



ABOUT THE URBAN COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

By: David Campbell, Vice Chair of the Urban County Charter Commission

Here's your choice...vanilla in a cone or vanilla in a cup.

Which do you choose? Not much of a choice, is it?



That's the choice the Urban County Charter Commission has served up to the voters of Bernalillo County. Do you want the current county government, or do you want the same look, taste, feel, and temperature as the current county government?

A year ago, voters throughout New Mexico gave Albuquerque and Bernalillo County the right to begin a process to bring about fundamental reform in the city and county's local government's structures and functions. It was a two-step process, each step being independent of the other.

First, create a commission to recommend a new form of Bernalillo county government, designed to meet the needs, demands and standards of county governments in the 21st century. Then, ask county voters to vote on the proposed new "Urban County Charter".

Next, whatever voters decided on the Charter, begin another commission to recommend the combination or "unification" of the city and county governments. In so doing, we could make local government more efficient and eventually have it run better and cost less.

The new "Urban County Charter" has just been drafted by the Urban County Charter Commission (UCCC). Unfortunately, it is anything but "new and improved". After working for 8 months, the UCCC has produced a very disappointing document. It is a mirror image of the existing county government; with all of the 19th century inefficiencies built in. As former UCCC Chair Barbara Seward put it, the Commission missed a "once in a century opportunity" to bring about fundamental reform in a government which was much in need of it.

If the County Commission chooses to place this draft document before the voters in December, I will recommend that it be defeated, as being an antiquated government model that is far less than what the citizens deserve.

The good news, though, is that this failure by the UCCC has not slowed the pace of movement toward the unification of city and county governments. This will be a good thing for Sandia Heights and other currently unincorporated areas of the County.

Why? Here's why:

1. Collectively, Sandia Heights residents spend millions in sales taxes in the City of Albuquerque when they buy groceries, haircuts, furniture, and any other goods or services there. With few retail or service establishments east of Tramway, residents must shop in Albuquerque.

2. Sandia Heights taxpayers don't have a real voice when it comes to determining where those taxes get spent because they don't live and vote within the city limits.

3. Many Sandia Heights residents drive daily on Albuquerque's city streets and highways, and pay for them with the gas taxes and sales taxes paid in the City. But Sandia Heights residents don't have any say at all about how and where those streets are built, maintained, or used.

4. Sandia Heights residents don't have any representation in determining the leadership, direction, training or funding for the police officers that enforce the laws and provide emergency services while Sandia Heights residents are in Albuquerque.

5. None of those millions of sales tax dollars paid to the City of Albuquerque come back to benefit homes on the east side of Tramway in Sandia Heights.

This is the dilemma of taxation without representation. Sandia Heights residents pay through the nose for a government that will always and only treat them like visitors or tourists because they don't have a voting address within its city limits.

The good news is that this is all about to change. In 2002 or 2003, the City and County will begin a process leading to the unification of these two governments. A commission of 11 members chosen from the city and county will begin meeting to draft a charter for a metropolitan government, one that will represent the citizens of the entire area we now know as Bernalillo County. It will be a challenging job, but one that should capture the interest of people from Sandia Heights and throughout the County. I want to encourage you to take part in this process and bring about a 21st century local government.

Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

Diane M. Mueller, President



Members of the Sandia

Heights Wildflower Club will hold their annual potluck supper on Wednesday September 12, 2001 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Kiwanis Pavilion in the Elena Gallego Picnic Area of Simms Park. Please bring a salad, or a main dish or a dessert. All else will be provided. To get to the Kiwanis Pavilion turn left at the gatehouse located at the entrance to Elena Gallegos. No entrance fee is due for those attending this event. Follow the signs to a parking area on the right. Walk east from the parking area.

The first regular meeting of the 2001-2002 year will be held on Wednesday November 14, 2001 at 7:30 pm at the home of Ed and Khondeh Payne, 2874 Brushwood NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122, telephone 797-4306. Ms. Pearl Burns will speak and show slides about "Sandia Wild Flowers," covering the location of various wild flowers and the time of year they can be found. Ms. Burns has a wealth of information about the native plants of this area and has been sharing her knowledge with wild flower enthusiasts for many years. Any interested Sandia Heights resident is invited to attend.

To become a member, please send a check for \$5 payable to the Sandia Heights Wildflower Club to Susan Cook, 1842 Tramway Terrace Loop, Albuquerque, NM 87122 to cover dues for one year.

Covenants Control Committee

Harris Goodwin, Chair
 Mark Boslough
 Dan O'Bryan
 Judy Schwery
 Robert Francis
 Jake Chavez, advisor



The committee has met twice since the new board was formed and we have added one new member, Bob Francis. We have decided that the first order of business is to organize the work of the committee and streamline the operations. We will accomplish this in several ways, as follows: A standardized complaint form will be used for all complaints. This form will be available at the SHHA office or may be downloaded from the web site.

Complaints will only be accepted from Current members of SHHA. No anonymous complaints will be accepted. All complaints must be delivered to the SHHA office in person or by US Mail and must be signed by the complainant.

Legal research is being done to see if the resident making a complaint must live in the unit in which the alleged violation of the relevant covenant occurs. The complaint must site what covenant the complainant says is been violated and the specifics of the violation.

The committee will review the complaint and determine if there is a violation. Objective criteria will be used in viewing the complaint. Valid complaints will be assigned to a committee member for resolution. We will contact the offender three times. The first contact will be by phone or in person if possible to try and negotiate and inform the alleged violator. If personal contact is not possible then a Certified, return Receipt US Mail letter will be sent to the violator with a due date for response.

A second certified letter will be sent if there is no, or a negative, response received within two weeks. If no response or a negative response is received a third and final letter will be sent informing the violator that the violation will be referred to the legal advisor for further action.

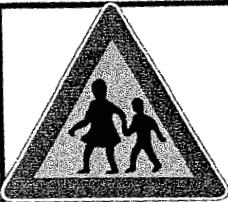
If a complaint is rejected by the committee, a letter will be sent to the complainant explaining the reason for rejection. The committee is currently processing the complaints on file. All current complaints will be processed.

Effective August 27th the committee will only accept complaints filed using the new procedures.



WARNING
 Slow down..
 School has started
 Watch out for our
 Children going to
 and waiting for their
 School bus!!!

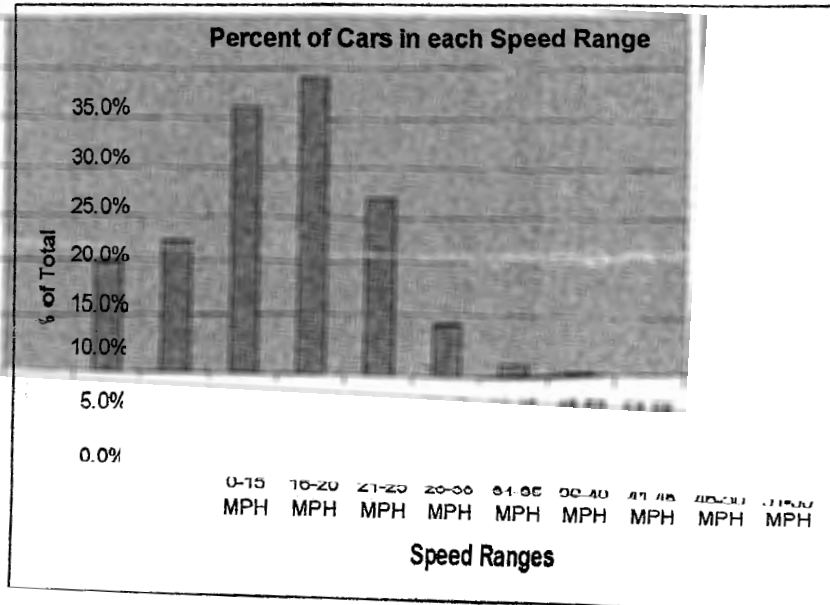
Traffic and Safety Committee, Eric Nuttall, Chair,



Life in the Fast Lane

Imagine walking along San Rafael where it crosses Laurel when a car whizzes by you at 55 MPH. That wouldn't happen in Sandia Heights you say. We live in a residential area. Well, if you were there at 3:00 in the afternoon of May 2, a car traveling west on San Rafael was clocked at 55MPH. Just an anomaly you think? Well at 1:00 and 5:00 on the same afternoon, cars traveling east on San Rafael were also clocked at 55 MPH.

These were the most excessive speeds clocked during the traffic speed study done by Bernallilo County at the request of the SHHA but these examples were by no means the only instances of excessive speed. The study was performed between noon May 1, 2001 and 2:00 P.M. May 4, 2001. The results clearly show speeds far in excess of the posted speed limits as you can see from the graph below.



During the three days of the study, over 90% of the cars were traveling in excess of the posted 15MPH speed limit. Less than 25% of the cars were traveling at 20 MPH or less. More than one out of every two cars was traveling at speeds greater than 25MPH. In an area such as Sandia Heights where the roads are narrow, have blind curves, vegetation obstructions and must be shared with pedestrians and bicycles, a speed profile like the one above is very dangerous.

Even nighttime when visibility is substantially reduced and you would expect people to slow down didn't make a difference. The speed profile between the daytime hours and the nighttime hours was essentially identical.

So, what does all this mean? We MUST reduce our speed when traveling through our community. If we don't do it voluntarily, then measures such as increased enforcement and speed bumps must be taken. None of us like getting a speeding ticket or going over speed bumps but the consequences of continuing to allow excessive speed in our community could mean serious injuries or even a fatality.

What can you do right now to help this situation?

If you're a driver – slow down! By slowing down, you will also help others slow down. At 15 MPH it will take you four minutes to travel one mile. At 55MPH, it will take you one minute and 5 seconds. Are the time savings of less than 3 minutes worth the risk of injuring or killing someone? What would be the personal consequences to you if you were involved in an accident caused by excessive speed? What would be the cost and inconvenience to you of getting a speeding ticket?

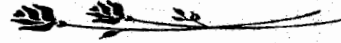
If you're a pedestrian – walk safely! Walk against traffic whenever possible. This will give you the best chance to see an oncoming car and get out of the way. Wear light or reflective clothing at night.

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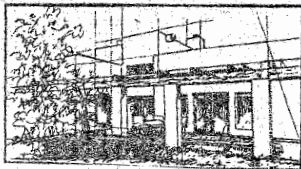
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The Finance Committee

By: Rick Nelson, Treasurer

At the August 2001 Board of Directors Meeting the SHHA Finance Committee presented a Balanced Budget for the next budget year.



The Board reviewed and approved the Budget without making any changes.

We feel that this budget will meet the many needs of Sandia Heights in the coming Budget year.

The Parks and New Development Committee is spending a great deal of time to try and determine how the \$20,000.00 Open Space reserve can be best used to benefit all of Sandia Heights.

The \$20,000.00 legal reserve did not have to be used this past year, and it is hoped it will not need to be used this coming year.

This Budget will permit many improvements in the operation of the association. Continued updating of the website is one project. Another is improved computer and email facilities in the SHHA Office.

Any member wanting to review this Budget may do so by going to the SHHA office Monday through Friday from 11 am to 3 pm. If you are not a member of SHHA please call James at 797-7793 and join.

Club Corner, By: Jim Cook

Looking for a place to post news about your club? Want to start a club? The GRIT's Club Corner is just the place you've been looking for. We've allocated space in the GRIT for Sandia Heights Community clubs to publish information about their club events and membership. It's also a place where you can post a notice to start a club or find out if a club already exists that you would be interested in. Clubs are a great way to share your knowledge and interests with other people in Sandia Heights who have similar interests.

Clubs we already know about are:

Sandia Heights Wildflower Club.

If you would like to have your club listed here, please send your club name and contact information to:

The GRIT Club Corner

2B, San Rafael, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Email to: SHHAADM@AOL.COM

POSTINGS: Hello. My name is Jim Cook and I've just recently moved to Sandia Heights from Seattle, Washington. I'm interested in starting or finding a Sandia Heights Computer Club if one already exists. Please send email to sandiaheightscc@netscape.net if you know of a club or would like to form one.

From the Secretary

By: Ruth Frazier, Assistant Secretary



Highlights of the minutes of the July 11th Board of Directors Meeting

Guest rangers from the US Forest Service said they will work with property owners to resolve issues about trespassers. The Forest Service will look for opportunities to improve public access to the National forest. And since their funding is limited, they rely on volunteers to help keep paths clear. Fire is always a possibility in Sandia Heights, and while the rains help diminish the risk, owners are urged to use good house-keeping measures around their homes to keep the vegetation at a minimum.

The President of the Board, Don Aunapu indicated that the SHHA office is to be used for board and committee work, but that other neighbors' offices, like the churches and Futures for Children, are available for use by homeowners for other non board meetings.

Harris Goodwin, Chair of the Covenant Control Committee, indicated that new forms are available to report complaints, but all such must be in writing and signed by the complainant.

Traffic and Safety Committee Chair, Eric Nuttall, reported that a survey of San Rafael showed the average speed to be 35mph, with greater speeds reported, for a street with a posted 15mph limit. This is a serious issue for the committee and several enforcement efforts will be put in place to keep our residents safe.

Beginning August 13 overgrown vegetation on San Rafael, Bobcat and Deer will be trimmed by the county, unless owners request that their property not be trimmed. Vandalism was a serious problem in March and April and security measures are being implemented to discourage any further misdeeds.

Any homeowners are cordially invited to attend the monthly meetings of the board. For times and location-call the SHHA office [797-7793] or visit our web site www.sandiahomeowners.org. And all committees welcome new members for the vital work of the board. Call James at the SHHA office [797-7793] if you would like to help on any of the committees in which you have an interest.

Please note our new office hours!

11am to 3pm

Monday through Friday

Thanks for stopping by!!!!

THE COUNTY, CHAMISA AND SIBERIAN ELM REMOVAL**WHY?

By: Rick Nelson

Many residents have called or written with complaints about the county cutting the Chamisa and Elm trees along the County owned road right of ways. In Sandia Heights the County owned road right of ways are at least 50 feet wide, the pavement is usually 20 feet wide, that means that we do not own the land right up to the pavement. Our property line is on an average 15 feet away from the pavement. It is their property and their responsibility to keep it clear and safe.

Not only are Siberian Elm trees against most of the covenants in Sandia Heights, they are a deadly traffic hazard when growing close to the edge of the pavement. Many being removed are big enough to cause serious damage to a car or to cause death if a car was speeding when it hit the tree.

The Chamisa growing out over the road are a hazard to walkers, bikers and auto drivers. In some cases they extend over 4 feet into the right of way.

These pictures tell the story of their hazard to life and limb



On the left the Chamisa have overgrown the Pavement by 4 feet, on the right they have been cleared



A person walking, a car, a double line no passing zone, and Chamisa overgrowing the pavement, not a very safe situation, is it?



Another example of Chamisa growing over the pavement, a double line, no passing, no place to go when a car and a walker meet.



This is another problem, blocking of intersections by trees and bushes. This is a violation of the Zoning Code and property owners must keep these cut back, even if it is on county owned property

Notice

Sandia Security is not a part of Sandia Homeowners Association.
If you want this service call Sandia Security 857-8924 and join.

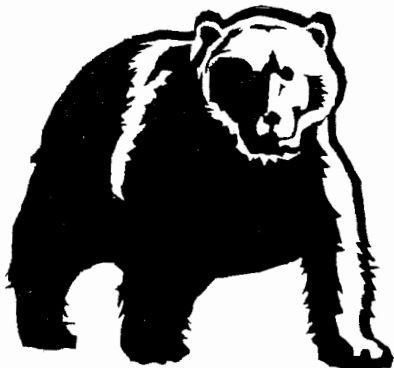
ALERT

By: Rick Nelson

Watch out for your Children and Pets Wild animals still think our foothills are theirs

Bears are on the prowl, 2 were recently reported here in Sandia Heights, here are some things to know:

[Bear information from 1995 Sandia Mountain Bearwatch Grit article]



1. Keep your trash in sturdy, closed containers. Keep trash cans clean and non-smelly. Put trash out on the morning of pickup.
2. Don't feed pets outside, Don't store food outside.
3. Feed only enough birdseed to last the day. Bring in hummingbird feeders at night. Remember to feed suet and peanut butter to birds only in winter when bears are in hibernation.
4. Keep barbecue grills clean and stored inside.

5. Don't add melon rinds or fruit to compost piles except in winter.
6. Don't feed wildlife.
7. If you have fruit trees or berry bushes, in dry years you may have bear visitors at night. Be compassionate and know that this comes from living in or near mountains.
8. If you see a bear near your home call Sandia Security at 263-4654, Bernalillo County Animal Control at 873-6706 and/or NM Game and Fish at 841-8881



Rattlesnakes up to 5 feet long have been spotted near the foothills:

If you see a snake, leave it alone, call Sandia Security 263-4654



Some of the snakes seen are western diamondbacks, these are a very dangerous snake.

The number one concern is for you to take appropriate precautions.

Make certain your children know not to play with snakes.

Snakes like heavy vegetation, do not reach into those areas with your bare hands, use a stick or rake.



Cooler weather is coming and our little friends are starting to look for a nice warm place to stay



Make certain you keep all of your doors closed, mice and rats will get in the garage or house before you know it.

Keep your garbage in tight containers or inside.

Check openings like a dryer vent, make certain they are screened.

If you have a woodpile outside, consider placing a "solid" type of poison deep in the woodpile out of site and reach of children.

Never touch a dead mouse or rat with your bare hands. If you are not certain what to do call Bernalillo Animal Control 873-6706



The ants are still with us, so keep a lookout, and your ant spray handy

THE GRIT
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 as the official newsletter of the

**SANDIA HEIGHTS
 HOMEOWNERS
 ASSOCIATION**
 2B, San Rafael, NE
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 2B San Rafael, NE
 Sandia Heights

New Hours
 11 am to 3 pm
 Monday thru Friday

Letters to the Editor: Policies

by: Jim Cook

The GRIT welcomes and encourages members of the Sandia Heights Community to submit "Letters to the Editor" of not more than 400 words. This is your opportunity to be heard by the entire community. Topics should be of interest or importance to the Sandia Heights Community. Submissions should be sent to the SHHA office by email, postal mail, fax, or may be dropped off in person during SHHA office hours. Letters must be submitted by the first of each issue's publication month (currently February, April, June, August, October, and December) in order to meet publishing schedules.

Submissions in electronic form (email text or Word Document format) are preferred but legible printed or typed submissions will be accepted if time for retyping is available. Letter authors must identify themselves and provide a phone number for verification of authorship and permission to publish. The GRIT will not publish anonymous letters and will not withhold the name of a letter author. A brief overview of the major policies covering "Letters to the Editor" is provided below. The complete policy statement is available at the SHHA Office during SHHA office hours.

Letters are accepted subject to space limitations. Letters not published because of space limitations will receive precedence for publication in the next issue if the topic is still timely and relevant.

Letters will be edited for minor spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors. If a letter requires major revision before it can be accepted for publication, it will be returned to the author with comments on revisions required for the letter to be considered for publication.

Good manners and common courtesy must be observed in all submissions. Letters with vulgarity, racial slurs, mean-spirited or insulting terms, accusations, and libelous or potentially libelous content will be rejected.

Criticism of the SHHA or items published in the GRIT is acceptable, even encouraged, so long as the criticism is constructive, not mean-spirited, and does not personally attack anyone.

Letter writers may have no more than one letter published per issue and precedence will be given to less frequent letter writers if space limitations prevent publishing all letters submitted for a given issue to encourage participation by the entire community.

The GRIT will publish letters with differing viewpoints in rough proportion to the number of letters received from each viewpoint if all letters cannot be published because of space limitations.

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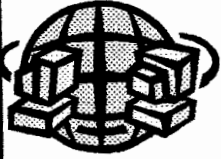
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Office hours are: 11AM to 3PM Monday through Friday

Communications & Publications

Committee

Jim Cook, Chair



WANTED

Your Comments and Suggestions

The Grit is your community newsletter and we would like to have your comments and suggestions on how to make the Grit something you look forward to receiving and find useful. Here's how you can help.

Take a look at this issue of the Grit and any past issues you may have and take a few minutes to tell us how we could make the Grit better for you. You don't have to fill out a form. Just jot down some of your thoughts and drop them by the office or drop them in an envelope and mail them to the office. If you like, you can just send us a quick email. The addresses you'll need are below.

Here's some of the things we would like to know:

- What articles and information in the Grit do you find useful?
- Is there anything we could do to make it more useful to you?
- Is there anything missing you would like to see included?
- Is there anything in the Grit that is not useful to you?
- Would you like to write an article for the Grit? On what topic?
- What topics would you like to see covered in the Grit?

We'll collate your responses with everyone who responds and let you know what people have said in future issues. More importantly, we'll listen to what you say and make the changes to the Grit that will make it more useful and interesting to you.

Thanks for taking the time to help us make the Grit a great community newsletter.

Drop off your comments at the SHHA office

2B, San Rafael, NE

New Hours: Monday through Friday

11:00am to 3:00 pm

Mail to:

SHHA

PO Box 20021

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Email to:

shhaadm@aol.com

Membership/Community Service

Committee, Finian Murphy, Chair



The Major Goal of the Committee is:

"To attract and to retain 100 % of Sandia Heights owners as members of SHHA".

The Committee believes that the best way of accomplishing this goal is to develop objectives that will focus on better community service and community activities. Specific objectives and their priorities were not fully developed at this meeting due to lack of time. **Some ideas being considered are:**

1. Once a month gatherings for new members at SHHA office
2. Once a quarter gathering for all new members in either a committee member or other board member's home. Invite other committee chairs to explain what their goals and objectives are and what they are currently working on
3. Review the letter going out from the President for more ways to show new residents why SHHA membership is important for them.
4. Encourage all new members to visit website
5. Let members know covenants are readily available at the office and on the website and the ACC/Covenants Administrative Assistant is available to discuss the covenants during office hours.

Possible activities for attracting new members and developing a sense of community discussed were:

1. Picnic for SHHA families, like in days of yore, at either Elena Gallegos or high Desert Park
2. Ballroom or Country Western dances for members, with instructors demonstrating
3. A musical occasion, perhaps at Futures; a Wassail, with medieval music; a concert by the High Desert Pipers; a local chamber music group or a local dance band.
4. An arts/crafts juried show or an antiques fair in conjunction with the annual Wine Tasting.
5. A carnival for the kids in Sandia Heights. Bring in the fire trucks, face painters, perhaps a pony ride. Get parents involved to help plan.
6. Sandia Pueblo wishes to invite our residents to visit their old village. Set up a committee to facilitate this.
7. Explore the possibility of obtaining tram discounts for our members. Also investigate whether the same could be arranged for the Sandia Amphitheater.
8. Create a "What's Happening" column in the Grit which will regularly list the activities of all clubs in the area.

"The Golden Rule is a Pretty Good Philosophy"



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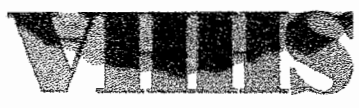
SPECIAL REWARDS FOR INFORMATION leading to convictions:
\$2000 for major vandalism in Sandia Heights, \$1000 and \$5000
additional for arson at 96 Juniper Hill Rd. on Jan. 14, 2000. Call
office (797-7793) for information.



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SHHA public service notice of something of interest in the Albuquerque area:
Join the Albuquerque Baroque Players
On a tour of Europe—No passport Required

September 22-23, 2001
 The first concert features music from the British Isles and includes guest artist Jay Hill, Tenor, performing songs by Henry Purcell.

October 20-21, 2001
 The second stop on the musical tour of Europe includes works by Vivaldi, Corelli, and other Italian Composers

January 26-27, 2002
 The third stop takes us to Germany, where they play music of Bach, Handel, Pachelbel, and more.

April 20-21, 2002
 The season tour concludes with France, featuring Baroque dances performed by Linda Tomko and Choreographed by Judith Chazin-Bennahum

The Players are;
 Mary Ann Shore, recorder & Baroque Oboe
 Linda Vik, Baroque Violin -
 Mary Bruesch, viola da gamba
 Susan Patrick, harpsichord

Venues:
Saturdays at 7:30 PM at
 Los Altos Christian Church,
 11900 Haines NE
 (near Juan Tabo and Indian School)
Sundays at 3 PM at
 Historic Old San Ysidro Church in Corrales

Tickets can be purchased at the door or for information about ticket purchases Call 266-4450 or 255-7089

Season Tickets
 \$34 regular, \$27 Senior (62+)
 \$17 Full time Students
Single Tickets
 \$10 regular, \$8 Senior (62+)
 \$5 Full time Students

This season is made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Office of Cultural affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This is a non-profit group.

