



N eighborhood ews

November 2017

Local Businesses Essential to Neighborhood Success



When the West Downtown neighborhood was affected by construction from the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) project, it was challenging for both residents and business owners who had invested time and money in this stretch of Central Avenue between Downtown and Old Town. Businesses were suffering, traffic was terrible, and people were unhappy with the disruption to their lives and livelihood.

“We decided to form a group of neighborhood businesses to support one another, and come up with creative ways to navigate ART-related problems,” said Len Romano, co-chair of the West Downtown Business Group, pictured above.

“We knew ART construction was not going away. Rather than moan and complain, we decided to be proactive, positive, and

make our businesses someplace that people wanted to come, even during construction.”

A key element was naming and branding this unique neighborhood along Route 66, which created a visual identity and association between great businesses and this particular area of Central. The West Downtown District was created, encompassing over 20 businesses who touted each other's successes, promoted and share each other's initiatives, celebrated one another's success stories, and created neighborhood-specific branding.

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Len Romano

“Something as simple as picking up a piece of trash boosts your neighborhood brand, because thoughtful behavior has a domino effect for others,” said Romano. “Walking down the street to a local restaurant boosts your neighborhood brand and encourages others to do the same. It's something we can all do,” he added.

Neighborhood Association of the Month



The Westgate Heights Neighborhood Association, founded in 1988, serves members in the Southwest Mesa area of Albuquerque. One of the city's smaller neighborhood associations, it has nonetheless organized numerous community events over the past five years, and continues to move forward with projects designed to benefit the residents of the West Side.

A small community gardening project a few years back resulted in raised gardening beds in an area once

covered with weeds and dirt. Vegetables were planted, resulting in a shared garden that brought people together. The Bernalillo County Improvement Grant was given to this neighborhood, resulting in additional community gardens at Edward Gonzales Elementary and West Mesa High School, which brought together students, parents, and neighborhood members.

More recently, the Westgate Heights Park, pictured above, was renovated and rededicated in May 2016. The park, once frequently used by the neighborhood, had fallen into disarray after its Little League baseball fields were moved to Tower Park in 2005.

"We are so grateful to our city councilor for working to ensure these funds were used to renovate this wonderful park," said Becky Davis, Secretary of Westgate Heights NA. "The park is now a community gathering spot and a major asset to the Southwest Mesa."

Westgate Heights NA meets monthly at the Glen Cheney Apartments on Benavides Road, in the Clubhouse. To learn more about membership in this terrific neighborhood association, send an e-mail to:

westgateheights9901@gmail.com

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One tangible way neighborhoods can support local businesses is to hold a meeting at an area restaurant. This is a big step toward creating and promoting healthy neighborhood/business collaborations, which is just one of the many things West Downtown has done to support local area businesses.

"It's important to remember that the health and vitality of our community is more important than slow-moving traffic," said Romano. "If we truly want to support the local businesses, we have to make that extra bit of effort and go to whatever local business you love."

To learn about other initiatives this community group is pursuing, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/WestDownABQ>

Crime Prevention Specialists Provide Unique Community Services

Within each of Albuquerque Police Department's (APD) six Area Commands is a unique member of staff: the Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS).

A CPS acts as a direct link between the community and law enforcement officers, whose shifts and response calls often keep them from doing as much community outreach as they would like. They also provide specialized services to their area commands.



Among the numerous functions these civilian employees fulfill are:

- attending neighborhood association meetings
- answering questions about crime prevention
- analyzing crime data as part of assisting their Area Command officers
- providing information on crime trends across the city working with very diverse individuals, groups, businesses, and community organizations
- providing a free home safety assessment to any resident within their Area Command who requests it, one of the most requested services citywide.



“We are able to cater our services to the specific needs of our varying neighborhoods and create unique partnering opportunities,” said Laura Kuehn, CPS in the Southeast Area command. “It is very rewarding to assist the community in building these partnerships.”

“What we try to do is help both officers and citizens by providing an analysis of different types of information that can help them,” said Sandy Martinez-Pino, CPS in the Northwest Area Command. “We often have the time to give more direct feedback when our law enforcement officers are responding to calls, and we can take information and feedback from our neighborhood residents back to our Area Commands.”

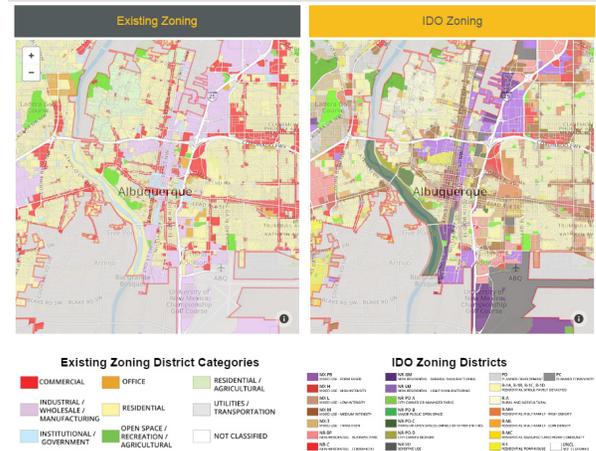
Citizens are encouraged to reach out to the CPS in their area, just as CPS staff actively try to reach out to as many citizens as possible. Keeping communication and community partnerships open is an essential and daily part of every CPS' job.

Your CPS is here to help you, so take advantage of their services. To learn more, visit:
<https://www.cabq.gov/police/crime-prevention-safety>

ABC-Z November Update

The Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) is now in the last review stage before adoption. Councilors on the LUPZ Committee voted to send the IDO to the full City Council for review with no recommendation.

The first hearing took place Monday, October 16. A special meeting of the City Council is also scheduled for Monday, November 13, to provide the public and the council with an additional opportunity to review and discuss the IDO. The meetings will take place in the the Vincent E. Griego Chambers in City Hall. Agendas are available at <https://cabq.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



LUPZ Committee members sponsored amendments to respond to public comments,

Visit: www.abc-zone.com to see IDO drafts, Committee Amendments, Ordinances, Resolutions, a Zoning Conversion map, an Interactive Map, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and much more.

Council will hear brief testimony at the hearings, and will take and consider your written comments at any time. Send comments to:

- Crystal Ortega, Clerk of the Council
- By email: cortega@cabq.gov
 - By mail: P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque NM 87103
 - By map: <https://abc-zone.com/ido-zoning-conversion-map>

Recommended Conditions of Approval by the Environmental Planning Commission in May 2017 = Red text throughout draft.

Recommended changes by staff for consideration by the LUPZ Committee in August/September/October 2017 = Green text throughout draft.

Amendments approved by the LUPZ Committee for Council consideration are appended to this document after the Note to Reviewers following this cover and will be incorporated into the document after Council adoption.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
 Council Draft | October 2017

Hard copies of the LUPZ Draft are available for checkout from the Planning Department by contacting Carol Toffaleti at 505-924-3345 or: ctoffaleti@cabq.gov.

You can review the LUPZ Draft in person at all ABC libraries, community centers, multigenerational centers, and senior centers.

Question of the Month

Question:

How do I report a property that has excessive weeds and/or litter?

Answer:

If you see a property with excessive weeds or litter, call 311 to report the property.

Be sure to provide the address and a detailed description.

Your call will be routed to the Planning Department's Code Enforcement Division where it will be assigned to a Code Enforcement Inspector.

Provide your contact information in case an inspector needs to contact you for more information.

The inspector will visit the property to check for violations of the Weed, Litter and Snow Removal Ordinance (9-8-1).



**ON AVERAGE,
MOST WEED
AND LITTER
COMPLAINTS ARE
RESOLVED IN 1-4
WEEKS**

If violations are found, the property owner of record is sent a notice of violation which details the conditions found, informs them how to come into compliance and grants them time to correct the issues.

The property will be re-inspected to ensure it has come back into compliance and if it has not, a pre-criminal summons will be sent to the property owner.

If the property owner still does not come into compliance, then the inspector will file a criminal complaint with Metropolitan Court where the property owner will face a judge.

A judge can issue fines, issue jail time, grant more time to come into compliance or take other actions.

If court action is required, it could take several months.

You can call the Code Enforcement Division at (505) 924-3450 at any time after calling 311 for an update on the property in question.



City Run-Off Election On Tuesday, November 14

Mark your calendars! The City Run-Off Election is coming up on Tuesday, November 14.

You can also vote early through Friday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Early voting locations, Election Day polling locations, and more, available on the City website at:
www.cabq.gov/voting-elections



Albuquerque Wall of Fame Honors Community Contributors

The Albuquerque Wall of Fame was started by the City Transit Department in 2013 to honor native “Burqueños” and local citizens who have contributed significantly to arts, culture, education and the community.

Local historian and writer Veronica E. Velarde-Tiller, PhD, was the most recent Wall of Fame honoree, pictured below at the ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 24. Dr. Velarde-Tiller was honored for her seminal work *Tiller's Guide to Indian Country: Economic Profiles of American Indian Reservations*.



Previous honorees include:

The late Dr. George Fischbeck, TV personality and weatherman;

Rudolfo Anaya, Godfather of Chicano literature;

Eva Encinias Sandoval, founder of the National Institute of Flamenco;

Helen Fox, founder of Albuquerque's first Title I Program for Homeless Students

To learn more about the Wall of Fame, visit:
www.cabq.gov/transit

Map Exercise with Neighborhood Leaders Garner Interesting Results



throughout the City were consistently identified as community gathering spaces and community assets, with a small portion identified as unsafe spaces. Specific traffic corridors and major intersections made up the majority of the areas throughout the City identified as being unsafe.

Some of the locations identified as community assets included: schools, the Petroglyph Monument, North Domingo Baca Park and Community Center, John Marshall Service Center, Pueblo Montañño Picnic Area and Trailhead, Isotopes Park, and University Stadium.

The Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) held its first Meet & Greet event on Saturday, September 16, hosting coalition, neighborhood, and homeowner association board members from across Albuquerque.

A key component of the public event were the six large maps, one for each Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Area Command. Event participants located their Area Command Map and identified three key themes on each map:

1. Public/Community Gathering Spaces
2. Community Assets
3. Unsafe Spaces

Following the event, ONC staff combined, digitized, and began analyzing the data. Designated open space areas and parks

NEIGHBORHOOD DISCUSSION POINTS

How can your neighborhood collaborate with APD to make public spaces safer?

What can you do to help strengthen the partnership between your neighborhood and a nearby school?

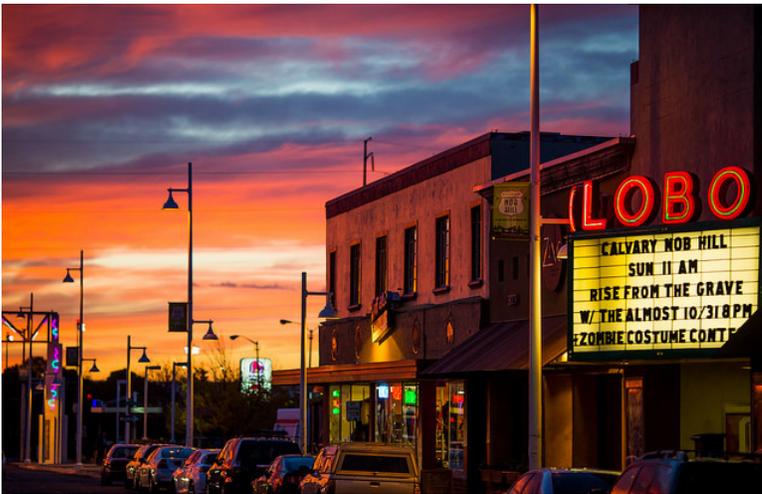
What steps can your neighborhood take to reclaim nearby parks and open space?

Why should your neighborhood come together to identify the assets in your community?

APD Area Commanders and Crime Prevention Specialists were also on hand to review the data being offered by neighborhood leaders. After the event, each area command was provided their area's map. ONC is also incorporating the data gathered from the mapping exercise into our ongoing work to support neighborhoods.



What Makes Albuquerque Great?



"I used to live in Nob Hill, and my favorite place there is the historic Lobo Theater," she said. "I have memories of watching *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* there when I was younger, and we always had such a great time."

The Lobo Theater is the oldest standing movie theater along Route 66, according to Wikipedia. Built in 1939, it stopped showing movies in 2001, and is now used as a community church.

Albuquerque is a city of hidden treasures, and the variety of community assets we enjoy daily demonstrates the diversity of our wonderful neighborhoods.

North Valley resident Janet Pawley recently shared her thoughts about what makes Albuquerque great.

If you ever saw movies there, you probably remember the balcony and tiered seating, the plush velour seats, and the pervasive smell of buttered popcorn!

Let us know what makes Albuquerque great by e-mailing: onc@cabq.gov and we'll feature your answer in an upcoming newsletter!

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