



PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATION

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

MAY 2018



## PARTNERING SAVES NEIGHBORHOOD HOME

An empty house on a residential street usually means it's for sale - a welcome event in any neighborhood. But in the Academy Estates East Neighborhood, this particular empty house initially caused concern for neighbors and the area Block Captain.

"It came to our attention that the house on Camino del Sol (shown above) was not only empty, the back door was open and leaves were blowing in," said Academy Estates East resident Janet Butts. "We were terrified something awful had happened to the resident, so we

contacted our Block Captain, Anita Harper."

Harper did some research and learned from the City's Zoning Division with the Planning Department that the house was not only vacant, but had been in foreclosure for six months prior.

**"This shows how much it pays off to look out for everyone in your neighborhood, even an empty house"**

ANITA HARPER  
BLOCK CAPTAIN

Academy Estates East is a quiet neighborhood tucked away east of Spain and north of Montgomery, and one of its chief attractions is the closeness of many residents and

neighbors. It's this connection that led to what happened next.

**COVER STORY CONTINUED PAGE 2**

# PARTNER- ING SAVES HOME ...

"I talked to several neighbors, including Janet Butts, and Nancy Plevin who lives behind the house," said Harper. "We all agreed to maintain the front yard and keep the property looking clean and well-kept, so potential criminals wouldn't know the house was empty." Neighbors raked leaves, mowed grass, and made the house not only look occupied, but more attractive than it had been previously.

"I spent a bit of time tracking down the bank who held the note on the house's foreclosure," said Harper. "Fortunately, we found the right bank, and persistently yet diplomatically, convinced them that it would be in their financial interests to sell the house so the property value did not go down." Soon after the bank took possession, the house was purchased and remodeled, and resold to brand-new owners who love the house and neighborhood.

"We look forward to our new neighbors, but more importantly, this shows how much it pays off to look out for everyone in your neighborhood, even an empty house," said Harper. "Keeping those connections and watching out for each other is the key to having a safe, clean and beautiful neighborhood." ●



## What is a neighborhood association? And why they matter.

A neighborhood association is a group of residents, property owners, businesses, and non-profits who come together to form a community, and to advocate for and organize activities within a specific geographical area that shares a common identity.

### What Does a Neighborhood Association Do?

A neighborhood association builds relationships, exchange information, discuss concerns, prioritize needs in the area, identify solutions, and work toward a common goal for the good of their community. An association can positively impact the life of each person within the boundaries of the neighborhood for the better.

### Why Should I Join?

Joining a neighborhood association not only amplifies your voice, but helps create a community with a shared vision and goal. When neighbors come together, it shows that the neighborhood is united and ready to make an impact on their community.

### Neighborhood Associations & Community Policing

Some services that APD provides to neighborhoods interested in community policing include:

- Block Captain Training
- Crime Prevention Specialists
- Neighborhood Watch Programs

### What Is The Office of Neighborhood Coordination?

The Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) helps create and promote healthy and vibrant neighborhoods, and supports residents as they more actively and constructively engage with their community. We assist neighborhoods in utilizing existing resources and maintaining meaningful involvement with local communities and government.





NOTES FROM THE CITY

# PROGRAM ENCOURAGES SUMMER READING

## Want to earn prizes for reading this summer? Here's how!

For many, summer is a time of relaxation, lounging in the park or by the pool, and enjoying the sunshine and recreation that Albuquerque offers. This year, you have the chance to earn some prizes and do some recreational reading while you're relaxing in the sun!

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Public Library invites you to participate in this year's Summer Reading Program, an 8-week initiative aimed at celebrating the joy of reading.

Children, tweens, teens and adults can all participate and earn the chance to win some really great prizes, see some concerts, and a lot more.

To learn more about the Summer Reading program, visit your nearest library branch, call 768-5170, or visit: [www.abqlibrary.org](http://www.abqlibrary.org) •





## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PROFILE

# ALVARADO PARK

## Sharing Community, Park, and Home

A neighborhood built in the late 1940s for soldiers returning from World War II, the Alvarado Park neighborhood is a little jewel tucked away in the area between San Mateo, San Pedro, I-40 and Constitution.

Among the many treasures this comfortable neighborhood features are its residents - working professionals, families of all sizes and ages, children, and many dogs - a variety of small businesses, and the centerpiece in the crown - Alvarado Park itself.

The park is intrinsically tied to the neighborhood and is the nucleus and meeting place for most, if not all, residents. The Alvarado Park Neighborhood Association (APNA), formed in 2001 and currently at 50 active members, has seen a variety of changes, but the one thing all members and residents agree upon is that caring for Alvarado Park is essential for their neighborhood's well-being.

"We've seen a lot of development in our park, from tree revitalization and replanting, to new



playground equipment put in that was specifically chosen by residents, to our ice cream social, to our Sunday Farmer's Market, to our Thursday Food Truck Festival!" said Darcy Bushnell, APNA President. "It's really an exciting time for our neighborhood, and we couldn't have done it without the investment, time and love of our association members and residents of the area."

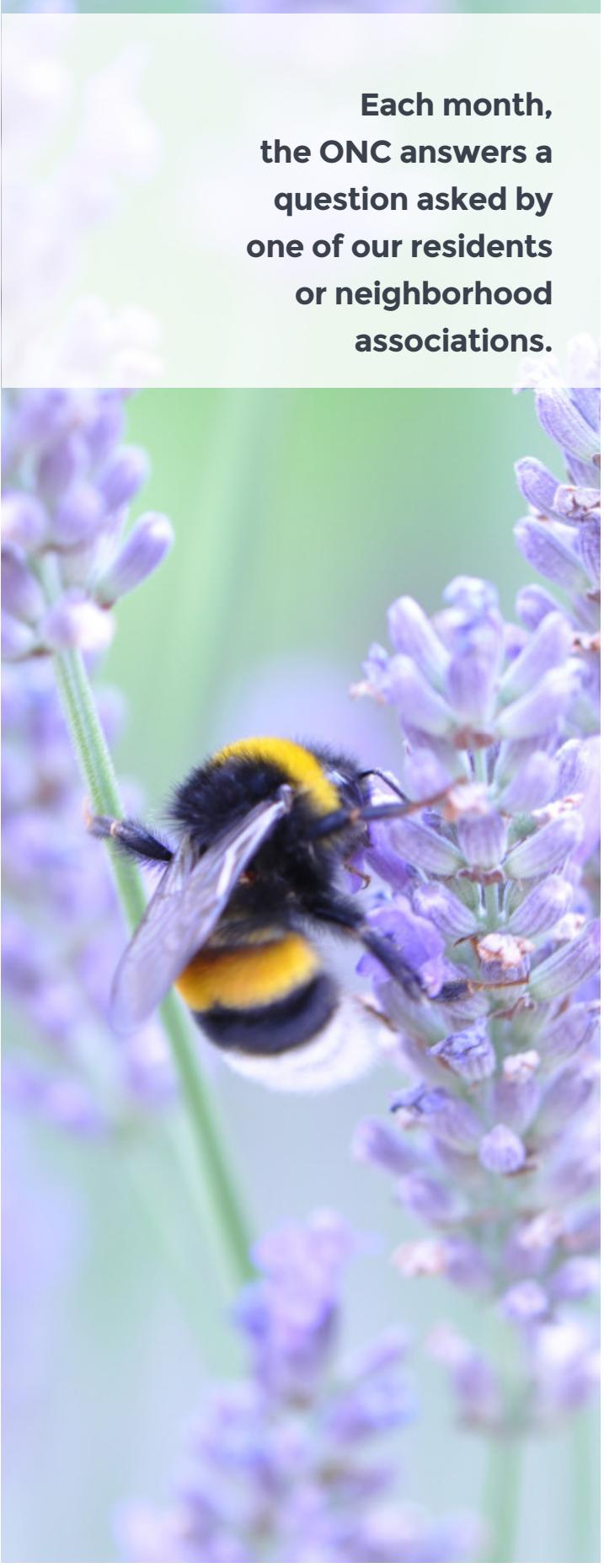
Bill Sterchi, shown above center with Bushnell, was the first APNA president, and a strong voice in advocating for his park and neighborhood.

"Most everything that's happened here is because of our neighbors. We are very lucky to live in this amazing place," he said. ●

**“Our park is our lifeline, but our neighbors are the heart and soul of our neighborhood.”**

- DARCY BUSHNELL





**Each month,  
the ONC answers a  
question asked by  
one of our residents  
or neighborhood  
associations.**

# QUESTION OF THE MONTH

## Question:

Does the City offer any resources for making our yards look beautiful in the summer? What types of plants or flowers work best in the desert?

## Answer:

The ABQ BioPark suggests planting rosemary, lavender (which also attracts bees), Russian sage, or similar plants, which do well in our extreme summer heat.

If you have planters, pick appropriate plants for each space. Begonias, impatiens and coleus love to be tucked in the shade while lantana, marigolds and zinnias will soak up the sun. For hot west-facing spots consider using low-water succulents. And remember that if you use terracotta pots, remember they dry more quickly, so water any plants in them a bit more often.

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA) offers xeriscaping rebates. It's a good idea to check your sprinkler or drip-irrigation systems if you have them, so that water is not wasted. ABCWUA offers free irrigation assessments of your property, to assess how much water your yard may need. To learn more about these services, visit: [www.abcwua.org/Xeriscape.aspx](http://www.abcwua.org/Xeriscape.aspx) ●





# BIKE SHARE PROGRAM ADDS TO MULTIMODAL VIBE

PaceABQ blends predictability and flexibility for bike riders, while preserving safety for the community.

Rio Metro Regional Transit District and Zagster debuted Albuquerque's expanded bike share system on Thursday, April 19. With that debut, 250 bicycles are now available for residents, visitors, and students to make on-demand trips with just a tap on their smartphones.

Pace features a first-of-its-kind dockless bike sharing model that blends predictability and flexibility for riders, while preserving order and safety for communities. With Pace, users will still enjoy the pre-

dictability of dedicated bike share hubs in key locations, but they will now be allowed to lock the bicycles to public bicycle racks as well.

Riders find available bikes and parking locations in the app and can unlock bikes with the touch of a button. Rides cost \$1 per 30 minutes, and the first 30-minute ride for every new user is free.

Learn more at: [www.riometro.org/rider-tools/bike-share](http://www.riometro.org/rider-tools/bike-share). ●



Download the free  
PaceABQ Bike Share app  
from the App Store or  
Google Play!

We are a city of many resources, assets, and benefits, and it is these advantages that make Albuquerque the unique place it is. Northeast Heights resident Robyn Richards shared her thoughts about what makes Albuquerque great.



## WHAT MAKES ALBUQUERQUE GREAT?



"Our city has the distinction of being the only one in the Northern Hemisphere with a contiguous portion of wildland right through the center of it," said Richards.

This segment of wildland is called the Bosque, and many varieties of animals, birds, and plantlife can be seen if you are patient, quiet, and inclined to look. There are places for the amateur birdwatcher, expert runner, hiker, or biker, or if you just want to enjoy some peace.

## BOSQUE

## WILDLIFE

"The Bosque is the heart of our city. It is home to some animals who are endangered, it provides a home for our local wildlife, and also offers a beautiful setting for any of our residents. To me, this little outdoor sanctuary we call The Bosque is one of so many things that make Albuquerque great." ●

*Robyn lives in the Heritage Hills neighborhood.*





## 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

### Mayor

Timothy M. Keller

### City Council

Ken Sanchez, District 1  
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

Jon K. Zaman

# WON'T YOU BE MY 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.

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