

January 2015



**GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**

**Thursday, January 29, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**

**(Refreshments starting at 6:30 pm)**

**Dennis Chavez Elementary School Cafeteria**

**Speaker: District 4 City Councilor Brad Winter**

**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**

**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**

**REMINDER – MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WAS DUE OCTOBER**

**Membership does not mean we will push you to volunteer to**

**help in our various efforts on Heritage Hills' behalf**

**We are well down from our previous membership high of over 200!**

**Newsletter costs alone are \$1750 per year!**

*News you can use to build a safer, friendlier neighborhood*

## President's Corner:

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!

**Heritage Hills Neighborhood  
Association**

**Board of Directors**

**2013 – 2014**

**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**

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.

As your representative on the District 4 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations I get the chance to interact with representatives of other neighborhood association 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 and city departments.

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.

This past year I served as the Chair – very rewarding and enjoyable. Councilor Winter was kind enough to support my application to serve for a further 3 –year term and it was ratified by Council in December.

Our crime stats remain low – this is thanks to your vigilance and letting your neighbors know of issues via Nextdoor.

Peter D. Nicholls. President, HHNA

**Christy Burton, HHNA Director, obtained the following article which was written by Bob Roehm, a resident of Heritage Hills.** He brought this issue to the neighborhood's attention at our Annual General Meeting in September. We thank him for sharing this information and hope that it may be useful, or at least interesting, to others.

### **Raccoons are living among us**

I live in the vicinity of Rough Rider Road and Executive Drive. Sunday morning, August 10, 2014 at approximately 6:30 AM, I spotted a large raccoon on top of my back wall. After examining the back yard later that morning, it appeared that he was after the corn which I leave for our box turtles and the unshelled peanuts which I leave for the blue jays. Later, I realized that he was also attracted to my compost bin. It had been disturbed, and previously I thought a cat was doing the digging. The following day, Monday, I called 311 asking for help dealing with a wild raccoon. I was eventually directed to the Albuquerque office of New Mexico Fish and Game (222-4700 then press 0). I told them of my sighting and they called their contractor (Critter Control) to bring out a live trap and bait (moon pies or marshmallows). That first night, I caught two raccoons. I called Critter Control to notify them that we had caught two raccoons and they sent a technician who took the trap with the raccoons and replaced it with an empty. The second night, I caught raccoon number three and the following morning observed raccoon number four outside the trap. I again notified Critter Control of the catch and they again swapped traps leaving an empty. I was told that the raccoons were being taken out to Placitas where they would be released into the wild. I tried unsuccessfully the next week to catch raccoon number four. Eventually, Critter Control collected the empty trap as they needed it

elsewhere. Up to this point, there was no charge to me. Early one Friday evening, my wife found that a raccoon had killed one of her three box turtles. Not wanting to wait until Monday to call Critter Control for a trap, I went to Tractor Supply and purchased a trap for approximately \$40.00. I eventually caught the fourth raccoon in my trap. I called Critter Control on a Saturday morning to request that they release the animal in the country and return my trap. Because I did not go through New Mexico Fish and Game and used my trap, I was charged \$80.25 to have them remove the raccoon.

In early December, it appears that there is yet another raccoon in the neighborhood as I have seen evidence of digging in the compost pile.

Lessons learned: All the Critter Control technicians told me that raccoons are very prevalent throughout the city, have long sharp claws and can be very mean when cornered. A house on the corner of Rough Rider Road and Republic Drive had been vacant for well over 10 years. As it was being rehabilitated, a neighbor saw three raccoons entering that property early one Sunday morning. I believe those are the raccoons that I later trapped. I can no longer leave turtle or bird food out overnight. I need to secure my compost bin with a heavy gauge steel screen lid. Earlier in the year, my wife noticed some of her flowers were matted down as if a large cat had lain on them. We now believe it was caused by a raccoon, not a cat. A neighbor's two Chihuahua dogs received severe puncture wounds about 3 AM one morning. One of the dogs died as a result. It is possible they cornered a raccoon.

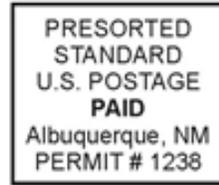
**APD Crime Prevention:** *by Steve Sink of APD Crime Prevention in the December/January Edition of Neighborhood News*

### **Auto Theft:**

Auto theft is a problem for all Americans, but the citizens of New Mexico face a particular issue that affects our auto theft rate. Due to the fact that we are adjacent to an International Border we are always ranked high on the list for theft rates. Typically vehicles are stolen for one of four reasons. They are used to joy ride, sell for parts, commit a crime or driven across the border for resale. Auto burglary continues to be an issue as well. Many times auto burglary prevention can be as simple as removing targets from view and reducing opportunities by rolling up windows and locking doors. Observe the following tips to reduce the chance of auto theft and burglary:

- Always roll up windows, lock the doors and take the keys even if you will be away for a short time. Remove ALL items from your vehicle whenever possible, but at the very least remove from view – even items that might have the perception of value. Don't give a car thief a reason to break-in.
- If vehicles are parked outside always keep windows up and doors locked especially overnight. Some criminals walk up and down streets checking for open opportunities.
- Some auto burglars break-in to steal your identity – consider removing your registration and insurance paperwork from the glove box. Put them in your pocket with your driver's license. The law only requires the paperwork be in the vehicle when it's being operated.
- Never leave an unoccupied vehicle running including in front of your residence. Warming up your vehicle in the morning during cold weather months is an easy target for auto thieves. Also, don't leave it running with the doors locked; criminals will just break the window.
- Park your vehicle in a garage whenever possible or in an area with adequate lighting and good natural surveillance. You want your vehicle to be easily seen by you and your neighbors.

**Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association**  
**PO Box 93608**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87199-3608**



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## HERITAGE HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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### 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.***