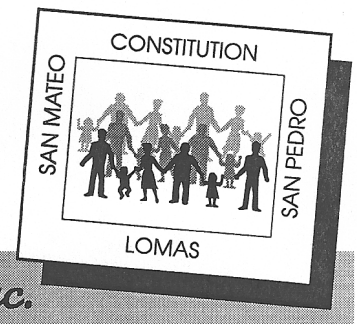




# FAIR HEIGHTS

*Neighborhood Association, Inc.*



February 2010 [www.fairheights.org](http://www.fairheights.org)

## President's Column

- *Ike Eastvold*



**First**, as we start the New Year in Fair Heights, it is time to show your support by becoming a FHNA member.

Annual dues of \$5 for each resident and \$15 for each business haven't increased in the seventeen years the FHNA has been working for your property values, quality of life, and safety. Anyone can afford to belong. Just take a moment to fill out the membership application on pg. 6 and mail it, together with your check, in the self-addressed envelope in each newsletter. Many thanks!

**Secondly**, this year we have four outstanding FHNA residents running for the Board of Directors. Please read over their Candidates' Statements on pg. 2, and consider serving on the Board yourself. We are an all-volunteer organization, so we can only address neighborhood needs with your help.

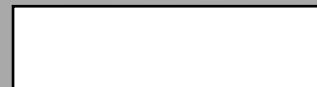
**Finally**, consider what a difference the FHNA has made just in the last year: 1) Bernalillo County is pursuing purchase of the Carpenters Union Hall for

use as a multi-generational community center, right here in Fair Heights within walking distance; 2) the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, at our request, should replace our leaky water mains in 2011, eliminating most of our chronic water main breaks; and, 3) our FHNA Earth Day neighborhood clean up, together with County community service crews we requested, removed tons of litter and weeds from our streets and alleys.

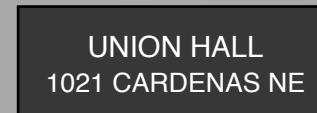
**Come to our February 27th general meeting.** We've got a great program for you! See you there!

**General Meeting: Sat., Feb. 27th, 1pm**

Marble



Alice



Lomas

Cardenas



N  
↑  
San Pedro

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Check out our website!  
[www.fairheights.org](http://www.fairheights.org)

## FHNA General Meeting,

**Saturday, February 27th, 1-2:30 PM**

Carpenters Union Hall, 1021 Cardenas NE



### "Toward a New Community Center"

Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins

(please see the article on page 3)



### "Will Tax Lightning Strike Again?"

Bernalillo County Assessor Karen Montoya

(please see the article on page 3)



## 2010 FHNA Board Election Candidate's Statements

### George Chavez

I have lived in the neighborhood for 44 years. I admire the work the association has done and would like to see more people active. I have a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting. I was an accountant with the City of Albuquerque for 26 years. For fifteen of those years, I was Chief Accountant. For 12 years I was also treasurer of the City Employees' Credit Union, which is now the Rio Grande Credit Union. I am willing to continue serving as FHNA Treasurer.

### Joan Davis

I have lived in the Fair Heights neighborhood for the last few years and appreciate that it is a community where I can feel safe, walk comfortably, greet my neighbors with recognition, and enjoy well kept homes and yards. FHNA does a great job of supporting and maintaining these assets and I would like to contribute to the effort by continuing to serve as secretary to the group. For 26 years I have owned and directed Sweetheart Daycare in the Nob Hill community.

### Mike Fikani

I am a physicist working with General Atomics in the Advanced Technology Group. I have lived on and off most of my life in Fair Heights, and am well rooted here, currently living in the same home my parents bought when the neighborhood was new. I attended Mark Twain Elementary, Monroe Junior High, Del Norte High, and UNM. I believe the FHNA should help keep the neighborhood well maintained and safe by serving as a link to City departments and resources.

### Katrina Overcash

I have lived in Fair Heights fifteen years. At first, I was renting; but then I fell in love with the neighborhood and bought the house when the landlord decided to sell. It's an older neighborhood with a lot to offer. I like the neighborhood association because it is good that they fight to make it a great place to live. I originally got involved when the issue of dangerous dogs came up in 2009. I'd like to help educate people about caring responsibly for their pets. I have a golden retriever, Charlie, and two cats, Darcy and Bea, and this summer I plan to add a puppy. Currently, I work as an Operating Room Nurse supervisor at UNM Hospital.

## Services for Seniors!

by Kim Williams, FHNA resident



There are a multitude of free and discounted services available to seniors (60+) in Bernalillo County through the City of Albuquerque, Department of Senior Affairs. They are:

- Home delivered meals
- Senior Companion home visits
- Home care visits to assist with cleaning, cooking, errands and personal care
- Home repair
- Home retrofit with safety devices and modifications for disabilities
- Transportation
- Pet services including free licenses, pet food delivery, and in-home care
- Assistance finding retailers who home deliver
- Finding support groups
- Sports, fitness, educational, travel and volunteer activities through senior centers (55+)
- And much more! Call Senior Affairs at 505-764-6400

No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Services are offered for free or on an income-based sliding scale. Also of note, the Department of Senior Affairs offers a care coordinator service to help connect seniors with their programs. A coordinator comes by for a home visit, assesses you or a loved one's needs, and makes the appropriate arrangements. All you need to do is call Senior Affairs (505-764-6400) to arrange for any of the above; or you can simply dial the city's information line at 311.



County Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins (center)' Re-Election Campaign Kick-Off, Carpenter's Union Hall January 23, 2010. L-R: Elvira Lopez, w/ Mateo, Patrick Scott, w/Victoria, Sherman Gibson, Alice Stewart.

### County Commissioner will speak on Community Center project progress

by Ike Eastvold, FHNA President

The County of Bernalillo, through the leadership of our District 3 Commissioner, Maggie Hart Stebbins, has recognized the value of the Carpenters Union Hall for re-use as a multi-generational community center, and has taken steps to assess the property. They toured the property and met with Union representative, Dave Barber, toward the end of last summer. Since that time, the County has completed a feasibility study, a building inspection, and a preliminary appraisal.

The County now is putting together the list of Capital Projects which will go before voters in October for funding in the County's general obligation bonds. We all need make sure that substantial funds are included for the Community Center Project.

The Carpenters Union leadership and members now need to begin the process to approve sale of their property. The FHNA wrote a letter to Union President, Robert Garcia, on January 25th requesting that they "seriously consider making the Cardenas property available for re-use as a multi-generational community center." Our letter was placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee which, at its meeting in early February, approved reconstituting its Building Committee to begin the process of approving the sale. "I am 98% sure it will be approved," Dave Barber told us.

Meanwhile, the Office of Congressman Martin Heinrich contacted the FHNA. We explained the project and referred them to Commissioner Stebbins and Dave Barber. As a result, Commissioner Stebbins' office has submitted to Heinrich's staff the paperwork necessary for a Congressional "earmark" or appropriation of funds for the project.

Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins will update us on the community center project at our February 27th general meeting, answer whatever questions you might have, and explain other county services which may be of help to you.



### County Assessor will address "Tax Lightning", Valuations, and Exemptions

by Ike Eastvold,  
FHNA President

Thousands of property owners have sued over the abrupt jump in property taxes when a home changes ownership. Under a 2003 law passed by the State Legislature, properties owned prior to 2003 have taxes capped at 3% annual increases; but property changing hands after 2003 can be assessed at its current market value, causing sudden, lightning-like increases.

Karen Montoya, Bernalillo County Assessor, and Bernalillo County Manager, Thaddeus Lucero, have had a rare public disagreement about the fiscal effects on County revenues from correcting 'Tax Lightning'.

In a February 11th article in the Albuquerque Journal, Lucero predicted that if property tax values are rolled back to 2002 levels, County coffers would lose about \$30 million of their revenue stream. He warned that the County might have to shut down community centers and other nonessential services.

Assessor Montoya, however, said her analysis showed no loss of revenue. "They (the County) don't lose anything," she asserted. "They just adjust the rates." She was referring to an adjustment known as "yield control" allowing tax rates to climb and offset any decrease in property valuations caused by eliminating Tax Lightning.

Montoya is running for re-election and says she will continue to fight Tax Lightning.

(Continued on pg. 6)



## Susan's Biz Buzz

By Susan DeRosa,  
FHNA Fundraising Chair

When you walk into Christy Mae's Restaurant and look at the north wall, there is a large painting of a family. The retired New York police officer is Joe Tricarico, and the baker is his wife, Jane. The Tricaricos, having been the original owners of The Sandwich Company on Carlisle, bought Christy Mae's in 1985 and brought along a promising teenage dishwasher, Larry Ashby.

By 1998, Joe and Jane were ready to retire, and Larry Ashby and Andrew Tricarico became joint owners. Jane today still continues to bake the restaurant's delicious deserts. When they were teenagers, both men had met their wives while working for the business. Christy Mae's is a true multi-generational family business.

We're glad to have them as outstanding community partners and supporters. Each year, the FHNA and Christy Mae's jointly contribute \$100 in dining gift cards to the Albuquerque Police Department for Officers Appreciation Day.

Christy Mae's has flourished over the years serving sumptuous lunches and dinners. In 2008, they also started opening at 7AM to serve great breakfasts. And kids eat free with paying adults on Monday and Tuesday, 4-8PM. We encourage our neighbors to dine there often. And don't forget to have one of Jane's deserts.



Open Monday-Saturday 7am to 8pm,  
Breakfast 7-10:30am  
Lunch 11-4, Dinner 4-8  
1400 San Pedro NE  
Please call 255-4740 for takeout  
Kids eat free with paying adults:  
Mon. -Tues. 4-8pm

## Exercise! but don't forget your dog!,

by Katrina Overcash, Civic Betterment Chair



The weather will be warming up soon. People will be looking to shape up for the summer. However, let us not forget our furry friends. They want to get out of the house too. All

dogs need some kind of exercise, whether it's going for a daily walk on a leash in the neighborhood, or to the dog park for a run.

Before we go out, there are several things to consider. Is my dog up for an extended walk? What is the weather like? All dogs have different lengths of fur. In winter, a short haired dog may need a jacket. If it has been raining or snowing, your dog may need your help drying wet paws, or even wiping off salt applied to thaw the snow. We are wearing coats, boots and socks; our pets are not.

In summer, sidewalks and roads are hot during the midday. We would not be barefoot. A dog's paw pads are just as sensitive. It's better to walk mornings or evenings in the summer.

One must also consider the breed of your pet. Does your dog need lots of exercise, or just a walk around the block? Larger dogs usually love to get out and really move, whereas a smaller dog with short legs could become overtired by a prolonged walk. Dogs are not built to run marathons or long distances. They may be excited to get out and exercise, but they still can overheat and have no way of telling us when they are hurting. You need to have an adequate water supply with you, even in the winter.

Exercising enhances your relationship with your dog. It can also help a person feel safer when walking accompanied by a dog. We all love our pets, and we want to make their time with us as enjoyable and safe as possible. A little thought for their well-being will make exercise a real joy for both you and your dog.

Remember, an exercised dog is a good dog!



