



The piñata gives up its treasure



SAN GABRIEL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

December 2005



Annual Ice Cream Social

On September 18, 2005 at the Mitchell Elementary School playground, nearly 50 people gathered to celebrate neighborhood and to sample the fine root beer floats created by our expert float-master, Dan Jones. There were about 15 children and 33 adults. The children stayed the whole time taking advantage of the playground equipment and the toys that make their way out of the closet every year for this gathering. This year, the first time, we had a piñata. It was a beautiful day and we were all grateful for the shade provided by the gazebo.

Annual General Meeting

Held at Berean Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 and attended by 26 people including some stalwarts who have lived in the village for 40 years as well as some who have come to us in the last month. The main topic on the agenda was crime and safety in the neighborhood, with a strong emphasis on the value of neighborhood watches and emergency calling trees. President Mark Webb addressed some recent successes for the Association such as a "no U-Turn" sign at Pitt and Montgomery, road and sidewalk repairs (more on this further down), the scheduling of a more representative traffic study which will be done in June or July of 2006 during "cruising" season. There was a good deal of participation from those present including questions about zoning codes as well as suggestions for avoiding loose trash in the streets (bag it before placing in receptacles) and how to set up phone trees. Crime Prevention Specialist Sharanne Bruner and APD Officer Martinez both stressed the

importance of calling 911 to report any apparent criminal activities or 242-COPS to report ALL occurrences of vandalism, speeding or any other forms of non-emergency issues. Frequent calls to the Foothills Command at 332-5240 about speeding patterns, for example every afternoon when El Dorado students are dismissed, may result in a periodic watch. Residents can also call that number to request a "vacation" watch when they are away. A handout entitled KEEPING THE BURGLARS AT BAY was given to those present. You can obtain a copy of this information by calling APD Crime Prevention at 924-3600 or by visiting the Foothills Substation at 12800 Lomas Boulevard NE. Another useful handout is REPORTING A CRIME IN ALBUQUERQUE.

Other business for the meeting was election of the Board for the coming year. Mark Webb, Dan Jones and Carol Driscoll chose to remain on the Board and will be joined by Pat Maher. There is still at least one "official" opening and others are always welcome. Call Carol at 332-8038 to learn when and where monthly Board meetings will be held.

Fall Green Waste Collection

On Tuesday, December 13 the City Solid Waste Department will pick up green waste (leaves, grass and brush) in trash bags weighing not more than 40 lbs each. Branches must be cut to 4 foot lengths and bundled securely. Items must be placed 5 feet away from the large trash containers and must be set out by 7 a.m. The City will not pick up dirt, construction debris, gravel or any other landscape materials. For more information call 761-8100.

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

The city Infoline is getting rave reviews. The commitment of this service to truly meet the public seems to be working. They are making good on their promise to get information to requestors without doing the "hold and transfer" routine. They return calls when they say they will and provide accurate information. Give them a try; you will be pleasantly surprised. And try cabq.gov/library - a great service!

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

<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.

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD?

There are numerous ways for residents to actively participate in the well-being of their neighborhood. Do you like meeting new people? Volunteers to welcome newcomers are needed. The Board members can provide the information but people to do welcome visits are in short supply. Another way is to become a point person to build and maintain an emergency call list for your immediate neighborhood. Samples of a list are available by calling Carol Driscoll, 332-8038. Keeping your property clean and kept up is one of the most important ways. Well-tended homes and yards definitely increase property values and tend to discourage thieves and vandals. SGANA crime statistics are low and may be influenced by our sense of pride and caring.

Ray Elosua and his team of delivery persons are one example of neighborhood. This dedicated team of people is responsible for bringing you this newsletter and all the flyers for special events. Our association could not afford mailing costs so without these people there would be no neighborhood news or publicity. Thank you all for your commitment and caring. Also thanks to Pat Driscoll and Mario Portillo for your service on the SGANA Board in 2005.

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

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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.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday season.

Concrete supply is expected to be 10% less than demand for the balance of the year here in Albuquerque. Expect shortfalls in other building materials due to the recent Hurricane in the Gulf area. Prices will be affected, so if you are thinking of buying, I would make it a priority to lock in prices as soon as possible. Pat Maher