

January 2014



GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

(Refreshments starting at 6:30 pm)

Dennis Chavez Elementary School Cafeteria

Speakers:

**APD Volunteer Chaplain Ann Montoya
& Lt. Tim Lopez (NE Command)**

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

NEW SAFETY PATROL MEMBERS NEEDED

Help keep your neighborhood safe

WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Your information will not be shared

REMINDER – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WAS DUE OCTOBER
Membership does not mean we will push you to volunteer for helping
our various efforts on Heritage Hills' behalf
OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2014

We are still well down from our previous membership of
over 200! This is equivalent to \$750 = a full newsletter printing
and mailing cost

News you can use to build a safer, friendlier neighborhood

President's Corner:

**Heritage Hills Neighborhood
Association
Board of Directors
2013 – 2014**
**Peter D. Nicholls, President,
353-1996**
**Robert J Preissler, Vice
President, 934-7554**
**Mary Spicher, Treasurer,
856-1732**
**Donna L. Nicholls, Secretary,
205-9177**
**Hugh Killin, Membership,
821-5060**
**Carl Davidson, Zoning,
823-9237**
Louise Holmquist, 828-9641
**Russ Spicher, Safety Patrol,
856-1732**

By the time you read this the Holiday Season will be over. I hope that you and yours had a wonderful time. Once again many of our neighbors put on some wonderful light shows – great job!

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 have supported 2 property owners within our boundary before the Zoning Hearing Examiner and both their applications were successful. As your representative on the District 4 Coalition of Neighborhood Association I have worked on a case before the Zoning Board of Appeals concerning community residential homes within District 4. This concerned a request for a variance of 665 feet to the 1500 foot required separation between community residential program homes. The request was denied by the Zoning Hearing Examiner and was appealed. I spoke against the appeal and we were upheld and the appeal denied. As of this writing we are waiting to

see if it is appealed further to City Council. Any reduction to this separation would set a city-wide precedent which we will strongly oppose.

As a member of the city's Environmental Planning Commission representing District 4 I work diligently to ensure the quality and appropriateness of major building projects throughout the city as well as within District 4.

Carl Davidson is our Zoning expert on your Board of Directors. He is extremely knowledgeable and has been instrumental in preparing for these public hearings. We are most fortunate to have him and his expertise. He has and continues to be a great mentor and it is thanks to him and also to Hugh Killin that I have had the success with planning that I have enjoyed.

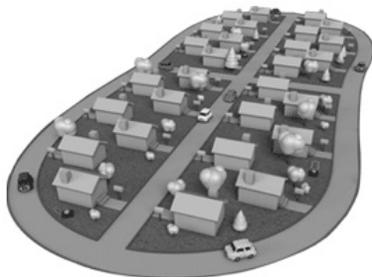
The stone work on Ventura is now complete and again thanks to Councilor winter for using his set-aside money to fund this. By now I expect we have all made adjustments to our daily commutes as the Paseo / I25 project gets up to full steam. It will be about 18 months more of pain, but the end result will be well worth it. The final plans that I saw will be a big improvement for everyone.

We are happy to welcome Commander Dodi Comacho as our new NE Commander. Commander Bonnie Montoya retired a couple of months ago. Our focus for the General Meeting is to get two perspectives on the work of our officers in APD. Lt. Time Lopez represents the front line in protecting us, often in difficult and dangerous situations. Chaplain Montoya represents the other side of the force – those who are there to offer emotional help to officers facing tough situations that have arisen from their work. Please come out and support them as they, often unseen, support us.

Peter D. Nicholls
President, HHNA

Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association is now ONLINE

Heritage Hills is happy to announce that we have two online resources now available! Our public website is available at www.hhna.us which includes an archive of newsletters, resources relevant to our neighborhood and information about happenings around us.

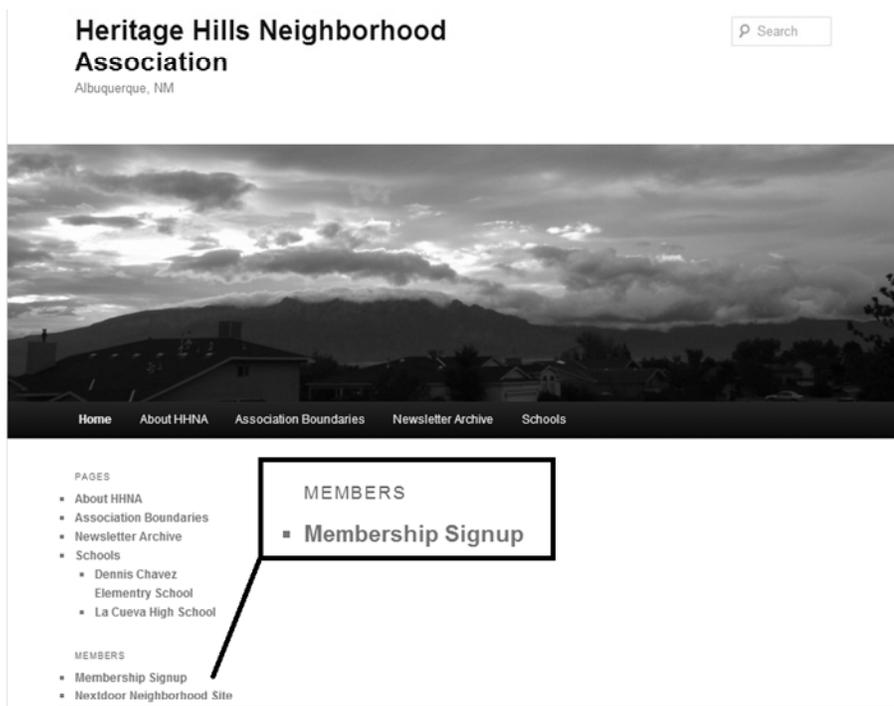


A private online community for verified members of Heritage Hills is also available now with dozens of your neighbors already participating on Nextdoor. This website is located at heritagehillsalbuquerque.nextdoor.com – only persons living in Heritage Hills Neighborhood are permitted to create an account. At Nextdoor you can review and share information with your neighbors including events, recommendations, crime alerts and more! Go to the website or send us an e-mail for an invitation to speed up the signup process at hhna@comcast.net.

Want to keep in touch?

We do! Please use our web form at www.hhna.us under Membership Signup to be sure we have up to date contact information! Security Patrol will use this information for urgent notifications and when we can e-mail your newsletter instead of mailing it, you are saving both paper and postage!

Dues (\$15 annually) are still paid by mail to the HHNA PO Box 93608, Albuquerque NM 87199.



We want to hear from you! Let us know how you would like to connect with us online, take a 5 question survey about HHNA's online efforts at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SBRHVSC>

Michael Rowan,
HHNA Director.

Holiday Giving at Any Time of the Year, by Christy Burton, Board of Directors

I hope everyone in our neighborhood had a great Christmas, or enjoyed whichever winter holiday or holidays you celebrate! One way that HHNA spreads holiday cheer is by using a small portion of our funds to give gifts to the community. We purchased 7 gift baskets for police officers and firefighters serving at the John Carrillo Memorial Substation on Osuna and Fire Station 20 on Corona. We also used purchased \$50 in gift cards at Kohl's to assist Dennis Chavez Elementary School PTA with Christmas gifts for families in need. These gifts bring smiles to parents, children and those serving our immediate area, and we hope that it also makes you smile to know that some of your association dues go to these good causes.

With a little bit of digging, you can find ways to share your own resources at the holidays, and throughout the year. You probably already have a list of charities and worthy organizations to which you like to donate. But what if you are short on finances, yet maybe have some extra time on your hands that you would like to use to reach out to others? Are you thinking about ways that you and your family can volunteer in the community in 2014? Take a look at this link on the internet:

<http://www.cabq.gov/jobs/move/volunteer-opportunities>

There are over a dozen categories of needs within the city where you can give of your time. Click on each one - sometimes a certain category won't have needs listed depending on the time of year, but you'd be surprised where you can find opportunities. There are many, MANY ways to help listed at this website. I found all sorts of volunteer positions under the "Retired Senior Volunteer Program 55+" that are not limited to seniors. Take a look; I'm sure you will find something to suit your time and talents!

Warmest holiday wishes, again, from your Board of Directors, and best of luck finding some small way that you can make a difference in our great city of Albuquerque. We appreciate your involvement in our association, and especially appreciate those that support the neighborhood association by sending in your yearly dues. Thank you!

Recycle your Electronic Waste and Support for La Cueva High School PTA!

LCCHS PTA receives cash for recycling your used ink or toner cartridge, cell phone, iPod or other small electronics with Funding Factory. A donation bin is located in the Faculty Lounge, or you can contact the LCCHS PTA Community Liaison for special arrangements or business sponsors - Michael Rowan (rowanm@gmail.com).



Funding Factory also sponsors a business sponsor program, where your business/employer can help LCCHS without spending a cent. Collection boxes and free prepaid shipping labels can be sent directly to any business, organization or other facility. Business supporters simply need to load boxes, apply the free prepaid shipping label and leave them for the next UPS pickup. If you own or work for a company that may be interested in supporting us, please visit <http://www.fundingfactory.com/goals/?id=lchspta> or for details.

What are the things that make a Heritage Hills home valuable?

I am not a realtor, but like many of you, my home is 30 plus years old with a nice sized backyard. After many trips to our neighborhood home improvement stores for home repairs or other projects, there are many things worth considering when interested in maintaining or increasing the value of your home.

It is easy to understand that size, condition, affordability and quality of the schools, are factors in making one property more valuable than another. The well-known concept of location, location, location is one obvious advantage we have here in the Heritage Hill neighborhood as we are near good schools and our homes have held up over the years as newer homes have surrounded us. Many friends and neighbors have heard me say, location was the draw for my family to the Heritage Hills neighborhood.

The Heritage Hills neighborhood is also affordable compared to our neighboring areas. Owners have taken pride in their keeping up with their homes over the years. Shopping along the Paseo del Norte corridor and Academy areas offer most of our consumer needs, churches, Cherry Hills library and the Heritage Hills Park are also social factors that are important. Public transportation like the Rail Runner in my case was also a consideration for me.

There are two kinds of home value: The value of the home to what is it worth and the value of homeownership that meets your needs and desires. Understand that the value to you may be different to someone else, but your value or the approximate worth, is the location followed closely by the size, condition, upgrades, age, lot size, etc.

As the average size of homes has increased considerably from when our homes were built, many homes have seen additions. According to the American Society of Appraisers, the best way to improve the value of your home is by adding square footage. The advantage of a nice back yard is this is where many have expanded their home footprint.

The number of square feet matters most to the appraiser. The same goes for the garage: the bigger, the better. While most of us have or had space for two cars, buyers and appraisers see dollar signs when they see the extra storage. To ensure that an addition makes financial sense, first consult with a local appraiser to get a cost-benefit analysis and be sure to understand our local zoning code. So if you feel like making improvements to your home, what are the things to consider?

You'll get a lot of bang for your buck by doing simple projects, like landscaping the front yard or replacing old faucets and dirty carpet. Installing new fixtures and painting the walls a shade of white, beige or gray are your best bets, according to the Appraisal Institute. It's not necessary to go overboard with major updates, especially in a soft real estate market. And make sure you get permits for new projects, as illegal improvements might hurt the appraised value.

The number of bedrooms and bathrooms in a home attribute to a home's value. However, it is recommended to only add a bedroom or bathroom if it makes sense for your budget, current needs and your neighborhood. There's an old adage: Don't overdo your property for the neighborhood, because you won't get your investment back at resale.

With the number of cooking shows and rock star chefs everywhere, the kitchen has become the creative center point of the home, but here again, be careful with renovations. If no one else on the block has granite countertops and custom cabinetry, you should consider if you really need them. Conversely, if you're the only owner with old laminate counters, consider updating options. Unless cooking is your passion or you are on the verge of culinary stardom, make your home as nice as neighboring homes with the improvements that make your life enjoyable.

The cost of water, incentives and xeriscaping have moved many in Albuquerque to change out their lawns for rock gardens and drought tolerate plants. These improvements draw buyers and also provide beauty to those who pass by.

My family has been happy and felt safe being a part of Heritage Hills. I still remember the first time seeing the weekend patrol car driving by and wondering how this surprising benefit was a part of our new home purchase. Little did we know, it was a volunteer effort on the part of a few good Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) members. It was only a short time later that we attended our first HHNA general membership meeting 6 years ago and have been members of HHNA since.

As you leave or return to your home, think about the value of our neighborhood and I hope your decisions for maintaining your home take into account keeping Heritage Hills a great place to live. Remember the value of nearby homes also improves the value of all of our homes. We are always hopeful that those seeking a home in our neighborhood see what it is that makes Heritage Hills a great place to live and we know they'll be happy living here.

Robert Preissler,
HHNA Vice President.

HERITAGE HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association (HHNA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to making our neighborhood a safer and better place to live. Membership is open to residents and/or property owners and businesses within the boundaries of the Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association area, which is bounded on the West by Barstow, bounded on the North by Paseo del Norte, bounded on the East by Ventura, and bounded on the South by Heritage Hills Park and the adjoining cul-de-sac streets. Your membership dues help to support critical neighborhood activities

Date: _____ Membership: \$15.00 per Year (October-September)
Mail To:
Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association
PO Box 93608
Albuquerque, NM 87199-3608

Last Name(s): _____ **First Name(s):** _____

Address: _____ **Telephone Number: (H)(C)** _____

E-mail: _____

Without a telephone number our Neighborhood Patrol will not be able to contact you in an emergency.

All information will be used for contact by HHNA only.

Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association
PO Box 93608
Albuquerque, NM 871993608

