

# NETHERWOOD PARK

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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



Miracerros Addition ♦ Indian Plaza ♦ Netherwood Park

## newsletter

April, 2017

*Dinner in the Park Wednesdays from 5:00-8:00*

*NPNA Annual Meeting Report to our Neighbors*

The NPNA Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at the Tennis Club of Albuquerque. The Board thanks TCA for the use of its meeting room.

### **Reports from Board Members**

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the March 6, 2016 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved by the members at this meeting.

**John Vittal, Treasurer,** presented the Financial Report for March 6, 2016 to March 26, 2017. The beginning balance was \$1,569.15; ending balance \$2,975.93; total income was \$2,728.00 from dues, gifts, annual golf event and \$1,000 donated from filming of NBC-TV Nightshift in the park last summer. Expense total was \$1,525.32, for events, NM Secretary of State fee, newsletter printing, website hosting, parking for Harold Place foreclosure review and sale, and Smith's appreciation certificate to APD. Of the current balance, \$585.35 is the earnings set aside from the annual NPNA Golf tournaments to be donated to the UNM North Golf Course. Chuck Maguire reported on the event and the ongoing discussions with UNM on how to spend the funds. Mary Lipscomb was recognized as one of the annual organizers.

**Website Report:** Tony Prosser reported that he plans a redesign of the site to make it more user friendly for tech devices, such as iPads and smart phones. Tony also said he is available to assist residents with registration and use of NextDoor.com social

community online website. Members have increased to 260 on the netherwoodparknm.nextdoor.com site.

**Newsletter Report:** John Vittal said that the newsletter continues to be published every month. There were no questions or comments from attendees.

**Past Year Reports:** Susan Bennett reviewed NPNA activities of the past year:

- Election of officers in April
- Review of problem vacant homes: 2504 Harold Place, NE has gone through foreclosure and now a renovation project is underway. Vacant homes on Notre Dame and Miracerros are now rented and occupied.
- Monitoring of the Urban Forest park for "campers" and graffiti.
- Checking Netherwood Park daily for parked cars on Princeton engaged in alleged drug use and related meetings with APD and Councilor Isaac Benton
- The Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bike Parade and Social
- The summer tile workshop at the Tennis Club produced the 60th anniversary mosaic
- The Art Show at the Tennis Club in September.
- The Hageman's' Bike Trail clean-up February 11.

Chuck Maguire and John Vittal reported on the meetings last fall with students from the UNM School of Architecture Historic Preservation Class. These students have begun an ongoing multi-year project to identify areas of our neighborhood with older properties to possibly qualify for designation as an historic district. This project will resume in the fall semester when there will be public information meetings. This process will include voting by residents in the designated area to see if they wish to go forward in the process for historic status.

## **Feature Presentations**

### **Crime Prevention Presentations**

Susan Bennett talked about residents' concerns about crime in the area and the many messages on NetDoor.com about crime. One of our guests at the meeting was Laura Kuehn, Crime Prevention Specialist for the APD SE Area Command. Ms. Kuehn has been in frequent contact with NPNA Board members over the past year. Ms. Kuehn has suggested that the Board plan more activities in Netherwood Park. Susan announced

the Dinner in the Park on Wednesdays and monthly Park Chats. Susan sent around a sign up sheet for those interested in being part of the NPNA activities team for the park. A large Art Fair in the park was one new suggestion.

Rob Duren and James Burton made presentations about the Crimestoppers program that was started in Albuquerque 40 years ago and is now world-wide. Media coverage and tips from citizens help locate and arrest those wanted for crime. Tips can be anonymous, and can earn a reward up to \$1000 if leading to an arrest. The twenty-four-hour hotline is 843-STOP (7867) for specifics on a crime or location of a fugitive. Website: [www.crimestoppersnm.com](http://www.crimestoppersnm.com).

APD SE Area Command presenters were Laura Kuehn, Crime Prevention Specialist, Sgt. ND Render, and Officers Johnson and Thompson. APD has six area commands with special units are traffic, robbery and homicide. Field officers can serve on the day shift, the graveyard shift or the swing shift. Many more officers are needed to cover the city.

Auto burglaries have increased in our area. The officers recommended that neighbors help protect ourselves by locking the car and not leaving things inside. Where to keep car license, registration, and insurance card is a personal choice: if it's in the car, a burglar may get your name and home location; if it's in a purse that is stolen with house keys, then your home may be at risk. License plates are being stolen and replaced with other plates. One solution is to purchase irreversible screws to secure plates at auto supply places. Check your license plate regularly to see that it hasn't been stolen, replaced or damaged

Car break ins and home burglaries provide perpetrators a quick way to make a living as stolen phones and other electronics can bring in a good financial return for relatively few hours "work". Solicitors who come to the door should have city permits.

Suggestions for crime prevention included more people out in the parks, on front porches, get to know your neighbors and their cars, block parties. *Call 911* for life and death emergent events, *242-COPS( 2677)* for less urgent incidents and *311* for non-urgent matters. Response time depends on urgency and the large number of calls at any one time. *But do call*, to ensure awareness by APD of any incidents. They use the information. Go to the website [www.cabq.gov/police/crime-prevention-safety](http://www.cabq.gov/police/crime-prevention-safety) for crime prevention handouts.

The NPNA board will consider recommendations in the near future in regards to possible hiring of periodic patrols to enhance officer or private security presence and criminal apprehension efforts throughout the neighborhood. Some other neighborhoods' have used the APD Chief's Overtime program to hire off-duty APD officers to patrol their streets and pay for it with contributions.

**State Auditor Tim Keller** presented information about his office's task of auditing 1500 government entities statewide, such as the City of Albuquerque, the County, UNM, CNM, and APS. Since his staff consists of only thirty, much of the audit work is done by contracted CPA firms. He discussed tax carve-outs. Another concern are audits that show a large combined amount of unused funds left in various agencies awaiting matching funds or use by agency programs. Other topics he mentioned were included early child development fund consideration; food tax; gas tax, auto excise tax, hospital tax breaks, the state permanent fund, and infrastructure monies.

### **NPNA Events**

**The NPNA Book Club** meets for lunch and a lively book discussion. Call Mary at 255-4031 for details.

**Dinner in the Park** every Wednesday evening from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Food Trucks will offer varied menus. The NPNA board hopes this will become a fun weekly event for residents to eat and play in the park or take dinner to go.

The next **Chat in the Park** will be on Sunday April 30, 2 PM. Bring a chair, checkers, dominoes or chess set; play catch or frisbee. Meet at the Netherwood Park sign.

**Neighborhood yard sale** September 30, 8 - 11 AM Save the date now and watch for more details

### **April NPNA Board Meeting**

The NPNA Board met on April 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed the major issues that were discussed at the annual meeting in March. The Board decided to do further research into the effectiveness of the APD Chief's Overtime Program. The Board is also looking for ways to best publicize the new Dinner in the Park program and other new park programs The NPNA bank balance is now \$3,114.61. Thank you to all members who have paid their dues for this year. Peter Burton and Bill Gannon were welcomed as new Board members.