

THE

# GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

February 2009

**As a service to our members we will be asking each of our elected representatives to write an article for the GRIT introducing themselves to our membership. Commissioner Wiener is the first of these to write an article and his comments are below. We want to thank him for taking the time to express his views to the community.**

As we begin a new year, I too embark on a new challenge in my life; that of representing you on the Bernalillo County Commission, as I took the oath of office on January 1st.

I am deeply appreciative of the more than 47,000 votes I received and am humbled by this opportunity I have been given to represent you on this very important body. Thank you for your support!

There are many challenges we will be facing during the next four years and I am committed to make my tenure as county commissioner as productive as possible by conscientiously addressing your essential needs and concerns. Together we can make Bernalillo County an even better place to live!

In order to do this, I will make every effort to attend as many of your Sandia Heights neighborhood association meetings as possible. I will be continuously available to you to listen to your concerns, to answer your emails and to return your phone calls and will be readily accessible.

Home Telephone: 505-858-0004, Cell Phone: 505-688-0004, Office Telephone: 505-468-7230, Email address: [mcwabq@aol.com](mailto:mcwabq@aol.com)

My background as a NM State Senator, Albuquerque City Councilor, Real Estate Broker and small businessman will give me the experience and confidence to better address the difficult decisions that I will inevitably encounter.

As I promised during my campaign, the three major issues that I will aggressively tackle are:

1. Working with the state legislature and our County Assessor Karen Montoya to come up with a more equitable property tax system that creates predictability and avoids tax spikes when buying an existing home or building a new one.
2. Working with the Correctional System and Courts to improve inmate recidivism, including creating self-sustaining jobs for inmates after completion of their jail terms. This will involve introducing work training into our Metropolitan Detention Center and incorporating opportunities for inmates to raise their own food.
3. I will work with those who are dedicated to treating animals compassionately to improve and enforce the Bernalillo County Animal Care Services Ordinance. I will be encouraging banks, grocery stores and other businesses to help in raising money for free spay and neutering services so that we can better help control our pet population.

Thank you again for your trust and support.  
Sincerely, Michael C. Wiener, Bernalillo County Commissioner District 4.

These comments are the author's and should not be construed as endorsed by the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association.

**Residents: We have been informed by the County that vehicle speed enforcement within the Sandia Heights community can be expected to increase in the near future. Please watch your speed when driving and pay attention to posted speed limits.**

## December 2008 Treasurer Report: Ed Tull, Treasurer

CASH FLOW		ACCOUNT BALANCES	
<b>INFLOW</b>		<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
ACC Income	0.00	CD #2	37,332.58
Parks & Safety	0.00	CD #3	15,475.47
GRIT Advertising	6,413.99	CD #5	104,219.75
NM Gross Receipts Tax	384.45	Checking	4,077.77
Membership Dues	13,078.14	Cash Accounts	1,020.26
<b>TOTAL INFLOW</b>	<b>\$19,876.58</b>	Money Market	29,955.71
		<b>Total Bank &amp; Cash</b>	<b>\$192,081.54</b>
<b>OUTFLOW</b>		<b>ASSET ACCOUNTS</b>	
Community Service & Membership	611.83	Miscellaneous	1,379.21
Communications & Publications	4,903.54	Office Equipment	4,973.06
Executive Committee	750.00	Office Furniture	5,651.99
Insurance	1,132.00	Software	932.34
Parks and Safety	168.50	<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>\$12,936.60</b>
Office Expenses	7,058.96	<b>Liability Accounts</b>	
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOW</b>	<b>\$14,624.83</b>	Improvements & Legal Reserve	147,197.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,251.75</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57,821.14</b>

**Winning Photo:** 2009 Directories have been mailed out to every **SHHA Member**. The cover photo was done by Lief Isaacson. Other photos submitted in the contest can now be viewed on the photo gallery page of our website: [sandiahomeowners.org](http://sandiahomeowners.org). You will be able to see many wonderful photos in color!

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- Notary and office services free to members.
- Tram passes free to members, please check with the office for your reservation.
- Contractor Evaluation binder free to members.
- SHHA Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 11 at 7pm in the SHHA Office.
- *Valentine's Day* – Saturday February 14.
- Committee meeting dates and times are posted in the monthly calendar found on our website: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org).
- Classified ads can be found on the website under the News and Information page.
- **Safety Vests for sale** in the SHHA office. \$2 per vest for members and \$4 per vest for non-members – we have already sold over 100 and a limited supply remains.

## **President's Message**

~ Sy Caudill

### Winter in Sandia Heights

It is interesting that when I'm out walking that almost everyone I meet comments on how nice our community is and about the wonderful scenery and wildlife. Where else can you live within a mile or so of a major metropolitan area and still have bobcats, coyotes, deer and bear literally in your backyard. In my case the bear and her cub were after the apples a couple of years ago but our gate still has the claw marks of their entry.

I think we all recognize the unique aspects of the community and we all have our own ideas about how to maintain this area. Unfortunately, it seems it is getting harder to reach a consensus about how our community should be managed and what position the association should take on a given issue. Most recently the speed bump issue raised a lot of concerns both pro and con. Since we could not find a majority position on this issue—it was just about equally split—the Board of Directors took a neutral position and acted as a facilitator for connecting the county to our residents by providing meeting space for county representatives to address the issue. Some members are very direct and either call me or the office or provide an email or a letter stating their position. Others, for whatever reason, elect to resort to the anonymous approach. As an association we will always reply or try to answer questions from our members—after all it is your association. It is our policy not to respond to non-members or anonymous letters or leaflets. As members you are welcome to attend meetings, we do ask that you call ahead to the office so we can prepare as our space is limited.

I bring up these two apparently separate issues as the decision on how to maintain the community rests with the members and your participation in the process. We have a very active committee meeting with our elected representatives to advocate for road and infrastructure funding. We also have very active Architectural Control and Covenant Support Committees, as well as our Parks and Safety Committee—among others. These committees are the key to establishing the positions of the association and bringing issues to the Board of Directors. We need your support on these committees and the Board to keep the association running. I know that I've written on this in previous issues but we are headed toward our annual meeting and we need to fill several vacant seats on the board. We can also use volunteers on any and all of our committees and for these positions we do not require board membership. So you can serve in any of two ways as well as volunteering to assist or join our Membership Committee which has brought you such benefits as the Tram Passes and free concerts.

By serving along with your neighbors you can keep these many activities viable. You can also assist in the development of positions the board takes on many different issues and help guide the association in development of the future of our great community. I am asking each of you to consider just how important the community is to you and your family. How do decisions about the community impact your home values? What activities should the association support? What should the association's position be on important issues like speed limits? The only way we can reach a consensus on any issue in the community is to have active board and committee members—we need your help in filling these seats. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to *your* community. Thank you.



**Executive Committee**

President – Sy Caudill  
Vice President – Andy Anderson  
Secretary – Marsha Thole  
Treasurer – Ed Tull

**Board Members**

Phil Abshere  
Kerney Bolton  
Bruce Childs  
Alyson Clark  
Frances Desonier  
Pete Heinsteinst  
Jim Irving  
Phyllis Moore  
Burt O’Neil  
Mona Lee Schilling  
Mike Winokur

**Office Staff**

Betsy Rodriguez – ACC  
Administrative Assistant  
Sheraz Saint-Lôt – Publications  
& Communications Editor

**SHHA Office**

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Albuquerque, NM 87122  
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Phone: 505-797-7793  
Fax: 505-856-8544  
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[www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org)  
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[shha@sandiahomeowners.org](mailto:shha@sandiahomeowners.org)

**GRIT Editorial Policy is:**

- Attempt to publish both sides of every issue, including constructive criticism; no abusive or insulting remarks.
- Reserve the right to edit any submission.
- Not to print any unsigned letters or articles.



**Stats and more from the Sandia Heights Security Patrol:**

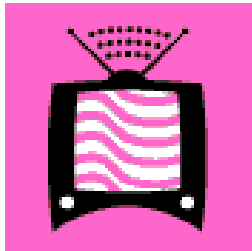
Month of December Call Type	# of calls	Month of December Call Type	# of calls
Attempted breaking & entering	2	Suspicious vehicle	6
Alarms	28	Salesman problem	2
Car accident	1	Theft	1
Neighbor dispute	1	Utility Co. assist	1
Fire	1	Threat/personal	1
Front office	1	Customer assist	9
Lost/found pet	5	Dumped/spilled material	2
Mailbox vandalism	3	Noise complaints	1
Motorist assist	3	Wildlife report	1
Motorcycle nuisance	1	Vandalism	16
Open door/window	7	Vehicle burglary	10
Pet nuisance	4	Newspaper pickup	26
Rescue assist	1	Special patrol	22
Speeding vehicle	1	Homeowners on vacation	242
Suspicious person	11	<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>410</b>

I would like to thank all of the generous Sandia Heights residents who provided "goodies" to our Sanitation and Security crews over the Holidays. Both of these crews are extremely dedicated and conscientious people and it is gratifying to get the "thank you's" in whatever form that you provided (I personally gained about 5 lbs.)

Let's all hope for a prosperous and safe New Year and again on behalf of the Sanitation and Security crews, "THANK YOU."

John Pickering  
Manager, Sandia Heights Services

If you have questions regarding these stats, please call Security at 856-6347. Please be reminded that Sandia Heights Security is a subscription service separate from Sandia Heights Homeowners Association membership. Membership in SHHA does not include SHS membership. You can call Security to confirm your membership with them.



## DIGITAL BROADCASTS

Beginning Feb. 17, all broadcasts will be in digital form and, therefore, scrambled for TV sets receiving

them directly with outdoor antenna systems. However, viewers receiving their TV broadcasts via cable or satellite will not be affected and will not have to change their set connections in any way. Viewers receiving direct transmissions, however, would have to purchase a converter box such as those, for example, sold by Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, etc.

### DTV Converter Box Coupons

The government's DTV coupon program can save you \$40. *For up-to-date information on the digital TV transition, see the federal government's site, [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov).*



## WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

-Andy Anderson, Nominating Committee



The SHHA is a totally volunteer organization with a prime objective of maintaining the unique character and exceptional living conditions in our community.

To do this we need the support and help of the community in running the association. We are now beginning the process for

finding new volunteer directors for 2009. Board members are elected for 3-year terms with elections at the Annual Meeting in June. The 3-year commitment is revocable if your personal circumstances change; you may submit a resignation letter, although we would like to have members serve at least one year.

What are the qualifications for the job-Just a love of this wonderful neighborhood and a desire to work with others to keep it vibrant. We need representation on the board from all of the units and we urge you to consider taking this opportunity to become a board member.

The next few years will be an exciting opportunity for you to help plan the future of our neighborhood-*your* neighborhood. Please review pages RG-8 & 9 of the 2009 Residents Guide, which lists the duties of the committees and other functions of the board. If you are willing to serve as a board member, we urge you to contact Andy Anderson at 856-7116 or contact the office at 797-7793 or email: [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org).

We hope you share our goal in preserving the Sandia Heights we all enjoy and love. Serving as a member of the board is a rewarding opportunity and we hope you will join us in this effort. The board could also use more parents with young children and women members, to help bring more diversity in identifying the needs of our community. We will accept volunteers from all units, but we would encourage homeowners in the following units to volunteer, since they are not currently represented on the board: North: 2 and 3, South: 1 and 2, 5, 6, 7, 8C, 9, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27A, 27B or 27C, 28A & 28 B.

## **Parks & Safety Committee**

~ Frances Desonier, Chair

Hello Fellow Homeowners,

As you know from the last newsletter, we have now sold more than 100 reflective safety vests. We have even noticed fellow neighbors wearing them when they are out walking our streets. Thank you!

Our committee is convinced that, by wearing these vests, you make yourself much more visible to oncoming traffic, which we believe will certainly result in greater safety for you. If you have not yet bought one, please consider buying them. We are selling them below cost to SHHA members at \$2 and for just \$4 to non-members.

We also want to once again remind each of you that you are much safer when walking FACING traffic and, fortunately, it does seem that many more of you are beginning to do just that. Good for you! Making eye contact with drivers approaching you assures you that the driver is aware that you are on the road.

Drivers are encouraged to be vigilant when driving our streets and not to speed through such a beautiful environment. Drivers and pedestrians alike should be particularly careful when out at dusk. Be aware that drivers traveling around dusk are blinded by the sun and cannot see pedestrians. Therefore, please be even more vigilant when walking or driving during this dangerous time of the day.

We also want to remind all homeowners to maintain your curbside property so that pedestrians may step off of the road whenever they need to avoid a dangerous situation. As you probably know by now, each homeowner is responsible for

maintaining the curbside adjacent to their property. Nevertheless, the county has agreed to trim vegetation along our roads at a 45-degree angle to improve visibility. They are attempting to keep vegetation along our roadsides trimmed every six months or so. Please contact myself or the SHHA office to report any areas you feel are overgrown to the point that they restrict visibility or could cause damage to a vehicle.

May each of you have a New Year full of wonderful experiences!



### **ACC Activity Log**

*The following is a summary of your Architectural Control Committee's activity since the last GRIT.*

793 & 795 Tramway Lane – Landscape entrance way to Tramway Lane for both groups of units. Approved

935 Bobcat Boulevard – Replace front door. Approved

972 Antelope Avenue – Replace windows & repair stucco. Approved

*Check the ACC Project Log at the Sandia Heights Homeowners (SHHA) website [sandiahomeowners.org](http://sandiahomeowners.org). Click on THE A.C.C. then on Architectural Control Committee Project Log and read about all projects currently under ACC management.*





# Community Event Bulletin Board

*Not all of these groups are sponsored by SHHA.  
Information is provided to keep residents informed*

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**Church of the Good Shepherd:** Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, with a service of prayer and imposition of ashes – “Calling Us Back.” Services begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St NE. The Lenten Theme is "A Time To Keep, and A Time To Throw Away." Call 505-856-1004, if you have questions. *“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”*

## Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

The Sandia Heights Wildflower Club will meet Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Connie and Charlie McDonald. Tish Resnik, new owner of Great Outdoors Nursery (who was scheduled to speak at the November meeting but was unable to attend) will speak at the March meeting on "What's New for Spring?" Her talk will focus on new nursery products in the way of native plants, trees, and shrubs; as well as garden decor for spring and summer in the Great Outdoors Gift Shop. Interested parties as well as new and prospective members are invited to attend. Call SHWC President Dan Caudillo for further information at 856-6617.

### SNOW REMOVAL

Most of the roads within Sandia Heights are County roads/streets, although there are a few private roads. If the situation arises and you need maintenance on your road/street, including snow removal, please call the county at 848-1503. The county is responsible for removing snow from the public roads. If you should need assistance with snow removal from your private driveway, here are several people you can call:

Dave Carillo 220-9797 or Duke City 250-6477



While the County has a restrictive ordinance on open burning for certain materials, covenants in Sandia Heights prohibit burning. They generally state: “No trash shall be burned on the premises except in approved incinerators located indoors or within service yard. No garbage shall be burned. Garbage shall be placed in covered containers, said containers to be concealed from public view by an attractive enclosure. No barbecue or other outdoor cooking facility shall be located thereon nearer than ten feet from either side of lot line unless made a part of the residence.” To check your

covenants you may look them up online at [www.sandiahomeowners.org](http://www.sandiahomeowners.org) in the Covenants folder.



Sandia Heights Homeowners Association  
2-B San Rafael Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87122

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Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

