MasterWorks of New Mexico Exhibit being hosted at the Hispanic Arts Building on the Expo NM Grounds Tuesday through Sunday 10am - 5pm April 9 - 30, 2010. We invite you to view the highly juried large and small scale work by members of the Pastel, Watercolor, Oil and Miniature Societies of New Mexico. The Opening Reception will be held Friday, April 9 from 5-8pm (Awards announced at 7pm) with an Open House/Paint In being held April 18 from noon-4:00pm. For more information please call Judi Foster at 856-6545 or 249-7167.

**Sandia Heights Artists News...** We are looking forward eagerly to the Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert on Saturday, April 17. A number of Sandia Heights Artists will set up their work at tables in the foyer outside the concert room. The doors open at 6:45 PM at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Great music, great art, we hope to see you there!



### Secure Mailboxes Available



**The UPS Store** located at the corner of Tramway & Academy has mail boxes

available. Some of the benefits of a mailbox at our store vs. the Post Office are:

- 24 hour access to your box.
- Package acceptance from all carriers: We'll hold your packages-even oversized ones-in a secure location for pickup.
- You receive a real street address, not a P.O. Box.
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We are offering 3 months free when you sign up for 1 year. That's 15 months service for the price of 12 months! Call or stop in for details and to check out all the other services we offer. 505-323-8345.





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