



PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

JUNE 2019



## BLOOMING IN JUNE!





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Feeds Hundreds  
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# NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT PROCESS UPDATE



The Neighborhood Engagement Process (NEP) was established as a process to collect community input on the elements that can be integrated in the update of the Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO). It has been a fast-paced spring and we are gearing up for an eventful summer! Phase III of the Neighborhood Engagement Process (NEP) was reinvigorated in March with the hiring of ONC Manager Angelo Metzgar. In recent months, there have been some essential infrastructural supports built to assist the project and ongoing outreach to inform the process.

Throughout this spring, the NEP team has been busy developing choice dialogue protocols and preparing to integrate traditional dialogue processes augmented by technology. Information from the capacity assessment survey was utilized to support the development of equitable outreach plans to each neighborhood association. Additionally, we purchased and tested an automated polling system (“clickers”) and laptop computers so that each dialogue facilitator can document NEP conversations with neighborhood association leaders and others in the community.

As the summer approaches, we completed test

dialogues and training of the NEP facilitation team. We have received final approval to add members to our outreach and engagement team who will help ramp up the frequency and depth of outreach to schedule and conduct the Choice Dialogue conversations. As such, we would like to formally welcome to our team Dr. Rudy Garcia, Jamie Welles, Barbara Garcia, Antonio Maestas, and Lara Bryson. This group of facilitators is reaching out to set up the dialogues initially with 50-60 of the newer, emerging neighborhood associations to deepen our engagement. While that is occurring, outreach to schedule the remaining test dialogue sessions is being scheduled with the Huning Castle Neighborhood Association, SR Marmon Neighborhood Association, and West Park Neighborhood Association.

If you want to know more about the facilitators, you can access their bios at <http://www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-engagement-process>.

They will be working diligently throughout the late spring, summer and into the early fall to coordinate choice dialogues and to capture community input data that will support the City Council in their process to rewrite the NARO.

To ensure that your neighborhood association can be reached by the NEP team; please make sure that your contact information (email, phone & address) are up to date with the Office of Neighborhood Coordination. Please submit updated contact information to Dalaina Carmona at: [dcarmona@cabq.gov](mailto:dcarmona@cabq.gov) or [onc@cabq.gov](mailto:onc@cabq.gov) ●

# LUNCH PROGRAM SERVES KIDS IN NEED

**Over 15,000 Albuquerque kids go without a regular meal when school is out.**

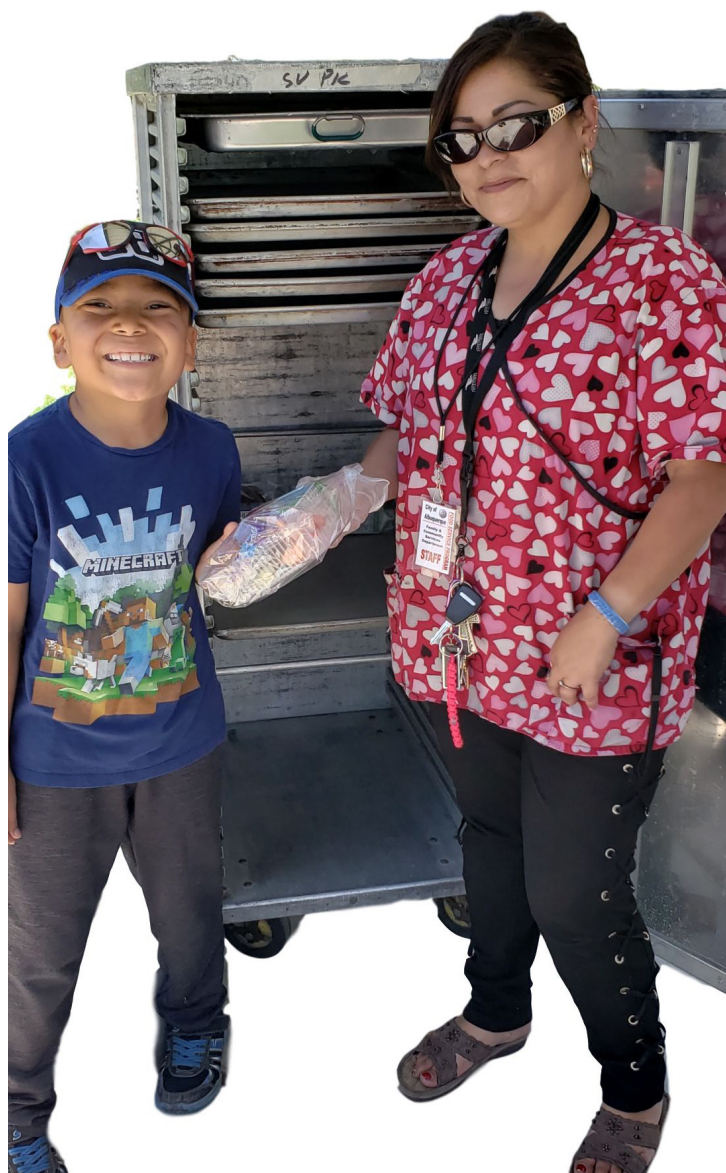
Most of us take food for granted, not realizing that over 15,000 kids in Albuquerque often don't have access to a regular meal during the summer months when school is not in session. Henry Saavedra, Manager for the City's Food Service Program, which itself is part of Family and Community Services (FCS), works daily to make sure every child in the city has access to a decent meal.

"The Food Service Program started in 1969 with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture," explained Saavedra. "We actually celebrated our 50-year anniversary last year. The program works by giving us funding to work with Albuquerque Public Schools to provide meal sites at community centers, parks, schools, churches, non-profits and other locations where there are 30 kids or more who are in need of food." APS delivers the food each day to the 160 mealsites in Albuquerque, and in the summer months, any kid between the ages of 1 and 18 can get a meal. There is no registration, the food is free and all we require is that the food is eaten on site. That way, we can determine how much food is being consumed daily and adjust our food needs and requirements as needed. It's really a great program and makes such a difference in the lives of kids who otherwise wouldn't have access to a decent meal."

Between June and August, any registered food site can serve any kid in need, on a first-come, first-served basis. Some sites also serve breakfast, further helping those in need. Most community centers citywide serve as a free meal site, and the City is always looking to add more sites.

"The more sites we have, the more kids we can help feed and that is the point of the program," said Saavedra. "I encourage our residents to contact me if there is a need for a food site in their neighborhood."

To request a new food site or to learn where the existing food sites are in Albuquerque, e-mail: [hsaavedra@cabq.gov](mailto:hsaavedra@cabq.gov), or visit: [www.cabq.gov/family/community-centers/youth-food-service-program](http://www.cabq.gov/family/community-centers/youth-food-service-program). •



# South San Pedro

The South San Pedro (SSP) Neighborhood is one of the most historic neighborhoods in the International District, and one of the longest-lasting. With a core group of dedicated community volunteers and members, the SSP have accomplished amazing things with limited resources.

"I think everyone realizes that the International District has its share of problems," said SSP President Donna Orozco-Geist, pictured at far right with Reynaluz Juarez, who serves as SSP's Vice-President. "Poverty, crime, drug use and so many other issues plague us, and yet we have the greatest and most committed group of community volunteers that I've ever known," she said. "It's working with these individuals and organizations that make it worthwhile."



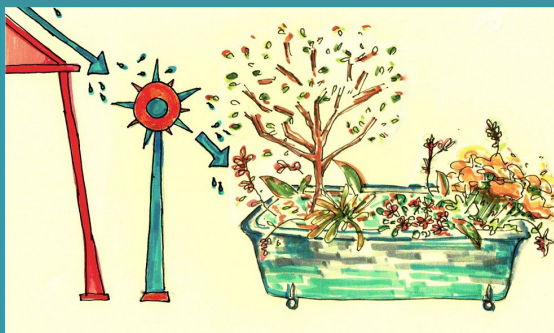
The association formed in 1996 and its first meeting was held at the old Union Hall on the corner of San Pedro and Zuni. "I remember going to that meeting and we've been involved ever since, in one way or another," said Juarez. "We've had to be very engaged with our civic process in order to get resources like street lights, because we were traditionally one of the last neighborhoods to get these things."

The association works closely with its residents, businesses, churches, and the International District Healthy Communities Coalition (IDHCC) on the many issues challenging the neighborhood, and most recently, with Artful Life, a non-profit group based in the International District that promotes local art and artists in new and unique ways. Their collaboration gave birth to a Pocket Pop-Up Park

with Art, which will be located on part of the now-vacant lot at San Mateo and Kathryn SE, a spot that will also soon have a police substation.

"The Pop-Up Park is our neighborhood's way of creating something that is both functional and beautiful, and that can be used by everyone," said Juarez. "We find that when communities create things, they invest in things. That is what we want for our neighborhood."

The Pop-Up Park will feature large mobile containers, adorned with local art, that will contain plants and other greenery. A rendering, courtesy of Artful Life, is below. There may also be mobile rain barrels, sun shades, and rainwater harvesting systems, all adorned with art by artists from the International District.



design and installation of the park and youth will be recruited from the neighborhood to help create the park, which itself is mobile and can be moved from place to place as needed for neighborhood and community events.

To learn more about the South San Pedro Pop-Up Park with Art, visit:

[www.artful-life.org/urban-forest](http://www.artful-life.org/urban-forest) •





Disasters can strike anywhere and at any time. During a disaster, government resources such as fire, police, paramedics, and utility personnel may be overwhelmed and unable to immediately assist all individuals. Professional emergency response may be delayed for hours, even days. Communications may be down and essential services may not be available. People must be prepared to take care of their families and neighbors.

The City of Albuquerque Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has a city-wide campaign designed to educate and empower residents to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies, including natural and human-caused disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote "Preparedness through Partnerships." Building strong partnerships with the community is essential to disaster preparedness, response, and

recovery success. In major disasters, between 70 -95% of victims are rescued by neighbors, not first responders. Your most immediate sources of help are the neighbors living around you. Neighborhoods that are prepared are more effective in saving lives, reducing severity of injury and trauma, and increasing their capacity to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after a disaster.

### **Building strong partnerships with the community is essential in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery success.**

Future Editions of Neighborhood News will include topics on:

- How to prepare your home for an emergency.

- How to make a family emergency plan.
- How to build an emergency kit – what items should be included and the proper way to store it.
- How and when to shut off gas and other utilities.
- How to be informed of potential risks and impacts.
- How to establish a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).

We all have a role to play in making our communities safer, stronger and better prepared! For more information on Preparedness through Partnerships and how to get your neighborhood involved, contact the OEM:

**Roger Ebner, Director**  
[rebner@cabq.gov](mailto:rebner@cabq.gov)  
505-244-8600

**Nick Zobel, Senior Planner,**  
[nzobel@cabq.gov](mailto:nzobel@cabq.gov)  
505-244-8654 ●





## RENOVATED TRANSIT CENTER REOPENS ON WEST SIDE

The Central Unser Transit Center (CUTC) opened for business in 2004, and has been the primary transit hub on the Westside ever since. After months of renovation work, the CUTC offers more than just bus rides. Now an ultramodern transportation center which serves four ABQ RIDE routes, one Rio Metro route, and hundreds of bus passengers daily, it is also poised to become the west-end anchor of the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) system.

The \$2.5 million facelift is expected to double the amount of service to the Westside, itself continually expanding with new homes and businesses, and with the expected implementation of the ART system in 2020, will help tie together Albuquerque's extensive transit system by providing expanded service on both regular routes and ART routes.

The renovations include a new canopy for sheltering the new ART buses and their passengers, new lighting accents similar to the 19 ART platforms along Central between Louisiana

and Coors, racing-themed decor that pays tribute to the world-famous Unser racing family who all Albuquerque home, state-of-the-art ticket vending machines, upgraded technology to provide schedule and real-time information, and expanded and improved lighting and landscaping. There is also a new on-site building housing climate-controlled restrooms for drivers, a utility room, and the addition of an electric transformer to aid in charging stations if electric buses are added to the ABQ RIDE fleet in the future.

The CUTC will continue to serve the UNM Southwest Mesa Center, Dialysis Clinic, Inc, and the Patrick J. Baca Library, and will serve the new Nuevo Atrisco development, which broke ground April 23, and will include a 4-story apartment complex, 30,000 square feet of multi-use space, and a 20,000 square-foot community plaza. Construction on Nuevo Atrisco is expected to be complete in 2021. ●



# UPDATES FROM PLANNING

**Mikaela Renz-Whitmore**  
Long-Range Manager,  
Planning Department

## Follow-up Zoning Conversions

Following the adoption of the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) in May 2018, the City Council directed the Planning Department to provide a free, one-year process for property owners to request a zone conversion to a zone that better matched the existing uses or prior entitlements on their properties based on five criteria. As of May 2019, the Planning Department received over 1,300 forms from property owners who wanted to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Batch 1

Batch 1 was heard by the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) in January 2019 and recommended for approval to the City Council. The case file is still making its way to the City Council. When City Council receives the case, it will be scheduled for a Land Use, Planning, and Zoning (LUPZ) Committee hearing, which typically takes place the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



<https://tinyurl.com/batch1zc-map>

### Batch 2

The Planning Department submitted the second batch of zoning conversion requests to the City's review and approval process in May 2019. A map of the location of all properties and a spreadsheet with all properties are available for review at: <https://tinyurl.com/zc-project>

Batch 2 properties will be reviewed at an EPC hearing on July 11, 2019 in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers in the basement of City Hall. Parking will be validated. The regular monthly cases will be first. EPC hearings start at 8:30 a.m. The agenda and staff report are typically posted a week before the hearing here:

<https://www.cabq.gov/planning/boards-commissions/environmental-planning-commission/epc-agendas-reports-minutes>

If the EPC needs additional time for taking comments, discussion, and voting on a recommendation, a second hearing is scheduled for July 18, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers.

A third backup hearing is scheduled for July 25, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Vincent E. Griego Chambers.

Please check the EPC webpage after the first hearing to confirm whether additional hearings will be needed:

<https://www.cabq.gov/planning/boards-commissions/environmental-planning-commission>

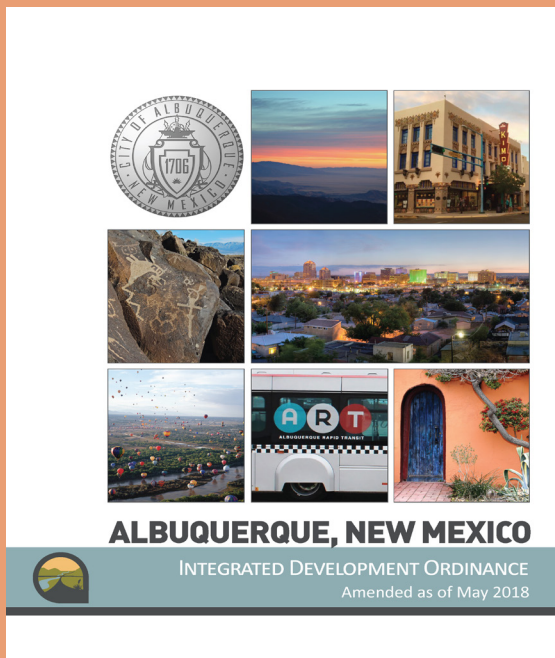
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## Annual Update of the Integrated Development Ordinance

Thanks to everyone who attended the public review meetings in May to discuss proposed updates to the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO). The proposed edits, overview presentation from the meetings, and summaries of recommendations and questions from those meetings are posted at: <https://abc-zone.com>

Planning staff will submit technical edits and Council amendments to the City's review and decision process in July for an EPC hearing in September 2019.



The list of proposed updates will continue to grow and change until City Council takes final action for this annual update. You can email your ideas, edits, or comments to [abcto@cabq.gov](mailto:abcto@cabq.gov) for consideration throughout this process. To be most helpful, please reference a particular page number or section in the IDO, if possible, so that staff can best understand your suggestion. See the IDO Effective Draft at: <https://ido.abc-zone.com>.



## Civic Skills Workshop

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Civic Skills Workshop in May. This event was the result of collaboration among the Office of Neighborhood Coordination, the City Planning Department, and Common Ground ABQ, a McCune-funded organization using an equity lens to strengthen the City's relationship with local organizations and underserved communities.

Thanks especially to Common Ground ABQ partner organization Together for Brothers, an organization by, for and with young men of color. Community organizers from Together for Brothers presented and led interactive discussions about how to identify root causes of problems and then strategize and organize around what a community needs and wants.

The full presentation, which covered the legacy of Indigenous, Spanish, and Anglo people on Albuquerque's built environment, the legacy of institutional racism in the planning profession, and the City's new planning and zoning framework, is available online at: <https://abc-zone.com/civic-skills-workshops>.

Look for more Civic Skills Workshops in the coming year. If you have suggestions about workshops, please e-mail [abcto@cabq.gov](mailto:abcto@cabq.gov).



# CITY COUNCILOR REPRESENTS AT NSGA!



Image courtesy of Prime Time Monthly.  
All rights reserved.

**Name: Brad Winter**  
**Age: 66**  
**Hometown: Albuquerque**  
**National Senior Games: Pole Vault**

Albuquerque City Councilor Brad Winter has been pole vaulting for more than 50 years but running the runway and heaving his body over the crossbar never gets old. He loves every jump.

"It's just fun," he said as he trained for the upcoming National Senior Games (NSGA) in the men's 65 to 69 age range. At the 2018 New Mexico Senior Olympics State Summer Games, he qualified for the Senior Games with a 9-foot, 6-inch jump.

Winter took up his chosen sport at age 10, when he built a makeshift runway and landing mats with buddies in the backyard of his childhood home.

"When we were kids we used broom sticks and bamboo poles. We would spend hours," Winter recalled. He continued to perfect the sport in high school, winning the 1970 Boys Track & Field State Championships in pole vault with a 14-foot jump for Highland High School. He went on to the New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, where he helped his team win the 1971 National Track & Field Championship. In 2016, he was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

After a 20-year career with Albuquerque Public Schools, Winter retired in 2014 as a



teacher, coach and administrator. Since 1999, Winter has served on the Albuquerque City Council District 4 in the Northeast Heights and is one of the city's longest serving city councilors.

All the while, he has continued to pole vault competitively at the state and national level. In the New Mexico Senior Olympics, he has won two Gold Medals in his age groups, and a Silver Medal in the 2017 National Senior Games. He stays extremely active – pole vaulting twice a week at a private course he built, hitting the weights four or five times a week and walking with his wife, Nan.

Winter said he tries to inspire younger – and older -- generations to enjoy pole vaulting by coaching high school students and by coaching a 75-year old man who is still jumping. He works to maintain his flexibility, speed and core strength. He trains with a group of younger athletes who are amazed at the intensity of his training.

“I beat all the 50-year-olds,” Winter said, showing a hint of the competitiveness that has fueled his 50 years of winning. ●

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**The National Senior Games presented by Humana  
take place June 14 - 25, 2019 in Albuquerque!**  
To learn more, visit:  
[www.nsga.com](http://www.nsga.com)

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# TEEN NIGHTS OFFER GREAT RESOURCES!

Do you know someone between the ages of 12 and 19 who's looking for something fun to do this summer? The Department of Family and Community Services is partnering with Parks and Recreation and Cultural Services to bring back “Teen Nights” in June! Some of the events in store include: a soccer tournament, movie night at one of the City's theaters, skate night, and a hike and campfire in the City's Open Space.

“Teen Nights” officially kicks off with a Luau Pool Party at the Sunport Pool on Friday, June 21, 6:00 p.m - 9:00 p.m. There will be food, music, live performances, and more! Following the Pool Party, there will be 12 additional “Teen Nights” with a variety of themes and locations to attract teens

with different interests and hobbies. To learn more about “Teen Nights,” visit: [www.cabq.gov/teennight](http://www.cabq.gov/teennight) and follow us on social media @fcsabq!





## What Makes Albuquerque GREAT?

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



## CITY LEADERSHIP

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Isaac Benton, District 2

Klarissa J. Peña, District 3

Brad Winter, District 4

Cynthia D. Borrego, District 5

Pat Davis, District 6

Diane G. Gibson, District 7

Trudy E. Jones, District 8

Don Harris, District 9

### Chief Administrative Officer

Sarita Nair

### Director of Council Services

Stephanie Yara

# HOWDY NEIGHBOR!

## Want to get involved?

If you want to learn more about neighborhood associations, or find out what resources we can bring to your neighborhood, contact us! Our vision is to have an engaged, connected city based on trust with safe, diverse communities that have a voice and feel empowered to address their concerns in a meaningful way.

**Neighborhood News** is published monthly by the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC).

### Staff:

Angelo Metzgar, ONC Manager

Vanessa Baca, Neighborhood Communication Liaison

Vicente Quevedo, Neighborhood Liaison


Dalaina Carmona, Senior Administrative Assistant





Office of  
**Neighborhood  
Coordination**

Creating Community Together



 (505) 768-3334

 [onc@cabq.gov](mailto:onc@cabq.gov)

 [cabq.gov/neighborhoods](http://cabq.gov/neighborhoods)

1 Civic Plaza NW Suite 9087,  
9th Floor  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
TTY 1-800-659-8331