



May 2016 Vol. 32 – No. 5

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For the GRIT Editorial Policy please visit our website:

sandiahomeowners.org.
The policy can be found in the SHHA Rules and Regulations for the Association under the Board tab.

"MEET AND GREET" WITH BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SCHEDULED

In response to a request at the February 7 Annual Meeting, SHHA has scheduled a meeting with Sheriff Justin Dunlap, Captain of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department for Thursday May 12, 6:30 pm, at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 7834 Tennyson.

Sandia Heights Services will have a representative at the meeting as well. All SHHA residents are welcome to attend and hear about increased patrols as well as how the department plans to continue to increase safety resources for Sandia Heights.

Meet and Greet Procedures of Conduct:

- 1. Please silence all cell phones during the meeting.
- 2. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

FIRE WEATHER WARNING

For the last month or so, the National Weather Service has been posting daily warnings about increasing fire danger in New Mexico. The El Nino effects that produced ample precipitation in the winter have waned considerably, causing below average readings for February and March.

While most of our Covenants prohibit open burning and other careless fire endangerment activities, we all need to be aware of fire danger due to our proximity to Cibola National Forest, as well as the emphasis on allowing natural growth to occur in arroyos and our properties.

The following information is provided courtesy of the Cibola National Forest website:

To Report a Fire: CALL 911 or Albuquerque Zone Dispatch 505-346-2660. Here are a few helpful tips if you should need to report a fire:

- Stay calm and don't panic. Help will arrive as soon as possible.
- Write down as much information about the fire as you can before you call to report it.
- Tell the dispatcher where you are calling from. If you are calling from a remote area and are using a cell phone, give the dispatcher your location.
- If you are calling from a remote area and do not have a map or cannot pinpoint you location, give the operator a description of a nearby landmark or the nearest highway or county road.
- Give the dispatcher a description of what you are seeing. Is the smoke black or white? Are flames visible? Are there people, or homes, nearby?
- If the fire is close to your location and you are in danger, tell the dispatcher and leave the area, as soon as possible.
- Give your name and phone number. If you are calling from your home, give your address, too. This will help officials in locating you and locating the
- If you live in or near a forested area, consider purchasing a National Forest or County map. Learn how to read the map and become familiar with landmarks and access roads. A map may help you in reporting a wildfire to authorities.

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Keep Bears Wild

By Dave Mottle, Parks and Safety Chair

Bears started coming out of hibernation in late March, and now, in May, they are ranging further afield to find food.

Remember, they didn't eat all winter, and they're hungry!

We want to keep our dwindling population of bears in the Sandias wild, and the only way to assure that they stay wild is by not having anything on our property that would attract them.

This means **keeping garbage indoors** and not putting it out until the morning of trash pickup, bringing bird feeders inside at night (or stop feeding the birds during the time bears are active, usually April through mid-November), feeding pets indoors as well as storing pet food and extra bird seed inside the house or garage, and keeping doors and windows closed and locked after sunset. Please do your part to keep our bears safe!

When NM Game and Fish removes bears from the Sandias, the majority of those are usually killed. These bears' only crime was taking advantage of food left easily available by humans. Let's make this a better year for our bears!



Photo by Norma Leeper





Be Safe. Be Smart. Be Seen.



Make Sure Drivers Can see you

Pedestrian Safety Reminders

By Parks & Safety Committee

Safety is so very important, especially in Sandia Heights, where there are no sidewalks. With hilly and curvy roads, it is difficult for drivers to see walkers and joggers.

Pedestrian Safety Tips:

- 1. Walk on the **Left** side of the Road Facing Traffic [This is a NM State Law!]; make eye contact with drivers approaching you.
- 2. Wear a reflective vest or brightly colored clothing, particularly in the evening. SHHA members can purchase a vest in the office for only \$2!
- 3. If you are walking a dog, keep the dog to your left.
- 4. Whenever vehicles approach, a group of pedestrians should walk in single file.
- 5. If you expect to be out before sunrise or after sunset, please carry a light.
- 6. Observe the safety of our children on or near our neighborhood roads. Please be aware of children walking and/or playing on or near our narrow roads before and after school and at school bus stops.





Hawks Landing Development Update

(Note: Hawks Landing is the Mhoon Property)

After extensive negotiations and discussion, the parties (the Connors, the developers, SHHA, and the Alliance of Sandia Heights Neighborhoods) reached a final accord last week on the Hawks Landing site plan and the Conditions that will be a part of the site plan.

Panorama agrees to withdraw the stand alone R-2 zoning request and will use the modified Special Use (SU) zoning instead, when the County has approved the SU application. The District Court case involving the County and the Connors will be dismissed upon approval of the Special Use Permit (SUP).

Under the current plan, there will be 34-35 homes, including townhouses on the west side closest to Tramway.

There will be a walking path by the arroyo. People will be able to access the walking path on the north side of the development by walking through the path by the arroyo and one of the roads in the development.

Panorama will implement Covenants for the development similar to the North Tramway Estates covenants. Sandia Heights Homeowners Association will have the ultimate authority to enforce the Covenants after development is complete.

It is anticipated that the SUP will be approved at the County's May meeting.





SHHA Secretary Report

By George Connor, SHHA Secretary

The questions received at the February Annual and Town Hall Meetings have been answered and approved by the Board at the April 13, 2016 meeting. The guestions and answers are posted on the SHHA website and will remain on the website until the end of May 2016. In addition, the Annual Meeting PowerPoint Presentation Slides and Annual Meeting Minutes have been posted to the website and will remain on the website through the end of May 2016.

If you have a concern or a question or need information please email us at sandiaheights@comcast.net. Any request for information will be responded to within 8-10 business days of receipt.

Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings. The meeting schedule can be found under the Board Tab: Board Meeting Schedule. Please call or email the office to notify us if you wish to attend.



Volunteers Needed!

The Communications and Publications Committee is looking for new members! If you like volunteering to work with words or websites, reviewing restaurants/movies/happenings, or have business, sports, travel, local, or any news that might interest our readers, this is the place for you! Contact the SHHA office (sandiaheights@comcast.net) for details.



Stats from Sandia Heights Security Patrol

Last Month	# of	Last Month	# of	Last Month	# of calls
	calls		calls		
Alarms	23	Miscellaneous call	7	Special request	173
Animal control Assist	1	Motorcycle nuisance	0	Speeding vehicle	3
Assault/battery	0	Motorist assist	4	Suspicious person	3
Breaking & entering	0	Neighbor dispute	1	Suspicious vehicle	25
Car accident	3	Newspaper pickup	46	Theft	2
Customer assist	1	Noise complaints	0	Utility Co. assist	1
Dump/spilled material	1	Open door/window	5	Threat/personal	0
Family dispute	2	Parking problem	0	Vandalism	2
Fire	3	Pet nuisance	3	Vehicle burglary	1
Fireworks complaint	0	Rescue assist	2	Wildlife report	0
Home burglary	1	Salesman complaint	5		
Lost/found item or pet	3	Sheriff office assist	0		
Loud music/party	2	Snake call	1	Total Calls	333
Mailbox vandalism	0	Special (extra patrol)	9		

SANDIA HEIGHTS SERVICES (SHS) 10 Tramway Loop

Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Services (they provide water, sewer, trash and recycle collection, and security services) is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership.

Also, Membership in SHHA does not include Sandia Heights Security membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them. If you have questions regarding the preceding stats, please call Security 856-6347, mobile 263-4654.



Solicitors in Albuquerque are forbidden by law to knock on any door where a sign is posted, clearly stating that solicitors are not welcome. Such signs should include the words: "No Trespassing," or "No Peddlers," or "No Advertisements" or "No Soliciting". The "no trespassing" is especially important in addition to the "no solicitation" sign. Security Officers can then ask the solicitor to leave private property. Remember virtually all of Sandia Heights is County roadways, and there is no County ordinance that can keep them off the roadways. Signs should be posted where they can be seen from the roadway.





Sandia Heights Home Sellers!

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Sharon and Judson McCollum know that thoroughly understanding your prospective is the key to achieving results when they help you sell or buy a home. That's why they listen, truly listen, to your goals and immediately develop an open line of communication that continues throughout your transaction. They then prepare a plan tailored to your unique goals and enact the plan with energy and positive results.

It's comforting to work with someone who has your best interest in mind.

Judson and Sharon work as your real estate agent, counselor and consultant. They have developed a meticulous follow-up system to keep you updated every step of the way. On a timely basis, they inform you of their progress and outline the next steps they will take towards meeting your goals. It is comforting to know exactly where you stand at all times.

SandiaHeights.com

To learn more about Sharon and Judson's real estate service call today for a free consultation on how to sell your home or buy a home.

You will find it is a pleasure to talk with a real estate agent who sees things from your point of view.

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- 12 homes on over .50 + acres. AVG P./S.F. is \$181.25
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THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF ACTIVE CSC VIOLATIONS:

Unit No.	Type of Violation	
7	Vehicle/Equipment	
	Parking	
7, 1	Home maintenance	
4, 11	Dead or Prohibited Trees,	
	Dead Vegetation	

2 Files Closed in the Past Month



Covenant Support Committee

Your Covenant Support Committee (CSC) would like to pass along a friendly reminder regarding the long-term parking of recreational vehicles (RVs), travel trailers. and boats in the Sandia Heights neighborhood. This is not a new issue within our community, and at times becomes a major irritant for other residents. Although the published covenants for the earliest developed units do not specifically spell out RVs. the Second Judicial Court in the late 1990s determined long-term parking of RVs, camper trailers and boats on all residential lots in Sandia Heights is prohibited. The court allowed parking of such vehicles for a period of no more than 48 hours for maintenance and provisioning.

The CSC does not police the neighborhood for violations; however, if a complaint is received, your homeowners association and the CSC will act upon it with the full authority and backing of the judicial system. We would ask all residents with RVs, travel trailers and boats to be good neighbors and respect the rights of other residents and adhere to the covenants. Please keep in mind that the covenants are here to ensure we can continue to live in a pristine community and maintain the value in our homes.



Covenant Support Committee (CSC) Needs Volunteers

The CSC is looking for new members. If you are a member of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA) and a home owner please consider volunteering for your Covenant Support Committee and help ensure the enforcement of SHHA covenants. We meet at the SHHA office once a month and we have the excellent back up of our SHHA staff. Covenant enforcement contributes significantly to maintaining our property values and to preserving our unique community. If you would enjoy meeting with interesting, concerned and fun neighbors who share your appreciation of Sandia Heights please consider joining the CSC.

You can volunteer by calling the SHHA office at 505-797-7793.



Choosing Your Contractor

Bob Bower, Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Chairman

My last article in the April 2016 GRIT focused on the ACC's Neighborhood Review (NR) process. Once the NR is completed, the ACC, with your consent, may make some adjustments to your construction proposal based on comments from your neighbors. The ACC will then proceed with its approval of your project. Now it's time, if you have not already done so, to find a contractor for your home improvement project. Know who you are dealing with when hiring a contractor—the wrong choice may cost you lots of headaches and money.

In today's economy, many homeowners are choosing to remodel their current homes rather than deciding to purchase a new one. But in order to cut costs, some homeowners are hiring unlicensed and uninsured contractors.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

These contractors can become a sizeable liability to the homeowner through shoddy workmanship or by failing to complete the remodeling task. Keep in mind that contracting without a license is illegal in New Mexico and hiring unlicensed and uninsured contractors has had a negative impact on the local home remodeling industry.

There are plenty of unlicensed individuals in today's home remodeling market equipped with a set of tools, a vehicle, and inferior remodeling skills.

They deliver bids to the homeowner at prices too good to be true! Unfortunately, many of these individuals end up getting hired for the remodeling job. Remember the old adage: "You get what you pay for", and this is very true for the home remodeling industry. The use of low quality materials and shoddy workmanship can go unnoticed for months or years. The cost of redoing poor work and paying for a licensed contractor to build what was originally planned for can be avoided by using some "up-front smarts" when choosing the contractor in the first place.

The lack of proper insurance is one of the most obvious and devastating ways construction costs can be cut. If a contractor should fall off the homeowner's roof, use faulty materials and methods, or damage the homeowner's home or belongings, there is usually no coverage to protect the homeowner. In these circumstances, the uninsured contractor cannot afford to pay for personal injuries and other damages, leaving the homeowner with an uncompleted project and, in some cases, significant costs to settle claims against the homeowner's insurance policies.

If you have been the victim of unlicensed contracting or would like more information on the topic, you can visit the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department's Construction Industries Division website at:

http://www.rld.state.nm.us/construction/constructions-industries-overview.aspx Note: When hiring a contractor, look for license number, liability coverage, and workers' compensation. Don't be afraid to ask for copies of these documents to make sure they are up to date. Good luck with your home improvement projects. Remember to provide comments (pro and con) to the SHHA office for inclusion in our contractor evaluation books so other members

can take advantage of your experiences with your contractors.

ACC Activity Log

Summary of **Approved Projects** activity since the last GRIT:

5 Juniper Hill Loop – Asphalt Driveway

7 Juniper Hill Road – Photovoltaic Panel Installation

183 Big Horn Ridge Drive - Reroof

341 Big Horn Ridge Drive - Wall

423 Live Oak Court - Reroof

517 Black Bear Loop - Reroof

576 Black Bear Road - Restucco

675 Roadrunner Lane - Awning Replacement

696 Bluebird Lane - Window/Door Replacement

735 Tramway Lane – Paint House Stucco, Garage Door and Trim around Garage Door

780 (A-D) Tramway Place - Reroof

793 Tramway Lane – Reroof

884 Tramway Lane Court - Landscaping

922 Tramway Lane - Fence

944 Deer Drive – Window Replacement

999 Lynx Loop - Driveway

1175 Laurel Loop – Photovoltaic Panel Installation

1417 San Rafael Avenue - Landscaping

1514 Eagle Ridge Road – Deck Replacement

1915 Quail Run Drive - Re-roof

2509 Tramway Terrace Court - Fence

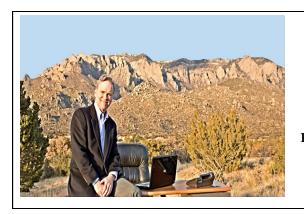
2751 Cliffrose Drive – Roof Repair/Stucco Repair/Restucco

7728 Cedar Canyon Court – Photovoltaic Panel Installation

8203 Indigo Court - Restucco

11107 Bobcat Place – Window Replacement

Visit the website: <u>www.sandiahomeowners.org</u> to read about all projects currently under ACC management.



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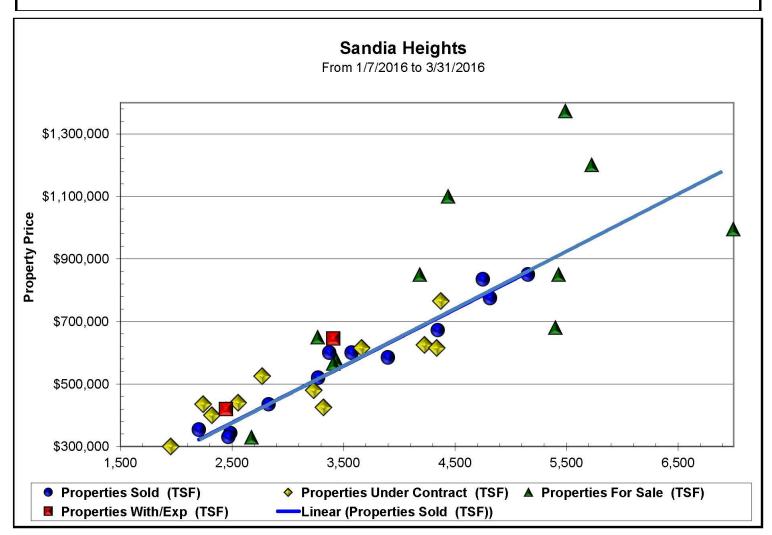
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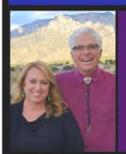
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REMEMBER Y2K?

Max & Teresa have helped 341 customers sell or buy property in Sandia Heights since that legendary date.



What really counts are the number of smiles, Tram rides, new neighbors and gorgeous sunsets... We are happy to be a part of this wonderful neighborhood and we thank you for your business.

MAX SANCHEZ 228-8287



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www.MaxSanchez.com www.SandiaHts.com



Social Security Update

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS PLANNING & INVESTMENTS

Our hope is to educate, we hope you find this useful & enjoyable

Social Security Seminar

Pre-retirees and retirees who were counting on exercising a coordinated claiming strategy to maximize Social Security benefits recently learned most of those options have been virtually eliminated. Social Security rule changes were slipped into a budget compromise designed to keep the county from running out of money.

We are hosting a seminar on these changes and opportunities that still exist with Social Security. Information is as follows:

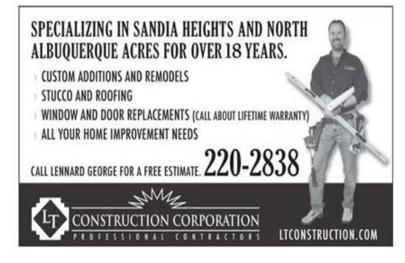
> Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 6:00 PM-8:00 PM In the Uptown Area (RSVP for specific location) Please RSVP to Amber at 505-508-4661 or WellsA@CeteraNetworks.com

For more in-depth conversation, please feel free to contact us at 505-717-1111 or visit our website: www.NMFinancialSolutions.com

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COMMUNITY EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

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

ATTENTION: CALL FOR ARTISTS

Calling all Sandia Heights artists: Do you paint? Sculpt? Make jewelry? Knit or weave or create wearable fabric art? Create pottery pieces? Do photography or woodwork? Mixed media pieces? If the answer is "yes," we would love to have you join us for the 2016 Sandia Heights Artists Studio Tour, which will take place on Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. This is a unique opportunity to show (and sell) your work and to get to know your artistic neighbors. For further information, including the date and time of our next organizational meeting, please call Nancy Mattern at 856-6313. NOTE: this will be our final call for artists before the studio tour, so gather your creative energies and give us a call! Check out our website at www.sandiaheightsartists.com

SANDIA HEIGHTS "CORK & FORK" DINING ACTIVITY

We are in our eleventh year of the Sandia Heights "Cork & Fork" dinner group. We meet bimonthly in small groups in the homes of our members. Each small group is usually three couples plus a host couple, with each couple contributing to some part of the dinner menu. All couples and singles are welcome. The emphasis is on food and fun rather than formal elegance. We're always happy to have new folks join us, so if this sounds like an activity that you might be interested in, please contact Linda Mason at lindamason307@gmail.com or 505-554-2934.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday Friday 9am 4pm.
- Office closure: Memorial Day Monday, May 30
- **Board Meeting:** Wednesday, May 11 at 7pm in the SHHA office.
- Notary, copies, faxes, email alerts, and access to contractor evaluation binders-free to members.
- Committee meetings are posted on our website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.
- Classified ads can be found on the website on the top bar menu under Classifieds.
- Safety Vests for sale in the SHHA office. \$2 per vest for members. Cash or check only.
- SHHA membership cards: do not forget to go to the website to get a full listing of the companies that offer a discount!
- Tram Passes: for sale in the SHHA office. \$5 per ticket for members. Cash or check only.

SHHA Member Benefits:

Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program at www.sandiahomeowners.org and enjoy discounts at our supporting local merchants. The SHHA Merchant Benefits Program includes the following current participating merchants:

Alarm Research Inc. - Albuquerque Custom Tint and Glass - Avis/Budget Car and Truck Rental Bair Medical Spa - Brown & Brown Ins. of NM - Domino's Pizza - High Finance Restaurant - Jade Enterprises - PCM Electrical - Sandiago's Mexican Grill at the Tram

Chiropractor, Mark L Schwartz DC

Each merchant participating in the Member Benefits Program offers a discount to SHHA members. To identify what discounts each merchant offers visit the SHHA website at: sandiahomeowners.org. and under the *Notices and Information* Tab you will find *SHHA Members Benefits*. Scroll down to view all the different merchant discounts.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in the SHHA Merchant Benefit Program please email us at sandiaheights@comcast.net