

August, 2002

**Ice Cream
Social:**

**August 17,
2 to 4 PM**

www.swcp.com/sgana/

SGANA Newsletter Articles

Neighborhood Events
p.2

Committee News p. 2-3

Signs on Poles p. 3

Pet Nuisances p. 3-4

Identity Theft p. 4

**REMINDER:
Please, for our
children's safety,
obey the posted
speed limit.**

**Be a considerate
neighbor.**



Message from SGANA President

We have had a chance to talk to many of our neighbors of late about the state of the neighborhood. Without exception, the feeling conveyed was that the neighborhood is moving in the right direction. There is the palpable sense that we are a revitalized community. Minds are opening to the idea that by participating in and supporting a strong and vital neighborhood association, the quality of life can be enhanced.

One of our challenges is to create within our membership recognition of the fact that a neighbor can aid in protecting your life, your property and your well being. We are, after all, social creatures by nature. The first step and most important one, is the moment you introduce yourself to a neighbor.

Following the events of September, we are more mindful of the idea that we are in this together. If a community as large and diverse as New York City

and to a different degree, the nation, can be drawn together in a common cause, surely our small fairly homogenous "hood" can mirror this spirit. Our efforts have been directed with the intent of prompting the simple ritual of introduction.

The recent SGANA Neighborhood Garage Sale is an example of a successful effort in this regard. Echoing the many positive comments, we received the following note from a couple of longtime residents: "The garage sale program last Saturday seemed successful; we enjoyed – and met some of our neighbors- at last!" We thank these good people not only for the note but also for the donation they gave to the Association.

The Association is depending on its members to make the next event, the Ice Cream Social to be held on August 17, even more successful than the Garage Sale. Please come meet your neighbor,

renew old friendships and have a treat. Read below for more information.

SGANA is considering other projects for the near future. We need your help, talents, time and ideas. If you wish to offer any help, please contact someone on the Board or a Committee Chairperson.

We must take advantage of this window of opportunity where enthusiasm and optimism are at its peak. Another project planned is the Christmas Luminaria Tour. We also need to begin the formation of Neighborhood Watch Programs. The potential benefit for the neighborhood would be enormous.

Thank you for your encouraging words and thank you to those of you who have demonstrated the spirit of community service that is necessary for achieving our neighborhood goals.

Carl and Jean Chavez

The SGANA held a community garage sale on July 12. An informal count of the number of families participating was approximately 25. We were very pleased by this level of participation for the first year of this event. We want to recognize Events Committee Chairwoman Debbie Chavira and her committee members and congratulate them for a job very well done. We would also like to thank those families who took part in

this neighborhood activity. From the numerous positive comments that we received, we feel good about plans of making this an annual event. Several people mentioned that it was relatively lucrative and helped to alleviate their storage dilemma. More importantly, many said they met neighbors that they have been unable to in the past. Hence, our goal of creating a social event for the community was a major

success. Next year, with this precedent, we hope to see many more families benefit. We are contemplating expanding this in some way perhaps by having a barbecue during the afternoon for members of the neighborhood. Please send your ideas and comments to Carl Chavez.

Board of Directors

President: Carl and Jean Chavez, 292-4907
carlcbowls@cs.com

Vice-president: Dan Jones, 299-1677,
abgdanj@swcp.com

Secretary: Joan Reynolds, 293-0180,
reynoldsjo@aol.com

Treasurer: Debbie Chavira, 271-0005,
e-dchavira@email.msn.com

Director at large: Frank Simpson, 298-1935

Consultant: Mark Webb, 299-6675
mwtennis@swcp.com

Crime Committee
Chairperson: Richard Toledo, 293-2652
Needs Members

Ice Cream Social: Saturday, August 17, 2PM to 4PM

I scream! You scream! We all scream for ICE CREAM! This refrain is sure to be heard on August 17 at Mitchell Elementary School. SGANA will sponsor this event to say "Goodbye!" to summer and "Hello!" to a neighbor. We plan on serving individually wrapped ice cream bars, sugar-free goodies and refreshments. A clown, games and prizes will keep the youth and like-minded folks entertained.

If you would prefer to sit, bring a chair. If you need a table, bring one. If you don't want to burn, bring sunscreen and a hat. If you want to smile, have fun and meet some interesting people, bring yourself. Mayor Chavez and City Councilwoman Mayer have both been invited.

Committee News

Beautification Committee

Chairman Mark Webb has been busy making sure that the neighborhood stays clean. Recent reports of a couple of businesses allowing their trash to blow onto neighborhood streets has prompted him to contact them to remedy the situation.

Mark is also getting ready for the Ice Cream Social that will involve cleanup before and after the event. Please contact Mark if you want to help.

Crime Committee

Richard Toledo, Chairman of the Crime Committee, has been trying to get additional members to help in addressing crime issues. A goal of the committee is to get the community to form Neighborhood Watches.

Crime Report: On Monday, July 22 at about 4:00 in the morning on the 9800 block of Mary Ellen, a flag that was on display was ripped up and the pole was damaged.

Stay alert to prevent crime in your neighborhood.

Crime Committee (continued)

Another project that the Crime Committee is pursuing is to recruit Block Volunteers in each block. Each Block Volunteer will gather a list of names and contact numbers of neighbors and update list and attend one meeting per year with the committee and gather crime information on the block and report this to the Committee. This is a good foundation for the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Youth Committee

Youth Volunteers Needed for the Ice Cream Social

We need youth volunteers to help run the games at the Ice Cream Social. Volunteers will be responsible for setting up the games, helping younger children participate, and handing out prizes. Volunteers will also be required to meet new friends. If you would like to volunteer, please call Christy Weisz at 299-8108 before August 16.

Who's Out There?

The Youth Committee would like to get a count of children in the neighborhood so we can plan events for them effectively and be able to provide some general information to newcomers. We are requesting that parents of children under 18 call (299-8108) or e-mail (weiszguys@aol.com) Christy Weisz with the birth dates of your kids and the name of your street. We *won't* be collecting kids' names or specific addresses.

Would you like to make some extra money baby-sitting, cleaning, or doing yard work? Why not advertise to the neighborhood in the SGANA newsletter? Call Carl Chavez for details.

Welcoming Committee

As you know, one of the duties of the Welcoming Committee is to welcome new neighbors. They need your assistance in finding them. Contact Joan Reynolds at 293-0180 if you know of anyone who has recently moved here.

Traffic Committee

Dan Jones is the chairperson and he needs a couple of volunteers to help him with this committee. There are plenty of traffic issues that need to be addressed like obtaining speed bumps or "No U Turn" signs. Contact Dan Jones for more information.

Signs on Telephone Poles

Signs posted on telephone poles are considered litter by the city. Placing them therefore is littering. We can appreciate that a family pet may be lost so if you feel compelled to put up signs, please remove them after a reasonable time. In any event, please don't get upset if the signs are removed given their status as litter. You can post a lost pet notice on our web site.

Pet Nuisances

Due to the numerous inquiries on the subject of pet nuisances, we have decided to include here a couple of the applicable ordinances.

Part 3: Prohibited Activities

Section 9.2.3.7 Animal Disturbing the Peace

No person shall allow an animal in his possession or control to persistently or continuously bark, howl or make noise common to its species, or otherwise to disturb the peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the city or keep or maintain an animal in a manner which produces noxious or offensive odors or otherwise endangers the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the city.

Youth Committee
Chairperson: Christy Weisz,
299-8108,
weiszguys@aol.com
Adrian Chavez,
achav@pepsi.com
Jean and Carl Chavez
(We need a teenage member)

Community Service
looks great on college
applications

Welcoming Committee
Chairperson: Joan
Reynolds, 293-0181,
reynoldsjo@aol.com
Members: Jean Chavez
and Joan Parker

Pet Nuisance (continued)

Section 9.2.3.8 Animal Nuisance; Defecation; Cleanup

No person shall allow an animal to defecate upon public property or upon any private property other than the property of the owner of the animal without thoroughly removing and disposing of the feces.

Stephanie Wiebe,
Foothills Substation,
1540 Tramway Blvd NE
332-5240

*"...identity theft
accounted for 42
percent of the fraud
complaints in 2001."*

*"Never give out
personal information
over the telephone
unless you initiated the
call ..."*

Recycling will be picked
up every other week on
the same day as your
regular trash collection.
If you have any
questions, call Solid
Waste Customer
Service at 761-8100 or
see
www.cabq.gov/solidwaste.

Identity Theft

By Crime Prevention Specialist Stephanie Wiebe

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft accounted for 42 percent of the fraud complaints in 2001. The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse estimates that 500,000 individuals are victims of identity theft each year. It is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Thieves are looking for important personal information such as bank account numbers, credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers. They use this information to obtain credit, merchandise or services in the name of the victim or gain access to existing accounts and make fraudulent charges or withdrawals. Sam Thompson, public information officer with the state Attorney General's Office says, "Typically victims don't know their identity has been stolen until they apply for credit"

How To Protect Yourself

- Never give out personal information over the telephone unless you initiated the call and know it is a reputable company or person. Identity thieves may pose as employers, bank officers or other officials to gain personal information.
- Shred any documents that contain personal information, including credit card application forms/advertisements that you receive in the mail.
- Pay attention to billing cycles. If bills do not arrive on time contact the creditor. Do not leave credit card receipts on restaurant tables or store counters. Use caution over the Internet. Some sites are not completely secure.
- Limit the amount of personal information and credit cards you carry in your purse or wallet. Carry only the essentials.
- Limit the use of your social security number. Do not put the number on your checks or use it as a form of identification.
- Mail your bills at the post office rather than leaving them in the mailbox. Do not have checks delivered to your residence. Pick them up at the bank or post office. Review your monthly financial statements. Notify your bank of any irregularities.
- Request a copy of your credit report at least once a year.

If You Are A Victim

- File an identity theft report with the police Telephone Report Unit 768-2030
- Contact financial institutions and report the identity theft to the fraud investigators
- Contact the Social Security Administration to report the use of your social security number. Fraud Hotline 1-800-269-0271 www.ssa.gov
- Contact credit card companies. Have the accounts canceled and/or flagged with a fraud alert.
- Contact the fraud departments of the major credit reporting agencies and ask that a fraud alert be placed on your accounts:

Equifax (1-800-685-1111) www.equifax.com

Experian (1-866-200-6020) www.experian.com

TransUnion (1-800-888-4213) www.tuc.com
