

May 2015



GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

(Refreshments starting at 6:30 pm)

Dennis Chavez Elementary School Cafeteria

Featured Speaker: AFD Deputy Chief Victor Padilla

**4 Door Prizes – \$25 Gift Cards for Target, Trader Joes
& Albertsons, plus Membership to HHNA for 1 Year**

**NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS NEEDED
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

**NEW SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS NEEDED
Help keep your neighborhood safe**

**WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
Why – how else can we contact you when we are on patrol?
We do not knock on residents' doors
Your information will not be shared**

**See Inside for By-laws changes voted on by Board of Directors
To be Ratified by Members
at the September 2015 Annual General Meeting**

News you can use to build a safer, friendlier neighborhood

**Heritage Hills Neighborhood
Association**

**Board of Directors
2014 – 2015**

**Peter D. Nicholls, President,
353-1996**

**Michael Rowan, Vice
President, 292-1690**

**Mary Spicher, Treasurer,
856-1732**

**Donna L. Nicholls, Secretary,
205-9177**

**Hugh Killin, Membership,
821-5060**

**Christy Burton
823-4474**

**John Lopez
991-3386**

**Carl Davidson, Zoning,
823-9237**

**Russ Spicher, Safety Patrol,
856-1732**

President's Corner:

This and the September Newsletters will detail important changes to our Bylaws. These have been approved by your Board of Directors at their April 21, 2015 meeting. Please take time to review them and be prepared to attend the September General Meeting to vote for them.

The most importance change will be from 3 general meetings (currently January, May and September) to 2 per year in March and September. The September meeting will still be the Annual General Meeting. This also means there will be 2 Newsletters to correspond to those meetings. These changes will improve our effectiveness and reduce the workload on the Board members we do have. Money will also be saved by eliminating the January Newsletter, especially as this is a limited distribution edition with no advertisements.

The second important change which only affects Board of Directors is that instead of having a rigid quorum of 5 Directors needing to be present out of 9 maximum on the Board it will change to a simple majority of currently

serving Board members. This will hopefully avoid having to cancel Director's meetings through lack of a quorum.

Membership renewals are well below what we have seen in previous years. While we do not have any major construction projects around us your Board of Directors is very active with city planning. We would welcome anyone who is willing to give a couple of hours once a month and help out with our efforts in the Newsletter and other activities. The September edition of the Newsletter will have the Membership Form – so please consider renewing or even starting your membership at that time.

As your representative on the District 4 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations I get the chance to interact with representatives of other neighborhood associations in council district 4 to discuss problems affecting our neighborhoods and seek solutions to them. With the presence of our City Councilor, Brad Winter, we have a direct voice to city government

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and city departments.

This year I am serving my second year as the Chair of the city's Environmental Planning Commission – very rewarding and enjoyable. Councilor Winter and I have had discussions with City Planning to improve our effectiveness on the Planning Commission and within the Planning Department. These efforts are ongoing with the primary aim of improving relations between the public through their neighborhood organizations and district coalitions and City Planning to make the process easier to work with.

Our crime stats remain low – this is thanks to your vigilance and letting your neighbors know of issues via Nextdoor. However, our Safety Patrol is very effective in letting the bad guys know they are under surveillance even with the dedicated few that take their valuable quality time to keep others safe. Yes, we need more volunteers to increase our number of patrols and keep you safe. Unfortunately, it is always someone else who is expected to step up, but so rarely is it you.

We do want to thank our loyal advertisers for their continued support and helping to defray the costs of the newsletter.

APD Crime Prevention: *by Steve Sink of APD Crime Prevention in the April/May 2015 Edition of Neighborhood News.*

Door-To-Door Solicitation

Illegal or unauthorized door-to-door solicitation presents a possible unsafe situation in the residential setting. Individuals who represent themselves as a legitimate business are often times conducting fraudulent or potentially criminal activity. This type of enterprise is less prevalent today so individual citizens should consider any unexpected knock at the door to be potentially suspicious. The following are suggestions about how to create and maintain a safe and secure residential environment and how to handle the unwanted or unauthorized solicitor.

- The average citizen can define and describe normal behavior and activity in their immediate area or block. Citizens should apply this knowledge to persons walking the neighborhood. Strangers or those people that do not belong should be noticed and observed for suspicious activity. If a person's behavior is deemed to be abnormal or suspicious, the citizen should call the non-emergency number **242-COPS**. If someone witnesses a crime in progress, dial **911**.
- If the resident receives any knock at the door they should ALWAYS observe the area through a window or eye-viewer prior to opening the door – even if they are expecting a visitor. If an unfamiliar person is observed outside the residence, the occupant should be very cautious about opening the door. If there is a security screen door with a deadbolt lock in place and the citizen feels comfortable with opening the door they should not engage the individual; rather politely ask them to leave. In the absence of a security screen door, they should notify the visitor they are unwelcome and ask them to leave the premises via the locked door and should never allow entry for any reason. Once the person is asked to leave the resident should observe them leaving and be prepared to report suspicious activity to the police.

- It is important to note that a knock at the door should not go unanswered in some manner – whether through the security screen door or the main door. Criminals posing as a legitimate solicitor are looking for an empty house to eventually commit residential burglary. If the criminal breaks into an expected empty residence and finds an occupant the probability of a violent encounter is high.
- Home Invasions can be the result of a door-to-door solicitor. The criminal knocks on the door and through a variety of techniques persuades the resident to open the door. Once the door is open other individuals appear from obscured locations and force their way into the residence. If someone is at the door claiming to require assistance or some type of help, especially late at night NEVER OPEN THE DOOR – call **911**.
- Citizens who have experienced an illegal solicitor or suspicious person should alert other neighbors in the immediate area.
- It is recommended that no one engage or enter into a discussion about the purchase of items or services from anyone who initiates contact with them. If items or services are needed, citizens should pursue the purchase through established businesses. All frauds and scams originate from contact initiated by someone else.
- How to verify a solicitor's legitimacy – All legitimate businesses in the City of Albuquerque must have a permit to operate, this includes the door-to-door solicitor per City Ordinance 13-3-1-1. The Ordinance requires the individual to have on their person a permit that can be produced on request, which includes photo identification. Any solicitor that claims not to have one or has left it in another location should be considered illegitimate. If you desire the right of privacy posting a No Trespassing or No Soliciting sign on your premises must be observed by the solicitor. Solicitation is permitted only between the hours of 9 a.m. and sunset.

APD Crime Prevention Unit – 505-244-6644.

Councilor's Corner –Vice President, Brad Winter:

This is our inaugural edition of the bi-monthly Councilor's Corner update. I encourage you to include this in your neighborhood association mailer, pamphlet, or on-line webpage. The Councilor's corner is about the important work we are doing within district 4. (Please see the district's boundaries using the map on the council's website).

Our Department of Municipal Development (DMD) which oversees streets and infrastructure has been quite active within district 4. We recently installed traffic lights at Barstow and Carmel. This will help alleviate the congestion within this intersection. In another effort to increase safety in

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Where Ethics Count

our community DMD will install speed signs on Jefferson. In mid-March the speed signs will be placed both North and South between Osuna and Paseo Del Norte. In the meantime, we are working with the Valley Area Command to have increased patrols by the Albuquerque Police Department (A.P.D) throughout the Jefferson corridor. We are also working to improve pedestrian safety, walkability and beautification along Wyoming. Thanks to the help of our Parks and Recreation department you will soon see landscaped medians on Wyoming from Carmel to Oakland this will not only enhance the aesthetics of this area but will also help to deter mid-block pedestrian crossings. Please, for your safety, use the designated cross walks! Also occurring on Wyoming between Alameda and Modesto we will be installing curb, gutter, sidewalk and a wheel-chair accessible ramp.

The City Council recently passed the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) which adopts a new set of policy guidelines and treatments for traffic calming in the City of Albuquerque. I voted to remove an Average Daily Traffic threshold for speed humps in response to concerns that it was too high. The Council also voted to add an amendment requiring DMD to report back on the effectiveness of the criteria and availability of staff and funding for implementation of successful neighborhood requests in two years.

It is also my top priority to install a much-needed natatorium at the North Domingo Baca Park. Our 2015 General Obligation Bonds designates \$1 million for design and analysis for an indoor, Olympic-size pool for general public consumption and to be used as a world-class competitive swim location. This would be the first in the Northeast Heights! A project of this nature costs between \$10-15 million and could take several years to gather the funds, however, I am committed to getting this project moving!

Yours in Service,
Brad Winter

Proudly serving District 4, Albuquerque's Northeast Heights since 1999

Glass recycling:

As you are aware, glass cannot be currently recycled in you blue city bins. Behind the Smiths at Wyoming and Carmel there is a large dumpster for glass only, and a couple of regular smaller recycle dumpsters for the same recyclables that you can put in your blue bin - these will accommodate larger items that either will not fit into you bin or take up too much space in it.

Should you need even more glass and regular recycling options, there are the same options available at the northwest corner of the parking lot at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center.

Jennifer K. Lamont, DDS, PC

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Parking of vehicles: We are seeing increasing numbers of vehicles parked on the street that cover several houses. Please be considerate of your neighbors. If you are having an event at your house and there will be this type of issue let your neighbors know in advance.

If you have multiple vehicles in your front yard and they cover the unimproved part of the yard, the city requires that you improve that part of the yard per Section 14-16-3-1 (A), (24) (c) and (f):

“Vehicle parking and maneuvering areas in the front yard setback area shall be either a dust free surface consisting of concrete, cement, brick, or sealed aggregate pavement; or three inches of crushed rock or crusher fines over a four inch compacted subgrade.”

“Parking on any portion of a front yard setback area, other than the improved parking and maneuvering areas, is prohibited.”

Code Enforcement can and will cite the property owner. If you are a renter the rules apply to you. If in any doubt, contact city planning. Just because you have a single layer of stones in your front yard does not bring you into compliance.

Also be aware of **vehicles obstructing the sidewalk**. This is a traffic violation and APD has towed vehicles within Heritage Hills that persist in doing this. Even the first offence may elicit a red violation sticker on the driver’s side window. I am reliably informed that these are almost impossible to remove.



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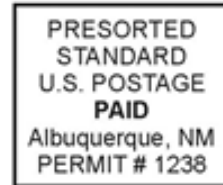
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Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association
PO Box 93608
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From Michael Rowan - Heritage Hills NA Vice President:

Did you know that the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County governments are working on a new zoning plan? This comprehensive update is being conducted to simply doing business in our region for businesses. At the same time we benefit from the La Cueva Sector Plan that has brought some of the most residential friendly policies that are unique to our area, something I've always thought made our part of town a little nicer by limiting commercial signage and lighting to stricter standards than what is permitted in other parts of town. I believe this is a great opportunity for our city and agree with the City's desire to encourage citizen participation in developing the new comprehensive plan.

I encourage everyone to visit the project's website and attend the public sessions throughout May and let your opinion be known. The project site is at <http://www.abc-zone.com/>

The next public event is May 20.

County wide Focus Workshop
Los Griegos Health and Social Services Center
1231 Candelaria Road NW
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.