

# NETHERWOOD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

[www.netherwoodpark.org](http://www.netherwoodpark.org)



Miracerros Addition ♦ Indian Plaza ♦ Netherwood Park

## newsletter

March 2018

### *Report on the Annual NPNA Membership Meeting*

#### **A letter to my neighbors from Susan Bennett, NPNA President**

Hello Neighbors:

Sometimes I feel like we all live in a small town called the Netherwood Park Neighborhood. Our neighborhood is filled to overflowing with great neighbors and great annual events that results in an outstanding small community. NPNA tries to stay on top of all that concerns our neighborhood due to the hard work of our board members and the involvement of many concerned residents. My thanks to all of you who daily make this a great area to live in and also attend the many NPNA events. Here is a brief review of the past year:

Food trucks invaded Netherwood Park on Wednesday nights from March to October and with them come great food, toe-tapping music, face painting, Qigong and Zumba classes, laughing children and a good time for all. The NPNA Board thanks James of Kimo's Hawaiian BBQ who graciously organized these weekly events.

The traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bike Parade and Social featured Dixieland jazz, games, an almost unbreakable piñata, a really cool red fire truck and parents and kids having a blast.

The Big Biannual Neighborhood Yard Sale on September 30<sup>th</sup> brought buyers from far and wide who saw our ads in the Albuquerque Journal, on Craig's List.com and NextDoor.com.

Lots of neighbors rose at the crack of dawn on October 14<sup>th</sup> for Balloon Blast and were rewarded with the best breakfast burritos anywhere while visiting with neighbors. The balloons rose into the sky to the north but did not land in the park. A mystery remains-where did all the donut holes go?

The following week was the annual Golf Scramble at the UNM North Course. All the golfers had a good time and kept their scores a secret.

The annual Bike Trail Clean Up was on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and volunteers made the trail not only cleaner but safer for bikers and walkers.

The NPNA book Club continues to meet each month due to the capable leadership of Mary Lipscomb. Mary is always looking for new members and you can call her at 255-4031 for more details.

The NPNA Board welcomed new members Bill Gannon and Spencer and Cheryl Gerwin. The Gerwins will share one position on the board.

The NPNA Board kept its eyes on major issues. The house on Harold remains an eyesore as progress to make repairs continues at a slow pace. Speeding on Indian School Road has been a problem for decades but funding for a new traffic study has just been announced by City Councilor Ike Benton. Some repairs were made by the New Mexico Department of Transportation to the I-40 barrier fence bordering the Urban Forest Park after a discussion with two NPNA Board members. Some Board members spoke at a meeting of the City Zoning Hearing Examiner about plans to put in a new restaurant at the site of the old Alpine Kitchen.

Yes, it was a busy year. And the heartbeat of our neighborhood-your interest, energy and involvement-goes on and on.

My thanks to all,

Susan

### **Highlights of the Annual Meeting**

*Elections to the NPNA Board:* Tony Prosser and Tim Butler were both re-elected to another three-year term Spencer and Cheryl Gerwin were elected to their first full term in their shared position., They were appointed on an interim basis since November. Sara Mills was elected as a new board member and she will replace John Vittal, whose term has ended Many thanks to all board members and special thanks to John for his years as treasurer and doing the newsletter. Happily, he will continue as our historian and newsletter editor.

*Urban Forest Park Report:* Peter Burton and Susan Bennett reported on their meeting with an engineer from the State Department of Transportation about the sound barrier walkway access to the park near I-40 and Carlisle. Additional barrier fencing has been installed at the site to discourage foot traffic and camping at the east side of the park. Peter has also observed City crews picking up trash in that area, as he requested. The area under the 1-40 bridge along the flood control ditch has been enhanced to prevent homeless camping.

## Presentations from the Albuquerque Police Department

Several members from the Albuquerque Police Department's Southeast Area Command gave presentations. Here are their names and contact information:

Laura Kuehn, NCPS, ICPS, Crime Prevention/Crime Free Programs, Southeast Area Command Station, 800 Louisiana SE

Detective Sergeant Roger Legendre, Police and Communities Together-PACT, 256-2050, rlegendre@cabq.gov

Denice R. Lucero, Field Services Bureau, 256-2050, dlucero@cabq.gov

Officer M E Rodriguez and Officer M A Gonzalez, Southeast Area Command Station, 800 Louisiana SE

Sgt. Legendre discussed that the PACT program intent is to allocate resources effectively within APD and work with the Field Services Bureau, with current emphasis on the vehicle recovery program due to high auto theft rates in the city.

### His Auto-theft prevention pointers included:

-don't turn on your car to warm it up if you are not in it; tell your neighbors not to, if you see this.

-a club on the steering wheel can be used as a deterrent;

-do not leave the garage door opener in the car; in event of theft of the car, your home can be accessed.

-do not leave items in plain sight in the car.

-do not leave car titles in the car.

It's OK to put pictures of proof of insurance and registration on your smartphone, rather than keep them in the glove box. Be sure to photograph the front and back of these documents.

There was discussion of the speeding problem on Indian School Rd. The light at Girard is very short. APD will review this. APD has recently put speed trailers on Indian School Rd. The battery died in the one at Stanford and it will be replaced. There are grants available to do speed studies over time. Undercover officers are often used for speeding surveillance to discourage car chases. Illegible license plates can be problematic, especially if covered with

dark plastic. There are no officers currently in permanent positions of using bicycles. APD does not monitor NextDoor.com, as there is too much to keep up with. If there is an increase in crime activity, Sgt. Legendre advised contacting him. Our neighborhood's crime has gone down 8% in the past year, while others have increased 30%.

Crime Prevention Specialist Laura Kuehn gave pointers about home burglary prevention.

-good visibility of the home from the street is important.

-good quality door locks are important (you can stabilize them by using 3-inch striker plate screws).

-camera systems at entrances and exits.

-alarm systems with a loud audio component.

-lighting: dusk to dawn; motion detectors.

-call APD if there are door-to-door solicitors that seem out-of-place.

Most burglaries are from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Good street lighting is important. If there are problems getting PNM to replace lights, contact NPNA president and we can contact City Councilor Benton for help.

*APD Patrol Pilot Program:* NPNA board member Peter Burton thanked all who donated funds for talked about last year's pilot program. There were 4 two-hour shifts paid for by residents' contributions. One was 10 to 12 at night; the others 10 to 12 during the day. The officers signed up to do these shifts in the Chief's Overtime Program. They were in police cars and in uniform and could have intervened as do in any crime incident. Unless they saw an incident, they continued to drive around the neighborhood during their shift. When a police car is seen driving through the area it can serve as a deterrent to crime. Our area peak crime mornings are on Tuesdays. The NPNA board will discuss patrol plans going forward at their April meeting.

*New Restaurant:* Nikle: Allen Miner, one of four new owners of the Alpine Sausage Kitchen property, talked about the plans for Nikle, a farm-to-table restaurant and small crafts distillery to open in a few months. The plan is for a family-friendly atmosphere, with a small dog-friendly patio, and bike parking on-site, some car parking on-site, some at the Tennis Club lot, and additional parking available on the street on Girard north of north of Indian School. Hours will be 11:30 AM to 10 PM weekdays and 11:30 AM to 11 PM on weekends. City zoning approved the proposal.

*Treasurer's Report:* Susan Bennett presented the Treasurer's Report for March 22, 2017 to March 15, 2018 submitted by John Vittal. Beginning balance was \$2,975.93; ending balance \$2,775.66. The present total of \$2775.66 is made of three funds:

General Operating Fund now stands at \$1,855.14 from NPNA dues.

Golf Event Fund now stands \$672.52 and is likely to be used toward a second bench at the top of Netherwood Park since the UNM North Golf Course has not been willing to accept the funds for uses proposed by NPNA over the past three years.

The APD Patrol Fund now stands \$213. \$614 was paid out for patrol shifts in 2017. Thanks to all for their donations to this fund, separate from member dues.

Expenses for the past year also included: NM Secretary of State for the annual corporate filing fee, newsletter printing, website hosting, expenses for the July Fourth Bike Parade and Social, Wednesday night food truck advertising materials and face painting; September yard sale advertising, October Balloon Blast and Golf Event expenses.

#### *Other Reports*

Golf Event: Mary Lipscomb reported that the Golf Event has 16-22 people each time. It will likely be in October again this year.

Book Club: Mary explained that the club meets monthly at Yanni's. Contact her at 255-4031 for information.

*Final Words:* Bill Gannon noted that the APS walk out regarding gun violence on March 14 was orderly and within the time allotted.

Chuck Maguire and Bill Gannon will look into how the association in the past facilitated lists of block by block contact information for neighbors.

The NPNA board will invite the owner of the very slow renovation of 2504 Harold Pl. NE to attend a board meeting.

Activities again this year will include the July 4th Kids Bike Parade and Social; the Balloon Blast on October 13th; the Golf Tournament/Scramble later that month; and the weekly food trucks on Wednesdays, 5PM to dusk, from late April into October - ideas and help are welcome to develop more advertising of these food trucks nights

**Netherwood Park 2018 Membership Application**

**Join or renew your membership in NPNA. Dues are \$10 per household.**

Thank you to all who have already sent in their membership dues.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

How do you wish to receive the monthly NPNA newsletter? Please circle your choice.

- Send to my email address above
- Send a print copy to my mailing address above
- I need a special format. Please contact me
- I do not wish to be a member of NPNA, but keep me on your newsletter list.

**Please mail this form and your dues to John Vittal, 1737 Miracerros Place NE  
Albuquerque NM 87106**