



Neighborhood Rescues Injured Animal

Near the Los Griegos neighborhood in the North Valley is a small street much loved by its residents and by bosque wildlife, including some wild peacocks. When Melissa Pizzo, a resident of this neighborhood, found an injured peacock in her driveway one afternoon, she immediately took action.



"My neighbors Paul Tashjian and Kathleen DesMaisons came to the rescue, helping wrap and transport the peacock to a vet who was a wild bird specialist," said Pizzo. "Kathleen also kept the peacock during its recovery, in a crate in her yard so it could heal in peace."

The bird, affectionately named "Mr. Peacock," shown above left, has become the unofficial mascot of the neighborhood, inspiring neighbors to chip in to pay for the bird's medical care and food, and for neighborhood signage.

"My own children were inspired to help Mr. Peacock, as well," said Pizzo. "They set up a lemonade and cookie stand and donated



the proceeds from their sales to help buy our neighborhood "Peacock Crossing" signs."

Mr. Peacock had been struck by a car speeding through their neighborhood, prompting the signage and a movement by all the neighborhood residents to actively keep an eye on their children and the peacocks to protect them from speeders.

"I was really proud to be part of our neighborhood effort in saving this beautiful bird," said Pizzo. "It goes to show that any group of neighbors can accomplish great things when they do it together."



Tour Offers Neighborhood Historical Perspective

The Downtown Neighborhoods Association was established in 1972 by a group of residents who wanted to make their streets and homes as diverse and friendly as possible. The association's acronym - DNA - was ideal, bringing to mind the concept of the molecular foundation of life, and there is plenty of life in this historic neighborhood.

Among the numerous initiatives the DNA has accomplished over the years are the reopening of Lew Wallace Elementary after a 10-year closure in the 1970s, development of the Mary Fox Park, and extensive work to encourage residential zoning and development.



"We are very proud, however, of our annual Mother's Day Downtown Historic Home, Garden and Architectural Tour," said DNA President Holly Siebert. "It's this yearly tour that showcases what our residents love so much about living in this neighborhood."

The neighborhood is naturally bejeweled with homes that display a beautiful variety of architectural styles. The Tour was developed both as a way to provide incentive for homeowners to keep their already-lovely properties in even better condition; and to showcase the fact that the neighborhood falls

within a Historic Overlay Zone under City zoning regulations. Having a Historic Overlay Zone designation means this is an area of protected historical, architectural and cultural significance, and the residents of DNA are very proud of this designation.



DNA is not just about historic and unique homes, however. A very organized and committed association, they have an active Neighborhood Watch program, two historical bed-and-breakfasts, a projects committee focused on partnering with Lew Wallace Elementary to sponsor mini library boxes and PTA support; and an ongoing historical project which will document not just the neighborhood's past but also its vibrant future.

For more information about the Downtown Neighborhoods Association, its other initiatives, and to learn more about the annual Mother's Day Historic Homes Tour, visit:

www.abqdna.com

Photos courtesy of the DNA and Tripadvisor.
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“Clean-Up” Your Neighborhood This Spring



The Great American Clean-Up is the country's largest community improvement program that kicks off in more than 20,000 communities each Spring. In Albuquerque, this year's event takes place Saturday, April 28.

To help you clean up your neighborhood, Keep Albuquerque Beautiful and the Solid Waste Department will:

- Provide free trash bags and gloves to your clean up
- Collect your neighborhood waste from the clean up at 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 28

Registration deadline is Friday, April 13, at 5:00 p.m. For more information and to download the registration form visit:

www.keepalbuquerquebeautiful.com.

Library Renamed in Honor of Local Author

“A library is also a place where love begins.”

Renowned local author Rudolfo Anaya was honored on March 15 when the North Valley Library was renamed in his honor. Anaya, at right, and whose seminal work *Bless Me, Ultima* has earned worldwide recognition, was on hand to accept kudos and praise for his writing and his staunch support of education and literacy for his home state of New Mexico.

Mr. Anaya talked of checking out books from his local library as a boy, how he met his late wife Patricia at Zimmerman Library on UNM Campus, his deep love of, and connection to, the North Valley, and of the importance of literacy, books and reading as keys to education, freedom and even romance.

The Rudolfo Anaya North Valley Library is one of 18 branches citywide that are jointly managed and administered by the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.



IDO Update

April 2018



The Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) will go into effect on May 17, 2018* and will completely replace the 1970s Zoning Code, Subdivision Ordinance, and regulations in the Sector Development Plans. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this effort. Your involvement has helped improve the land use and zoning system in Albuquerque.

Training Sessions

Presentations and handouts from past trainings are available on the project website at: abc-zone.com/events

There are three opportunities for trainings in April. All trainings will take place in the Basement Hearing Room of the Plaza del Sol Building (600 2nd Street NW).

IDO Topic	Evening - Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Daytime - Fridays, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Development Standards	April 4	-
Admin & Enforcement (i.e. review/approval processes)	April 18	April 6

Staff will be available after the Friday, April 6 training session until 3:30 p.m. for “study hall” for those who want to spend more time with the IDO, diving deeper and finding answers to more questions.

You can also email abcto@cabq.gov to request an “office hour” appointment on Monday afternoons to ask more specific questions about the IDO.

Errors & Omissions

The project team has been gathering errors and omissions noted by staff and the public. An ordinance (O-18-11) to address these errors and omissions was introduced for Council consideration on March 5 and heard at Council’s Land Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee (LUPZ) on March 14 and 28. The ordinance and all associated errors and omissions are available from Legistar and on the project website.

On March 28, LUPZ sent the ordinance with no recommendations to the City Council. The ordinance will be heard at the City Council meeting on Monday, April 2. There may be more than one City Council hearing on the IDO amendments.

* An ordinance (O-18-6) has been introduced at Council that would delay the effective date of the IDO until May 17, 2019. That ordinance has not yet been reviewed at Council’s Land Use, Planning, and Zoning (LUPZ) Committee, nor at Council. [See Legistar for more details.](#)

Question of the Month

Question:

When can my neighborhood expect to have its LED streetlights replaced, as part of the citywide Lighting Master Plan, announced in 2017?

Answer:

The City of Albuquerque announced last summer that it had contracted with Citelum, a lighting company, to inventory, inspect, measure for output, catalogue and replace all 20,000 city-owned streetlights with LED streetlights by the end of 2018. LED lights outlast traditional street lights significantly, so repair time will be considerably reduced. Citelum's inventory will allow for more exact location targeting for lights across the city that may need maintenance or replacement.

Citelum, as part of this contract, will also maintain the LED streetlights for 15 years.

By converting to LED, the City will reduce carbon dioxide offset by over 123,000 tons over 15 years; roughly the equivalent of removing 12,999 single-family homes energy use off the grid for one year.

The tentative schedule of LED light replacements, developed by Citelum, is expected to be complete by December.



New Equipment Helps AFD Improve Patient Care

In early March, the Albuquerque Fire Department (AFD) announced two new programs aimed at reducing non-emergency calls and improving patient care community-wide. AFD plans to implement Community Emergency Medical Services Care, which will allow paramedics and Emergency Medical

Technicians (EMT) to respond more efficiently to the high volume of calls for routine healthcare services. Additionally, Basic Life Support rescue will send a rescue unit into service with two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) to respond to non-life-threatening calls along the Central corridor.



In 2017, the Department responded to nearly 107,000 EMS and fire calls, with Central Avenue between I-25 and Juan Tabo having the highest call volume in the city. This new program aims to decrease that number so that community resources are more evenly distributed and patient care will continue to improve citywide.

To learn more about the Albuquerque Fire Department, it's new and ongoing community projects, and how to join the Department, visit: cabq.gov/fire

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Coming This Month

In celebration of Earth Day, the Municipal Development's Engineering Division, the Solid Waste Department, Bernalillo County, and Advanced Chemical Transport (ACT) are sponsoring a free household hazardous waste collection event on Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at 6137 Edith NE. Residents of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are encouraged to bring their household hazardous waste on this drop-off day. Examples of household hazardous waste include those items that can burn easily (flammable), corrode or irritate the skin (corrosive), or poison humans and animals (toxic).

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
Paint, automotive oil, antifreeze, gasoline	Cylinders, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors
Cleaning supplies, aerosols, pesticides	Stoves, refrigerators, computers, TVs, electronics
Corrosives, batteries, fertilizers	Metals, paper, needles, medical waste
Poisons, herbicides	Asbestos, ammunition, explosives

Avoid Mail Fraud This Tax Season

Tax season is never anyone's favorite time of year. Stress about filing on time, having the correct information and paperwork, what kind of refund we may be getting, uncertainty about filing online or with a traditional paper return, or having to write a check to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are the main reasons we don't like this time of year. And as always, we must be alert and aware of possible tax return fraud, when an increase in mail theft is seen nationwide.

Below are some tips to help avoid becoming a victim and to keep your information safe:



- If you are mailing a check to the IRS, don't leave it as outgoing mail in your mailbox. Instead, take it to the local post office or drop it in one of the blue U.S. Postal Service collection boxes.
- If you're expecting any type of mailed refund, check your mail as soon as possible every day.
- If you're expecting credit cards, checks, or other valuable items to be delivered, ask a trusted neighbor, friend or family member to pick up your mail.
- Consider getting a locked mail box at your residence, or a post office box.
- If your mail is stolen, report it immediately to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 877-876-2455 or online at: <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>
- Consider signing up for the U.S. Postal Service's free Informed Delivery Service, which allows you to see what mail you will have delivered, gives tracking information if available, and allows you to offer delivery instructions. Visit: <https://informedelivery.usps.com> to learn more.

What Makes Albuquerque Great?

In addition to the beautiful weather, diverse culture, and gorgeous scenery, Albuquerque has a thriving, home-grown fan base for its sports teams. The University of New Mexico (UNM) Lobos have a huge statewide following, and on a local level, springtime high school boy's basketball contributes to the March Madness in Albuquerque. Kim Arroyo, a resident of the Anderson Hills neighborhood, shared why this is one reason Albuquerque is great.

"We have so many talented high school sports teams, and in particular, this spring we got to see this when two of our Albuquerque high schools won the state basketball championships!"

Hope Christian, a private school, won the state basketball championship in the 4A Division; and Atrisco Heritage High School, Albuquerque's newest and second largest public high school, proudly took home the 6A Division, their first state championship. The Atrisco Heritage Jaguars are pictured above right.



Photo courtesy of Stan Lewis

"It was so exciting to watch these young athletes show off their skills," said Arroyo. "Having such pride in our youth and their athleticism is the main reason Albuquerque is so great. We need to encourage students in academics and in athletics, and that is part of why we have such potential in our youth of Albuquerque."

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

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