



THE GRIT



SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SPRING ~ 1998

LIGHT ORDINANCE UPDATE:

By Frank C. Sandoval
- Bernalillo County Zoning Administrator

Many residents of Bernalillo County are growing up unable to gaze at the stars their grandparents knew so well. This is true not only in cities, but also in rural areas where new developments sometimes bring along many urban growth problems. "Light pollution," perhaps the most visible, should not be the price of progress.

Reducing light pollution is not difficult. It's fairly painless if you use efficient outdoor lighting fixtures, like those equipped with "light and motion sensors" or "automatic timing devices." Shielding (Cutoff) light fixtures can minimize light glare spilling onto adjacent property when they are installed or mounted at a height of no more than 16 ft. above grade. Individual home-

Spring is in the Air and It's Time to Get On Board

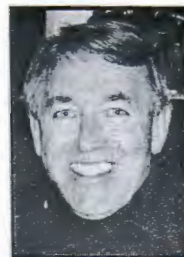
By Marshall Aungier - SHHA President

I am pleased to report that Mr. Bill Roberts, owner of the Kicks 66 on Tramway Boulevard, has offered to make changes in the lighting at the new convenience store/gas station after learning that the lighting was offensive to Sandia Heights residents. See Bernalillo County Commissioner Barbara Seward's Report on page 4 of The Grit for more on this issue.

Word from Bernalillo County is that they are waiting for submittal of an acceptable drainage plan and revised plat from the developers of the Cedar Hills Subdivision, planned for the southeast corner of Tramway

applies not only to additions, fences and decks, but also to any re-stuccoing, re-roofing, patios or sheds - in short all exterior work.

The SHHA Annual Meeting is coming up in early June and elections will be held to replace expiring board positions at that time. Members with interests in architectural control, road and safety issues, enforcement of covenants or governmental issues are invited to consider lending your talents to the Board. **Please call the SHHA office at 296-1412 or any current board member if you are interested in being on the Board.** Look for more info in the May Grit.



Marshall Aungier

The Covenant Support Committee continues to work for compliance with the covenants in each of our 30 plus Units. No simple task! We owe a big thanks to **Ruth Friesen**, Chair of this Committee for time-consuming effort in scanning in all of the covenants so that they may be accessed through SHHA's Homepage on the Internet - <http://www.nmla.com/shha>

Other committees have been working with Bernalillo County on developing drainage infrastructure and the establishment of guidelines for future development in Sandia Heights and North Albuquerque Acres, as well as working with Sandia Peak Tram Company to reduce the noise level emanating from the **pumping station** south of Tramway Road.

The **Contractor Evaluation Program** continues to be a service that is frequently utilized and appreciated by SHHA members. If you need information on a contractor or service provider, chances are the SHHA office has evaluation forms submitted by one of your Sandia Heights neighbors for the area of expertise you need. Our files contain references on plumbers, electricians, roofer, stucco companies, window cleaners, tile installers, concrete and asphalt companies and general remodeling.

Call the SHHA office at 296-1412 to get the scoop or need blank evaluation forms. We are especially in need of information on yard workers and house cleaners! **Any teenagers who are interested in doing yard work** are encouraged to call the office to get your name on a list to be given out to other residents who would like your help during the spring and summer.



Board members shared some Christmas cheer at the home of SHHA President Marshall Aungier. (L-r) Lester Libo, Rob Loughridge, George & Bonnie Hight, Yvonne & Jim Wise, Irene Middleton and Ruth Friesen.

Boulevard and Cedar Hill. Once these are submitted and undergo required review by governmental departments, notice will be given of a public hearing by the County Planning Commission. SHHA will stay informed on this issue.

The Architectural Control Committee has given approval of the preliminary site plat submitted for the proposed **day spa** at the northeast corner of San Rafael and Tramway Boulevard and is awaiting final plans for their review.

The ACC is gearing up for what promises to be a busy spring. Remember to submit any proposed **exterior projects** to this committee for review and allow 30 days for a response. The covenants stipulate that this



owners can help reduce light pollution by using night lighting only when necessary, choosing well-shielded outdoor light fixtures and turning lights off when not needed. How can you tell when outdoor fixtures are creating light pollution? Visual discomfort may occur when the glare from a light source is too bright, inadequately shielded, or the lamp (bulb) exceeds 75 watts. Note: the ordinary porch light fixture is not affected by the new ordinance.

Should your outdoor fixture be identified as one creating light pollution or causing visual discomfort for adjacent property owners, you will be advised to remove or convert the fixture to conform with new residential use parameters within five (5) years.

Unlike other ordinances the "Light Pollution Ordinance" gives us a unique mission - striving to be kept in the dark. Still have questions? Contact **Frank Sandoval, Zoning Administrator, at 924-3700.**

CORRECTION!

SANDIA HEIGHTS SERVICES
NEW NUMBER IS 857-8924

THE GRIT

THE GRIT
is published quarterly
as the official newsletter of the
**SANDIA HEIGHTS
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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SEE WHAT'S UP!

BOARD NEWS:



By Ruth Friesen - SHHA Secretary

In the last three months the Board has been working on:

- County Lighting Ordinance
- Issues with Kicks 66 lighting
- Fence construction issues
- Noise from Sandia Peak Services pump
- Sign repair for Los Altos de Sandias
- Architectural control in Unit 8C
- Drainage plan for North Albuquerque Acres and Sandia Heights
- Realtor sign proliferation
- Covenants issues including RVs, fencing, landscaping, unscreened air-conditioners, commercial enterprises

Want to know what's going on?

If you would like to know what's going on in our unique community, all residents are welcome to attend the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association board meetings held the second Wednesday of every month - 7 PM at the Fire Station on Paseo del Norte.

SHHA BOARD MEETINGS

- MAR. 11TH
- APR. 8TH
- MAY. 13TH

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FAX 897-6868
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Wednesday, March 18th

OPEN HOUSE & TOUR

Judith & Paul Terry
368 Big Horn Ridge Road
797-1388

10am - Noon

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★ ROUNDHOUSE REPORT ★

This Year's Legislative Session:

Windows '98 – With a Few Bugs

Many observers and participants of the 1998 Legislative Session are calling it "Windows '98." The push to close **drive-up liquor windows** or provide a local option to do so grabbed the public's attention like no other issue this year. Addressing the embarrassing fact that New Mexico has the highest drunk-driving fatality rate, many variations of legislation to close these window were debated in both the State House of Representatives and State Senate. Unfortunately, the issue remains unresolved, as no final bill passed both legislative chambers to reach the Governor for consideration.

Legislative sessions in even-numbered years are only 30 days long. Time is short, so while the drive-up liquor window debate raged, precious time was not spent on the other important state matters and issues. Drinking and driving is a priority of the highest level, however, not enough time was devoted to the State's Annual Budget, which is traditionally the focus of 30 day legislative sessions. Thus the budget that passed the House and Senate this year has some serious "bugs," as Microsoft entrepreneur Bill Gates would put it.

Budget Woes

The \$3.17 billion legislative budget exceeds the state's projected revenues and can run the state into debt. Governor Gary Johnson indicated that the new budget "overspends and is unacceptable." Fiscal responsibility towards the state's checkbook is a duty we owe to our children and grandchildren.

Another "bug" in the budget is the shortfall in spending for the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety. Crucial investigatory positions, such as a DNA expert's job were unfunded and will expire if the budget bill passes unfettered. All indications point toward Governor Johnson calling the lawmakers back to Santa Fe sometime before the end of the fiscal year, which is June 30, for a Special Session of the Legislature to untangle the budget mess and give it another shot.

The flawed budget and unresolved drive-up liquor ban were not the only issues addressed this year. Out of approximately 900 bills introduced, 144 were passed and sent to the Governor for him to sign or veto. There were some dramatic legislative highlights regarding welfare reform, tax cuts, crime prevention, education reform, highway improvement and gaming oversight.

Welfare Reform

The legislature passed and Governor Johnson signed welfare reform into law. The long-overdue, common-sense approach requires that everyone who can work will work. The plan calls for welfare recipients to work, either at a paying job or in community service, or to go to school in exchange for benefits. Welfare recipients and the "working poor" are also eligible for child care, job training and transportation. There is a five year limit of benefits in a lifetime. **New Mexico is finally in line with the federal mandates for welfare reform.**

Tax Relief

The overburdened taxpayers of New Mexico finally will benefit from some tax cutting measures. Led by the Governor himself, over \$60 million a year in tax relief packages are now awaiting his signature. Among them are:

1. **Lifting the gross receipts tax on health care.**
2. **Lowering the unemployment compensation charges paid by businesses.**
3. **Eliminating the state tax on prescription drug sales.**
4. **Extending tax relief to the elderly, working poor and high income New Mexicans.**

Crime

You've asked us for more police officers to patrol the state highways and we've delivered. Governor Gary Johnson signed into law legislation giving New Mexico's State Police funding to hire 50 more officers this year and 40 more officers for each of the next three years. The \$13 million package will also give our hard-working and underpaid peace officers a 20% pay raise.

Education Reform

The Democrat-controlled legislature stalled and defeated many popular and badly needed educational reforms, including Charter School expansion. We did manage to pass open enrollment legislation, making it easier for students to enroll in school outside their districts. But for the most part, we've continued to throw more and more money at a school system that fails to educate and prepare our children to compete in the growing global market – a school system that remains unaccountable to the citizens of the state. Fortunately, this year's spending increases will go where they belong – into the classrooms. Regular teachers will receive a 9% pay raise and \$4.5 million for teacher training programs.

Highway Improvements

The highways in New Mexico rate among the most dangerous in the country. Compounding the problem is the fact that our dilapidated roads are discouraging new and relocating businesses from settling here. Saving lives, encouraging economic development and servicing the state's infrastructure are the motivating factors behind legislation allowing the Highway and Transportation Department to issue bonds for nearly \$1.3 billion in road projects.

A combination of federal and state funds will pay for road repair on the state's most heavily traveled corridors in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and the Las Cruces area, as well as widening NM 44 to four lanes between Bloomfield and Bernalillo.

Gaming Oversight

Badly needed regulatory supervision of off-reservation slot machines was established in the form of the Gaming control Board with a \$7 million appropriation signed by Governor Johnson. The board will ensure strict compliance with the state's gaming legislation at fraternal organizations and race tracks.

The 1998 legislature's accomplishments are important and praiseworthy. Unfortunately, the budget sent to Governor Johnson is a mess. We're not making any major travel plans between now and June 30th, because the general consensus is that we'll be called back to the drawing board in Santa Fe. Hopefully, during a special session, we can come up with a fair and responsible state budget.



Kip Nicely
State Representative/District 31
296-9277

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or when you were born...
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You don't have to stop thinking when
you walk into our church.
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Very active youth, adult,
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timing
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\$15 per tree (up to 9 ft.)
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Environmental**

Call Dan or Jacque
856-6617
Sandia Heights residents

County Of Bernalillo

Spring 1998 Report



January and February are always busy times for elected officials because the Legislature is in session. Bernalillo County has two initiatives for legislative consideration that I would like to bring to your attention.

EXTRATERRITORIAL PLANNING, ZONING AND ANNEXATION

Current law has conflicting provisions providing cities and counties with authority for and jurisdiction over extraterritorial platting and planning within the unincorporated areas of counties. **House Bill 238** provides:

- A mechanism to establish an extraterritorial land use commission composed of county and city members.
- Open dialogue between the county and the city regarding forced annexations.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The proposed amendment to the State Constitution would allow the voters of New Mexico to decide if Bernalillo County should establish a system for the professional selection of the County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Assessor and County Sheriff. By appointing officials to these offices, county management would be able to eliminate redundant efforts and provide a higher level of service to the public. Please call us if you have any questions on these two issues.

HAPPENINGS IN THE FAR NORTHEAST

- At last! The contract for San Bernardino Park will be awarded at the first commission meeting in March. Work should begin shortly thereafter.
- County Public Works has contracted a firm to surface-treat Juniper Hill Loop, Rock Ridge and the entry portion of Juniper Hill Road in the North Sandia Heights. Surface improvements to Sandia Heights Drive are also included in the annual School Bus Route Agreement.
- We are rapidly approaching the end of the Alameda Corridor Study. A public hearing will be scheduled in late February or early March.
- Negotiations continue to identify sites for additional turf playing fields and children's playground parks.
- If you would like to schedule meetings in the Lt. William Sabrava Sheriffs Substation, you may call 798-7007 to reserve the public meeting room.
- Did you know State Law Enforcement Dispatchers Academies for state certification are regularly held at our substation? We have participants from the City of Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque Public Schools, Albuquerque Police Department and the University of New Mexico. We are proud of our communication and dispatcher staffs!

I would also like to use this public forum to say thank you to Roberts Oil and S&J Enterprises for their cooperation in addressing light pollution concerns at the Kick 66 station on Tramway Boulevard. The red stripe around the canopy has been toned down, flat lenses have been ordered for under the canopy and all Lights except those used for security are turned off by 11pm. Let's all express our appreciation to Kick 66 for being such a responsive good neighbor.

Until next time...

Barbara J. Seward
Bernalillo County Commissioner
District 4



Architectural Control

By *Chris Harmon* - SHHA Architectural Control Committee, Chair

No report submitted.

Other Committee Members:

Don Aunapu, Weldon Johnson, Nancy Norem, Bill Waters, James Wise

Traffic & Safety Report

By *Bob Brown* - SHHA Traffic & Safety, Chair

No report submitted.

Other Committee Members: *John Cashwell, George Hight*

Announcing...

a Spring Celebration

at Wild Bird Center

**POOLS,
PONDS
& PUDDLES**

MACCOURT LAWN PONDS
Attractive Garden Ponds, Instantly!
For In Ground Or Deck Installation.



- Most styles 18" deep
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Davis Weather Wizard III

Included are all of the following functions:

- Inside temperature from 32° to 140° (0° to 60°).
- Outside temperature—from -50° to 140° (-45° to 60°).
- High and low temperature with time and date.
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- Wind speed to 175 mph (150 knots, 280 km/hr, 78 m/s).
- High wind speed with time and date.
- Wind chill to -134° F (-92° C).
- Low wind chill with time and date.
- Alarms for temperature, wind speed, wind chill and time.

#7425 Weather Wizard III...\$195.00
(One Year Manufacturer's Warranty)
Many other models are in stock!

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Bring in "the other guy's" empty birdseed bag and receive **20% off** on any of our locally formulated birdseed blends (Not to be combined with other offers)
(expires 3-31-98)

Coupon

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(expires 3-31-98)

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10% Off
on any MacCourt Lawn Pond or on any of our concrete bird baths
(Not to be combined with other offers)
(expires 3-31-98)



Wild Bird Center

Your ultimate backyard nature store
The Promenade Shopping Center
SPAIN & EUBANK NE
(5200 Eubank Blvd. NE Suite B-8)
Albuquerque, NM 87111
• (505) 332-4737 •

How to find the Wild Bird Center



Communications & Community Services

By Claire Wilcox - SHHA Vice President and Committees Chair

Special OPEN HOUSE and Coffee to Usher in Spring



Feeling low and need a lift? Come to Sandia Height's first coffee of the new year and join other neighbors and friends for a real treat. The Terrys of Big Horn Ridge are graciously opening their newly remodeled and updated home for a special tour. So let's join them for a cup of coffee and a great chance to ooh and aah!

Take Live Oak to White Oak. Turn right to Big Horn Ridge, then left to #368, seven houses down the road. Look for the SHHA balloon!

Coffee / Open House
Judith & Paul Terry
368 Big Horn Ridge Road
March 18th, 10 -12 noon

Take Live Oak to White Oak. Turn right to Big Horn Ridge, then left to #368, seven houses down the road. Look for the SHHA balloon!



Wine enthusiasts sample the fare at last year's successful event. See you there!

SHHA WineTasting Saturday, March 7th

The 4th Annual Winetasting is here! On Saturday, March 7th, from 5-7pm, at Futures For Children, we will be serving 45 fine wines provided by National Distributing Company. That's 10 more than last year! Tickets are \$8.00 per person. The hors d' oeuvres and finger foods everyone brought to last year's event provided such a wonderful accompaniment to the wines and the evening, we are asking for an encore.

Please bring your favorite appetizer once again, and we promise to publish the recipes in the Grit. So bring a recipe card with your dish and we'll not only enjoy it at the winetasting but all through the year.

Futures for Children is the building directly across from Circle K on the west side. To gain entrance, drive to the light at Tramway Lane and turn west, go to the first intersection and turn north, following the road into the Futures for

Children parking lot. Start your evening with some excellent wines amongst friends and neighbors. Non-alcoholic wines as well as soft drinks will also be available! And there will be plenty of time afterwards for dinner somewhere special.

A ticket reservation form was stuffed in your February Sandia Heights Services bill. If you didn't see it, call Claire Wilcox at 856-6282 for last minute information.

Don't forget to bring one of your favorite hors d' oeuvres and a recipe card!!!!



Taste over 45 different wines!



Futures For Children - 9600 Tennyson NE

Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Pick up prepaid tickets at door, no tickets sold there.

4th Annual SHHA

Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 7

5:00 - 7:00 pm

\$8

per person
(Must be over 21)

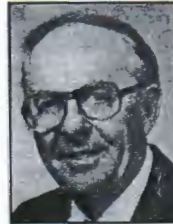
If you can, please bring a favorite Hors d'oeuvres dish AND a written recipe. We plan to feature them in the next Grit!



45 wines can be tasted this year! 8 wines over \$15 and 4 over \$20. Geyser Peak Reserve Shiraz at \$32/bottle will be the most expensive. Non-alcoholic wines and soft drinks will also be served!

Government Liaison

By George Hight - SHHA Government Liaison, Chair



This Committee is continuing to try to solve the lighting objections at the Kicks 66 Station on Tramway. A meeting was called by Commissioner Barbara Seward to discuss these concerns. Owner William Roberts of Roberts Oil was represented by Mr. Mike Kerr, the builder of the station. Other attendees were: Two members of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association; two representatives from the North ABQ Acres Association; Frank Sandoval, county Zoning Administrator; and County Commissioner Barbara Seward.

Mr. Kerr agreed that the lighted red stripe on the station canopy was too bright and discussed plans to make it similar to stripes on other buildings. The County has agreed to measure the lumen output of the canopy lights to determine their compliance with the new Lighting Ordinance. It was also agreed that there should be some sort of shielding around the canopy lights to reduce the nighttime brilliance. Mr. Kerr said he was meeting with representatives from Phillips and would present the problem to them. Any changes would be the responsibility of the station owner. Mr. Kerr promised to report to Commissioner Seward after his meeting with Phillips, and in a letter to the SHHA Committee, advised that he was changing the lens in the canopy lights to reduce the brilliance of the spillage as well as reducing the brightness of the red stripe.

The Committee has also been asked to check the legality of the real estate signs that are being placed at corners and intersections of some of the streets in Sandia Heights. The proliferation of these small lead signs has raised a number of objections by residents. At this time we are calling the companies/individuals and requesting that they remove them. Residents are not objecting to a single sign on the property for sale or the one day use of an Open House sign.

Other Committee Members: Barbara Rosnagle, Bob Brown

New Development

By John Keller - SHHA New Development, Chair

No report submitted. Committee Members: Jon Cashwell, Lester Libo, Bill Waters

SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY CALLS COMPARISON - 1996-1997

TYPE OF CALL:	JAN - DEC 1996:	JAN - DEC 1997:
Alarms	641	609
Open Door/Window	59	35
Motorist Assist	165	123
Breaking & Entering	12	18
Attempted Breaking & Entering	13	12
Possible Breaking & Entering	1	5
Construction Site Burglary	3	3
Vehicle Burglary	22	11
Suspicious Vehicle	170	128
Suspicious Person	79	74
Peeping Tom	6	0
Theft (Larceny)	35	36
Animal Control Assist	33	15
Lost/Found Pet	58	89
Pet Nuisance	20	21
Snake	18	21
Family Dispute	9	10
Neighbor Dispute	8	8
Loud Disruptive Party	17	10
Fireworks Complaint	7	6
Vandalism (General)	92	46
Mailbox Vandalism	59	69
Mailbox Stolen	6	0
Lost/Found Items	9	5
Deer Hunters	0	0
Speeding Vehicle	12	2
Assault/Battery (Fight)	4	5
Death Threat	6	5
Unusual Special Request	64	53
Salesperson Problems	30	18
Phone Problems	11	8
Car Accident	15	21
Motorcycle Nuisance	6	1
Fire	40	21
Rescue	41	12
Utility Company Assist	52	38
Construction Sites	20	33
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.)	29	31
Specials (Extra patrols/observation)	48	74
Homeowners on Vacation	2568	2565
TOTAL CALLS	3751	4334
Total Mileage	46256	44152

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Crusty French, Italian & German Loaves.



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and

4801 Montañõ Rd (at Taylor Ranch Dr.) 899-2566

Home Style Breads:

Whole Wheat, White, Fruit Filled & Cheese.



Stay Loose & Have Fun! Visit Us For Breads With Pizzazz. Free Your Imagination. Make Every Meal Memorable.

Fresh Bread - Great Taste



Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

As spring approaches, thoughts turn to the garden... Thinking of adding something new this year?

Join us for the next meeting of the Wildflower Club:

"Planning Your Herb Garden"

Wednesday, March 18th, 7:30 pm
Home of Peggy and Al Owens
1434 Honeysuckle Drive

Discussion • Questions • Refreshments

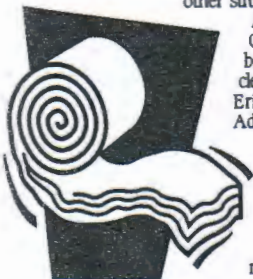
For more information about the Wild Flower Club, call 856-6844

Covenant Support

By Ruth Friesen - SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair

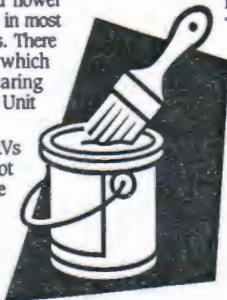
Check Before You Construct

The spring construction and renovation season is upon us. The covenants, which run with the land and apply to all lots in Sandia Heights, require that any construction, renovation, or alteration of any structure, including walls, fences, antennas, air-conditioners or any other structure, be approved by the Architectural Control Committee. Before you begin any work, including clearing of the landscape, call Erin Frinkman, the SHHA Administrative Assistant at 296-1412 for the proper form to submit for project approval.



"The natural vegetation is to be left undisturbed where practical on residential lots, except for access to property, clearing of building sites and establishments of lawns and flower beds adjacent to buildings." This exact wording is in most of the covenants (37 of them) in Sandia Heights. There are also prohibitions against planting trees which constitute a screen, Chinese Elms, cotton-bearing Cottonwoods, and Bermuda grass. Check your Unit covenants for the exact wording.

We continue to get complaints about RVs parked in Sandia Heights. Most of the Units do not allow trailers, boats, or recreational vehicles to be parked anywhere except in an enclosed building. The Association has a lawsuit pending which will help legally define what constitutes an RV and the intent of the covenant dealing with this issue. If you own an RV, please use any



of a number of storage facilities listed in the Yellow Pages. Let's try to keep our neighborhood looking as natural as the developers intended.

Another issue that has arisen is the use of wire fences. This type of fence is not allowed anywhere in the Sandia Heights area, except at subdivision boundaries, as installed by the developer. As previously noted, all fence construction must be approved by the Architectural Control Committee.

When you signed the paperwork purchasing your property, you should have received a copy of the covenants for your Unit from the Title Company or your Realtor. If you didn't receive them, or can't find them, you can get a copy from the SHHA office (296-1412), or from the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office (768-4040). Soon you will be able to browse Sandia Heights Homeowners Association's Webpage - <http://www.nmla.com/shha> for all the newly scanned and proofed SHHA covenants.

The Board, the Architectural Control Committee and the Covenant Control Committee work very hard to maintain the standards of our community for your benefit. Please do your part to keep Sandia Heights a beautiful community. If you have any questions regarding covenants, you can call the SHHA office or Ruth Friesen, Covenants Chairperson (856-1593)

Other Committee Members: Lester Libo, Lorrie Rice, Robert Thomas



New SHHA Web Site Soon!

37 sets of covenants for Sandia Heights can soon be accessed on computer. Finishing touches are being applied and our site should be up and running within the next few months, thanks to SHHA Communications Committee member Debbie Miller. Questions, ideas? Call 858-7271



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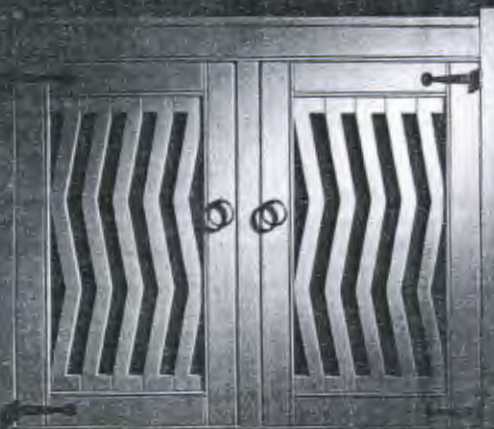
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SANDIA LAND CLAIM UPDATE:

Still In Legislative Limbo

By Jack Walker – Sandia Mountain Coalition, Co-Chair

The only actions of any significance on the Sandia Pueblo's land claim since our last report in The Grit are related to a resolution passed by the Pueblo's Tribal Council on August 27, 1997 (RESOLUTION # 97.44). The resolution, endorsed by the Superintendent of the Southern Pueblos Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, was directed to the Sandia Peak Tram Company and stated the Pueblo's position with respect to the Tram Company's interest in its Sandia Heights Subdivisions.

The resolution "reaffirms and recognizes all of the existing, legitimate rights, title, and interests including without limitations any rights, title and interests (the Tram Co.) has in "...Sandia Heights Subdivisions, access roadways and utility rights-of-way. The resolution specifically states "...future (utility) installations may be made for the benefit of (those) properties."

After receipt of this resolution in November 1997, the Tram Company filed an "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) brief with the Court stating their position on the claim. In short, the Tram Company now believes the Pueblo will protect the Company's business interests and therefore it does not oppose and "generally supports" the Pueblos claim. In response, the U.S. Justice Department attorney, representing the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior in opposition to the Pueblo Claim, pointed out that the Tram Company's operation is apparently dependent upon obtaining a lease from the Pueblo for land located within the Pueblo's boundary, and in maintaining good business relations with the Pueblo; Therefore its parochial position does not qualify for amicus curiae status.

Encouraged by the Pueblo's commitment to allow future utility installations, Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC) contacted Public Service of New Mexico (PNM) and Jones Intercable with requests to pursue the possibility of adding natural gas and cable to the area. After looking into it, PNM advised us "that the resolution does not provide much in the way of rights," and quoted the Pueblo's attorney as saying "...that any extension would have to be approved by the Pueblo, "...if approved, there would be conditions such as limited term, compensation, etc. placed on this approval" and that "...it is possible that it would not be approved at all." PNM's conclusion was "It appears that Resolution 97-44 does little for the homeowners of Sandia Heights and Terra Monte."

Although this latest Tribal council Resolution does not directly address the interests of the actual residents of Sandia Heights North, Terra Monte and Evergreen Hills, it is, SMC believes, a good example of the difficulties we face in settling this dispute. Attorneys opposing this claim question whether this resolution is legally binding even though it is endorsed by the BIA. Tribal Council Resolutions are, in general, not binding, and resolutions by the Pueblo regarding title, access to, and jurisdiction over (taxing etc.) either private or public lands may be changed by future Pueblo administrations. Thus current statements of disinterest in private properties and commitments to continued public access to forest lands may be disavowed in future resolutions. It is thus the intent of the SMC to continue to influence the current legal

proceedings through our intervenor status in order to obtain clearly defined rights for homeowners as well as "open space users." To this end, SMC will continue efforts to obtain a favorable Court decision and legislation guaranteeing by law, title, access and utilities on private lands as well as public access to the lands within the current national forest and wilderness area.

Finally, there is nothing new to report on the status of a decision in the U.S. District Court in Washington. The Pueblo has requested an oral argument on all pending motions, so the ball is still in Judge Greene's court. Please remember "it's not over until it's over" and we need your continued financial support as we continue to attempt to protect your interests. Contributions to cover legal fees, comments and suggestions can be sent to Sandia Mountain Coalition, P.O. Box 14353, Albuquerque, NM 87191.

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RESIDENT PROFILE: Sandia Heights' Very Own

By Carolyn Hindel - Grit Editor

Not many communities can brag about having a prima ballerina in their midst. But Sandia Heights is a very special place, and Patricia Dickinson is one of our very special residents. Last year she was welcomed as the new Artistic Director of the New Mexico Ballet Company, taking on an excellent group of dancers facing an uncertain financial future. But this lovely lady brings a wealth of dance expertise and directorial experience that just may be the "turning point" for this deserving company as well as a growing number of balletomanes.

If you were lucky enough to witness the delightful *Nutcracker* of Christmas past, you were privy to her efforts in bringing dance straight to the heart where it belongs. Patricia had been the Sugarplum Fairy many times during her challenging career and was overflowing with ideas on how to revitalize this beloved work, gathering a cast that ranged from Albuquerque 8 year-olds to seasoned professionals from around the world. She directed and choreographed the performance along with her long-time friend, renowned dancer and UNM professor, Bill Evans. Together with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Roger Malone, they brought Popejoy Hall to its toes.

But directing is only one of the "tiaras" that she wears. Tucked away in the corner of a shopping mall on Wyoming south of Montgomery is Dance Theatre of the Southwest where Patricia is owner, director, teacher and second mom to over 150 dance students of all ages. There are classes in Modern dance, jazz, Tap and Flamenco, but classical Ballet remains the staple. At any given time, pixies in pink tights and black leotards can be seen practicing their "pliés," while older girls line the barre on "pointe," making difficult leg lifts seem effortless. Shoulders down, hands soft, thumbs hidden. Grace personified. Classes are relaxed but formal, with as few as 12 students participating. Training is all important - with instruction in nutrition, safety and anatomy. "My dancers know they have to eat well to have their bodies perform," says Patricia. "We also have a significant number of boys in attendance, who use the rigorous dance exercise routines to keep in shape and enhance their abilities in football, soccer, track, swimming and other sports. Parents don't force their kids to take lessons anymore, my students want to dance."

And that's how Patricia started back in Athens, Georgia. She wanted to dance. Born to parents who loved music, dance lessons were available to all five of their children. But only Patricia became serious about it. At five, she was studying 3 days a week with her favorite dance teacher, Nancy Stone. "In seventh grade I was already teaching friends after school to pay for my pointe shoes," she confides. At nine, she was accepted in the Southern Ballet Company of Atlanta, where she danced under the auspices of Pittman Corry and famed American Ballet Theater dancer, Karen Conrad.

But after 9 years with the company, Patricia heeded her father's advice and enrolled at Sullins College in Virginia to pursue a degree in dance physical therapy. "You really don't need a degree to be a dancer," says Patricia, "but it's a difficult financial path. You only perform about 24 weeks out of the year, so you may have to find other ways to make a living." She was a scholarship recipient at the North Carolina School for the Arts and studied at the Graham Conservatory in New York. Her dance tutors included Madame Valentina Belova and Nikita Talin of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

She graduated with a BFA in Dance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1978, while simultaneously serving as Artist-in-Residence for the Dallas Black Dance Theater - the foremost regional Black company, and dancing for the Dallas Opera and the Dallas Ballet. Choreographers and teachers such as George Skibine, Marjorie Tallchief and James Clouser fine-tuned her dance techniques. She was also a founding member and co-director of the Dancers Unlimited in Dallas for ten years, performing the works of Bill Evans, Bill T.



Patricia Dickinson is Artistic Director of the New Mexico Ballet Company and Owner of Dance Theatre of the Southwest School of Dance

Jones, Matthew Diamond, Peter Pucci and Moses Pendleton of the contemporary Momix Company.

Her years of performing were indeed filled with superstars and special moments. Arthur Mitchell of Dance Theater of Harlem offered Patricia a part in his unique composition *Rhythmtron* because she was one of few able to do a "contraction on pointe," a very traditional modern dance move. She worked with Judith Jamison for 6 fascinating weeks in 1984 after the 6 ft. legend left the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and "jeté" to bel canto Puccini operas sung by great divas like Renato Scotto. She became friends with Gelsey Kirkland, an



▲ 18 month-old Nicholas and his ballerina mom.

◀ A ballet class warms up at Dance Theatre of the Southwest on Wyoming.

Sugar Plum Fairy.

Patricia and Larry hold Nicholas and their Siberian Husky Sitka in front of Bertha, Larry's prized bass fiddle that cut its strings on the steamy streets of New York City.



American Ballet Theatre favorite, when Gelsey came to New Mexico to teach a master class for Patricia's dance school in 1996 and 1997. One of her most poignant memories was watching Russian phenomenon Maya Plyetskeya dance to perfection at age 60. One of her nightmares - having to dance a Pas de Deux in the Paper Doll Ballerina with a broken zipper on the back of her elaborate wedding gown costume. A standing ovation brightened her crimson face as the performance came to an end.

It was also during those years that Patricia arabesqued into directing and choreography, "...sculpture with people, music with bodies, and drama... without words," as Clive Barnes once described it. She loved the artistic challenge. She collaborated with a New York company to produce dance exercise and instructional ballet videos and recorded over 15 musical albums for dance schools. She continues to perform the "History of Dance," a program and series of workshops she designed for the Texas and New Mexico school systems, through a grant from the ABQ Urban Enhancement Trust Fund. Patricia has



Dad relaxes at his Yamaha Grand while son Nicholas composes for Pooh Bear on a Yamaha of his very own.

taught dance in all but three states in the U.S., as well as in Canada, Mexico and Sweden. Dance Masters of America and Dance Olympus/Dance America are but a few of the organizations which still benefit from her considerable experience.

Through all the traveling, teaching, performing and grueling schedules, Patricia still found time to fall in love. She met her husband Larry Wells in 1978 while he was studying law in Dallas and she was studying dance. Four or five times a year, they would escape to the rejuvenating open spaces of New Mexico. Married in a meadow at the Pecos Wilderness west of Santa Fe in 1985, they vowed to someday move to the state. Their dream became a reality in 1990, when they decided to quit their jobs and look for a home in Albuquerque. Patricia had a potential position teaching at UNM under Bill Evans, then Chairman of the Dance Department. Larry would be opening a satellite law office for his Dallas law firm. Being close to the mountains and forests was a must and Sandia Heights seemed perfect. A cozy corner home on Tramway Terrace Loop was waiting for them. It has a spacious greatroom that encompasses both the kitchen and living room separated by a huge adobe fireplace. A beautiful fountain adorns their western view as it spills down the patio wall just outside the dining area. Bertha, Larry's prized bass fiddle, is propped prominently in a bookcase corner, a testament to one of his many loves - music. A stunning walnut grand piano is nearby vying for attention. Larry still plays rock, jazz and blues with old buddies who were members of the band Mystic Vic in Albuquerque. He practices commercial real estate law at Campbell & Wells, PA.

And then there's Nicholas, an 18 month-old bundle of energy with a cherub's face, who has taken over the house and the lives of this fascinating couple. A joyful child, he's already showing interest in the arts. He has his very own synthesizer under his crib and when a ballerina dances her way onto the Sesame Street TV screen, he stops everything he's doing to admire her with gigantic eyes. Sitka, the family's Siberian Husky keeps her own watchful eye on all proceedings. Patricia is thrilled with finally being a mom to her own child after being a surrogate mother to so many children throughout her teaching career. She admits there was some "sibling rivalry" amongst her students, but Nicholas has won their hearts, attending rehearsals with mom on many occasions.

If you ask this fairy princess about the future, she foresees satisfying times raising her son and continuing to teach. Dance Theatre of the Southwest has already performed *The Secret Garden*, *Babes in Toyland* and *Mary Poppins* and will premier *Snow White* this May at The Rodey Theater. And watch for magic from our very own New Mexico Ballet Company with Patricia at the helm. The 25th Anniversary Gala is May 8th and 9th at Popejoy Hall and will feature the work of five choreographers, three sets of guest artists and Patricia's new children's ballet to the music of the Green Chile Jam Band.

"When dance works it liberates all kinds of feelings, conscious and unconscious, giving a wonderful release which is at once valid and vanishing. Beyond their own the dancers know another perfect world. They diagram a fragment of eternity." - Thomas Victor. Patricia Dickinson would agree. ✱

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SPRING GARDENING TIPS

February: if you haven't gotten gardening catalogs yet, send for them now • Begin planning/designing your garden • Seeds can be started indoors for later transplanting • If the ground isn't frozen, water plants and trees deeply at least once • Wash down all evergreens with a hose • Honeysuckle, santolina and butterfly bush can be pruned back hard • Ornamental grasses, except blue fescue can be pruned • Shrubs can be dug up and transplanted • Set up planting beds, roof drains, etc., to take advantage of water run-off as snow melts, or as we get more precipitation.

March: If weather is warming, add slow release fertilizer to plants and phosphate to bulbs and iris; plant summer bulbs • Dig up and divide day lilies • Clean any debris that is around plants and trees • If ground is unfrozen, start preparing planting beds for vegetables & flowers • Be sure to rotate crops from last year, and to add organic material • Prune fruit trees, grape vines and roses between end of March and middle of April • Call the Garden Center for information on demonstrations.

April: If weather is warm enough, it is a good time to transplant seedlings • Plant plenty of annuals to get an early start on garden color; perennials will come up later • Plant tomatoes and peppers towards end of April, or beginning of May • Start watering more frequently, but beware of these city ordinances: Watering by hose ok between 10am and

6pm; sprinklers ok before 10am and after 6pm.
Call City of ABQ at 768-3655 for details.

A MINI-VEGETABLE PLANTING GUIDE:

March: Fava or Garbanzo beans, carrots, leeks, spring onions, parsley, snap or snow peas, spinach, radishes • **April:** Cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, turnips, watermelon • **May:** Tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucumbers, potatoes, bush, pole or Lima beans, other melons, brussels sprouts • Since the Sandia Heights growing season may be shorter than in other areas, try using seed or plant varieties that develop early or are marked for short season growing • Read labels • Ask your nursery.

A MINI-HEIRLOOM PLANT GUIDE FOR CONTINUOUS COLOR:

(Below are bloom periods only; planting should be in early spring. Note that perennials often take up to two years to become established, so plant plenty of annuals with these.)

April: Creeping phlox, rock cress, crocus, daffodil, snowdrops, violets, pasque flower, grape or blue hyacinths • **May:** Peony, tulip, dianthus, German, Siberian or bearded iris, candytuft, columbine, spiderwort • **June:** Poppy, jupiter's beard, foxglove, yellow flax, baby's breath, snow-in-summer, lavender, catmint, delphinium, Jacob's ladder, speedwell, canterbury bells • **July:** Hollyhock, bee balm, daylily, golden marguerite, shasta daisy, feverfew, yarrow, purple coneflower, lamb's ears, balloon flower • **August:** Blanket flower (gallardia), hardy chrysanthemum, rudbeckia, sea-lavender, spike gayfeather, plumbago, globe thistle • **September:** Stonecrop, aster, coneflower, helianthus, Pitcher's salvia, Michaelmas daisy, New England aster.




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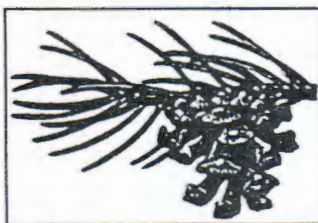
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PLANT OF THE SEASON



Pinyon Pine
Pinus edulis

Pinyon Pine (*Pinus edulis*) is a native evergreen conifer in the southwest region of the U.S. and northeastern Mexico at elevations between 4,000-8,000 feet. It is the state tree and grows 15-20 feet tall and 10-15 feet wide. The trunk may be single or multiple with gray to black furrowed bark. Small cones measuring 1-3 inches long produce large edible nuts. Short blue-green needles measuring 3/4 to 1-3/4 inches grow in bundles of two. A distinctive pine fragrance emanates from this plant especially after a rain.

Planting: Pinyon Pine is usually available as a container plant, or balled and burlapped. You can usually get larger plants if they are in ball and burlap. For a container plant, dig a hole the size of the root ball and plant directly into the ground. If the soil is well drained (and Sandia Height usually is), no soil amendment is needed; otherwise, in mostly clay soils, dig the hole slightly larger than the container size and mix 1/3 planting mulch with 2/3 existing soil.

For ball and burlap plants, be sure to remove all chicken wire and burlap after a plant has been set in its hole but before the soil is backfilled into the hole. Build a berm with soil around the base of the tree out to the ends of the branches. Fill up the basin twice to ensure a deep soaking. For the first three months, keep the plant moist! After that, deep soak every two weeks depending upon the time of the year. After the plant becomes established, deep soak every month to keep Pinyon Pine looking its best.

Use: Pinyon Pine is a long lived, slow growing tree but may grow as much as 4-6 inches per year if basic care is taken. Evergreen foliage gives year around beauty in the garden and is especially noticeable in winter when many plants die back to the ground or drop their foliage. Use as a single specimen to attract birds, not just for nesting but as a food source when the pinyon nuts mature. It Makes a good screen, tall hedge or windbreak. If space permits, plant a group of them together to form a native, low water forest. Very cold hardy, they can be planted anywhere in New Mexico up to 8,000 feet in elevation. They can also be planted temporarily in containers but need regular waterings.

Landscape Care: Pinyon Pine is a low maintenance plant that needs a thinning out of dead wood every 2 years. Be sure to check your tree periodically for insect pests. Here are the three major insects that can affect a Pinyon Pine. First, in early spring, aphids can attack a tree just as the weather begins to warm up. Although the insects may not be observed initially, a sticky, shiny residue may be found on the needles and on the ground around the base of the plant.

There are a number of pesticides (organic or synthetic) that can be used. If you have an aversion to pesticides, a strong jet of water every two weeks for a 2 week period can be used. The second pest is the pitch moth. Looking along the trunk or large limbs you may find a pinkish gummy mass. If you get a knife you can scrape the gummy substance away and often find a 1 inch meal worm like insect. Just dispose of it in the trash. Left unchecked, whole branches may die out. There is no chemical control for pitch moth. Lastly, there is the pine tip moth which attacks new growth, usually twice during the year. Their damage causes dead tips on the branches which can severely limit the growth of your tree.

Pine tip moth is prevalent at the end of April/beginning of May and again at the end of June/beginning of July. The County Extension Service sets out traps to determine the time to spray. It does no good to spray outside this time frame. Be sure to check with your local nurseries or call the number below. The spray used for Pine Tip Moth is either Cygon or Orthene. Be sure to follow label directions and wear the proper protective clothing. There is no organic control for this pest.

If you have any questions regarding this plant or want information on Pine Tip Moth season, call Dan Caudillo at 856-6617.
(He independently sets his own traps in Sandia Heights.)

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Did You Know that Animal Cruelty, Care, Maintenance, Licensing and Nuisance is Covered by County Law?



Take Note

You may be surprised to know that a County ordinance protects animals from people and people from animals. Pets that bark incessantly, litter on neighboring property, or are not properly maintained can become a problem for unsuspecting owners. Wantonly killing, injuring or poisoning domestic pets or wildlife is against the law. Here are some excerpts from that ordinance for your information and your protection:

Bernalillo County Ordinance 88-16, Section VI

D. Animals disturbing the Peace.

It is unlawful for any person to allow any animal to unreasonably bark, howl or make noise common to their species, or otherwise to disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the County of Bernalillo, or to keep or maintain in such manner as to disturb by noxious or offensive odors, or otherwise endanger the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the County of Bernalillo.

E. Animal Nuisances on Sidewalks, Public Parks, Alleys and Other Places Open to the Public.

It is unlawful for the owner of an animal to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such animal to commit any nuisance upon the sidewalks or public park; or upon the floor or wall of any common hall in any multiple dwelling; or upon any entrance way, stairway or wall immediately abutting on a public sidewalk; or upon the floor or wall of any theater, shop, store, office building or other building used in common by the public; or upon any private property other than the owners of the animal.

Section VII: A. Physical Abuse.

It is unlawful for any person to willfully or maliciously kill, maim, disfigure, torture, beat with a stick, chain, club, or other object; mutilate, burn, or scald with any substance; overdrive or otherwise cruelly set upon any animal except that reasonable force may be employed to drive off vicious or trespassing animals.

If you have questions about this ordinance, please call the Bernalillo County Animal Care & Regulation Department at 875-6706.

Vaccination & Licensing

All cats and dogs over three months old are required by County Ordinance to be vaccinated against rabies. The vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. As the owner of the dog or cat, you will receive a certificate with the vaccination date and a description of your pet. You will also receive a metal tag with the certificate number and expiration date of the vaccine. The tag should be affixed to your pet's collar.

All cats and dogs over six months old are required by County Ordinance to be licensed. Licenses may be obtained through the County Animal Care & Regulation office. Owners will be required to provide the rabies certificate to obtain the license. A metal tag will be provided and should be affixed to your pet's collar. Licenses are valid for one year from issue date.

Fee Schedule:

Unneutered/Unspayed Dog or Cat License - \$6.00

Above License (If owner is 62 or older) - \$4.00

Neutered/Spayed Dog or Cat License - \$2.00

(Owner must supply veterinarian's certificate)



Proper Care & Maintenance

Pets need adequate food, drink, shade, care and shelter in order to maintain good health. If these basic elements are not provided by pet owners, the pets may be taken into protective custody by Bernalillo County Animal Care & Regulation.

It is important to keep your pet in a safe, enclosed area. If you have him/her on a chain or leash, it must be 8' long. Also, remember your pet always needs to be on a 6' leash when you take him/her out in public. It is against the law to allow your pet to run free on the sidewalk, in any public park or in any public area.

Dogs may bark to protect your home. However, it is a nuisance to your neighbors if your pet is barking unreasonably.

Cruelty to Animals



Bernalillo County Ordinances prohibit anyone from maliciously hurting any animal, abandoning or intentionally poisoning any pet or animal. County ordinance also prohibits female dogs or cats in mating season to run free, they must be confined.

If your dog rides in the back of a pick-up, it must be secured. Leaving your pet in a closed vehicle in the summer months can be very dangerous, leave at least one window rolled down, or better still, leave your pet at home.

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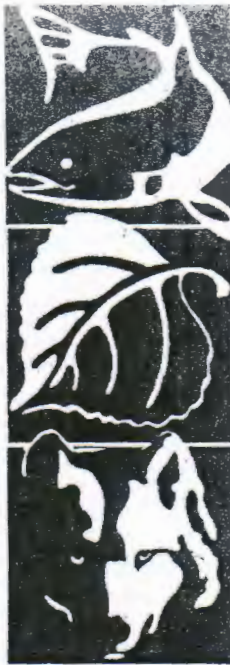
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News from the Albuquerque Biological Park Educational Program

Spend your Winter and Spring Saturdays (and a few Fridays!) connecting with nature at the BioPark. Discover fascinating ties that bind your life to the animals and plants sharing your world. Share an "Underwater Overnight" Adventure with your family! Learn the ancient art of textile dyeing or uncover your hidden talents in the "Art of Arranging Flowers." BioPark Connections 1998 has something for everyone!

Want something fun as well as educational for your kids to do during Spring Break? Why not send them on a "Spring Wildlife Safari" at the Rio Grande Zoo? They can see how the polar bear cubs are doing, play games, scavenge answers to habitat riddles, and participate in lots of fun activities. An experienced guide will even introduce them to Esperanza, the cheetah.

Have a budding botanist or marine biologist in the family? Your 9 to 11 year-old can join Captain Lucky and Professor Botanica during Spring Break for a "Spring Land and Sea Search" of the Albuquerque Aquarium and Rio Grande Botanic Garden. Young explorers will have the opportunity to see what's new there, learn about herbal remedies and develop their skills tying nautical knots to take home.

Registration forms with class descriptions and fee information are available at the Rio Grande Zoo and Aquarium/Garden offices, Albuquerque public libraries, local bookstores, or by calling BioPark Education at 848-7180.

Tired of going to the same old place for lunch? Pack up that sandwich or salad and join your friends at the Rio Grande Zoo for their monthly educational "Brown Bag Lunch Seminars." State Land Commissioner Ray Powell will talk about New Mexico habitats and what state government is doing to protect lands on Thursday, March 5th and Saturday, March 7th. Then come aboard an "Undersea Slide Show Adventure" with ocean photographer Allen Rutenberg on Thursday, April 2nd and Saturday, April 4th. Seminars are from 1:15 - 2:00PM on Thursdays and 12:15 - 1PM on Saturdays. Brown Bag Seminars are held in the Zoo Education Barn and included in the cost of regular zoo admission. For more information call 848-7180.

Watch for more information on Spring/Summer programs, and plan on joining your friends at the Albuquerque Biological Park for fun and adventure while you learn about sharing our planet!



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SANDIA HAPPENINGS

By Carolyn Hindel -
Grit Editor

Wild and Not-So-Wild Life



Above: Two bobcats check out the view from a resident's deck on Big Horn Ridge, while a youngster samples the birdbath in a yard on Juniper Hill. Families of bobcats are becoming more prevalent in our community.

With the increasing number of encounters Sandia Heights residents are having with large cats, we finally got some facts from NM Game & Fish. (See article on page 18.) Seems that bobcats are really what we are seeing on a regular basis, especially if you live anywhere along the boundaries of the Cibola National Forest or an arroyo that originates there. These stealthy creatures can weigh as much as 45-50 lbs. And bobcats do have tails ranging from stubs to 8"-12" long. Some recent photos by residents indicate that they are adapting well to our environment and caution must be taken to protect our small pets. Please call the SHHA office to report attacks, so we can keep an accurate record for authorities.

Misinformation on Cougar Capture

Contrary to reports, Mike Johnson, District Director and Wildlife Supervisor with the NM Department of Game & Fish, has stated that no cougars have been trapped in the Sandia Heights area. There was one reported in Placitas last year and one was killed by a car on I-40 near Moriarity. There also have been reports of the cats in the Edgewood area. Attacks on pets in Sandia Heights are believed to be perpetrated by bobcats and not cougars. Attempts to trap bobcats with live bait have been unsuccessful. If you're sure you've seen a cougar or bear, please report it to Game & Fish. If a predator is threatening an area they will definitely respond.

Irene Middleton - Communications Committee

Coyotes are also getting braver. A call from a resident on Paintbrush Road described a deadly attack on the family's 15 year-old Cairn Terrier at 8:30 in the morning by a coyote the size of a German Shepherd. It had easily scaled their 5 ft. wall, killing the dog in the yard and then jumping over the wall once again with its prey in mouth. The family's attempt to scare it away with noise and threatening approach did little to undermine its intent. Animal Control said it must have been stalking the pet for some time and used the high brush in the arroyo south of the home to hide. Pets allowed outside for long periods, even in enclosed yards, are not safe from our wildlife. Be watchful and take precautions while they are leashed.

Continuing the sad note, residents bordering the Sandia Indian Reservation lost their Black Lab February 12th, after she ingested deliberately poisoned bait along the unused access road starting north of the County Line restaurant. (See Letters to the Editor on page 18.) Although the substance has been sent for laboratory identification, the enzyme levels and convulsive nature of the dog's death indicate rat poison. It is known that other dogs being walked in that area have also been poisoned, but not fatally. Anyone with information about this cruel and inhumane behavior should alert authorities. Coyotes and other wild animals seem to avoid the tainted bait, but our pets are in danger and informed caution is necessary. Please pass the word.

New Man Joins Sanitation Crew

Our Sanitation Engineers, Danny and Fred, want to express their gratitude for all the kindness shown during the holiday season. They honestly enjoy working for our community and appreciate the daily greetings. They've also added a new man to the team - Marc Johnson is on board now, so say hi if you get a chance. The Sandia Heights Security Patrol responded to 4334 events last year or just under 100 per week, so needless to say they've been very busy. Neighbors are doing a great job of reporting suspicious activity. Keep it up.

Watchable Wildlife Guide



If you've ever noticed those brown signs along our roads with the binoculars on them (there's one on Tramway near the Elena Gallegos turnoff) and wondered what they meant - here's the scoop. A unique, multi-agency project developed in cooperation with Defenders of Wildlife published a New Mexico Wildlife Viewing Guide listing 76 of the best viewing sites. It has 96 pages of interesting facts about our wild friends and costs \$11.45. All proceeds go to the Share with Wildlife Program, as funding for non-game research, education and wildlife rehabilitation. They're available from NM Game & Fish in Santa Fe. Call 505-827-6681 for info.

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A View from the Ranger's Station

Dear Friends,

The Ranger selection process is moving slowly toward assigning a replacement for Floyd Thompson. I expect a decision by the printing of this Grit. Floyd and his family are doing well back east in the Beltway. The Cibola is also seeking a new Forest Supervisor and selection should also occur in March.

I would also like to extend a fond farewell to Neel Marsh, our Ecosystem Planning and Information Services expert, who is retiring after 28 years of service with the federal government. His work with us has been invaluable. The Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts are still sharing resources, so District staff are running programs in both areas. For information about programs, contact the staff person who covered that topic in this report.

Robert Cordts - Acting District Ranger

Fire Information Team by Bequi Livingston

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!!!! The Sandia Ski opened its slopes with 30 inches of snow on December 12th and is going strong! A blessing for ski enthusiasts! But what does this mean to Fire Managers in the East Mountain area - a quiet "fire season" come spring? It is certainly true that the current snow pack is great and the moisture a welcome sight, but what will "El Nino" bring come March and April? The results could be catastrophic if the trend of precipitation continues with a possibility of a -hotter than normal, drier than normal" spring. As long as the precipitation continues throughout the spring and summer, vegetation and new growth will continue to flourish and remain green adding an aura of splendor to the Sandias and Manzanitas. But if a true southwestern spring and summer occurs - with drying sun and blowing wind - a buildup of dense fuels just waiting for ignition will occur as well. And all it takes is one ignition source to make it happen!

Although the current trend looks promising, it is imperative that we focus on remaining "pro-active" regarding fire safety.

Lands, Wilderness, Trails and Recreation Operations Team by Charlotte Minor

IT'S BEEN A WINTER WONDERLAND at the District these days, very pretty. For those of you who bundled up and stayed indoors, it was a beautiful sight to see. For those who were out, winter was grand on Sandia Mountain. Most of the developed recreation sites are closed for the winter, but we do maintain plowed parking areas at Doc Long Picnic Ground, Tree Springs Trail Head, Balsam Glade Picnic Ground, Ellis Trail Head and Sandia Crest. Some other sites do have parking available, but the parking lots will not be plowed.

The construction at Sandia Crest is behind schedule, which meant that the observation deck was closed this winter. Sandia Crest House is open, and visitors can walk down the trail south from the parking lot to a different overlook and still get a wonderful view of Albuquerque and the volcanos.

The District has made the decision to add sites to the Fee Demonstration Project. Last October we held public meetings, and asked for comments on a proposed expansion. After a review of the comments and benefits of being able to keep sites open, the

Proposed implementation will be the spring of 1998. Two issues did come up in the public comments, these were concern about whether low/fixed income individuals would be excluded by adding the sites to the Fee Demonstration area, and if the District was pursuing all possible commercial contact for assistance with trail or site maintenance. I am currently preparing alternatives for additional free days, and making contacts through the Chamber of Commerce to see if local businesses might help with this issue.

Interpretation and Visitor Services by Dana Howlett

If you are interested in becoming involved with either the NM Friends of the Forest or the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, contact Dana Howlett at 281-3304. Both groups will be setting new goals for 1998 in January. Also, our yearly round of volunteer recruitment and training is about to begin. If you would like to be a volunteer, please call Dana.

Winter Recreation/Special Uses by Susan Johnson

For those of you who are still enjoying the snow that "El Nino" is providing, remem-



El Nino brought us a winter wonderland. But summer could be a problem on the mountain.

District decided to go forward. The sites that will be added include: Tunnel Springs Trail Head, Bernalillo Watershed including all pull-outs and parking areas, the Juan Tabo Basin including La Luz and Piedra Lisa Trail Heads, and Canyon Estates Trail Head. The same \$3 fee will apply at these sites, and the Fee Demo Annual Pass will be honored.

ber that sledding, tubing and snowmobiling are prohibited at "the pit" (the hairpin curve just below Tree Spring Trail Head). In addition, snowmobiling is prohibited south and west of State Highway 536. Sections of passing lanes near Nine Mile Picnic Ground and 10K Trail Head have been identified for parking. But before parking anywhere, be sure it is allowed and that there is sufficient clearance so that you will not restrict or prevent two-way traffic. Don't park in front of any gate.

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Large Predators of the Sandia Foothills



By Chris Chadwick - Public Information Officer, NM Game & Fish

During the spring and early summer, the calls start picking up. Sightings of coyote, bobcat and the occasional cougar eventually make their way to the offices of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Usually, the caller wishes only to report the presence of these animals, which doesn't necessarily require officers to take any specific action. Occasionally, however, it's a little more serious. Either the remains of a family pet are found or in the case of a cougar, its presence in an urban neighborhood may demand a response. In most cases, the caller is just looking for some information. The principal questions asked revolve around whether or not these sightings are normal for a given area and what threat do these predators pose to either their family's safety or to that of their pet. In the following paragraphs, you will discover why these encounters happen and what to do if you come face to face with a large predator. Most importantly, you will learn some basic information enabling you, your family, and your pets to live safely with them.

Background

While responding to wildlife complaints near the Sandia foothills (including Sandia Heights) I have encountered people who have different opinions regarding wildlife. A typical comment is... "I don't mind the wildlife but I think it belongs in the forest, not in my yard." On the opposite side of the spectrum the comments I receive are more like... "wildlife was here first and people should either learn to live with it or move into the city." Whichever side you subscribe to, the truth is both notions are neither practical nor attainable. Here's why.

Sandia Heights is located in close proximity to the Sandia Wilderness. The Sandias support a diverse array of plant and animal species. Picture the mountain as a shrinking oasis in the desert able to support only a certain amount of plants and animals. Over the last fifteen years large tracts of land have been developed on both sides of the mountain. The animals that once lived in these previously undeveloped areas are displaced and forced to compete for shrinking resources such as food and cover. As the city continues to expand, more people take advantage of the picturesque trails and open space. Hunting pressure is low, due mainly to limited vehicle access and a restriction on the use of firearms. For most wildlife inhabiting the Sandia foothills, encountering people is common and rarely results in anything negative. Contrarily, many people take it upon themselves to feed the wildlife either intentionally or by accident. So now the same animals that once had an innate fear of humans have become accustomed

to their presence and are often rewarded in the process. The end result is that the search for food and cover is extended to your neighborhood for both predators and prey.

Encountering a Large Predator

People rarely get more than a brief glimpse of either a cougar or a bobcat. Coyotes, however, are more commonly seen. Attacks on people by either coyotes or bobcats are unlikely unless these animals are cornered or somehow provoked. Cougar attacks on people are also very rare, with fewer than a dozen fatalities in North America in more than 100 years. Most of the attacks are by young, inefficient lions; generally those forced out to hunt on their own and not yet living in established territories. In New Mexico, there has been only one reported unprovoked cougar attack on a person. A cougar killed an 8 year-old boy in Arroyo Seco in north central New Mexico on January 20, 1974. The 3 year-old sub-adult female cat was in poor physical condition.

Although no studies have been conducted on what to do if confronted by a cougar, some patterns of behavior and response have emerged based on observation. This information has been compiled and the resulting guidelines are:

1. **Stay calm.** If you see a large predator that hasn't seen you, calmly leave the area.
2. **Stop.** Back away slowly while facing the predator, if you can do so safely, while avoiding eye contact. Don't run as this might stimulate its instinct to chase and attack. Give it plenty of room to escape.
3. **Do all you can to appear larger.** Raise your arms and open your jacket if you are wearing one. If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they don't panic and run.
4. **Never approach.** Wild animals are unpredictable; however, they will usually avoid a confrontation unless pushed into one.
5. **Watch for young.** Coming between a female and her young can be dangerous. If a young animal is nearby, try to move away from it, being alert for others that might be around.
6. **Convince it you're not its prey.** If the animal approaches aggressively, arm yourself with a large stick, throw rocks or any other available object at it, speak louder and more firmly to it. Convince the predator that you are dominant and a danger to it.
7. **Fight back.** If the predator attacks, fight back. Use any possible objects (rocks, sticks, backpacks, caps, jackets, even your bare hands).

How to Live Safely in Predator Country

For the reasons discussed in the first few paragraphs, it should be clear that the presence of predators is a fact of life for those living in Sandia Heights. The physical removal of all predators by either relocation methods or by killing them are both physically impossible and socially unacceptable. The issue is simply - what precautions can you take to reduce the risk associated with living in predator country. The professionals at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish urge you to consider following these guidelines.

1. **Closely supervise children** whenever they are playing outdoors. Make sure children are home before dark and are not outside before dawn (those times that large predators are most active).
2. Use landscaping practices that **eliminate hiding cover** for predators. You do not have to remove all vegetation, but remove enough so you can detect a predator if it comes into your yard. Make it difficult for them to approach unseen.
3. **Install outside lighting**, preferably with motion sensors. Light areas where you walk so you can see a predator if one were present.
4. **Close off any open spaces** below porches and decks.
5. Planting **non-native shrubs** and plants that prey species often prefer to eat encourages wildlife to come onto your property. Predators follow prey.
6. **Roaming pets** are easy prey. Bring pets in at night. If they must stay out, then confine them to a kennel with a secure roof. Do not feed pets outside where the pets or the food can attract predators or other small animals, which the predators prey upon.
7. **Store all garbage securely.** Most predators sighted in residential areas within their habitat do no cause any damage. If a predator doesn't find abundant food, it will move on.
8. **Never feed wildlife.** It attracts predators. If you know someone who is feeding wildlife, ask him or her to stop. If they don't stop, contact the Department of Game and Fish.

Who do you call?

The NM Department of Game & Fish is responsible for managing, conserving and protecting most species of wildlife within the state. Your concerns about wildlife are our concerns as well. Additional information on living with large predators is available from the Department.

If a potentially life-threatening situation with a large predator or an injury occurs, please contact our Albuquerque office at 841-8881, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. After hours, contact the New Mexico State Police or Sheriff's Department. They are provided with a list of officers that are on call. Cougar sightings in residential areas should be reported.

Although coyotes are not protected and therefore do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Game & Fish, information and assistance on dealing with a coyote problem is available through the Wildlife Services Division (formerly, Animal Control) of the Department of Agriculture.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Please direct any articles, comments or correspondence to The Grit Editor, 1124 Marigold NE

AN OPEN LETTER TO SANDIA HEIGHTS RESIDENTS - 2/13/98

We've lived in this community for over 17 years, and always enjoyed the life style it afforded us. However, that has been changed forever. In October of 1995, two of our dogs were poisoned and nearly died - saved only by the grace of God and our veterinarian. Well we thought that was over, but we thought wrong.

Yesterday, our "Maggie" succumbed to yet another poisoning. Maggie was a Black Labrador and a Therapy Dog for the Animal Humane Association. For several years, her "job" (and her greatest pleasure) was to visit and bring joy to nursing home residents - those in their twilight years, who could never again have a pet. How they loved her visits! That's all over now. Yesterday Maggie died a horrific death of convulsions and seizures in spite of the efforts of our vet and his team. She died as a result of dropped poisoned bait in the area where she was walked. Ironically, her beloved daily walk cost her her life.

Please be very careful where you walk your animals. Keep them in your sight at all times. Use your leash when you're in an area where they can run off and out of your sight. This is the second time we have dealt with dropped poison and this time we lost. We will never forget watching her painful death - unable to do anything for her. Now, on her behalf and so her death will not be in vain, we warn you all - poisoned bait is in the Sandia Heights area.

Robert & Jill Wolf



Just a little more info about this amazing dog is in order. Maggie was 7 years old and a proud graduate of the Animal Humane Association Pet Therapy Program, that has 33 volunteers who visit 28 nursing homes on a weekly basis.

Maggie was a natural and needed little training to know "who to nuzzle, who to give a lick to and who to leave alone." The residents of the La Vida Llena Assisted Living and Health Care Center knew her wonderful black face very well. She brought a sense of joy and much needed laughter to the nursing care and Alzheimer's units, and will be greatly missed.

For more information about this association, call 255-5523.

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Steam broccoli until crisp-tender. Toss broccoli and beans with dressing and chill. Wash and dry spinach. Discard stems and tear leaves in bite-size pieces. Toss spinach and cashews with bean mixture. Makes 2 servings.

COOKING TIPS

- To prevent skins from bursting, simmer gently and stir as little as possible.
- Increase the cooking time in high altitude and hard water areas.
- Add 1 Tbs. of fat to reduce foaming.
- Add acidic foods like tomatoes, lemon juice, wine or vinegar when the beans are almost tender.
- 1 lb. package of dry beans = 2 cups dry beans.
- 1 cup of dry beans = 2 to 2-1/2 cups cooked beans.
- Do not add baking soda. It destroys nutrient values.
- Plan ahead and cook extra amounts of beans. Cooked beans can refrigerated up to 3 days or frozen up to 6 months.

Beans to You!

By Patricia Aaron - Home Economist
Cooperative Extension Service, NM State University

If one of your 1998 New Year's resolutions was to consume a better diet, consider beans. Whether you're a country grandmother who has cooked beans for three generations or a bride who needs the most nutrition for the least money, beans can supply your family with essential nutrition. To make a commitment to health through diet, select a variety of foods that are low in cholesterol, high in both soluble and insoluble fiber, low in sodium, a good protein source, abundant in nutrients and low in fat, especially saturated fat. Dry beans qualify in all of these categories.

Beans are rich in iron, calcium, phosphorus and potassium and high in fiber for maintaining a healthy digestive tract. Only 4% of dry beans' calories come from fat. The California Dry Bean Advisory Board reports that by adding beans to a low cholesterol diet, you can lower your cholesterol level, lessen your chance of heart disease and also help guard against some forms of cancer. Dry beans have long been at the top of the USDA's list of foods with the lowest cost per gram of protein.

A common concern about dry beans is the intestinal gas they cause. The problem is more apparent for those who eat beans infrequently. To build up your body's tolerance, eat small servings initially, then slowly increase your intake. Drinking eight glasses of water each day will help your gastrointestinal system handle the increased dietary fiber. Proper soaking and thorough cooking can break down starches, making beans digestible.

For the preferred hot soak method for dry beans, add 10 cups of hot water to each pound of dry beans. Boil five minutes and remove from heat. Cover and let stand up to 12 hours - a longer soak time helps digestion. Discard the soaking water and rinse the beans. Add fresh hot water and other desired ingredients and boil gently until desired tenderness is reached, usually one to two hours.

If you'd like further information or recipes for dry beans, call me at 243-1386. Bon appetit!

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THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SPRING ~ 1998

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

Mail Theft on the Rise

by Ronni Sparks - Public Information Officer



Bernalillo County Sheriff Joe Bowdich is alerting residents about a rash of mail thefts in the area. "What we've got here is someone taking outgoing and incoming mail from home mailboxes, and in at least one instance, a mail collection box was taken as well," he said.

"Many of the cases we're working are in the North Valley, but there are other thefts reported in the Far Northeast Heights. Our concern is that there may be more thefts than what we know about since this is the type of crime that is usually caught later," Bowdich said. "What we know at this time is that thousands of dollars have been stolen from unsuspecting victims. If mail is being stolen from your home, you might not know it until you get your bank statement or you start getting inquiries about why you haven't paid your bills. The suspect or suspects are altering your personal checks and then cashing them," Bowdich said.

Deputies say that at least 17 cases of mail theft are under active investigation. The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department is spearheading this investigation with the Office of the Postal Inspector, since the theft of mail is a federal offense. Recently, Sheriff's Deputies at the North Valley Command Center held an informational briefing with loss prevention representatives of many of the banking institutions.

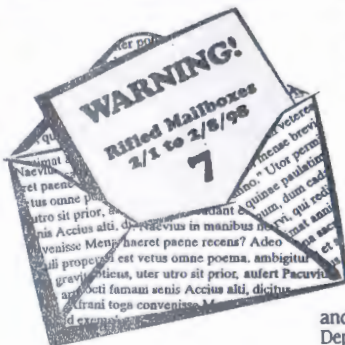
Sheriff Bowdich and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service offer this advice to protect yourself from mail thieves:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards, food coupons and other negotiable items. If you will not be home when valuable items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- Always deposit your mail in a Postal Service mail collection box or mail slot at your nearest post office or hand your mail to your letter carrier. Never place your outgoing mail for your carrier to pick up in an unprotected mailbox or area where it can be easily stolen.
- If you do not receive a check, food coupon or other valuable, expected mail, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- Immediately notify your post office and the people you do business with if you change your address.

"If you see someone in your neighborhood who does not belong and who may be acting in a suspicious manner, please contact the Sheriff's Department immediately at 798-7000," said Sheriff Bowdich.

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