

THE GRIT

Sandia Heights Homeowners Association

December 2011

Second Annual Meet Santa Event!

Come and meet Santa Claus and have your picture taken with him. Saturday, December 10 from 10am to 1pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 7834 Tennyson St.



Please come and celebrate the Holiday Season with us! There will be face painting, activities, and refreshments. **Please RSVP by Weds. Dec 7, 2011** to 797-7793 or email: sandiaheights@comast.net.

The Sandia Heights Artists group *will NOT* be exhibiting at this event.

Additionally please bring a non-perishable food item for our *Roadrunner Food Drive*. *This event is open to SHHA Members only.*



Roadrunner Holiday Food Drive

Be a part of taking action this holiday season and get involved in our food drive! The Holidays can be difficult for many New Mexicans with more than 20% of the population living in poverty. Food drives enable the food bank to provide a wide variety of high quality, nutritious food items throughout the year. The Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico distributes more than 22 million pounds of food a year to hundreds of nonprofit agencies throughout New Mexico. Each one of us can make an impact.

Please help by bringing non-perishable food items to the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association office located at San Rafael and Tramway. Office hours are Monday through Friday 9am-4pm. Look for the big red drop box inside.

Most Needed Items:

Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats, Canned Entrees, Cereal Bars, Rice, Sugar, Pastas, Soups, Baby Food, Boxed Meals. Plastic, boxed, bagged and canned containers present less chance of breakage and less loss of good food.

MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.!



President's Message

~ Kate Fry

With the holiday season upon us, I thought it would be a good idea to review some security and safety tips. While we are very fortunate in Sandia Heights to have one of the lowest crime rates in the city, we have still had our share of mail theft and residential burglaries. The best security system is not necessarily an alarm system in your house, but the eyes and ears of each of us and our neighbors. Constant awareness and vigilance by our residents, and the willingness of every one of us to become involved in looking out for the well-being of our neighbors, are the keys to maintaining the safety and security of Sandia Heights.

Continued on page 2

Continued from front page

To borrow from the Department of Homeland Security's campaign, "See Something, Say Something", it wouldn't hurt for us to be on the nosy side when it comes to unusual happenings in our neighborhoods. If you see something that doesn't look right—activity at your neighbor's house when they aren't home or suspicious vehicles in your area—call the Sandia Heights Security Patrol Officer at 263-4654 (if you subscribe to the security service), or the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department (798-7000). If you see someone breaking into your neighbor's house, or for any emergency, call 911.

The most effective security strategy is to establish trusted relationships with your neighbors. Agree to watch out for each other and report any suspicious activity in and around your homes. Remember, residential burglaries statistically occur during the day, so if possible, identify trusted neighbors who might be home during this time. A home security system is a good deterrent for burglars, but it can give you a false sense of security. Even if they set off your alarm, burglars can be in and out of your house within a couple of minutes and steal televisions, computers, and jewelry before law enforcement personnel can respond. Again, "nosy neighbors" are your best defense. Keep doors and windows locked. Many of the burglaries reported recently by Sandia Heights Security were from unlocked cars and garages with open doors, and burglars love to slip into your house through an unlocked door or window.

Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight. If you have bills to pay or greeting cards that include checks or gift cards, don't leave them in your mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up—take them to a post office. Mail thieves look for easy pickings provided by careless homeowners, especially during the season of gift-giving.

In keeping with the philosophy of neighbors looking out for each other, Neighborhood Watch programs have proven to be very effective. If you'd like to set one up, you can view the Neighborhood Watch guidelines by clicking on the link at <http://www.bernco.gov/neighborhood-watch-program-216111/>. For a starter packet, or if you have questions about the program, you can contact Bernadette Miera with Bernalillo County Neighborhood Coordination at 468-1279.

The SHHA Board of Directors and our office staff all wish you the happiest and safest of holidays!

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**Last chance for
Four Seasons
Tennis Club**



The courts will close as of December 31 so come and get your free tennis passes at the SHHA office for Association members, their families, and house guests.

This is another great benefit from your Community Services and Membership Committee.

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Next Coffeehouse

Back by popular demand on Saturday, January 14: Syd Masters & the Swing Riders, performing western music, mainly from the 40s and 50s. Syd's song "Under New Mexico Skies" is the "Official Cowboy Song of the State of New Mexico"! Listen to his music on www.sydmasters.com. Concert will be in the Church of the Good Shepherd Lower Hall at 7:30 pm. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Linda Bolton, 856-7100 or nlightsmgt@aol.com.

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SHHA membership Cards and membership benefits

SHHA members are issued an *SHHA membership card* and *key-ring tag*. 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. Your SHHA member benefits and services include: office and notary services, annual classified ads, Coffeehouse Concert Series, Sandia tram passes, covenant enforcement, no-fee ACC applications, and discounted safety vests.

Check out the entire SHHA Member Benefits Program at sandiahomeowners.org and enjoy discounts at our supporting local merchants. The SHHA Merchant Benefits Program includes the following current participating merchants:

- Asian Café**
- Bair Medical Spa**
- Best Way Carpet**
- Black Diamond Taekwondo**
- Bob's Painting**
- Chiropractor, Mark L. Schwartz DC**
- County Line of Albuquerque**
- Curves**
- Dance Fitness Party**
- Granite Transformations**
- High Finance Restaurant**
- Sandiego's Mexican Grill at the Tram (\$1 parking fee will be reimbursed with purchase of lunch)**
- Jade Enterprises**
- Los Equipales**
- Massage Envy**
- The UPS Store**
- 3B Yoga**



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Unique benefits of SHHA Membership Cards

Not only do your merchant benefit discounts apply, SHHA membership cards can also be an identification tool. Last month, SHHA received two calls pertaining to a lost purse and keys. The members were identified, contacted, and reunited with their lost items.

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TRAM PASSES: *There are 6 corporate tram passes per day!* Please call the office or visit our website for all the details: www.sandiahomeowners.org.

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Waste Water and Septic Tank Committee

The Wastewater and Septic System Committee (WW&SSC) has been working hard on behalf of Sandia Heights residents since it was established several months ago. Our dedicated volunteers, many of whom have experience and expertise in environmental science and engineering, have been studying State and local regulations governing residential septic systems. The primary focus has been on the Bernalillo County ordinance which required that all septic systems be upgraded by January 2015. These upgrades could be very expensive for the average homeowner in Sandia Heights.

Primarily due to the efforts of the Committee, and with the support of Commissioner Michael Wiener, the Bernalillo County Commission voted to rescind the portion of the ordinance that required all septic systems to be upgraded by January 2015. This is a huge accomplishment, and the Committee has done a great service to Sandia Heights.

Continued on page 7



Stats and more from the Sandia Heights Security Patrol:

Officers

President – Kate Fry
 Vice President – Andy Anderson
 Secretary – Sarah Pirkl
 Treasurer – Ann Marie Caffrey

Board Members

Phil Abshere
 Ana Acosta
 Bob Bower
 George Connor
 Sharon Evanich
 Pete Heinstein
 Burt O’Neil
 Joe Pappé
 Michael Pierce
 Dick Wavrik
 Ann Zimmerman

Office Staff

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

SHHA Office

2-B San Rafael Avenue
 Albuquerque, NM 87122
 Office Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm
 Phone: 505-797-7793
 Fax: 505-856-8544
 Web site:
www.sandiahomeowners.org
 Email:
shha@sandiahomeowners.org

GRIT Editorial Policy is:

- Provide information on subjects of interest to the community.
- Reserve the right to edit any submission.
- Not to print any unsigned letters or articles.

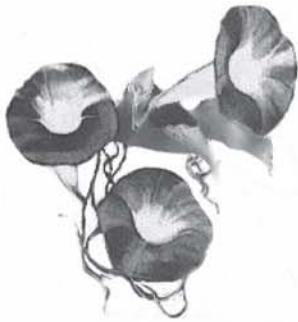
Month of October Call Type	# of calls	Month of October Call Type	# of calls
Alarms	28	Open door/window	11
Animal control asst.	0	Parking problem	2
Breaking & entering	4	Pet nuisance	2
Car accident	3	Rescue assist	1
Construction site burglary	0	Salesman problem	8
Customer assist	5	Sheriff office assist	0
Dumped/spilled material	1	Snake Call	5
Family dispute	0	Special request	0
Fire	0	Special (extra patrol)	13
Fireworks complaint	0	Speeding vehicle	0
Front office	9	Suspicious person	6
Loud music/party	1	Suspicious vehicle	21
Lost/found pet	5	Theft	8
Lost/found item	2	Threat/personal	0
Mailbox vandalism	0	Utility Co. assist	3
Motorcycle nuisance	0	Vandalism	5
Motorist assist	7	Vehicle burglary	6
Neighbor dispute	0	Wildlife report	1
Newspaper pickup	13		
Noise complaints	0	Total Calls	170

Security Tip:

If you have questions regarding these stats, please call Security at 856-6347, mobile 263-4654. 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.

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).

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Continued from page 3

What this means is that septic systems do not have to be upgraded unless the system fails or malfunctions, or if the septic system does not pass inspection when a property is sold. The Committee is continuing to work with State and County officials to make sure Sandia Heights is not unfairly affected by upgrade requirements.

The best way to insure that your septic system functions properly is to maintain it conscientiously: conserve water so as not to overload the system; have the tank pumped and inspected regularly; and be careful not to dispose of harmful substances in the septic system. Guidelines for septic tank pumping frequency vary, but many people consider the couple of hundred dollars spent having the tank pumped every year to be money well spent—it's a fairly inexpensive way to ensure your system is working as it should. A properly maintained septic system can last for many years. For more information on taking care of your septic system, please check out "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" published by the US Environmental Protection Agency, on the SHHA website:

http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf. If you don't have Internet access, you can pick up a copy at the SHHA office.

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DON'T LET YOUR WATER PIPES FREEZE ~ Bob Bower,

Chairman, ACC

Last winter & spring were very cold ones for the Albuquerque area. I heard several "tales of woe" last year and I thought I'd get the word out earlier this year with some tips on how to avoid frozen water pipes.

Disconnecting water hoses and protecting the outdoor faucets are very important. Water that freezes in hoses causes a buildup of pressure on interior plumbing that can

result in a rupture of the interior pipes if the pressure is too high. Damage to these pipes near a water faucet is often difficult to repair due to the inaccessibility of these pipes. Disconnecting hoses from these faucets and protecting the faucets with hard foam insulating cups are good ways to reduce the chances of damage to these pipes that extend through exterior walls. These foam insulating cups can be purchased at home improvement stores. Also, if you have any water pipes that are located outside your home that are exposed to the outside temperatures, you may want to consider using insulating tape or heat tape around these exposed pipes.

Now, let's consider the inside of your home. If Albuquerque experiences a spell of extremely cold temperatures, leave the water supply line on at a very slow drip rate somewhere inside your home. Normally, a faucet located far away from where the water enters your home is the one that you should use for this purpose. The cost of water used is insignificant compared to the cost of repairing damage caused by a broken water line inside your home. If you are away from your home during the cold season, make sure that there is adequate heat inside your home to prevent pipes from freezing. Even when trying to save energy costs, don't turn the heat too far down and don't turn the heat off altogether unless you have all of the water lines properly drained.

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SECURITY ALERT

The office has a security email alert system by which SHHA can send notices to people whose email addresses are in our database. If you would like to receive email alerts, please call the office at 797-7793 or email us at sandiaheights@comcast.net.

Also, if you have changed your phone number, please notify us.

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ACC Activity Log

*Summary of **Approved Projects** activity since the last GRIT:*

33 Juniper Hill Road – Paint Trim
80 Juniper Hill Road – Addition & Fence
152 Juniper Hill Road – Fence Replacement
175 Big Horn Ridge Drive – Driveway
190 Big Horn Ridge Road – Repaint House, Wall & Garage Door
206 Spring Creek Drive – Gates
216 Spring Creek Place – Landscaping
309 Big Horn Ridge – Fence
345 Big Horn Ridge – Reroof, Restucco, Staircase, Patio & Wall
365 Big Horn Ridge – Fence
368 Big Horn Ridge – Solar Panels
447 Live Oak Loop – Resurface Driveway
727-19 Tramway Lane – Reroof
727-21 Tramway Lane – Reroof & Restucco
1023 Tramway Lane - Resurface Driveway
1059 Red Oaks Loop – Refinish Trim
1112 Rockrose Road – Restucco
1118 Rockrose Road – Reroof
1156 Laurel Loop – Patio Extension
1176 Laurel Loop – Re-stucco
1206 Marigold Drive – Remodel of Sunroom
1244 Marigold – Garage Addition
1414 San Rafael – Restucco
1502 Eagle Ridge Road – Fence
1568 Eagle Ridge Court – Restucco
1704 Quail Run Court - Fence
1809 Tramway Terrace – Fence and Pool
1827 Tramway Terrace - Gate

1844 Tramway Terrace – Solar Panels
1903 Quail Run Road – Fence Replacement
1945 Quail Run Loop – Patio
2003 Quail Run Drive – Window Replacement
2429 Tramway Terrace Court - Re-stucco
2864 Tramway Circle – Window Replacement
2865 Tramway Circle - Re-roof
7726 Cedar Canyon Court – Enclose Patio
8221 Raintree Drive – Window & Door Replacement
8225 Raintree Drive – Recoat Stucco & Repaint Trim
9112 Lynx Loop – Weather Station Pole

Go to the website: sandiahomeowners.org to read about all projects currently under ACC management



ELECTRONIC ARCHIVING OF ACC DOCUMENTS



The SHHA staff has recently finished the task of electronically archiving all of the existing ACC residential files for Sandia Heights and has also completed scanning and archiving all of the large format residential plans that are currently on file with SHHA. With these tasks completed, the staff is proceeding with the disposal of all of the hard copy files and have notified all homeowners to retrieve the large format plans by January of 2012.

Beginning in January of 2012, the ACC application form will be amended to require one hard copy and one in digital format with submittals of the applications. The SHHA office is willing to assist those homeowners with these new requirements and in some cases may waive the requirement for the electronic copy if it makes no sense to submit the documents in the electronic format due to the simplicity of the project.

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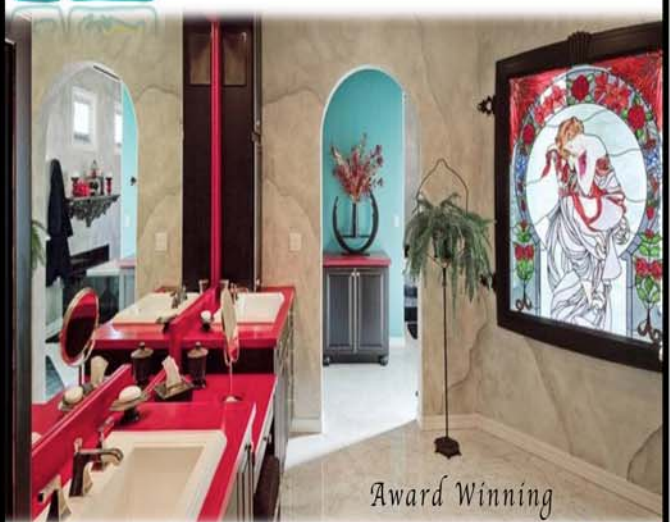
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Community Event Bulletin Board

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

Sandia Heights Artists regret to cancel their Holiday Art Show. The group encourages you to support Santa's scheduled visit from 10-1 at the Church of the Good Shepherd on December 10th. Bring the kids and keep the fantasy alive! Our first meeting of the new year will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Glo Abeyta, 506 Blackbear Loop NE. For more information please contact Glo Abeyta (991-4032) or Mary Ellen Merrigan (280-9772 or me@maryellenbeads.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:

- **Office hours:** Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm.
- **Office closed for the Holidays:** Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26 and again on Monday January 2.
- **Board Meeting: No meeting this month.**
- **Notary, copies and faxes** free to members.
- **Tram passes** free to members.
- **Safety Vests** \$2 for SHHA members
- **Tennis passes** – last chance! The courts close on December 31.
- **Contractor Evaluation binder** free to members.
We are in need of evaluations for Septic Tank contractors.
- **SHHA membership cards:** do not forget to go to the website to get a full listing of the companies that offer a discount!



Letter to the Editor

We would like to thank all the residents for their participation and awareness of Trick-or-Treaters on Halloween night. With a special thanks to the residents of the Quail Run area. There were not many kids out on the roads but there were so many residents who were kind enough to leave a light on. For the children who do live in the neighborhood, it made the night extra special; to "Trick-or-Treat" in your *own* neighborhood is something special. Thank you also to all the drivers for being on alert! Community is what makes Sandia Hts. such a desirable neighborhood to live in. We look forward to next year being a success!

Sylvia McAlinden, SH resident and SHHA Member



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&
Happy New
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