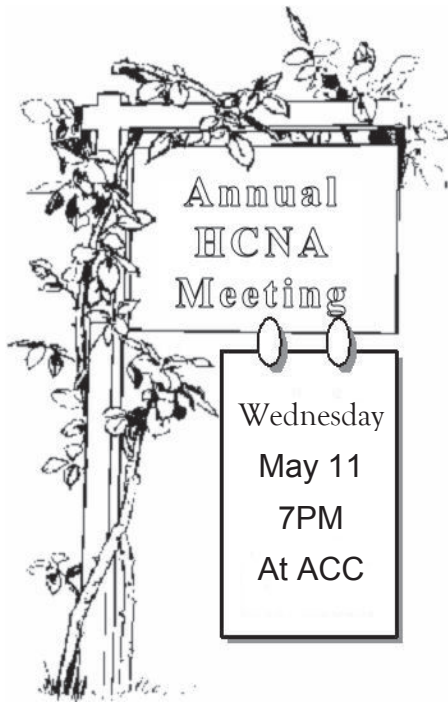


April 2011



HUNING CASTLE

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Discover what's new in our neighborhood at our annual meeting at the Albuquerque Country Club on May 11^h at 7 PM. Councilor Ike Benton will attend and Ann Lerner from the City Film Office will talk about filming activities in our neighborhood and answer any questions. Barbara Baca, the Director of Parks, and APD will also be there to discuss issues affecting our neighborhood.

You can also view the proposed plan for the intersection in front of ACC. This plan was prepared by a consulting engineering firm for the City after a traffic analysis was conducted and after our membership approved the concept at last year's annual meeting.

I hope to see all of you at the annual meeting.

Rex Throckmorton
President

NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE YARD SALE

DO YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR?

Every year four Directors are elected to the Board of the Huning Castle NA. Service on the Board can be very gratifying because you will have an opportunity to learn about events that are taking place in the neighborhood and also meet new people. But most importantly, you will be doing your neighborhood a service.

The Board meets for one to two hours on the second Wednesday of each month and conducts its business in an informal and collegial manner.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Director, please contact Rex Throckmorton at 244-9066 or by email at rthrockmorton@msn.com.

Mark your calendars for our annual HCNA yard sale event on Friday and Saturday, June 3 and 4.

Start cleaning out your closets now. HCNA will run ads in the Journal and on Craigslist.

Think about doing a group sale at a neighbor's house. If you only have a few things to sell, consider teaming up or taking your few items to a neighbor's sale.

We will keep you posted. Direct your questions, suggestions, comments to Macon McCrossen at 836-1060

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Most work by the HCNA Board of Directors involves what I call maintenance issues. We try to maintain the quality and character of our neighborhood by dealing with such things as requests for variances from the zoning laws for house remodels and working with City officials to maintain our parks, reduce crime and resolve traffic problems. These are important matters for those residents impacted by them but every once in a while the Board gets to focus on matters which will not simply maintain the neighborhood but add character and beauty to our surroundings. The Board is currently planning three projects, which we believe will better our area.

1. Last year at the Annual Meeting, the members approved in concept a flower circle in front of ACC and gave the Board authority to make this happen. We now have a plan prepared by Vector Engineering for the City which will add extensions to some of the medians facing the intersection. These extensions will make the intersection somewhat smaller and safer for pedestrians and others who cross that intersection every day. The plan also calls for a 40 foot diameter flower circle in the middle of the intersection to beautify it. This plan will be on display at the Annual Meeting on May 11th and has been approved by the Board.

Our work is not done, however. We need to find funding for this project of approximately \$112,000. We understand Councilor Benton will include this project in the general bond election for this fall and if the voters approve the general obligation bonds, we will have the necessary funding. Before finalizing any permanent construction in the intersection, we will urge the City to conduct a demonstration project by putting in a temporary circle to see if there are any traffic complications. The engineering consulting firm has already conducted a traffic study and does not believe there will be any complications with this design.

2. The history of our neighborhood is very interesting and I hope you have enjoyed the historical articles we have published in past issues of this newsletter. The Board intends to capture some of this history in plaques, which will be placed in some of the public areas. We believe our history is important and it needs to be told and remembered.

3. The Board will begin work on a brochure for a walking tour of our neighborhood with special emphasis on interesting homes and places with historical notes.

Our goal is to have all of these projects in place by the time of our Annual Meeting in 2012. Things always take longer than I would like but I think we can get all or most of these projects completed by then.

In the meantime, there are some positive developments that we expect will occur in the next 12 months. First, the City will conduct a demonstration project on Central Avenue from 8th Street to San Pasquale by reducing the lanes from four to three. There will be one lane in each direction with a turn lane. The missing lane will be used for parking and bikes. HCNA has been urging the City to do this for many years and we are pleased that it will now begin in May. The demonstration project will last one year and if all goes well with traffic, a permanent change will be made. Your Board believes this change will spur redevelopment on Central, will reduce the speed of traffic and make Central more friendly for pedestrians and cyclists. Once the demonstration project begins, there will be an opportunity for everyone to comment and we would like to hear from you.

Second, Lowe's Grocery on Lomas is acquiring a liquor license and plans to offer a full line of liquor, wine and beer at its store. Lowe's has promised that it will upgrade the quality of its food products to more closely satisfy the needs of our residents. In past surveys of our residents, a local grocery has been one item our residents say they would like to see. We hope that Lowe's will make the necessary changes and meet this need.

Third, we also have been informed that the bus station on Central near Laguna will be closing in October and moving to a location outside of our area. We have heard this story before but this time, we think it will happen.

Fourth, the Country Club Plaza project off Central between Laguna and San Pasquale has been on hold for many years. If the housing market should revive this coming year, we can expect Jay Rembe to restart his development but we view the odds of this happening this year as slim.

This is an exciting time to be living in the neighborhood. I hope to see all of you at the Annual Meeting on May 11 where we can discuss any matters of concern to you.

Rex Throckmorton

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PATROL

The Huning Castle Neighborhood Association (HCNA) has initiated a Neighborhood Patrol Program consisting of volunteer two person patrols. These patrols will drive through the area at random times and provide information/reports to the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). Eleven volunteers have received the required APD training. Additional people may volunteer to join the qualified individuals to ensure the patrol coverage.

The basic element of this program is SAFETY. Patrols will not become involved in situations but only report and or contact APD if necessary. In addition to crime prevention the Patrols can inform home owners of such things as open garage doors and other pertinent information. They can also report on road conditions, open drainage, manholes, etc. The Patrol will be the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood and assist in keeping our neighborhood safe and a joy to live in.

Home owners are encouraged to volunteer by calling Rudy Garcia at 385-9428 or Susan Walsh at 345-4449

Log on to Huningcastle.com
View the past newsletters, coming events,
[HCNA Alert Link](#)

DO YOU KNOW...

March 2011 ranked as the third driest month in NM in the last 117 years. The National Climatic Data Center reports that the first three months of 2011 had been the second driest start to any year on record for New Mexico. Only 1972 saw a drier January through March period for the state since 1895. For the first three months of 2011, statewide precipitation was only 30 percent of normal.



18-HOLE GOLF COURSE
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For membership information please contact the
Club secretary, Karen James, at 247-4111 ext.103 or visit
www.albuquerquecountryclub.org

APD Crime Prevention Tips

As the weather becomes warmer, crime opportunities increase. You and your neighbors can help keep your blocks crime free. Involved citizens and neighborhood education efforts directly affect residential burglary rates. Homeowners who take the following preventive measures can reduce and sometimes prevent break-ins and burglaries.

- Know your neighbors. Statistically residential burglaries occur during the day, so identify those neighbors who might be home during this time and able to report any suspicious activity.
- Evaluate your existing lighting and pay particular attention to windows and entry/exit doors. Make sure that each area has enough light so that your neighbors can see any suspicious activity occurring on your property. Consider adding motion sensors to lights in remote areas.
- Each door should be metal or solid core with a deadbolt lock that includes a minimum 1" throw. Short strike plate screws should be replaced with 3-4" screws that secure the plate into the doorframe. Doors should also be equipped with 180 degree eye viewers.
- To eliminate potential hiding places for burglars, trim all bushes and shrubs below the window level. Trim mature trees up to 6-8 feet above ground.
- All window locks should be fully operational. Install thumbscrew locks on guide rails to prevent the window from opening more than a few inches. **Windows and pet doors are common entry points.**
- Install screws in the upper rail of sliding glass doors far enough to prevent the door from being lifted and removed. Dowel rods and "charley bars" are other ways to secure the door but make sure the door lock works.
- Property ID: Record the make, model, serial number, value and any distinguishing features of valuables. Engrave a number on each item and record it on your property list. (Do not use your social security number) Store this information in a safety deposit box and with a family member. Pictures or video are recommended. Stolen property is often recovered but without an engraved number, you have no proof the item is yours. The recorded items can also assist with insurance claims.

Information provided by Steve Sink

APD Senior Crime Prevention Specialist

S pring Has S prung!



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Neighborhood Watch

In addition to the Neighborhood Patrol, HCNA also has a very active Neighborhood Watch Program. Neighborhood Watch Programs are one of the most successful crime prevention programs in the United States. They provide a link between the police department and citizens interested in enjoying a crime free quality of life. Blocks that are organized and active benefit from less crime and positive social interaction with neighbors. Neighborhood Watch programs are often organized for a variety of reasons. Residential and auto burglaries, auto thefts, vandalism or suspicious behavior are just a few. A Neighborhood Watch can formalize the process of bringing people together. It supports the concept of neighbors getting to know each other and establishing trusted neighbors who can rely on one another for help and assistance.

The Watch program depends on residents within a city block banding together to join the City's community policing program.

How to start a Neighborhood Watch:

1. Organize and host a Neighborhood Watch meeting.
2. Contact Steve Sink, APD Senior Crime Prevention Specialist., at [924-3600](tel:924-3600).
3. Mr. Sink will provide the block representative a "starter package" and schedule a crime prevention specialist to attend the block meeting.

For more information, contact Rudy Garcia at 385-9428



Welcome Wagon

Do you have a new neighbor? We want to give a royal welcome to new people so give our Welcome Wagon people a call. Kylene Wing at 764-3044 or email her at Wingit229@aol.com



Do you need your mail picked up while you are on vacation? How about keeping your plants watered while you are out of town? Leaves raked? Playmates for your kids? Babysitters? Your HCNA has the answers and several contacts in the immediate neighborhood. Diane Souder now maintains the list of children in the neighborhood. She can be contacted at her home, 243-8309.

Get in touch with your neighbors and contact Diane with the names and ages of the children you have at home and begin to connect. Be sure to note if you have older children available to work in the neighborhood. This list will only be distributed to families who participate in the list or names can be given out for neighbors looking for help. Be part of the neighborhood. Get involved.

Many thanks to Rex Throckmorton for the countless hours he spends each week on neighborhood business.

Take a minute to thank him personally at the Annual Meeting, on the golf course, or whenever you see him walking the neighborhood with Rider, his trusty companion. Let him know that being President is not a thankless task.

Welcome to the Huning Castle Neighborhood

Whether you are new to New Mexico or just new to the neighborhood, you have selected a beautiful and active community to call home.

The Huning Castle Neighborhood Association is an organization designed to keep all residents informed of issues and events which affect the neighborhood. It delivers the newsletter you are reading now quarterly to every home within the HCNA boundaries. These newsletters will inform you of upcoming events and gatherings. The association is governed by a board of directors which meets regularly, the second Wednesday of every month, at the Albuquerque Country Club at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

One of the most unique and enjoyable events in the neighborhood is the monthly "cocktail party". The second Friday of each month a different home hosts a pot luck party; it is a casual and entertaining way to get to know your neighbors. If you would like to be included on the party announcement email, just email Eleanor Macnish at emacnish@gmail.com and she will gladly add you to the invitation list.

The HCNA Board would also like to encourage you to become a member of the neighborhood association. Annual dues are only \$15.00 and these monies help fund activities all year-round. Again welcome to the neighborhood!

Kylene Wing 764-3044 wingit229@aol.com

MAY IS RENEWAL TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE HCNA

Last year we had almost 200 members, an all-time high. Our membership goal is 250 household memberships so that when we speak, people will listen.

Help us reach that goal!

Without your support we cannot sponsor special activities, publish the newsletter , or light the parks on Christmas Eve.

(No monies go to the neighborhood cocktail parties.)

- YES!** I want to be a member of the Huning Castle Neighborhood Association.
- YES!** I want to be on the email lists for the HCNA crime alert and notice of events affecting the neighborhood and monthly cocktail parties.

My email address is:

Family Names:

Address:

Phone:

Dues are \$15.00 per year per Household.

\$25.00 per year per Business

Make checks payable to HCNA and mail to:

Macon Mc Crossen, Membership Chairperson
420 15th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM 87104



MAY 20
- JUN 12
2011



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MAY 25 - JUNE 17, 2012

3

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