



June 2011 www.fairheights.org

President's Column

- Elvira Lopez, AICP

I would like to begin by stating how honored I am to serve as the new president of the Fair Heights Neighborhood Association.

I see this as a great opportunity to continue the strong leadership of my predecessor, Ike Eastvold. This year, I also have the privilege to work among a group of hardworking, knowledgeable and dedicated board members.

In this newsletter, we will focus on a special project that FHNA began discussing over a year ago and is now taking shape. This special project is a visioning process for improving the San Pedro Street Scape from approximately Constitution to Lomas. Some of you may recall that in our previous newsletter, we had mentioned inclusion of the San Mateo & Lomas intersection as a part of this project. Due to the scope of the work involved, we have decided to focus on this intersection at a later time through a separate effort.

This visioning process is an opportunity for people to imagine ways to enhance the street to potentially improve its safety, beauty, and access for different users like bicyclists, pedestrians, bus riders and automobiles. The visioning process will include several key meetings, the first occurring during our regularly scheduled general meeting date on June 11th. Subsequent meetings in this process will be announced at a later date. Check our website for updates at www.fairheights.org.

In order to fund this special visioning process, FHNA applied for a Bernalillo County grant. In May, we were awarded the grant, which is allowing us to proceed with this project.

In addition, FHNA is collaborating with the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning to effectuate this visioning process. Students of the school led by university professors will facilitate our meetings and develop proposals based on our vision and ideas.

To prepare for the special June 11th visioning workshop, FHNA has conducted neighborhood outreach to different groups. We intend for strong community participation at this workshop. This would be evidenced by the presence of San Pedro businesses and property owners, FHNA residents, local and state representatives, and surrounding neighborhoods. This will make for a genuine, open and exciting visioning session!

Finally, in this newsletter you will also learn about other work happening in our neighborhood with respect to the very successful upgrades and maintenance of the water main and sound wall. Also, some news will be shared about the Carpenters Union Hall.

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at the June 11th visioning workshop!

Updates for San Pedro Street Scape Project:
www.FairHeights.org



Special FHNA Visioning Workshop
Saturday, June 11th, 10:00am till 2:00pm
Mark Twain Elementary Cafeteria
6316 Constitution NE

All Around the Neighborhood

by Ike Eastvold, past president FHNA



Water Service Project Wraps Up -

The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) and its contractors, with help from the City of

Albuquerque, have done an excellent job upgrading water service and the streets themselves for most of Cagua, Cardenas and Valencia.

The FHNA originally brought this acute problem area to the attention of the ABCWUA, and we have monitored the project during its construction to make sure residents' concerns were addressed.

Jokingly referred to as "The Fountains of Rome," this eastern edge of Fair Heights was notorious for its water main breaks. Residents at the intersection of Mountain and Cardenas, just as one example, endured three main breaks in four years, making the streets impassible with mud, sometimes for weeks, and sending torrents of water and debris down the on-street drainage system in Fair Heights.

The original scope of the project also was significantly expanded to include: 1) complete repaving of Cagua curb to curb from Marble to Summer; 2) replacement of the main and all service connections on Cagua from Summer to Constitution; and, 3) replacement of all service connections on Valencia from Summer to Constitution.

All totaled, Fair Heights received: 1) 3300 linear feet of new PVC water mains replacing steel mains from the fifties; 2) 103 new residential service connections; and, 3) three new fire hydrants.

Total cost for work in Fair Heights: \$440,000 of YOUR tax dollars and water bills working for YOU!



Fixing the San Mateo Sound/Art Wall Project

Stretching from Constitution to Marble on the east side of San Mateo, this beautiful 3/4 million dollar project took ten years of hard work by the FHNA.

Like any major investment, it needs constant monitoring and a good working relationship with the agency in charge of its maintenance: the City Parks Management department. Besides reporting graffiti and cleaning up litter, the FHNA is the eyes and ears of City Parks for this Project.

Just this year we have worked with City Parks on 1) the pedestrian walk-throughs at El Encanto, Rosemont and Granite, all of which have overhead lights to make them safe for use at night. All three lights burned out and had to be reported and replaced; 2) the hard freezes we had in February killed or severely damaged all 25 of the Bird of Paradise trees which were the glory of the Project's southern end. These damages were reported and about 18 new trees have been planted, and dead wood pruned off the rest; 3) one of the pine trees at the northern end died and has been replaced with an interesting dwarf Bosnian pine; and, finally, 4) City Parks staff have increased drip irrigation and done a thorough weeding and cleaning on all the landscaping, both along the Project and the median.

Did you know that small culinary herb gardens intended for neighborhood use were included in all three cul-de-sacs? Feel free to harvest small amounts for your cooking. I just used rosemary from the El Encanto herb garden on our baked chicken and stir fry veggies.

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All Around the Neighborhood (Con't)

by Ike Eastvold, past president FHNA

Carpenters Union Hall May Be Demolished -

On April 13th, I happened to stop by the Carpenters Union Hall, and walked up to the doors on the east side. I could hardly believe my eyes. A small stream of water was flowing out from underneath the doors. Looking inside, I saw the ceilings had collapsed and the floors were covered with water.

I immediately contacted the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. They arrived within the hour and turned off the water at the meter.

But it was about two months too late. Evidently pipes had burst during the hard freezes we had in February. Dave Barber, Special Representative for the SW Regional Council of Carpenters, went inside the Union Hall and later told me that mold, including the black toxic variety, was growing up all the walls.

The SW Regional Council, new owners of the property since about December 2010, told us they had closed up the building and set the thermostat at 65 degrees, but had neglected to set up regular monitoring. Unprotected pipes evidently burst.

The Union Hall was built in 1957-58. Typical of construction in those years, it has much asbestos and lead paint. The Regional Council is now strongly inclined, with the severe flooding damage compounding the asbestos and lead paint problems, to demolish the entire building by late summer, including the Carpenters Educational Center next to Rehms, and put the one acre of land up for sale.



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Through the generosity of Carpenters Local Union 1319, owners previous to the SW Regional Council, the FHNA had been allowed to use the Union Hall for our general meetings since we were founded in 1993.

Most recently, Maggie Hart Stebbins, Bernalillo County Commissioner for our District 3, was interested in the property for a Community Center. The FHNA developed a very original community center concept and submitted it as a Constituent Request to the County; but, in June of 2010, the Local 1319 unexpectedly decided against selling.

We intend to try and get the County and SW Regional Council of Carpenters talking about these and other opportunities again. Stay tuned.



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Pet Corner

by Katrina Overcash,
Civic Betterment Chair

"Do you know where your dog is?" It's springtime in Albuquerque and the winds are extremely nasty this year. With that in mind, it's a good idea to check locks and latches on your gates and doors. I have found many loose dogs running in the streets due to unsecured gates in the neighborhood. Unsecured gates and doors give our pets the opportunity to roam free, and this can invite a dangerous situation to them. Take some time to check your gates and doors. It is also important to have your pet micro-chipped and tagged in the event that they do get out. Our pets are precious to us. Small details can ensure their safe return.



San Pedro Streetscape

What's Your Vision for San Pedro Drive?

By Kim Williams, Public Education Chair

Now is the time to express your thoughts, opinions and vision on how you would like the section of San Pedro Drive that borders our neighborhood from one block north of Constitution to one block south of Lomas to look and function. This will be the topic of our Saturday, June 11 neighborhood association meeting from 10:00-2:00 at the Mark Twain Elementary School Cafeteria.

During the June 11 meeting, the FHNA will hold a visioning process to determine how, as a community, we imagine a more functional, updated San Pedro. The visioning process is a way for us to build consensus regarding this aspect of our community's future. It is a way for us to recognize shared values and then apply these values towards the creation of planning documents.

Students from the UNM School of Architecture and Planning and their two professors, Dr. Timothy Imeokparia and Dr. Francisco Uvina, will facilitate our meeting. With Fair Heights residents' input and the input of residents and business owners on both the west and east side of San Pedro Dr., the UNM class will develop planning documents that put our values and ideas on paper. Once the planning documents are created, the FHNA board will present them to government agencies and representatives with the purpose of making long-needed improvements to this area a reality.

What's your vision for the portion of San Pedro that borders our neighborhood? Perhaps a safer San Pedro/Constitution intersection? Maybe more landscaping, or a more welcoming shopping district? Come to our June 11 meeting and express how you'd like to see this area updated. No idea is too big or too small. All are encouraged to attend and participate!



Your

San Pedro Vision 2011

Fair Heights Neighborhood Association Receives Grant for Visioning Process

By Kim Williams, Public Education Chair

This spring, the FHNA Board applied for and received a grant for \$3,000 from the Bernalillo County Neighborhood Outreach Grant Program. Improvements to the San Pedro corridor and intersections that line our neighborhood became the focus of the grant project as a result of feedback from Fair Heights residents that this was an area that greatly needed attention.

The grant money we have received is intended to fund the aforementioned visioning process for San Pedro. Costs include printed materials that announce the June 11 visioning meeting, postage for mailing invitations to affected business owners, materials for creating planning documents, food for participants at the meetings, and a small stipend to the UNM professors who are working with us in preparing planning documents. If you would like to see a complete budget for the grant award or a copy of the grant application, please contact our neighborhood association president, Elvira Lopez.

It should be made clear that the grant will not be used for actual street improvements. Rather, the funds will be applied towards the creation of a community vision. Our neighborhood will then utilize this vision to demonstrate to government agencies and representatives that this is an important and worthwhile project for our neighborhood and surrounding communities.

San Pedro Streetscape

Visioning Workshop: Community Outreach

By Elvira Lopez

The San Pedro Streetscape project grew from a grassroots effort by FHNA residents over a year ago. This process will formally begin on June 11, at the FHNA sponsored visioning workshop. A strong presence of San Pedro businesses & organizations, local and state representatives, and surrounding neighborhoods is critical to the success of the visioning workshop.

Ultimately, the visioning process will culminate with a document that captures the vision of the community through images and words. FHNA intends to utilize this document to lobby our representatives for support in implementation of the ideas that arise from the community. Therefore, FHNA would like all of those who have an interest in potential enhancements along the San Pedro streetscape to participate in this process.

FHNA is reaching out to owners of property along San Pedro by sending them a mailed invitation explaining the visioning process and the significance of their participation. In addition, personal contacts have been made with businesses that have an established relationship with our neighborhood through their advertising and other forms of collaboration. This newsletter is another form of outreach, spreading the word about this exciting opportunity to all of the establishments along the business district.

We also hope to have a strong presence of residents at the visioning workshop, both from our own neighborhood and from neighborhoods surrounding San Pedro. These adjacent neighborhoods include Fair West, Alvarado Park, and the neighborhood adjacent and east of San Pedro, formerly the Mark Twain Neighborhood Association.

FHNA hosted several house meetings to introduce the projects to folks in the neighborhood and to stir excitement about the visioning workshop. Attending the first visioning will be a great way to engage in the process that will include a total of three meetings by the end of July.

Finally, we have invited our public officials and representatives from key city departments to attend our visioning workshop. We have gained commitments regarding their attendance.

We invite all who are interested in or curious about this project to attend the visioning workshop. Bring your ideas or hear what others have to say about a space in our community that could change from standard and functional to beautiful, vibrant, safe, and, ultimately great!



House Meetings

By Patrick Scott

In preparation for our upcoming visioning workshop on June 11th, several members of the Fair Heights Neighborhood Association joined together to host three House Meetings in May. The meetings were held as a means of educating and preparing neighborhood residents about the Bernalillo County Neighborhood Grant we received and enticing people to attend the larger visioning process at Mark Twain ES.

A major goal in receiving the grant from Bernalillo County is that we engage in a project that will build community involvement and participation from as many residents and businesses as possible. Our President, Elvira Lopez, has described our outreach efforts to businesses in another article in this newsletter. This series of House Meetings was an additional outreach effort to increase resident and neighborhood participation in the process. In addition to encouraging residents to add their ideas and voices to the process, these meetings also provide a forum for neighbors to get to know each other better and to develop relationships that help build a stronger community.

These meetings have added to the success of this project and we would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for hosting: Joan Davis and Jerri Camuglia, Alice Scott and Mike Fikani, and Patrick Scott, Elvira Lopez, and Kim Williams.

Your

San Pedro Vision 2011

Ike & Sharon Eastvold Receive
“Outstanding Service to the FHNA” Awards

by Kim Williams, Public Education Chair

Ike and Sharon Eastvold’s eighteen years of dedicated service to the neighborhood was recognized at the March general meeting. Both were given “Outstanding Service to the FHNA Awards,” the organization’s highest praise.

Sharon was the FHNA’s first President elected in October 1993 when she and Ike led the effort to create the Association. They have continued strengthening the Association and improving the neighborhood ever since.

Sharon says they kept plugging away because, “The FHNA gives a voice to neighbors who, as individuals, have little power, but organized as an association, can have a tremendous impact.”

“That’s what the FHNA is basically about,” commented Ike, “bringing people together to defend and improve their neighborhood. The Association has created supportive social networks which have endured. We know, and count as friends, people all over the neighborhood,” he concluded.

“Reading back through eighteen years of FHNA newsletters,” Ike said, “it’s striking how many Goliaths our little David took on.

We were, and still are, a pretty innovative and feisty bunch.”

Ike has just completed two terms as FHNA president. According to term limits in the Bylaws, he will step off the Board for at least a year. “The new Board has hard-working, creative people with good ideas,” Ike observed.

“I look forward to seeing the improvements they will bring to Fair Heights.”

Danielle De Rosa is taking over Sharon’s work as the FHNA newsletter editor. “It will be fun to see what she does with the newsletter,” Sharon said, “and, I finally get to kick back!”

Thanks to Ike and Sharon for their years of hard work on behalf of our neighborhood!



Ike and Sharon Eastvold with their dog, Bella, enjoying the southern end of the San Mateo Sound/Art Wall Project. Soon after founding the FHNA in 1993, they began what turned out to be a ten-year effort to realize construction of this Project.

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Your
San Pedro Vision 2011



The information from the charette will be processed and converted to proposals through sketches and visuals to then be critiqued, and presented to the community midway through the process. The final presentation shall be able to express the community's input and ideas in a comprehensive and visual expression with the hope that a dialogue can stir future short-term and long-term goals within the neighborhood and community structure.

Through this decision-making process, we aim to create preliminary guidelines to engage existing and future community members in subjects such as, history, culture, climate, health, walkability, sustainability, healthy businesses and a safer environment. Through this visioning process, the community will be enabled to transform and forge its own urbanization future, as expressed by Lewis Mumford in *The Culture of Cities*, "With language itself, the city remains man's greatest work of art". Thank you for this enthusiastic opportunity to be a part of this process to assist your community in this, your vision.

San Pedro Streetscape: (Con't)

UNM School of Architecture and Planning

By Francisco Uviña

This summer cooperation between the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning will take place through the participation of the Community and Regional Planning Summer Studio (CRP) and the Fair Heights Neighborhood Association (FHNA) to develop a comprehensive plan of "visioning or generation of ideas for streetscape improvements along San Pedro Dr."

As the instructor, I, Francisco Uviña, along with approximately 15 interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate students will assist the community in a three phase envisioning process. The CRP Studio will meet Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30-8:20PM in the School of Architecture and Planning. The gathering of ideas, suggestions and comments will occur at a one-day charette on June 11th in the community. At this charette we will gather ideas to improve the San Pedro Corridor between Constitution and Lomas Blvd.

Updates for San Pedro Streetscape Project:
www.FairHeights.org



Hours:
 Mon.-Sat. 7am to 8pm,
 Breakfast 7-10:30am
 Lunch 11-4,
 Dinner 4-8

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Fair Heights Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell: _____ email: _____

- Resident Membership is \$5.00
Business Membership is \$15.00

Make check payable to FHNA. Mail to P.O. Box 81652, Albuquerque, NM 87198-1652.

- 1. What are your neighborhood concerns?
2. Would you serve as a Street Captain and distribute neighborhood information? Yes No
3. Please check the committee(s) which interest you.
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