



A Back Yard Visitor



SAN GABRIEL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

February 2006



Meet Our Councilwoman - Sally Mayer

(courtesy of cabq.gov website)

In addition to the many issues relating to her District, Councilor Mayer has been working on re-writing the City's Animal Ordinance. Her love of all animals is the motivating force behind her dedication to ensure that animals are well-cared for in the Albuquerque area. Councilor Mayer hopes that the new ordinance will be a model that other cities will follow.

Since first being elected to this office in the Fall 2001, Councilor Mayer has stressed accessibility and accountability in local government. She hosts monthly meetings for constituents in her district on a variety of topics that are of particular interest to them. These meetings are one of the ways the Councilor attempts to make government more accessible to her constituents. In an effort to increase government's accountability, Councilor Mayer has served on the Finance Committee and the Internal Audit Committee for the past three years.

Sally's Heart of the Heights meeting schedule for the next four months is as shown; topics have not yet been firmed up. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at the Sheraton Uptown at the corner of Menaul and Louisiana.

- March 22
- April 19
- May 24

Contact Sally at 766-3100, 292-3330 or email at Smayer@cabq.gov or sally.mayer@worldnet.att.net

Important Contact Information

City Government Website	www.cabq.gov
Emergencies - Police, Fire, Medical	911
Police Non-Emergency (242-COPS)	242-2677
Foothills Command	332-5240
Crime Stoppers (843-STOP)	843-7867
City Infoline	311

Board of Directors - Contact Information

President - Mark Webb
 299-6675 or mkwebb@swcp.com

Vice-president - Dan Jones
 299-1677 or abqdanj@swcp.com

Treasurer - Pat Maher
 401-7326 or patmahernm@msn.com

Secretary & Newsletter Editor - Carol Driscoll
 332-8038 or caroladriscoll@aol.com

Member At Large
 Open Position - how about YOU?

<http://www.swcp.com/sgana>

SGANA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and protect the interests of the neighborhood residents. We do this by providing a link to city government activities, maximizing property values, and helping make the neighborhood a safe and enjoyable place for all of us to live.

Common contributors to storm water pollution

When it rains, oil, antifreeze, detergents, pesticides and other pollutants get washed from driveways, backyards, parking lots, and streets into storm drains and then directly to the Rio Grande untreated! The following items specify everyday pollutants occurring at our homes, businesses, and construction sites.

- Pet waste left on the ground gets carried away by storm water, contributing harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses to our river. Please clean up after your pet.
- Vehicle fluids such as oil, gas, and antifreeze are a #1 surface water quality problems nationwide. Recycle used oil in a clean, sealed, plastic container. Call Environmental Health at 768-2600 for a list of collection sites that accept used oil or for answers to questions regarding proper disposal of other chemicals.
- SWEEP! Hosing off pavements washes pollutants into storm drains leading straight to the river. If water enters a public street or storm drain you are violating City Ordinance and could have a fee added to your water bill.
- Deliver old paint, pesticides, solvents and batteries to any of the available hazardous waste drop off facilities. Call 345-1650 for more information.
- Street litter such as styrofoam, plastic, and paper can be prevented from blowing into inlets by keeping trash bins covered and by not littering. Remember, Albuquerque can be very windy!
- Yard waste such as grass clippings, tree trimmings, and leaves can be composted and used for fertilizer around the yard. Call the Bernalillo County Extension Office at (505) 243-1386 for tips on composting.

Federal Communications Commission Do Not Call Registry

Want to reduce the number of unwanted phone calls to your home or cell phone? The FCC established a national Do-Not-Call Registry. Commercial telemarketers (fundraisers are exempt) may not call you if your number is on the registry.

Customers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the national Do-Not-Call registry website or by calling **1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236)**.

Free Day at the Albuquerque Museum

Did you know that the first Wednesday of the month admission to the Albuquerque Museum is free? Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. as usual. The address is 2000 Mountain Road NW. Call 243-7255 or email lvenzuela@cabq.gov for more information. Official website is <http://www.cabq.gov/museum>.

Reminder: it's the time of year for Annual dues. Revenues are used for beautification, cleanup, publicity, printing costs, the annual Ice Cream Social and refreshments at the meetings. Please send your check for \$10 made out to SGANA to Pat Maher at 10024 Hendrix Court NE.

This issue of the SGANA newsletter is sponsored by Pat Maher of Coldwell Banker.

Pat Maher at 401-7326 or pmaher@CBLegacyNM.com

Thank you, Pat, for your generosity and your helpful hints.

Insurance Change Possible Under Homeowners Act

Many metro Albuquerque homes purchased during the last two to five years have big gains in equity due to the current robust market conditions. If your home was purchased with a minimum down payment, the loan may have a required monthly mortgage insurance premium, perhaps for more than \$100 per month.

If you feel the equity in your home is now at least 20% of the value, it is worth calling your loan servicer. You may be eligible for deletion of Private Mortgage Insurance under the Homeowners Protection Act. Ask your loan servicer to send you the information of the procedure for petitioning the deletion of your Private Mortgage Insurance. Your loan servicer is the place where you currently send your house payment. Most monthly statements or coupon books have a customer service number. Call them and explain your inquiry. Some servicers require a minimum payment history of 24 months; others longer. You can also expect to pay for an appraisal.