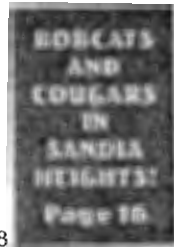


# THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SUMMER ~ 1998



## Issues are Heating Up! Keep Cool. Get Involved.



By Marshall Aungier - SHHA President

This issue of The Grit, which is normally mailed only to members of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA), is the one issue per year that is mailed to all residents of Sandia Heights. There is a lot of information in this issue that all residents should find both informative and interesting.

With spring comes the Annual Meeting of the SHHA to be held Saturday, June 6, 10:00 am at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St. We have invited David Campbell, the SHHA attorney to discuss covenant matters, including steps that residents can take to change their covenants. We also hope to have an update on a strip mall, soon to be developed, on Tramway Blvd., just north of the Kicks 66 station. (See the report from John Keller, Chair of the New Development Committee, on page 8.) Board elections and committee reports will also be on the agenda.

The Covenant Support Committee, chaired by Ruth Friesen, has been involved with the recent court proceedings regarding parking of recreational vehicles in some units. We'll inform you of the pending decision.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC) is normally very busy in the spring and this year has been no exception. Bill Stabler, former board member and SHHA president, was re-elected to the board to fill a position vacated by Margo Roberts and is again serving on the ACC. Chris Harmon has resigned as Chair of the ACC due to other commitments, but will complete her term as a member of the committee. Jim Wise was appointed the new Chair in April, and has written a report in this issue that is very specific regarding what types of projects are required by the covenants to receive written ACC approval prior to beginning the project, including re-stuccoing and re-roofing. Many of the covenants have specific requirements for stucco and roofing colors, thus the reason for approval by the ACC. There has been an increase in applications for white exterior trim and pink stucco colors; these issues are addressed

in Jim's ACC report on page 4. I urge all residents to read it.

Please review the address label on this issue of The Grit. The Directory of Sandia Heights Residents will be going to press soon and the information printed on this label WILL APPEAR IN THE DIRECTORY. Although the Directory lists all residents, it is distributed only to members of the Association. Please note that Sandia Heights Security is not related to the SHHA, therefore, subscription to the Security Service does not make you a member of the SHHA.

If you would like to join the SHHA, and continue to receive quarterly issues of The Grit and the annual Directory of Residents, you may do so by calling our office at 296-1412. I think you will agree that the \$5.00 per month dues are a sound investment in our very special quality of life in Sandia Heights. Dues for membership are billed on the monthly utility bills from Sandia Heights Services. Membership in the SHHA is optional in most units. If you decide to cancel your membership at any time, please do so in writing and send to the Association office at P.O. Box 20021, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0021.

The SHHA is a very active association working to preserve the unique characteristics of this special community. Through lobbying efforts and architectural review to community beautification and Covenant support, the Association strives to represent the interests of residents and to protect property values. We are very fortunate to have an active volunteer board. I would like to thank outgoing board members Jon Cashwell, Ruth Friesen, Chris Harmon, Don Hooper, Rob Loughridge, Margo Roberts and Bob Thomas for their hard work and service to our community. Their efforts have helped to make this a productive and rewarding year for the Association.

It has been a privilege serving as your president for 1997/1998 and I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you at the Annual Meeting on June 6th.

Approved roofing and stucco colors... Page 4

Kicks 66 Update and a New Mall on Tramway... Page 8

New Little Cloud Park... Page 18



Names:  
Phone: 000-0000 SHHA Member: Yes  
Address of Household:  
City, State, Zip:

1999 Sandia Heights Directory To Be Mailed to Members

### Hey! No Water Sports... Until You Check Your Grit Label For Accuracy!

Review the information for your household on the address label on this issue of The Grit. All information, including phone number, printed on the label will appear in the 1998-99 Directory of Sandia Heights Residents for distribution to SHHA MEMBERS ONLY

If there are any changes or deletions, please submit them in writing to SHHA, P.O. Box 20021, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0021 or Fax 296-2620 by June 15th.

Once again the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association is publishing its popular directory address book of all Sandia Heights residents for the membership. Perhaps you would be interested in placing an ad for your business in our new 1998-99 Directory, which will include an updated map centerfold, and is scheduled for mailing to about 1400 households by September.

We can accommodate your existing Grit ads to fit the Directory. Please call 856-1868 for costs and sizes. The deadline for camera-ready art to the editor is June 30th.

If you have a favorite Sandia Heights photo for the cover, please call the editor at the above number.

## THE GRIT

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

P.O. Box 20021  
Albuquerque, NM 87154-0021  
Phone: 505-296-1412  
Fax: 505-296-2620  
Homepage: <http://www.nmia.com/shha>

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Call: 505-856-1868 Fax 505-856-1792

Write: The Grit, c/o Hindel Inc.  
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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:

- Monitoring the sale and upcoming development of property north of Kicks 66 station
- Lighting at Kicks 66
- Expansion of Paseo del Norte and extension of Alameda Blvd
- Proliferation of realtors' signs
- Purchase and installation of Los Altos de Sandias signs
- Noise reduction at the Sandia Services pumping station
- County Capital Improvements input
- County drainage program
- Cultural landscape: the history of the land and environment
- Management of a neighborhood wine tasting
- Pruning of roadside chamisa by the County
- Elm trees in Sandia Heights in violation of the covenants
- Coordination of issues with North Albuquerque Acres Association
- Processing of many ACC requests and covenant violations

*Be involved. Attend the SHHA Annual Meeting on June 6th, 10am - noon, and the regular monthly Board meetings, the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Tell us your concerns.*

## NEW VENUE

### FOR SHHA BOARD MEETINGS

– Effective July 8th –

## LT. WILLIAM SIBRAVA SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION MEETING ROOM

*Located on the northeast corner of Eubank and Holly  
(one block north of Paseo del Norte)*



## Coffee Corner

Wednesday, June 10th  
TALK ON SIBERIAN ELM  
AND ITS EFFECT ON  
SANDIA HEIGHTS

Joyce Harkwell  
537 Blackberry Road NE  
856-7073

10am - Noon

Please call 856-6282  
if you would like to host the next  
seasonal SHHA Coffee!



(L to r,) Lene George, Sandy Martin, Donna DeLue, hostess J Terry and Betty Peterson enjoy the March coffee and home tour given by J and Paul Terry of Big Horn Ridge.

## County Of Bernalillo

Summer 1998 Report



In the spring issue of the Grit, we brought to your attention two of the initiatives Bernalillo County proposed for legislative consideration during the 1998 regular session. One initiative passed, the other did not make it out of committee due to the short length of the session.

### Extraterritorial Planning, Zoning and Annexation

House Bill 238 passed the House and the Senate with overwhelming majorities, and Governor Johnson signed it into law effective May 20th. We now have a mechanism which establishes an extraterritorial land use authority composed of County Commissioners and City Councilors. I am very pleased to report my selection as one of the County's representatives on the Authority. (ELUA, Extraterritorial Land Use Authority - another acronym) This Authority will eliminate the duplicative city and county processes previously required in the five-mile extraterritorial zone and establishes a forum for cooperation between the County and the City. Additionally, it gives the county a place at the table on annexation issues.

### State of New Mexico Constitutional Amendment

The proposed amendment to the State Constitution which would have allowed 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, perhaps, the County Sheriff, did not pass. 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 as well as a central point of accountability. Although this bill was crafted specifically for Bernalillo County, many elected officials in other counties became quite uneasy with the proposal. If the Commission decides to continue this effort in 1999, we should engage in a serious public outreach campaign.

### Paseo del Norte from Wyoming to Eubank

Now for the REALLY good news! The New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, with the concurrence and support of the State Highway Commission, have established an infrastructure bank. It provides a mechanism by which local governments may borrow money for critical projects. As a result of diligent efforts by Martin Garcia, Bernalillo County Public Works Director, Steve Harris, District III Engineer, and Leroy Sandoz, Director of Planning for New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department, the infrastructure bank is going to loan us the necessary funds to complete Paseo del Norte from Wyoming to Eubank. A project of this scale has never been funded through the infrastructure bank, so this endeavor will be a pilot project. This is a compliment to Bernalillo County's Public Works Department and a great relief to all of us who have been concerned about the disconnect between the City's improvement to Wyoming, which would then narrow to die County's two lanes. You can expect to see construction beginning the fall of 1998.

We continue to work with our congressional delegation for funding to be allocated for Paseo del Norte (east) through the reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Congressman Schiff was able to have funds set aside in the House version of the bill. It is unclear what will happen in the Senate. Hopefully the committee, which will reconcile the two versions of the bill, will assign enough money to complete Paseo del Norte all the way to Timaway.

### Parks in the Far Northeast

Everyone should be heartened to see construction has actually begun on Little Cloud Park (previously known as San Bernardino Park). How nice to have that dream reach fruition. Additionally, design team proposals for the equestrian day use facility and neighborhood park at the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) South Domingo Baca Dam and the proposed hang glider landing area and neighborhood park at the AMAFCA South La Cueva Diversion area have been received by Bernalillo County. Design team interviews are scheduled for May 8. Design Services Committee selection should follow shortly, with confirmation by the Board of County Commissioners targeted for their May 26th Administrative Meeting. Once selected and confirmed, the design team will prepare design alternatives for the proposed parks, and solicit neighborhood input. Final designs will require AMAFCA Board of Directors approval prior to implementation.

As we approach the end of the school year, I send my best wishes for a happy summer filled with fun, family and friends.

Until next time...

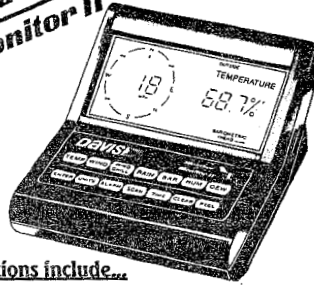
**Barbara J. Seward**  
Bernalillo County Commissioner  
District 4



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## Considering the fact that Jesus had his doubts, why can't you?

If you believe in God, but still have doubts and questions, we invite you to visit us at Sandia Presbyterian Church. We don't have all of the answers either.



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Rev. Dewey Johnson, Pastor  
10704 Paseo Del Norte NE, Alb., NM 87122  
(just east of Eubank), 856-5040

# Architectural Control



By Jim Wise - SHHA Architectural Control Committee, Chair

This is the only time of the year that all homeowners in the Sandia Heights area receive The Grit publication. So the SHHA Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has taken this opportunity to tell you a little about how we operate, explain some of the procedures, and identify many of the issues we face servicing the more than 1950 homes within our responsibility.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Each home (or lot) is within a previously established geographic boundary commonly known as a UNIT. There are currently 34 of these units in Sandia Heights. There is not a master set of covenants for Sandia Heights - each unit has their own unique set. Some provisions of the covenants are consistent between units, however, there are also many differences. Each of the homes has been constructed within the guidelines set forth in the DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS (hereafter referred to as Covenants) that are relevant to each home's location - i.e. unit.

Covenants have been written by each subdivision's developers (not the SHHA) to ensure homeowners that each of us is comfortable (or at least understand) that we live in an area where there are specified requirements which exist that help maintain the beauty and natural landscape in Sandia Heights. Each set of the covenants is properly recorded with Bernalillo County and are binding on each of us as property owners. A copy of the applicable covenants should have been provided to the homeowner when the house was purchased or built. If you need a copy, please call the SHHA office at 296-1412. In addition, Bernalillo County has some building, zoning and other restrictions which apply and require County approval - i.e. drainage, building heights, fence heights.

The ACC has been established as part of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA). Presently, the ACC consists of 8 volunteer members who provide their time and effort to accomplish compliance with new construction and other exterior modifications. The Covenant Support Committee works to achieve compliance on other covenant matters.

The covenants for all units require that any new construction, addition or alteration be submitted to the ACC for approval prior to commencement of work. In addition to new construction and additions, approval is also required for such work as re-stucco; repainting of trim and garage doors; installation of satellite dishes/antennas; driveway paving; landscaping; fencing; window replacement; re-roofing and other exterior work. The review process ensures compliance with

covenants regarding color, height, setback restrictions and other requirements. The projects mentioned above are not intended to be a complete listing, but are representative of the type of work requiring approval from the ACC. A rule of thumb is that if your project will be visible to any neighbor, it must be submitted to the ACC first.

## ACC PROCEDURES

The procedures for submitting a project for review by the ACC is relatively easy. A copy of the application can be obtained by calling the SHHA office at 296-1412. Two copies of the application, sketches and drawings are then submitted to the ACC, along with the application fee. The application is logged in and is presented to the ACC at their regularly scheduled meetings, which are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Each project is reviewed by committee members and one of the following actions is taken:

1. If the project is determined to be in compliance with the covenants, the project is then assigned to one of the members and one of two actions is then taken.

a. Although not required by the covenants, if the committee decides a neighbor review is appropriate, a letter is sent to the adjacent homeowners advising them of the project and the date and location where the review is to be held. The letter states that only those who are members of the SHHA are invited to attend, but further extends the invitation for non-members to join the Association and attend the review. Neighbor reviews are generally considered appropriate on new construction and major additions. After the review is conducted, any SHHA member who attends has 5 days to submit written comments. It should be noted, however, that while the committee can facilitate communication between adjoining neighbors, property owners have a right to build on their property within the guidelines established in the covenants for the applicable unit. After consideration of comments received, a letter of approval is sent to the applicant signed by the committee member responsible for monitoring only that part of the construction or work relevant to the covenants.

b. If the project is approved and no further action, such as a neighbor review, is required, a letter of approval is sent to the applicant signed by the committee member responsible for monitoring the project.

2. If the project does not comply with the covenants, a letter is sent to the applicant explaining why the project cannot be approved.

3. If the committee finds that additional information is required to complete their review, it is requested by letter or obtained on a site visit. Once received, the project is again reviewed, if necessary, and either approved or disapproved.

The covenants require that the ACC respond to each application within 30 days of receipt of a complete application. Although the committee attempts to respond as soon as possible, often a response takes the full 30 days due to volume of projects under review or the timing of meeting dates. Once approved, the assigned ACC member monitors the project until completion.

**There are a number of issues that the ACC is currently dealing with that are worth noting at this time:**

## PROJECTS BEGUN WITHOUT APPROVAL

Occasionally projects are started or constructed without ACC approval, which is required by the covenants. The committee members do not actively search out these projects, but we do encounter them occasionally while en route to inspect other projects. In these instances, a letter is written to the owner noting the construction without approval and requesting suspension of work until an application has been submitted and approved. Although this procedure generally works well there are instances where we find the project is not in compliance with the covenants. This places the ACC in the very difficult position of having to pursue covenant compliance and could place the homeowner in a position to possibly have to make costly changes. None of us want this situation to develop, so please comply with your covenants and submit the project for approval prior to commencement of the project.

**VARIANCES.** The ACC policy is not to approve any variances to the covenants. However, if there is a justifiable reason, a variance is possible. Since the property owner should have been aware of the existing topography, lot size, other existing site conditions, and applicable restrictions (covenants) when the property was purchased, the variance request should describe subsequent changes or new information on which the request is based.

**FENCES/WALLS.** The covenants for each unit are very clear concerning their location relative to property lines or boundaries, but we receive numerous requests/applications that do not comply with the covenants and must be re-submitted. Wire or chain link fences are not permitted. Wall heights are established by the county and may be constructed to a height up to 6.0' unless the covenants further restrict this.

**PARTY WALLS.** Construction or modifications to party walls require both homeowners approval, since maintenance thereof is a joint responsibility. Also, new fences constructed either side of a party wall generally have a 5.0' setback requirement set forth in the covenants to permit party wall maintenance.

**COLORS.** Most of the units' covenants contain wording that colors are to be in harmony with the general surroundings of the lot or adjacent structures. In the committee's judgment, this refers to natural earth tones and does not include white, pink, green, blue, purple, etc.

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**COLOR OF EXTERIOR STUCCO AND TRIM.**

All too often the ACC receives requests for use of colors not approved for use in Sandia Heights. Of course, such requests are disapproved. Occasionally, we encounter instances where one color has been approved on the project application, but another color has been applied during construction. The importance of use of the color approved on the application cannot be over-emphasized. During construction, but prior to application, a request to change colors must be submitted to the ACC for approval. Such an action makes our job much easier and does not place the project applicant in jeopardy of having to change the color to comply with the covenants.

**WINDOW TRIM COLOR.** Most windows now manufactured are metal clad with a factory applied finish color. White is one of the color finishes offered but will not be approved by the ACC.

**APPROVED STUCCO COLORS.** Listed below are those earth tone and natural colors prevalent within Sandia Heights which have been approved by the ACC. White and pink tones are not approved. Please note that an application still must be submitted for re-stuccoing projects even if one of these pre-approved colors is selected.

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| El Rey Hacienda (127)    | El Rey Buffalo (PF806)     |
| El Rey Fawn (117)        | El Rey Alamo (PF819)       |
| El Rey Palomino (119)    | El Rey Earth (PF816)       |
| El Rey Sandalwood (121)  | El Key Indigo (PF352)      |
| El Rey Straw (122)       | El Key Stone Bluff (PF351) |
| El Rey Buckskin (106)    | Sto Torreon (1501)         |
| El Rey Sand (103)        | Sto Tumbleweed (01011)     |
| El Rey Driftwood (111)   | Sto Mesilla (2207)         |
| El Rey Adobe (116)       | Sto Amarilla (3003)        |
| El Rey Desert Rose (114) | Sto Acorna (3030)          |
| El Rey Cottonwood (115)  | Sto Alamo (2501)           |
| El Rey La Luz (125)      | Sto Pueblo (01005)         |
| El Rey Dry River (PF817) | Sto Stuede (01006)         |
| El Rey Saddle (PF271)    | Sto Sandia (1616)          |
| El Rey Tema (PF272)      | Sto San Antonio (1465)     |
| El Rey Sage (PF803)      | Sto Adobe Brown (01004)    |

These colors are approved for the majority of Sandia Heights, however, the ACC will only approve colors to match existing colors in those units where all residences have a uniform color. The ACC will also consider applications for similar colors by other stucco manufacturers that are not on this list.

**ROOF COLORS.** Some of the roofing companies are selling a "membrane" or elastomeric type roofing material in basic white. However, the covenants prohibit a white finish. Some suppliers said the material can be color-toned to comply. If you had to look out on a white roof in the bright sun, you'd understand why it is so important to submit your re-roofing project for ACC review before work begins. It protects you as a homeowner.

**TRIM COLORS.** There is no pre-approved list of colors, and for obvious reasons, there are literally hundreds of these colors that can be produced quite easily by simply adding pigments. However, trim colors must also comply with the covenants and be earth tone or those prevalent in Sandia Heights. Colors such as white, pink, blue, purple or green are not acceptable. The caution here is to make certain the trim color(s) are included in the application to eliminate any conflict later on.

**A GENERAL NOTE ON COLORS.** Many of you have noted homes with stucco or trim colors which are not approved. There are a number of reasons why this has happened - some are unexplained and others are in direct violation. However, as future projects arise, the ACC will work with the homeowners in an effort to obtain compliance. Please be reminded that one of the reasons we have such a desirable area with high property values is that we work hard to achieve compliance with our covenants. So please work with us in this worthwhile endeavor.

We hope this update has given you a little insight into the ACC functions. If you have questions, please call the SHHA Office at 296-1412 or myself at 821-2241.

**Other Committee Members:** Don Aunapu, Weldon Johnson, Nancy Norem, Bill Waters, Bill Stabler, Chris Harmon, Don Hooper.

BMC ROOF MAINTENANCE

**BMC**

**ROOF MAINTENANCE**

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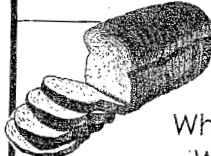


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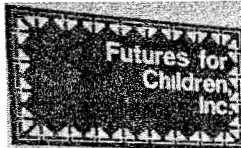
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▲ Winetasting coordinator Claire Wilcox (left) joins Jo Porter in a sip of Geyser Peak Reserve Shiraz.

### Fine Winetasting Memories

Once again the Winetasting was a huge success! National Distributing Company provided over 40 wines. Several were over \$20 - the most expensive was a Geyser Peak Reserve Shiraz. The hors d'oeuvres were outstanding and graciously provided by the attendees. Check page 19 of this Grit for some of the recipes. More will be printed in the next Grit. Hopefully we will be able to continue the SHHA Winetasting tradition next March!

### Articles not to Miss!

This month there are several important issues that you should know about, from mail box theft to our Little Cloud Park. First of all, do you pay your bills by check and put the envelope out in your mailbox for postal pickup? **Dick Leonard**, Director of the Albuquerque Police Department says that **theft of residential mail** is an increasing crime providing criminals vital information on your credit card numbers, checking account numbers and checks which can be altered and cashed. For a first hand account, read the letter from a Northeast Heights family that had their checks taken from their mailbox and the subsequent harassment they endured. Also included in this issue is a copy of the new prevention information sheet on the subject of residential mail theft from the police department on page 14.

### New SHHA Park

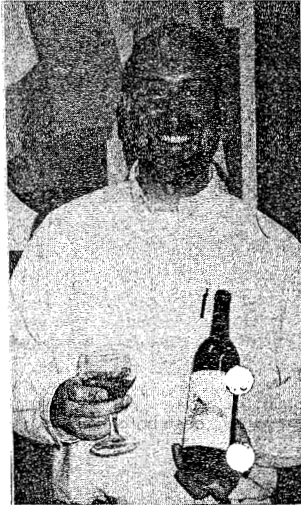
You'll be interested to know that the little park at the corner of San Bernardino and Tramway is having a facelift. If you have taken your kids or your grandkids there recently you will know that Bernalillo County staff have been busy adding and subtracting equipment. The playground equipment bought by SHHA about 8 years ago became obsolete by recent OSHA guidelines and was removed by the county last week.

In its place will be new guideline-approved playground equipment plus an irrigation system. **Janey Brink**, who spearheaded the original SHHA park idea and has been its guardian angel since, said that the water fountain is unique to this park as it is the ONLY water fountain along the whole 14 miles of the Tramway Bike Trail. The important thing for the users of this park to know is that the county will be busy doing the renovations until July and asks that we limit our use of the facility until it is completed and passes final inspection by the County Public Works Department. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Community Services

By Claire Wilcox - SHHA Vice President and Committee Chair

▼ Visitors Dedie and Bob Carroll sample the homemade hors d'oeuvres with their hosts Linda and Richard Caldwell of Spring Creek Lane.



(Above) Dan Murray pours Hawk Crest while Sally and Joe Miles taste Santa Margarita Pinot Grigio (right).



### Coffees - Next One June 10th

The Terrys on Big Horn Ridge hosted the coffee in March, and in spite of our advertising that the coffee hostess needs only a kitchen or dining table and some tea and coffee, the Terrys opened their newly remodeled home for a beautiful tour. Many thanks to this delightful couple for the hospitality, the goodies and the hot coffee on a cold March morning.

The coffee in June will be one with a focus. There is great concern about the proliferation of the **Siberian Elm** (sometimes erroneously called the Chinese Elm) in Sandia Heights. One of the issues to be presented at the SHHA Annual Meeting, June 6th, is how to identify and eradicate this pesty tree. An article on the cover of this Grit has more details. To see cuttings of the Siberian Elm and find out the location of some of these trees growing in Sandia Heights attend the coffee at the home of:

Joyce Harkwell  
537 Black Bear Rd.  
June 10th 10am-12 noon  
856-7073



### SHHA General Meeting June 6th

Is there a shed or mobile home in your future? If you own an RV, can you park it in your driveway? If you want to store your garden equipment in a shed can you build/buy one? These are covenant issues that may be discussed with Board

members and the Association attorney at the SHHA Annual Meeting on June 6th, 10am - noon, at the **Church of the Good Shepherd** off Tramway south of Paseo del Norte. The main item on the agenda this year is our covenants, so plan to come and learn about them first hand.

### New Directory - Read Your Grit Label

Each year the SHHA publishes a comprehensive directory of **all residents** for its members. The information about you that will be included is the same as on the label on this edition of the Grit. Please look at the label now. If there is incorrect information or you want to make changes, call the Sandia Heights office at 296-1412. Otherwise the label information will become part of the 1998-99 SHHA Directory to be mailed in September.

### North Albuquerque Acres & Sandia Heights

The Sandia Heights and North Albuquerque Acres Boards keep in touch every month to share concerns and information. Did you know that the **Mormon Temple** being built east of Eubank is contemplating installing a 96 ft. steeple, to be lighted at night? This is one of the main concerns of the North Albuquerque Acres residents, and will be one of our concerns as well - it will be precedent setting and a huge part of our western vista. Both Boards continue to monitor the lighting of the Phillips 66 station and the planned widening of Paseo del Norte from Wyoming to Tramway.



Tom and Patty Fischer of Lynx Loop were a picture in black and white... and vino rouge.

### Sandia Heights Past and Present

Ken Romig, a UNM Archeology student who is studying the Sandia Heights environs needs your help. There have been generations of people living on what is now our private property. Ken is studying (1) what we know about the past use of the land; and (2) how we use it now. Do you hike? Snowshoe? Walk your dogs? Bird watch? All of these are current uses of the "Juan Tabo Canyon" - the wilderness and foothills of Sandia Heights. Please help him gather his data by filling in the questionnaire provided.

*Sandia Heights*  
**Wildflower Club**

**1998 Garden Tour**

Saturday, May 30th  
9 am ~ noon  
Pick up your map at the first home on the tour  
Bev and Gil Grady  
939 Bobcat

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
The wide surrounding area are the last remaining part of the Mexican National oak forest.  
Or that something in the 1920's grew up in the sandy soils of Spring Creek.

### Sandia Heights Research Response

As residents of Sandia Heights you live in one of the most exciting places in New Mexico. The region has been home to many cultures over many generations. Please help my research into the historic and contemporary uses of Juan Tabo Canyon. Please fill out this response card and describe how you use the foothills and wilderness area of the Sandias. Please feel free to answer these questions in detail. My research is concentrated north of Sandia Peak Tram.

- How long have you resided in Sandia Heights?
- What past land uses in the region are you aware of?
- What do you and your family do in the open spaces surrounding Sandia Heights?
- What is it you love most about the landscape of Sandia Heights?

Thank you for your time. Please send your responses to: Ken Romig  
3317 Wilway NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

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## New Development

By John Keller – SHHA New Development, Chair

Development of the 3.75 acres immediately north of the Kicks 66 gas station is currently in the planning stages. This tract is zoned C-1 (commercial property) and is not in Sandia Heights and not subject to any Sandia Heights covenants. While plans have not been finalized, current indications are that the site may consist of approximately 15 business suites including a bank, professional offices, mail box center and possibly a restaurant.

Representatives of the developer agreed to meet with representatives of the SHHA. Issues discussed were the design of the project and the nature of the businesses to be operated. We expressed the concerns of our residents regarding architectural compatibility with our area and the desire for conservative lighting and signage.

Now is your chance to influence what enterprises will be planned for the site. If you have suggestions regarding specific or general potential tenants for the complex (businesses you would like to see located there), please pass the information to the SHHA office at 296-1412, or to the leasing manager for the property, Susan Showalter of Commercial Brokerage, Inc. at 828-9188, P.O. Box 93153, Albuquerque, NM 87199-3153. You can have an impact on the future operation of this project with meaningful input.

In the past few weeks there has been some encouraging dialogue between Bernalillo County officials and the owner of the Kicks 66 gas station on Tramway Boulevard regarding its lighting and illumination levels. The County is currently awaiting the receipt of testing equipment in order for them to accurately measure the illumination levels as prescribed by the newly enacted Sandia Heights/North Albuquerque Acres Light Pollution Ordinance. Commissioner Barbara Seward also continues to push for some resolution of neighborhood concerns and is encouraging county personnel to complete their testing as soon as possible. This committee will continue to pursue a resolution of the matter.

Based on input from SHHA members, the Association submitted to the Bernalillo County Capital Improvement Program division, the following 4 requests for the 6-year improvement Program: 1) Repair and/or repavement of the roads in Sandia Heights, to include improved signage and street markings; 2) Construction of pedestrian pathways throughout Sandia Heights (unpaved and in keeping with the rural nature of our area); 3) Near-term acquisition and development of open space for youth recreational activities – specifically, the acquisition of some portion of the undeveloped area on the east side of Tramway Boulevard at the intersection of Paseo del Norte (Moohn property); 4) Modifications to the traffic and street lights on Tramway Boulevard, to reduce the cutoff angle light emitted and in keeping with the spirit of the recent passage of the Light Pollution Ordinance. We will keep SHHA members advised on the selection of any or all of these projects by the County.

Other Committee Members: Lester Libo, Bill Waters, Charles Pechewly



There's a new mall being planned for the corner of Tramway & Paseo. Now's the time to get involved.

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nobody knows Sandia Heights longer or better!

# Pat Lenzer

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—Chuck Sherwood and Valerie Reed

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**SANDIA LAND CLAIM UPDATE:****An Active Year**

By Jack Walker – Sandia Mountain Coalition, Co-Chair

Throughout the year we've tried, through a series of GRIT articles, to keep Sandia Heights residents up to date on the status of the suit by the Pueblo of Sandia against the U. S. Interior and Agriculture Departments to gain ownership of approximately 10,000 acres of the Sandia Mountains. This claim includes Cibola National Forest land, the La Luz and Piedra Lisa Trails, the Juan Tabo Picnic Area, the Sandia Peak Tram and Summit House, Sandia Heights North, Tierra Monte and Evergreen Hills subdivisions – almost the entire west face of the Sandia Crest. For those of you who are new to the neighborhood or those who have not seen previous reports, the case is still pending in U.S. District Court in Washington.

The Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC) was established by home owners and lovers and users of the mountain to refute the claim and to assure that local interests are represented as the case proceeds in Washington. Why are we concerned about the Pueblos attempt to take over this land? First, for property owners, there is the potential for outright loss of homes if Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt does not approve the Pueblos proposal to deed land directly to the property owners. If this happens, although not probable, even with title insurance most stand to lose a considerable amount due to the significant appreciation in area real estate values over the past few years. Secondly, and most probable, if the claim succeeds, the private properties would be in "Indian Country" – a legal term to describe private land completely surrounded by Indian land. This could make the homeowners subject to Pueblo jurisdiction which could include taxation as well as other controls established at the whim of the Pueblo Tribal Council, having a large negative impact on property values. Thirdly, the property owners and those who enjoy the mountain are concerned that the Pueblo would restrict public access and public input as to land use and management decisions.

1997 was our most active year, by far, since the Pueblo initiated the suit in 1995. Based in large part on evidence obtained by the SMC, the U. S. Department of Justice together with SMC and Bernalillo County made a strong case disputing the Pueblos claim. We hope to see a decision by Judge Greene in 1998. Our SMC delegation is drafting legislation that would assure that future claims cannot be made by the Pueblo without US Congressional approval and that future personal and utility access to private property would be guaranteed. Also attempts will be made to include language in the bill for financial reimbursement, by the BIA, of all legal expenses incurred by private property owners in protection of their titles.

To cover SMC's legal costs from this past year (all other efforts are strictly voluntary), we have recently requested a \$200 per lot contribution from property owners in the claim area. Those who have not yet contributed are urged to please do so now. Sandia Heights South residents are also invited to contribute to our effort and help preserve this important component of Albuquerque's public open spaces. Please send your contributions to The Sandia Mountain Coalition, PO Box 14353, Albq., NM 87191. To succeed we need the active support of the Sandia Heights community.

**Covenant Support**

By Ruth Friesen – SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair

Covenants are created to regulate the appearance and use of a given area, and generally enhance the property values of that area. In Sandia Heights, the covenants were written by the original developers. Their enforcement has been passed on to the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association by a services agreement with Sandia Properties Ltd, Co., who with its predecessors in interest were the developers of Sandia Heights. The covenants run with the land; in other words, by buying the property you agree to and are bound by the covenants.

The Covenants Control Committee (CCC) works closely with the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) in ensuring that all structures comply with the covenants. We generally note a violation, and request that the owner submit a plan for correction of the violation to the ACC. To understand their process, please read the accompanying article on Page 4 in this issue.

The CCC deals with many USE issues, which are outside of the purview of the ACC. Typical use issues are: parking and storage of recreational vehicles of all types including boats, rubbish on lots, landscaping, commercial activity in a residential area, lighting, fencing, unscreened air conditioners, "for sale" vehicles parked in the right of way, and signs. (See article on Page 18 in this issue regarding realtors' directional signs.) Each unit has its own covenants, and there are over 30 units. The covenants address many of the same issues, some with slightly differing language. As a violation is noted, the particular unit's covenants must be researched to ascertain that it is indeed a violation in that unit. In addition to the covenants of each unit, we can research the regulations of the county, which apply as well.

As a violation is noted, a letter is sent to the owner, informing them of the violation, and requesting that the violation be corrected. We prefer that compliance be voluntary, as the homeowner has agreed to these covenants by virtue of purchasing the property. If repeated letters do not correct the problem, the Association can take action through mediation, arbitration, and court action. We presently have a case in court involving recreational vehicles.

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association did not create the covenants, nor can it change them. The residents of each unit have that power. Each set of covenants has a provision for change. A number of residents, usually 66% or 75% of the owners, must agree to a change and sign an appropriate document. The Association office is compiling written information on what is legally required to change and record the change of a set of covenants. Call 296-1412 for further details.

The CCC is made up of four volunteer Association board members. We work hard to note violations and request owner compliance. We recognize that not all violations have been corrected, and are continuing to notify all homeowners with unremedied violations. Spending SHHA money for court battles and expending the emotional energy required for litigation is not the best use of our resources and volunteers. For the sake of all residents in Sandia Heights, help maintain the ambiance that the developers intended, and that enticed us to buy our homes, by respecting and complying with the covenants.

**Other Committee Members:** Lester Libo, Jim Neely, Robert Thomas**Government Liaison**

By George Hight – SHHA Government Liaison, Chair

Bernalillo County Commissioner Barbara Seward continues to find answers to questions put forth by SHHA members and Board. Her Spring Report highlights the road work on Paseo del Norte that has been the focus of this committee over the past months. Also of interest, Tim West of the County Road Department has advised SHHA that streets in North Sandia Heights and other areas are on the list for overlay paving. But no definite time frame for the work was given.

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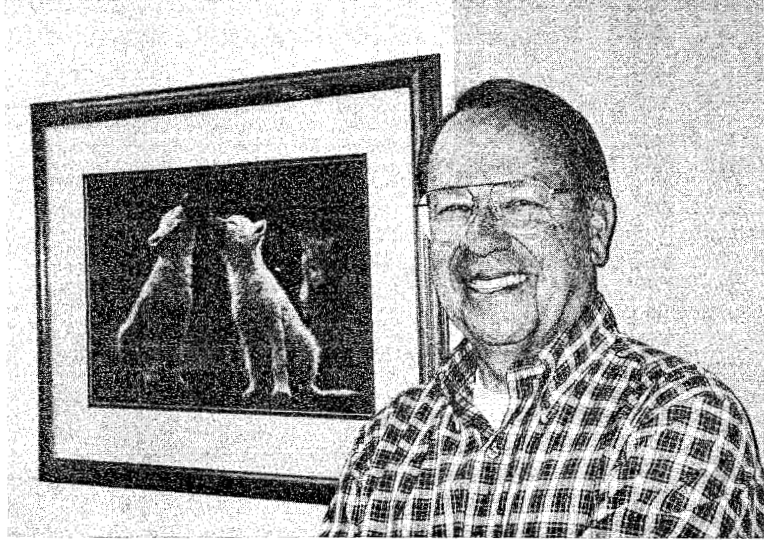
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# RESIDENT PROFILE: A Wolf in Sandia Heights

By Carolyn Hindel – Grit Editor



## Bob Wolf is President of the Board of the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico

There's no sheep clothing hiding the endeavors of this friendly and energetic neighbor. Bob Wolf's uplifting attitude about the treatment of animals and super keen business sense has elevated him to President of the Board of the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico. And the changes he and his fellow collaborators are about to unleash will be a godsend to all of us who love our furry friends.

He and wife Jill had Ron Jones build their Taos style custom home on Cedar Loop 9 years ago, after living next door for the same number of years. They left Ohio for the southwest in 1980. Bob had spent his first career in finance, becoming at age 28, the youngest branch manager ever of Cincinnati's well established 5th/3rd Bank. He reigned over the University branch in the old ethnic part of town populated by immigrants from Germany, Greece and Italy. It was 1960 – pre-automation – and banks were still handling their accounts manually on ledger cards and adding machines. "Six people kept the bank's general books balanced to 4 decimal places without electronic calculators," Bob intimates to all of us youths.

But computers were the new thing and a technical tidal wave was about to engulf the business world. Having been an Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class and involved in anti-submarine weapons development while in the Navy, Bob was right on target predicting the next step the banking industry would take. As the bank converted to automation, he and a VP of marketing hired from IBM started a Data Services Division using IBM prototype software that eventually became one of the first correspondent bank processing programs in the state. By 1978, his division was processing nearly 90 banks in eight other states, growing into the biggest bank data processing center in the midwest. But for all the successful operations, Bob still remembers the first bank they automated and losing \$5000 somewhere in cyberspace. "It was a gut wrenching few days until the money miraculously showed up on a Catholic Charities account," he recalls.

So why leave success? Well, maybe it was the 70-80 hour work weeks, the technical overload, 20 years in the banking industry, the dull weather lurking outside of Central Trust Tower... or maybe it was the call of the wild. Buddy Hawkins, a good friend in the headhunting business and a fellow sportsman, suggested heading west. So they checked out Montana, Idaho, Colorado and Utah, but New Mexico had the greatest lure. Then they sent their wives out... and New Mexico it was!

Bob and Jill's prized therapy dog Maggie (below left) died earlier this year after ingesting poisoned bait left on trails near their home.

Sadie (right) has proudly taken her place in the pet therapy program.

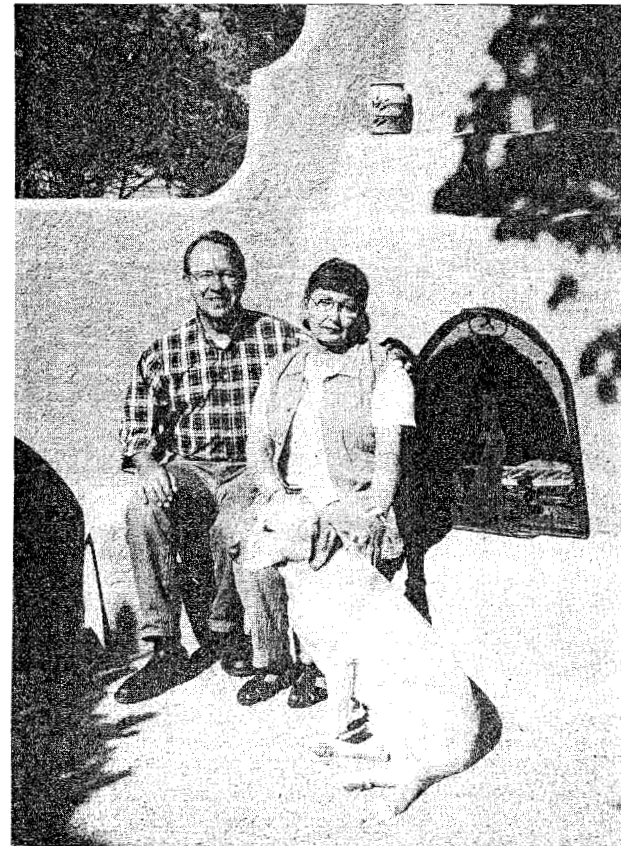


Bob and Jill found Sandia Heights to offer the weather, wildlife and wilderness they desired. "The front door of the mountains," as they put it. Wolf & Associates, operating out of their home, started out doing personnel searches for banks like Albuquerque National... which subsequently became Sunwest... then Nations Bank... then Bank of America (someone stop me). But now Bob could put things on hold whenever the situation got too tense, and take the dogs up La Luz for a hike. In the early '80s, Bob's expertise in technical equipment led his company into the leasing business – specializing in recycled document processors that banks use to read checks and deposits.

So how did this banker, headhunter, leasing agent get humane? Well, while Bob was making a name for himself in the banking business, Thelma and Ed Evans were starting an animal rescue operation in their Albuquerque kitchen. It grew from the state-chartered Anti-Cruelty Federation in 1965 to the Animal Humane Association of New Mexico in 1968. Its mission: sheltering companion animals, alleviating suffering in all animals, educating the public in humane treatment of animals, and seeking solutions to pet overpopulation. The altruistic side of Bob Wolf met the determined side of Thelma Evans in 1987, and he was asked to take a seat on the Board of Directors.

Since then, Bob has worked his business magic on this worthwhile organization, attracting many influential Albuquerque professionals to serve on the Board, including two attorneys, an auditor, a city planner and an ex-Game & Fish officer. A new executive director is taking the idea of animal care to the next level, managing a staff of 38 people, 260 volunteers, 7000 members and a \$1 million budget.

The Animal Humane Association is non-profit and receives no financial assistance from federal or local governments. It offers its considerable services through membership fees and some special programs, like the annual Doggie Dash for dollars. It operates a shelter, clinic, administrative offices, thrift shop, pet supply store (for adopting families) and food bank at 615 Virginia SE. In 1994, new kennels were added along with a new cat room. The shelter handles over 7000 animals a year and has the largest automated lost & found program in the state. "We take in animals from ABQ Animal Services, Rio Rancho,



# That Cares About Animals.

The views inside and outside the Wolf's home are spectacular. Labrador retrievers, Mandy and Sadie are glad to show you around.



But the most exciting accomplishment to date will be the introduction of interactive kiosks at special, soon to be announced, in-store sites, where people can touch the screen and access updated photos and information on lost pets turned into area control centers. There will also be a complete rundown on animals available for adoption and their location around town. And you can bet the latest on care, safety, sterilization and licensing will be a finger point away. A nationwide internet database is also in the works. Bob's automation machination strikes again. He can't help himself. So if you're looking for a new furry friend, you need only go to the nearest participating site to see and locate the perfect pet.

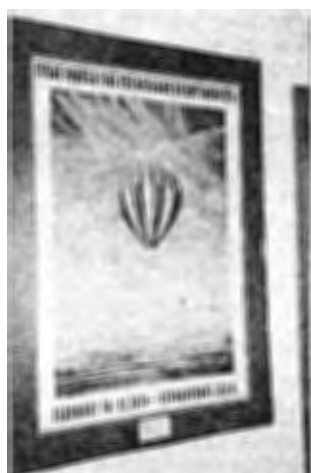
Bob remembers having dogs since he was 4 years old in Lima (as in the Penn), Ohio. And after marrying Jill, his high school sweetheart, they raised two dogs and a daughter, along with a Boston Bulldog, a Dalmatian, and then their Labradors. Jill became involved in the Humane Pet Therapy Program that brings joyful animal interaction to people in nursing homes and retirement communities. Sadly, their beloved Maggie, a natural therapy dog, was poisoned by leaded bait out on the trails north of Tramway Road last February. Today golden Sadie and cream colored Mandy will greet you at the door and escort you through their lovely home. The spirit of "wolf" is omnipresent as you peruse the spacious rooms. Wildlife photographs line the hallway and several mystical paintings grace the dining area. And the fascination goes beyond these walls... the Humane Association has taken many wolf hybrids to a marvelous reserve called the Candy Kitchen near Ramah, NM. Supplies are provided in return for giving these animals a home and place to roam.

Los Lunas, Torrance City, Pagosa Springs and other private non-profits, in addition to animals brought in directly," says Bob. "Our adoption rate is nearly 65%, which is very high for an 'open door' shelter."

Almost all the dry and canned pet food used is donated... by chains like WalMart and K Mart and some grocery stores. Advertising space on billboards is donated as well. Their monthly newspaper spread can boast a 100% animal adoption rate after running. All those adorable snouts and pussies really work. And this year, the Pet Adoptathon sent over 360 neutered and vaccinated cats and dogs to new homes, and allowed the Humane Association, the City and Rio Rancho to nearly empty their kennels. The only city to beat the ABQ Adoptathon was New York City. Pretty amazing.

Finding loving homes for their animals is the ultimate goal of the Association and all potential adopters are rigorously scrutinized to qualify. Adoption fees include a physical exam and spaying or neutering of every animal before it leaves the facility. Teaching humans to be humane and develop a healthy respect for animals is another goal. In an effort to reduce pet overpopulation, educational exhibits at fairs and malls, shelter tours, school visits and public service announcements are all part of spreading the word on proper care. They've even set up satellite adoption centers in Petsmart stores.

An avid hunter in his youth, Bob is now happy to be head cook and wrangler for a group of bow hunters and about 18 horses who camp out in the 500,000+ acres of the Pecos Wilderness a few times a year. He keeps a handmade saddle by Tony Spinelli of Clayton, NM in his home office to keep the lure of the outdoors in his line of vision. He also crews for an old friend from Lima who comes every year to pilot his balloon through Albuquerque's unique air currents during Balloon Fiesta. A colorful collection of Fiesta posters from years past are in the exercise room with a space left for 1998. All in all, Bob has made some great moves during his life, all with the stealth and cunning of a creature of habit. And his habit just happens to be making things work better. If you'd like to know more about the Animal Humane Association, or maybe even volunteer, just give him a howl. \*



A handmade Spinelli saddle and Balloon Fiesta Poster collection attest to Bob's love of the wild ride.



Albuquerque Biological Park

## BioDelightful Ideas

The Rio Grande Zoo, Botanic Garden and ABQ Aquarium presents **CAMP BIOPARK 1998**, designed for mid-schoolers! Week-long Day Camps to help young people develop a better understanding of the earth and ways to take care of it. Participants may learn through hands-on activities, games, art projects, staff interaction, confidence building and experiential strategies.

**"JOB EXPLORERS"** It's our job at the BioPark to teach conservation. But what are some of the jobs that make us an environmental park? Kids 11 to 13 can explore careers in non-animal jobs and learn from the pros as they visit their operational areas. They'll get to design a zoo or aquarium exhibit to take home.

JUNE 8-12, JULY 6-10, JULY 20-24  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
\$135 - WEEK LONG SESSION

**"GUERRILLA THEATER"** and **"EARTH MOVES"** will employ art, music, writing and drama to help budding musicians and actors, 11 to 13 years-old, learn about their earth through creative interpretation.

**"GUERRILLA THEATER"**  
JUNE 15-19, JUNE 22-26, JULY 13-17  
8:30 AM - 12:00 NOON  
\$75 - WEEK LONG SESSION

**"EARTH MOVES"**  
JUNE 8-12, JUNE 15-19, JUNE 22-26  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
\$135 - WEEK LONG SESSION

**"TWILIGHT TOURS"** let you experience the sights and sounds of the zoo at dusk! Guided tours by zoo docents reveal fascinating animal behavior and information - RAIN OR SHINE.

TUESDAYS - JUNE 30, JULY 28, AUG. 11  
6:30 - 8:30 PM  
\$7 PER PERSON (ALL AGES)

**"ZOO CRITTER DANCING"** is for all your little "critters" that can't sit still! 3 to 4 year-olds will observe the movement of wild animals, then perform circle dances, imitations and dance techniques. One adult is asked to participate.

WEDNESDAYS -  
JUNE 24, JULY 3, 15, 22, 29, AUGUST 5  
\$9 - 1 CHILD, 1 ADULT PER CLASS  
\$50 - SERIES (6 CLASSES)

**"ZOO CRITTER MOVEMENT AND EXPLORATION"** is for kids 5-7 and includes imitation, games and music.

FRIDAYS: JULY 10, 17, 24  
\$6 - PER CHILD PER CLASS  
\$15 - SERIES (3 CLASSES)

**"BROWN BAG SEMINARS"** are offered at lunchtime, the first Thursday and Saturday of every month in the Education Barn at the Zoo.

JUNE 4, 6,  
**"ANIMALS OF KENYA & TANZANIA"**  
- CURATOR OF MAMMALS, TOM SILVA  
JULY 9, 11,  
**"MANATEES AND WHALES"**  
- AQUARIUM MGR, HOLLY CASMAN

**"BIOPARK AS A TEACHING RESOURCE"** lets teachers and Scout leaders expand their classroom repertoire and discover plants, animals, the environment, conservation and ecology through interdisciplinary skills.

TWO-DAY CLASSES AT THE ZOO  
MONDAY & TUESDAY, JULY 27, 23...  
AND AT THE ABQ AQUARIUM  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JULY 29, 30  
ONE-DAY CLASS AT BOTANIC GARDEN  
FRIDAY, JULY 31  
\$25 - TWO-DAY CLASSES  
\$15 - ONE-DAY CLASS  
\$60 - FULL WEEK

**"KALEIDOSCOPE"** for teens, offers a real hands-on learning experience and a chance to develop job skills. They'll learn about natural history and habitats of plants and animals and educate zoo visitors. Anyone 14 years or older can be a volunteer KALEIDO-KEEPER, while volunteers age 18 can become KALEIDO-KAPTAINS.

Anyone over 16 is invited to become a Rio Grande Zoo volunteer. **"GREETING TEAM"** member, acting as "HOSTS" and "HOSTESSES" for zoo goers including school children and the general public. Explain zoo manners, distribute maps and information, and staff the Welcome Booth.

WEEKDAYS - MONTH THRU OCTOBER  
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- June 6 "Thunderstorms in New Mexico"  
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- June 13 "Introduction to Birding"  
- Doyle and Diane Wise
- June 20 "Summer Birds of the Sandias"  
- Ken Schneider
- June 27 "Raptors!" Hawk Watch International
- July 4 "Astronomical Fireworks"  
- Tom Panutti of UNM
- July 11 "Cowboy Songs and Stories"  
- Joe Diedrick
- July 18 "Black Bears of New Mexico"  
- Don Jones of NM Game & Fish
- July 25 "Legends of New Mexico"  
- Catherine Sandoval-Williams
- Aug. 1 "Colonial Hispanic Woodcarving"  
- Julian Romero
- Aug. 8 "Reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf"  
- Steve Crocer of US Fish & Wildlife
- Aug. 15 "NM Fossil Footprint Record: Tracking All Beasts Great and Small"  
- Andrew Heckert
- Aug. 22 "Rattlesnakes" Bob Myers of the International Rattlesnake Museum
- Aug. 29 "Ancient Seeds for Modern Needs"  
- Brett Bakker of Native Seed Search

\$2.00 charge per car for admission to the park.  
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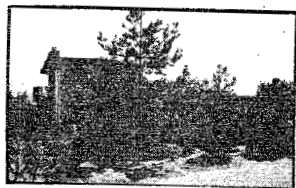
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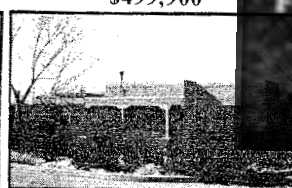
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\$183,900

140 Big Horn Ridge NE \$499,900

1113 Goldwood NE  
**FREE** \$389,900

Analysis  
858-8330  
822-0080

# PLANT OF THE SEASON

Chaste Tree or Vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*) is a small deciduous tree or tall shrub growing 10-15 feet tall and wide. It is commonly grown with a single trunk or multi-stemmed. Attractive compound foliage is arranged in an umbrella fashion which contain 5-7 leaflets. Foliage is medium green above and gray beneath. Mid Summer produces 8 inch flower spikes usually lavender in color but other colors are also available (see below).

Chaste Tree is native to southern Europe and is cold hardy down to -15oF. Plant in full sun in any well-drained soil that is lightly amended with an organic mulch. Established plants have a fast growth rate and may double in size in one year.

**Planting:** Build a berm with soil 3 feet around the base of the plant. Fill up the basin twice to ensure a deep soaking. Don't allow the plant to dry out for the first month or so. As time passes, decrease the frequency but increase the amount of water given. How often to water depends upon many factors, such as the time of year and maturity of the plant. Once established, Chaste Tree can survive on deep soakings every 2 weeks during the growing season and every 3-4 weeks during the dormant season.

**Recommended Use:** Chaste Tree is an excellent, taller specimen plant that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Plant as a screen, barrier or as an unpruned hedge. The only maintenance needed is to prune off the old blossom stalks in Winter to early Spring.

**Three cultivars exist:** V.a. 'Alba' is a white flowering form. V.a. 'Latifolia' is a sturdy, large leaved, lavender flowering strain. V.a. 'Rosea' has pink flowers.

If you have any questions regarding this plant call Dan Caudillo at 764-6617.



**Chaste Tree**  
*Vitex agnus-castus*

# Wildlife Federation Certifies Local Backyard

WASHINGTON - The word is out on the grapevine that Robert and Mary Whitman of Sandia Heights have put out the welcome mat for all kinds of birds, butterflies and other wildlife, while helping to protect the local environment. The Whitman property is now recognized as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat site.

Joining more than 20,000 property owners in the U.S. and Canada, the Whitmans are providing habitat by cultivating trees, shrubs, and flowers that offer food and cover for wildlife, thus attracting butterflies, birds, frogs, and small mammals. This effort promotes common-sense conservation by reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizers, pesticides, or irrigation water.

The Backyard Wildlife Habitat program offers individuals, families, and organizations an easy and enjoyable introduction to nature that can yield a lifelong commitment to conservation. It is one of many NWF efforts to educate, inspire, and assist people in protecting wildlife and the environment. Since the program's start in 1973, backyard habitats have sprouted in urban, suburban, and rural sites everywhere - from post offices, schools and places of worship, to hospitals, community parks and municipal facilities. The majority can be found at residential properties like the Whitman yard.

Easy step-by-step instructions on how to Create a Backyard Wildlife Habitat site may be ordered with Visa or MasterCard by calling (410) 516-6583 or by sending a check (payable to the National Wildlife Federation) to NWF - Backyard Wildlife Habitat program, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Va 22184. The cost of the packet is \$12.95 (including shipping and handling) plus any applicable state and local taxes. For general information on the program, please call (703) 790-4434. Backyard Wildlife Habitat information packets may also be available at your local wild bird specialty stores.

The nation's largest member-supported conservation group, the National Wildlife Federation unites people from all walks of life to protect nature, wildlife, and the world we all share. NWF has educated and inspired families to uphold America's conservation tradition since 1936.

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**MAY 30th**

9am-4pm

Albuquerque Garden Center  
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296-6020

**Guest speakers:**

9:30 am

Claude Cenicerros  
Rebate Program

11:00am

Judith Phillips  
Xeric Slide Show

1:00pm

Jim Brooks  
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# Warning! Mail Theft on Rise



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Theft of mail from residential mail boxes that provides criminals vital information regarding credit card numbers, checking account numbers and checks is a major escalating crime in the metropolitan area — one that can wipe you out financially, ruin your credit, and possibly create serious debt.

We are providing a copy of our new prevention information sheet on the subject and a letter from a Northeast Heights resident who was victimized. Please call our office at 924-3600 if you have questions.

Richard Leonard, Director  
ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Neighborhood Crime Prevention

### One of the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains in the Northeast Heights received this note from a neighbor:

"On June 2nd or 3rd, the mail we left in our mailbox...was stolen. The thief took checks that we had written to pay bills. He knew exactly what he was doing... through a chemical process, (he) was able to erase the dollar amounts the checks had been written for, and erase the 'pay to' person, yet preserve the signature.

He then wrote the checks out to himself (or his alias)... and attempted to cash these checks at various bank branches. He was able to cash two of them for a total of \$1,700, but was stopped before he could cash a third check for \$500. Unfortunately, he was not apprehended...

The police are looking for this thief... but, he is certainly not alone. He was seen with an accomplice. We have also learned that this has happened in other neighborhoods in our area. We want to warn you, to hopefully keep you from going through the aggravation that we are now going through. We have had to lose a day's work to fill out reports, cancel existing bank accounts and... credit cards and obtain new ones,... (and) are unable to use a general amount of (lost) money, plus interest!

All because we chose to leave our outgoing mail for the mailman. Do not let this happen to you!... Protect yourself—take your outgoing mail to the post office or to a (drop) mailbox. Don't become his next victim!"

### The US Postal Service recommends these steps to make sure that you get your mail — and that your mail gets sent:

- Do not put outgoing mail, especially checks or other documents bearing important account numbers, in your mailbox. "Raising that little red flag can draw more than the carrier's attention," said a postal service news release. Instead, send your mail from a postal (drop) box, take it to the post office, or hand it directly to your carrier.
- Consider direct deposit for your pay or benefit checks.
- Promptly remove your mail from your box. "A criminal could have a lot of fun with your new credit card or box of new checks," the news release says.
- Consider a post office box. If you really need a roadside box at your home, consider getting one with a slot and a locked door.
- Know what mail is coming. If mail seems late, check with the sender.
- Tell your local post office, or the police, if you see someone suspicious around your mailbox or those in your neighborhood.
- If your mail is missing or stolen, notify postal inspectors\* or the police immediately.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**

\*Albuquerque Postal Inspectors Office: 346-8490.  
APD Non-Emergency: 242-COPS  
APD Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU): 768-2030.

## SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY CALLS JANUARY - MAY 1998

TYPE OF CALL:	YTD:
Alarms .....	130
Open Door/Window .....	9
Motorist Assist .....	27
Breaking & Entering .....	3
Attempted Breaking & Entering .....	2
Possible Breaking & Entering .....	1
Construction Site Burglary .....	4
Vehicle Burglary .....	7
Suspicious Vehicle .....	35
Suspicious Person .....	8
Peeping Tom .....	1
Theft (Larceny) .....	8
Animal Control Assist .....	9
Lost/Found Pet .....	16
Pet Nuisance .....	8
Snake .....	1
Family Dispute .....	1
Neighbor Dispute .....	0
Loud Disruptive Party .....	0
Fireworks Complaint .....	0
Vandalism (General) .....	7
Mailbox Vandalism .....	20
Mailbox Stolen .....	0
Lost/Found Items .....	4
Deer Hunters .....	0
Speeding Vehicle .....	1
Assault/Battery (Fight) .....	2
Death Threat .....	1
Unusual Special Request .....	11
Salesperson Problems .....	6
Phone Problems .....	1
Car Accident .....	3
Motorcycle Nuisance .....	0
Fire .....	5
Rescue .....	8
Utility Company Assist .....	8
Construction Sites .....	10
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.) .....	9
Specials (Extra patrols/observation) .....	15
Homeowners on Vacation .....	670
<b>TOTAL CALLS .....</b>	<b>1064</b>
<b>Total Mileage .....</b>	<b>15867</b>

Security's mobile number:  
**263-4654**  
The office is still 856-6347.

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## Victory for Our Black Bears

After a two year struggle, Sandia Mountain BearWatch has won an important victory for bears throughout the state. Hundreds of BearWatch members responded to a Game Department questionnaire by asking that the bear harvest be significantly reduced. BearWatch also organized a coalition of state environmental and hunting organizations to support protection for bears. At a recent meeting attended by many East Mountain BearWatch members, the State Game Commission voted 4-3 to protect female bears - called "sows" - by moving the bear hunting season to later in the year, when many sows will be in their dens. The current season runs from Sept. 1 through the end of October. The new season approved by the commission, to go into effect next fall, will run from Oct. 15 through Dec. 15.

## Smart Care for Wild Animals

"Every spring, well meaning people pick up baby animals and bring them into our offices for rehabilitation," says Chris Chadwick of NM Game & Fish. "Most people are not aware that the majority of baby animals have not been abandoned. It's normal for offspring to be left alone while the mother is out gathering food."

"The Game & Fish Department simply doesn't have the staff or financial resources to care for every animal plucked from the wild," says Chadwick. "In the past, we have relied heavily upon private rehabilitators. But they too have very limited funds."

Here's some rules of thumb. For nesting birds, experts recommend not intervening while the young are in the process of learning to fly. Bring pets inside and leave feathered fledglings where they are even if they have jumped out of the nest. Their parents will care for them until they are skilled, which takes two or three days. For featherless baby birds, place it back into the nest. For larger mammals - deer or antelope fawns, it's best to leave them alone. "The mother must meet her own nutritional needs, will hide her young while out feeding, and most likely return." Taking these animals out of the wild decreases their chances of survival and is also illegal.

When wildlife is obviously injured, information on what to do is available by calling 344-2500 or 841-8881 during the day.



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**PARNEGG METRO**

# Is It a Bobcat or a Cougar?

By Robert L. Harrison, Ph.D. – Research Assistant Professor of Biology, UNM

Recent attacks on pets by bobcats and sightings of cougars have created a great deal of concern among residents of Sandia Heights. These two species are quite distinct in their capacity to harm people or pets, but people often confuse the two species. Reports of cougar sightings are often actually bobcats. Residents of Sandia Heights should learn the differences between bobcats and cougars, be able to properly identify them, and know what measures to take to avoid conflicts.

Cougars are also often called mountain lions or pumas. The Florida panther is actually a cougar. The name "panther" usually refers to black leopards or jaguars, neither of which occur in the Sandias. Bobcats are not known by any other name.

Cougars are much larger than bobcats. An adult cougar is about 4 feet long from head to rump, has a 3 foot tail, stands about 30" high at the shoulders, and weighs between 80 and 200 lbs. In contrast, bobcats are 2 - 2-1/2 feet long, have a 5 inch tail, stand about 20" high at the shoulders, and weigh between 15 and 35 pounds. The most obvious difference is the length of the tail. The "bob" in bobcat stands for their very short tails. If you see a cat with a long tail, it is not a bobcat.

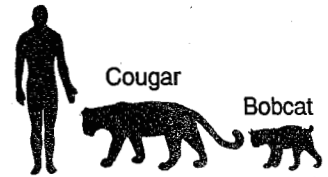
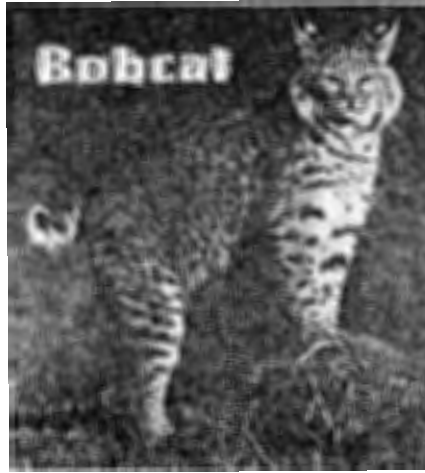
The footprints, or tracks, of cougars are much larger than those of bobcats. Both make tracks that look like housecat tracks, with four toes and a heel pad. But cougar tracks are about 3-1/2 inches wide, compared to 2 inches for bobcats. Cougars and bobcats also differ in their coloration. Cougars are mostly tan, whereas bobcats are tan or gray with spots on their bodies and black stripes on their faces. Bobcats have long fur on their faces which makes their heads look much larger than they really are.

Cougars are far more dangerous to people than bobcats. Cougars have been known to deliberately attack and kill both adults and children. They are most likely to attack people acting like prey, such as people jogging or children playing and playing. Cougars will also kill pets. Unfortunately, the increase of hikers and houses in cougar habitat appears to have caused cougars to lose some of their fear of people.

In contrast, bobcats have never been known to attack people, not even children, despite many years of living in close proximity in areas such as the southern states. Bobcats are too small to consider people as prey. They will attack cats and small or medium-sized dogs. People should avoid cornering or chasing a bobcat, however, as they fight furiously and can seriously injure a person if frightened.

It is far more likely to see a bobcat in Sandia Heights than a cougar. Cougars are not as common as bobcats. Both species are most likely to be seen along undeveloped arroyos or near the edge of open space like Elena Gallegos, the National Forest, or the Sandia Indian Reservation. However, either species could be seen anywhere in Sandia Heights.

It can be very difficult to prevent bobcats, cougars, or coyotes from entering backyards. Each of these species can easily jump over six foot fences. The only sure way to prevent an attack on a pet is to keep it indoors all the time. Electric fences are very effective, but against the covenants in Sandia Heights. Without electricity, a fence would have to stand at least eight feet high at all points, be at least ten feet from all trees, and



have reinforced gates. The presence of adults is not adequate either, as each of these species has been known to attack in full view of people. Each species also can be active during daylight.

Homeowners can discourage visits by bobcats by keeping pets indoors and removing bird feeders, which attract not only birds, but mice and rabbits, all favorite prey of bobcats. Removing shrubbery and other hiding places for bobcats can also help. If you discover a bobcat and wish it to leave, simply wave your arms and talk loudly. Avoid cornering the bobcat.

Cougars within Sandia Heights present a much more serious situation. Cougars normally avoid developed areas, but given the proximity of the mountains, they may temporarily enter Sandia Heights when prey populations are low in the mountains or when young cougars are seeking a home. Cougars must be discouraged from repeatedly entering the developed area. The best way to do this is to report all sightings to the Department of Game and Fish (841-8881), so that patterns of

sightings may be established.

If a life-threatening situation occurs after hours, contact the State Police or Sheriff. Much good advice on what to do if you do encounter a cougar was published in the spring issue of The Grit. In general, gather children and pets close to you. DO NOT RUN OR PLAY DEAD! Yell, wave your arms, and raise your coat or backpack above your head to look big. If a cougar attacks you, FIGHT! When walking or hiking, carry a can of pepper spray and keep it handy, and stay very close to children.

It is not reasonable to expect bobcats and cougars to "stay in the mountains." Not only is Sandia Heights located adjacent to mountains, but homeowners encourage the presence of these species by keeping birdfeeders and pets and by planting shrubs and trees which provide hiding cover. Much of the attractiveness of Sandia Heights derives from its natural appearance. Bobcats and cougars are integral and valuable members of the ecosystem of which Sandia Heights is part. Indeed, in a recent survey, I found that 80% of Sandia Heights residents liked the presence of bobcats in their neighborhoods. With proper precautions, conflicts may be avoided and bobcats, cougars, and people may get along in peace.



## Treasurer's Report

By Rob Loughridge – SHHA Treasurer

At the end of March, SHHA was in a comfortable financial position, with a \$25,000 cash balance, and a year-to-date surplus of \$5,000. The fiscal year ends June 30th, so these figures represent 9 months of activity. The dues increase, which was effective from January 1998, has provided a financial cushion to permit vigorous enforcement of covenant and architectural control matters, and to support on-going activities of benefit to the community.

Membership is stable at approximately 1,400 owners/residents.

## Traffic & Safety Report

By Bob Brown – SHHA Traffic & Safety, Chair

No report submitted.

Other Committee Members: George Hight, Irene Middleton

### HOUSE & PET SITTING

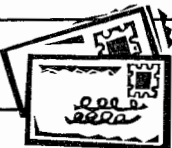
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JANICE OR SUSAN 323-9153



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



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

## BEWARE OF DRIVEWAY SCAM.

On March 19th we had a seal coating sprayed on our black-top driveway by William Denton, who represented himself as the company that sealed our driveway 6 years ago. The frustration of living in what seems to be the middle of the the La Brea Tar Pits for the last 1-1/2 months, prompts me to alert others to the menace of Mr. Denton and his "driveway sealing" machine. For several of you I know it is already too late. The material used by Denton never cures completely and consequently "sticky tar" is tracked into the house, garage, car, etc. Reputable contractors believe the material is an inferior or "watered down" product that is, of course, much cheaper.

Denton is a smooth talker. However, an investigation would have revealed that he was not a licensed contractor and not who he represented himself to be. Beware of the pitch, "I just completed a job nearby and have material left that I'll give you a special deal on so I won't have to return with it or drain it out," or some such refrain. I guess some of us need a reminder every so often that there are scam artists out there who would rather take your money dishonestly than provide a legitimate product and service.

Tim Heisler

A man calling himself William Denton came to our door offering to put a seal coat on our asphalt driveway on March 28. We asked for a business card and references which he didn't supply. We thought it was over and we had bad vibes about him. But about a week later he returned. This time I told him I wasn't going to have the job done until May and he wasn't getting the job because I was obtaining other bids.

On Wednesday, April 8, I returned home at 3pm to meet with a sealant contractor coming at 3:30. When I arrived I was stunned. My driveway had shiny gunk haphazardly applied in a hit and miss fashion on the asphalt and on the railroad ties. William Denton was laying in wait. He drove by in a new white Ford pickup as I was maneuvering my way across my yard to stay off the driveway. He wanted payment. I yelled "You weren't authorized to do this. I'm mad as hell, you blankety-blank!" He yelled he would come back in half an hour when I'd calmed down. He never returned. We never paid him.

This stuff never dries. From analysis, it's roofing tar heavily diluted with either gas or diesel. It tracks everywhere. My first bidder that same day connected me with another Sandia Heights resident who was asking for a solution for a sticky driveway also done by William Denton. I called my husband, who called the Better Business Bureau and the DA's office. I called the Grit, Sandia Heights Security, and the Bernalillo Sheriff's Department to send an alert. This was trespassing and property damage. I tried Channel 7's consumer hotline. No help anywhere.

Our insurance company may pay something toward the only solution three different contractors suggested, which is a new layer of asphalt over the slime. In the meantime, I've bought surgical booties which I have people wear either while walking on the asphalt or in my home, if I can't catch them before they step in this mess.

"Buyer Beware" isn't enough. This man didn't take "no" for an answer. We've either entered the "Crazy Years" or the "Twilight Zone!"

Michele Benedict

## BOBCAT CAPTURED AFTER ATTACK

In March, we lost one of our precious Westies to a bobcat. It all happened in a minute or less as the cat jumped into our yard and took him. We heard the cat snarling at us from the other side of the wall before he ran. In the daylight, we found the bobcat tracks in the soft dirt outside our backyard wall. My husband Jerry delivered flyers door to door, requesting neighbors to call if they found any sign of

our pet. Two local news stations ran stories about the incident. We never found any sign of our dear Jake.

According to Officer Ryan of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department bobcats are supposed to be nocturnal. Bobcats are supposed to be opportunistic hunters, meaning they don't stake out areas to hunt, and they are supposed to be afraid of humans.

An alarming concern was the possibility that a particular cat might have become so acclimated to the neighborhood, that it actually favored hunting pets. Based on this theory, we agreed to manage a trap, hoping to remove a rogue cat that may have developed this characteristic. Officer Ryan set a live trap. However, he warned us there is a very low trapping success rate. Imagine our surprise when three weeks later we discovered a bobcat in the trap!

For our peace of mind, we choose to believe this was THE cat, who had returned. Game and Fish relocated the cat far from Albuquerque. We cannot ever replace Jake, but we hope that by relocating the cat, another family will be spared the kind of anguish we have experienced.

We want to share with our neighbors what we have learned, which is: bobcats don't necessarily follow the "rules." This bobcat came into our walled yard, taking our pet. The cat returned to our house. We trapped the cat very close to our house during daylight hours, most likely between 4 and 6 p.m. Neighbors have seen bobcats casually passing through their yards and on the roads - or drinking from water meant for birds or pets.

We made mistakes too - the biggest was assuming our dogs were safe within our walled yard. We no longer assume that they are safe, and we don't limit our concern to the bobcats, either. The coyotes may be even more bold than the cats. We have talked with several neighbors about the incident and the steps we are taking to protect our dogs - such as:

- Relocating a bird house and feeder away from the enclosed yard. Birds attract predators.
- Installing motion-sensor lighting for the yard. In addition to providing a flood of light when we take the dogs outside, it will also warn us if triggered by predators outside the fence line.
- Installing a six-foot fence around our yard to eliminate line of sight into the yard by predators.
- Supervising the dogs outside - actually being in the yard to make our presence obvious. At night we use a leash to prevent them from bolting away in case a predator is near the fence.

Eva Glow Brownlow

## WIDENING OF PASEO AND TRUCK TRAFFIC ON TRAMWAY

A resident expressed concerns to the County and State regarding plans for our community roads. He is sharing the responses he received.

TO: Bernalillo County Zoning-Planning Dept. November 26, 1997

The recent article in the ABQ Journal dated November 20, 1997 entitled "Paseo Widening Expected Soon" caused me some concern. The quote by Mr. Dennis Valdez of the New Mexico State Highway Dept. that "It (Paseo del Norte) is one of the few east-west traffic facilities left in Albuquerque that has the potential to handle large volumes of traffic besides the interstates" could lead one to believe that the state and perhaps the county have big plans for making Paseo into a major interchange.

If that were to happen, the impact on various cross streets and especially Tramway Boulevard would be significant. I recall when promises were made to the residents in neighborhoods along Tramway that trucks would not be permitted on that roadway. I would wonder if time causes memories to fade. I would appreciate your response to the following concerns:

1. Is there a master plan in either the County or the State that calls for Paseo and Tramway Boulevard to become a part of a beltway around Albuquerque?
2. Is there a plan in either the County or the State to permit truck traffic on Tramway Boulevard in the near or distant future?
3. Will the upgrading of Paseo mentioned in the article bring the road bed, bridge loading, and pavement to specification to handle commercial truck traffic (excess of 5 ton loads)?

It would be my intention to provide your responses to my neighborhood association for their information in that several members of the community share my concern. Thank you.

Joel Carlson

FROM: County of Bernalillo  
December 15, 1997

Dear Mr. Carlson:

We received your November 26 inquiry related to the future status of Tramway Boulevard and Paseo del Norte. I am attaching a copy of this letter for reference. In regards to your first question there is no plan that designates Paseo del Norte and Tramway Boulevard as part of a beltway around the City of Albuquerque. However, they are both designated as limited access Principal Arterials on the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG) Long Range Major Street Plan (LRMSP). This means that access will be limited on Paseo del Norte (much like it is on Tramway) when the facility is completed.

In reference to your second question, we are not aware of any plans to remove the truck restrictions on Tramway Boulevard. You may wish to ask State Highway & Transportation Dept. the same question, (since we cannot speak for them) but it is our opinion that they will provide you with a similar perspective.

Finally, trucks will be permitted on the section of Paseo del Norte between 2nd Street and Tramway Boulevard (they are restricted from utilizing Paseo between 2nd Street and Coors Boulevard).

If you have additional questions on these, or other issues please feel free to contact myself at 848-1548 or Mr. Steve Miller at 848-1516. We would also be more than happy to come speak to you or your association in person.

Chris Blewett - Transport Planner

FROM: New Mexico State Highway  
& Transportation Dept.  
District Three Office  
January 22, 1998

Dear Mr. Carlson:

In response to your letter dated November 6, 1997 requesting information on the Paseo del Norte Corridor, I offer the following: All State jurisdictional roads within the Albuquerque Metro area are part of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) which the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRGCOG) is responsible for planning and updating. Any future transportation corridor improvements and decisions pertaining to commercial truck traffic, beltways, and road widening, will be determined through the MRGCOG process.

Currently the New Mexico State Highway Department at the direction of MRGCOG is conducting a Feasibility Study for the Paseo del Norte Corridor from Coors to Tramway. Findings from this study will be presented before the MRGCOG committees for their review and recommendation in the next few months.

If you have any further questions about the MRGCOG process or the status of the Feasibility Study, contact Mr. Dennis R. Valdez from this office at 841-2712.

Steven P. Harris - District Three Engineer

## Signs of the Time

A number of complaints have been received regarding the proliferation of realtors' directional signs along the roadways in Sandia Heights. Residents feel that the character of our community is negatively impacted by this visual clutter.

The Board of Directors of Sandia Heights Homeowners Association has asked the involved realtors to remove them to preserve the character of the neighborhood and the good will of its residents. The majority have complied. Those who have not cooperated after a phone call, have received letters asking them to remove the signs, citing county ordinances and regulations.

There are county ordinances against signs and vehicles parked in the roadway. (All roads in Sandia Heights are county roads.) **Bernalillo County ordinance 37.77** states that no obstruction of the roadway is allowed. The county traffic division views signs and parked vehicles as obstructions, and will remove them from roadways. County ordinance 87.4 states that obstruction is criminal trespassing, and can be prosecuted. In addition, county zoning regulations for R-1 allow only one sign per lot, and regulate the size of that sign. Many of the units in Sandia Heights also have covenants regulating signs. As a point of information, the city of Albuquerque has similar ordinances.

The Association has sent a letter to County Commissioner Barbara Seward asking for her assistance in encouraging the Bernalillo County traffic division to remove all offending signs from county roadways, including those along Paseo del Norte. A letter has also been sent to the President of the Albuquerque Board of Realtors, Nelson Janes. We have also informed the President of North Albuquerque Acres Homeowners Association of our efforts.

If you would like more information, please call the Association office at 296-1412.

## Little Cloud Park Soon to be a Reality

By **Janey Brink** - SHHA Board 1990-1996  
Bernalillo County Public Arts Board Member



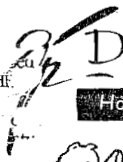
The community of Sandia Heights will soon be able to enjoy a neighborhood park that was first conceived over 8 years ago. It's a small pocket of about three acres of land with 1.5 acres developed for play and community use.

After considerable effort working with County Public Works, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, former Commissioner Pat Cassidy, former Bernalillo Public Works Director John Ramsey, Tramway Project Phase I & II, Frank Ulibarri of Public Works, Art De La Garza of Parks and Recreation, and current County Commissioner Barbara Seward, San Bernardino Road was diverted north into a lighted intersection and this bit of open space has become Little Cloud Park. It was given its name in the planning stages by previous SHHA Boards along with Janey Brink.

There will be play equipment for small children up to 10 years of age - swings, covered picnic tables, benches and a fenced grass area. The park will be landscaped with trees and native plants, and the only public water fountain on Tramway Trail will be located near the SHHA bulletin board. Also in the works is a public art piece on the site. The community can be very proud of this new and long awaited park. Come out and enjoy it when it's finished. A dedication celebration will be in the Fall.

Janey Brink's work on park pays off.





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### JUNE 6TH IS NATIONAL TRAILS DAY!

Juanita Ranger District is organizing groups for its Adopt A Trail Program. Friends of the Forest has adopted the Sycamore Trail. If you would like to help them work on the trail, call Richard Becker at 225-7774.

If you would like to form a group to adopt your own trail, call Sam Beard at 878-0443. You'll be supplied with tools and training to help you into a competent trail crew. Join us!

## RELIGION

Are you curious?

Are you hurting?

**We are all visitors in this world,  
and our time is brief;**

**should we not search for the truth while we may?**

## The Baha'i Faith

For information call 856-1655

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

These non-commercial ads are printed at no charge to members of the SHHA and run for one issue unless a longer run is requested. Call 856-1868 or fax 856-1792.

**LOOKING FOR A FUN, FULL-TIME BABYSITTER** who will play with your children? Graduate of a Red Cross babysitting course. Experienced with infants and young children. Call Katy McGee at 857-0661.

**DOG SITTING, YARDWORK, ODD JOBS!** 13 year-old, Desert Ridge student earning way for a school-oriented European trip in March of '99. Call Jared, 856-6244.

**PRIVATE TUTORING** - available for high school/college level studies. Call Miya at 856-1155.

**PET SITTER** - Kathryn Shaw, 7 years old, will watch house plants, pets and do babysitting. 857-9236.

**NEED A SANDIA HEIGHTS BABYSITTER?** Call Lesley Libo at 856-7909. She is 14 years old. Responsible, reliable and resourceful.

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**Life is Just a bowl of cherries**

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

Life is just a bowl of cherries! How many times have you heard this adage or the enduring story of young George Washington chopping down the cherry tree with his hatchet. Seems cherries make good analogies as well as good eating!

Cherries can be enjoyed from mid-June into early August. Those sold after the first week of August have probably been in cold storage. Color is the best guide to eating quality. Choose cherries that are plump and bright colored - reddish-brown or mahogany are most flavorful. Avoid overly soft or shriveled fruit or those with dark skins. The stems should be attached as the fruit can decay quickly without them. As cherries are very perishable, loosely wrap and refrigerate to enjoy within 3 days.

If you are handy in the kitchen, cherries can be baked in cakes, cookies, muffins or turnovers. They can be made into jams, preserves, relishes, ice creams, cordials, brandies and used as flavorings. Cherries as a meat accompaniment are a delicious garnish or topping.

Nutritionally speaking, a serving size of 1 cup (about 21 cherries) has 90 calories. They are high in potassium, low in sodium and rich in vitamin C. Water soluble fiber accounts for 100% of the total dietary fiber. Being high in natural sugars, cherries are a high energy food. One pound equals about 80 cherries, 2 cups sliced cherries or 1-1/2 cups cherry juice. To preserve cherries to enjoy all year long, they can be dried or frozen.

To prepare dried cherries, wash and stem them first. Cut in half and remove pits. Place fruit skin down on dryer trays. Dry at 135°F for 12 to 15 hours; the fruit should be pliable and leathery with no pockets of moisture. Store in plastic bags in a cool, dry area. Dried cherries can be sprinkled on your morning cereal and substituted for raisins in cooking. Sour cherries may be reconstituted and used in pies or cobbles.

To freeze sweet cherries, wash, stem and pit. Use a cherry pitter, an inexpensive tool sold at hardware and cookware shops, or the rounded end of a paper clip. (Unpitted frozen cherries will have a slight almond-like flavor.) About 1-3/8 pounds makes 1 pint frozen cherries. Prepare a sugar syrup by dissolving 3 cups sugar and 4 cups lukewarm water; add 1/2 teaspoon ascorbic acid to each quart of syrup. Pack cherries into freezer containers and cover with cold syrup. Freeze 6 to 12 months. Remove 30 minutes prior to serving; do not let the cherries thaw completely. To freeze sour cherries, wash in ice water, stem and pit. For a sugar pack, mix 1 quart cherries with 3/4 cup sugar until sugar is dissolved. Put in freezer containers. For a heavy syrup pack, dissolve 7 cups sugar and 4 cups lukewarm water. Pack and cover with cold syrup.

The USDA Food Guide Pyramid suggests 2 to 4 servings of fruits each day and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans instruct us to eat a variety of foods to help maintain a healthy weight. Cherries can be a part of a moderate, well-balanced diet.

**CHERRIES JUBILEE**  
Serve cold over ice cream or heat through and flame with additional brandy.

- 3 pounds fresh sweet cherries
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1-1/2 teaspoons slivered orange peel
- 3/4 cup brandy

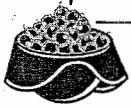
Wash, stem and pit cherries. In a large pan, combine sugar and cornstarch. Blend in water. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened and smooth. Add cherries and orange peel and cook 10 min. Stir in brandy. Pour into clean, hot jars and seal. Process in a boiling water bath 10 min. (15 min. at high altitude.) Makes 4 pints.

**SANDIA HEIGHTS RESIDENT RECIPES**  
FROM THE 4TH ANNUAL WINETASTING

From the kitchen of Betty Peterson  
**BLACK BEAN SALSA**  
1 - 16 oz can black beans, drained  
1 - 12 oz jar salsa  
1/4 cup - chopped fresh cilantro  
1/4 tsp - cumin  
2 Tbs - lime juice  
In processor, roughly chop beans. Do not puree. Stir in rest of ingredients. Refrigerate or serve immediately with chips.

From the kitchen of Barbara Johnson  
**SALMON ROLL**  
1 - large can salmon, dry  
8 oz - cream cheese  
1/2 cup - finely chopped onions ...  
1/4 tsp - liquid smoke  
1 Tbs - horseradish  
Chill slightly and roll into two rolls. Then roll in pecans and cover with saran wrap. Chill at least 18 hours.

MAKE A NOTE...  
THE **GRIT**  
**NEXT ISSUE**  
Deadline for articles, advertising, classifieds, letters to the editor:  
**AUGUST 15th!**



# Reseeding Siberian Elms a Growing Problem

by Barbara Rosnagle - SHHA Board Member

"Spring is bustin' out all over!" Do you remember that song? It is hard to say it without singing. Well, in Sandia Heights it should read "Elms are bustin' out ALL OVER!" Saplings are springing up on the roadsides and some homeowners, knowingly or not, are raising elm trees that are against our covenants. Most Sandia Heights covenants state: "No Chinese elms, cotton-bearing cottonwood trees or Bermuda grass shall be maintained on residential lots." But confusion about Chinese versus Siberian elms persists.

We asked **Judith Phillips**, well known New Mexico native plant authority, about the elms. She pointed out that there has been a confusion in Albuquerque from the beginning with people (and even nurseries) referring to the weedy Siberian elm as a "Chinese elm." (Chinese elms are a good tree that is difficult to reseed.) In contrast, the Siberian elm is now recognized as a public nuisance. Albuquerque has banned them because of their pollen. Judith considers them a threat in an area such as Sandia Heights for two reasons. First is the obvious one - the wind-blown zillions of seeds. As she says, "Even in a garden, if someone turns over a spadeful of dirt they are apt to be planting one of those seeds." Second, and to her a very important reason, is that they take up space that should be devoted to native oaks, and plants such as nutleaf hickberry and other quality wildlife plants.

**Western Garden Book** says that elms grow "to 50 feet... are extremely hardy and tough, enduring cold, heat, drought, and poor soil... with papery, winged seeds dispersing seedlings over a wide area." They can grow to 50 feet in 5 years. The Siberian elms are notorious for regrowing from cut stumps. Many homeowners get out with pruning shears every year in search of seedling elms, but it's a race against the millions of seeds being dispersed by the mature specimens down the street. Judith suggests that the best deterrent is to cut and then paint the stump immediately with brush & stump killer, which is widely available. Roundup can be used, but is less effective and less desirable environmentally. Apply both by brush to limit dispersal of the chemicals into the air. The Covenants committee of the SHHA Board hopes that residents will take care of this problem themselves. Any Western garden book will help you identify the Siberian as well as the Chinese elm.



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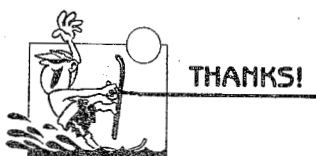
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