

## Homes with names

by Peter Feibelman

Many homes in our Spruce Park neighborhood go by the names of their original owners. On Las Lomas, for example, there's the impressive Anna Kaseman house at the corner of Sycamore, and the pueblo revival Kenneth Adams place at Cedar. There are numerous others, and in forthcoming Newsletter issues, we hope occupants of these homes will post brief articles on their histories – pictures welcome – so we can all have a better feeling for what makes our neighborhood special. (Board Secretary Stephen Bellon has an archive on several of them. You might contact him to start your research!)

About a year ago, my wife Lori and I joined the ongoing neighborhood game of “musical houses.” We left the Halliburton bungalow at 1309 Las Lomas, where we had lived almost 40 years, and moved into the Woodward house at Sigma Chi and Spruce. The Woodwards played a particularly important role in shaping our neighborhood. Starting in the late 1920s, they bought up the land from what is now I-25 to University, on both sides of Lomas and on up the hill to Sigma Chi. Decades later, they created the Sandia Foundation, and in their wills gifted their large land holding to it, designating Dickinson College (Pennsylvania), where they had met in the early 1900's, and UNM, as the principal beneficiaries. A 2008 article by Sherri Kimmel, in Dickinson Magazine (see <http://www2.dickinson.edu/magazine/article.cfm?article=202>) provides details of the Woodwards' lives, and notes that over four decades their foundation had provided \$33M in scholarship aid to each of the two educational institutions. The bounty continues to this day, for example from medical office leases at the west end of

Sigma Chi and the car dealerships on Lomas.

Hugh and Helen Woodward first moved to Colorado in 1913 because of Helen's tuberculosis. After a stint ranching in Clayton, NM, which ended when a



The Woodwards

snowstorm wiped out their herd, they moved to ABQ in 1929, and Mr. Woodward “began snapping up real estate.” Not just an astute businessman, Woodward was a prominent lawyer, politician and conservationist. Among the many important positions he held, Woodward chaired the Republican State Central Committee in the mid-1920's and served as NM Lieutenant Governor in 1929. He was appointed a special assistant to US Attorney General Francis Biddle in 1942, to help with Selective Service matters. He was also on the State Game Commission (1937-43) and served on the Board of Directors of the Nat'l Wildlife Federation in the 1950s. Woodward was proud of letters acknowledging his service, from Herbert Hoover, FDR, and Harry Truman, among others.

The craftsman-style house he and his wife built on Sigma Chi in 1951 has a great view of the Sandias. The structure is aesthetically pleasing, practical, and has been a delight to occupy. We feel very lucky to be in it.

# Spruce Park Community Garden News

By Margaret Ménache

We hope you've noticed the colorful zinnias and sunflowers in our first garden row, as you've walked or driven down Cedar. This year, our sixth, saw bountiful harvests of fruit, grapes, and vegetables, and we are currently planting chard, kale, spinach, lettuce, and other greens that can withstand our relatively mild winters. Though it's too late to expect a winter harvest (an August/September planting would have been ideal), planting now means they'll likely produce abundantly, come spring. Some root vegetables will winter over, especially the slow-maturing, like parsnips. And, it's nearly time to plant garlic.

Gardening does demand vigilance. Our bountiful harvest also brought us a bounty of bugs. Lovely turquoise green shield bugs caused little damage. But, smelly squash bugs are nobody's friend, and, without our attention, beautiful, iridescent green scarab beetles would happily have eaten through all our fruit. We are now on the lookout for the grubs that will become those bugs next summer.

A cornerstone of our philosophy is growing organic. It is often tempting to bring on the pesticides, especially when bugs seem to be eating all our produce. But the time and attention required by an organic garden lead to a connection to land, food, family, and neighbors. Members say:

*When I was going through chemo for appendiceal cancer, it was wonderful therapy to work in the soil. I have also learned so much from my gardening neighbors about plants, and soil prep, and composting, and orchards. It's a great place to learn if you are just starting out like I was 3 years ago.*

*I enjoy the garden for the friendship and the camaraderie. I love the beauty of our garden with the colors, textures and delicious results!*

Our garden is not all work and food production. Members often work their own rows quietly and alone, to experience the peace and respite that come from working the soil. The garden attracts a range of amazing and beautiful birds and butterflies.

The garden is also a place for friendly gatherings. Throughout the summer we have Tastings in the Garden where we meet to share food prepared from the fruits and vegetables we're harvesting at the moment. These strictly social afternoons or evenings give us an opportunity to visit without thinking about the business of working a garden, and to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

The garden is an evolving experience and members make suggestions for new projects each year. This year we started a community herb row with favorites such as tarragon, basil, parsley, onion and garlic chives, thyme, oregano, and rosemary. We also participated in the Bosque Seed Collective project and contributed collard, arugula, and bean seeds, among others, to the effort. Some of the collards have been planted by our members for a fall/winter harvest and are rapidly growing now.

Three households joined the garden this year and, we are recruiting new members for 2015. If you're interested, contact us at: [SPGardenInfo@gmail.com](mailto:SPGardenInfo@gmail.com).

We've started an open blog, which you can visit at: [SPCommunityGarden.blogspot.com](http://SPCommunityGarden.blogspot.com). Posts include an expanded version of this article, brief summaries of organic gardening information with links for more details, also recipes, and reports of our social Tastings in the Garden, of work day efforts, and of our Potlucks with a dash of business meeting.



# A Message from Isaac Benton, our City Councilor

Welcome to Spruce Park Neighborhood and if you are new to District 2, welcome! I am committed to the protection and improvement of our oldest neighborhoods, most of which lie within our council district.

We are hopeful that great things are in store for the area around Spruce Park in collaboration with UNM. We may soon have Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on University Boulevard and Central Avenue, which will also provide high quality transit from your neighborhood to the sports facilities and airport. I encourage you to be involved, along with your neighborhood association, in monitoring UNM's development plans, including Innovate ABQ, and supporting the transit project.

Contact Diane Dolan in my office if you have any questions or need any assistance or to be added to our email list: 768-3186 or [ddolan@cabq.gov](mailto:ddolan@cabq.gov).

## A Testimonial

By Peter Feibelman

On receiving the message just above, I decided to give contacting Diane a try. Lori and I recently hosted our daughter's wedding, and in the course of the events, our 2015 Visitor Parking Permit disappeared. The folks at the Parking office downtown were unsympathetic. They said only one permit will be issued per year, and if it's lost or destroyed, that's just too bad. They said it's "in the ordinance." I thought this was unnecessarily harsh. Why should a homeowner's guest or cleaning personnel have to park under threat of being cited because a permit was misplaced or lost?

So I called Diane. She said: 1) It's not "in the ordinance." Parking rules are set forth by the city's Parking Division, and are not a matter of legislation. 2) The stricture against issuing replacement permits is not aimed at punishing neighbors as if they were schoolchildren. It was put in place because early on, some neighbors were applying for as many as a dozen of them to sell (likely to UNM students) for personal gain. This activity may have been legal, but subverted the reason permit parking had been instituted, and thus needed to be stopped. 3) Councillor Benton recognizes there is a problem, and is currently trying to come up with a reasonable solution. One would be to narrow the distance from your home for which your one Visitor Permit is valid. If parking enforcement finds a dozen cars parked in front of your place, all with permits attributable to you, they might get suspicious.

Kidding aside, I found Ms. Dolan responsive and reassuring that the permit problem will be solved. I liked that.



# The Fall Potluck

By Peter Feibelman

SPRUCE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS - NOVEMBER 2014



Last year's Fall Potluck, you may remember, was rained out. This year, the weather was Balloon Fiesta glorious as several dozen neighbors gathered in the park on Saturday, October 4, to share food and conversation. As ever, the gastronomic level was high - including great burgers contributed by SPNA - and the discussions were spirited.

Among them, concerns were voiced worth considering for the future -- in particular, that the event coincided with the Jewish fast day, Yom Kippur, and also was on a Saturday, when many parents were attending their kids' soccer games.

There is a temptation to attribute these unfortunate coincidences to the Board's, shall we say, insensitivity. A more productive response, however, would be to ask how such coincidences might be avoided in the future. The most obvious answer is that the Board needs to be populated by a more diverse group of neighbors.

For example, if a parent of a soccer participant sat on the Board, the Saturday issue would likely be nipped in the bud. And if religiously

observant neighbors were to participate, scheduling our feast on a fast day would also be less likely to occur.

We are confident that all our neighbors like the idea of eating great food on a beautiful day. Now we need some of them to step up and volunteer to help make the Board that manages such events sensitive to the schedules of a broader representation of the neighborhood.

On page 8 of this letter, you will find a roster of current Board members. Three positions are open, and we are expecting two more to be vacated soon, as members are talking about moving



away. (I know - how can that be possible?) So, please let us hear from you!

# Residents Join Nextdoor.com

by Claudia Crawford

During the summer several families in the Spruce Park neighborhood joined Nextdoor, a private online social network limited to individuals who live in a specific geographical area.

Nextdoor states that its mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. The company is based in San Francisco, California, It was founded in 2010 and is funded by [Benchmark Capital](#), [Greylock Partners](#), [Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers](#), Tiger Global Management, and [Shasta Ventures](#) as well as other investors and Silicon Valley angels. It was created because its founders believed that the neighborhood is one of the most important and useful communities in a person's life and that the Nextdoor platform can be used to build stronger and safer neighborhoods.

The company understands that online privacy is **always** necessary, and thus works to make it safe to share online the kinds of things you'd be okay sharing with your neighbors in person. Here's how:

- Every neighbor has to verify their address.
- Every neighbor signs in with their real name, just as in person.
- You can choose which adjoining neighborhoods you want your information to be shared with, or you can limit your information to the Spruce Park neighborhood.
- The website is protected by password and encrypted by HTTPS.
- Your information is never shared with advertisers.

To join up, you search for nextdoor.com. The website will ask for your first and last names, your email address, and your gender. You might want to check out their answers to frequently asked questions about the [Nextdoor Guidelines](#) before proceeding.

Only people who have a valid address in the neighborhood and are accepted by one of the leads already on the network will be allowed by Nextdoor to join. Currently as many as 79 neighbors have done so. Accordingly, Nextdoor now recognizes our neighborhood as Neighborhood Spruce Park, whereas we were initially combined with Martineztown, Silver Hill and University Heights. As noted above, you can select to receive information about activities in the nearby neighborhoods or limit your information only to ours.

We who have already joined hope you will consider joining too, as Nextdoor is an excellent tool for alerting each other to issues of concern or interest. During the summer, neighbors with children were using Nextdoor to arrange play dates in the park. It would be useful for notifying nearby neighbors if your dog or cat has escaped, if you have fruit trees with more fruit than you can use, if you are suspicious about criminal activity in the neighborhood or you just want to point out nuisance problems that concern you. The website can also be used by the Spruce Park Neighborhood Association to post notices of upcoming events, such as the SPNA fall potluck in early October. Note though, that the Board is not a member of the network and does not sponsor it. Nextdoor's members are individual families who live in a specific neighborhood.



The Spruce Park Neighborhood website, [Spruceparkneighborhood.com](http://Spruceparkneighborhood.com), is another way to connect to your neighbors, city and SPNA Board Members. There, you can view this newsletter in full color. You can share ideas on anything pertaining to our delightful neighborhood. Needless to say, we are always in the market for newsletter articles. You can volunteer for a committee, or add pictures. Check us out!

## Halloween 2014

by Ann Cloud

It was a great gathering in the park of ghosts, goblins, fairy princesses, and even a four-legged neighbor dressed as a lobster. Although our Halloween celebration is very popular, I must admit I hadn't attended before, and didn't know what to expect. The answer: I found myself smiling or laughing the entire time. I will

definitely wear a costume next year and so will my dog, Kizzy. I can't speak for my husband, Lewis.



The park was set-up with a variety of games for kids, manned by neighborhood volunteers. The children collected tokens at each station, which they could turn in for a prize. Needless to say, they loved this activity. The grand finale, before *Trick or Treating* began, was the Spruce Park Halloween Parade. Attendees, young, old, two legged, four legged, in strollers, in wheel chairs, costumed or not, strolled around the park perimeter, before hitting the streets on a quest for sweets. It was a joy to watch.

My favorite adult costume was a *Grim*

*Reaper*, tall and threatening, accompanied by a beautiful, though scary witch. I met a few teenaged boys dressed to the nines, with black suit jackets, shades and slicked back hair, who informed me they were *Lady Killers*. When I asked what a Lady Killer is, one replied "The one with the most phone numbers at the end of the night wins." Oh my, they start so young; but it's all in the name of silly, healthy fun. I roared because they were having a great time. And then the little ones -- they were the stars of the show. I saw a cowboy in a tree, bats on the ground, witches getting ready to fly, ghosts, pirates and so many more characters. I stopped counting heads at about 65.

This wonderful celebration would not have been possible without Staley Seidler. She has put together Halloween and Easter events for the kids through the years. She is a full time mom and a professional, but always makes time for our neighborhood. To thank her personally as I have and am doing right now, send her an email at [seseidler@me.com](mailto:seseidler@me.com). Thanks Staley, you throw a great event!



# SPRUCE PARK, OR SKATEBOARD PARK?

By James Carroll

If you live on one of Spruce Park's sloping streets, or even if you don't, you've probably noticed concentrations of skateboarders, especially when the weather is nice and UNM is in session.

The incidence of this noisy, dangerous, and intrusive activity grew in recent years. . . until a sudden diminution early in September. Newspaper and television publicity about the problem may have contributed to the decline, but I suspect that police enforcement of the traffic code had the primary impact. APD informed me that several citations were issued.

I've written to the mayor and the UNM president suggesting that consideration be given to development of a sanctioned skateboard facility near the center of the city and the nearby college campuses.

In the meantime, hats off to APD for helping provide us a quieter and safer neighborhood.



## Roster of SPNA board officers and street representatives:

Ash	Valerie St. John, 441 Ash, 275-3931, SPNA board president
Maple	Claudia Crawford, 433 Maple, 242-7081
Sycamore	Ann Cloud, 431 Sycamore, 507-4924, SPNA board vice president
Spruce	Stephen Bellon, 408 Spruce, 246-0973, SPNA board secretary
Ridge	Volunteer needed
Cedar/Mulberry	Volunteer needed
Roma, East	Al Paxton, 1603 Roma, 244-0980, SPNA board treasurer
Roma, West	James W. Carroll, 1116 Roma, 242-4068
Marquette	Ed Sullivan, 1301 Marquette, 842-8589
Las Lomas, West	Volunteer needed
Las Lomas, East	Veronica Dorato, 1524 Las Lomas, 842-5860
Sigma Chi, West	Robert Westfall, 1329 Sigma Chi, 764-9087
Sigma Chi, East	Peter Feibelman, 1401 Sigma Chi, 242-1946, newsletter editor

**Join SPNA or renew your membership by completing this form, clipping and returning it with a check to SPNA treasurer, Al Paxton, 1603 Roma.**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Members in household: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Also, here's a donation to support SPNA activities \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Membership and Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_