



# SGANA

Waiting at the wall

San Gabriel Area Neighborhood Association January 2013

**Sunday in the Park** - About 40 people took advantage of a beautiful Sunday afternoon coming out to Mitchell Park on September 16 for the Annual Neighborhood Ice Cream Social. As is always the case the children "patiently" waited for the rock wall to be set up and then took turns going up, coming down, returning to the back of the waiting line, going up, coming down . . . and sometimes stopping to get a drink or a dish of ice cream. There was a brand new baby, at least one out of town guest who was visiting in the neighborhood and a couple youngsters practicing their yoga while they calmly waited for their grandmother to give them permission to go back up the rock wall - again. Several regulars, some of them long-time residents, showed up to visit, have a root beer float or dish of ice cream and get caught up on each others lives. The three Dog Parade judges gave all two contenders for Best Dressed and Best Trick plenty of time to strut their stuff and a guest Miniature Dachshund walked off with Best In Show. One visitor from another area was drawn by an interest about how to get something started in his neighborhood. It was a privilege to share with him and offer some guidance.



Chatting it up.



Dan Jones scooping up yum.

## **Annual Meeting Report, October 14, 2012:**

Crime Prevention and Safety: According to Lt. Nick Gonzales of APD Foot Hills Command and in spite of how it might seem to those of you who subscribe to the email bulletin list crime in our neighborhood is down from last year. In 2011 there were 67 incidents; 61 burglaries, 5 vehicle thefts and 1 robbery. In 2012 there were 61 incidents; 55 burglaries, 5 vehicle thefts and 1 robbery. Additionally he reported that 1) a significant number of these incidents (36) were on commercial properties surrounding our

neighborhood. 2) Thirty four (34) of the auto burglaries involved vehicles that had been left unlocked. 3) Some of the residential burglaries also involved **unlocked** doors and/or windows and 4) several had purses, wallets, keys, garage door openers, electronic devices, personal papers and/or other valuables inside. He stressed the need for our help calling these "crimes of opportunity" which means that we are making life easier for the thieves. We need to do as much as we can to deprive them of these opportunities. To help give residents a greater sense of personal safety Lt. Gonzales made several suggestions including: cont on next page

- Keep vehicle, house and garage doors and windows locked even when you're home.
- Use dead bolts; have them installed if you don't have them.
- Use bars/rods in sliding doors and windows as a backup to locks which can be broken
- Consider having wrought iron doors installed at all doors.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- If you have a house alarm use it even when you're in the house.
- Form Neighborhood Block Watch groups. Contact 924-3600 for information.
- Watch out for one another - and **be a good witness**. Gather as much information as possible.
- If you notice unfamiliar individual(s) hanging around, again be a good witness. Be as prepared as possible to tell police gender, age, height, weight, color of clothing, color and length of hair, glasses, etc.
- Address unfamiliar individuals in a non-threatening manner providing you can maintain a sense of personal safety. If you're afraid - don't. Call APD if you're concerned.

#### **Open Forum:**

Among those present was a woman whose home was burglarized during the daytime even though locked and alarmed. This was not a crime of opportunity and, thanks to the alarm system, it tells us something about the level of experience of the thieves. They forced entry at the back of the house, out of sight of witnesses, and stayed in the house long enough to escape through the front door with minimal loot, apparently having some idea of how much time they had before police might arrive. The greatest loss to the residents was peace of mind, having been violated in spite of their best effort to deter thieves. Lt. Gonzales again pointed to the desirability of establishing a block watch and recommended calling Jill Garcia at APD for a home safety assessment; her number is 332-4644.

Before moving on to other subjects meeting facilitator Dan Jones invited attendees to sample the dessert potluck and be sure to check out the slide show of photos from the Ice Cream Social.

Several comments dealt with how nicely some residents consistently keep their properties. This is especially noteworthy in a neighborhood that is 50 years old and many of the residents are getting on in years. There are some exceptions and some suggestions were made about ways to help keep our neighborhood beautiful. Contact the Department of Senior Affairs at 764-6400 or [seniorinformation@cabq.gov](mailto:seniorinformation@cabq.gov). Another suggestion is to have a conversation with the resident or leave a note recommending that some attention is in order. More able residents might make an offer of help. Ongoing unpleasant or unsafe conditions can be reported to the city's 311 line. For example weeds, pine needles and trash accumulating along the edge of the street can become a fire hazard if a burning cigarette is thrown from a passing vehicle.

#### **Election of Officers:**

The last order of business at this meeting was the annual election of officers. Vice-President Dan Jones announced that Pat Maher would be stepping down as President. All existing Board members, including Mr. Maher, expressed a willingness to stay on in some capacity and Mark Webb stated he was

willing to fill one of the positions, all of which would be determined at the next Board meeting which was scheduled for October 21. Faye Ingle motioned for adoption of a Board comprised of Carol Driscoll, Dan Jones, Darla Ingle, Cynthia Klaila and Mark Webb. This slate was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Post Meeting Note:** At the Board meeting of October 21 the following appointments were made:

President:	Dan Jones	Treasurer:	Joan Reynolds
Vice-President:	Mark Webb	Secretary:	Carol Driscoll
Director At Large:	Cynthia Klaila		

### **School Board Elections:**

While your Neighborhood Association is a non-political entity and your Board of Directors does not endorse any candidate we do want to remind you that District 7 voters will have the opportunity on **February 5, 2103** to choose the candidate they believe will best represent the interests of our children. We present here brief statements from both candidates and a link to the APS School Board website <http://www.aps.edu/about-us/board>. We reiterate that these statements are from the candidates and carry no endorsements from you Board. Call 311 or go to <http://www.aps.edu/about-us/board/2013-school-board-member-election/documents/Board%20Election%20Voting%20Locations.pdf> for a complete list of voting locations. Some are posted at the bottom of this page.

David E. Peercy has served the APS school district over the last four years, with a particular focus on his home District 7. The District has expanded to include three additional schools; Del Norte, nex+Gen Academy, Georgia O'Keefe. Every school in District 7 has achieved high performance. David makes practical decisions based on the information available that will help students succeed. He is practical and a logical decision maker. As an active member of the APS school board, David has made some very hard choices and does not just vote with the majority, but votes in the best interest of everyone in the APS school district. David has a strong background in education, music, and athletics. He is currently a Senior Scientist/PhD mathematician at Sandia National Laboratory. Strong communication skills enable David to collaborate effectively with students, parents, teachers, administration, unions, and charter schools. Please see his web site at [www.PeercyForAPS.net](http://www.PeercyForAPS.net) for more information.

Larry Langley has a 15 year track record of working on education reform in New Mexico as Chief Executive Officer of the NM Business Roundtable, and on a national level with the National Governor's Association and "Ready Nation" a national organization working on education reform. Mr. Langley believes that he will represent many people living in district 7 who are frustrated with the lack of achievement of our students in the Albuquerque Public School district and the seeming disregard to make the necessary choices to address the most needed reforms in literacy, teacher quality, and funding. He states "It is to a point where it is intolerable not to be engaged in a deeper way in the district in which I have the wonderful opportunity to live. For years I known we can and should be doing better and the leadership from the current APS Board of Education and Superintendent have been a dismal disappointment." He goes on to say "(Others) have all pushed aside needed reforms which are greatly needed to advance our children and the opportunities they should have to graduate and enter into a global economy. I have no course to complain unless I personally get involved at the local level utilizing the knowledge and expertise I have to better APS for all our students. That is why I have thrown my hat in the ring and am prepared to roll up my sleeves and insist on changes in leadership and practice. Our teachers are terrific and merit our support in every way." Please see [www.nmbree.org](http://www.nmbree.org) for more information.



Joan Reynolds, Treasurer; 3923 Inca Court; Albuquerque, NM 87111

SGANA dues \$10.00 for October 2012 through October 2013 is enclosed. Make checks out to SGANA.

Do send us your comments. We really want to hear from you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments, questions, requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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