

THE

GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

February 2010

Vice President's Message

~ Phyllis Moore

As your SHHA Vice President, I recently represented SHHA at the Bernalillo County District 4 Coalition meeting. The January 6th meeting was the perfect opportunity for District 4 Neighborhood Association Leaders to meet their District Representatives, and conversely, for the Legislators to get to know Neighborhood Leaders and learn from them how they can help to make their communities better. Again the purpose of this meeting is to get more acquainted with all of our neighborhoods within District 4 and for the residential leadership to hear and become aware about the various issues and concerns facing our respective communities. Feedback was given to the Bernalillo County leadership that their website is not very comprehensive with information nor very user friendly. We then learned that they are currently working to change both content and ease of use and were aware of the shortfalls.

A major theme that surfaced at this meeting was the Railrunner train and all the issues this new transit service is causing. Concerns surfaced about traffic in loading and unloading areas, security at the loading stations at night, and the unreasonable number of times the train blows its horn daily. Since many of the New Mexico House and Senate Legislators were in attendance too and were offered a few minutes to speak, budget concerns and Tax Lightning surfaced. Both topics will be ongoing issues as we enter the new year.

County Commissioner Michael Weiner did report that the widening of Eubank to Paseo is

on schedule and will be an eleven (11) month project beginning March of this year. A public hearing will be held soon for the North Abq Acres residents to address their concerns during this construction.

On another topic, as your current SHHA Vice President, I am beginning our search for new officers interested in serving on the SHHA Board for next year (2010-2011). We currently have a great team and I know we will need additional volunteers and Board Members as we begin our new year that starts at our annual meeting in June. Please drop me an email pamoore367@msn.com or give me a phone call (828-1639) so we can discuss and explore your interest as an SHHA Board Member or a volunteer on a specific committee. We need your ideas, your different perspectives and your skills in order to effectively serve this unique community that we all call home.

MAIL THEFT

Mail theft is still a problem! We advise that you take your outgoing mail to the Post Office. If the option is available it might be best to have sensitive information like checks, insurance and mortgage papers sent to your bank branch and you can pick them up from there, rather than having them sent to your house. Likewise, consider opening a post office box and have your mail sent there. Otherwise, keep your eye out for the postman and get your mail out of your box quickly. The closest collection box is at the Circle K office. Pick-up time is 4pm Mon-Sat.



Radon

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P.O. Box 1293 Albuquerque, NM 87102

Physical Address

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Room 3047

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Email: aqd@cabq.gov



Radon is an invisible, odorless gas known to cause cancer. Everyone is exposed to Radon at some level. Millions of homes and buildings contain high levels of Radon gas. The EPA and the Office of the Surgeon General recommend that all homes below the third floor be tested for Radon. Because Radon is invisible and odorless, a simple test is the only way to determine if a home has high Radon levels.

New Mexico Environment Department

- The New Mexico Environment Department, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have designated January 2009 as Radon Action Month.
- **Starting in January, NMED will have free radon test kits available for NM residents** willing to share their test results as part of a statewide radon survey.
- To participate, please call 1-800-324-5928 to request form.

Health Effects From Radon Exposure

- No immediate symptoms.
- Estimated to contribute to between 7,000 and 30,000 lung cancer deaths each year.
- Smokers are at higher risk of developing Radon-induced lung cancer.

Steps to Reduce Exposure to Radon

- Take action if your Radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher.
- Radon levels of less than 4 pCi/L still pose a risk, and in many cases, may be reduced.

How to Get a Radon Test Kit

- Test your home for Radon - it is easy and inexpensive. Requests for Radon Test kits can be sent to the National Safety Council's 1-800-SOS-RADON number (\$9.95) or Lowes Home Improvement Centers (\$16.88) per the NM Environment Department.



A Brief Message from Your Parks & Safety Committee

We are very pleased to see many of you walking on the correct side of the street when out on our roads. However, there are still a few of you that are walking on the wrong side. Remember, if you cannot make eye contact with oncoming drivers, you are not walking on the correct side of the road. Also, although wearing a reflective vest is unnecessary during the daylight hours, it becomes very important near dusk and later in the evening. It is wonderful to see how many of our neighbors are improving their health by making the effort to walk out of doors a little more! Let's also work at making our neighborhood a friendlier place by smiling and waving at our neighbors as they drive by us. A smile can really brighten your day as well as that of others!

We also want to remind drivers to be extra vigilant when driving our curvy roads; and, please, remember to go no faster than the posted speed limits.

Hope each of you have an opportunity to visit one of our neighborhood parks soon. The playground equipment has been updated, a few adult exercise stations have been added and drainage has been improved. Thank you Bernalillo County!



SHHA Tree Removal Lottery Update

You have been complaining, your Community Services & Membership Committee (CS&MC) has listened, and now we are taking action!

Obstruction of views by trees has been one of the more frequent homeowner concerns received by the Association over the years. Now several homeowners have picked up a SHHA Tree Removal Lottery Application from the SHHA Office and are working to have their trees removed. Should they be one of the several that will win the lottery in June, it will have cost them nothing to have their tree(s) removed!

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

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for Saturday, February 20,
2010, *Meet and Greet*
11am to 2pm
in the
SHHA
office.



Join with your friends and neighbors at the SHHA office, 2B San Rafael. Come enjoy our delicious hors d'oeuvres, and learn more about SHHA.

Dr. Mark DiMenna, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease Division Manager and/or Jeff Sheyka, from the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department will be speaking at noon.

Hosted by your SHHA Community Service and Membership Committee.



SHHA Membership Cards & Merchant Benefit Program

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 to expedite: 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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Vice President – Phyllis Moore
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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	1	Noise complaints	1
Alarms	19	Open door/window	4
Animal control asst.	1	Parking problem	4
Car accident	2	Pet nuisance	6
Customer assist	4	Rescue assist	0
Dumped/spilled material	0	Salesman problem	6
Family dispute	2	Special patrol	25
Fire	1	Special request	3
Fireworks complaint	1	Speeding vehicle	1
Front office	7	Suspicious person	14
Lost/found item	4	Suspicious vehicle	21
Lost/found pet	5	Theft	31
Mailbox vandalism	1	Threat/personal	0
Motorcycle nuisance	0	Utility Co. assist	4
Motorist assist	6	Vandalism	6
Neighbor dispute	1	Vehicle burglary	2
Newspaper pickup	19	Wildlife report	1
		Total Calls	203

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.

TRAM PASSES

SHHA has purchased 6 corporate tram passes per day! For details on how the tram passes work please go to the website: www.sandiahomeowners.org or call the office at 797-7793. We cannot make your reservations over the phone but you can call the office to find out if passes are available for the date you want. Please note: After 5pm the \$1 parking fee is waived.

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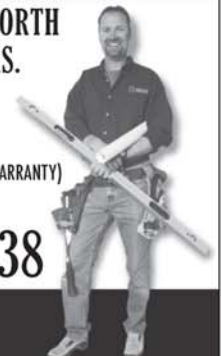
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ACC Activity Log

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

215 Spring Creek Place – Solar Panels.
Approved

359 Big Horn Ridge – HVAC replacement.
Approved

438 Live Oak Loop – Addition and remodeling. Approved

579 Black Bear Road – Re-roof. Approved

727-5 Cedar Hill Lane – Cable Guard Rail.
Approved

1439 Honeysuckle Drive – Solar Panel.
Approved

1516 Eagle Ridge Terrace – Addition and Staircase. Approved

2711 Tramway Circle – Re-roof. Approved

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



Volunteer Recognition Awards

~ Frances Desonier, Secretary

As many of you might have noticed when visiting our SHHA office, we have a beautiful plaque up on the west wall of our office. It is for the recognition of

“Extraordinary Service to Sandia Heights.” The names of the recipients of our volunteer recognition awards are listed on this plaque. This may be in acknowledgement for years of service, for outstanding accomplishments, or for a special recent service award.

A Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was instituted by our Board a few years ago in order to recognize and, hopefully, to serve as an ongoing incentive to SHHA volunteers. In conjunction with the luncheon, awards have been given to several worthy volunteers.

The following are a list of those who have previously earned special recognition for their years of extraordinary service: Lena Martinez (04/08), Robert Francis (04/08), Ed Whitten (10/08), Terry Taggart (04/08), Kerney Bolton (04/08), Sheraz Saint-Lot (10/08), Marsha Thole (04/09), Peter Heinstein (04/09), George Conner (10/09), and Don Wortman (10/09). Each of their names are listed on the plaque.

The next time you are in the SHHA Office, I hope you will look for this beautiful plaque on the west wall. And maybe one day, your own name will be added to the plaque in recognition of your extraordinary service to Sandia Heights!



SECURITY ALERT

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.

Also, if you have changed your email address please notify us so that we can update the database. Thank you.



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: Join us at Church of the Good Shepherd for the Ash Wednesday services, Service of Hope and Ashes (with Communion), at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. on February 17th. Church of the Good Shepherd is located at 7834 Tennyson Street NE. Call 856-1004 for more information.

The Sandia Heights Book Club, now in its fifth year, has a few openings for new members. Both women and men are most welcome. The group meets in members' homes the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. Book selections for 2010 include: *Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery, *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *Run* by Ann Patchett. Interested readers should contact Joan March for more information by phone, 323-6784, or email, jmarch@thinkwellassociates.com.

Sandia Heights Wildflower Club

We are planning a field trip to the New Mexico Gourd Society's 5th Annual Celebration of Gourds which is joining the Xeriscape Expo 2010 at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds on February 27, 2010. Anyone who is interested in joining the Wildflower Club or who would like information about one of our meetings or activities may call Connie and Charlie McDonald at 797-2620.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- **Office closed** Monday, February 15 - President's Day.
- **Notary** and office services free to members.
- **Tram passes** free to members, please check with the office to reserve your pass.
- **Contractor Evaluation binder** free to members.
- **SHHA Board Meeting** – Wednesday, February 10 at 7pm in the SHHA Office.
- **Valentine's Day** – Saturday February 14.
- **Meet N Greet** - Saturday, February 20.
- **Committee meeting** dates and times are posted in the monthly calendar found on our website: www.sandiahomeowners.org.
- **Classified ads** can be found on the website under the News and Information page, free for members.
- **Safety Vests for sale** in the SHHA office. \$2 per vest for members and \$4 per vest for non-members.

Just a note of clarification, we mail the GRIT to both members and non-members as a courtesy to those who are non-members to encourage them to join. However, services and benefits of membership are limited to members of the association.

If you are a non-member we encourage you to join.

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