

President's Message ~ Andy Anderson

Being in the midst of the holiday season it is time to reflect on the joys of living in our unique, pristine community. It is also a time to recognize that others less fortunate look upon our community as an opportunity to capitalize on our treasures. In late October we had a series of three break-ins by one group of vandals in one afternoon. Although they were seen by some neighbors, by the time Sandia Heights Security and the Sheriff's office responded the trio was out of our neighborhood. Fortunately, some of our residents had provided a description of the trio and their truck to law enforcement and they were supposedly arrested some time later. In the process of notifications to law enforcement, your SHHA office was also informed and an email alert went out to all of our members who have signed up for that service as well as a notification on our website.

At our SHHA Meet and Greet in November we were fortunate to have a deputy from the Sheriff's office provide an overview of security within Sandia Heights. For those in attendance it was an excellent opportunity to gain insight into ways to protect ourselves against intruders. For those not fortunate enough to hear the presentation I would like to share some of those insights. First, we must remember that our protection is provided by the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and that the Sheriff's forces are currently spread fairly thin due to many unfilled positions. Secondly, we are fortunate to have Sandia Heights Security providing a roaming patrol and they do coordinate their actions with the

Sheriff's deputies. If you notice any suspicious cars or people, don't hesitate to call both agencies and alert them to the situation. Sandia Heights Security will be able to respond faster than the Sheriff, however, if you suspect there is an intruder in your house and relay this information to the Sheriff's dispatcher, the Sheriff's deputies will expedite their arrival with lights and sirens.

The message from Sgt. Chavez was to live vour life as normal, however remain alert and use common sense when it comes to security. Use caution if a stranger comes to your door and don't open the door if you do not feel comfortable. Talk through the door so the stranger knows there is someone home as they may just be looking for an unoccupied home. If you do open the door, he suggested a security door to keep a barrier between you and the person. Again, if suspicious, call security and the Sheriff. He also recommends setting your alarm, even when leaving for a short period of time, and the use of conspicuous signs, such as "Beware of Dog" or an "alarm/surveillance in use", near your home. Lighting is also an excellent deterrent, especially motion activated lights to keep our light pollution to a minimum.

Phone numbers to keep handy: Emergency – 911 (when using cell phone ask to be passed to BCSO) Non-Emergency – 798-7000 Sandia Heights Security – 856-6347 Security Mobile – 263-4654

Continued on page 2

Continued from front page:

In spite of my doom and gloom message, we need to understand that we do live in a safe neighborhood and break-ins and vandalism are minimal and not on the rise. If we are all Good Neighbors and watch out for each other, we can continue to maintain our great lifestyle in a unique community.

Your Board of Directors, our SHHA staff and all our volunteers wish all of our residents a very safe and happy holiday season.

<u>SHHA Tree Removal</u> Lottery Announcement

You have been complaining and your Community Services & Membership Committee (CS&MC) has been listening! Obstruction of views by trees has been one of the more frequent homeowner concerns received by the Association over the years. Now you have a chance to have your tree removed at no cost to you if it meets certain criteria as part of SHHA's Tree Removal Lottery.

With the approach of winter, deciduous trees have dropped their leaves and the tempo of plant growth has slowed. Trees in the clutches of winter cold, winds, and drought appear dormant with no apparent growth. But under the ground, their roots continue to explore for new sources of water and nutrients, thus preparing for the burst of renewed growth which comes with spring. Once again, our larger tree species will resume their slow but deliberate assault on our valley and mountain views!

The CS&MC urges you to take action now. Are any of your trees interfering with your enjoyment of Sandia Mountain or the Rio Grande Valley? Are they interfering with the views of your neighbors? If the answer is yes, the time for action is now. Plan to have them removed before the SHHA Annual Meeting in June 2010 and enter the Lottery for a chance to have the cost reimbursed.

Lottery Rules

- Must be a member of the SHHA
- Trees must have been cut and removed after January 1, 2010
- Any size Siberian Elm* may be entered (including young sprouts)
- Siberian Elm* stumps must be treated to prevent re-growth
- Trees of all species over 26 feet high are eligible
- Trees on County rights-of-way are eligible
- Only Tree Owner can give permission for tree removal

To Apply

- Fill out a Lottery application at the SHHA Office
- Provide a paid copy of the invoice for tree removal

Winners

- Drawings will follow the SHHA Annual Meeting in June 2010
- Need not be present to win
- Winners will receive actual cost of removal up to a maximum of \$750.00 per tree
- Drawings will continue until a total of \$5,000.00 has been awarded

Please see the SHHA website at *sandiahomeowners.org* or drop by the SHHA office for complete Lottery eligibility, entry, and rules.

* Siberian Elms, often confused with Chinese Elm, are prohibited by the Covenants.

Not a member of the SHHA? Join with your neighbors now to do your part to support Sandia Heights and enjoy the many benefits of membership, including the Tree Lottery. Drop by the Office to join!



Odds & Ends from Parks & Safety Committee ~ Larry & Frances

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Those drivers that use San Rafael should be proud of themselves. The county did yet another speed study on San Rafael on October 30th and it turns out that drivers have slowed down even more. The speed study before this showed that drivers had slowed down considerably after the speed was raised to 20 mph and the humps were lowered. So everyone should be really proud of themselves for helping to make our neighborhood safer.

Also, just another reminder to be aware of what is going on in the neighborhood around your house. Sandia Heights has had several break-ins in the last two months. However, we have been told that those committing those crimes had been apprehended. It is always wise to let your neighbors know when you are going to be away for an extended time. Whenever possible park your car in the garage rather than just in the driveway and remember not to leave valuables in your car (particularly gifts visible in the car at this time of the year.) **Padestrian Sofety Pamindare**

Pedestrian Safety Reminders

- Walk **Facing** Traffic; make eye contact with drivers approaching you.
- Wear reflective vest or brightly-colored clothing, particularly in the evening.
- If you are walking a dog, keep the dog to your **left**.
- Whenever cars approach, a group of pedestrians should walk in **single file.**

SECURTY ALERT

There was a rash of break-ins in October at several locations: White Oaks, Cougar Loop and Tramway Lane, Unit 10.

The office has a security email alert that can be emailed to all of those people whose email addresses are in our database. If you would like to receive such an email please call the office at 797-7793 or email us at sandiaheights@comcast.net.

TRAM PASSES

SHHA has purchased 6 corporate tram passes per day! For details on how the tram passes work please go to the



website:sandiahomeowners.org or call the office at 797-7793.

District 4 Neighborhood Coalition Meeting

On 21 October 2009, Michael Wiener, County Commissioner- District 4, hosted a Neighborhood Association Coalition Meeting at the County of Bernalillo Civic Plaza. The purpose of this Neighborhood Association Coalition Meeting for District 4 was to bring all of our individual neighborhoods together as we face similar challenges and issues. The coalition meetings will provide a forum where neighborhood associations can share ideas and can even learn of potential collaboration opportunities.

Twelve local neighborhood associations from District 4 were invited and seven associations were in attendance at this first meeting. County Commissioner Weiner called this meeting as he sees all of us are facing tough economic times with scarce resources. He too believes that now more than ever, it is an opportune time for us to work together to better address our communities needs. Sandia Heights Homeowners Association was represented by our Vice President, Phyllis Moore.

The next District 4 Neighborhood Coalition meeting will be held in early January 2010 and the plan will be to hold approximately six meetings per year.





Officers

President – Andy Anderson Vice President – Phyllis Moore Secretary – Frances Desonier Treasurer – Ed Tull

Board Members

Phil Abshere Bob Bower Bruce Childs Larry Desonier Kate Fry Pete Heinstein Jim Irving Michele Munson Burt O'Neil Melissa Puckett Mona Lee Schilling Marsha Thole Dick Wavrik Mike Winokur

Office Staff

Betsy Rodriguez – Administrative Assistant Sheraz Saint-Lôt – Administrative Assistant

SHHA Office

2-B San Rafael Avenue Albuquerque, NM 87122 Office Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm Phone: 505-797-7793 Fax: 505-856-8544 **WEBSITE:** www.sandiahomeowners.org **EMAIL:** 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:

Security Tips: Report suspicious vehicles,

persons or activities to the Sheriff's Office and Security Patrol. It is impossible to patrol every neighborhood constantly. You can be the eyes and ears that help protect your community.

Month of October	# of	Month of October	# of
Call Type	calls	Call Type	calls
Breaking & entering	10	Suspicious person	5
Alarms	30	Salesman problem	10
Car accident	0	Theft	3
Fire	0	Animal control assist.	2
Front office	2	Utility Co. Assist	6
Loud music	0	Special Request	3
Lost/found item	2	Customer Assist	9
Lost/found pet	7	Dumped/Spilled	3
		Material	
Mailbox Vandalism	0	S.O. Assist	1
Motorist Assist	8	Parking Problem	2
Motorcycle nuisance	3	Vandalism	6
Open Door/window	6	Wildlife Report	2
Pet nuisance	6	Vehicle Burglary	2
Rescue assist	1	Newspaper Pickup	24
Snake call	4	Special Extra patrol	28
		or observation	
Suspicious vehicle	31	Total Calls	216

Testimonials:

"We have been using Sandia Heights Security for over five years. They respond to alarms, pick up papers while you are on vacation, check out unusual events and provide coverage much better than a neighborhood watch. They would be a bargain at twice the monthly rate. I highly recommend them." Sy Caudill



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.

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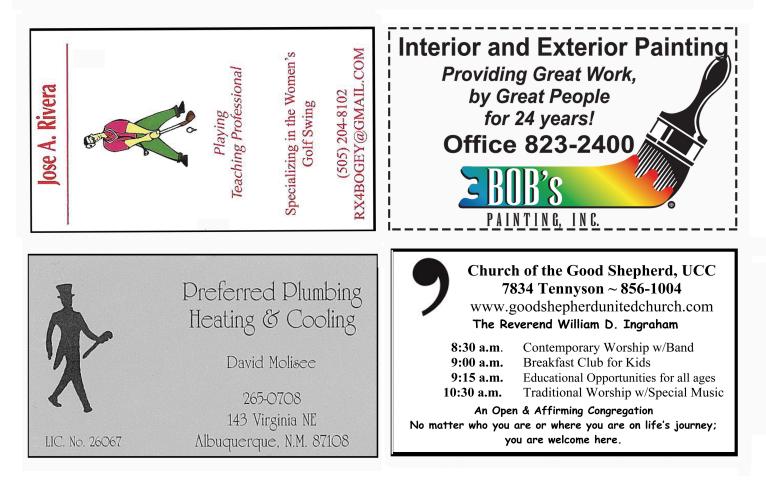
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Sandia Heights Coffeehouse Concert Series Presents . . .



The next concert in the Coffeehouse Concert Series will be Saturday, January 16, with Syd Masters & the Swing Riders playing western music, mainly from the 40s & 50s. Syd's song "Under New Mexico Skies" was recently named "Official Cowboy Song of the State of New Mexico" by Governor Richardson. Syd has won a lot of awards, including 2007 Vocalist of the Year at the New Mexico Music Industry Awards. This will be a fun, upbeat evening of music! Read about Syd and listen to his music on www.sydmasters.com.

Concert will be at Church of the Good Shepherd at 7:30 p.m. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Linda Bolton, 856-7100, nlightsmgt@aol.com.

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<u>SHHA Membership Cards &</u> <u>Merchant Benefit Program</u>

SHHA members, you should have received your personal *SHHA membership card* and *key-ring tag*. If you have not received your membership card, please call or come by the office. The membership cards and tags can be used for admission to SHHA sponsored events, picking up Sandia Peak Tram Passes, access to SHHA Office benefits & services, and for claiming SHHA Merchant Benefits.

Current SHHA member benefits and services include: office and notary services, annual classified ads, Coffeehouse Concert Series, Sandia Tram Passes, Swim Passes, covenant enforcement, no-fee ACC applications, and discounted safety vests.

The SHHA Merchant Benefits Program includes the following current participating merchants:

Bair Medical Spa - Best Way Carpet -Black Diamond Taekwondo - Bob's Painting - Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC - County Line of Albuquerque - Curves Granite Transformations - High Finance Restaurant & Sandiago's Mexican Grill at the Tram - Jade Enterprises - Massage Envy

To see the discounts offered by each merchant visit our website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.

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<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS &</u> <u>NOTICES:</u>

- The office will be closed for the holidays on: Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, and again on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1.
- Office Hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday.
- SHHA Board Meeting: There will be no official board meeting in December.
- Safety vests are available to members for just \$2! Come and get yours now before we run out.

SANDIA HEIGHTS SERVICES



Sandia Heights Services

would like to remind all residents that trash (including recycling) must be out no later than 7am on the scheduled pickup day, or no earlier than 5pm on the evening prior to collection. Thank you.

ACC Activity Log

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

1 Sandia Heights - Re-roof. Approved

46 Cedar Hill Rd. – Staircase. Approved

47 Pinon Hill Pl. – Landscaping, wind mill, fence. Disapproved

413 Live Oak – Landscaping and Trim. Approved

528 Live Oak Loop – Re-roof. Approved

545 Black Bear Loop – Re-roof/Windows. Approved

720-25 Tramway Lane – Solar panels. Approved

727-7 Cedar Hill Lane – Fence. Approved

733 Tramway Lane – Driveway. Approved

742 Tramway Lane – Re-roof. Approved

760-1 Tramway Lane – Garage door replacement. Approved

869 F Tramway Lane Ct. – Windows/stairway. Approved

887 Tramway Lane – Re-roof. Approved

901 Tramway Lane – Replace windows. Approved

901 Tramway Lane – Gates/screen. Approved

963 Antelope Ave - Re-Roof. Approved

972 Antelope Ave - Re-Roof. Approved

975 Antelope Ave - Garage door. Approved

1015 Tramway Lane – Re-roof. Approved

1027 Tramway Lane – Fence, Ramp and Driveway. Approved

1052 Red Oaks Loop - Driveway. Approved

1055 Red Oaks Loop – Stucco Repair. Approved 1060 Red Oaks Loop - Deck. Approved

1405 San Rafael Place – Wall & Landscaping. Approved

1519 Eagle Ridge Terrace – Window replacement. Approved

1560 Eagle Ridge Road – Remodel. Approved

2717 Tramway Circle – Re-finish Trim. Approved

2725 Tramway Lane – Landscaping. Approved

2750 Cliffrose Drive – Landscaping. Approved

2892 Tramway Place - Re-roof. Approved

7703 Cedar Canyon Place – Solar panels. Approved

7712 Cedar Canyon Court – Re-roof. Approved

7728 Cedar Canyon Court – Re-roof. Approved

12712 Colony Place – Re-stucco. Approved

Check the ACC Project Log on the Sandia Heights Homeowners (SHHA) website sandiahomeowners.org. Click on <u>THE</u> <u>A.C.C.</u> then on <u>Architectural Control</u> <u>Committee Project Log</u> and read about all projects currently under ACC management.



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Community Event Bulletin Board

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

Church of the Good Shepherd: Plan to attend the Church of the Good Shepherd at 7834 Tennyson for the Advent & Christmas Season; 11/29—"Looking for Signs" 12/6—"Prepare!" 12/13—"What then should *we* do?" 12/20—The Children's Christmas Play and on Christmas Eve—"The Light has Shined." Call 856-1004 for more information.

Sandia Heights Artists News... This is it! December 12, your one-stop shopping experience for everyone on your list. Fifteen Sandia Heights artists will have for purchase unique, affordable pieces of art. Paintings, stained glass, drawings, prints, gourds, hand-bound books, ceramics, collage, fabric baskets, water-media and jewelry. Join your friends and neighbors SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10am-5pm at the CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, 7834 Tennyson NE. Look for the big red SANDIA HEIGHTS ARTISTS signs on Tramway at San Rafael and at Tennyson to guide you. Refreshments will be served.

What to do with that Christmas tree?

You may take it to the Eagle Rock Landfill Transfer station (857-8318) where the city mulches it, or you can just put it out with your regular trash, but the trees must be cut in half if taller than 6 feet.



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Reporting Loud and/or Reckless Motorcycles

Call the Bernalillo County non-emergency telephone line 798-7000. Tell them about the problem and request the Sheriff's Department investigate it. Most important is to ask the operator to have Sheriff's Deputy contact you when (s)he checks the problem. This last step sets the official written record straight at Bernalillo County Sheriff's office and will in the long run be key to solving this problem.



PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

Thank you to all who participated by sending in your beautiful photographs. We will be including all of the entries on our website photo gallery in 2010. The winning photograph will be announced on the website in December and will be featured on the cover of the 2010 Directory.





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FROM THE SHHA OFFICE