

October, 2002

**General Meeting:**

**October 21,  
7PM**

**[www.swcp.com/sgana/](http://www.swcp.com/sgana/)**

### **SGANA Newsletter Articles**

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

**Be a considerate neighbor.**



## Message from SGANA President

The nation has endured one year of the awful memory of the terrorist attacks on its soil. The ramifications of that event will be seen for years to come. The intended casualty of the attacks was the spirit of America. That fundamental ignorance of America instead led to the revival of that spirit.

A trait of Americans that is unique and attributable to its spirit is American's propensity to form associations. Alexis de Tocqueville, a Frenchman who in the Nineteenth Century wrote the classic *Democracy in America*, a study of the social and political institutions of the United States, observed the following: "As soon as several inhabitant's of the United States have taken up an opinion or a feeling which they wish to promote in the world, they look out for mutual assistance; and as soon as they have found one another out, they combine. From that moment they are no

longer isolated men, but a power seen from afar, whose actions serve for an example and whose language is listened to."

De Tocqueville's words convey the great admiration he had for America. The simple act of joining and participating in an association is an act that we take for granted. It is, in fact, a basic and founding tenet of our nation. Please participate in our association.

We also ask you to consider the most basic of duties and privileges-voting. Though the political ads and signs may sometimes feel oppressive by their sheer number, we must celebrate the freedom and privilege that they represent.

We, as Americans, no longer can afford to take any of our duties or privileges for granted. Getting down to basics is one effect of 9-11.

We want to thank all that attended the

Neighborhood Ice Cream Social that was held in August. Nearly one hundred of your neighbors came to enjoy each other's company, games, beverages and, of course, ice cream. We want to thank our City Councilor Sally Mayer for attending.

Many contributed their time and effort and supplies to make this social event a success. On behalf of our neighborhood, we thank them. Please read below for details.

Many exciting projects for the benefit of the neighborhood are in the pipeline. These include the "Adopt the Park" project, Cityscape Project for Comanche Streetscape Project for median improvement of Comanche Road and the Luminaria Tour. You can help to shape the neighborhood and even Albuquerque if you choose to participate in the committees that are involved in these projects.

Carl and Jean Chavez

Events Committee Chairperson Debbie Chavira needs volunteers
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## Board of Directors

President: Carl and Jean Chavez, 292-4907

[carlcbowls@cs.com](mailto:carlcbowls@cs.com)

Vice-president: Dan Jones, 299-1677,

[abgdanj@swcp.com](mailto:abgdanj@swcp.com)

Secretary: Joan Reynolds, 293-0180,

[reynoldsjo@aol.com](mailto:reynoldsjo@aol.com)

Treasurer: Debbie Chavira, 271-0005,

[e-dchavira@email.msn.com](mailto:e-dchavira@email.msn.com)

Director at large: Frank Simpson, 298-1935

Consultant: Mark Webb, 299-6675

[mwtennis@swcp.com](mailto:mwtennis@swcp.com)

Mitchell Park is next to Mitchell Elementary School and is APS property. No golfing is allowed there and the pet owner should clean up pet waste. Adopting this park will give us a chance to improve it and have a voice in its future.

## Neighborhood Events

### General Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 7PM

A General Meeting will be held at Mitchell Elementary School, October 23 at 7:00 PM. Election for the Board of Directors will be held at that time.

Crime Prevention Specialist, Stephanie Wiebe, will give a presentation.

Stephanie is with the Albuquerque Police Department. Stephanie has been a tremendous resource for the neighborhood providing crime prevention articles and assisting neighborhood residents with their questions.

Presentations will also be given by committee chairs regarding the work accomplished as well as future plans.

If you attend, you will have a chance to vote on and give input regarding the projects mentioned above.

### Ice Cream Social

The Annual SGANA Ice Cream Social was held on August 17 at Mitchell Elementary School. Nearly one hundred neighborhood residents attended who were there to enjoy games, face painting by a clown and ice cream treats.

Sally Mayer, our City Councilor was in attendance. Mayor Chavez and Congresswoman Wilson were invited but both were unable to attend due to out of town engagements. Both sent their regrets and indicated their interest in attending future neighborhood functions.

The Social gave neighborhood parents and their children the perfect opportunity to meet one another in a setting conducive to exchanging ideas and one that gave the Board feedback on the direction of the association and the neighborhood.

The Board and I were very pleased at the turnout. We were also pleased by the general upbeat attitude of the attendees regarding the neighborhood. We want to thank all whom attended and thank you for your positive feedback and comments.

Debbie Chavira, SGANA Treasurer and Events Committee Chair, was primarily responsible for the success of the event. Her husband Evan and daughter Veronica also were extremely helpful.

We would also like to thank Margaret Johnson for providing many needed items and contributing her time. Christy Weisz, the Youth Committee Chair, provided the games and prizes. Dan Jones, our Vice-President and web guru, designed and created an informational panel poster of the web site and the neighborhood.

These people should be recognized by the neighborhood for their contributions of time and effort for the benefit of the neighborhood.

## Committee News

### Beautification Committee

We are currently looking at Albuquerque's "Adopt a Park" program in order to adopt Mitchell Park and improve the quality of the park. This program works by a person or association signing an agreement to adopt the park and provide services to increase the quality of the park. Afterward, the park is officially listed as being adopted with a sign at the park entrance and allows us to take the initiative in making our neighborhood a safer, more beautiful place. We become partners with the City in

## Beautification Committee (continued)

improving our neighborhood. Possibilities could be that we provide some improvements such as periodic clean up, maintenance of trees, or improvements with landscaping or painting (working with the City). If you have inputs on this topic or wish to get more information, please attend the annual meeting or contact me at 299-6675 or [mwtennis@swcp.com](mailto:mwtennis@swcp.com).

Mark Webb, Chairman Beautification Committee

## Crime Committee

The Crime Committee again needs a chairperson. Richard Toledo, the former chairman, was unable to continue due to work commitments. We thank Richard for his contribution to the Committee and neighborhood. If anyone is interested in assisting the neighborhood in its fight against crime by being on the Committee and/or becoming its chair, please call Carl Chavez.

Crime Report: A neighbor on Pitt Street reported that a man came to her door on October 1, claiming to be an employee of PNM. The man was not wearing a uniform nor did he present identification. The police were called.

Please be aware that the man in this report was probably not whom he claimed. If this happens to you, it would be wise not to allow him entrance to your home. It is also probably wise to call the police as this woman did.

## Events Committee

One of our goals was to unite our neighbors and bring a sense of pride to our neighborhood through social events. After hearing comments from the neighbors, I believe we are on the right track to achieving these goals. In June we had a neighborhood garage sale that proved to be successful. In August we had an ice cream social which, by all accounts, was a success. Many of our neighbors commended us in our efforts to unite the community. They were pleased to see that our neighborhood association is leading us in the right direction. We plan on having more events, one of which is the Luminaria Tour, throughout the coming year. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at 271-0005 or [e-dchavira@msn.com](mailto:dchavira@msn.com).

Debbie Chavira, Chairwoman Events Committee

## Traffic Committee

Dan Jones, the chairman of the Traffic Committee, needs a couple of people willing to deal with some of the traffic issues that involve the neighborhood. These issues may include proposing acquiring speed bumps, "No U Turn" signs and asking the APD for stepped up patrols for speeders. Contact Dan for more information.

## Welcoming Committee

We have eight members in the Welcoming Committee. Among our duties is to call the dues paying members of our Association and inform them of any upcoming event.

We have recently personally welcomed four new families to the neighborhood and we have obtained the names of four other new neighbors to welcome them before the October meeting.

We also provide refreshments for the General Meeting.  
Joan Reynolds, Welcoming Committee Chair

Remember: Alert neighbors prevent crime.

Fight crime by joining the Crime Committee.

The Crime Committee needs a chairperson.

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*"Many of our neighbors commended us in our efforts to unite the community."*

Is traffic a concern to you? Do something about it and join the Traffic Committee.

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

## Youth Committee

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

Christy Weisz is the Youth Committee Chair. Christy and her committee will have a supervised activity for our youth at the General Meeting. She will need assistants of the 10 to 18 year age groups. Get your kids to help.

Christy will also lead a group of carolers during the proposed Luminaria Tour. She will need the youth to help her out with this project as well. It should be great fun.

Contact Christy to volunteer for any of these activities.

## Comanche Road Streetscape

### Comanche Road Streetscape Study Presentation, Tuesday, October 22

SGANA, the City of Albuquerque's Capital Implementation Program and Sites Southwest are pleased to invite you to a public meeting to discuss the Comanche Road Streetscape Study (Wyoming to Morris). They will be presenting and discussing the ideas and concepts developed to improve the streetscape environment for the project. The presentation will be held in the cafeteria of Madison Middle School from 7 PM to 9 PM on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The San Gabriel Area Neighborhood Association in partnership with Loma del Rey Neighborhood Association jointly proposed this project to develop ideas for future neighborhood improvements. We are looking forward to your participation.

This project should not be confused with SGANA's Comanche Median project, which was proposed by our Board back in May of 1994 and approved by the voters in 1995. While funding was appropriated back then from both the City's Capital Implementation Program and the Urban Enhancement Trust Fund for landscaping Comanche medians between Morris and Eubank, the scope grew to include Morris to Wyoming and bike paths were added. Unfortunately, funding ran out at Eubank and the improvements stopped there. We have been told that construction will begin on the original proposal this winter!

Your SGANA Board hopes good ideas for future Comanche streetscaping projects will come from the Comanche Road Streetscape Study. We have an opportunity to submit new proposals for funding this fall. If you are interested in this project, you are encouraged to attend the presentation at Madison Middle School.

Dan Jones, Vice-President SGANA

For further information, contact Dan Jones at 299-1677 ([abqdanj@swcp.com](mailto:abqdanj@swcp.com)).

## Pet Waste: Dangers

Remember the following facts, provided by City of Albuquerque Public Works Department, when you fail to clean up after your dog or when you let your cat run loose.

Pet waste that is not cleaned up properly can cause diseases that infect children and adults with bacteria and parasites. Pet waste can spread diseases between pets and it can degrade the water of the Rio Grande.

Children and pets that play in our yards are most at risk. The following diseases can be passed from pet waste to humans: Campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, toxocariasis and toxoplasmosis.

Toxoplasmosis, a parasite carried by cats, can cause birth defects if a woman became infected during pregnancy.

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*"The San Gabriel Area Neighborhood Association in partnership with Loma del Rey Neighborhood Association jointly proposed this project to develop ideas for future neighborhood improvements. We are looking for your participation."*

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### **Pet Waste Disposal**

Flush it down the toilet.  
 Put it in the household trash after securely wrapping it. Waste left by a dog on any property other than that of the pet owner, by law must be cleaned up by the pet owner.

