

**ALL RESIDENTS!**  
We need your input regarding re-zoning and commercial development east of Tramway.  
Details - PAGE 3

# THE GRITTY

SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FALL ~ 2000



## New SHHA Board Elected at Annual Meeting



▲ Outgoing President Charlie Pechewlys presided over the Annual Meeting with the help of Parliamentarian Betsy McUne.



On Saturday, June 3, 2000, the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association held its annual meeting at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Acting SHHA President **Charlie Pechewlys** called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Officers and members of the Board were introduced, followed by guests State Representative **Rob Burpo**; Anita Miller, from Sandia Mountain Coalition (SMC); Barbara Seward, Bernalillo County Commissioner; and two fire fighters from nearby Bernalillo County Fire Station 5.

As a lawyer, concerned resident and officer of the SMC, **Anita Miller** briefly described the discontent with the Settlement Agreement stemming from the courts decision on the Sandia Pueblo land claim. Negotiations and appeal proceedings are presently underway. SMC wants to make sure the property owners are properly represented and vague legal language is clarified to prevent future problems. Continued monetary support was needed.

Firemen **Brian Williams** and **Greg Ketchum** attended the Annual Meeting to address area fire concerns during this particularly dry season. One of the most important things homeowners can do is clear tree and shrub growth from around their homes and fire hydrants. There was discussion on a recent fire in Sandia Heights (see Gritty Editorial on page 8). Station 5 on Pasco del Norte has four vehicles and it was noted that more personnel are needed to properly staff the trucks. Neighbors can assist or volunteer to help fight a fire. Firefighters would handle this on a case-by-case basis. Those wishing to volunteer may contact **Glen Vinke** at 761-4225.

Outgoing County Commissioner **Barbara Seward** was presented with a silver and crystal bowl as a token of appreciation for her support and advocacy on behalf of Sandia Heights and SHHA. Ms. Seward addressed the board and the members, describing her service to Bernalillo County and the progress made in the past 7.5 years. She said it was a privilege to serve and difficult to leave. She thanked SHHA for its support over her tenure.

County Commissioner Barbara Seward accepted a crystal bowl in appreciation of her efforts on behalf of Sandia Heights.



Continued on page 2...

▲ Anita Miller presented the Sandia Mountain Coalition's views on the Pueblo Land Claim Settlement Agreement

### 2000/01 SHHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ~ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**John Jennings, President** - 797-7399 - jqos@aol.com  
**Jack Wolfe, Vice President** - 821-1938 - Wolfejac@aol.com  
**Deborah Griswold, Secretary** - 856-5968 - deborah@twrol.com  
**Treasurer** (currently unfilled)

**Executive Assistant, Susan Koenig** - 797-7793 - shha@uswest.net

#### COMMUNICATIONS / MEMBERSHIP / COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Melanie Christman, Chair** - 856-7636 - rccabq@aol.com  
**Deborah Griswold** - 856-5968 - deborah@twrol.com  
**DeAnna Cree** - 857-9722 - dcree@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us  
**Mary Westpfahl** - 856-7303 - marywest@techreps.com

#### FINANCE

**Chair** (currently unfilled)  
**Marshall Aungier** - 858-3160 - maungier@cybermesa.com

#### COVENANT SUPPORT

**Susan Carlow, Chair** - 856-9220 - tjcarlow@swcp.com  
**John Coffey** - 858-0325 - JMCLF@aol.com  
**Finian Murphy** - 828-1633 - MFinian@aol.com  
**Martin Inkelas** - 856-1183 - inkelas@aol.com  
**Bob Gardiner** - 821-3798 - babedudeg@aol.com

#### NEW DEVELOPMENT / PARKS/ GOVERNMENT LIAISON

**Martin Inkelas, Chair** - 856-1183 - inkelas@aol.com  
**Eric Nuttall** - 856-1447 - Nuttall@unm.edu  
**Bob Gardiner** - 821-3798 - babedudeg@aol.com  
**Mary Westpfahl** - 856-7303 - marywest@techreps.com

#### TRAFFIC, SAFETY & SIGNS

**Patrick Hutton, Chair** - 856-1381  
**Eric Nuttall** - 856-1447 - Nuttall@unm.edu  
**John Coffey** - 858-0325 - JMCLF@aol.com

#### LEGAL ADVISORS

**Marshall Aungier** - 858-3160 - maungier@cybermesa.com  
**Charles Pechewlys** - 856-6878 - cpechewlys@aol.com

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL

**L. A. Bannowsky, Chair** - 858-3280 - glla@flash.net  
**Don Aunapu** - 856-2206 - Aunapu@attglobal.net  
**Bill Stabler** - 856-7532 - jbsabq@aol.com  
**Angel Rivera** - 821-9397 - angel.rivera21@hotmail.com  
**Ken Reidy** - 828-1164 - KenReidy@aol.com  
**Rick Nelson** - 856-7159 - Rnelson444@aol.com  
**Harris Goodwin** - 856-2775 - Harris@nmgl.com  
**Jack Wolfe** - 821-1938 - Wolfejac@aol.com



# THE GRIT

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BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE  
 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH,  
 7PM, AT THE LT. SIBRAVA SHERIFF'S  
 SUBSTATION ON EUBANK & HOLLY

✓ SEPT 13TH

✓ OCT 11TH

✓ NOV 8TH

JOIN  
 US!!

## SHHA Annual Meeting ...continued from page 1

Pat Grossman presented the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year as of April 30, 2000. Interest bearing accounts have been set up to handle Association funds. Money has been set aside in 1-month and 6-month certificates of deposit in order to allow flexibility.

Nominees for the SHHA Board were introduced and each spoke for a few minutes. Those nominees present were Eric Nuttall, John Coffey, Ken Reidy, Bob Gardiner, Rick Nelson. Harris Goodwin could not be present and Rick Nelson spoke for him. Angel Rivera and Jack Wolfe have filled vacant positions and are due to be elected to a new 3-year term. Nominations were requested from the floor and Glenn Kuswa was nominated. The following directors were



County Firefighters Brian Williams and Greg Ketchum talked to residents about safety during the unusually dry season.

elected: Eric Nuttall, John Coffey, DeAnna Cree, Finian Murphy, Rick Nelson, Bob Gardiner, Ken Reidy, Harris Goodwin, Jack Wolfe, and Angel Rivera.

Debbie Miller, SHHA Secretary, gave a report on the intended updates to the Association web site (<http://www.nmia.com/shha>). Covenants for all units are now posted and the minutes of future board meetings will be placed on the web site after they have been approved.

A motion was made to have the Board amend the bylaws, resolving ambiguities. The motion was seconded and after discussion, the motion carried. There was discussion about reducing the amount of the monthly membership dues and thereby reduce the cash on hand not earmarked for specific use in the Association budget. Some members were in favor of leaving the dues at \$5 to allow for more strict covenant control, while others were in favor of increasing dues to allow for more office help and cover future projects. Treasurer Pat Grossman invited input on this topic from members directly or at a regular board meeting.

Above left, State Representative Rob Burpo peruses the Summer Grit at the Annual Meeting.

Below left, Communications Chair Melanie Christman, Association Manager Susan Koenig and Covenants Chair Susan Carlow help with welcoming attendees

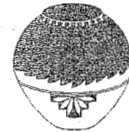


Bien Mur Indian Market Center



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel that the cornerstone of any organization or personal relationship is communications. Without open and honest communications on issues no one party in the relationship knows how to act/react to what they perceive is happening around them. It is therefore my goal to open better communications with all of our neighbors in this beautiful community.

One of the ways I propose to do this will be to better utilize our web site in the coming year. This will be done by the addition of a paid Web Master to make sure that any and all actions that affect the homeowners in Sandia Heights be disseminated to all in a timely fashion.



John Jennings

Other ways to improve communications are to utilize Special Mailings when an issue cannot wait for the Grit, and have "monthly" Grits sent to all residents of Sandia Heights regardless of membership in the Association. I would like to invite homeowners to be non-voting members of various SHHA committees. This action will take a by-law change. Currently we have a committee looking at new bylaws. I also ask that you contact a board member or myself if there is any item you would like to see placed on the monthly agenda for board meetings. Lastly, I feel it is most important that you talk to your neighbors if there is a problem. Mediation is always better than litigation.

We have a lot to do this next year. Here are some of the issues we will be working on:

- **Opposing encroachment of commercial development in residential neighborhoods located in Sandia Heights, but not under the control of the homeowners. (Please see my Special Mailing sent last month in box to right.)**

- Appointing a committee to examine the pros and cons of a City/County merger. Should we support or oppose it or look to become a Township.

- Renting office space so as to have easy access to records, office equipment and meeting space. We have started to outgrow our storage locker.

- Possibly adding more contract help to better serve the homeowners.

I will do my best to preserve and protect the value of properties in Sandia Heights, to provide excellent customer service to residents and to bring the highest possible standards of integrity and ethics to the Association.

**IMPORTANT:** We need input from all residents regarding commercial development east of Tramway

### Dear Sandia Heights Residents:

I am writing all Sandia Heights residents to inform them of a proposed development of the property at the 'T' intersection of Tramway Blvd. and Paseo del Norte on the East Side of the street, bordering Tramway Lane. It is the vacant 10-acre site. The current zoning for this parcel of land is A-1. This means that the only thing that can be built there are two-story residential structures numbering one per acre.

The developer's plan for this 10-acre site is a Commercial shopping center. It consists of (to the North) a 26' high (two story with deck) restaurant. To the south a pharmacy (Walgreens was mentioned). Further to the South, along the border with Quail Ridge, condominiums consisting of 17 Units. To the west a strip mall of two stories, the bottom would be coffeehouse, Subway and other small businesses. The upper level would be office space.

To do this the developer is planning on submitting a zoning change request to the County of Bernalillo toward the end of August. They hope to have a hearing on this zoning change request to C-2 by October, 2000. As I understand things there is a Paseo del Norte Corridor plan which will take effect which will limit commercial development to the plan already in place. This does not go into effect until October 2000.

The developer has stated that they want to meet with neighbors on an individual and neighborhood basis. They were told that we would like them to only deal with our Association as far as having meetings or passing on information with the President as the focal point. This will keep all communications moving more smoothly and ensure that we as a community are not splintered, regardless of whether or not you are a member of Sandia Heights Homeowners Association.

Our position is that we are opposed to this commercial development in the middle of our residential neighborhood for reasons such as lights, traffic, noise, late hours and risk of further encroachment of commercial development once zoning variances are started. Additionally, there is a risk of a whole different character of businesses than those suggested in the plans to be placed in this development.

We would really appreciate your input and support on this matter, as a development of this type will forever change the appearance and property values of Sandia Heights. Please think about this as you drive east on Paseo del Norte and enjoy the view of the mountain and our community.

Send your thoughts and opinions in writing to the Association office at SHHA, P.O. Box 20021, Albuquerque, NM 87154-002. Copies of your letters will be forwarded to county officials.

Sincerely,

John F. Jennings  
SHHA President

### Question for Members:

Should SHHA funds be used for attorney fees regarding this issue?

## SEARCHING FOR A COMPETENT, HONEST CONTRACTOR?

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# ★ ROUNDHOUSE REPORT ★

## Work Goes On Outside of Legislative Session

Greetings Neighbors...

As the summer comes to an end, I am often asked what we as "citizen legislators" do during the time when we are not in session. Roughly a third of the legislature is made up of retirees, so they get to play golf or otherwise enjoy life! The rest of us have to juggle our real job requirements with those of legislative duties. About 30% of my non-session time is spent conducting legislative work. On average we spend 52 days a year in session.

Serving on three interim committees means attending a minimum of 30 days in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Roswell, Las Cruces, Deming, Gallup and Rio Rancho attending meetings that will review and draft legislation for the 60 day session in January 2001. Then there are conferences that deal with legislative issues. (By the way, I have not attended a single one of these conferences that has cost New Mexico taxpayers any money!) These add another 15 days a year. That's 45 days altogether.

It is safe to say that an average of 3 hours a day are spent answering constituent letters and phone calls, responding to committee meeting issues and drafting legislation. That also includes meeting with industry representatives on bills they support (or oppose!). Then there are meetings with community groups and homeowners associations. Just today I met with the Sandia Heights delegation regarding the proposed commercial development at Paseo and Paseo del Norte. I have readily agreed to support you in your opposition to this project. This will mean attending county meetings, calling on state and county officials to promote your position and do follow-up research. That's 57 days.

Then of course there is campaigning. I have been honored (or condemned) by not having an opponent in either the primary or general election. That means that I will only walk to about 4000 homes instead of 7000 this cycle (24 days), it also means that other candidates have called on me to help them in their campaigns - both

here in Albuquerque and elsewhere around the state. That takes care of every weekend from July to the end of November. That's 56 days.

So including the 52 days of legislative sessions, I spend over 154 days involved in direct legislative duties and another 56 on the campaign trail.

With all that being said, let me again ask that when you have questions regarding state government, whether they are about the Taxation and Revenue Department, legislation you would like to see, or just opinions/comments on state government or the legislature (good or bad), please call, e-mail or write. My home address is 10101 Anaheim NE, 87122.

I look forward to meeting many of you as we work on the Paseo/Tramway development project. And while this is the last issue of the Grit as we know it, I hope to speak with you again in future issues. Keep in touch.

My phone number in Santa Fe is 985-4470. And my e-mail is HYPERLINK mail to: FAAMrob@aol.com



\*\*\*\*\*

**Robert Burpo - State Representative/District 23**

Business: 883-0083 - Home: 856-6881

E-mail: [fafarob@highway.com](mailto:fafarob@highway.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Traffic, Safety & Signs



By Patrick Hutton –  
Traffic & Safety Committee, Chair

### Increase in Graffiti

In the past month there has been a noticeable increase in graffiti seen around Sandia Heights, especially in arroyos. You can help by reporting any graffiti to the County Graffiti Removal Hotline at 768-4400. If you have any problems having the graffiti removed please

contact SHHA voice-mail at 797-7793 and leave a message for the Traffic, Safety and Sign Committee.

### Planned Sandia Heights Signs

This Committee is in the process of getting county permission for placing signs at many of the entrances into Sandia Heights. Signs that will identify the community and let people know that Sandia Heights is a security patrolled community and restricted with covenants. A design being considered reads:



The Committee would appreciate any ideas or suggestions that residents of Sandia Heights have about these signs. All suggestions will be documented and kept for review.

### School Opens Soon...

### And We Have a Traffic Safety Problem

This problem is not only for our school children but also for everyone who walks, rides a bike, skateboards or drives on the streets here in Sandia Heights. There are many places that underbrush and trees have been allowed to grow to a point where visibility is blocked. One can not see if a car is coming, or a child or adult is on the road. This committee will continue its efforts to get county assistance with this problem. However, County Zoning Ordinance # 213 states brush removal is the responsibility of each property owner. The problem can be corrected in two ways.

1. Trimming the vegetation low enough to permit good visibility.
2. Remove the underbrush and/or trees causing the problem.

Sandia Heights trash pickup will remove the clippings as long as they are in compliance with their regulations. The bags or bundles must weigh under 40 lbs, not exceed 10 bags or 5 bundles including your regular trash (the maximum allowed per week), and bundles need to be less than 4 ft in length, 2 ft in diameter. Check your property and correct any potential problems before someone is injured or killed.

The next Grit we'll have an update on continuing road and cable work.

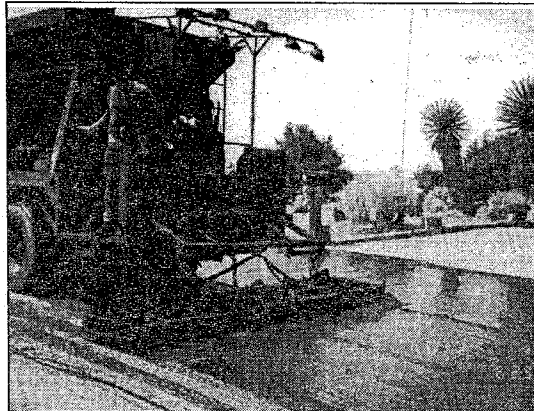


### Slurry Seal Tested on Roads

The County is experimenting with a road surface which the city of Albuquerque has been using with success for years. In June, Cedar Hill Lane and Cedar Hill Court received a "slurry seal." The overlay to the surface of the streets was 3/8" to 1/2" of a State "C" asphalt mix.

Between August and October several roads will be overlaid through a County Arterial Program (CAP), the State Co-op, and the State School Bus Route Funding. After the November election, more streets will be overlaid through the Capitol Improvements Projects (CIP), a County bond funded project.

Dave Mitchell, Bernalillo County Public Works Road Maintenance Section Manager, would appreciate follow-up response from residents regarding the overlay at 848-1543.



Bernalillo County workers resurface Cedar Hill Lane last June.



Satisfied residents of Cedar Hill Lane: (l to r) Frank Wood, Jean & Ed Heimann with Peaches, Laurie & Mike Sabik with Emma & Maggie, Ponziano Ferraraccio, and Jill & Dave Barthel.

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SANDIA HEIGHTS SECURITY  
CALLS JAN- JULY 2000

TYPE OF CALL	YEAR TOTAL
Alarm	204
Open Door/Window	14
Molested Child	101
Smoking & Drinking	8
Stomach Smoking & Drinking	7
Problems Involving & Truancy	3
Construction Site Burglary	2
Vehicle Burglary	2
Suspicious Vehicle	24
Suspicious Person	29
Peeping Tom	2
Black Carcass	10
Animal Control Assist	10
Lost Found Pet	20
Lost Security	14
Stolen	12
Family Dispute	3
Neighbor Dispute	3
Lost Christmas Party	2
Lost Mail	6
Fireworks Complaint	3
Sanitation Concern	26
Mailbox Tampering	18
Lost Found Home	8
Spending Vehicle	11
Assault Battery/Flight	2
Death Threat	1
Unusual Suspicious Person	29
Substance Possession	8
Phone Problems	2
Car Accidents	3
Misplaced Mailbox	6
Fire	12
Eviction	3
Utility Company Assist	3
Construction Work	2
Secret Photos For Sale, etc.	11
Specials (Extra police clearance)	11
Transmissions on Vacation	1054
NONAL CALLS	1,746
Send Message	22,427
Days Security Vehicle in Shop	9

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

# Sheriff Launches Metro-1 Helicopter Patrol

By Joe Bowdich - Bernalillo County Sheriff



Bernalillo County Sheriff Joe Bowdich's Metropolitan Air Support Unit became operational August 9th with the maiden voyage of Metro-1, a McDonnell Douglas MD 500-C helicopter. Metro-1 begins patrol today largely in unincorporated Bernalillo County.

"This aircraft is a great crime fighting tool, allowing Deputies a bird's eye view of what's happening on the ground. It's a cost-effective service as well because, in a vast urban county such as ours, this helicopter can patrol 12 times the geographic area of a patrol car," Bowdich said.

The Bernalillo County Commission unanimously approved the operation of the Sheriff's Metropolitan Air Support Unit on April 25, 2000. The plan was compiled by Captain David Linthicum, Commander of the Field Services Division, which oversees the operation of Metro-1.

Metro-1 was purchased for \$223,000 with Sheriff's Narcotics Seizure Funds. The 1977 aircraft comes from the San Antonio Police Department. The first year of operations will be funded with additional Narcotics Seizure Funds and with the assistance of participating agencies. The Santa Fe and Isleta Pueblo Police Departments have each contributed to the operation and will benefit from patrols.

"Since our primary goal is public safety, we set up the Sheriff's Metropolitan Air Support Unit to function as a ready to assist whenever our help is needed," Captain Linthicum said. "We are ready to assist whenever our help is needed."

The Metropolitan Air Support Unit is comprised of two aircraft, including a surplus military helicopter. The Huey helicopter is expected to be ready for operation in six to eight weeks. The Huey's function will differ from Metro-1 patrol as it will be used for large scale search and rescue efforts and the transport of equipment and personnel in rugged terrain.

Metro-1 is housed at U.S. Customs on Kirtland Air Force Base. This aircraft is efficient and will prove effective in increasing response time, which means an increase in criminal apprehension and a higher felony arrest rate.



(L to r) Pilot/Deputy Erik Little, Sheriff Joe Bowdich, Pilot/Captain David Linthicum, and Jon Lundstrom

### BEAR WATCH

A black bear weighing close to 400 lbs. was spotted today around residents near Marshall and Laurel Camp dipping into garbage all around, and causing destruction. Another reported having a bear attempt to enter their home. In the kitchen window without success, damaging the window pane and glass. Game & Fish has set traps in local woods to attract these hungry animals and will do their utmost to prevent them from reaching your local neighbors tonight.

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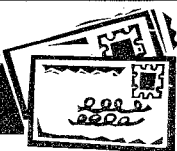
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## GRITTY EDITORIAL:



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.

### Fire Concerns In Sandia Heights

(Letter to SHHA President, June 23, 2000)

You may recall that I spoke out at the SHHA meeting in June about the fire on June 1st at 2731 Tramway Circle. Following the meeting, I wrote Commissioner Barbara Seward expressing concern about the state of our fire protection in Sandia Heights as evidenced by the service at the fire in our neighborhood. I also passed out copies of my letter to residents in our unit, hoping to inspire neighbors to communicate like concerns.

Barbara Seward called me after receiving my letter. She has investigated my allegations and found them to be substantially correct. She also is learning that the problems within the fire department are alarming and there is reason to believe that the level of service at 2731 Tramway Circle could easily be repeated.

Barbara Seward committed to answer my letter in writing. If so, I will forward a copy to the board.

I'm not sure where to go from here. However, I believe the results of Commissioner Seward's investigation should be made a matter of record and publicized for all Sandia Heights homeowners and residents.

Thanks for your attention.  
Stephen B. Fish  
2734 Tramway Circle NE

(Letter to Commissioner Barbara Seward, June 8, 2000)

At last Saturday's Sandia Heights Homeowners Association meeting, I spoke about the house fire at 2731 Tramway Circle on Thursday, June 1. I want to respond to your remarks made at that meeting and ask that you address my concerns relating to fire protection

Your remarks emphasized your success at holding the line on increased tax mill levies during your terms in office. You also said that combined public safety amounted to 52% of the Bernalillo County budget and could not be increased.

Well, I am in favor of tax increases if they are needed to fund adequate fire protection and qualified fire fighters who respond when needed in a timely manner.

We witnessed dramatic evidence that the resources allocated for fire protection are lacking in our area of Bernalillo County. I also inferred from your remarks and those made by the two firemen who spoke at the meeting, that budgetary resources may not be the only problem that resulted in more fire damage than necessary to the house at 2731 Tramway Circle.

Is there deficient management within the Bernalillo County Fire Department? Are there union issues over manpower resources resulting in insufficient personnel on duty at Fire Station #5? Are budgetary monies allocated so that #5 isn't receiving its fair share? As new homes are built and added to the fire protection service area in this part of the county, the situation will become even worse.

Regardless of the reason for inadequate fire protection or if it's a complex of reasons, I would like to know why a house burns for twenty minutes after arrival of two firefighters and fire truck while the homeowner, neighbors, and firefighters helplessly stand by while no action is taken to suppress the fire? The delay in fighting the fire, we were told, was because there weren't enough firemen on site to "make a crew."

Please respond with your plans to improve fire protection over our lives and property in this part of Bernalillo County. Thank you.

Stephen B. Fish

### Improved Internet Service

My wife and I both access the Internet, at 28.6, or half the rated capacity of our modem. We are too far from the telephone central station to get DSL, faster Internet connection service. Our experience is similar to everyone else here in Sandia Heights.

The Internet is increasingly a necessity for all of us, for information, communication, education, business, investments, you name it. May I suggest that you read an article in the New York Times on May 26, and note that at DC Ranch, Scottsdale, AZ, US West is installing modem communications systems.

I suggest that the Sandia Heights Board consider forming a separate company to provide improved Internet services to the residents. Of course, do a market survey first, but I wager that you would get a very positive response from the residents. If you do not feel that such action falls within the purview of the board, then invite outside companies to install the service.

Residents would benefit from the convenience of better Internet service and also benefit from increased values of their homes. Bring this issue up at the next board meeting!!! Thanks.

George M. Richmond  
70 Plnon Hill Place NE

### Walking Paths on San Rafael

Now that Comcast has turned the north side of San Rafael into one long stream of tumbleweed (and the road into a slippery sand pit every time it rains), I suggest the county mow it down and put in a walking path for those of us who have a dangerous time dodging cars on our daily hikes. Anyone else feel that way?

Carolyn Hindel

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# County Of Bernalillo

## Autumn 2000 Report



### WHY RAISE TAXES UNNECESSARILY?

Commissioner Les Houston, in a letter to the editors of our daily newspapers, posed this tax question. In case you missed it in the dailies, I'd like to give you some highlights. It is baffling to me why news stories and editorials continue to criticize the County Commission and our outstanding staff for being innovative in handling County finances.

#### \$160 Million in New Projects

- District Courthouse (original courthouse built in 1929)
- District Attorney's Office
- Correctional Facility (present one under court order for overcrowding)
- Amphitheater (this state-of-the-art facility will actually be a revenue generator)

#### Innovative Financing

Some members of the media wanted these projects funded by additional property tax increases. The Commission, after a careful and in-depth analysis, decided to dedicate a percentage of gross receipts revenue to discharge the bond funding for these projects, without either a property tax or gross receipts tax increase! And remember, approximately one third of our gross receipts are paid by people from outside Bernalillo County.

#### Finance Awards Received by County

Bernalillo County has received these awards related to its finances:

- State's Budget Award for four consecutive years
- Government Finance Officer's Association Award of Excellence in financial reporting (audit) for four years
- AA+ Bond Rating, placing Bernalillo County's rating in the top 1% of all governmental entities throughout the country.

Apparently, the national experts who work with governmental financing are impressed with the way the County conducts its financial affairs!

#### BERNALILLO COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE

Following the retirement of Chief Glen Vinke, it is with pleasure that we announce the appointment of Bett Clark as Interim Chief of Fire and Rescue. Chief Clark served as a volunteer for many years before joining the full-time ranks of Bernalillo County Fire Department. She is a trained fire fighter and paramedic and has served as Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Chief.

Chief Clark is dedicated to rebuilding the volunteer ranks. Many of you have expressed an interest in volunteering. You are invited to call the Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Warner, at 761-4225 or call the Chief directly.

We continue to grow the ranks of the full-time personnel as resources permit. Since 1995, we have seen a dramatic 30% increase in paid firefighters. Public Safety accounts for 50% of our general budget. We are very proud of our volunteers and our full-time firefighters. Chief Clark seems an excellent choice to coordinate these men and women in whom we have entrusted such important responsibilities.

#### UNIFICATION

Is the issue of one government for all of Bernalillo County dead? Not as of this writing. A staff member of the Attorney General's office gave an opinion that suggested there may be problems with the scope of the question in proposed Constitutional Amendment #1. Other legal opinions say "not so." A citizen in the east mountain area will be asking for a Supreme Court ruling. Unless the courts direct otherwise, the question will be on the ballot on November 7th.

If the Supreme Court allows Constitutional Amendment #1 to be placed on the ballot, it will give us the ability to self-determine our future governance. This amendment does not mandate unification, nor does it suggest a particular form of government. If the amendment passes, there will be a process of extensive public input, after which a charter will be offered to the voters of Bernalillo County for their approval or denial. I truly believe we stand at the edge of a wonderful opportunity for innovation in government that will benefit all the citizens of Bernalillo County.

Thank you for your tribute to me at the annual meeting. The lovely crystal bowl is in a place of honor in our home. It has been such a privilege to be your representative in Bernalillo County Government.

Until next time...

**Barbara J. Seward**

Bernalillo County Commissioner ~ District 4



#### ARSENIC ADVISORY ...continued from cover.

What are some of the health effects of arsenic exposure?

According to the World Health Organization, drinking water represents by far the greatest hazard for arsenic exposure since arsenic in ground water is predominantly inorganic and of higher toxicity. Studies have shown that long-term exposure to low concentrations of arsenic in drinking water can lead to cancerous and non-cancerous health effects.

Some of the most significant health effects associated with long term exposure to arsenic, include skin, bladder, lung, and prostate cancer. Non-cancerous health effects include effects on the skin including pigmentation disorders, and keratosis, a callus-like skin growth. Other non-cancerous health effects associated with arsenic exposure include peripheral vascular disorders (blood vessels in hands, feet, legs, and arms), gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, hormonal (i.e. diabetes), hematological (i.e. anemia), pulmonary, neurological, immunological, and reproductive/developmental problems.

What questions remain unanswered about arsenic and human health?

There are questions that remain unanswered about arsenic's relationship to human health. The relationships between diet/nutrition and the long-term effects of arsenic need to be further examined. Also left unanswered are questions about the dose-response and dose-effect relationships in drinking water. Some health effects and consequences of arsenic ingestion also remain unclear, and should be examined more thoroughly.

How will the proposed level affect our area?

All public water supply systems are mandated to comply with federal regulations. A public (community) water system is a system that serves 15 locations or 25 residents year-round. The EPA is scheduled to set the final arsenic regulation in January 2001. Utilities and public water systems, including the City of Albuquerque, will have three years after this date to comply.

**Cost:** The City of Albuquerque has estimated the cost of meeting the new standard at approximately \$190-\$250 million.

**Benefits:** The EPA estimates that reducing arsenic from the current standard of 50 µg/L to 5 µg/L (the proposed standard) protects an additional 22.5 million Americans, and could help to reduce rates of bladder cancer. The EPA expects that arsenic-related lung cancers and cardiovascular diseases will be reduced with a lower standard as well. The estimated value of the benefits of this change in standards range from as high as \$90 million for bladder cancer to \$384 million for lung cancer.

**Actions to take:** If you are a private well owner, we recommend that you test your well on an annual basis for contaminants of concern, including arsenic. Private well owners should contact one of the certified testing laboratories listed in the table below. If you are on a public or private water supply you can purchase a drinking water treatment system. Please note that most drinking water treatment systems only remove a limited number of contaminants, so be sure to thoroughly investigate a treatment unit before making a purchasing decision. Community members are encouraged to comment on the proposed standard by September 20, 2000. To obtain more information about how to provide comments, please see the EPA web site at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

Where can I get more information?

You can contact Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department at 924-3650 or at [www.bernco.gov](http://www.bernco.gov) or the City of Albuquerque at [www.cabq.gov/waterquality/](http://www.cabq.gov/waterquality/) or through their information line at 857-8260. Also see box at left.

Albuchemist Laboratory, 501 Wyoming S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87123 - (505) 268-7367  
 Assaigai Analytical Laboratories, Inc., 7300 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 - (505) 345-8964  
 Kramer & Associates Laboratory, 4501 Bogan NE Ste. A, Albuquerque, NM 87109 - (505) 881-0243  
 Scientific Laboratory Division, NM Department of Health, P.O. Box 4700, Albuquerque, NM 87196  
 (505) 841-2593 (conditions apply)

# Membership, Community Services & Com

By Melanie Christman – Committees Chair



The members of the Communications, Community Service and Membership Committee, including myself as Chair, are **Deborah Griswold, DeAnna Cree and Mary Westpfahl.**

As a new Board gets under way, the Communications Committee is quite busy. One of the most important tasks is to see the Grit through the upcoming transition from tabloid to newsletter format (see article on Grit changes on the cover).

The Committee and the Board are currently considering a contract to maintain the SHHA web site and Listserve. **Debbie Miller** has served as the "Webmaster" as well as SHHA Secretary during her term on the Board. Now that her term has expired, she is considering the position. The web site will become a vital tool as we have moved into the age of electronic communication.

At our most recent meeting, the committee members set goals and discussed upcoming activities. Two important activities for the upcoming year will be a **Fall Coffee and Spring Tea.** These events are sponsored by our committee and are an opportunity for our residents to "welcome" new members, chat with old friends and make some new ones. We would like to emphasize that these informal get togethers are for ALL residents in Sandia Heights, not just the newcomers. The dates for these events are not final but expect to see the announcement in the Grit. **The committee would like to give residents an opportunity to host a coffee or tea. Anyone interested in doing so, please call Melanie Christman at 856-7636.**

We will, again, sponsor the SHHA Annual Winetasting next March. This has become a very popular event that many residents eagerly anticipate. The wines are brought to us by a local distributing company and we all enjoy the home made appetizers brought by the attendees. It's a fun evening! Check out more of the evening's recipes on page 18.

The committee has discussed adding some **new social activities** for the community. We would like to have some input from residents. Contact any committee member with your ideas. Some of ours are:

- Pool Party at the Four Seasons
- Skating Day at the Outpost Arena
- Ski Day at Sandia Peak (perhaps with discount tickets for the Tram)
- Community Fun Run/Walk

As a membership function, and in an effort to assist our Administrative Contractor, Susan Koenig, the committee will take on the responsibility of sending out the "Welcome" packets to new residents. These packets contain useful information including the SHHA Directory/Residents Guide, a copy of the covenants for the specific unit, an informative Xeriscape Guide by the City of Albuquerque and other local interest. Susan Koenig and I would also like to thank the ladies who helped get out the special mailing alerting Sandia Heights residents to the proposed commercial development at Paseo and Tramway: **Kathy Connor, Kendra Margel, Joan Bauer and Karin Crooks.**

Watch for the 2001 Directory with new Residents Guide in September.



Ex-SHHA Secretary  
**Debbie Miller** may become the official Webmaster.

## 2000/2001 BOARD BIOGRA



**DON AUNAPU** - Don spent 30 years active duty in the U.S. Air Force, flying both fighter and bomber type aircraft. Since his retirement he has been employed as a contractor for both the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy. He has served as Senior Project Manager and Facility Security Officer at GRAM, Inc. Don and wife Margrit have two sons and have lived in Sandia Heights for over eight years.



**MARSHALL AUNGIER** - Marshall, a past SHHA President, is an attorney concentrating in Tax Law and Estate Planning. He graduated from the University of Rochester with a BA in Economics and a law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law in Washington State. He took two years off from his practice in the early 1980's to study violin making, after which he attended the Graduate Tax Program at the University of Denver, earning an L.L.M. in Taxation.



**L.A. BANNOWSKY** - L.A. is a native New Mexican, born in Farmington, a resident of Albuquerque since 1985 and a resident of Sandia Heights since 1998. He and his wife Dr. Gerry McBroom have two sons. L.A. retired from Intel Corporation January 1999 and is active in local private real estate investments and community work. He has over 25 years of management experience in corporate environments including initial Intel Rio Rancho site selection and startup. He also served for several years in homeowner associations in Phoenix and Prescott, Arizona, and Four Hills, Albuquerque. He brings a strong sense of community, safety, and property values to his work on the Architectural Control Committee, which he now chairs.



**SUSAN CARLOW** - Susan, married to Thomas Carlow, M.D. for 31 years, is the mother of three and a Sandia Heights resident for 20+ years. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, She holds a BA from Mercy College of Detroit and a B.F.A. degree from UNM. Since 1983, Susan has been the Executive Director of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society, a medical, educational non-profit organization. She is interested in working toward the continued preservation of our community and its natural beauty.



**MELANIE CHRISTMAN** - Melanie and husband Bob moved to New Mexico five years ago after 36 years in New Jersey - working, and raising three children. Her interests include hiking, biking, gardening and quilting. She has managed real estate and operated a custom knitting business. Melanie strives to preserve the natural beauty and quality of life that brought them to Sandia Heights. She has served on the Communications Committee for 2 years and is the current Chair.



**JOHN COFFEY** - John and his wife Kristine came to Sandia Heights just a few months ago from Chicago. He is an obstetrician who still continues his work as a consultant in the Chicago medical community via internet. As a board member, he says he would look deeper into resolving covenant issues. He believes that SHHA represents a large, vital community and that we could benefit from more general meetings.



**DeANNA CREE** - DeAnna is a 3 year resident of Sandia Heights and works in Rio Rancho as purchaser for the Parks and Recreation Department. She is also a professional organizer and promotional writer. Presently, she is co-chair of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event, and last year she was promotion manager for the 1999 Rio Rancho Mayor's Ball. She would like to use her creative background to help organize and promote events for Sandia Heights.



**BOB GARDINER** - Starting his computer career as a programmer for General Electric, Bob was responsible for installing the first ever computer system to fully operate a Radar site. For over 25 years, he worked on the developing edge of the software industry, including a three-year period interfacing with the Aerospace Defense Command. He retired for a short while, but retirement didn't agree with Bob, so he moved to New Mexico and then on to new consulting projects. He has enjoyed living in Sandia Heights for two years.

**HARRIS GOODWIN** - Harris has been a resident of Sandia Heights since 1984. He is a retired USAF Project Officer, currently self-employed. Harris serves as Chairman of the Board of New Mexico Great Locations, and he is on the board of Tom Gun, Inc., a New Mexico corporation.



**DEBORAH GRISWOLD** - Deborah and family have resided in Sandia Heights since 1995. She's a Team Leader in Environmental Restoration for the Department of Energy. Before returning home to New Mexico she worked for the EPA in Dallas, supervising Superfund cleanups and overseeing large-scale construction projects. She also helped establish a homeowners association there and serves as an officer. She has a BS in Chemical Engineering from NMSU.



**PATRICK HUTTON** - Patrick has lived in Albuquerque since 1949 and in Sandia Heights since 1993. He retired from PNM after 30 years in various positions in operations and personnel. He has served approximately 50 charitable organizations in capacities ranging from fundraising to president. Patrick has also been president of a homeowners association. He and wife Marilyn have five children.

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SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, P. O. BOX 20021, ABQ, NM 87111

# communications

## SHHA (New Members in Bold)

**MARTIN INKELAS** - A retired M.D., Martin and wife Sylvia have been residents of Sandia Heights for over five years. Martin has served as an officer or board member for various organizations including the California Medical Society, the American Society of Internal Medicine, hospital staff organizations and a homeowners association in Bear Valley, CA. He is interested in parliamentary procedures and building a strong and well-organized association.



**JOHN JENNINGS** - John and his wife, Martha Sutter, have been property owners in Sandia Heights since 1985 and currently reside at 1424 San Rafael. John is retired from EG&G, Inc., Los Alamos where he was Director of Administration. He served five years as President of Hidden Valley Homeowners Association in Los Alamos. John is the new Association President for 2000/01, and is very interested in keeping Sandia Heights a unique place to live. He believes his past experience will contribute to SHHA's success in serving its members.



**FINIAN MURPHY** - Finian is currently the Administrator for Prince of Peace Catholic Community in Albuquerque. He also serves as President of the Board of Directors of Habitat 6K Home Owners Association, 793-795 Tramway Lane. Finian lived in Rhode Island for many years, and he has held a private practice in psychology in Illinois, Ohio and Massachusetts. He holds a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Northern Illinois University, and a BA in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University.



**RICK NELSON** - Rick has a lifetime of experience as a general contractor in residential construction, both in Florida and in New Mexico. His past work included overseeing the family's waterfront residential development. His wife Gloria has recently retired, and they look forward to some travel plans. His goal will be to maintain and even improve the conditions "for those fortunate enough to reside in Sandia Heights."



**H. ERIC NUTTALL** - Eric is a professor of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering at UNM, and has been a Sandia Heights homeowner for 20 years. His professional focus is on environmental issues and he currently holds licenses and patents in bioremediation technology. His wife Cindy and four young children all enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, biking and walking the nearby trails. For this reason, Eric is very interested in access issues for our community.



**CHARLES PECHEWLYS** - Charlie and his wife Debbie have been residents of Sandia Heights for twelve years. He is an attorney and consultant in private practice specializing in public contracts, general commercial business matters and employment law. He is also a faculty member with the University of Phoenix. Prior to private practice, Charlie spent 5+ years as Manager of Corporate Administration and General Counsel for Orion. He retired from the Air Force as Judge Advocate. He has a Master of Law and Juris Doctor from George Washington University, an MS in Management and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He previously served as SHHA President and Treasurer, and is now its Legal Advisor.



**KEN REIDY** - A six year resident of Sandia Heights, Ken is a professional architect with the firm Rohde, May, Keller & McNamara in downtown Albuquerque. A graduate of the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, Ken is a former ship's carpenter and stone mason. Ken has developed a talent and a passion for landscaping.



**ANGEL RIVERA** - Angel is a 7<sup>th</sup> generation New Mexican who has lived in Sandia Heights with his family for almost twelve years. Angel is a well-versed computer programmer, and we are very fortunate to have him redesigning our SHHA databases and updating our hardware and software this year. He also serves on the Architectural Control Committee.



**MARY WESTPFahl** - A resident of Sandia Heights for over seven years, Mary is concerned with recent accelerated development of our corner of Albuquerque. She has more than 15 years of experience providing communications support to government agencies, commercial industries and educational institutions. Mary holds degrees in English and in Technical Communications and is currently a senior technical writer. She and husband Dave have been active in fundraising events for the Carrie Tingley Hospital and Explora Science Museum. In addition, she and Dave diligently try to keep pace with their two sons.



**JACK WOLFE** - Jack and his wife Connie returned to Albuquerque in 1981 and moved into their new home on Black Bear Road in the spring of 1998. They also own other property within Sandia Heights. Jack, who is now SHHA Vice President, previously served on the Architectural Control Committee for the Academy Estates Homeowners Association and other community development organizations. With this broad background, he brings an important perspective.



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

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

## Constitutional Amendment 1

A Plan for Unification of Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque.

By Charlotte Zerof

On November 7, 2000, the citizens of New Mexico will have the opportunity to vote on Constitutional Amendment 1. What is it? And why should you vote for it?

A website was set up this spring to inform the voters about the plan to unify county and city governments:

<http://abcgov.org/>

Check out various statements and opinions and find out how this type of merger is working in other parts of the country.

Members of the Citizens Committee for ABC Government include **Anne Yegge, Anita Miller and Charlotte Zerof**, all from Sandia Heights.

Contact any one of us if you wish to help get this amendment passed. If you have questions, you may e-mail from the web site and someone will respond in a timely manner.



Charlotte Zerof and Anita Miller are proponents of Amendment 1 and members of the Citizens Committee for ABC Government.

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## Covenant Support



### WHAT OUR COVENANTS SAY ABOUT TREES!

By Susan Carlow – SHHA Covenant Support Committee, Chair

The issue and the dilemma, 30 years later, is what the covenants DO NOT say about trees. Two specific trees are named as unacceptable in all the covenants, the Chinese Elm and cotton-bearing Cottonwood. The Poplar tree is an added forbidden tree in some of the later covenants. There are numerous varieties of non-cotton bearing Cottonwood trees that are legal to plant in Sandia Heights, which grow to be extremely high, have invasive root systems, are water guzzlers, and create an enormous amount of leaf and seed debris. So why continue to plant them, even if they are technically allowed by the covenants? There are numerous drought tolerant, non-invasive, beautiful trees available that DO NOT grow to view snatching heights!

We can't change what was done in the past, but we can be more informed and concerned about planting extremely tall trees that will compromise views in the future. Before you buy a tree, check with the nursery about its maximum height, root depth and water needs. The Desert Willow, Aspen, certain varieties of Locust and the

Smoke Tree are a few of the many deciduous trees that do well in our area and look more at home in our high desert environment. This is a short list of trees. There are many more varieties to choose from today than there were thirty years ago. Talk to your nursery experts before you buy, and choose wisely!

An increasing number of residents are calling the SHHA office and this Committee citing examples of trees as "screens" which are blocking their views. The Board decided to have our lawyer, David Campbell, write a **legal brief on the section of the covenants referring to trees as screens.** Please read David's article in the box below.



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## INCLINATIONS OF TREES, HILLSIDES, AND NEIGHBORS

BY DAVID S. CAMPBELL, GENERAL COUNSEL,  
SANDIA HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Life in Sandia Heights has some challenges. Three of them have to do with inclines and inclination. First, this is a residential subdivision built on an incline, the foothills of the breathtaking Sandia Mountains. Nearly every home is both uphill and downhill from another home. These inclines mean that everyone is blessed with expansive views of the mountains and the city lights.

The second challenge is the inclination of residents to plant trees. Many of us want the shade and beauty of trees on our property. Trees add serenity, shade, stature, and a sense of permanence to these hillside homes.

The third challenge is the inclination of trees, when well maintained, to grow tall and wide. Whether evergreen or deciduous, healthy trees grow large and well.

Sometimes, the incline of the land, our inclination to plant trees, and trees' inclination to grow all come into conflict. Because Sandia Heights homes are situated uphill and downhill from others, growing trees are inclined to block city and mountain views for uphill and downhill neighbors.

Your Association's legal counsel has begun to receive a number of questions and complaints about trees and the loss of mountain and city views. I appreciate The Grit giving me some space to discuss the issue.

Developers of the subdivisions appreciated the value and attraction of the stupendous views in Sandia Heights, and wanted to protect them. The developers also realized the problem that numerous trees planted together could create to impair views for both uphill and downhill neighbors. As you may know, there are 36 sets of covenants and restrictions which govern land uses in every part of Sandia Heights. Most, but not all, of these covenants include the phrase "No grouping of trees shall be planted to constitute a screen." Some of the units in North Sandia Heights and the older units in South Sandia Heights don't have covenant language prohibiting trees as screens. The remaining units of the subdivision have covenants with this prohibition. You might check yours to be certain.

Please note that the covenants don't prohibit the planting of trees; only the grouping of trees to constitute a screen. There are some Sandia Heights residences which have an abundance of trees on the property. Over the years, they have grown wide and tall, and have blocked views. The Association has been asked to take action to request that some tree "screens" be cut or thinned to restore the views of uphill and downhill neighbors. Based upon the language of many of the covenants, this would be a reasonable, and enforceable, request.

Covenants are contracts between and among all property owners of a given subdivision or unit within a subdivision. They are enforceable on all owners because of the deeds by which they took title. When Courts are asked to review covenants to determine their enforceability, they tend to look at four issues: whether the language is clear and unambiguous; whether the restrictions are expressly stated; whether the restrictions are reasonable; and whether the words of the covenant are being given their ordinary and intended meaning.

In the case of the Sandia Heights covenants language prohibiting the grouping of trees to constitute a screen, we believe that a Court would find that all the criteria for an enforceable covenant are met. We have advised the Association of this. That's the legal part.

But there is another inclination at work here. That is the inclination of neighbors to be "neighborly" and to respect the rights of others. If you're planting trees on your property, be mindful of the covenant and your neighbors' views. If you already have grown trees on your property which may constitute a screen and block a neighbor's views, go visit with that neighbor. Find out if there are concerns, or if there is a problem. Visit neighbors who are both uphill and downhill. Usually, the problem can be worked out in a neighborly way. If you are bothered by a group of trees blocking your view, follow the same advice and talk first with your neighbor. This will work wonders. Sandia Heights neighbors are inclined to listen, respect others, and help.



## Bear Alert!!

Another hot, dry Summer is upon us and the consequence of this lack of moisture and decreased native vegetation is an unwanted visitor, the black bear! There have been increased sightings of black bears in Sandia Heights and the foothills of the Sandia Mountains. NM Game & Fish has these important tips for protecting our homes and ourselves from bears.

- It's just garbage to us, but to a black bear it could be the next good meal! Keep all trash in the garage!

- Bring dog food and bird seed trays in after dark. Keep windows and doors closed at night, especially first-story windows to kitchens or places where the scent of food is intense. Our carelessness with food storage and garbage could lead to more brazen acts, which could ultimately be a death sentence for a bear. Remember, a fed bear is a dead bear.

- When a bear is spotted get inside, close all doors and windows, make noise to scare the bear away.

- Report all bear sightings to Sandia Heights Security at 856-6347, and also to NM Game & Fish Department at 841-8881.

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# Quiet Times

By John Jennings

Recently I read an article in USA Today which addressed the subject of Quiet Time in various businesses. What the article dealt with was restaurants, movie theaters and other establishments that required people to turn off their cell phones before entering. We have all heard the debate about driving while using a cell phone. I for one feel it is very dangerous. I own a cell phone and do not drive and talk or take calls or make calls in "weird" places. I shouldn't have to describe what I mean by weird places as we have all had experiences with cell phone users and therefore have our own definitions.

Another article in the same newspaper touched on the subject of "rage" in our society. Road rage, sports rage. The article stated: "Experts searching for causes blame and increasing sense of self-importance, the widespread feeling that things should happen my way. Other factors, they say, include too little time and too many demands for change in a society hurtling into the 21st century."

Now you may ask "what does quiet time have to do with rage in our little community." Well it has a lot to do with house alarms. House alarms, which blare at all hours of the day and night. Most of the alarms are not heard by the owners - how convenient, as they are not home when the wind, an animal or an electrical surge set off their alarm. These forms of noise pollution can be heard for great distances, even miles, so it is almost impossible to know whose house alarm is sounding, sometimes there are multiple alarms sounding at the same time.

Then there are the homeowners who "test" their alarm prior to setting them at all hours of the day and night. Funny they all seem to work fine.

Sandia Heights security tells me that there are on average 600 to 900 alarms per year that they respond to. This does not include alarms that go off from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. when they are not on duty. Additionally, they do not respond if no one calls to report the alarm. This "alarming" number of alarms is not because we live in a "high crime" area. It is because they are false alarms. I might add that these are conservative figures, so as not to cause undo alarm amongst the readers.

Now I ask you how many times you have seen and heard some car blaring loudly in a parking lot and did nothing but walk on past. You don't have to answer this because you all have experienced this situation.

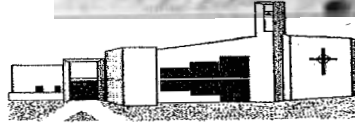
Unlike the car, no one really knows which house is "announcing" that it has an alarm unless we live next door to it. Again, sometimes we do know which house is doing the announcing and people continue along with their business. A new piece of technology for those who don't want to pay the price of a silent alarm. Great - the ultimate rude gesture to everyone that is awakened by it or just has to sit and listen.

I have a great idea and it is this. I plan on placing 100-watt speakers around my property and then programming my computer to randomly select times, and different music to blast from the speakers. I think some heavy metal and some rap music could be used to "play to the neighborhood." I don't know what the difference would be between this idea and the house alarms except that I am kidding and don't want to be arrested.

The moral of this story is ... think of your neighbors and think "quiet time" when it comes to your intrusive house alarms.

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Email: [spc@sandiapres.org](mailto:spc@sandiapres.org)

# Linda Caldwell

CRS, GRI

Realtors present a lot of useful information on the internet. Area facts, property photos, prices, even agent profiles. It's a good *first step* in choosing a company to represent you. But the most *important* step is selecting the right agent. That's when the personal recommendation from a friend is most reassuring. In Sandia Heights, friends have a habit of recommending Linda Caldwell. Check the web, tell a friend and call Linda direct at:

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## SHHA BOARD



four years after the dues were raised to \$5 per month. One of the original objectives for increased dues was to be able to buy a large tract of land to the east of Paseo del Norte where it abuts Tramway Boulevard. No land was purchased nor was there any plan to do so in the proposed 2000/01 budget distributed at the June Board meeting. Another justification for increased dues was litigation. There's no amount for this in the proposed budget either.

Shouldn't money for new projects or litigation against covenant infractions be proposed, discussed and budgeted before money is raised willy-nilly? The SHHA Board has proposed its 2000/01 budget at over \$80,000 and will have a surplus even if dues are reduced to the level of \$4 per month. I don't like the thought that the soon-to-be \$90,000 surplus (if dues are kept the same) will be spent just because it is there. Thank you.

James Sauvage, 662 Roadrunner Lane

**A:** As president of SHHA I have asked the various committee chairs to re-evaluate the 2000/01 budget, so that it reflects a more realistic allocation for this coming year.

Indeed, we do have a surplus and I agree with Mr. Sauvage that this surplus and the complications (in particular the cost and scarcity

of available land) make it a very difficult if not impossible endeavor for the Association to purchase land in Sandia Heights. Therefore there will be no proposal to buy land in this budget.

We are looking at the cost of past litigation to see how much money should be allocated to our new budget. I feel that as homeowners we should be able to work out our neighborhood problems without going to court for every issue that ends in a disagreement between neighbors and/or covenant enforcement.

With regard to an "unused surplus of funds," I agree with Mr. Sauvage that unused money should not just be stashed away waiting for a useful purpose. I believe funds should be allocated for specific useful purposes.

In view of this, after we review our revised budget next month, I will recommend to the Board that in addition to operating expenses, we set aside money in designated reserve accounts. These accounts would be for some very important upcoming events such as:

- Reserve for expenses incurred in the County/City merger proposal.

- Reserve for expense incurred to keep Sandia Heights a residential neighborhood without commercial development encroachment.

- Reserve for replacement and or purchase of office equipment.

- Reserve for one year's operating expense.

It should be noted that there will be other items in this new budget that deal with a new Grit format and distribution, dedicated office space, and contract employee utilization.

I will delegate to the Finance Committee the task of overseeing any Reserve Account and if after one year's period of time it turns out that surplus/reserve moneys were not utilized we can then look at reducing the membership dues.

John F. Jennings, SHHA President

## Dial 511 for Traffic, 211 for Charity.

Drivers anywhere in the country could dial 511 to avoid traffic tie-ups and families needing food or shelter could call 211 for help under plans approved by federal regulators Friday. It will be up to local governments and charities to offer the phone services on those numbers.

Dialing 511 will enable people to access local updates on accidents, construction and traffic in whatever city they are passing through. Transportation officials who petitioned for the new traffic-information code said they hope to consolidate the 300 separate numbers now dialed by people nationwide. Local authorities will be responsible for implementing the new traffic phone code and deciding what information to include on their area's recorded hot line.

The 211 code will provide people with free access to health and human services information, including referrals to food banks, shelters, crisis intervention services and drug rehabilitation providers. The number also could link people to groups offering work opportunities and support for the elderly, disabled or children. The agency also mandated that phone companies adopt another number- 711 - as a code to reach special operators who help the deaf and speech-impaired make calls. The commission will re-evaluate the new codes in five years to see if they are being used efficiently.

## Architectural Control



L.A. Bannowsky, the new ACC Chair, is taking the helm from Bill Stabler, who is stepping down.

The ACC is going through a transition period with a number of new members and new roles for some of the old "veterans." First, a huge thanks to Bill Stabler, who has been committee chair since the last Annual Association meeting. Bill is stepping down from these day to day responsibilities for personal reasons but has agreed to lend his extensive knowledge in a consulting role on an ongoing basis. We wish Bill the very best.

Don Aunapu, Angel Rivera, and Jack Wolfe continue on the committee and provide experience and knowledge of restrictive covenants and project application and review processes, as does L. A. Bannowsky, who is replacing Bill as chair of the committee. New members, with broad experience in a number of related areas, include John Coffey, Harris Goodwin, Rick Nelson, and Ken Reidy. We welcome them and appreciate their efforts as volunteers helping to maintain the unique architectural character of Sandia Heights.

In addition to the ongoing review and processing of applications for repainting, stuccoing, remodeling and renovation of all kinds, as well as landscaping projects, the committee is reviewing it's procedures in an attempt to improve response times and overall efficiency. Look for more information in upcoming issues of The Grit.

VOTE TO KEEP!

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# GardenWalk Shows Innovation

The Sandia Heights Wildflower & Garden Club annual GardenWalk was a desert delight for the many who took the June 10th tour of five resident's landscapes. Clockwise starting from the right top are the gardens of Joe & Joyce Cantergiani, 685 Blackhawk Drive; Mary & Dennis Burt, 674 Blackhawk Drive; Diane & Milton Mueller, 1216 Rock Rose Road; Bonnie & George Hight, 434 Live Oak Loop; and Judy Gardenschwartz, 51 Rock Ridge Drive. Photos are courtesy of Diane Mueller and Bonnie Hight. Watch The Grit for a schedule of Wednesday night club meetings and guest speakers.



**Sandia Heights  
Wildflower  
& Garden Club**

The next meeting is  
**Wednesday, November 15th**  
7:30pm  
at the home of  
**Judith and Otto Appenzeller**  
361 Big Horn Ridge Road  
822-0269

Topic:  
**"Capitalizing on Rain Water Harvest  
in the Foothills for a Splendid Garden,  
Including Design Strategies  
and Plant Selection."**

**Speaker: Mr. Claude Ceniceros**  
City of Albuquerque, Public Works Dept.,  
Water Resources Division

Pick up a How-to guide for xeriscape gardening.  
Any Sandia Heights resident interested in gardening  
is invited to attend.

For more info call 821-7356 or 821-6365.

## PLANT OF THE SEASON

**Pitcher Sage** (*Salvia pitcheri* 'Grandiflora' or *Salvia azurea grandiflora*) is a beautiful flowering perennial growing four ft. tall and two ft. wide. Aromatic leaves measure 2-4" long and 1/4" wide and appear along narrow stems. It is a late bloomer with sky blue flowers in late Summer to early Fall. The flowers attract both hummingbirds and butterflies.

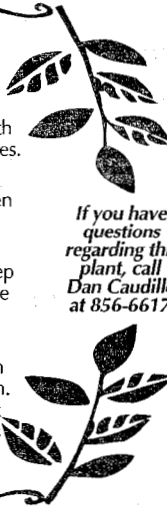


**Pitcher Sage**  
*Salvia Pitcheri Grandiflora*

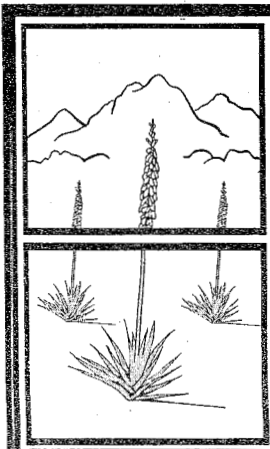
Native to the Great Plains region of the U.S., it can be planted anywhere in New Mexico in a full sun location. A moderately drought-tolerant plant, requiring deep soakings every 10-14 days when established. Readily available in nurseries in 2-1/4", 4" and gallon containers.

**Planting:** Dig a hole 1-1/2 times the size of the rootball and mix equal parts planting soil with the native soil. Build a berm with soil around the base of the plant. Fill the basin twice to insure a deep soaking. As the plant establishes (after two years), decrease the frequency of water but increase the amount of water given.

**Recommended Use:** A good choice as a late season bloomer along with Autumn Joy Sedum, Asters, Mums and Chamisa. An excellent addition for hummingbird and butterfly gardens. It can self sew. Growing four feet tall, Pitcher Sage is best placed in the mid-level regions of your garden. Regular feedings with a general purpose fertilizer will help keep this plant vigorous. Tipping back the new growth several times from June and early July will keep it from getting too lanky. Cut this plant to the ground in late Fall as soon as it begins to die back.



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



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# Summer Tick Advisory

Bernalillo County Environmental Health Reports



### Should I be concerned about ticks?

Aside from their unattractive appearance, ticks can transmit potentially debilitating diseases. Lyme disease has attracted national attention, however Lyme disease occurs primarily in Midwestern and Eastern states. There are several different tick-borne diseases that occur in this region of the country including Colorado Tick Fever, Tickborne Relapsing Fever, Tick Paralysis and Tularemia.

### What are symptoms of tick borne diseases?

Signs and symptoms vary depending on the disease. Most tick-borne diseases include a sudden onset of flu-like symptoms including: chills, muscle aches, headache, fever, fatigue, and rash (but not in all cases)

### How do I avoid ticks/ tick borne diseases?

Ticks prefer to live in wood, tall grass, weeds and brush. They climb to low vegetation and attach to a host (human or animal) which passes by.

- Avoid walking through areas that are likely to harbor ticks. Stay on clear well-worn trails
- Wear enclosed shoes and long pants tucked into socks
- Wear light colors, so ticks are easier to see

- Keep long hair pulled back
- Spot check yourself, family and pets after being in tick infested areas
- Use a topical tick repellent

### How do I avoid ticks around my home?

- Keep lawns mowed and edges trimmed
- Clear brush, leaf litter and tall grass from around the home
- Stack woodpiles neatly in a dry location
- Have a licensed professional spray with an insecticide in May and September

### What if I find a tick attached to my skin or my animal?

1. DO NOT grasp the tick by the body. Using fine-point tweezers, grasp it at the point where it enters the skin.
2. Without jerking, pull tick directly outward in a firm and steady manner.
3. DO NOT apply petroleum jelly, a hot match, alcohol, oil, gasoline. Don't twist the tick or use other folk remedies, as they can "irritate" it and increase the chance of the tick transmitting any diseases it may be carrying to you or your pet.
4. Once removed, place the tick in a jar or vial of alcohol to kill it.

Call BCEHD at 924-3651 with questions.

# Houseflies

More Than Annoying



The common housefly is known as an annoying household pest. However, there are more to flies than you may know. Below is information about flies, disease, and measures that you can take to control them to protect your family's health.

**What do houseflies need to breed and survive?** Housefly populations can increase rapidly if conditions are favorable, including warmer temperatures, adequate breeding sites, and sources of food. Garbage cans, compost piles, and human and pet excrement all serve as breeding sites for flies. Flies feed on food that is usually in liquid form, rich in protein or sugar. If food is found in a solid, flies use their saliva to liquefy it.

**Can houseflies spread disease?** Flies carry millions of pathogens that cling to their mouthparts, footpads, and body hairs. Pathogens can also live in the fly's intestinal tract. When flies feed, the bacteria that they have carried on and in their bodies are deposited onto the food they eat. Flies can spread such diseases as dysentery, diarrhea, and infectious hepatitis.

**How can I help to control houseflies?** The most efficient method used to control houseflies is called source reduction. Source reduction includes eliminating breeding sites and food sources from around your property. Keep garbage cans sealed, and garbage picked up on and around your property. If you have animals, such as horses or dogs, keep animal waste cleaned up. To prevent flies from entering your home, keep windows and doors screened. Insecticides may provide temporary control of flies.

If you have questions about flies, contact the City/County Vector Control Program at 873-6613, or the Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department at 924-3650.



**New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Open Meetings Policy & Notice**  
 This is to notify you that the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has published their Annual Order Redetermining Open Meetings Policy Notice, adopted June 20, 2000. Copies are available for inspection at the Sandia Peak Utility Company office, 10 Tramway Loop NE and at the NM Public Regulation Commission, Marian Hall, 224 East Palace Avenue, Santa Fe, 8am-4pm, Monday through Friday.

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## Green Chile

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

The most characteristic seasoning in Mexican cuisine is the chile. A prized vegetable and condiment of the Capsicum species, it belongs to the Solanaceae (nightshade) family and is closely related to eggplant, potatoes, petunias, tomatoes and tobacco. From mid-September until frost, green chile matures and turns deep red. New Mexico is the U.S. leader in chile production.

Chile is rich in vitamins A and C. Most of the vitamin A remains after it is canned, dried or frozen. Its vitamin C content increases as the season advances and is higher in chile gathered in October than in August. Heat and oxidation affect vitamin C, so canned and frozen chile contain slightly less than fresh chile. It loses vitamin C when dried.

Chile heat is unpredictable. The relative hotness of green or red chile depends on the variety chosen and the location where it is grown. The time of year can also affect its heat level. A popular misconception is that the hottest part is the seeds. The heat actually comes from a substance called capsaicin in the veins near the stem. Anything touching capsaicin, such as your fingers, may be irritated. So don't touch your face after handling chile.

Choose chile that is mature, heavy for its size, smooth, symmetrical,

bright green in color, fresh and crisp. Avoid misshapen pods, shriveled skin, mold, soft spots and bruises. Refrigerate in plastic bags to store. To use a chile whole, wash and pat dry. Cut a small slit in one side and carefully rinse under running cold water to remove the seeds. To peel fresh chile, broil on a baking sheet 3-4 inches from the heat. Broil until it is blistered on all sides, about 6 to 8 minutes, turning often with tongs. Place blistered chile in a plastic or brown paper bag to steam 10 to 15 minutes, then strip off the peel with your fingers or the tip of a knife. If you have sensitive skin, wear rubber gloves. For chile roasted in bulk, prepare it for freezing or canning within two hours before bacteria begins to grow. Peeled or blistered, unpeeled chile can be packaged in freezer containers, leaving 1/2-inch headspace, and kept frozen for up to one year.

To can chile, remove the peel, stems and seeds and pack it loosely into clean hot jars leaving one-inch headspace. Pour boiling water up to the one-inch headspace level; water must be added to insure an adequate processing temperature. Attach the seal lids and screw bands and process half-pint and pint jars 35 minutes in a pressure canner at 13 pounds of pressure at 4000-6000 feet of altitude. Chile is a low-acid vegetable and must be pressure canned to be safe.

Green chile salsas are found on the table at every meal in many New Mexico homes. Salsa, which means sauce in Spanish, has zoomed past ketchup to become America's best selling condiment. For those wishing to preserve green chile salsas, they may be pressure canned or frozen. If sufficient vinegar is added to the salsa, it can be safely processed by water bath canning. Use only an USDA approved recipe that has a very high acid content. If the acid content isn't high enough, botulism spores may contaminate the salsa and cause illness, or in some cases, death. You can obtain approved USDA salsa recipes for canning and directions for using, canning and freezing chile by calling me at 243-1386. Enjoy New Mexico's abundant crop of chile.

## Treasurer's Report

By Patricia Grossman - SHHA Treasurer

The report below gives explicit details of how the Association collects and spends revenue. Included are:

1. Account Balances, assets/liabilities as of July - \$25,2000
2. Category Report for last fiscal year - \$30,2000



This year the SKHHA Board of Directors will adopt a budget for the current fiscal year, attempting to project income and expenses. Each committee chairperson will participate and the Finance Committee will prepare the budget for Board approval. This process will give a rationale for the amount of the monthly dues. The Board is committed to being financially responsible and addressing the needs and concerns of the homeowners. The approved budget will be presented in a future GRIT.

### Account Balances as of 7/25/00

#### Cash and Bank Accounts

1 month CD	7,602.35
6 month CD	25,639.52
Wells Fargo Bank	37,749.96
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>70,991.83</b>
Total Liabilities	.00

#### Summary Cash Flow Report 7/1/99 through 6/30/00

<b>Inflows</b>	
ACC Income	3,585.00
Crafts Fair	16.67
Directory Ads	3,565.00
Dividend	121.90
Grit Ads	11,031.98
Interest Earned	469.19
Membership Dues	81,373.38
T-shirts	50.00
Winetasting income	1,632.00
<b>Total Inflows</b>	<b>101,845.12</b>

<b>Outflows</b>	
ACC expense/refund	30.00
Ad. employment	85.71
Audit	1,596.23
Bank Charges	108.89
<b>Directory expense:</b>	
label, sort, etc.	102.46
labels	36.95
postage	550.00
other	2,160.80
<b>Total Directory exp</b>	<b>2,850.21</b>
Donations	200.00
<b>Equipment:</b>	
postage meter cartridge	15.83
other	246.02
<b>Total Equipment</b>	<b>261.85</b>
Executive assistant	23,883.30
<b>Fees:</b>	
L & P Fees	7,479.03
postage/ mailing	100.00
Sandia Hts. Services	10,830.44
state corporation	10.00
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>18,419.47</b>

Gifts	22.79
<b>Grit expenses:</b>	
design	14,307.49
film developing	12.82
label, sort, etc.	324.47
labels	110.84
postage	1,250.00
printing	851.04
other	819.84
<b>Total Grit expenses</b>	<b>17,656.50</b>
<b>Insurance:</b>	
directors, officers	1,688.10
liability	1,368.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>3,056.10</b>
Internet	360.00
<b>Leases:</b>	
computer	209.96
post office box	44.00
postage meter	442.73
<b>Total Leases</b>	<b>696.69</b>
<b>Office expenses:</b>	
annual meeting	419.05
board meeting	7.09
checks	47.25
copies	1,722.68
letterhead	412.51
postage	1,372.00
printer	777.66
supplies	1,063.19
other	384.79
<b>Total Office expenses</b>	<b>6,206.22</b>
<b>Other expenses:</b>	
coffees-new members	64.29
mileage-exec asst	1,063.59
signage repair	267.95
<b>Total Other expenses</b>	<b>1,395.83</b>
Plaques	64.22
Refunds	35.00
Storage - off site	308.00
Taxes	40.00
Telephone	2,199.14
Training	579.56
Winetasting expense	1,276.59
To 1 month CD	7,500.00
To 6 month CD	25,000.00
<b>Total Outflows</b>	<b>113,832.50</b>

## SALSA MEXICANA

- 1 (16 oz.) can ready-cut tomatoes, drained
- 1/4 cup chopped green chiles
- 1/4 cup cilantro leaves, chopped
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Pepper and garlic powder to taste  
In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients.

**SANDIA HEIGHTS Resident Recipes**

FROM THE 6TH ANNUAL WINETASTING

### Tex-Mex Black Bean Dip

brought by Barbara Swenson  
(recipe from "Cooking Light")

- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 1/3 cup mild picante sauce
- 1/2 tsp. Ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/4 cup (1 oz.) shredded, reduced fat Monterey Jack cheese
- 1/4 cup cilantro (B's note: I use parsley)
- 1 Tbs. fresh lime juice

Place beans in a bowl; partially mash until chunky. Set aside. Heat oil in a medium non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, saute 4 minutes or until tender. Add beans, tomato, and next 3 ingredients; cook, stirring constantly, 5 minutes or until thick. Remove from heat; add cheese, cilantro, and lime juice, stirring well. Serve warm or at room temp with fat-free corn or tortilla chips. Yield: 1 2/3 cups.

---

### Artichoke Frittata

brought by Jim and Betsy Thibault

In a bowl, combine:

- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 6 soda crackers (crushed in you hand)
- 4 chopped green onions
- 2 (6oz) jars of artichoke hearts, drained and chopped into large pieces
- 1 clove garlic
- 1/2 lb grated cheddar cheese
- parsley, salt, pepper

Bake in a greased pan at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

### Sandia Heights Housesitting

Mature woman / References  
 oving care of home, pets, plants  
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### Attorney Thomas Smidt II (505) 830-2200

**Thomas Smidt II**  
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 (505) 830-2200 • FAX (505) 830-4400

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**HEIGHTS CLUB.** You are invited to join a new and informal women's walking/hiking/jogging/running group. The group will meet monthly. Members will take turns hosting. First meeting will be 9 AM Saturday, September 16, 2000, at Martha Sutter's house, 1424 San Rafael Avenue. Call Martha at 797-7399 if you are interested. Martha has been a member of a similar club in Santa Fe, where women can meet and exchange views and support for one another.

**What to expect:** Group will meet 9 AM one Saturday per month. Members to bring a brunch item to share. Hostess to provide juice, coffee, tea.

**Purpose:**

- To have fun while meeting your neighbors.
- To find partner or partners to walk or run with for 45 minutes to 1 hour or more.
- To share recipes and healthy lifestyle tips.
- To facilitate finding support groups and a sense of community.

**IF YOU NEED A SITTER OR PET CARE, CALL ME!** I'm a 8th grader, a life-long resident of Sandia Heights and a graduate of the Red Cross Babysitting Course. References available upon request. Call Erik -- 856-7443.

**SANDIA HTS. BABYSITTING OR HOUSESITTING!** Responsible, reliable and resourceful 17 year-old. Has car. Call Lesley Libo at 856-7909.

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

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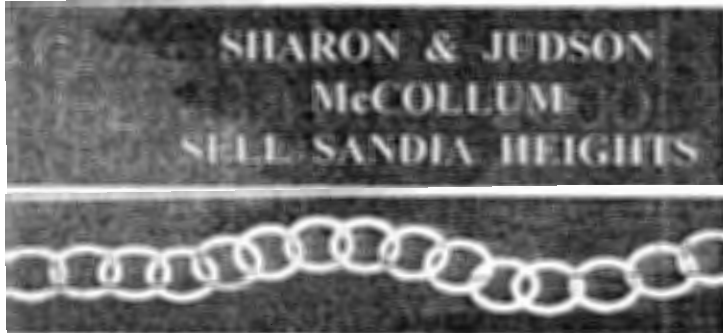
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## New Grit Coming Soon

The Grit got started as a single page flyer, run off on an old Gastermer and hand delivered to a handful of pioneers living in Sandia Heights back in '74 or '75. Over time it turned into a 16-page standard newsletter under the able charge of editors Sherry Lombana and Andrew Paton. Carolyn Hindei has been the editor for the last six years. During her tenure, the Grit was changed to the tabloid you have come to know. But after this September issue, the Grit will undergo a few changes.

Beginning in October, it will be redesigned in an 8-1/2" x 11" format. The initial issues will be published on a bi-monthly basis, but we expect within a few months to publish monthly. Carolyn will be "passing the baton" to the SHHA Board, but she'll be running along side through the transition. Although it is still in the planning stages, the Grit will retain many of its familiar features but in a more basic format. We expect to utilize the talents of Susan Koenig, SHHA's Administrative Contractor, and her expertise in desktop publishing.

This change comes about at an ideal time... we have a new SHHA Board with some talented new members and a unified goal to keep communications open between the Board and the residents. Regular reports will be forthcoming from the Board committees regarding current issues and the status of actions being taken. We, the Board, take on this new challenge with enthusiasm. We are determined to maintain the quality publication that Sandia Heights residents have come to expect.



Carolyn Hindei steps down as Grit editor

The Board would like to stress the importance of communication and the Grit as an invaluable vehicle for disseminating information and voicing opinions. We strongly encourage everyone to take part... it's your Grit!

In closing, we wish to express to Carolyn Hindei our most sincere thanks for all the years of dedication and hard work that was carried out under extremely difficult conditions. It was Carolyn who made the Grit the publication we all enjoy. She will now be better able to focus on her health, and we will keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

remain unanswered, and how lowering the standard affects our community.

### What is arsenic, and is there arsenic in Bernalillo County's water?

According to a U.S. Geological Survey, arsenic is a naturally occurring element in the environment. Arsenic in ground water is largely the result of minerals dissolving naturally from weathered rocks and soils, but contamination can also be a result of manufacturing processes and some pesticide use. Drinking water from both private and public water supplies in Bernalillo County

may contain some levels of arsenic. Depending on private/public well depths and locations, arsenic levels can range from 0 to over 50 mg/L (micrograms per liter - the current standard is 50 mg/L).

City water users can get further information about specific areas by calling Albuquerque's water quality information line at 857-8260 or by visiting Albuquerque's water quality website - <http://www/cabq.gov/waterquality/>. Private well owners can call the Bernalillo County Environmental Health Department at 924-3650 for more information.

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## County Issues Arsenic Advisory

EPA Proposes Lowering Arsenic Standard

In June, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed lowering the allowable levels of arsenic in drinking water. The current standard was originally established in 1942 and was adopted by the EPA as an interim standard in 1975. The lower standard will have a significant impact on the City of Albuquerque's drinking water, as samples from many of the city's wells have contained levels of arsenic greater than the proposed new standard. In this advisory we will talk about the definition of arsenic, some of the health effects of exposure to arsenic, questions that



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