



## Spring Heralds Growth and Change

By Marshall Aungier – SHHA President

The storage of recreational vehicles has been at the center of attention of the Board of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association since the last issue of the Grit. A number of residents have attended each of the last four monthly board meetings to express their opposition to the enforcement of covenants which prohibit individuals from storing RVs on their property. Following the trial court's decision interpreting the covenants in unit three, the board has notified residents of the court decision and of its intention to enforce the applicable covenants. It is our hope that effected residents will accept this decision and make arrangements to store their vehicles. It is the intention of the board to take the least intrusive method available in ensuring compliance. The board has determined, however, that it must take the steps necessary to enforce the covenants evenly throughout each unit.

The objective of the covenants is to preserve and enhance the beauty of the Sandia Heights neighborhood and in so doing maintain and improve property values. Having engaged in numerous discussions with homeowners about the covenants over the past year and a half, I have concluded two things. Residents concerned with the enforcement of the covenants against others unanimously favor stronger enforcement, frequently lamenting the fact that the covenants are not more restrictive than they are. Predictably, those against whom covenant enforcement activity is undertaken express opposition to enforcement. Many residents in the second category cite past enforcement policies or lack of policy in support of their opposition.

The responsible committees have worked to forge a policy of even handed application of the covenants as they are written. The objective of such policies is to avoid arbitrary and ad hoc enforcement. Residents still opposed to a specific rule may follow the procedure outlined in the covenants to amend the offending rule or covenants. We hope that this policy provides as much predictability as possible for residents. Although the result of this effort may not immediately be self evident, we remain firm in our conviction that such a policy is most fair and benefits all homeowners and the community at large. We appreciate your support of our efforts.



▲ Getting ready for Bunny Day at Little Cloud Park on San Bernardino. – Photo by resident Chuck Brink

Traffic & Safety Chair, Irene Middleton, toasts the new year with SHHA President Marshall Aungier and Jo Porter at the holiday party for Board members.



### SHHA has a New Administrative Assistant and a New Phone Number!



Next time you call the SHHA office, please welcome Sandra Jonas, our new Administrative Assistant. Sandra is a New Mexico native, born in Roswell, and has been living in Albuquerque since 1973. Her husband, Fred, is a Ph.D., Professional Engineer in the Space Technology Division of Nichol's Research. She is a mother and grandmother of 3. Sandra has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, and is certified in Human Resource Management from the University of New Mexico. Her previous experience includes Human Resource Manager at Orion International Technologies, 1987-1997; and Secretarial Supervisor for the Bernalillo County Extension Service, 1980-1987. Sandra replaces Erin Frinkman, who served the Association with excellence and aplomb for four years and is pursuing a new career in teaching. Well wishes to both.

**SHHA Office: 265-7793**  
**Fax: 265-7295**



SHHA COFFEE FOR NEW RESIDENTS!

Wednesday, April 14th  
9am - 11am

At the home of Claire Wilcox  
308 Big Horn Ridge Road  
856-6282

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

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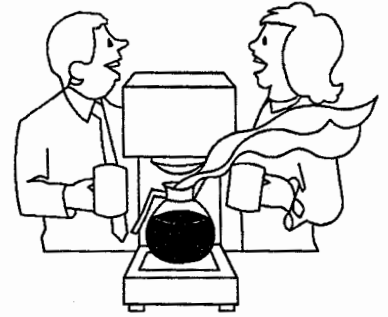
**BOARD NEWS:**

By Debbie Miller – SHHA Secretary

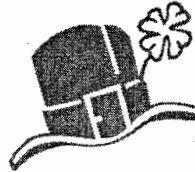
In the last  
three months  
the Board has:

- Welcomed a new administrative assistant
- Continued to explore Y2K preparedness with Tram Company
- Examined new Flood Plain boundaries
- Determined first of new walking paths in Sandia Heights
- Discussed RV court ruling and defined covenant enforcement
- Discussed possible cellular phone tower to be erected in area
- Discussed water usage in Primrose Point development
- Changed office phone numbers

**BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE LT. SIBRAVA SHERIFF'S SUBSTATION ON EUBANK & HOLLY NE:**



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✓ APRIL 14th  
✓ MAY 12th



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# ROUNDHOUSE REPORT

1999 Legislative Session:

## Legislative Debate Should Take High Ground

The legislative session is here. And, as always, it marks a new round of debates on complex emotional issues like tax cuts, school reforms, and public safety. Our success in dealing with these matters will depend on our ability to debate without dividing, to persuade without personalizing, and to compromise without capitulating.

Impossible? No. Difficult and challenging? Yes. Regrettably, the legislative process is often likened to war. We speak of battles between politicians and political parties instead of differences between philosophies. We describe proposals as being "killed" instead of just failing to win support. We whisper and wonder about what strategies are being "hatched" or what "deals are being cut" instead of acknowledging that it is impossible for people of differing views to reach agreement without sacrificing their core values.

In contrast to this, I will strive to address each issue on its merits and to engage in debate not in a calloused attempt to "win," but instead, to honor my commitment to do what is best for my constituents. Furthermore, I believe this pursuit of good is the motivation of my peer legislators as well. If we can somehow manage to engage one another in the true spirit of dialogue and debate, it is the people of New Mexico who will emerge as winners.

However, I believe that it is appropriate to include supporters' motivations as part of my review of proposed legislation. As such, I offer a few views of my own. My support for reducing the capital gains tax is not motivated by a desire to "make the rich richer," but rather by a belief shared with my constituents that such tax reform would greatly benefit the whole of New Mexico's economy.

My proposal to prohibit smoking in the Capitol is not intended to embarrass any of my colleagues, but rather to make the building a healthier and more pleasant place to work and visit. And though I oppose any movement toward universal health care because of its disastrous implications for business, I recognize that its supporters are motivated by a genuine desire to provide New Mexicans with affordable health care. Thus, I am ready to participate in discussions that will address the multitude of competing concerns so that real progress might be realized.

Even with the best of intentions, the reality is that each of New Mexico's 112 legislators is elected to represent a unique constituency, so differences will always exist. However, I believe we are successful as legislators only to the extent that we temper our vigorous support for our constituents' concerns by acknowledging that some of their needs can only be addressed by broader cooperative efforts and agreement. Some issues simply transcend district boundaries and demand that we come together to affect important change.

Collegiality is the strength of any deliberative body and is directly related to its ability to deal responsibly with difficult issues. We, as legislators, will not succeed without respect for one another's positions and motives, or without a desire and willingness to reach a consensus.

Even with that in mind, I still believe in the importance of disagreement. Our country's greatness is built upon our belief that the best ideas are found through earnest dialogue and shared pursuit of a better way. No idea should be adopted as policy without thorough examination, but this should never translate to personal partisanship that rejects ideas based on their source rather than their true merit. With these thoughts, I look forward to the good we can accomplish during the session.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Joe Thompson**

State Representative/District 31

Roundhouse: 986-4300 - Home: 294-9423

\*\*\*\*\*

*Joe, a lawyer, recently worked as Governor Gary Johnson's Legislative Liaison, and was also Lt. Governor Walter Bradley's Chief of Staff. He supports the Republican Party Platform, the paving of Pino Avenue, and technology in the schools.*

## Traffic & Safety



By Irene Middleton - SHHA Traffic & Safety Committee, Chair

The Traffic and Safety Committee recently mailed flyers to residents requesting input on the establishment of pedestrian pathways in Sandia Heights. The response was overwhelmingly in support of pathways, primarily as an enhancement to public safety. Tramway Lane was listed as the number one candidate for a pathway.

As a result of the survey, Bernalillo County Public Works staff is scheduled to cut a path along Tramway Lane from Tramway Boulevard to Bobcat. It will be a dirt path cleared of vegetation, approximately 4 feet in width with no further improvement, and placed adjacent to the paved road surface within the county's right-of-way. Work on this first pathway will begin in spring of 1999.

We have also been notified of roads scheduled for resurfacing in Sandia Heights:

### PHASE I

- Antelope Avenue;
- Bighorn Ridge Drive; Black Bear Loop, Place and Road;
- Bluebell Drive and Place;
- Bobcat Boulevard;
- Cedar Hill Road;
- Cougar Loop;
- Deer Drive;
- Goldenrod Drive;
- Honeysuckle Drive;
- Laurel Loop and Place;
- Lynx Loop;
- Eagle Ridge Drive, Road, Court, Place, Terrace and Lane;
- Morning Glory Road; and San Rafael Avenue.

### PHASE II

We also hope to have some roads resurfaced in Sandia Heights North.

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## Architectural Control

By **Jim Wise** – SHHA Architectural Control Committee, Chair

The Architectural Control Committee (ACC) remains quite busy for this time of year. We review an average of 10-15 projects at each of two monthly meetings. At least half of the projects are related to new homes or major additions. Of course, these projects generate a lot of neighborhood interest and often result in comments that are extremely valuable to the committee's review and approval process. Everyone has a busy schedule and it isn't always possible to make the neighborhood review, but the committee strongly encourages each homeowner to participate.

### Recreational Vehicles, Trailers, Boats, etc.

Homeowners received a letter from Association President Marshall Aungier about the recent court ruling which upheld the covenants interpretation prohibiting the storage of the above vehicles on any lot. At the January 13, 1999, SHHA Board meeting, the ACC was asked to publish **guidelines for homeowners** desiring to submit a project related to the storage of these vehicles. After a comprehensive review the following guidelines were devised:

ACC will consider a project for a structure that completely encloses the vehicle if all covenant requirements are met. The structure must not unduly restrict the view of adjacent homeowners. (A neighborhood review can assist with this.) The committee will look for compliance of construction materials that blend with the home where the structure is to be built, as well as harmony with adjacent structures. Setback restrictions must be met. Exterior finish, roof materials and color(s) must be approved. I have identified the major covenant requirements, but there may be other applicable requirements based on the individual unit.

The ACC will also identify vehicles which are presently screened to determine covenant compliance. We will review the records to determine if the screening has received prior ACC approval. **1. If we find prior approval**, but the



Architectural Control Committee Chair, Jim Wise (middle left), shares holiday cheer with Board members (l to r) Don Aunapu, Bill Stabler and Lester Libo.

screening does not satisfy the covenants as set forth above, a variance will be given. The variance will require that if and when revisions are made to the screen, it must be brought into compliance. It will further require that if the property is sold the screen must be brought into compliance or removed. Any proposed revisions are to be submitted to the ACC for review and must be approved prior to start of work.

**2. If we find no record of approval** and/or the homeowner does not provide evidence of such, then the ACC will request that an application be submitted for our action; otherwise, removal will be requested. **3) If there is no record of approval** but the screening is compliant, then the ACC will issue a letter giving approval.

### Playground Equipment

ACC approval is required prior to installation of playground equipment. Since the previous GRIT article, I have spoken to six local suppliers to determine the availability of colors for slides, canopies and window screenings. With this information, the committee agreed to approve the **colors blue (dark or light), green and teal**. The ACC will not approve yellow or red playground equipment. Should a homeowner find a

supplier with colors other than those approved, either submit for approval or call and we will determine the next step.

Spring is just around the corner, and before long our attention will turn to projects around the home. The covenants do require ACC approval of color(s) for such projects as repainting, re-roofing, re-stuccoing or other exterior work. It is very helpful to ensure covenant compliance up front.

Since the last Grit, the committee has approved 44 projects:

New Construction	4
Additions	13
Re-stuccos	14
Re-paintings	2
Fence/Walls	7
Landscaping	3
Sunrooms	1

If you have comments or questions for our hard-working committee members, call the SHHA office at 265-7793 or me at 821-2241. Thank you.



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## Covenant Support

*By Susan Carlow – SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair*

The members of the Covenant Support Committee and the Sandia Heights Board would like to thank all those homeowners who voluntarily moved their recreational vehicles, boats and trailers that did not comply with the Sandia Heights Declaration of Restrictions. We appreciate your cooperation!

In the preceding Grit article Jim Wise, Architectural Control Committee Chair, concisely outlined the procedure for submitting a construction plan to screen an RV, boat or trailer. Many homeowners have already begun the initial process, and the ACC will work hard to expedite the review of your plans. Please be advised, that during the planing phase and "approved" construction phase, all RVs, boats and/or trailers must comply with the Declaration of Restrictions and be stored off your property.

**From RVs to Trees!** The Covenant Support Committee has received an increasing number of complaints from residents about large trees blocking their view. Over the past several decades, trees have been planted and are flourishing in our community. The Covenant Support Committee has decided that this sensitive issue cannot realistically be addressed by us, and that solutions to the problem should come from the neighbors involved. Our committee does suggest that homeowners engaged in new landscaping projects check with their local nurseries, to select trees whose growth pattern preserves the wonderful scenic views that are important to all who reside in Sandia Heights. There are a great number of interesting species that fulfill this criteria and will do well in our high desert environment. Remember, the sapling that you plant today may become a "monster" obstruction tomorrow, blocking even your own prized vista. Please select and choose wisely!

## Treasurer Report

*By Charlie Pechewlys – SHHA Treasurer*

In this Grit, we expected to provide the first ever mid-year treasurer's report on the expenses incurred so far this year by category (printing, supplies, administration, etc.). You might recall that in the last Grit, we reported the revenue, expenses, and end-of-the-month balance of the Association without the detailed break out. This issue's report was not completed by the deadline for the Grit. Additional review and reconciliation was needed. The report will be provided to all members of the Board, and should be available by this printing to all members through the Association office. If you would like a copy, please call to request one (new number is 265-7793). Please contact me if you would like more information – 881-8300 (O); 856-6878 (H).

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# Community Services, Membership & Communications

By Claire Wilcox - SHHA Vice President and Committee Chair

## COMMITTEE MEETS ON RV RULING

A group of homeowners attended the December board meeting to discuss the recent court decision banning RVs from being stored in Sandia Heights. These homeowners were contesting the judge's ruling regarding the parking of RVs on personal property and requested another meeting to further

## WATCH YOUR SANDIA HEIGHTS SERVICES BILLING STUFFERS

We want to keep you up to date on all issues and happenings in Sandia Heights, and have arranged with Sandia Heights Services to add an "SHHA stuffer" to their monthly water and sewage bill. That allows us 12 updates a year - from community events to important alerts about plague and wildlife. Don't forget to turn them over. We're utilizing both sides to impart information. This month you will see a stuffer on our Winetasting '99 on March 20th. There's a form you can use to sign up for this event. No money can be accepted at the door, because that is akin to selling Liquor and we don't have a liquor license, so please be sure to mail in the stuffer form or the one in this issue of The Grit.

## TASTE SOME GREAT GRAPES

Our 5th Annual Winetasting will be held Saturday, March 20th, from 5-7pm, at Futures for Children. As in past years we are soliciting your help in providing the hors d'oeuvres which make the evening so perfect. National Distributing Company will provide over 30 varieties of wine including some very special vintages from Geysler Peak - Geysler Peak Reserve Alexandre, Chardonnay and Shiraz - at \$30, \$23 and \$ 32 a bottle respectively. This year we've moved the winetasting to a late March, hoping for a warmer night, and have added a guitar player for ambiance. Come and enjoy meeting friends and neighbors while tasting some excellent wines. A reservation form is below. See you there!

## NEW FLOOD PLAIN BOUNDARIES: DRAINAGE STUDY REPORT

After months of intensive study of the drainage in Sandia Heights South, the flood plain boundaries are about to be refined. These are really adjustments, rather than new boundaries.

## The process for adjusting boundaries:

- The new draft maps showing adjustments will be available for viewing in late February.
- Notification of a subsequent public meeting will be posted in the legal section of the city newspapers as is required. Please watch for it.
- Following the notification there will be a 90 day period for public comment.

## The drainage areas to watch:

- **North Domingo Baca** - at Cedar Hill. Affected properties are south of Pinon Hill Place and at least one house downstream of the southern tributary of North Domingo Baca.
- **South Domingo Baca** - runs south of Deer Drive and San Bernardino.
- **Pino** - some properties on the northern edge of the arroyo will be affected.
- **La Cueva** - a tributary below Roadrunner may be subject to changes.

Any questions can be addressed to:

**Susan Calongne**  
City/County Flood Plain Administrator  
942-3982

## SANDIA HEIGHTS NEW MEMBERS COFFEE

The Membership Committee would like to invite new Sandia Heights residents to a

"Get Acquainted" Coffee  
Wednesday, April 14  
9 am -11 am

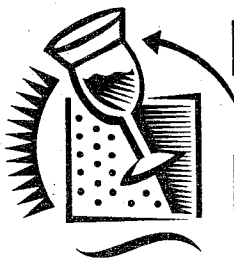
at the home of Claire Wilcox  
308 Big Horn Ridge Road  
856-6282

We are especially eager to welcome the newer members of Sandia Heights (last 6-8 months). Come and meet others in your neighborhood, learn about local issues, restaurants, shopping and community activities. If you're an old timer and would like to bring your new neighbor, that would be wonderful!



Claire Wilcox (right) with committee member Melanie Christman and her husband Bob after the December board meeting.

discuss the facts of the case. It was decided that the Communications Committee would study the matter and make a report at the January board meeting. After considerable discussion, the committee concluded that another meeting with the dissenting group would be fruitless since the judge's decision had been rendered and further discussion would not change his finding. Therefore, Sandia Heights homeowners essentially have two choices - comply with the judge's decision or change the covenants of their individual units to allow parking of RVs.



5th Annual SHHA  
**Wine Tasting**  
Saturday, March 20  
5:00 ~ 7:00pm

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



## Wine Tasting RESERVATION

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List all who will attend: (Deadline for reservations is March 15, 1999)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that each person attending is over 21 years of age.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$9 per person)  
Send order and check to: Wine Tasting, Claire Wilcox  
308 Big Horn Ridge NE, ABQ, NM 87122

## Sandia Heights Student Selected for D.C. Conference



Phoenix Forsythe

Phoenix Forsythe, of 555 Black Bear Place NE, has been selected to attend **The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC)** from January 19-24, 1999, in Washington, D.C. This conference is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Phoenix will be among 350 outstanding National Scholars in attendance.

The theme of the NYLC is *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. Throughout the six-day conference, Phoenix will interact with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. Highlights of the program include welcoming remarks from the Floor of the United States House of Representatives and a panel discussion with prominent journalists at the National Press Club. Scholars will visit

foreign embassies and receive policy briefings from senior government officials. Phoenix may also meet with her Senators and Representative or an appointed member of their staff to discuss important issues facing Albuquerque and the nation.

To complement these special meetings and briefings, Phoenix will participate in a number of leadership skill-building activities. In one activity, "If I were President, students role-play the President, members of the Cabinet and representatives from Capitol Hill who must respond to an international crisis. The National Young Leaders Conference culminates with the "Model Congress," in which scholars assume the roles of United States Representatives by debating, amending and voting on proposed legislation.

The NYLC is sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, the Council is committed to "fostering and inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential." Over 400 Members of the United States Congress join this commitment as members of the Council's Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. Each year, only 7,000 outstanding youth nationwide may participate in the 20 sessions. "The Conference provides the opportunity for students, like Phoenix, to distinguish themselves as tomorrow's leaders," said Michael Lasday, Council Executive Director. "Scholars not only gain knowledge and experience in the nation's capital, they leave with a sense of accomplishment and an increased ability to face the challenges of the future."

Phoenix, the daughter of John & Faith Forsythe, is a junior at La Cueva High School. She is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and a three year member of the Model United Nations team. Phoenix is on the La Cueva track team and was Captain of the junior varsity soccer team. In addition to her school activities, she works part time at KOB FM Radio.



Surrounded by the Apple notes from "Cookie Mom" are (l to r) Double Eagle principal, Dr. Trish Wagner, Rayna Thompson and her mother, Sonya Thompson.

## Phantom Cookie Mom Revealed

By Alicia Allman-Snyder

It was almost one year before the faculty and staff discovered the identity of the "phantom cookie mom" at Double Eagle Elementary School, located in North Albuquerque Acres.

With the regularity of a Friday spelling quiz, the oversized Tupperware container, filled to the brim with home baked cookies, appears in the Double Eagle teacher's lounge just in time for Thursday's first recess at 10:30am.

Each week, taped to the top of the cookie container is a red paper apple. Printed on the apple, in a perfect hand, are words of encouragement that extol the attributes of teachers, the profession, and the impact teachers have upon students. For example, the faculty is gently reminded that: A teacher affects eternity; no one can tell where his/her influence stops; or, A young child, a fresh uncluttered mind, a world before him - to what treasures will you hand him? The note is signed, The Cookie Mom.

It was nearly the end of the past school year before the identity of the Double Eagle "phantom cookie mom" was revealed as Mrs. Sonya Thompson whose daughter, Rayna, is a fifth grade student at the school. Thompson also has a second daughter, Celeste, a student at La Cueva High School. The Cookie Mom tradition began because the family was new to Sandia Heights and the school. Thompson thought she could combine her love for baking cookies and getting acquainted with Double Eagle faculty into one activity.

Anyone who is a teacher knows that teaching is rewarding but can be an energy buster; mid-morning treats are a welcome energy boost! But Mrs. Thompson's cookies and messages are more than this to the Double Eagle faculty and staff. Childhood memories of home baked cookies conjure nostalgic feelings of love, nurturing and encouragement. These memories recreated by someone else's mother are as special as the original feelings of long ago.

If one were to estimate the number of cookies Cookie Mom has served to the Double Eagle staff in a period of two years, it would be about 3,500! Take note, Hillary Clinton!

Thompson, Double Eagle's beloved Cookie Mom, will likely relinquish her duties this spring when Rayna graduates to Desert Ridge middle school - most parents' allegiances change as their student moves within the school system. The Double Eagle staff will miss their Cookie Mom and thank her for her generosity and gifts of food and kind words.

## New Development

By John Keller - SHHA New Development, Chair

Your committee recently learned that an application to build a 64 ft. communications tower immediately east of the ice arena on Tramway has been filed with Bernalillo County. The property is zoned C-1 and a communications tower is allowed under this zoning. The county subsequently placed a moratorium on all telecommunications tower construction. (See Albuquerque Journal - February 10, 1999.)

Therefore, we have some time to ascertain the impact of the proposed communication tower on our community and determine if any remedies are available. The committee will continue to pursue this matter.



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# Y2K: Mobilizing the Community

By Mary Westfahl – SHHA New Developments Committee

The Y2K Preparedness Committee is continuing its work. At the last meeting on January 22, at Prince of Peace Church, about 20 people gathered to get down to business. This network of people began forming neighborhood or block committees to address the many areas of concern that could affect all of us when the clock turns over at midnight on December 31, 1999. These areas include food, water, utilities, medical care, and security among others. **Anyone interested in joining a committee in their neighborhood should contact either Barbara Lipinski – 856-6870 or Marie Iverson – 797-8279.**



Board members Mary Westfahl (left) and Lucille Bryant with husband Jim discuss Y2K at the holiday party.

Ron and Sandra Cline continue to be the organizers for this Y2K effort and are planning to hold working meetings about every 4 weeks.

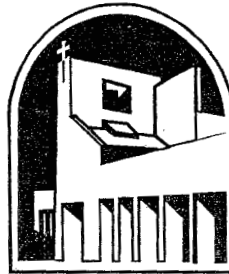
#### Next scheduled meetings:

Prince of Peace Church  
February 26  
March 26

Call Ron or Sandra – 856-7908 for times and additional information.

Regarding the Y2K utility issue, the SHHA recently received a letter from the Sandia Peak Utility Company regarding its plan to provide power should PNM be unable to provide power starting January 1, 2000. In this letter, the vice president said that they have contracted for additional generators and are continuing to work on the details of this contingency plan. They will provide the Association with a more complete briefing soon.

Y2K coordinators, Ron and Sandra Cline flank their children Michelle and Chris.



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...continued from cover page: **Woodrats are Damaging Our Cholla**

#### Damage Prevention/Control

When nuisance problems occur in and around buildings, exclusion is the most effective method of eliminating damage. Woodrats may be excluded from buildings by the same methods used to exclude Norway and roof rats. Since several species of woodrats are agile climbers, all entrances to buildings, including those at the attic level, must be closed. Cracks and openings in building foundations, and any openings for water pipes, electric wires, sewer pipes, drain spouts and vents must be sealed. Also check for openings in attic vents, broken roof shingles, or other gaps next to the eaves. No hole larger than 1/2 in. should be left unsealed. Make sure doors, windows, and screens fit tightly.

If gnawing is a problem, cover edges with sheet metal. Coarse steel wool, wire screen, and lightweight sheet metal are excellent materials for plugging gaps and holes. Plastic sheeting, wood, or other less sturdy materials will likely be gnawed away. When rodent-proofing, be sure the woodrat is not trapped inside the building, by installing a temporary gravity door made of sheet metal or rigid mesh wire, hinged at the top, over entrance holes. The woodrats can push it open to exit but cannot re-enter.

#### Repellents

Objectionable odors from substances like mothballs (naphthalene), or tacky substances, may make an enclosed area temporarily less desirable for woodrats, as for other mammals. Likewise, noxious tastes may make an item less palatable. No woodrat repellents, however, are registered by the EPA. In general, chemical repellents are not considered a practical solution.

#### Toxicants

Toxicants available for woodrat control include anticoagulants and zinc phosphide (for agricultural applications), registered under Special Local Needs 24(c) provisions. Registered products vary among states. When using toxic baits, follow label instructions carefully. Anticoagulants are effective for woodrat control and are especially suited for use around structures because of their low hazard to pets and children. Most baits formulated for commensal rats and house mice give effective woodrat control. Anticoagulants work by interfering with the bloodclotting mechanism. Death usually occurs 4 to 5 days after feeding on bait begins. With most anticoagulants, such as chlorophacinone or diphacinone, feeding must occur daily for 4 to 5 days. Finely ground or mealytype anticoagulant baits are recommended. Since woodrats have a tendency to pack away items, pellet bait should be avoided since it is often cached at the nest site. Cached bait is probably not effective in minimizing reinvasions of the area, so it is essentially wasted and may present hazards to nontarget species.

Anticoagulants are usually put out in bait boxes, but woodrats tend to fill boxes with sticks and other debris. Therefore, use open bait containers. Bait exposed in this manner must be placed so nontarget species, pets, and children do not have ready access to it. Access to the bait by pets can be minimized by inverting a wooden crate over the bait tray. Baiting sites should be located near existing woodrat runways, feeding sites or nests.

#### Trapping

The majority of woodrat problems in structures can be dealt with by using one or several traps. Woodrats show little fear of new objects in their environment and are easily trapped. The standard rat snap trap is quite effective for woodrats. Trap bait should be wedged into or tied to the treadle. Good baits include nut meats, bacon rinds, peanut butter and oatmeal, prunes, raisins and other dried fruit, and biscuits. Live catch traps, using the same baits as above, can be used for woodrats. Release of trapped animals is not recom-



mended and may be against local regulations.

Furrow entrance traps such as the #110 Conibear trap may also be useful. The trap is placed in nest openings or other restricted travelways and is triggered when the wood rat passes through the trap opening. When traps are set in this manner, baiting is not necessary, but care must be taken to avoid nontarget animals.

Glue boards are also effective for trapping woodrats. These work on the same principle as flypaper; when a rat attempts to cross a glue board, it gets stuck. Glue boards tend to lose their effectiveness in dusty areas, and temperature extremes may affect the tackiness of the adhesive. In many cases, woodrats trapped on glue boards will not die immediately. If they don't, they can be euthanized by placing the board in a plastic bag and adding carbon dioxide gas.

Remember, all traps and glue boards should be placed so that children, pets, and other nontarget animals do not have access to them.

#### Other Methods

Destroying woodrat nests has been suggested as a method of control. When a nest is destroyed, the animals may run for cover, thus exposing them to predation by humans or dogs. This method of control is time-consuming and probably of limited value. Once the woodrats in an area are controlled, however, destroying their nests may reduce invasion by other woodrats.

#### Economics of Damage/Control

Nationally, woodrats are a minor pest. They only occasionally become numerous enough to cause significant agricultural damage. In most cases, woodrats are a nuisance around vacation homes, cabins, and other outbuildings. Their stick nests can be extensive and their physical presence and droppings are often objectionable. Woodrats can carry diseases and ectoparasites. Therefore, close association with humans is undesirable. In most nuisance situations, control can be accomplished by the resident or homeowner.

#### Species: Southern plains woodrat (*Neotoma micropus*)

**Description:** Total length 13-14 inches. Steel-gray, with white hairs on throat, breast, and feet. Blackish tail.  
**Habitat Preference:** Semi-arid brushland, valleys, plains.  
**Food Preference:** Cactus seeds and acorns.

#### Species: Whitethroat woodrat (*Neotoma albigula*)

**Description:** Total length 13-15 inches. Gray body, white belly. Hairs on throat and feet white. Tail whitish to brown.  
**Habitat Preference:** Brushlands, rocky cliffs with shallow caves. Builds a house 2-3 feet high made of sticks and rocks.  
**Food Preference:** Cactus, beans and seeds, leaves of plants, especially new growth.

#### Species: Desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*)

**Description:** Total length 10-13 inches. Body pale to dark gray washed with fulvous. Belly grayish to fulvous.  
**Habitat Preference:** Desert floors or rocky slopes. House usually on ground or along cliffs.  
**Food Preference:** Seeds, fruits, acorns and cactus.

#### Species: Stephens woodrat (*Neotoma stephensi*)

**Description:** Total length 10-14 inches. Body grayish buff, darker on top, belly washed with buff. Dusky wedge on top hind foot. Tail slightly bushy on end.  
**Habitat Preference:** Juniper woodlands.  
**Food Preference:** Primarily juniper.

#### Species: Mexican woodrat (*Neotoma mexicana*)

**Description:** Total length 12-13 inches. Gray to black. Tail distinctly bicolored with white below, black above.  
**Habitat Preference:** Rocks and cliffs in mountains. Does not normally build houses.  
**Food Preference:** Acorns, nuts, seeds, fruits, cactus plants.



woodrat entry hole  
damaged cholla branches  
pile of debris guarding entrance

This report is provided by the Wildlife Extension Specialists at the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Conservation Biology, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

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# RESIDENT PROFILE: The Nitty Gritty on the Edi

By Frederick Michael Hindel



Carolyn Hindel sorts out the news for the Spring issue.

She stood rigid on the narrow wooden plank that jutted out from the massive ironwork structure. With the wind in her face, she stared straight ahead at the snowcapped mountains far beyond the rugged canyon walls that converged to cradle the swiftly moving waters in the river below. You could feel the tension in the curious crowd of thrill seekers pressed against the rails at the canyon rim. No one spoke. And no one tried to stop her. Then, after a pause that seemed an eternity, she leaned forward and fell head first, down toward that narrow ribbon of a river some 148 feet below.

"Crazy," said the guy standing next to me as she sprang back into view; the bungee cord having hurled her back almost to the original launch site. I chose not to reply, figuring, "She's not crazy, she's my wife," sounded too much like a punch line. So I continued to watch as she bounced haphazardly from one canyon wall to the other until coming to rest a few feet above the rushing waters. There she dangled up side down until the rescue raft arrived and the team unceremoniously "cut 'er loose."

Some twenty minutes later she arrived at the top exhausted. She allowed as how the disorienting, suicidal leap wasn't nearly as risky as climbing up the 400 narrow wooden steps along the canyon wall. She assessed the event as having been a calculated risk with the odds overwhelmingly in her favor. Besides, at that time, New Zealand was the only place one could do this, and the chances of our returning were slim. Clearly, this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that was not to be missed. I'd like to think I was mustering

the courage to sign up when the obliging chicken god stepped in and rang the lunch bell initiating a two-hour crew break. Fortunately, we were on a tight schedule. So there you have it. There are those who come to watch and then there's Carolyn. She's not crazy, she's my wife. And that makes *my* life one interesting leap after another.

Introducing Carolyn Hindel, Editor of the Sandia Heights *Grit* (as per her prevailing incarnation). As such, she's been doing *Resident Profiles* in this space regularly for some time. But this month a touch of the flu kept her from the appointed interview. Facing two blank pages and the infamous "drop dead" date, I suggested she might fill the space by viewing this as an opportunity to introduce herself. She intimated (between calculated coughs and pathetic groans) how helpful it would be if I performed that little task for her. What could I say, it was Valentine's day. So bungee back with me a bit in an effort to shed some light on how this current incarnation came to be.

We'd been living in Sandia Heights a couple years

when a friend introduced us to an SHHA board member. Instinctively my caution button went off and damn, if it wasn't but a minute, before I heard our new friend ask, "How'd you like to be the Editor of the *Grit*?" While I was busy processing the pros and cons of this dubious opportunity, as is my custom, Carolyn accepted the offer (leap) as if she'd just left a job as Editor in Chief of the Washington Post. But she knew exactly what she was doing and I knew precisely why. She'd been accepting all manner of challenges lately. Not for the sake of challenge, nor because she had something to prove. But more as a catalyst that might make a connection that could lead to the ultimate goal... a career change. The problem... that new career had yet to be identified. While not uncommon, it *is* frustrating. Especially if you've got talent and energy and desire, and a gut feeling that it's all being misused. Well, I wasn't about to throw a fly in that ointment.

As careers go, we had done very well over the years as creatives working for various advertising agencies in Chicago. But for some time we had both been contemplating making changes, or at least modifications, long before we came to New Mexico. Funny thing about advertising - after a while, most of the creative people talk a lot about the challenge, excitement, freedom and rewards, but spend a lot of time looking for a way out. Truth be told, it *is* a unique profession. Shooting commercials around the country, working with celebrities, all the glamor, all the perks... pretty heady stuff. But the pressure is always on. And even after 30 years, facing that blank page and the task of creating yet another original concept remains both an intimidating and humbling experience.

Eventually, long-term survival triggers a career review that can yield refreshing results. Especially if the name of the agency you work for changes semi-annually based on the buy-out binge we experienced in our profession some time back. And when you start losing patience with a system that continually conjures up new ways to waste your time, that's a good time to start working on that long-term escape plan.

Didn't need to tell Carolyn twice. (Leap!) We purchased the studio condo next to our two-bedroom unit and I watched, a bit bemused, as the new office paraphernalia began to arrive. She set out on her own, running a creative service, all the while acquiring invaluable experience operating a small business. I continued working for the old agency with the many new names until we felt the time was right to execute our plan, which would be to build on what Carolyn had already begun. Do what we do best - provide a creative service and eliminate the rest. Do it on a small scale, on our own, in an area where our expertise would be of value. And if the surroundings happened to be gorgeous, it couldn't hurt.

In Chicago we were spoiled by beautiful surroundings. From the 50th floor of our northside lakefront condo we looked out onto Lakeshore Drive and the downtown area about five miles south. Our contemporary steel and glass building had a gentle curve that allowed us to take in the spectacular city lights, including the new ones that were installed over protest at Wrigley Field. And we could track the flight patterns over Lake Michigan all the way to O'Hare some 15 miles west. There were days when the weather was below us and all that was visible to the south were the very tops of the Hancock, Standard Oil and Sears Tower poking through the clouds into the glorious sunshine above a city unaware of our personal pleasure. On one occasion the morning paper featured a front page

## The Nitty Gritty on

### THE GRIT

It was a simple question. Why did they call it *The Grit*? There were a few opinions but no one knew for sure. And there were a lot of questions. "Wasn't there a newspaper in the old west by that name? Weren't there several? Isn't it a generic name like *Journal* or *Sentinel* or *Tribune*? And by the way, who were they, anyway?"

A few phone calls produced an incomplete list of past editors of the Sandia Heights *Grit* going back to about '74 or '75... maybe. Seems that's when the *Grit* got started as a single page flyer, run off on an old *Gastetner* and hand delivered to the handful of pioneers living here at the time. By collective vote, it was named *The Grit* because it was, in fact, pretty gritty up here when the wind blew. Now if anybody has a better story or wants to expand on the myth, feel free to contact the editor.

## The True Grit

There is another *Grit*. The *true Grit* one would guess because it predates ours by over 100 years. Seems there was this German immigrant, Dietrick Lamonde, who started the whole thing in Williamsport, PA, back in 1882. The concept was to print only the "good news," and appeal to rural tastes and traditions. It became a weekly distributed by a nationwide network of young carriers. It promoted peace, good will, courage, strength and happy thoughts. "Make every issue ring the joy bells of life," was its motto. Really.

And it's still around today. Owned by Ogden Publications out of Topeka, Kansas. And by golly, they've even got a web site and an 800 number. When I called and asked about the origins of the name, I got, "Not sure, probably had to do with the dirt in the air."

Below left, our unusual partial adobe affords stunning views of the Sandias. Below right, the sun swept greatroom is a mixture of Southwestern and eclectic tastes.



## or of The Grit!

color photo of a spectacular double rainbow that spanned the skyline the previous afternoon. What we had witnessed from our point of view, due to moisture above and below was the same double rainbow come full circle. All 360 degrees. It's understandable that a view would be a priority at our next destination.

The plans for that destination took shape back in '83 when we discovered Sandia Heights on a memorable trip to the Southwest. It was then and there we decided that when the time came, this would be the place. In '88 an opportunity presented itself in the way of a property exchange and we purchased an early George Lewton house on Marigold Drive. That too was a leap from anything we'd ever seen in the Midwest. Unfortunately, because this was just the first step in the master plan, we had to lease the house and return to work back home. Trouble was, home was beginning to feel more southwest than midwest.

Then in '92, realizing that all the pieces would never fall perfectly into place, it came as no surprise when Carolyn said, "Let's do it." We arrived in Albuquerque in November, unemployed and neither wealthy nor old enough to retire. So we set up shop in-house, determined to make it on our own. We were finally in our strange new house with the beautiful view watching the evening sun paint the watermelon mountain.

Talk about a major leap! Both Carolyn and I had been diehard Chicagoans. She was north side, I was south side. Or put another way, she was Cubs and I was White Sox. She went to school at the Chicago Academy of Fine Art, I went to the Art Institute. None of the above occurred simultaneously as I was a bit older than she, and have remained so. A *straight A* student, she left school after 2 years (leap) in favor of on-the-job experience and interviewed at the agency where I worked. She was bright and talented so I hired her, placed her in another creative group, then failed to notice her for a few years. I'll get back to that, but first, a little background.

I had grown up with an interest in the arts by osmosis. There was always music in the house and we all played instruments. Not professionally, just a family thing. There was time for that back then. Those were radio days, that forced you listen and create your own images. And no two people ever *saw* the same thing in any radio program. I really concentrated on those Saturday *Met* broadcasts and imagined all sorts of wondrous things. By the time I joined the high school band I was into big bands and jazz as well as the classics. And in school I got to *play* all that music in every different kind of band they offered. Failing chemistry? Who cares, I had Bach and Basie, Mozart and Mulligan, Elgar and Ellington. High school was heaven. But by my senior year I decided my passion for music exceeded my talent. So I opted for the School of the Art Institute. And while I abhor the concept *ignorance is bliss*, it paid off handsomely in this case.

Besides being located inside one of the country's finest museums, the school also supported the Goodman Theater where I would often sneak in to watch rehearsals. But best of all, the school was directly across the street from Orchestra Hall, where the Chicago Symphony reigned supreme. Back then a buck would buy a gallery seat six stories above the stage for a Friday afternoon performance. Needless to say, I cut a lot of art classes. All that, combined with night courses at the University of Chicago proved to be an incredibly enlightening period indeed. And I continued to play in



When Fred is not tending their freelance advertising business, he enjoys woodcarving and gardening. He created most of the furnishings in the Hindel household.

Well it happened with Carolyn to my amazement and delight. Most rewarding was her response to a whole new world of music and performing arts. If you don't get it you can't fake it. She got it big time. It all would have happened without me, to be sure. It was just a matter of time. But I was grateful for the timing and the opportunity. But the danger in the mentor/pupil relationship arrives when the scales come into balance. For some, it's the time to flee. For others it could mean the beginning of a beautiful relationship. The latter is the stuff of dreams. Unless, of course, you're both married, but not to each other.

Dead zone.

Some years later, having gone away and then returned, the erstwhile pupil soon became a star at another agency. And when we met again, the mentor/pupil thing was relaunched, only this time the rolls were reversed. She might be able to hum the waltz from *Der Rosenkavalier* because of me, but I sure had a lot to learn about life from her. So we got married again... this time to each other. Could it be I was learning how to leap?

We moved to that high-rise apartment with the view. We traveled the world and always looked forward to coming home to Chicago. What a fabulous city, offering the best of all the things that were so important in our lives. Ah, but the winters... there's the rub. And before long, there were those mergers and the impatience and our house in the Southwest that strangers were enjoying instead of us. And there was Carolyn, running her own business and itching for the next incarnation. Which brings us back to New Mexico and the present.

Well, almost. Here we were in Albuquerque, both working for clients back in the Midwest and Carolyn was doing the Grit and we were getting on just fine. That's about when the calls from her mother started coming a little more often. Her dad suffered from Alzheimer's disease and had declined to the point where her mother needed help. When they moved here, Carolyn never missed a beat doing what needed to be done until he died. In retrospect, all those little life lessons I thought I had learned didn't really provide me with the insight to get through that delicate situation. Then in an effort to get her mom back on track Carolyn took her for a series of acupuncture treatments. Week after week she went and watched, asked questions and learned. She came home and talked about it. Bought books and read a lot. And that's when it clicked.

We'd been here almost five years and all that while, plus those later years back in Chicago, Carolyn was preparing herself for that elusive career change. Now it was clear. And she was as sure as if it were a mandate from on high. So pushing 50, she enrolled at the International Institute of Chinese Medicine as a full time student. Crazy? I'd put my money on calculated risk.

She's now in her second year and still doing the *straight A* thing plus taking courses at the University of Phoenix to make up credits for those she missed back when I hired her. But in a couple more years she'll have her DOM degree and be an honest-to-god Doctor of Oriental Medicine. Now if you want to make the leap into the future you can imagine us at the annual SHHA winetasting event where you might overhear someone say, "Who's the old guy with Doctor Hindel?"

Today they bungee jump at fairgrounds and malls across America. But it's not the same. There was a magic about the time and the setting in New Zealand. If they still do it there today, you can bet it's pretty much the same. There'll still be the few who leap and the many who just come to watch. And though the watchers shake their heads, if you study their faces you'll find as I did, they tell a different tale. One of not really being satisfied standing on the sidelines. Of an overwhelming desire to participate. Of reluctant admiration. Of disappointment in not having learned what it takes... to leap.

She's not crazy, she's my wife.

Carolyn Hindel, Editor of The Grit. ✱

various bands, jobbing around to get me through school, and for a long time after.

Meanwhile, Carolyn from the north side, several years my junior, was born into the television age. Not the early unpredictable, often powerful, live broadcasts, but the slick packaged programming that had already developed in TV's short history. And radio? Radio was for rock 'n roll and cruisin'. Progress can be baffling. As for the high school experience... in Carolyn's neighborhood it was more a blackboard jungle nightmare that one hoped to wake up from alive. She not only survived, she somehow managed to excel and went on to art school where, predictably by this time, she did the same. Now her music was Bob Dylan, whose message made a lot of sense as friends and classmates turned in their tambourines for M-16's. It was a confusing time, charged with anger and an eagerness for protest. Cops turned a convention into a melee. Rejection of authority was commonplace and often justified. All this may have had something to do with her rejecting school after only 2 years in favor of striking out on her own. Rebellion? Or calculated risk.

Either way, having hired her and filed her away, it was some time before I took notice again. What I noticed was a huge potential for becoming an exceptionally fine art director. It didn't take long for that to develop into the classic mentor/pupil relationship. It's a remarkable thing to watch someone pick up on your ideas, toy with them, then toss them back at you shaped into something far better than anything you might have imagined. Suggestions devoured. Concepts grasped. Everything was so easily and completely understood. Approaching the point where verbal communication becomes unnecessary. Replaced by something far more articulate. Akin to those jazz musicians who meet for the first time and make the best music they ever played. Don't ask how or why... just let the magic happen.



### Meet Doofus. A very fine cat, indeed!

Doofus showed up three years ago for Thanksgiving dinner. He ate. He stayed. He was just a kid and someone dumped him. Or maybe, he was sent by the stress god when we were coping with a difficult family illness. Because no matter how bad things got, that damn cat brought a smile at the end of every day. Still does. But he's rather partial to us. If you ask around you're likely to hear...  
"He never met a leg he didn't like."

# Don't Ignore Your Early Spring Garden

By Shirley Medina – Master Gardener

**It's important now to...** observe and enjoy the new growth and budding that is occurring. Later, when it warms up more, watch for invasions of new plant life by ants and aphids. If there are ants, there are probably also aphids. Buy large quantities of ladybugs and refrigerate them until it is warm enough to release them. Refrigeration keeps them dormant.

**Continue watering.** Water your plants and trees deeply at least once every two weeks, especially if the weather remains warm without any precipitation or if it has been windy.

**Compost and mulch plants** with approximately 4-6 inches of cover in early March.

**If designing your landscape,** an easy tip is to follow the flow of your natural ground slopes. Where there are dips in the ground, make them into swales covered with river rock and cobble stones, accented by at least a couple of boulders and low-water-use plants which will get water when the swale gets water. If there are level areas closer to the home, fill this in with native buffalo or blue grama grass (or a combination of each), or perhaps, a vegetable garden. If the property slopes away from your home, try terracing by using boulders already in place and making steps with railroad ties or cement stones and planting fragrant low to medium-water-use plants such as lavender, autumn sage, gray or green santolina, and various wildflowers suited to the altitude and colder climate.

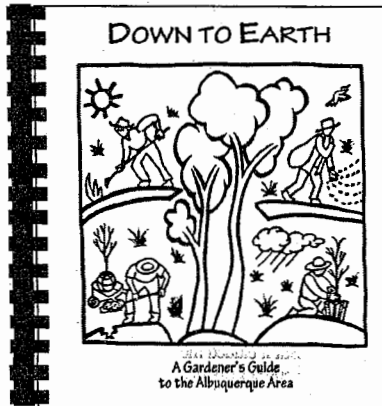
**In April,** clear flower and natural beds of any debris. Stems, dead grass, and woody branches can be broken down and put into the compost pile if you have one; otherwise, dispose of them. Place strung lights on budding fruit trees, and water the trees deeply before a late freeze. While this will not ensure your fruit crop, it will help.

**The last freeze date** for Sandia Heights is usually projected to be in the first week of May. Use this date as a gauge to set out less hardy plants and transplants, and to start regular gardening. Buy plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden.

**Attend the Xeriscape Conference** slated for March, or read the new book published by Albuquerque Area Master Gardeners.

## Down to Earth: A Gardener's Guide to the Albuquerque Area

**Down to Earth** is a recently published guide which represents approximately a year of compiling articles and information written by Albuquerque Area Master Gardeners, Bernalillo County Extension Service, and others. It not only provides interesting reading for Albuquerque's newcomers, novice and accomplished gardeners, but it is also a valuable resource rendering information on topics ranging from bulbs to xeriscape.



The guide begins with a calendar which describes appropriate monthly gardening and troubleshooting activities. This is followed by the "Basics of Albuquerque Gardening," which is a small series of articles ranging from High Desert Gardening Highlights to City of Albuquerque ordinances. One of the most interesting sections written by Albuquerque Area Master Gardeners are the

descriptions of neighborhood gardens in five different areas of the Duke City. The book continues with more useful articles in "Garden Talk," which range from information on bulbs to weeding. The remainder of the book is devoted to information on Albuquerque Area Extension Master Gardeners, and local, plant, and information sources. This guide has something for every Albuquerque gardener. If the answers to your questions aren't in it, the resources are.

## Sixth Xeriscape Conference

The Sixth Xeriscape Conference, sponsored by the Xeriscape Council of New Mexico and the NM Water Conservation Alliance, is scheduled for **March 5-6, 1998, at the Sheraton Uptown.** Topics include planning, design, and construction/management of xeriscapes for both the home owner and the commercial landscaper. Speakers include Judith Phillips, Jim Knopf, David Salman, Steve Hansen and others. The two-day conference costs \$75.00, which includes lunch and all conference materials. Registration forms may be obtained by calling 341-8732, or by printing one from the Xeriscape Council web site - <http://www.xeriscapennm.com>

## Other Gardening Events

**Albuquerque Master Gardeners continue to have classes through March.** Individuals may attend single classes by paying an admission fee. Contact 243-1386 for more info.

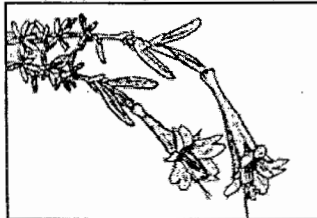
The **Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque** will have a presentation by Claude Ceniceros on "Proper Pruning and Maintenance of Xeric Plants" at the Wyoming/Osuna Xeric Park on **March 20 (9am-noon).** The Xeric Garden Club has adopted this park and maintains it.

**On April 17, Phyllis Ginsburg will give a tour of her Sandia Heights bulb garden.** For more information on attending or joining the club, contact 298-0550, and leave a message.

## PLANT OF THE SEASON

**Bubblegum Mint (*Agastache cana*)** is a native perennial growing 2-3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. It has a woody-based, upright growth habit with a bubblegum fragrance and heavy blooming, purplish-pink blooms occur in late summer/fall. Two inch tubular blooms hang downward along 12 inch terminal spikes. Flowers attract hummingbirds and goldfinches eat the seeds.

Bubblegum Mint is native to southern New Mexico (Grant, Lima, Sierra, Dona Ana, Otero and Lincoln counties) and west Texas. Found in the dry slopes of lower mountain elevations between 5,000-6500 feet, it's **cold hardy to -20°F.** Plant in full sun, mixing one part planting mix with two parts well-drained, native soil (no clay soil). Plants become available in late spring/summer.



**Bubblegum Mint**  
*Agastache cana*

**Planting:** Build a berm with soil 12 inches around the base of the plant. Fill the basin twice to insure a deep soaking. For the first two weeks you must **keep plants moist.** As time passes, you can **decrease the frequency** of water but **increase the amount** given. How often to water depends on many factors – time of year planted, weather, etc. Remember to avoid allowing the plant to dry out, but also not keep it too wet. Check it daily. Bubblegum Mint is borderline drought tolerant, so an established plant (1-2 years old) can be deep soaked every 10-14 days during the growing season and monthly in winter. The greatest amount of water given should be during the blooming period.

**Recommended Use:** Anywhere bright, beautiful blooms are desired. Use in mass plantings or in rock gardens for fragrance and to attract hummingbirds. Mix with other flowering perennials and shrubs to extend the bloom season, since it flowers later. Occasionally cut old flower spikes off to encourage reblooming. Cut the plant completely to the ground in late fall when the plant turns brown.

Bubblegum Mint is the most popular variety at nurseries but others do exist: Licorice Mint Hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*), Pringle's Hummingbird Mint (*Agastache pringlei*), and Giant Hummingbird Mint (*Agastache barberi*) are a few of the available types.

If you have any questions regarding this plant, please call Dan Caudillo at 856-6617.



# Volunteerism Determined to Make a Difference

By Rod Stewart

Not long ago we caught Duke and Pat Colket picking up trash along San Rafael. They don't live on San Rafael but they felt someone... anyone... should help "clean the place up. The Colkets, along with others of our community also can be found swinging hammers and pumping saws with Habitat for Humanity building houses for underprivileged people.

Imagine a world without volunteers! The sick, the disabled, the lonely, the neglected, the abused, the young, the elderly - all without hope that someone... anyone... would care. No one to hold a hand, give a hug, offer a hot meal, dry a tear, say a word of encouragement, teach a new skill, plant a tree, help a student, build a house.

Were it true, our world would be a bleak and frightening place.

Thankfully, volunteers abound. Each carries forward the finest traditions of the American way of life that began in the early days of our nation. Today, volunteering differs from those first days when neighbors pitched in to build another neighbor's barn or nurse a friend back to health. But the spirit has never changed.

Determined to make a difference, if only a small one, people from all backgrounds have taken on projects as diverse as soup kitchens, hospice, special olympics, nursing home visits, nature trail watches and animal refuge centers. Community beautification projects such as the Kiwanis shelter and nature blind in Elena Gallegos, the Kiwanis cabin and trail improvements near the Sandia Crest and the Plaza Don Francisco Cuervo y Valdes with its water fall built by Kiwanians in Old Town are other examples of volunteerism at work. (Kiwanians call such projects "sweat equity" because volunteers donate manual labor and their club finances material costs.)

The purposes of this small epistle are twofold: to gratefully acknowledge the time, talent, and money invested by Sandia Heights volunteers, and to encourage those not so involved to discover the rewards of community service. Physicians, psychologists and sociologists all agree you'll have fuller and longer lives if you give some payback.

Whether one chooses a service club such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimist, Civitan, Sertoma or

Lions, to name a few, the investment of time is just that - an investment in quality of life enrichment and longevity. Those interested in international outreach might explore the opportunities available in Sister Cities International (Albuquerque has eight sister cities), the Friendship Force or the Council for International Visitors. Other options include local churches and synagogues, the U.S. Forest Service, and masonic organizations.

Most civic service organizations have fundraising activities which are rewarding in and of themselves. For example, Kiwanis organizes over 600 volunteers from Kiwanis, Optimist and Civitan clubs each year to park cars and sell tickets at the Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Compensation for these services funds community service projects from handicapped children's fishing derbies and 4H rodeos to New Mexico Symphony Orchestra educational tours for school children.

Volunteering is the spirit of care, concern, giving, hope, and, yes, love - for others, our community the country and the world. Volunteers have taken the hopes and dreams of others and have empowered them with feet and hands and minds.

Only one life, t'will soon be past.  
Only what's done for others will last!  
I sought my God  
His face I could not see  
I sought my soul  
But it eluded me  
I sought my brother  
And found all three!

- Anonymous

**Footnote:** General Colin Powell said, "Talking to Kiwanians about volunteering is a little like offering Tiger Woods a few pointers on his golf swing. Kiwanis International is, of course, one of the world's leading service organizations, whose more than 300,000 members in 80 countries generously donate \$70 million and 7 million hours of volunteer service every year." Their focus is "young children - priority one."

Rod Stewart is past president of the Albuquerque Sister Cities Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Albuquerque, the largest club in the Southwest. He also has coordinated parking and admissions at the Balloon Fiesta for the last 10 years.



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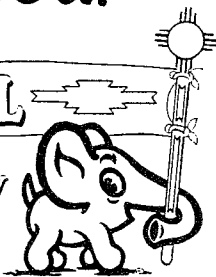
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excel (ik sel')-v. 1. to surpass; be superior to; outdo-2. to surpass others or be superior in some respect

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**SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY CALLS JAN. - DEC. 1998**

TYPE OF CALL	YEAR TOTAL
Alarms	574
Open Door/Window	36
Medical Assist	103
Smoking & Entering	9
Attempted Breaking & Entering	4
Possible Breaking & Entering	1
Construction Site Burglary	6
Vehicle Burglary	12
Suspicious Vehicle	105
Suspicious Person	51
Peeping Tom	2
Theft (Larceny)	20
Animal Control Assist	20
Lost Found Pet	53
Pet Nuisance	13
Snake	18
Family Dispute	2
Neighbor Dispute	5
Local Disruptive Party	10
Fireworks Complaint	3
Vandalism (General)	32
Mulch Vandalism	26
Mulch Steal	0
Lost Found Items	14
Deer Harass	0
Spending Vehicle	2
Assault (Battery/Fight)	2
Death Threat	2
Unusual Special Request	29
Substance Problems	14
Phone Problems	3
Car Accident	12
Motorcycle Nuisance	0
Fire	14
Rescue	16
Utility Company Assist	53
Construction Sites	31
Vacant Houses For Sale, etc.	23
Special (Extra jurisdiction)	51
Homeowners on Vacation	2573
TOTAL CALLS	4828
Total Mileage	46,832

Security's mobile number:  
**263-4654**

# Groundbreaking Ceremonies Open Paseo Project



**County Community Services Director, Thaddeus Lucero, presents the Paseo del Norte Project plans for development of Wyoming to Eubank.**

December 2, 1998, marked the official groundbreaking ceremonies for the Bernalillo County Paseo del Norte Project extending from Wyoming to Eubank Boulevards. Representatives from the County, New Mexico State Highway Department and Commission, Avid Engineering (now Parsons Brinckerhoff), AMAFCA, and other dignitaries gathered under tents on the corner of Paseo del Norte and Barstow to discuss plans for Phase I scheduled to begin March 1, 1999. County Commissioner Barbara Seward and State Highway District 3 Director Steve Harris spoke to the crowd, detailing the funding for this project which so far totals \$11,277,000 of the \$14,000,000 needed. Site plans of the area were displayed by Avid Engineering.

### Background and Purpose of the North Albuquerque Acres Commercial Corridor Study:

The upcoming expansion of Paseo del Norte in the North Albuquerque Acres area may make the corridor an attractive location for commercial development. Additionally, Bernalillo County is in the process of completing the Alameda and Eubank location corridor studies, which will define future roadway access to individual properties in these corridors. As a result, the number of building permits and zoning change requests in this part of the County has increased. These requests are currently approved or denied without a long-range plan to work toward. In response, on October 13, 1998, the Bernalillo County Commission placed a six-month moratorium on applications for zone changes in the North Albuquerque Acres area. During this moratorium, the Bernalillo County Zoning, Building & Planning Division has begun work on the North Albuquerque Acres Commercial Corridor Study, to investigate potential sites for commercial development and other types of land uses within the entire unincorporated North Albuquerque Acres area (see the drawing on the next page). This planning effort has been initiated to:

- provide a clear sense of direction for achieving quality non-single family residential land uses
- develop strategies to accomplish goals and objectives for the area
- establish locations for a variety of non-single family residential land uses.

The drawing shows an interim product from the study. Please note that this is only a composite of potential sites that have met some initial criteria; a variety of land uses could be considered. Neighborhood input is still needed to further refine this screening effort and develop a final plan. You will be able to learn more about this study, view informative displays, and provide your input at the public meetings. Call Karen Aspelin at Parsons Brinckerhoff - 881-5357 - for information.



**Representatives from the County, New Mexico State Highway Department and Commission, AMAFCA, and Parsons Brinckerhoff break ground near Barstow and Paseo on December 2nd.**

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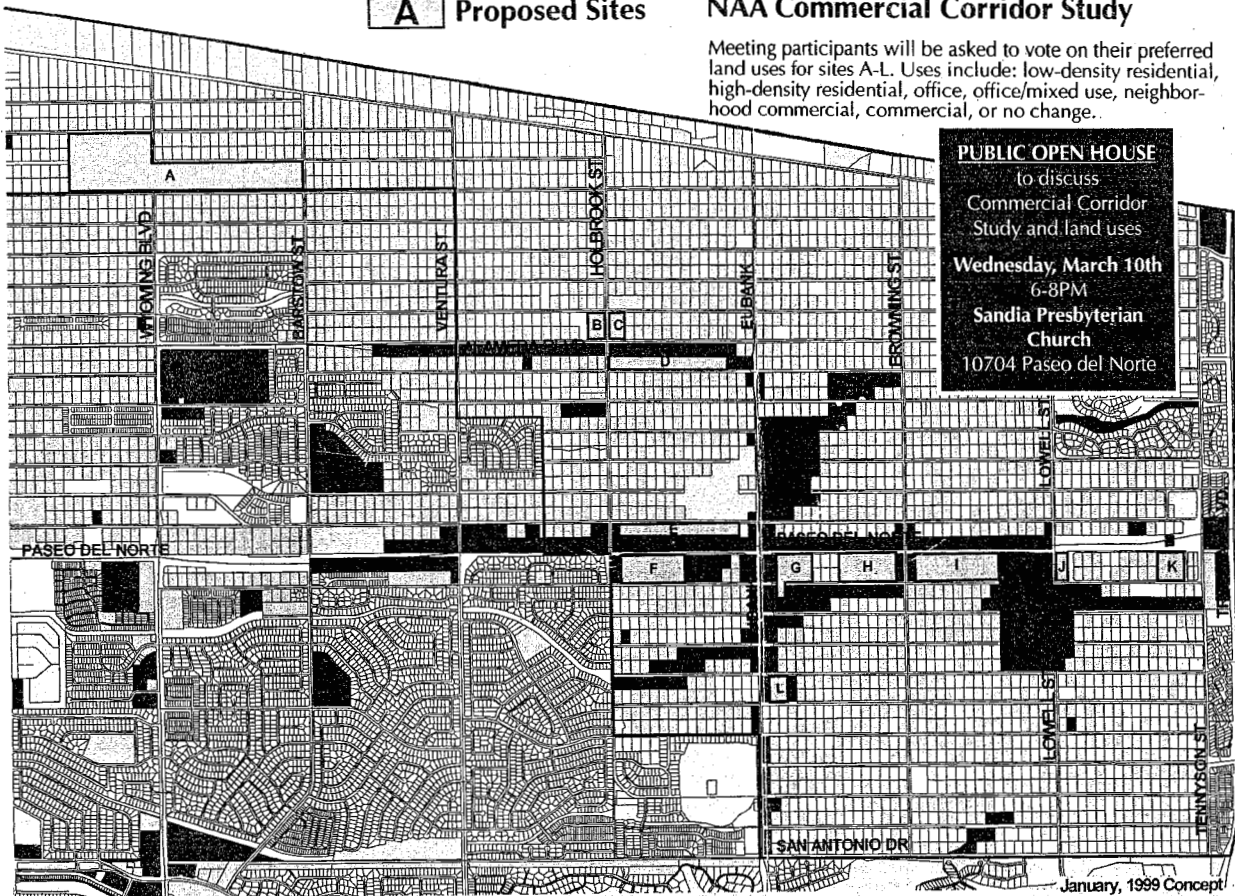
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## RIGHTWAY ROOFING

**FREE ESTIMATE 247-3400 1620 First St. NW, ALBU, NM 87102**

**A Proposed Sites NAA Commercial Corridor Study**

Meeting participants will be asked to vote on their preferred land uses for sites A-L. Uses include: low-density residential, high-density residential, office, office/mixed use, neighborhood commercial, commercial, or no change.



**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**  
to discuss  
Commercial Corridor  
Study and land uses  
Wednesday, March 10th  
6-8PM  
Sandia Presbyterian  
Church  
10704 Paseo del Norte

January, 1999 Concept

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in  
**Sandia Heights!!**

179 Big Horn Ridge NE  
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Market Analysis  
858-8330

**SOLD**  
in  
**Sandia Heights!!**

2730 Tramway Circle NE  
SOLD! \$179,900 SOLD!

# County Environmental Health

## A Busy Spring Agenda

Mission: Working with the community to preserve and protect a quality environment that assures optimum public health and safety.

### Current Activities:

#### 1. Community Environmental Health & Sanitation:

- conduct inspections of retail food establishments
- conducts final inspections of on-site liquid waste systems, wells, and abandoned septic tanks
- issue permits to operators of public pools and spas and conduct pool and spa inspections
- respond to complaints regarding pools, retail food establishments, tall weeds, and illegal dumping of solid waste

#### 2. Water Resource Protection – BCEHD scientists conduct the following core functions:

- issue operating permits for wells and on-site liquid waste systems
- conduct development review for compliance with environmental regulations:
- initiate studies on alternative liquid waste systems
- work with the U.S. Geological Survey to identify water resource quality and quantity in the Middle Rio Grande and East Mountain areas
- participate in intergovernmental regional water planning in the Estancia Basin and the Middle Rio Grande Basin

#### 3. Solid Waste Collection & Transfer – BCEHD operates a transfer station (eastern county):

- collects and hauls residential solid waste, primarily from residents of the East Mountain
- provides free drop-off recycling including plastic, newspapers, aluminum and tin cans, and used motor oil
- Collects tires, appliances, and green waste
- Provides roll-off containers for small clean-up events in the area

#### 4. Hazardous Waste Disposal – BCEHD provides for hazardous waste disposal services:

- offer a permanent HHW drop-off center at Rinchem, Inc., through a contract with the City of Albuquerque
- provide HHW collection at community clean-up events
- participate in the Local Emergency Planning Committees to address spills of hazardous and radioactive materials
- funds an emergency reserve account for hazardous waste spills when a responsible party is not identified

#### 5. Sewer Connection and the Partnership in Protecting the Environment (PIPE) Program – BCEHD helps residents connect to municipal sewer and obtain access to safe drinking water:

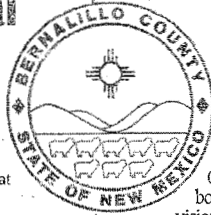
- works with the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Public Works to extend sewer lines into critical areas
- provides financial assistance, through the PIPE program, to low income families who are required to connect to municipal sewer
- works with contractors to provide the sewer/water connection and/or septic tank abandonment services

#### 6. Vector Control – Vector control technicians:

- spray for mosquitoes
- find and destroy mosquito breeding sites
- provide mosquito-eating fish to homes with standing water
- trap rodents, provide plague surveillance
- provide proactive measures to prevent Hantavirus outbreaks

#### 7. Community Education and Planning – BCEHD works to provide environmental health education:

- conducts community outreach, including planning and coordinating public meetings and an annual environmental health conference
- writes and submits articles/flyers in newsletters



# County Of Bernalillo

## Spring 1999 Report

### PLANNING IN THE METRO AREA

As residents of the larger metropolitan area, you will be interested in several planning initiatives now underway. The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments is undertaking the **Focus 2050 Regional Vision**. The MRGCOG boundaries include Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties. Regional visioning was conducted as a broad-based public involvement component of the Focus 2050 exercise. The final product will be a document for the various policy makers to consider, identifying transportation and land use issues and solutions. The recommendations will be developed through a consensus-building effort. Your participation is welcomed.

Perhaps you have read about the **Planned Growth Strategy Project** being undertaken by Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque. The strategies from this project will address a reasonable and rational approach to growth in the Metro Area.

**Shared Vision** hosted a Town Hall Meeting on growth issues in October. There was a broad base of community participation and support for "in-fill" projects in the city center balanced with planned communities on the fringe.

As we continue our planning for the future, it is important for everyone's voice to be heard. Our children and grandchildren account for more than 70% of our growth and it is important to provide them with clean air and water, affordable housing opportunities and a workable transportation system. The extent to which growth "pays for itself," and what the community at large pays versus what the developer and consumer pays, impacts the affordability of housing; as does the availability of developable land. As we continue our dialogue, I hope you will give thoughtful consideration to some of the trade-offs being proposed and how they might impact your vision of the future.

### ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

Congratulations to **Ron Brown** on his re-election to the AMAFCA Board. He is the representative from our area and has been very accommodating to the County on joint use of AMAFCA sites.

### PARKS IN THE FAR NORTHEAST

**La Cueva Diversion Channel** area and **South Domingo Baca Dam Park** area are currently in the process of master planning for park facilities. The first phase of development in each area is anticipated for summer of 1999. We are grateful to AMAFCA for allowing joint use of their facilities and send our thanks to the previous board for their generosity.

### APPRECIATION

I send my thanks and appreciation to you for the very special privilege of serving as your County Commissioner. May your springtime be filled with a minimum of wind and a multitude of daffodils

Until next time...

**Commissioner Seward speaks at groundbreaking ceremonies for Bernalillo County's Paseo Project on December 2, 1998.**



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

- develops and presents environmental health topics at local, state and national conferences
- assesses community environmental health/risks and plans programs accordingly
- works with the Turning Point Coalition to coordinate environmental health resources

### Special Projects:

#### A. Community Clean-Up Events – BCEHD and County Solid Waste Department provide an annual series of community clean-up events:

- collect residential solid waste
- collect green waste (yard waste)
- collect tires
- collect other recyclables, such as newspapers, cardboard, aluminum cans and plastic
- collect household hazardous waste (HHW)

#### B. Technology Deployment Initiative – Through a grant with the U.S. Department of Energy, BCEHD works to deploy technologies to identify and remediate subsurface contamination:

- deploys characterization technologies, including the colloidal boroscope – to characterize groundwater flow
- works with County Public Works to identify tanks to be extracted from Isleta Blvd., and eventual clean-up needed along that boulevard
- works with other state and local governments on technology deployment and the use of new technologies

#### C. Brownfields Initiative – Through a grant with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, BCEHD is working to identify "brownfield" sites (abandoned or underutilized sites due to actual or perceived contamination) in Bernalillo County:

- initiates and facilitates a community input process to identify sites
- works with the community to identify potential new uses for those sites
- works with the community to select sites which can be redeveloped to the best economic benefit





Albuquerque  
Biological  
Park

## BIOPARK BEGINNINGS Preschool Play Groups

are continuing through March  
Wednesday mornings  
9:30-10:30am

A unique winter play group for parents and their children under 6 years of age. Presented in a play group setting, these are one-hour education programs focusing on animals, plants and habitats found at the BioPark. Learning activities, snack time and visits to various exhibits are included. Groups are limited to 10 adults, each allowed to bring up to three children. Admission is free for children, half price for parents.

Call BioPark Education at 764-6245.

# ABQ BioPark Happenings

## SPRING Wildlife Safari

Children 9-11  
Tuesday, March 30  
or Thursday, April 1  
10am -3:30pm  
\$15.00 per person



Go on a Safari at the zoo! Join us for tours, games, activities and a fun-filled day where you will learn about wildlife conservation, both in New Mexico and around the world. You'll be personally introduced to all the Education Animals, and you'll receive a Zoo Safari button to take home. Girl Scouts receive a Badge at the end of the day!

Call Zoo Education, 764-6214.

## SPRING Land & Sea Search

Children 9-11  
Wednesday, March 31  
10am-3:30pm  
\$15.00 per person



What's new at the aquarium and botanic garden? How are the sharks and saguaros doing? Want to meet Captain Lucky, the Candy M's shrimp boat captain, and learn to tie nautical knots you can take home? How about exploring herbal remedies with the flourish of Professor Botanica? Led by experienced guides, get involved with a land and sea search of the aquarium and garden for fun and learning!

Call Aquarium/Botanic Garden Education, 848-7180, for more information.

### Note:

The classes can be combined for \$25 for two days. Enrollment is first-come, first-served. Class sizes are limited. To pre-register (required) and pay by major credit card, call Education at the above numbers. Dress appropriately for the weather and for an active day. Because of time constraints, a sack lunch is required. Please arrive at the zoo's front gate no later than 9:45am.

## TEACHING WORKSHOPS

for Scout leaders, parents - anyone who wants to use the BioPark as a learning resource!

### El Jardin de los Curanderos

Tuesday, March 16th  
9:30am-3:00pm  
\$15.00

Elementary level at the Botanic Gardens



El Jardin de los Curanderos (The Healer's Garden), a new garden at the BioPark, is a tribute to and celebration of the women and men of New Mexico who earned the respect and affection of their neighbors by practicing traditional healing arts. The curanderos were the local healers possessing knowledge, faith and compassion. This workshop explores the origins, belief system and ethnobotany of curanderismo, Hispanic traditional healing, and its significance in New Mexico's history. Join us and participate in activities such as making sage bundles and yucca root soap. Learn ways to bring a botanical part of history to your students!

### Ocean Odyssey

Tuesday, April 6th  
9:30am-3:00pm  
\$15.00

Elementary level at ABQ Aquarium



So why do students living in the Rio Grande Valley need to know about the ocean anyway? Come find out how to enhance the lives of your students by teaching them about their link to the Gulf of Mexico and of the significance of oceans around the world. Visit the touchpool and its creatures. Learn activities and games for your class, making knowledge of the oceans relevant to your students. We will show you how to integrate ocean education into your pre-existing curriculums.

## A Classic Wildlife Safari with the New Mexico Zoological Society

The New Mexico Zoological Society is hosting a presentation on its annual fall trip to Kenya. The presentation will be Sunday, March 7, 1999 at 1:30 pm. in the Rio Grande Zoo Library. A representative from Park East Tours will show video, slides and be available to answer questions about the trip. Space for the presentation is limited. Please call the New Mexico Zoological Society (505) 764-6280 to RSVP or request a full trip itinerary. The presentation is free and open to the public - no admission to attend.

The trip is September 24 - October 6, 1999, and costs \$4,195 per person (double occupancy), fully escorted from Phoenix. Travelers who sign up before March 31, 1999, will receive a FREE two-night extension to Mombasa at the end of the trip. Extension includes two nights' hotel accommodations, round trip flights, round trip transfers, and daily breakfasts. This offer is limited to the first 10 people who sign up. Travelers will visit all the famous Kenyan wildlife parks.

## FREE BROWN BAGS LUNCH LECTURES

ABQ Aquarium/Rio Grande Botanic  
Garden Education Building

March 6  
1:15-2pm

"Aquaculture at the ABQ Aquarium"

April 8

1:15-2pm

April 10

12:15-1pm

"Answers to the 10 most commonly asked gardening questions"

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LANDSCAPE THEMES!

# The Honorable Spud

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

How can we think of St. Patrick's Day and the luck o' the Irish without thinking of the honorable spud. Native to the Andes, the potato was carried from the New World to Europe by Spanish explorers. Until the middle of the 18th century, Europeans in general paid no attention to the potato as a food. The underground tubers were accused of causing leprosy and other frightful diseases. Cooks for Queen Elizabeth I, uneducated in the matter of potatoes, threw out the tubers and served a royal dish of boiled potato stems and leaves which promptly made everyone deathly ill.

But in Ireland it was a different story. This enlarged underground stem grew so well in the poor soil that it became a major food crop. The Irish Potato Famine of 1846-1848 killed 1-1/2 million people in Ireland and forced as many to immigrate to the United States, England and Australia. When the potato made its return voyage back across the Atlantic to the New World, the vegetable became known as the Irish potato to set it apart from the then very popular sweet potato.

During the last 200 years or so, the potato has acquired unparalleled importance in the vegetable world. The average American eats 126 pounds of potatoes a year – an average of one potato a day. The potato is the second most consumed food in the U.S. trailing only milk products.

There are over 80 varieties of potatoes and each falls into one of four categories. Round Red potatoes are waxy, smooth skinned and good for boiling. The Round White, also a boiling potato, has tannish skin. Long Whites are all-purpose potatoes; they can be boiled, steamed or baked. The Russet or Idaho potato is a long, slightly flattened cylinder and perfect for baking or frying. While most potatoes are white fleshed, some yellow-fleshed types are now marketed. Look for Finnish yellows and Yukon golds. You can even buy purple-fleshed potatoes!

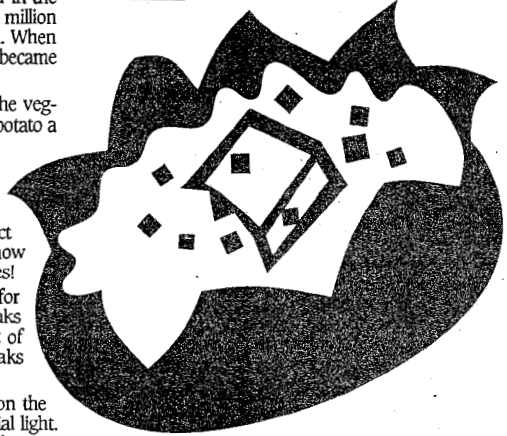
When any potato is harvested young, it is called a "new" potato. When a recipe calls for "waxy" potatoes, use new potatoes, which skip storage and go directly to grocers. Purple streaks in potatoes happen in several varieties, especially Russet Nugget. The streaks are the result of extreme cold at night. The purple streaks also happen in apples, beets and radishes. The streaks do not affect the nutritional value or safety of the food.

When harvested potatoes are exposed to light, a green pigmentation may develop on the surface. This green can occur even in grocery stores where the potatoes are exposed to artificial light. This greening is accompanied by the formation of solanine, a water-soluble, bitter alkaloid substance that is toxic if consumed in large amounts. Solanine also increases during sprouting. Avoid buying green potatoes. If potatoes start to turn green before they are used, cut away the green colored portions during preliminary preparation.

Storing potatoes properly minimizes greening and sprouting. A sprouted potato is not a bad potato, but it is the beginning of the end. In a cool environment (45-55°F), potatoes can last as long as two months. At normal room temperature, potatoes begin to sprout and wither quickly. The refrigerator is not the best answer. Refrigeration causes the starch in a potato to convert to sugar, making it taste sweeter. This increased sugar will cause the potato to darken when cooked. You can stretch a potato's storage life in the refrigerator, then set it out at room temperature two days before cooking. The sugar will reconvert to starch.

Some potatoes darken after cooking. Adding one teaspoon of cream of tartar per quart of water when cooking will retard this darkening. Like an orange, potatoes are high in Vitamin C. Soaking or cooking potatoes in water will cause loss of Vitamin C; cooked in their skins, potatoes retain Vitamin C. Potatoes contain more useable iron than any other vegetable. They are one of the most economical sources of thiamin (B), Vitamin C and iron. High in fiber, they contain no fat or cholesterol. Low in sodium and calories, potatoes contain more potassium than a banana. (One potato supplies 610mg of potassium while a banana contains 450mg.) And they are chock full of complex carbohydrates, the body's primary source of fuel for energy.

One pound of fresh potatoes equals about: 3 medium potatoes, 2 cups peeled and sliced, 2-1/2 cups peeled and diced, 2 cups mashed, 2 cups French fries ("chips" in England) or 3 servings of potato salad. Thanks to modern production, transportation and marketing, spud lovers everywhere can economically enjoy the taste, variety and good nutrition. Give me a call at 243-1386 if you need further information.



## SKILLET POTATOES

- 1 tablespoon vegetables oil
- 1 medium-size onion, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 pound russet potatoes, peeled, thinly sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 cup chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a large skillet, heat oil. Saute onion and garlic until onion is soft. Stir in potatoes and oregano. Pour over chicken broth. Simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Season with salt and pepper.

Makes 4 servings.

THE GRIT

SUMMER ISSUE

Deadline for articles,  
letters to the editor

MAY 1ST

Deadline for advertising,  
classifieds,

MAY 15TH

## LETTERS



## TO THE EDITOR:

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

### Re: The Birds and the... Cats!

I was glancing at my backyard this afternoon, checking my birdfeeders in hope of seeing an American Goldfinch as I did yesterday. And there on my deck, asleep in the sun, was a big butterscotch CAT. As you might imagine, there was not a bird in sight! There has also been a Tabby hanging around. These are someone's pets. They have collars, and the Tabby has had a recent surgery on his hip.

I take a serious interest in feeding the birds here in Sandia Heights, making sure to provide the different kinds of seed necessary for the birds in the area. I have taken part in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Feederwatch Program for several years. Obviously, it is impossible to get an accurate count of birds if there are cats patrolling your yard!

The Bernalillo County Animal Control Ordinance states that "Any person owning or having control of any dog OR CAT shall keep it exclusively upon their own premises..." and "It is unlawful for any person to


allow or permit any animal to run at large... on private property without the permission of the owner thereof."

The American Bird Conservancy has launched a citizen education and action campaign to end the massive and unnecessary loss of birds and other wildlife to predation by domesticated cats. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats kill HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of birds in the U.S. each year.

The National Audubon Society advocates responsible ownership of all pets. If you are a cat owner, please keep your cat at home. If you would like a list of suggestions on how to minimize their impact on wildlife, please contact: Susan Roney Drennan, Vice President for Ornithology, National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. email: sdrennan@audubon.org – or check out the citizen education page on Audubon's web site at: [www.audubon.org/bird/cat](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cat)

Please be a good neighbor and confine your animals so that others can enjoy the natural wildlife in our area. Thank you.

Irene Middleton – 33 Juniper Hill Rd.



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**Help Your Children Understand Television**

Children watch as much as 28 hours of TV per week, taking up more time than any other activity they do, except for sleeping. *Jones Intercable* is a participant in a nationwide partnership with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the National Cable Television Association (NCTA), and a cable television education initiative called *Cable in the Classroom*, and would like to share some ideas on developing critical viewing skills in your home.

**TV PROGRAMS ARE CREATED TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC RESULTS**

Children aren't expected to know that TV programs are deliberately put together to get a desired final effect, but they will have ideas about how television shows are made. Ask them for their ideas and use these activities to help your children "make sense" of what they see.

**1) Discuss TV's point of view**

All shows carry underlying messages about who and what is important. Some people are cast as victims, others as heroes. Who's telling the story? How would it have been different if someone else had told the story?

**2) Keep telling children that TV is pretend**

TV tells fictional stories. Play "Real or Make Believe" with young children, asking whether a character is made up or "real-life." Could an inanimate object move by itself, or an animal talk?

**3) Have your children think about their favorite show**

What if one or two of the main characters switched gender? Would it work given the way the show is written? In what ways would it be fine? What does the switch say about our images of men and of women?

**4) Pay attention to camera angles, music and special effects in a TV show**

Count the number of times the music changes in a video, or listen for when a laugh track is added to a sitcom. These are revealing ways to take the mystery out of TV, and to gain critical viewing skills.

**5) Ask Questions**

How did they make this program? What seems real? What doesn't? Is anything left out? How does it make you feel?

**TELEVISION IS A SPRINGBOARD TO OTHER LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

Watching a program on TV can be a useful bridge to reading and other real-world activities. TV can create interest in a new topic or idea, thus providing opportunities to learn more about them in other ways. Here are some examples:

1) When a topic on TV sparks your child's interest, go to the library or museum and explore the subject further.

2) During program breaks, ask children what they think might happen next. This activity helps develop verbal and creative thinking skills.

3) Use TV shows to stimulate creative expression through drawing or writing, or to inspire exploration about geography, culture and environments. Don't let TV become an excuse for not participating in other activities.

4) The schedule of TV shows can be a good way for children to learn how to tell time. Ask them where the hands of the clock will be when it is time for their favorite TV show.

5) Have your child tell you about a program you missed. This activity will help develop valuable communications skills.

## Woodrat Population Damaging our Cholla

Eight species of woodrats (genus Neotoma) occur in North America. Locally known as pack rats or trade rats, these rodents are about the size of the common Norway rat. They are distinguishable from Norway rats by their hairy rather than scaly tail, soft, fine fur and large ears. They usually have light-colored feet and bellies. Each species of woodrat is generally restricted to a given type of habitat within its range. Woodrats occur from low, hot, dry deserts to cold, rocky slopes above timberline.

### Food Habits:

The food habits of woodrats are relatively specific for the individual species. Species such as the bushytail woodrat, for example, feed primarily on green vegetation, twigs and shoots, whereas the Mexican woodrat feeds on seeds, fruits, acorns and cactus. Woodrats may also be attracted to human food supplies in buildings. When nesting inside buildings, woodrats usually continue to feed outside. Trails 3 to 4 inches (8-10 cm) wide from the building to the outside may be visible.

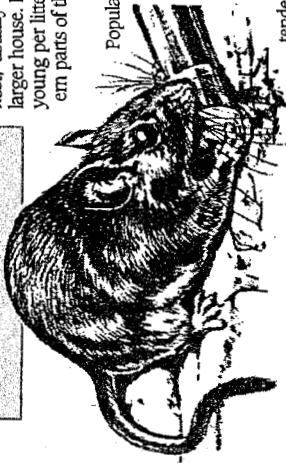
### General Biology, Reproduction and Behavior:

Woodrats climb readily and are usually active at night. Most species build a large stick den or house on the ground or in trees, but some species live in rocky outcroppings. These houses are typically occupied by one individual or by a female and her young. One animal may inhabit several houses. A nest, usually made of finely shredded plant material, is located within the larger house. Breeding usually occurs in the spring. Woodrats produce 1 to 4 young per litter and may produce more than one litter per year in the southern parts of the United States.

### Damage Identification:

Populations generally are fairly dispersed, but economic damage to agricultural crops can occur in limited areas. Agricultural damage results when woodrats clip small twigs and branches, and when they debark citrus and other fruit trees and seedling and sapling conifers, especially redwoods. Loss of trees can occur. Wood rats are sometimes a nuisance around cabins, outbuildings, and other infrequently used structures or vehicles. As the name "packrat" implies, they have a tendency to pack away small objects such as jewelry, cooking and eating utensils, can tabs, and other items. At times, this behavior can become a nuisance to backpackers and others. More seriously, woodrats may also shred upholstered furniture and mattresses for lining nests, and may take up residence in parked vehicles, gnawing on wires and other mechanical components. Woodrats can be an important factor in the transmission of certain diseases, most notably plague, where this disease occurs. Dead or dying woodrats should not be handled.

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