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SGANA

San Gabriel Area Neighborhood Association January 2016

October 19, 2015 Annual Meeting Overview

Opening and Introductions:

President Dan Jones introduced the board members and guest speakers and called for self introductions of residents. Forrest Smith, representing our hosts, Berean Baptist Church was also introduced as were APD Detectives Verlanda Natewa and Dee Candelaria. Once again Ray Peabody was the resident with the most longevity having been in San Gabriel since 1967. While last years newest member had been here five months, this years "newbie" was Wayne Chesna who very recently moved into the neighborhood.

Speaker Program - White Collar Crime:

The San Gabriel Annual Meeting in October included a presentation on how to protect yourself from modern crime schemes, many of which go unnoticed at the outset and currently the represent the fastest growing form of crime in the U.S. Some we knew about but didn't realize there were new variations on others **Skimming** is a "special" card reading sleeve inserted in an ATM, gas pump or other card reading machine. These sleeves can be almost undetectable but if you have any concern just give the outside of the card slot a little tug before inserting your card. If it moves or comes out report immediately to the management of the business. Another cautionary step at card machines it to shield the keypad when entering your PIN or other identifying number. Many times thieves will have installed hidden cameras capable of reading your card number and the keypad.

Mailbox crimes include more sophistication at cluster boxes with crooks replicating key sand opening boxes, thus leaving no evidence of theft. People are also paying multiple visits to mailboxes, collecting a credit card application on one visit and the actual card a few weeks later. Even USPS blue drop boxes aren't 100% safe since crooks are using double sided tape or other sticky substance on the end of a string to remove envelopes, keeping those that might contain something of use to them. It's safer to go inside or to use drop boxes only at times when you know a postal service pickup is scheduled.

Many scammers use the **phone** pretending to be an

agent from the IRS or an arm of the court system advising you that you can avoid being fined or arrested if you meet them at a specific location cash in hand. Some even say they are from a utility company and your power or water is about to be shut off. In all these cases the caller is playing on the fear factor, but would-be victims can stay safe by thinking clearly. Offer to call them back but **never** use the number they give you. If you think you may have some legal obligation consult the phone directory or Internet to obtain a legitimate phone number for your agency and call that number. Or call APD's Crime Prevention Unit at **505-244-6644**. And never meet with "the agent" unless you want to get scammed.

Email and Internet provide a huge market for victims. Scammers may appear to be members of real dating sites or someone pretending to be a relative who has been robbed or stricken ill while traveling outside the country and needs money **now**. Be **very** careful to make certain you are participating in a legitimate dating site and **never** send money without first checking with your relative through known channels.

Avoiding identity theft is key when making an online loan application. Make sure you are actually on a legitimate site. Phony sites often contain poor spelling or sentence construction since they are often located outside the U.S. and may not have a good command of our language. Hover the cursor on the screen in the body of the site. This will cause a small box to appear at the bottom of your screen near the task bar. If the text in that box bears no resemblance to the site you think you are accessing exit immediately and contact the legitimate agency. **Do not respond** to an invitation to set up a loan or a credit card application or any other "offer." **Be the initiator** and check carefully to be sure you are in contact with the actual credit union, bank or loan company.

Some other things you can do to reduce your likelihood of being victimized are:

- ✧ Keep a list in a secure location with all your credit card numbers along with expiration date, the security code on the back and phone numbers. This will facilitate quick reporting In the event that your cards are lost or stolen .
- ✧ On the above list record all your bank account numbers

- such as routing numbers and bank contact information.
- ✧ Frequently check your card balances and charge history; weekly is recommended.
- ✧ Frequently access your bank account balances and histories; weekly is recommended.
- ✧ Make it a habit to check your credit score regularly. Any inquiries, new cards or changes you have **not** initiated are reason to follow up with the company or companies in question. You are entitled to one free report from each of the three national credit reporting organizations. They are:
 - Equifax 800-525-6285
 - Experian 800-397-3742
 - Trans Union 800-680-7289
- ✧ Never place envelopes containing checks or financial information in your curbside mailbox or other unsecured box.
- ✧ When you're away from home, and the house is vacant, resist the urge to post your vacation photos on Facebook. Don't advertise that your home is vacant; wait until you return.
- ✧ Never leave your garage door opener or insurance and registration papers in your car. The door opener makes access to your home easier. The paperwork can be used to lend legitimacy to stolen vehicles.
- ✧ Think about what you are doing or being asked to do.
 - If it sounds suspicious, back off. Don't become a victim.
 - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
 - Do not fall prey to pressure; inducing fear is a common tactic of con artists.
- ✧ Check credentials.
- ✧ If you do get conned do not let embarrassment win and give the cons a chance to continue their scam. Report it immediately to 768-2300 or 242-COPS.
- ✧ If you have a no-soliciting sign near your front door remind those who ring the bell or knock that the sign is there for a reason and you will be calling the police.
- ✧ Be vigilant at all times.

Annual Report: President Dan Jones highlighted some of the initiatives and accomplishments of the Board two which collaboration with Passage Community Outreach on the Block Party, and participation in Nextdoor. Continuation of presenting interviews with local businesses, supporting our local elementary school, Trivia Quiz and donation of door prizes for attendants at the meeting were also included. You can request an electronic copy of the Annual Report by email.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cynthia Klaila reported that our treasury is a bit low. Even though expenses this year have not been excessive, incoming is not keeping pace with outgoing. Dues are generally our only source of income.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Carol Driscoll made copies of the 2014 meeting available to attendees and offered to email copies requested by residents. Reading of minutes was waived.

Open Forum:

Marble Brewery:

President Dan Jones gave a report on a proposal to convert a long-vacant former post office property at 9904 Montgomery into a satellite location of the downtown Marble Brewery. New owners of the property, Coe and Peterson, plan to transform the 10,000-square-foot building into a "lifestyle center." Dan has been doing extensive research into another Marble Brewery satellite in a west side residential neighborhood and has learned that there have been no complaints. Since there will be music at Heights location he has been checking city ordinances regarding noise levels and learned that all existing regulations will apply. The proposal, which includes an outdoor beer garden on the west side of the building, is immediately adjacent to homes on the north end of Pitt Street raising concern about noise. Dan has learned that the music will originate inside the building with an acoustic wall on the east side of the sound stage and the opening to the outdoor beer garden facing west. The good news is that these brew pubs tend not to draw problem crowds and city ordinances favor the residents. Dan will be attending the zoning hearing on Tuesday as President of the Association. He was acknowledged for his diligence on our behalf.

Door Prizes: Since your Board members had arranged for an abundance of door prizes Wayne Chesna, Charlie Kimbrell, Lori Parenti, Raymond Peabody, Joan Reynolds, Barbara Saya and Forrest Smith all went home with prizes.

Trivia Quiz: The quiz this year was comprised of both multiple choice and true/false questions all having to do with little known facts about New Mexico. Lori Parenti was the undisputed winner with 9 out of 10 correct answer.

Election of Officers: Dan, Margaret, Cynthia and Carol stated their willingness to remain in their current positions. Rick Brittan is leaving the neighborhood and has resigned his position at member-at-large. There were no nominations from the floor. The above slate was unanimously accepted.

Nextdoor - a more versatile option than our E-bulletins:

Nextdoor Neighborhood is a private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's an easy, flexible way for you and your neighbors to talk online and share information. **And it's free.** Thousands of neighborhoods (59 San Gabriel residents) are already enjoying the benefits of using Nextdoor.

The network is organized by neighborhood allowing you

to have your profile seen only by your own or by others that are nearby. You can list your address or not. There are also categories such as Classifieds, Crime & Safety, Lost & Found, Recommendations (a free, mini A-list), Free Items, General and an incredibly versatile Documents section. You have to see it to believe it. The categories allow you to:

- Quickly get word out about a break-in or lost child.
- Notices and documents from APD & other city agencies.
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter.
- Find out who does the best paint job in town.
- Ask for help in finding a lost dog or turtle.
- Place classified ads.
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group.
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike.

If you want to communicate only with a specific group of people (SGANA newsletter delivery people) you can set up a Group that has controlled access. This network is much more flexible and easier to access than SGANA E-bulletins **and you can do it all yourself.**

go to: https://sangabrielnm.nextdoor.com/about_us/

End of Annual Meeting Summary

Comments Regarding Nextdoor Neighborhood

If you haven't yet considered becoming part of the Nextdoor Neighborhood network I strongly encourage you to give it serious consideration. As of the date of this writing 98 San Gabriel residents have subscribed and some of the newer subscribers have already posted questions, answers and opinions. APD and BCSO have postings nearly every day many of which are announcements about upcoming programs and events, and some of which are notices of current threats in the city and surrounding areas.

This resource is incredibly flexible, easy to use and carries the additional and unexpected benefit of offering fun. Subscribers have the opportunity to include their address on a map along with others who are giving out Halloween candy, want to show off their holiday lighting, suggest some outstanding sight they came across in their travels around town or make a post on an easy to use Events map.

Not only is this all cost free, it's fun to use and easy to unsubscribe if you decide it's not for you - though I doubt you'll want to.

You can simply type **nextdoor** into your browser and then click on the option Nextdoor Neighborhood Network. You'll find everything you need to make a decision for, or against, becoming a subscriber. Carol Driscoll, Editor



Opening Soon Nearby

Sandia Area Federal Credit Union will soon be increasing its service to members who live in the far Northeast Heights by adding a new branch location 11301 Montgomery Blvd NE, directly across from Eldorado High School.

This new full-service office will offer teller and drive-up service, Member Service Officers, a 24-hour drive-up ATM, safe deposit boxes and more. We will be open Monday through Saturday.

If you don't yet do your banking with Sandia Area, we invite you to discover the value we have offered our community since 1956. Through a network of seven branches, Online and Mobile Banking, great rates, fewer fees, a full range of consumer and business financial services, and nearly 30,000 free ATMs worldwide, we provide service to over 70,000 members.

The actual opening date will be announced on our website, www.sandia.org. We look forward to serving you, your family, or your business with all of your financial needs as our credit union is open to all San Gabriel residents..

Printing cost of this newsletter courtesy of
Sandia Area Federal Credit Union

Update on Marble Brewery

Followup to Annual Meeting Open Forum article - On October 20, 2015, the day after the Annual Meeting, Association President Dan Jones formally testified before the Zoning Hearing Examiner at Plaza Del Sol downtown concerning the proposed Marble Brewery taproom on Montgomery with outdoor patio (15ZHE-80253 Project#1010607). He welcomed Marble Brewery to the neighborhood, explained that we expected full compliance with the City's noise ordinance and requested that the judge make any approval of the zoning variance conditional on provision of sound walls that were verbally promised at the hearing. Two neighbors on Pitt with adjoining properties to the taproom also testified. The overall tone of the hearing process seemed congenial and left one with the feeling that Marble Brewery sincerely wants to be a good neighbor.

Residents who have been around a while will remember that this property was formerly a U S Post Office. The proposal was granted zoning clearance on 10/30/2015. A few weeks later the zoning examiner agreed to the provisions requested by SGANA.

<http://documents.cabq.gov/planning/zoning-hearing-examiner/Oct2015-NODs/ZHE1010607.pdf>

Special Exception No:.....15ZHE80252

Project No:Project# 1010607

Hearing Date:10-20-15

Closing of Public Record:.....10-20-15

Date of Decision:.....10-30-15

