

**COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
CANDIDATES'
FORUM**
May 31st - 7-9pm
Grace Lutheran
Church

THE GRIT

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SUMMER ~ 2000



SHHA ANNUAL MEETING

Come One,
Come All!



Go ahead,
make
our
day!

- Elect Board Members!
- Hear the Hot Issues!
- Get Involved!


We're still looking for a few good candidates for the SHHA Board.

To be considered, send resume to: SHHA, PO Box 20021, Albuquerque NM 87154. Or contact any board member. Names and phone numbers are listed in the front of your Sandia Heights Directory of Residents.

New board members will be entrusted to act as the eyes and ears of our residents and bring concerns to the board; will attend monthly evening board meetings; will work actively on a chosen committee; will maintain confidentiality; and will observe the Code of Ethics.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

County Commissioner Barbara Seward will receive an award for her excellent representation of our community and for helping to further our causes. Anita Miller, resident and legal advisor for the Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC), will discuss the Pueblo Land Agreement. A representative from the County Fire Department will address the continuing drought. A parliamentarian will be on hand to assist with official protocol. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

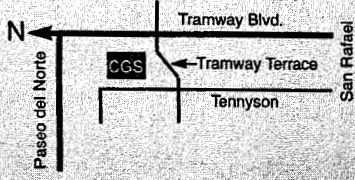


Saturday, June 3

10:00 am

Church of the
Good Shepherd

7834 Tennyson NE




The Millennium SHHA Directory of Residents has some changes! See page 11.

President's Message



Charlie Pechewlys

Greetings to each and every resident of Sandia Heights. This summer issue of The Grit is mailed to all residents, whether members of the Association or not. There is a lot of information about a variety of matters that we hope you will find helpful.

contract to provide administrative support and **Martha Sutter** stepped in. Her considerable efforts served us through the end of March and she was instrumental in prompting a period of study and reflection on the activities of the Association and the level and type of support needed. I want to express my appreciation to Martha for that. Several board members devoted a lot of time to the selection of a successor, **Susan Koenig** (see article on page 2), and the transition. Our thanks to **Lucille Bryant, Jack Wolfe, L.A. Bannowsky, and Angel Rivera**. SHHA Secretary **Debbie Miller** and Treasurer **Patricia Grossman** also worked with the others to sort out our computer needs as a part of that transition.

It's also time for the important **SHHA Annual Meeting** and an invitation to everyone to attend and learn more about your Association. The meeting is the first Saturday in June - June 3rd - at 10 am at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We expect to have reports on several topics of interest, including the Sandia Pueblo Claim Settlement, fire hazard conditions in Sandia Heights and SHHA finances. Board elections will be held and committee reports available. This year, Nominating Procedures adopted as a result of last year's meeting are being followed to identify candidates for the Board.

Let me take this opportunity to review the **SHHA's business practices** with you. We do not have an "office" with a full time staff in the traditional sense. Susan, like administrative assistants before her, works as an independent contractor out of her home. Calls most often are taken by voice mail. We endeavor to respond to each within a day. Our board and its committees are made up of volunteers giving of their own time. They meet regularly but not daily or even weekly. Thus, some time may pass until there is a committee meeting or other action on any request that is taken up by them.

The SHHA has become even more active in trying to preserve the unique character of our community. We are reviewing a proposed new development, supporting an additional park, monitoring work done by Comcast cable, and in some cases seeking intervention with the County. Architectural review and covenant enforcement continue to attract the interest of a lot of residents. Many thanks to outgoing board members for their excellent service on behalf of our community: **George Hight, John Keller, Debbie Miller, Barbara Rosnagle, Jim Wise and Jack Wolfe**.

It has been a privilege serving as your president for 1999/2000. I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting.

This past year was one of transition for SHHA. Last October, **Sandra Jonas** ended her

THE GRIT

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



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JULY 12TH

AUG 10TH

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TOP ISSUES

BOARD NEWS:

Welcome to the New SHHA Administrative Assistant



The Association extends a hardy welcome to **Susan Darby Koenig**, our new Administrative Services contractor! Susan says her most important role will be to serve as the first point of contact for Sandia Heights residents with questions and concerns as a sort of "sounding board." Susan will pass on your concerns to the appropriate committee member who can help.

In addition to this most valuable role, she will provide administrative and computer support, prepare correspondence for the Board, organize meetings, and help coordinate projects for Architectural Control and other committees. Right now, she is gearing up for the annual meeting in June.

Before coming to SHHA, Susan leased townhomes and apartments, a job that gave her insight to residents' needs and the meaning of the word "urgent."

Many thanks to outgoing Association Manager Martha Sutter!

MINUTE BY MINUTE:

- **Property values** in Sandia Heights were raised by approximately 35%, but because of protests the Assessor reduced the land value by 25% so now there is an overall 29% increase.
- **Sandia Colony** subdivision is almost built out and the residents will have the option to join SHHA.
- **Cedar Hill** Subdivision was approved by the County. The developer appears to still be interested in selling the property. Barbara Seward is supportive and will have this on the November bond issue.
- **Covenants:** There is one outstanding boat lawsuit, with several more possible. **ACC:** There is one lawsuit now in progress.
- **Treasurer: New bank accounts** have been opened for SHHA earning 1.15% on its checking account, 5.21% on a 6-month CD; and 4.18% on a 1-month CD.
- **SHHA lawyers** researched our bylaws and defined a **quorum** as a majority of votes cast by active members present at properly called/noticed meetings of the membership.
- A **parliamentarian** has been hired to assist the presiding officer with official and legal proceedings at the Annual Meeting.

<http://www.nmia.com/shha>

Board meeting "Minutes" will be posted by the 3rd week of every month.

In addition, she ran a freelance business writing and designing newsletters, flyers, and other marketing pieces.

Susan lives with her husband and two young sons in nearby High Desert. Her family moved to Albuquerque a year and a half ago from South Florida. She still can't believe the New Mexico views and sunshine! She believes that Sandia Heights, in particular, is a community where people live because they love it. And she's right!



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County Of Bernalillo

Summer 2000 Report



SANDIA SETTLEMENT NEEDS WORK AND WE ARE WILLING TO DO IT

We look forward to a new opportunity to sit down at the table with Sandia Pueblo to work on a new settlement agreement. U.S. Senator Pete Domenici and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno have asked all sides to return to negotiations. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity to craft an agreement we can all be happy with. We withdrew from the mediation sessions that had been originally set up when it became very clear that your concerns were not being addressed in the wording of the settlement. We are hopeful now that all parties can take a fresh approach and reconsider their positions. This is such an important issue for the future of our community. It is crucial that we reach an equitable conclusion to the federal lawsuit filed by Sandia Pueblo in Washington, D.C. over the ownership of the west face of the Sandia Mountains.

Aside from the Pueblo and federal agencies, there are three interested groups: Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque and a consortium of neighborhood organizations and other interested parties called the Sandia Mountain Coalition. These parties have not and will not sign the current proposed agreement. Bernalillo County is very supportive of efforts to reach a complete settlement of the Pueblo's lawsuit. The county believes that it is most preferable for the parties to resolve the issues in the case without continued and protracted litigation.

What is the area in dispute on the lawsuit and why as a community should we be concerned about it? The Pueblo of Sandia claim comprises around 10,000 acres of land largely northeast of Tramway Boulevard, north of the road to the tram and extending to the crest of the Sandias. If you hike the La Luz Trail, you are in the claim area. If you picnic at the Juan Tabo Picnic Grounds, you are in the claim area. If you ride the tram, you are in the claim area. If you look to the mountains from anywhere in our community, you are looking at the claim area. Everyone who lives in or visits our community in one way or another visits the claim area. The mountains are the heart of our community.

In many respects, the goals of the parties in this lawsuit are the same. Bernalillo County supports the Pueblo's desires for unfettered access to the wilderness for its religious and cultural practices. Bernalillo County agrees that the Pueblo members should not need a permit to gather articles for ceremonial purposes. The County also seeks to protect and maintain the character of the area and opposes further development of the forest and wilderness area. The County agrees that the current uses in the area should be preserved, such as the La Luz Trail, the Piedra Lisa Trail and the Crest Trail. The County also seeks to maintain the existing La Cueva and Juan Tabo picnic areas. There is no dispute that the Sandia Tramway should remain. The County further agrees on the necessity of ensuring access and property rights within the existing subdivisions.

Since the goals are the same, why has there been a problem? The answer is simple: some very good ideas have been translated into some very fundamentally flawed documents. The current settlement documents, as written, are confusing, ambiguous and internally contradictory. It takes three separate documents to resolve the issues, and it takes an army of lawyers to explain them. Moreover, no one agrees as to the meaning of these documents. Even those who participated in the discussion can hardly assure the community that these complex and confusing documents provide a clear and permanent solution to the issues. Far from doing so, the settlement agreements open the door for future disputes and litigation, creating new uncertainties rather than solving the existing ones. Can the parties to the announced settlement truly guarantee to all concerned that there will not be further litigation over the meaning and interpretation of the settlement documents in another 50 or 100 years? The County thinks not.

The community also needs to know that the proposed settlement changes the claim area into something other than traditional forest and wilderness lands. Among the changes, the area is renamed, the framework for management of the area is changed and congressional authority over the area is being rewritten. These changes are unprecedented. In doing so, the rights of the Pueblo and the rights of the general public are not equally balanced. These changes give the Pueblo superior rights to that of the public and may make the Forest Service trustee for the Pueblo's rights. This is one aspect of the first agreement we cannot accept and one that we will not accept in a new agreement. We feel strongly that both the Pueblo and the public should have balanced rights to the mountain. That is why it is time to start over again.

What the County is seeking and has always sought is a clear, concise document that resolves the matters at issue. The County seeks to protect the interests of all concerned and in so doing, also seeks to protect the mountain. In many ways, the mountain serves as a sacred place for inspiration and solace for all residents of Bernalillo County. Generations have traveled to its summit to seek peace or for religious retreat. The Sandias are a precious resource that the County has an obligation to ensure for future generations.

In the process of trying to achieve a settlement of this lawsuit, the County and the Pueblo have improved their relationship and fostered better communication and understanding. The County wants to build upon the progress already achieved and to reach a final settlement that is truly complete and binding. Again, the County believes that it is most preferable for the parties to resolve the issues in the case without continued court action. The current settlement agreement was concluded over the objections of Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque and the Sandia Mountain Coalition. We participated in good faith in the settlement negotiations and will again.

It is a matter of pressing public interest that this lawsuit be resolved permanently to the satisfaction of all parties. Unfortunately, that goal has not been attained in the announced settlement. We remain hopeful a new settlement that includes the County, City and the Sandia Mountain Coalition can be concluded quickly and without rancor in a second round of talks, sponsored jointly by Senator Domenici and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Until next time...

Barbara J. Seward

Bernalillo County Commissioner - District 4



SMC Pueblo Claim Update

...continued from cover page.

because he felt it was no longer mediation if all affected parties did not participate. They went on for four more months and then released essentially the same unacceptable Settlement Agreement.

The County and the Sandia Mountain Coalition sought to resume the appeal because Judge Greene's decision was flawed and it was the Pueblo's major bargaining point. However, DOJ went to great lengths to try to stop us. These included attempts to prevent a briefing schedule from being established and to get a court to force us into mediation again. Most recently, it has filed a motion to dismiss our appeal and stated its intention to dismiss its own appeal. DOJ is willing to let stand a bad decision that sets precedent on which a lot of other Indian Claims could be decided, just to put pressure on us to sign up to this agreement. And of course, DOJ has released its Settlement Agreement to the press claiming it met everybody's needs.

The Settlement agreement is meant to be law. There is another document called, "The Act," which is the candidate legislation. The Act incorporates the Settlement Agreement and the Management Plan. DOJ has not seen fit to release the Act at this time. Putting the three documents together makes the collective package even more ambiguous than the Settlement Agreement itself. In order for it to become law it has to be introduced as legislation by a member of Congress. Protocol suggests it would have to be introduced by a member of the New Mexico Delegation. Senator Domenici and Congresswoman Wilson have rejected this agreement. The rest of the NM delegation has remained silent to this time.

Everyone from the Pueblo that I have encountered has been sincere and honorable. The Pueblo's lawyers have been very aggressive and very effective to this point. They certainly did an excellent job of influencing the composition of the mediation team and getting a very favorable document endorsed by half the parties involved. Their current strategy is to convince the general public it is a win-win situation and force us to accept their Settlement Agreement. The reality is, however, that the document falls far short of meeting everybody's needs. It is unacceptable.

We strongly believe that a settlement would be the best outcome. However, we reject the pitch that if you want settlement, you have to accept the DOJ settlement. Although it will be difficult for those who think they've crafted the ultimate solution to give it up, we need to start with a clean slate. The mediation process did provide a greater understanding of all the issues by all the parties. The impacted parties have restated their major goals in the press. We are in a much better position today to create an acceptable solution than we were two years ago. Governor Paisano has stated his willingness to work with everyone to get this resolved. I would like to see a new starting point offered by the delegation, so that a lasting solution could be obtained.

It is my understanding that Senator Domenici and Representative Wilson are working on a new draft law which addresses the concerns that we raised both during mediation and since DOJ released their Settlement Agreement. It would also address Governor Paisano's stated interests in Pueblo religious access and preservation of the area from future development. We will keep you informed of the status of the Domenici/Wilson efforts to resolve this matter equitably.

CANDIDATES' FORUM

May 31st ~ 7-9pm

Grace Lutheran Church

Eubank between Academy and Paseo del Norte

Four candidates for County Commissioner will answer your questions at a forum hosted by our neighbors of the North Albuquerque Acres Community Association. All are welcome to attend and meet the candidates.

Architectural Control



By Jim Wise – SHHA Architectural Control Committee, Chair

SHHA's Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has been very busy this past quarter. Although we have not completed action on as many projects as we normally do, there have been a number of new submittals that have required extensive involvement by the committee members. Requests for additional information following on-site visits will always slow the process of review and approval. Regardless, the ACC has approved 28 new projects this past quarter which ended in April. The breakdown of the projects is as follows:

New Construction	0
Additions	4
Re-stucco/Re-roof	4
Fence/Wall	5
Landscaping	5
Patio/Sunroom	5
Miscellaneous	5

TREES OBSTRUCTING VIEWS:



Over the years, some of the trees planted years earlier have grown to be quite big and/or tall. In some instances, these trees have obstructed a neighbors view. Although the DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIONS (Covenants) may not specifically refer to tall or big trees, the ACC will review proposed landscaping to ensure that the proposed planting will not unduly obstruct a neighbors view now or in the future. The committee may request/suggest trees that will remain relatively small (depending on location). Trees that form a screen will not be approved. We believe this to be in the interest of all of the homeowners.

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Sto Adobe Brown – 01004
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Sto Cimmaron – 4180
Sto Chamisa – 01010
Sto Mesa del Sol – 01016
Sto Mesilla – 2207
Sto Pecos – 01001
Sto Pueblo – 01005
Sto San Antonio – 1465
Sto Sandia – 1616
Sto Santa Fe Mocha – 1003
Sto Suede – 01006
Sto Tumbleweed – 01011

ELASTOMERIC SYNTHETIC PLASTER: El Rey Buffalo – PF806
El Rey Dry River – PF817
El Rey Earth – PF816
El Rey Rio Bravo – F825
El Rey Saddle – PF271
El Rey Tierra – PF272

PROJECT SUBMISSION /APPROVAL:

The ACC encourages each of you to become involved when the opportunity arises to participate in a neighborhood review. Such a process will give you a chance to find out what construction is proposed and to provide written

comment, if desired. This process can be very helpful in assisting the committee in making its final decision on a project. Please keep in mind that the ACC's decision is also contingent on covenant requirements, or our interpretation of them when they are not specific.

Please remember that in addition to those items specified to be submitted by the covenant, the following projects must also be submitted for approval: re-stuccoing; re-roofing; new or replacement walls or fencing; re-painting; playground equipment; window replacement; and landscaping. This list certainly is not complete. **The rule of thumb for deciding whether to submit is - if the proposed project is visible to a neighbor(s), then you should submit.** Please call Ms. Susan Darby-Koenig at 797-7793 if you need assistance and/or an application (for more info see box in the Covenant Report - page 12).

THANK YOU!

This is my final article for the GRIT as my term on the Board of Directors for the Association will end this June. I would like to express my appreciation to each of the ACC Committee members that have been so diligent and hard working to ensure covenant compliance for new construction and re-modeling projects. As many of you realize, achieving covenant compliance is not always easy but is an important process in attempting to preserve the unique character and quality of the Sandia Heights community. I very much want to thank every homeowner for their assistance to the committee in this worthwhile endeavor.

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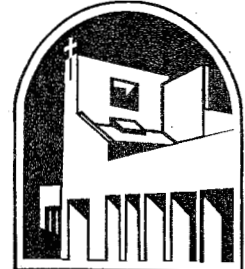
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ROUNDHOUSE REPORT

Special Session Results

Greetings Neighbors:

The legislature recently finished an eight day special session. Unfortunately, most of the work could have and should have been done in only six days. The House had it business done on a timely basis but the Senate seemed to drag things out a bit.

Most importantly we finished and passed a **\$3.5 billion budget**. Of that, \$1.6 billion is dedicated exclusively to New Mexico public schools - a \$93 million increase over last year. That includes enough to give teachers an "average" raise of 6.25% statewide. Unfortunately, I don't think that our local APS teachers will see all of that raise, due to the way our funding formula works. Public school teachers need substantially better pay, and with accountability measures that are slowly but surely being put into place, this issue will hopefully be addressed.

Substantial **increases in budgets** were also put into place for public safety (State Police) and the Corrections Department. The Parks Department was also fully funded for all of FY 2001, as well as covering funds not provided last year for April - June, 2000. \$26 million was also spent from the nearly \$52 million in tobacco settlement funds received from cigarette companies (the rest going into a permanent fund). Of that amount, only \$2.5 million was spent on tobacco cessation and prevention programs and another \$2.5 million on research at the Lovelace Respiratory Research Labs here in Albuquerque. The rest was spent on Medicaid treatment costs and other unrelated expenses. If more money is not allocated for prevention and education programs in the future, I'm afraid we won't put a dent in tobacco use and abuse.

The Senate heard nearly a full day of debate on a **new tribal gaming compact**. It then voted against passing the bill 25 to 16. There were many issues involved in the decisions. Some of the tribes were not in favor of the bill. Some legislators felt the term too long (20 years), limitations on race tracks getting more machines too severe, and terms for back payment of prior "revenue sharing" payments unclear. I look for another attempt at a compact by the time the next legislature convenes. It will have to be a document that all parties - for, against, and just wanting the best for the state - will feel comfortable in signing. And it must give the state more oversight and disclosure than it has now.

The legislature also passed a number of **pro-business tax incentives** including: research and development tax credits for New Mexico companies or those locating here; a gross receipts tax deduction for work that Sandia Labs does to assist small businesses in the state; and a tax exemption for aircraft manufacturers, in an attempt to lure such a company from Arizona to Albuquerque. We should know within a few months whether or not it was successful.

We also engineered a short-term fix for a long-term problem. The problem? A district judge has determined that we do not equitably distribute **money to state schools for construction and repairs**. Furthermore, the state was given until July 28th to come up with a solution. The issues? Do we amend the state's Constitution to allow more earnings from our permanent fund to be withdrawn and spent on such a program? Or do we become more efficient in our current spending programs and eliminate some waste? The timely solution? Take an additional \$40 million for the next three years from oil and gas royalty payments and dedicate them exclusively to school building projects with language that the judge should like. And then come up with a permanent solution! I was the only Republican, House or Senate, on the negotiating team. The previous program virtually eliminated the ability of APS to ever access these funds. Under the new program beginning January 1, 2001, all school districts, including APS, will be eligible to get funds.

If you have any questions you would like addressed in this part of the Grit, please call, write or e-mail me and I'll try to get answers for you. **Please don't forget to vote June 6th.**

Finally, let's all give special thanks and prayers to Carolyn Hindel. Thanks for putting so much time and effort into preparing the Grit. And prayers that she gets better soon and back home to Sandia Heights.

Sincerely,



Robert Burpo - State Representative/District 23
Business: 883-0083 - Home: 856-6881
E-mail: fafarob@ihighway.com

What You Should Expect from Your Legislators

My friend and colleague, Representative Rob Burpo, has probably given you a good idea of what happened (and didn't happen) during the recent special legislative session.

The purpose of this article is to tell you a little bit about what we believe our obligation is to you and what you can and should expect from us.

There is more to our service than meeting in Santa Fe for a month or two during the legislative session. Back here at home we consider ourselves to be advocates for you on issues involving your interaction with state governmental agencies. Constituent service is the backbone of our commitment to you.

Following are examples of areas where we might be of assistance:

- Infrastructure including speed humps, road work, and other aspects of maintenance to our highways and medians;
- Recreational areas like parks, ball fields, green space, and other capital improvements;
- Renovations to the facilities and equipment that our kids use everyday, from new computers in the classroom to instruments for music education.

We also consider ourselves to be effective intermediaries between citizens and state government. It's unfortunate, but true,

that we can occasionally get a quicker response for constituents when they seek assistance from government employees.

The next time that you have a problem with Taxation and Revenue, have to wait in a long line at a state agency, or have an unpleasant encounter with a state employee, please feel free to call your state representative or state senator. In turn, we won't tell you who to call to fix the problem - we'll make the call and try to get the problem resolved for you.

Also, please do not hesitate to call us the next time you have an idea of how state government might improve the way it serves you. We're here to make our community and our state a better place to live, and we need your feedback to get the job done.



Joe Thompson - State Representative/District 31
Business: 275-2300 - Home: 294-9423
E-mail: joethompson@uswest.net

Traffic & Safety

By Irene Middleton – Traffic & Safety Committee, Chair

THANK YOU to all that took time to attend the Capital Improvements Planning Meeting on March 23rd. One of our main concerns is that many of our roads need an overlay of asphalt. A map of Sandia Heights showing roads in need of attention was submitted and individuals requesting specific locations also presented their cases. This is a 6-year plan so things will take time, but at least they have our requests.

AN EXPERIMENTAL overlay material will be tried in the near future on Live Oak Lane, Cedar Hill Lane and Cedar Hill Court. **Your comments to Dave Mitchell, Bernalillo County Public Works Road Maintenance Section Manager, will be welcomed at 848-1543.**

COMCAST CABLE has been busy in our area as you may have noticed. The county has required that they overlay the roads that they cut into if they were repaved in the last two years. Also, after major pressure by SHHA, the new relay station boxes will be reduced to 5ft. x 30in. x 2ft. tall. Some of the cable will be buried beneath the box. We have requested that boxes be painted a beige color instead of the usual green.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT would like to see reflective house numbers next to all driveways. The lack of street lights and the fact that we have so many similar street names makes addresses difficult to find in emergencies.

SPEED HUMP applications are available from the SHHA office. There is a specific procedure for requesting placement in your area. Please note, this request by no means assures your area of getting a "speed abatement device."



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Yes

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**SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY
CALLS JAN- APRIL 2000**

TYPE OF CALL:	YEAR TOTAL:
Alarms	171
Open Door/Window	33
Motorist Assist	60
Breaking & Entering	3
Attempted Breaking & Entering	2
Possible Breaking & Entering	0
Construction Site Burglary	1
Vehicle Burglary	1
Suspicious Vehicle	44
Suspicious Person	19
Peeping Tom	0
Theft (Larceny)	6
Animal Control Assist	8
Lost /Found Pet	11
Pet Nuisance	7
Snake	0
Family Dispute	3
Neighbor Dispute	6
Loud Disruptive Party	1
Loud Music	5
Fireworks Complaint	2
Vandalism (General)	39
Mailbox Vandalism	15
Lost/Found Items	3
Stranded Vehicle	6
Assault/Battery (Fight)	0
Death Threat	0
Unusual Special Request	22
Person Problems	2
Phone Problems	1
Car Accident	2
Motorcycle Nuisance	4
Fire	7
Rescue	5
Utility Company Assist	3
Construction Sites	3
Vacant Houses (For Sale, etc.)	33
Specials (Extra patrols/observation)	15
Homeowners on Vacation	639
TOTAL CALLS	1192
Total Mileage	14,939
Days Security Vehicle in Shop	7.5

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:



New Command Center

by Joe Bowdich - Bernalillo County Sheriff



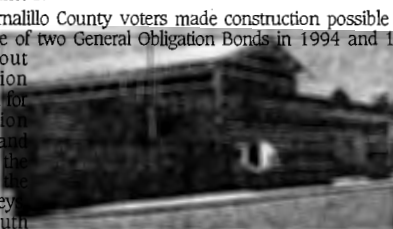
Bernalillo County Opens Sheriff Command Center in the North Valley to Serve the Far Northeast Heights.

Construction on the long-awaited North Area Command Center, 6900 Fourth Street NW, is complete. Bernalillo County Sheriff Joe Bowdich and County Commissioner Ken Sanchez officially opened the doors to the 8,000 sq. ft., \$950,000 facility on Saturday, February 26th.

"It has taken years of effort and planning to bring North Valley and Far Northeast Heights citizens a full service Command Center. This facility puts us at the forefront in our community policing efforts. The North Area Command Center is intended to be a focal point for the community. It is a place where citizens and Deputies can work together to accomplish mutual goals in the interest of public safety," Sheriff Bowdich said.

"To protect people's lives, homes and property is one of the most important aspects of government. This Command Center will not only provide a place for our Deputies to conduct their day-to-day service, but also create a presence within the community fostering long-term relationships with residents and business owners to create a safer environment," said Commissioner Sanchez, who represents District 1.

Bernalillo County voters made construction possible with the passage of two General Obligation Bonds in 1994 and 1996, with about \$2.4 million being used for construction of Command Centers in the North and the South Valley.



Residents are calling for a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH in the vicinity of 96 Juniper Hill Road. Two trucks were observed shooting at a stop sign at 4:30 AM the morning of May 22nd. Gun shells were found at the scene by the Security Patrol. This is near the site of a recent fire of a home under construction that was determined to be arson. Please be aware and call security or the sheriff's department to report unusual activities.

The new Sergeant Julian Narvaez South Valley Area Command Center, located at 2039 Isleta Boulevard SW, also opened on February 26, 2000.

Both facilities include an exercise complex with locker rooms, a briefing/public meeting room with fully integrated Data/Comm/A-V systems, public lobby, restrooms, lounge and kitchen. To reserve the meeting room, call the North Area Command Center at 341-9024 or 341-9035.

Trash Tips to Avoid Tantrums

A Note from the Sandia Heights Services Manager

Recently we have noticed a number of residents putting their refuse out a day or two in advance of their scheduled pickup day. While we appreciate the initiative, this is in violation of the County Solid Waste Collector Ordinance 6.F.2: "Residential solid waste, when served by roadside collection shall be placed out for collection no later than 7:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled day but no sooner than 5 p.m. the evening prior to collection, unless otherwise specified by the County Manager."

Let's face it, garbage is just that! It's a matter of community pride that we all keep the Sandia Heights area as beautiful as it naturally is. We at the Services Office appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

John Pickering



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GRITTY EDITORIAL:



Have pertinent information or an article to share with the community???

Content does not express the opinions of the SHHA. The editor reserves the right to select/verify submissions.

Re: Y2K Reflections by Sandra Cline

I am one of the many who rallied for the potential Y2K problems. There are several reasons I do not regret the time and energies spent in this activity. As Sandra Cline put it, it was very fulfilling to see how the community rallied to the crisis. And how local suppliers of required power, water, waste removal, security, and in general, all community needs, did what they could to forestall disaster. It tells us, that given another crisis, we could expect the same effort.

As the news is now bringing forth, many millions were spent to curb what could have been much more severe a crisis than occurred. There are still problems out there due to Y2K. One of the more serious – almost a year's worth of oil refinery shutdowns and problems in February. One has to ask if the oil prices rising might be influenced by this situation. The news media has been silent on this aspect.

With the bloated stock market as it is, I would advise those who have stored foods to not use them at this time. Storage of necessities, as well as an immediate relationship with one's community, should be a regular concern. Crises come in many forms. Plainly, you must not keep perishable foods stored too long. But a reserve water supply and alternative power sources should be normal concerns. How anyone can look at the weather events across our nation in the past months, and think that they are free of any natural crises, is beyond my understanding.

Regarding food for the hungry, this should be a regular concern as well. But more important, if there are people in our midst who are hungry, we should do something about the causes of their situation – even more than supplying immediate sustenance. There is no

one too well off not to be concerned for those who need help. Being involved should mean that we help them to take care of their own needs, not simply put them on the dole. I am getting tired of people calling me on the phone and asking for money. If you ask them how this money will provide for their future requirements, they go blind.

Let's develop the community spirit which we saw with Y2K. Instead of fighting one crisis after another, let help people to be responsible for their futures. This is not a religious matter, a political matter, or a racial matter. This is a human dignity matter. These kinds of things make our community and our nation strong.

Sincerely,
Wallace Cooper

Maybe It's Time for a Spring Cleaning

As a member of the Covenants Committee, as drive around my "surveillance" area and most of Sandia Heights, I've noticed the general state of repair of many of our homes. I realize that it's a constant battle to keep things ship shape in our little corner of the world. There are at least two pickup trucks of clippings and debris to haul off of my own property. And every year it seems to be the same routine. Nevertheless, many of the properties in our area look neglected. Is this just me?

My observations don't apply to any particular SHHA committee. I'm really talking as a resident and homeowner. This is an overall appearance situation – a "springtime cleaning" sort of thing – that everyone should consider. After all, Sandia Heights at 25 years + is no spring chicken. We're a mature neighborhood, but one that is unique in all of Albuquerque. We should have enormous pride, and it should be reflected in our individ-

ual homes and our overall presentation as a community.

As an adjunct to these thoughts, consider the surrounding development. High Desert will soon be "built out," at least in terms of "affordable dirt." Sunset Ridge, Chaco Point, etc., are basically done. Overlook still has ground/lots available. Word has it that the Highlands will start at \$160,000 to \$200,000 then up, Up, UP!

We've watched the value of Sandia Heights lots rise in excess of \$150,000. My point – the ground under our homes in some cases now carries a worth exceeding the homes which sit on them. We may well become a "tear-down community" – original homes are razed and replaced by new ones. Whether this is good or bad could be argued from many points of view. But the general appearance of the community may well hasten such a perception and fate.

If we become a tear-down community, it is inevitable that more homes pushing the envelope on covenants and architectural guidelines will be submitted for approval. Home design has changed considerably over the years. Residents will find their views being blocked, because there are no covenants to stop it. For new buyers, building styles may not be in keeping with the surrounding homes if \$200,000+ was spent for a lot on which a \$400,000+ home is proposed.

My wife Joyce and I love it here, that's why I chose to serve on SHHA. I've fought for strict covenant interpretation in order to preserve our property values and pride. I see the need to consolidate and tighten our covenants with this year 2000 window of renewal. But I would have to add, that given the recent arson fire and very, very strong feelings about new construction and its impact on views, it might only be exacerbating the issue. Let's all wisely face this challenge.

Jim Neely

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County Commission Dist. 4

3 good reasons *why we need Tim Cummins' responsible leadership on the County Commission*

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William K. Woodward, M.D.

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"We support Tim Cummins because he's just a little bit old-fashioned – he's a statesman, not a politician. Attack politics just isn't his style. Tim produces results – not useless rhetoric. He makes us proud to be Republicans. As a County Commissioner, he'll get the city and the county to work together for a change to reduce duplication of services and reduce our tax burden!"

Ken and Jane Roberts

RESPONSIVE TO NEIGHBORHOODS

"Too often when neighborhoods call on city and county government, it's like dealing with a brick wall. When Tim Cummins was on the City Council, neighborhoods found a friend. Tim worked tirelessly getting the bureaucracy to respond to community concerns."

Mary Beth Tabacchi
past President, Glenwood Hills
Neighborhood Association

Membership, Community Services



By Melanie Christman – Committees Chair

The 6th Annual SHHA Winetasting was a record setting event. There were 190 registered guests with 160 attending March 18th.

It appeared that a good time was had by all. The statewide power outage did not dim the evening. With the thoughtfulness of one area resident, candles provided the only essential light until the power was restored.

Greg Ruggiero, the guitarist for the evening was, unfortunately, unable to play much of the time, but made up for it when the lights came back on. We enjoyed an interesting selection of wines provided by National Distributing Company, and a wide variety of delicious appetizers brought by residents. The Community Services Committee would like to thank all of you who contributed. (A few recipes are below.... more to follow in subsequent issues). This event is a pleasure for the committee. We look forward to next year!



SHHA President Charlie Pechewlys (left) and board member and former president Marshall Aungier get into the spirit at SHHA Winetasting.



If you have any questions for the SHHA Board, please mail to: SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 20021, ABQ, NM 87121

SANDIA HEIGHTS Resident Recipes

FROM THE 6TH ANNUAL WINETASTING

Smoked Salmon & Dill Spread

brought by Cathy Heist

- 1 8oz whipped cream cheese
- 1 6oz smoked salmon - finely chopped
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 1/2 tsp dried dill
- 1 1/2 tsp lemon-garlic herb mix
- 1 tsp parsley flakes

Mix all ingredients and chill 2 - 24 hours

Taramosalata

from Charlie and Debbie Pechewlys by way of Charlie's mom, Phoebe

- 10 oz. jar tarama*
- 6 slices white bread
- 1 cup light oil (canola works)
- Juice of 4 lemons
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped

Chop the onion and celery in the food processor bowl. Remove the crusts from the bread. Wet the bread and squeeze until most of the water is out. Add the moistened bread, tarama, and the lemon juice to the work bowl of the food processor. Mix thoroughly. Add the oil slowly through the feed tube with the processor running. The resulting mixture should be thick (similar to mayonnaise) and can be served with pita bread, crackers etc.

*note: tarama is Greek caviar, orange-pink in color, which is sold in jars at places selling Greek foods.



& Communications

Look for Changes in the SHHA 2000/01 Directory of Residents

By Barbara Rosnagle - SHHA Communications Committee



As the old saying goes, "the only thing constant in this world is change." While this adage is true, the SHHA Communications Committee doesn't pursue change lightly, or only for the sake of change. Therefore, it was only upon thorough consideration that the Committee decided to incorporate the **Guide for Residents** into the 2000-2001 publication of the Directory of Residents.

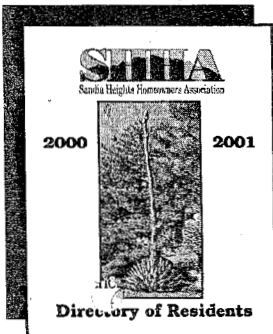
The Guide was normally made available to Sandia Heights newcomers. However, with its coverage of SHHA benefits and services, the responsibilities of the Architectural Review and Covenant Committees, and abundance of general information, it has much to offer even long-term residents. By making this change the cost of producing the Residents Guide will be included in estimates for an expanded and revamped Directory, and the info will be readily available to all SHHA members. So look for the new and improved Directory of Residents, coming your way in late August.

IMPORTANT!

If any info is incorrect on your Grit mailing label or current Directory, please write, fax or e-mail corrections to Susan at the SHHA office.

(e-mail: shha@nmia.com)

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



Sandia Heights
Wildflower

Annual Garden Walk
Saturday, June 10
9 AM to Noon

Pick up your map at the first home on the tour
Diane and Milton Mueller
1216 Rockrose Road

Summer Field Trip!
Tour of the Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas in late June or early July.
Date to be announced. Call 822 0269.



City of Albuquerque Open Space Summer Program 2000

FIRESIDE CHATS

Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Amphitheater
Saturday evenings - 7-8 PM

- June 3 - Storyteller - Sarah Malone
- June 10 - Cowboy Poet - Joe Deitrich
- June 17 - Southwestern Animal Tales - Leslie Cork
- June 24 - Hawkwatch International
- July 1 - TBA
- July 8 - Beginning Birding - Doyle and Diane Wise
- July 15 - Native Seeds for Modern Needs - Bret Bakker
- July 22 - Beekeeper and Storyteller - Les Crowder
- July 29 - New Mexico Place Names - Bob Julyan, NM Endowment for the Humanities
- August 5 - Hopi Culture in Ancient Jewelry Design - Bennard Dallasvuyaomo
- August 12 - Sandia Winds Music Program - Bonnie Dils
- August 19 - Cibola Search and Rescue
- August 26 - Ice Age Mammals of Rio Grande Paleontology - Gary Morgan

SUNDAY HIKES

Pino Trailhead at Elena Gallegos Park
Sunday mornings - 9 AM

(Wear comfortable shoes, bring water and sunscreen)

- June 4 - Wildflower Identification - Pearl Burns
- June 11 - Plant Identification & Uses - William Dunmire
- June 18 - Orienteering - Paul Daily
- June 25 - Trails Aren't Trivial
- July 2 - Medicinal Plants - Troy Maddux
- July 9 - Evidence of Animals - Chris Chadwick
- July 16 - Trails Aren't Trivial
- July 23 - Pond Ecology - Ondrea Linderth-Hummel
- July 30 - Archaeology Hike - Matt Schmader
- August 6 - Trails Aren't Trivial
- August 13 - Nature Photography Hike
- August 20 - Cibola Search and Rescue
- August 27 - TBA

Elena Gallegos is located off Tramway north of Academy. \$2 entrance fee to the park, but Chats and Hikes are free. For more information, call Open Space at 452-5200.

THE GRIT

AUTUMN GRIT
Deadline for articles
AUGUST 1st
Deadline for ads
AUGUST 15th

Covenant Support

By Susan Carlow – SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair

Every Spring the Grit is sent to all residents of Sandia Heights. Our goal with this issue, is to motivate non-members to join the SHHA, and participate in the valuable work that is accomplished by the board and

members of the Association for the benefit of the whole community. If you would like to join us and to actively support our efforts, call 797-7793 for information.

With the aging of Sandia Heights many new and challenging issues are on the horizon. Currently, the most visible one is the "remodeling rage." Home improvement and expansion are necessary and valuable endeavors, which can positively impact our area. Updated and upgraded homes increase the property value not only of the individual home, but the neighborhood as a whole. The downside of change, is just that, "change!" We are all very protective of our views and the familiar contours and configurations of the homes and property around us. When the dumpster comes and we see new levels and expansions appearing, our first response is to seek help from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) or the Covenant Support Committee (CSC) in an attempt to halt change. But the Declaration of Restrictions for Sandia

Heights addresses elements of height, size, color and design of a structure in very broad terms.

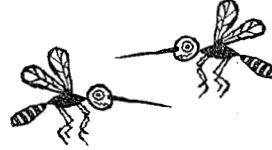
Therefore, ACC approval of building plans are required for new construction, as well as all remodel and re-landscaping work. When these plans are submitted, a neighborhood review is announced in an effort to have all interested parties participate in the process. Three elements are key to the success of a remodel or new construction: communication, compromise and tolerance, given in equal doses by everyone concerned. A certain amount of compromise is to be expected, but most important is the need to be tolerant of each party's unique perspective. If you are notified about construction work in your neighborhood, please go to the official review and communicate your thoughts to the Committee and the property owners about the proposed plans.

With summer approaching, the Covenant Support Committee would like to remind our new residents and old residents alike that the Declarations of Restrictions prohibit the parking of RVs, boats and camper trailers on property in Sandia Heights. Most covenants allow for a brief period to provision these vehicles prior to a trip. Please check with your individual covenants regarding recreational vehicles and the amount of time allotted for this necessity.

The Committee would like to thank all the residents who supported us and have been responsive to our requests regarding the covenants during this past year!

Will Musketas Make You Slap Happy This Summer?

Bernalillo County Environmental Health



The Spanish called them musketas, they are known as gnats in England, and the Germans used the name Stechmucken when referring to these small pestering insects. Here in the United States, we know them as mosquitoes. No matter what name is used to refer to them one thing remains the same, they ARE annoying.

Even though the foothills are a bit too dry for these critters, some residents may be susceptible. Every year around late spring and early summer mosquitoes emerge and begin feeding. Not only are they bothersome, but mosquitoes can transmit diseases to both humans and animals. In the list below are different ways in which you can control mosquitoes and their effects, so you and your family can have a fun and safe summer.

- Eliminate standing water. Mosquitoes breed and lay eggs in standing water.
- Get rid of items that hold water such as old tires, cans and bottles.
- Flush your birdbath or fishpond weekly.
- **If you have a pond, fill it with mosquito-eating fish. These fish are free through the City/County Vector Control Program. Call 873-6613**
- If your pet's water bowl is outside, clean it and add fresh water daily.
- Keep ditches in your yard free of weeds, trash, and lawn clippings.
- Keep irrigated fields level. Don't overwater.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of the home.
- Use mosquito repellent outdoors.

If you have any questions or are in need of any assistance please call the City/County Vector Control Program at 873-6613 or BCEHD at 924-3651.

'Tis the Season To Remodel

Here's a reminder that exterior projects need approval by the Architectural Control Committee – before your contractor begins work!

You can pick up an application at the front door of the Sandia Heights Security Office (it's a green wooden building on the south side of Tramway Road, 1/2 mile east of Tramway Blvd.).

Or call the SHHA office at 797-7793. Leave your fax # to get the application fastest. Decisions will be made in accordance with the covenants for each particular unit. There are approximately 35 units – and covenants (i.e. restrictions) can vary.

And now you can print out the application directly from our web site at <http://www.nmia.com/shha>.

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New Development




By George Hight – SHHA New Development, Chair


The Bernalillo County Capital Improvement meeting at the Lt. Sibrava Sheriff's Substation on Holly was well attended by a number of interested residents from Sandia Heights. The county was represented by many department heads including Sheriff Bowdich.

There were a number of traffic concerns discussed. The request for the park at Cedar Hill Road and Tramway instigated a great deal of discussion. Plans and a petition were presented to the county at that time. A follow-up request was made for a speed bump on Live Oak Road. We were assured that all requests would receive attention.

John Keller attended a meeting with North Albuquerque Acres Community Association (NAACA) in regard to the lighting on the new Mormon Temple. Future meetings are planned.



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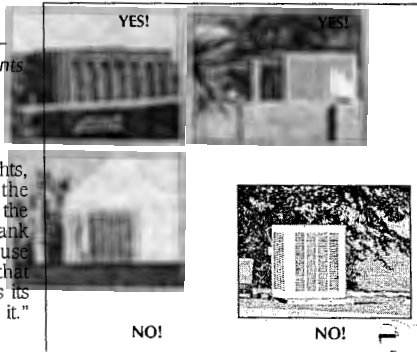
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Screened vs Unscreened

By Jim Neely –
 SHHA Covenants
 Committee



As a resident of Sandia Heights, if you were to look through all the reported Covenant Violations on file, the unscreened A/C leads the list. Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "...a house should have a sense of unity... that makes it part of its site... it graces its environment, rather than disgraces it." I heartily agree.

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Sharon McCollum



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 Sharon & Judson McCollum
 858-8330



PLAGUE: Prevention and Control

By Rudy Bueno Jr., Ph.D., BCE - Integrated Vector Management,
ABQ Environmental Health

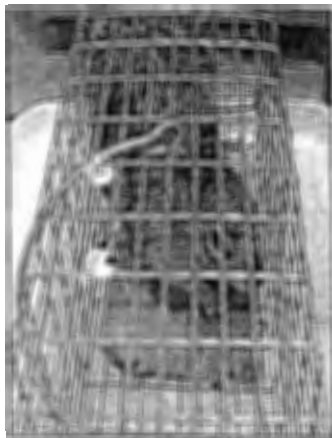
The Albuquerque Environmental Health Department has initiated routine plague surveillance in Bernalillo County. This consists of setting traps in plague endemic areas like Sandia Heights to trap rodents such as rock squirrels, pack rats, chipmunks and mice. Historically, all these rodents have been found to be infected. They are returned to our laboratory, blood/flea samples are obtained and sent to the Centers for Disease Control in Ft. Collins, CO for analysis.

Another part of the program is the retrieval of rodents in plague endemic areas which died from unapparent causes. If residents notice this occurring please call the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department at 768-2600. The dead animal will be collected and a tissue sample will be sent to the city's Scientific Laboratory Division and analyzed for plague. If confirmed from live or dead rodents, Integrated Vector Management (IVM) staff will implement control measures and conduct community outreach. **This year no animals have been diagnosed with plague in any area of the county.** Surveillance will continue throughout the season and the community will be notified if plague is found.

Last year 26 samples were confirmed with plague in Bernalillo County. There was one human case, six cats, and 2 dogs. The remaining samples were rodents including rock squirrels, pack rats and mice. Of these 26 samples, 9 were from Sandia Heights (8 rodents and one cat).

Residents need to take certain precautions to reduce exposure to plague. Pet food, water sources, and harborage (wood and rock piles) attract rodents to homes. Elimination or reduction of these attractants will decrease potential exposure to a plague-infected rodent. Hikers should keep their pets on a leash and not allow them to roam. Plague can cause a rodent die off and if this occurs, fleas will search for another live host. Pets allowed to roam freely can be attacked by these infected fleas, then return home and expose owners to plague.

Cats are very susceptible to plague and must be watched carefully. Keeping cats indoors eliminates their exposure to infected rodents. They can be infected either by a flea bite or by handling the infected rodent. The incubation period is 2-6 days. Common symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes (especially around the neck area beneath the jaw), fatigue, and loss of appetite. Take to a veterinarian immediately for prompt treatment. Dogs are not as susceptible to plague and usually are asymptomatic. They can still be carriers and owners need to be very aware of any changes in their pets. Human exposure to plague will result in similar symptoms, particularly swollen lymph nodes in the groin, underarm or neck area and a high fever. If this occurs see a doctor immediately. Plague is easily treatable with antibiotics if caught in its early stages.



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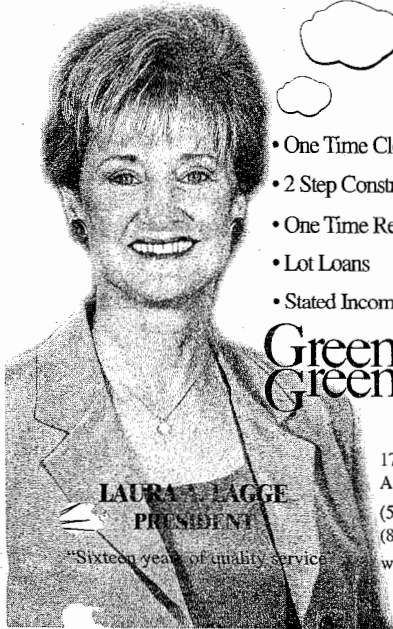
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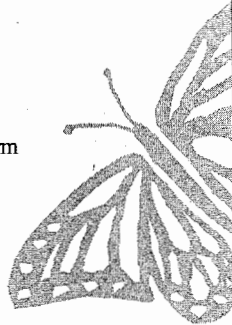
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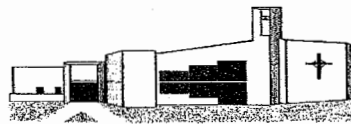
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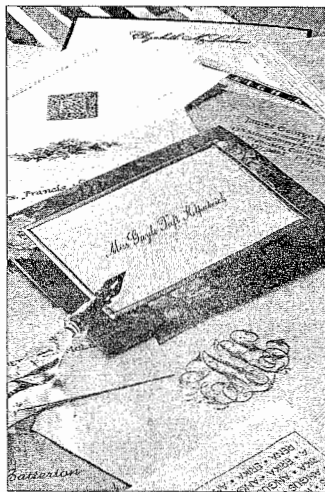
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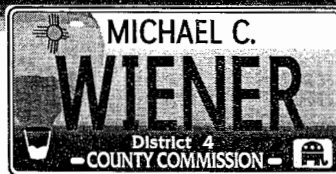


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- State Rep. Rob Burpo

"In the last year, we have seen our property taxes skyrocket in Bernalillo County. Michael Wiener is the only candidate with a proven track record fighting for lower taxes! As our next county commissioner, Michael Wiener will help reign in high taxes!"

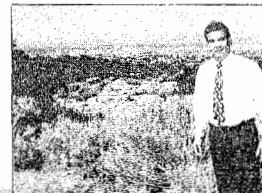
- Kip Nicely,
Former House Minority Leader

"Michael Wiener has the courage, conviction, energy and enthusiasm to take on the status quo and make County Government accountable to us!"

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"While in the State Senate, the Association of Commerce and Industry rated Michael Wiener 4th highest out of 42 Senators for his record supporting pro-business legislation. Let's get serious about economic development by electing Michael Wiener to the County Commission."

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Make Your Vote Count June 6th - County Commission District 4

Train to Be a CIOTE!

Do you love talking to people about Open Space? Do you like working with children? Do you feel education is one of the best ways to foster appreciation for the environment? Then you should think about becoming a CIOTE.

CIOTEs are Community Interpreters of the Environment. They lead education programs at the Elena Gallegos Nature Trail, Petroglyph National Monument, Candelaria Farm, the Bosque, and in the classroom. They work mostly with school children, sharing knowledge and enthusiasm for Open Space lands.

You don't have to be a biologist, archaeologist or botanist to be a CIOTE. You just need to have an enthusiastic attitude about the outdoors and a desire to share that enthusiasm with others. The only requirement you have is to attend a training session that will acquaint you with the Open Space program and the areas you may be working in. We'll also cover the basics on how to give a talk, logistics in leading a group and ways to develop interpretive themes.

The training consists of a one-day orientation, followed by a choice of field trip days. New trainees will be required to observe two different interpretive programs presented by either Open Space staff or existing CIOTEs. Trainees can attend one or all of the on-site training days, depending on the area on which they would like to focus. To register or for more info, call Bonnie Dils, 452-5200.



New CIOTE Orientation
Saturday, July 8th ~ 9 am - 4 pm

On-site Training Days

July 15 - Elena Gallegos Nature Trail

July 22 - Petroglyph National Monument (westside)

July 29 - Candelaria Farm (near Rio Grande Nature Center)

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PLANT OF THE SEASON



Red Yucca

Hesperaloe parviflora

Red Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) is an evergreen shrub growing two feet tall and three feet wide. Long, narrow leaves give this plant a similar appearance to Yuccas, which it is distantly related. Coral pink flowers bloom from late spring through summer in small clusters atop tall stalks. A yellow variety has been recently developed and is now available in retail nurseries. The flowers attract hummingbirds.

Red Yucca is native to Texas and northern Mexico and can be planted in Albuquerque in full sun locations. This plant is reported to survive as far north as Santa Fe. Drought tolerant and suitable for containers, they are available during the growing season in one and five gallon sizes.

Planting: Dig a hole 1-1/2 times the size of the rootball and mix equal parts planting mix with the native soil. Build a berm with soil around the base of the plant. Fill the basin twice with water to insure a deep soaking. As the plant becomes established, decrease the frequency but increase

the amount of water given. Red Yucca becomes mature in three years and requires deep soakings every two weeks during the growing season.

Recommended Use: Consider for narrow planting areas or in the foreground of landscapes. It's a good choice for your hummingbird garden and xeric designs. Removal of old flower stalks in late summer is all the maintenance needed.

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

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Those Invisible Pool Guests

Bernalillo County Environmental Health Report



When we hear the words "pool safety" we usually think of rules such as no running, or precautionary measures like watching children to prevent drowning, but there is more to be aware of when it comes to recreational water safety. Sometimes it is what you can't see that can cause you harm. Bacteria (germs) normally live in and on our bodies, and bathers are the main source of contamination in pools or spas. Bacteria can cause several types of illness: skin infections or rashes; eye, ear, nose and throat problems; respiratory infections; intestinal (diarrhea) infections. Chlorine, the most common pool disinfectant, kills most germs, but not all germs.

The following guidelines will help to keep you and your family safe from infection so you can enjoy the water this summer.

- Do not drink pool water! Remember it is everyone's bath water.

- Do not swim if you have diarrhea. Even if you don't have an accident, you can still contaminate the water.
- After using the bathroom or changing a diaper always wash your hands with soap and water.
- Take your child on bathroom breaks often instead of waiting for them to find you, it might be too late.
- If you have open wounds, or obvious know infections that are spread through water, do not swim (there is no evidence that HIV or AIDS is spread through water).
- Do not share towels or bathing suits.
- Maintain proper chemical levels to keep pools/spas disinfected.

If you have any questions please call BCEHD at 924-3651




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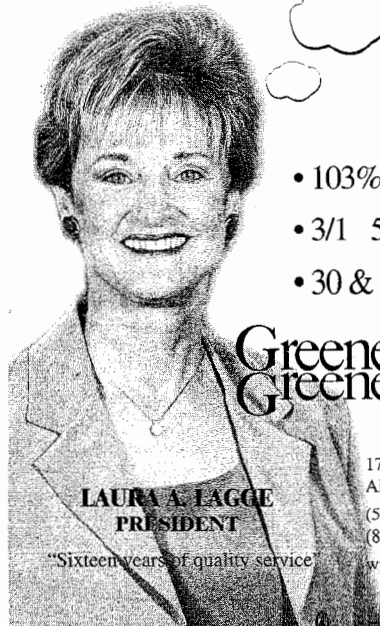
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LETTUCE EXPAND YOUR PRODUCE VOCABULARY



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

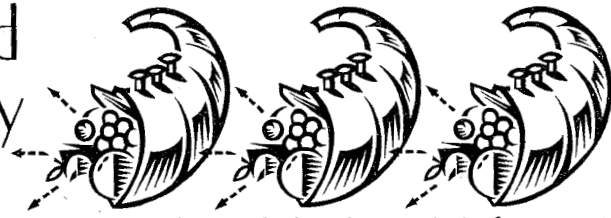
With summer fast approaching, are you aware of all the new choices in the produce department of your supermarket? Fruits and vegetables once found only in ethnic markets have become as readily available as bananas and celery. This increasing range of choices is exciting, but at the same time it is confusing. What do you do with radicchio or a Santa Claus melon?

This surge of interest in fresh produce comes in part from the increased public focus on eating healthy. Fresh produce is a rich natural source of fiber, vitamins and minerals. And most vegetables and fruits are low in calories. Increased exposure to different foods through travel and the influence of new ethnic groups in our country have increased our appetite for new flavors.

Greens can perk up appetites on the long, hot days ahead. When selecting greens for salad, look for greens that are crisp and fresh. They are crunchy, colorful and all deliciously different. Feuille de Chene, known as red oak leaf lettuce, is distinguished by deep bronze, serrated leaves. It has a mild, but distinctive, flavor and is used in salads or to decorate a wide range of dishes. Little Gem, a compact variety of dwarf cos lettuce, has rich green leaves. The elongated heart with delicate yellow leaves is crisp and sweet. Serve it whole with raspberry-walnut dressing.

Belgian endive is also known as Witloof chicory, which is Dutch for white leaf. The almost white, mild flavored leaves are usually used alone as a salad with a delicate dressing, or mixed with other salad vegetables. Chicory has a somewhat bitter taste. The frilly green leaves have a paler center that gives a subtle mellowing effect to the natural bitterness. It is often used as a flavoring to salads.

Lollo Rosso's leaves are frilled, tinged with red and taste delicious. Use it to add color to green salads. This Italian green should be crisp and tender when purchased. Also Italian in origin, Quattro Stagioni, is an Italian round lettuce. Its dimpled and glossy leaves distinguish it. Looser leaved than other green round lettuces, it is firm yet tender and makes an attractive decoration.



Batavia is a large crisp head type lettuce originating from France. It has light-green leaves. Lamb's lettuce originated in the Mediterranean and Middle East. The small, velvety leaves have a mild and delicate flavor. It is a popular ingredient for mixed green salads. Red-leafed Italian radicchio has a firm head. The leaves should be colored with no browning. It has a slightly bitter taste. Its superb color makes it an ideal choice for mixed salads.

Melons are sold in a wide spectrum of colors, shapes, sizes, tastes and textures. Melons you might find in markets include the Jaune Canari, which is succulent and extremely sweet. Its flavor is reminiscent of honey. The Cavallon is an elegant and fragrant miniature melon of French origin. A native of Turkey, the Casaba, is a delicately flavored melon that has no fragrance even when ripe. Smelling this melon will give no clue as to its ripeness. Buy Casaba in cut pieces to be sure of getting ripe melon.

The delicately sweet Crenshaw melon is ripe when its rind turns golden yellow. Crenshaws are fragile, so handle gently. If you are selecting a honeydew melon, the larger honeydews (over five pounds) are more luscious than the smaller ones. The brightly striped Santa Claus has dense, soft flesh with a natural tang. You are probably most familiar with the cantaloupe. The best cantaloupes are slightly oval and five inches or more in diameter. Signs of sweetness include pronounced netting and a few cracks near the stem end. Choose one with a cream-yellow rind and a slightly sweet smell.

Most varieties of melons are sold slightly under-ripe and need to stand at room temperature a few days to develop maximum flavor. In general, choose melons that are evenly ripe, with no soft, water-soaked areas or mold. To hasten ripening, place whole melons inside loosely closed paper bags. Once cut, melons won't get any riper. Refrigerate cut melons or fully ripe whole ones in tightly sealed plastic bags; the ethylene gas melons give off can hasten spoilage of other produce in your refrigerator.

You won't always find varieties labeled at your produce market. Ask the produce manager what variety you are buying. The variety and shipper's name is printed on the shipping container. Take the mystery out of strange looking produce and enjoy adding new foods to your diet!

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Kent Cravens

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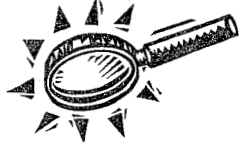
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Settlement Disagreement Pueblo Land Claim Update

By Bill Kiely - Co-Chair, Sandia Mountain Coalition



The current Settlement Agreement being debated in the press sounds good in the abstract, but has serious flaws in the actual language used to incorporate areas of agreement. If it were to become law we believe the Pueblo could challenge the intent of the agreement in court to strengthen their control or possibly assert ownership of the area. How did this come about?

In 1998 at a meeting I attended at the Department of Justice (DOJ), DOJ strongly urged our side to enter into mediation. They used their decision to appeal or not to appeal Judge Green's decision as a lever to get us to the mediation table. We agreed to mediation. The Federal Government team made some questionable choices of who would participate on their side. The Department of Agriculture had a lawyer who was probably the most informed government lawyer on this claim. He was banned from participating and in his place they put a political appointee who would later threaten us to conform or they would solve it without us. This, of course, is what they eventually tried to do. The Department of Interior sent a lawyer who in 1988 tried to engineer a transfer of the area to the Pueblo. So to a large extent the deck was stacked at the start of mediation.

In spite of this, we spent nine months in the mediation in a serious attempt to reach agreement. Early on in the process we agreed in principle on the major issues you have seen Governor Patsano state in the press that the Pueblo wanted - unfettered Pueblo access and preservation of the area. Putting it into words proved to be the challenge and ultimate failure of mediation. I personally attended every mediation session. The lawyers for the Pueblo vehemently objected to describing Pueblo rights and Public rights with the same language. DOJ bowed to the desires of the Pueblo lawyers and insisted the words meant the same thing. However, the Pueblo lawyers also strongly objected to swapping the equal words describing the rights of each party. It certainly makes you think about whether or not the words mean the same thing. After nine months of this, a strong Pueblo-favoring document emerged which is essentially the same as the Settlement Agreement DOJ recently released to the press. It gives the Pueblo priority over the public, provides the Pueblo with authority beyond that needed to meet stated goals, and implicitly suggests that the overall intent is "Trust" status for the Pueblo. It invites years of future litigation.

The City, County, and Sandia Mountain Coalition withdrew from mediation in August, 1999, when it became clear the document was unworkable and the other parties were not going to consider changes. The Federal Government Team, the Team Company, and the Pueblo vowed to continue mediation. The outside, independent mediator refused to participate further

Continued on page 3...