

April, 2003

General Meeting:

April 9, 7PM

Mitchell

Elementary

www.swcp.com/sgana/

SGANA Newsletter Articles

Neighborhood Events p.2

Committee News p. 2-3

Signs on Poles p. 3

Comanche Medians p. 3

Membership Dues p. 3

Survey p. 4

REMINDER:
Please, for our children's safety, obey the posted speed limit. Also, to avoid vehicle vandalism, make an effort to park in your driveway, especially at night.



Message from SGANA President

Over the last several months, our nation has experienced the darker side of being the world's only superpower. War against a tyrant continues, a space shuttle was lost, the terrorist alert is elevated, and another rogue nation threatens yet another conflict. We may often feel like mere remote observers of these events as we reside isolated in the protective cocoons of our homes.

We are not all merely observers. Some here have been directly affected by recent world events. Regardless of our real or perceived position vis-à-vis these events, we must understand that, as citizens of this country, we not only have a stake in its decisions but we must bear the burdens that those decisions may impose.

Since we must bear those burdens, it seems sensible that we participate, to some extent, in the making of those decisions.

At the national level, direct participation, but for voting, is difficult for most but at the local and even neighborhood level, participation is a relatively simple matter.

As an example of what participatory citizenship can accomplish, note the construction that has begun on the Comanche Road medians. This project, though completed further west before the medians here, is actually pursuant to a proposal made by SGANA in 1994. These neighborhood improvements, both aesthetic and functional, were made possible by the hard work, perseverance and patience of a small group of your neighbors. Improvements of this kind increase not only your property values but also the desirability of the area.

If you would like to participate in the neighborhood association in any capacity, just contact one of the Directors.

For the sake of the neighborhood and for your own sake, become an active and concerned citizen of your country and your community.

Enclosed is a survey, initially created last year, to give us a measure of where our neighborhood is today and to give us an idea of what direction we should be heading in the future. Please complete it and return it as soon as you are able.

In conjunction with the survey is a request for dues. Totally voluntary, these dues help pay for this newsletter, ice cream for the Ice Cream Social, signs and advertising for the neighborhood garage sale and many other neighborhood related activities. Please note that we have suggested yearly dues of \$10 per household.

Please note that our next Neighborhood General Meeting will be held April 9 at 7:00PM at Mitchell Elementary School.

Carl S. and Jean Chavez

JEAN CHAVEZ OF
RE/MAX ELITE
(620-5326) AND
CARL CHAVEZ
OF HOME ONE
MORTGAGE
(620-3685)
SPONSORED
THIS
NEWSLETTER

Neighborhood Events

Mitchell Elementary 40th Anniversary Celebration

The faculty, staff and students of Mitchell Elementary cordially invite you to attend their 40 th Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, April 16 at	11:30 AM to 1:45 PM at the school. RSVP by April 11 at 299-1937.	Birthday cake and door prizes will be provided by PTO. School tours will begin at 10:45 AM.
	Bring your favorite picnic lunch and chair.	

General Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 7 PM

A General Neighborhood Meeting will be held at Mitchell Elementary School, April 9 at 7:00 PM.

Besides discussing our neighborhood business, we have invited three speakers. One of our speakers will be our City Councilor Sally Mayer. In addition, we will have two other speakers representing the Albuquerque Fire Department who will update us on the ¼ cent tax increase for public safety. They will also give a brief presentation on smoke alarms and fire escape plans for the home.

The SGANA Board of Directors has managed to obtain some door prizes for those members who attend the meeting and pay their dues. Among the door prizes is a dinner for two gift certificate from Papa Felipe’s Mexican Restaurant located near the intersection of Menaul and Eubank (9800 Menaul NE). Another door prize is a \$30 gift certificate for dinner at Scarpa’s Restaurant located at the intersection of Montgomery and Eubank (9700 Montgomery NE). Applebee’s Restaurant has also contributed two \$10 discounts. They are at 10895 Montgomery NE. Your attendance is vital to the health and welfare of the neighborhood.

Committee News

Beautification Committee

Do you have any ideas on how to help the neighborhood improve its appearance? Our committee is looking for people to help with ideas and highlight issues that need to be addressed. Our primary goal is to encourage people to improve the appearance of their property. Our other goal is to keep the common areas of the neighborhood clean and safe. These areas include the park and sidewalks and the adjacent spaces.

The Great American Cleanup will make its return on April 26th. We will probably focus on the common areas then but your ideas are welcome. We will need your help.

We also plan on recognizing the home that demonstrates something special in its landscaping. Contact me at 681-7614 for more information. Mark Webb, Beautification Committee Chairman.

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee has recently welcomed five new families to the neighborhood. A personal contact was made with each. We will be calling all paid members of the Association before the next general meeting reminding them of it and we will be providing refreshments for the meeting as well. Thank you to the following members of the committee: Joan and Clint Parker; Carol Lynch; Margaret Johnson; Shirley Shipman and Jean Chavez. Joan Reynolds, Committee Chairman

Board of Directors

President: Carl and Jean Chavez, 292-4907
carlcbowls@cs.com

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

Secretary: Joan Reynolds, 293-0180,
reynoldsjo@aol.com

Treasurer: Debbie Chavira, 271-0005,
e-dchavira@email.msn.com

Director at large: Mark Webb, 299-6675
mwtennis@swcp.com

Crime Committee
Chairperson needed.

Youth Committee
Chairperson: Jean Chavez,
620-5326
Adult Member: Carol Driscoll
Youth Member: Veronica
Chavira

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee will work closely with the Events Committee to assist in organizing the Annual Garage Sale as well as the Ice Cream Social. We will oversee the young ones at our General Meeting. We are also working on helping the youth of the neighborhood make a couple of bucks helping people out in the neighborhood with yard work, pet-sitting, baby-sitting, house-sitting and other chores this summer. Any youths that would be interested in such a program as well as any neighbors needing these services, call Jean.

Our former chairperson, Christy Weisz, also mentioned the possibility of having a day watching the Isotopes play. We would like to thank Christy for the great job she did chairing this committee. Her shoes will be hard to fill.

We need to find out what youths are out there so please sign up at the General Meeting. Jean Chavez, Chairwoman Youth Committee

Traffic Committee

Dan Jones is the chairperson and he needs a couple of volunteers to help him with this committee. There are plenty of traffic issues that need to be addressed like obtaining speed bumps or "No U Turn" signs. Contact Dan Jones for more information.

Events Committee

The Events Committee is currently preparing for the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale in June. Last year an informal count of the number of families participating was 25. We hope to double that this year. The SGANA will provide the advertising through the newspaper, newsletter, web sites and signs. Some of the participating members last year suggested having a barbecue during the afternoon following the garage sale. I hope to hear your ideas at the next general meeting. We plan on having more events throughout the coming year. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at 271-0005 or e-echavira@msn.com. Debbie Chavira, Chairwoman Events Committee

Comanche Road Median Project

As mentioned above, the Comanche Road Median Reconstruction & Landscaping has begun. The improvements made here will be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

The work is to be finished on May 26. We have been assured by the city that there will not be full closures of Comanche and that some side streets will be blocked only temporarily. The city has also said that there are no planned water shut-offs.

On behalf of the neighborhood, I would like to thank all of those associated with SGANA that worked on creating the concept and persevering to see that it will be done.

Community Service
looks great on college
applications

Membership Dues

Membership dues are voluntary. Dues are \$10 per household. Donations of more that \$10 are gratefully accepted. Mail this and survey to: Carl Chavez, 4109 Pitt NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____



1. In general, would you say that this neighborhood has become a better or worse place to live in the last year?
 BETTER_____ WORSE_____ SAME_____ WHY?_____

2. Listed here are some problems that are often mentioned about neighborhoods. Can you say whether any of these are a big problem, something of a problem or little or no problem in our neighborhood?

	BIG	SOME	LITTLE/NO PROBLEM
CRIME	-----	-----	-----
NOISE	-----	-----	-----
TRASH	-----	-----	-----
TRAFFIC	-----	-----	-----
RUNDOWN/ABANDONED HOMES	-----	-----	-----
VANDALISM/GRAFFITI	-----	-----	-----

OTHER? SPECIFY _____

3. Would you agree or disagree with this statement: "There is little my neighbors and I can do to solve problems in this neighborhood."
 AGREE_____ DISAGREE_____ NOT SURE_____

4. Do you and your neighbors get together for social events?
 OFTEN_____ SOMETIMES_____ OCCASIONALLY_____ NEVER_____

What about getting together for discussions about community or neighborhood needs?

OFTEN_____ SOMETIMES_____ OCCASIONALLY_____ NEVER_____

5. Here are some contrasting ways to describe this neighborhood. Please pick the one that is closer to how you feel.

A REAL HOME_____ OR JUST A PLACE TO LIVE_____

PEOPLE HELP EACH OTHER_____ OR PEOPLE GO THEIR OWN WAY_____

EASY TO TELL A STRANGER _____ HARD TO KNOW WHO'S A STRANGER

FROM THOSE WHO BELONG _____ OR HERE VERSUS WHO BELONGS _____

6. Would you be willing to volunteer for any of these committees?

WELCOME/HOSPITALITY_____ EVENTS_____

YOUTH_____ BEAUTIFICATION_____ TRAFFIC_____ CRIME_____

OTHER_____ SPECIFY_____

7. Would you be willing to join the neighborhood in decorating your home with farolitos (luminarios) for the Christmas season? YES_____ NO_____

8. Give us your suggestions regarding what you think can be done to improve this Association.
