



Light The District Project Helps Improve Neighborhood Safety



The need for safer crosswalks, sidewalk repairs, improved lighting, and ADA-compliant ramps has long been the focus of The International District Healthy Communities Coalition (IDHCC), a community engagement group that works with neighborhood leaders and residents to facilitate community health improvement. Among those was the *Light the District* initiative.

"Light the District focuses on conditions that kept residents from enjoying physical activity

in and around the International District," said Bernadette Hardy, project lead for *Light the District*. "Our residents can engage and learn how they can effect positive change within our neighborhood."

IDHCC and Healthy Here, a public health initiative with Presbyterian Center for Community Health, have joined efforts to collaborate with neighbors in the installation of wooden poles and solar lights on private property.

One recommended strategy included additional lighting to encourage more physical activity and community engagement, and with the twenty light fixtures installed so far, the program is well on its way to more, and safer, community engagement.

"Our residents are also working with City agencies and PNM

city to identify and repair non-working lights in the area" said Hardy. "With the added lights, we were also able to bring ABQ CiQlovía to the International District." ABQ CiQlovía is an annual community event that encourages walking, biking, multimodal transportation and all forms of activity.

To learn more about Light the District and other IDHCC initiatives, visit them at: www.facebook.com/International-District-Healthy-Communities-



Hodgin Neighborhood Association Revitalized



Tucked away south of Montgomery, between San Mateo and Carlisle, the Hodgin Neighborhood Association is bisected by the Paseo del Nordeste Recreation Trail and Hahn Arroyo, one of the area's assets as it provides a beautiful landscape for walking, bicycling, meeting neighbors and friends, dog-walking, and more recently, keeping an eye on unusual or suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood association was brought back to life in 2017 by Cathy Intemann, who went door to door to raise interest, contacted the Office of Neighborhood Coordination to renew its status as a recognized neighborhood association, and shared her enthusiasm with others, namely Pat Mallory, Kathy Kleyboecker, current NA president, and Marilyn Strube, pictured below.



"We're a mixture of older residents, kids and small businesses, and we love our neighborhood," said Kleyboecker. "Unfortunately, we've had our share of

robberies, car theft, and drug dealing along Hahn Arroyo, and it was this concern for our neighborhood safety that spurred Cathy Intemann and then us, to take an active role in our neighborhood association and work to make our neighborhood a safer and more pleasant area for our families and residents."

Hodgin NA was established in the early 1990s, but by early 2017, it had no membership and was struggling to remain active. Cathy Intemann took the reins and made it into a thriving NA that now has a 9-member board, is in the process of creating a Neighborhood Watch, and continues to see membership grow.



An older neighborhood named for Charles Hodgin, a champion of public education for whom Hodgin Hall at the University of New Mexico (UNM) was named, the residents of which are deeply committed to making their neighborhood not just safer but more attractive and community-based. During the holidays, many residents go all-out in their decorating efforts, as seen above.

"Ultimately, we want our neighborhood to be a place where everyone feels safe," said Kleyboecker. "We want to incorporate a community garden, work with Hodgin Elementary to create more neighborhood outreach opportunities, and be one of the best neighborhoods in the city. We're on our way!"

Help Shape Neighborhoods!

Are you involved in your neighborhood? Do you have ideas on how to make neighborhoods more successful? Are you interested in helping shape the future of city support and services provided to neighborhoods?



The Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO) addresses all of these questions and more. City Councilors Isaac Benton (D2) and Trudy Jones (D8) have expressed an intent to update the NARO to address the weaknesses, shortcomings, and missed opportunities that currently exist in the legislation. They have asked the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) to lead the outreach process, and we need your involvement!

If you are interested in participating in the discussion, and want to receive notice for opportunities to get involved, subscribe to the ONC's e-mail list at: www.cabq.gov/neighborhoods. As soon as we are ready to hold meetings and brainstorming sessions, we will share the details via e-mail, social media, and our website.

We look forward to starting the conversation!



Recycle Your Real Christmas Tree in January



Residents can also drop off their Christmas tree lights into marked containers for recycling. Christmas tree lights should never be placed into the blue recycling carts that residents use at their homes.

Trees and lights may be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 2 through Sunday, January 14, 2018 at:

The Solid Waste Management Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Public Service Company (PNM) will recycle Christmas Trees and Christmas Lights for FREE at three separate locations in Albuquerque beginning January 2, 2018. No artificial trees will be accepted.

- Montessa Park Convenience Center, 3512 Los Picaros SE, 873-6607
- Eagle Rock Convenience Center, 6301 Eagle Rock NE, 857-8318
- Ladera Golf Course, Coors and Ladera NW, 888-8115

PNM Vegetation Management crews and Parks and Recreation staff will grind trees into chips, which can then be used as mulch to provide a better growing environment for plants and landscapes. Residents can pick up the freshly ground wood chips for use in their home landscapes free of charge while supplies last.

Please remove all bags, tree stands, decorations and lights from trees before dropping them off to be mulched. Limit 5 trees per resident. No commercial customers.

For more information call 311, TTY 711, or visit www.cabq.gov/solidwaste

Drivers Reminded To Avoid ART Bus Lanes

With the near-completion of the Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART) project comes new “Bus-Only” lanes on Central Avenue. The City Transit Department (ABQ RIDE) would like to remind drivers that they cannot enter the ART bus lanes.



Drivers have continued crossing to make left turns, or driving in, the ART “Bus Only” lane, which is a danger to both cars and buses. The Albuquerque Police Department (APD) has been patrolling the area more frequently and will ticket drivers caught in the “Bus Only” lanes. As well, rumble strips have been placed on both sides of the ART bus lane to alert drivers if they accidentally enter the ART lane, and “Bus Only” decals have been placed throughout the ART corridor.

For more information on the ART project, “bus only” lanes, and updates, visit: www.brtabq.com

Question of the Month

Question:

Why should I start a Neighborhood Watch?

Answer:

A Neighborhood Watch is essential in community policing and establishing connections among neighbors to help create and keep neighborhoods safe and pleasant areas to live.



- First off, contact the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Crime Prevention Office at (505) 244-6644. The Crime Prevention Office will send you a starter packet.
- You will need to visit neighbors on your block to get their contact information and determine if they are interested in participating. Note: at least 50% of the homes on the block must be represented)
- Next, you send this information back to the Crime Prevention Office, and they will then contact you to set up a date, time and location - usually your house - for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- The Crime Prevention Office will also invite your neighbors on the block who signed up to be part of the Watch.
- Fliers will be sent to your home, so you can distribute them personally on your block.
- The Crime Prevention Office will conduct the meeting and provide a variety of safety and security information, and will facilitate selection of a Block Captain. The Block Captain represents the block and serves as point of contact for APD.
- The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors, and for providing updated information to the Crime Prevention Office, such as Block Captain replacements, etc.
- Your block is now considered organized, and can collectively purchase Neighborhoods Organized Against Crime (NOAC) signs for your street. Your Block Captain can order them through the Crime Prevention Office.
- Your Block Captain is also eligible to join the Albuquerque Block Captains Association (ABCA).
- Best of all, your block can officially participate in the annual National Night Out celebration held the first Tuesday in August each year!

To learn more about forming a Neighborhood Watch, call the Crime Prevention Office at (505) 244-6644 or visit: www.cabq.gov/police

What Makes Albuquerque Great?



Route 66 Summerfest image courtesy of Elias Quinn and Nob Hill Main Street

Albuquerque has many wonderful qualities, assets, and events, all of which reflect the diversity and beauty of our culture and neighborhoods, and demonstrates our commitment to community. Westgate resident Krista Baca recently shared her favorite thing about living in Albuquerque.

“The sense of community I feel at events like Route 66 Summerfest, or church fiestas, is what I love most,” she said. “You see people from babies to the elderly, and every age in between.

I love running into people I’ve known for years at the great events our city sponsors, because it adds to our larger sense of community.”

Community events like Summerfest are extremely popular across Albuquerque; so much so that the City has expanded its Summerfest events to four in various locations around town - Downtown Summerfest; West Side Summerfest; and Northeast Heights Summerfest; in addition to the very popular Route 66 Summerfest.

Route 66 Summerfest first started in 2010 with approximately 17,000 attendees. Today, 50,000 residents attend each year, making it one of the biggest community events in Albuquerque!

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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