

July 2010

HUNING CASTLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Community Night Scene

National Night Out

Forest Park

Tuesday, August 3th

7:00–8:30pm

Take back the night and join your neighbors in supporting the 27th An-

nual National Night Out, a unique crime prevention event introduced by the National Association of Town Watch early in 1984. Last year HCNA was included in the more than **36.7 million people in 14,625 communities from all 50 states**, U.S territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide who participated in the event. Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, HCNA is 'celebrating' with a variety of activities. Everyone is invited to come to Forest Park at 7 pm to share cookies and punch, meet neighbors, and visit with our local police, and firefighters. Please bring your pets, dressed for a parade, and we will walk around the park, up Laguna and back again. Local musicians are encouraged to come and share their talent with the group.

For more information please contact HCNA Board Member Susan Walsh, 400-3456.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE EVENING BY TURNING ON YOUR PORCH LIGHTS AND JOINING US AT FOREST PARK ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN AUGUST.

National Night Out Is Designed to

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support for local crime fighting efforts.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Renew old acquaintances and establish new friendships by getting to know your neighbors.
- Let criminals know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



Message from the President



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

For those of you who missed the Annual Meeting on May 12th, I will summarize the key events:

1. Commander Rae Mason of the Valley Police Command reported that crime incidents in our neighborhood are quite low when compared with other neighborhoods in the City.
2. David Campbell, Chief Administrative Officer for the City, discussed the Mayor's four priorities: public safety, economic development, delivery of quality services and better efficiency in City costs. One immediate issue is whether a multi-purpose event center should be built in the downtown.
3. Barbara Baca, our new Director of City Parks and Recreation, reported on recent activities in our area such as planting new trees and significant work on the Laguna median.
4. Councilor Ike Benton discussed a current plan to reduce the number of traffic lanes on Central from four to three. A test of this reconfiguration will take place soon with the repainting of lanes and conducting traffic studies. If successful, the long term plan calls for wider sidewalks lined with trees and a bicycle lane. Councilor Benton believes these changes will slow the traffic on Central, make the area more pedestrian friendly and spark economic redevelopment in the area between downtown and Old Town.

The members elected Harvey Buchalter, Rudy Garcia, Macon McCrossen, and Ranne Miller to three year terms on the Board. Lynn Hightower and Fred Rivera, outgoing Board members, were thanked for their very valuable years of service to the Board.

The members also voted in favor of urging the City to build a flower garden or roundabout at the intersection of San Pasquale, Park and Laguna for the purpose of slowing traffic and beautifying the intersection.

The membership as of the Annual Meeting stood at 150 and the bank account was \$3248 with about half of that amount coming from film companies who donate to the Association when filming in the area.

THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD....

We are fortunate to live in a unique and special neighborhood, one that is a showcase for City residents and the outside world. If you doubt these words, consider the following events which put our area on display for others:

Luminaria tours at Christmas time bring thousands to our neighborhood, and on Halloween we have hundreds of children from outside our neighborhood who are trick or treating. Tour buses filled with tourists now cruise through our area every day.

Weekend crowds at Kit Carson Park are almost exclusively from outside our area. The Zoo Run, Duke City Marathon and several other races during the year attract thousands to our neighborhood. The multiple film locations in our area allow the rest of the world to see us on the screen.

Why is this important? It is important because these activities benefit the City as a whole. While we are all justifiably proud of our neighborhood, we should not discount the goodwill the City receives from all of these events. The HCNA Board believes that the current City administration recognizes this value and that is why your Board expects the City to provide exceptional care for our local parks. If you believe the City is not doing enough for our area, please let me know.

Rex Throckmorton

President

HCNA Board Members

MEMBER	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL	TERM
Bean-Alverson, Jennifer	312 Laguna Blvd. SW	H 247-8789	jbean@litsupport.com	2012
Buchalter, Harvey, Secretary	1615 Kit Carson Avenue	H 247-2602	hcbuchalter@gmail.com	2013
Hardgrave, Clark	417 15 th Street SW	H 235-5855	clarkhardgrave05@msn.com	2011
Garcia, Rudy	1607 San Patricio SW	H 385-9428	rmgconsults@msn.com	2013
McCrosen, Macon, Treasurer	420 15 th Street SW	H 836-1060	mpcosas@yahoo.com	2013
Moses, Tom and Kay	1512 Los Alamos Ave. SW	H 842-0158	abqatelier@comcast.net	2011
Paul Mondragón, Vice President	1612 Escalante Ave SW	H 242-4182	paul.mondragon@wellsfargo.com	2012
Miller, Ranne	1521 Park Ave SW	H 243-9623	rmiller@mstlaw.com	2013
Smith, Peggy	1710 San Carlos SW	H 244-0438	peggybeau@comcast.net	2011
Throckmorton, Rex , President	201 Laguna SW	H 244-9066	rthrockmorton@msn.com	2012
Walsh, Susan	1707 San Cristobal Rd SW	H 345-4449	susanwalsh0504@comcast.net	2012
Wing, Kylene	1608 Los Alamos SW	H 764-3044	wingit229@aol.com	2011

HCNA Committee Members

COMMITTEE:	CHAIRPERSON:	Phone:	Email
Safety & Crime Prevention Ch.	Tom Moses	842-0158	abqatelier@comcast.net
Kid Connection	Diane Souder	243-9177	diane_souder@nps.gov
Tingley/Kit Carson Park	Harvey Buchalter	247-2602	hcbuchalter@gmail.com
Membership	Macon McCrosen	836-1060	mpcosas@yahoo.com
Welcome Wagon	Kylene Wing	764-3044	wingit229@aol.com
Zoning & Land Use/ Traffic	Paul Mondragon	242-4182	paul.mondragon@wellsfargo.com
Central Avenue Focus	Paul Mondragón	242-4182	paul.mondragon@wellsfargo.com
Animal Traps	Paul Mondragón	242-4182	paul.mondragon@wellsfargo.com
HCNA Alert, email	hcnalert@gmail.com		hcnalert@gmail.com
Website	Clark Hardgrave	235-5855	clarkhardgrave05@msn.com
Monthly Cocktail Parties	Eleanore Macnish	764-1984	emacnish@gmail.com
Newsletter	Chris Buchalter	247-2602	hcbuchalter@gmail.com
Film Industry Liaison	Kylene Wing	764-3044	wingit229@aol.com
Block Captain Committee Ch.	Tom Moses	842-0158	abqatelier@comcast.net

City of Albuquerque Emergency Numbers

Emergency	911	Security	243-7712
Non-Emergency	242-COPS (2677)	Crime Stoppers	843-STOP (7867)
City Dept Information	311	Fire	764-6300
APD Records	768-2020	Poison Control	843-2551
Domestic Violence Shelter	247-4219	Water Emergencies	857-8250

Downtown Growers' Market Blossoms



Albuquerque Downtown Growers Market, located in historic Robinson Park at 8th Street and Central, has become a 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday morning destination for many of our neighbors. Small backyard farmers to larger farms like Schwebach Farms of Moriarity offer freshly harvested produce including fresh white corn, new potatoes, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, beets, onions, figs, raspberries, cherries, grapes, plums, pears, peaches, apricots and other vegetables and fruits. A variety of red and green chile from around the state is available in addition to yellow hots, jalapenos, habaneros, serranos, and wax peppers. Shoppers can also buy fresh herbs, fresh New Mexico varieties of honey, dairy items including goat cheese and spreads. New Mexico watermelons, cantaloupe, honeydew melons and awesome Northern New Mexico apples are a big hit with shoppers.

Early morning shoppers enjoy fresh brewed coffee and pastries while listening to music provided by a variety of popular local groups. Java Joe's also offers fantastic breakfast burritos that are a favorite item with regular shoppers at the market. Other food vendors offer Pueblo Indian bread, fry-bread, home made tamales, and French baguettes. Every other Saturday there is a fun jump for the kids in addition to face painting and other activities for the family.

In addition to food items, arts and crafts vendors display artwork, fantastic scented soaps, pottery, jewelry, home made quilts, crocheted blankets, hats, purses, and baby items. This year's market, sponsored by the Downtown Action Team, began on June 6, 2009 and continues through mid October.

SAVE THE DATE!

Harvest Festival

Saturday Oct. 30th 2:00pm

- Forest Park (16th and Laguna)

It is time once again to save the date for the HCNA annual Harvest Festival celebration. Come meet with your neighbors in Forest Park for an autumn afternoon of socializing, games, contests and refreshments. Bring a lawn chair and plan to stay awhile. There will be games and contests for all ages, goodie bags, face painting and lots more.

Kids, join in the Halloween costume contest-- prizes for scariest, sweetest and most original...or decorate your bike, scooter or skateboard.... just let your imagination go wild. And the fun is not just for the kids. Enter your pals in the Pooch Parade. Dress up

your dogs in costumes and let them strut their stuff (on a leash please).

- Attention all you bakers! Enter the Harvest Festival Bakeoff showcasing your favorite baked goods. Dig out your family's secret recipe for grandma's best pie, cookies or cakes and let the judges sample your wares. A special treat will be awarded to the grand winner.
- Games for all ages: Kiddie "fishing hole", three legged sack races, pumpkin bean bag toss, donut-on-a-string eating contest, the "wheel of consequence", "eye spy" guessing game... with prizes for every winner.

And much, much more.....

So mark your calendars now and plan to stop by Forest Park on Saturday, October 30th. Visit with your neighbors and join in all the activities while enjoying a cup of cider.

Calling all volunteers-- if available to lend a hand, please email or call the Harvest Festival Committee chairman

Clark Hardgrave 235-5855

Clarkhardgrave05@msn.com



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GET INVOLVED

HCNA has a very active Security Committee that is evaluating two programs sponsored by the city: Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Patrol.

Neighborhood Watch, which has already been implemented in areas of the neighborhood, has proven to be a good crime deterrent. Block residents organize to observe and report potential criminal activity on their street.

Neighborhood Patrol is made up of volunteers who patrol the area observing and reporting any real or potential criminal activity. Contact Tom Moses at 842-0158 for materials about either of these programs.

Safety Wisdom

Tom Moses and Jennifer Bean attended the 2010 city-wide spring conference on crime prevention. Addressing this well-attended event, Mayor Berry and ABQ Public Safety officer Darren White announced that they are making property crimes their top priority. Their advice, although familiar, is often ignored:

1. Be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activity
2. Review your home security
3. Have an inventory of your possessions in case you are burglarized
4. Do not warm up autos in your driveway, even if locked.

Reporting a crime or suspicious activity?

Phone 242-COPS

Be as specific as possible with all details.

ZONING MATTERS

One of the more unpleasant duties of sitting on the Huning Castle Board is dealing with requests by neighbors for variances to the Albuquerque Zoning Code so that they can build additions or structures on their property which do not comply with the Code. Board members do not like to say no to their neighbors but in many cases, we have no choice but to oppose the application. Anytime someone seeks approval to build a structure that does not conform to the Code, the City zoning office asks the neighborhood association for its recommendation and we provide it. If you intend to build on your lot, you will be required to obtain a building permit from the City and if your proposed construction varies from the Code, the Huning Castle Board will get involved. One problem we see frequently is the homeowner who decides to build a wall on his property. Walls have very specific code provisions pertaining to height and how close to the curb or adjoining property they may be. We have seen several instances where the owner simply builds the wall without obtaining a permit from the City and the wall fails to comply with the Code. In those instances, the owner has been forced to remove the wall or modify it in such a way that it complies with the Code. This can be expensive for the owner.

The point of this article is not to discuss the multiple types of variances that the Board is called upon to review because they are far too numerous to deal with here. Instead, I wanted to call to your attention some of the more common zoning problems we see pertaining to use of your property rather than construction on the property.

First, weeds and litter are governed by the City Ordinance beginning at Section 9-8-4. It is unlawful for the owner of property to allow "any growth of weeds whose height, width or spread is greater than four inches, or any accumulation of weeds." The owner is also responsible to maintain his property "free of litter." If someone violates these sections, the City will give written notice to the owner to comply within 10 days and if he fails to comply, the City is authorized to remove the weeds or litter and charge the owner for the costs.

Second, parking of vehicles on the property raises questions from time to time. There is no limit on the number of non-commercial vehicles which can be parked on the property so long as all of the vehicles are operable and have not been partially dismantled. There are special rules for the parking of RVs which are generally allowed provided the RV does not extend over any portion of the sidewalk.

Third, you may only conduct one yard or garage sale in a 12 month period and the sale may not last longer than three days.

If you are aware of someone in the neighborhood who is not complying with these rules, you can report the matter to the City zoning enforcement office by calling 924-3850.

Rex Throckmorton
President

DID YOU KNOW...

For those of you who have been thinking about the heat, the highest recorded temperature in Albuquerque was 107°F in June of 1994.

REMINDER TO PAY YOUR HCNA DUES NOW FOR 2010-2011

A bill for HCNA yearly dues was mailed to all residents in early June. A BIG THANK YOU to all the neighbors who have paid their dues. If you haven't yet responded, send your \$15 dues in now to

Macon McCrossen
Membership Chairperson
420 15th Street SW

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 mails the newsletter you are reading now quarterly to every home within the HCNA boundaries. These newsletters will inform you of upcoming events and gatherings. Please take a moment to read about what is happening in your new neighborhood. The association is governed by a board of directors which meets regularly, the second Wednesday of every month, at the police sub-station on Rio Grande and Central at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Included in this newsletter is a list of the current HCNA Board members and their contact information. Please feel free to phone or email any questions or concerns you may have to any board member.

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. A membership application is also included in this newsletter.

Again welcome to the neighborhood!

Kylene Wing 764-3044
wingit229@aol.com



- 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*



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removal.*



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. Come to the National Night Out on August 3th at Forest Park and take a look at the list or update your information. The service is free!

Diane Souder now maintains the list of children in the neighborhood. She can be contacted at her home, 243-9177.

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.

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

Are you in the neighborhood?

The boundaries of the
Huning Castle Neighborhood are:

On the North

The northern boundary of the Albuquerque C.C.,
San Pasquale and Central Avenue

On the East

14th Street

On the South

Alcalde Drive

On the West

Tingley Drive