



Heritage Hills Newsletter

March 2018

News you can use to build a safer, friendlier neighborhood

Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

2017 – 2018

John C. Woods, President, 550-0899

Mary Spicher, Treasurer, 856-1732

Christy Burton, Secretary, 823-4474

Homer Gonzales, Well-being Coordinator, 235-0215

Russ Spicher, Safety Patrol, 856-1732

GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm

(Refreshments starting at 6:45 pm)

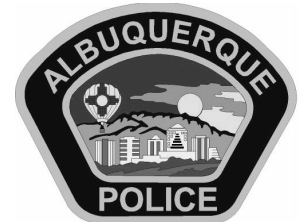
Dennis Chavez Elementary Room 7/8

We have two speakers lined up to give us important information:

Sergeant Dain Symes with APD's Police And Citizens Together (P.A.C.T.) - sharing how we can best partner with police in helping protect our neighborhood.

Mark Chavez with the Albuquerque Parks and Recreation

Department - talking with us about Heritage Hills Park and how the city has recently



approved a plan for local volunteers to close the gate to the park at dusk and reopen it at dawn to cut down on the illegal activity and noise that occurs there at night.

Message from Our Association President

The board is excited about what's going on in our neighborhood, and we want to share that with you! I have found that with our busy lives, often lived independently of each other and bombarded by negative news, it's easy to become discouraged or even angry. So we want to share some details to encourage all our neighbors and hopefully generate interest in coming to the general meeting on March 22nd and/or getting involved in some other way to help make our community stronger.

We have some new members, and we want to thank you all for joining HHNA! Thanks to all our neighbors who have joined the association - many of whom have been long term members. Your \$15/year dues are helping us do a variety of things. One of those is a yearly tradition we have of providing a nice gift to our local police and firefighters at Christmas. There are 3 shifts at both APD and AFD, so we purchased 6 nice gift boxes of holiday goodies and delivered them to the local stations in December. They were very thankful for our appreciation and thoughtfulness.

As noted above, our **HHNA General Meeting will be on Thursday, March 22nd** at Dennis Chavez Elementary School at 7PM. We hope to see many of you there. If there is one issue that we've continued to hear about as a concern for many of you - it is crime in general and specifically the issues in the Heritage Hills Park. So we're thankful to have the opportunity to meet with Sgt. Symes from APD and Mark Chavez from Parks and Rec. They will share some info with us, and then there will be a time for questions and answers. It should be a good discussion.

We've been in communication with Albuquerque Parks & Recreation since last July regarding our Heritage Hills Park. The city has recently approved an official Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) that will enable a local group of neighborhood volunteers to close the gate to the park at dusk each evening and then reopen it by dawn in the morning. This should significantly cut down on the noise and illegal activity that has been going on in the park at night on a regular basis. It will require us following some guidelines for everyone's safety

(such as never confronting people or vehicles that might still be in the park after dusk) and enjoyment (ensuring the gate is opened back up before dawn every morning). We'll be discussing some of those specifics, and we need a group of volunteers to help with opening and closing the gate - which was just repaired by Parks and Rec so that it's easier to move. The board and the city has heard peoples' concerns, and there is a plan in place now to directly address this issue.

Speaking of the board, I want to thank Justin Decker for serving on the HHNA Board from the fall of 2016 through February of this year. His service has been very much appreciated! We have a strong but small board of volunteers, and we could definitely use more help. The board meets every 2 months - sometimes in person and sometimes via a phone conference. ♦ Would you be willing to help contribute to our neighborhood association in this capacity? ♦

One of the primary goals of our neighborhood association, and why we need additional volunteers, is to focus on strengthening the micro-communities within our larger one. Our strategy for this is to develop a group of block coordinators who



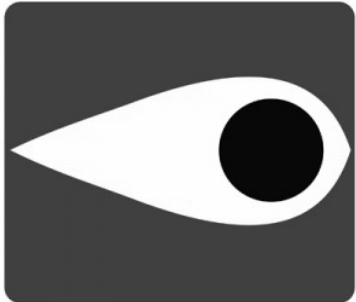
can share ideas and resources to help build relationships among neighbors that live on the same street. Building a strong neighborhood can seem like a daunting task, but we can all contribute to strengthening the relationships with our direct neighbors. Homer Gonzales is our Well-Being Coordinator, and he'll be sharing about this again at the general meeting. If you or someone on your street is interested in helping in this capacity, please let us know.

I want to leave you with a few thought-provoking quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. My family watched the amazing movie "Selma" together on his birthday in February, and we were all inspired and thankful for the many people who dedicated their lives to the Civil Rights movement in our nation. Many of the principles they lived by are still very applicable today as we face violence both locally and abroad.

Thanks and God bless,
John Woods - HHNA President
505-550-0899
info@hhna.us

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek,
but a means by which we arrive at that goal."
"The nonviolent approach does not immediately
change the heart of the oppressor.
It first does something to the hearts and souls of
those committed to it.
It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources
of strength and courage
they did not know they had."
"This is the unusual thing about nonviolence --
nobody is defeated,
everybody shares in the victory."
"Courage faces fear and thereby masters it."
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

How You Can Help Your Neighborhood

Greetings from your HHNA Neighborhood Well-being Coordinator. This is to challenge you, my neighbors, to ask not what your neighborhood can do for you, but what can you do to help our neighborhood not only be a safer place, but also be a place where we enjoy each others' company and friendship?

We are fortunate to live in a relatively safe neighborhood, and therefore we do not appeal to you to consider becoming a Neighborhood Watch Captain/Well-Being Coordinator simply on the basis of keeping our blocks and neighborhood

safe from crime. However, if we change the priority or appeal for more volunteers to help our neighborhood be a more enjoyable place to live, and at the same time help it be safe from crime, then we appeal to your heart to pursue the common good of your nearby neighbors and our entire Heritage Hills.

One of the ways to be involved is to consider hosting the next National Night Out event on your block on Tuesday, August 7, 2018. This event can provide a starting point to find those neighbors who would enjoy the opportunity to get better acquainted with their next door neighbors, but are shy and reserved about inviting neighbors to their homes for coffee. The gathering usually takes place at a neighbor/sponsor's driveway, and neighbors on the street are invited to drop by for as long or as briefly as they choose.

If you are interested in helping to promote the common good and well-being of the neighbors on your block, then please consider attending our next Neighborhood Association meeting at Dennis Chavez Elementary School on Thursday, March 22, 2018.

You can let me know of your interest to help as a Block Well-Being Coordinator after the meeting or you may call or email me at:

Homer Gonzales - HHNA Well-Being Coordinator
505-235-0215
Hgabq1985@gmail.com
Thank you!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Plan early! Please mark your calendar for this important neighborhood event.

From 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of August, residents in neighborhoods throughout Albuquerque and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout Albuquerque will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and anti-crime rallies.

HHNA leadership does not organize or fund events for NNO, but we encourage each street to find a way to participate by holding a get together. It's a great way to meet new neighbors and renew acquaintances with old ones. Please call 311 to register your event with the City so you can have representatives from the police department visit!



Heritage Hills Community Garage Sale

Saturday, April 21st, 2018 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Start getting ready for our 3rd annual Neighborhood Garage Sale day. April 21st is the date to save! Our community garage sale is a time when

each home in Heritage Hills has the option to run their own garage or yard sale - or combine efforts with neighbors on your street that morning - and we can all benefit from joint advertising. Each home can begin or end the sale when they want. We had 15-20 homes in the neighborhood participate together in this day last year. Details will continue to be announced on Nextdoor. *Questions, or if you are willing to set up a donation truck to stop at homes with sales that afternoon to pick up remaining items, please contact christy_burton@hotmail.com.*

Real Estate Corner

John C. Woods
ASSOCIATE BROKER

p. 505.550.0899
f. 505.792.6840

jcwoods1@gmail.com
www.ps.properties
www.gopsproperties.com
740 San Mateo Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

For the 6 month period ending February 28th, there were 17 closings recorded in our local MLS with an average sale price of \$252,232 or \$141.98 per sq. ft. They were on the market an average of 36 days with a range from 0 up to 198 days. The price range for sold homes was from \$182,500 to \$337,900 and \$108.96/SqFt up to \$179.40 per sq. ft.

That's a large range, and as always, size and condition and other features determine the actual market price for any given home.

There are currently 7 homes Pending (under contract) with an average list price of \$250,671 or \$141.87 per sq. ft, and there are 6 homes Actively for sale with an average list price of \$249,117 or

\$141.43 per sq. ft. So we have a few new neighbors and will be getting a few more in the next couple months! While still historically low, interest rates are the highest they've been in 4 years. Contact a local Realtor if you'd like a market analysis done on your home or are considering refinancing and need a good lender referral.

Neighborhood Business Listing on our Website

We want to try something new in Heritage Hills, which is to use our website hhna.us to promote businesses owned by our neighbors or where our neighbors are employed. It's always nice to be able to use each others' services, or shop at stores owned by someone who know and trust. We thought we would start with members of our association (those who have paid the \$15 dues) and go from there. Do you have a business that you would like to let us know about? Please send christy_burton@hotmail.com your information so we can get this page up and going. We will announce the page via Nextdoor and also via an email to our membership. We hope this will prove to be a valuable benefit to our neighborhood and an incentive to become an association member!

Also contact Christy, if you wish to advertise your business in our next mailed newsletter.

ABQ Moms Blog Offers Resources for Families and Kids

Have you had a chance to check out the ABQMomsBlog yet? This community-oriented website features articles written by local parents, ideas for fun with the family, community involvement ideas, suggestions for kids during Spring Break, events going on throughout the city, and it's not just for moms! If you know of a parent or family who is looking for something new to do, see, or experience, this innovative blog may be just the ticket. Take a look at: <https://albuquerque.citymomsblog.com/>

Heritage Hills Neighborhood Patrol

The Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) Patrol consists of residents working to provide extra eyes and ears for APD to help reduce crime in our neighborhood and to report public safety concerns to the appropriate authorities. In other words, Neighbors looking after Neighbors.

The number of residents participating in the patrol have dropped such that we are unable to conduct nighttime patrols. Remaining patrol members are doing some infrequent daytime patrols. We strongly feel this is not enough and would be grateful for your participation. To make the Patrol a meaningful crime prevention tool we need your help. Contact Russ Spicher, 280-2191 or charlesruss14@msn.com.

Thank you to our hard working patrol members!

What's Been Happening Lately on Nextdoor™

<https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/heritagehillsalbuquerque--albuquerque--nm/>

Our membership on Nextdoor Heritage Hills is growing! We have 606 neighbors online, representing 481 homes out of our 1,018 homes. Nextdoor is an excellent website for giving and receiving recommendations for various home services. Some of the most popular services that are recommended are dentists, roofers, hair salons, and auto mechanics. You can even see which businesses have been recommended the most in our neighborhood!

Recently, a group of seniors has formed to walk around the Albuquerque Academy; we have received advice about what to do when we see honey bee swarms nearby; we shared suggestions with a neighbor in conflict with another neighbor due to excessive spray painting; and many, many lost pets have been reunited with their owners! There are multiple reasons to join if you haven't already. It's free to participate, with limited advertisements, and you can select which emails you receive or if you just want to check the website from time to time.

Nextdoor is also the best way for our association to spread news to all our neighbors, since we only mail newsletters twice a year and upkeeping an email list is too big of a task for our small board. Use the link above or Google Nextdoor and sign up using your address – it will automatically assign you to the correct neighborhood. Hope to see you online!

An advertisement for LipSense by SeneGence. On the left is a portrait of Christy Burton, an Independent Distributor. To her right is her contact information: (505) 307-4058, christy_burton@hotmail.com, and SeneGence.com/YourBestLips. The background features a variety of LipSense products, including lipsticks and lip glosses. A QR code is in the top right corner. Text on the right says "LipSense lasts up to 18 hours with one application!". At the bottom, it says "Waterproof, Kiss-Proof, Smudge-Proof, Gluten Free, Lead Free, Wax Free" and "LipSense by SeneGence".

Read to Me Book Drive Benefits Community Kids

The Read to Me Book Drive is an annual citywide event that collects new and gently used book donations from February through the end of March. The books are donated to family and community centers, and to children whose families may not have resources to buy books. Some of the children's books are also put on city buses, as an added incentive for families who utilize public transportation.

Childhood literacy is a key element in educational success, and the Read to Me book drive helps build that foundation for developing literacy skills, both in children and in some adults who learned to read later in life. A local man who rode the city bus to and from his job each day taught himself to read by perusing the children's books available during his bus commute - a wonderful example that literacy can be gained at any age.



So if your neighborhood association wants to organize a neighborhood book donation, or if you've been wanting to clean out those bookshelves in your kid's room, now is the time. Delivery or pick-up of book donations can be coordinated by e-mailing: donner6@comcast.net. You can also donate to the program online at: www.aps.edu/education-foundation/giving

*** Our Association is not organizing a book drive, but consider working with the neighbors on your street to gather as many books as you can before the end of the month! ***



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**PLEASE READ
INSIDE FOR:**

- March Neighborhood Meeting
- Message from Association President
- Spring Garage Sale
- Book Drive
- National Night Out 2018
- HH Business Listing
- What's New on Nextdoor.com

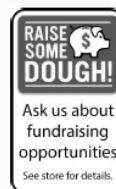


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Store Hours: Sunday-Thursday 10:00am-8:00pm, Friday-Saturday 10:00am-9:00pm

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