



from the president
ZEPHYR RENNER

This has been quite a different year for the Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association. We were able to complete all the fun and community building events that we usually do (see page 2 for details!) as well as the annual meeting in March, quarterly newsletters, responding to member issues and City development reviews. We conducted a survey of the NP residents on the issue of a playground in the park and got a record number of over 500 responses in a 900+ household association! Truly an unheard-of response and a wonderful increase in NPNA members!

Unfortunately, the playground issue turned into something beyond anyone's comprehension. The Board acted in a neutral, pragmatic way to follow the City's ordinances and ours Bylaws' guidance to provide a formal position of the membership. As you recall, a solid majority of about 61% supported the idea of City Parks and Rec exploring and/or proposing a plan for some sort of playground in Netherwood Park to support our kids. About 39% objected...and the rest probably did not care either way. Well, this was met with a strong negative response by some of the neighbors that then dominated the rest of this year's board meetings. Acrimony by a very few was so strong at subsequent monthly board meetings, that many of the board members lost their zeal for continuing to serve and a few resigned. In this atmosphere, the Board decided at its last 2024 monthly meeting to "pause" planning any 2025 activities until the next Annual Meeting and Board elections in March. Dealing with the negativity, especially as volunteers dedicated to fostering neighborhood community has been difficult. This has been a low point... but not the end.

It's tough when negativity creeps in, but your dedication and enthusiasm could make a big difference. That is, the board would love to have anyone in the neighborhood get involved and do positive things! We need your energy and desire to boost this community. Netherwood and the Urban Forest Parks are wonderful centerpieces to where we live. We're looking for proactive individuals who are eager to make a tangible difference, not just discuss processes or bureaucracy. We need action-oriented people to help with tasks like putting up signs, distributing flyers, and organizing activities for kids at our July 4th event.

How about a Murals project? How about being a representative from the apartments or duplex housing? You on Cutler, Richmond, Bryn Mawr....we need you! If you get this member newsletter (a member means you just provide your name, address, and email to NPNA) you have a voice and can nurture this neighborhood. Please contact me or anyone on the board and show up at the Annual Meeting in March. You can nominate to be on the board, or just volunteer to work on a committee. There are a number of exciting, but also important, issues coming up including the calming of traffic/greater community accessibility to cross Indian School Blvd as well as encouraging business to set up around here. You see what is needed to be done. You can make a difference.

Zephyr

To keep you informed, we've transitioned to a quarterly online newsletter format! We're excited to share all the info with you from the Netherwood.

Here's what's inside



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RECENT EVENTS

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**NPNA BOARD MTG WRAP UP
AROUND THE NETHERWOOD**

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URBAN FOREST UPDATE



PAGE 5

**BECOME A MEMBER
REPORT CRIMES
CONTACT US
MAKE A DONATION**



**REMEMBER
TO WATER
YOUR TREES!**

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RECENT Events

THANKS TO NP RESIDENT DONATIONS!

With the generous support of Netherwood Park residents, the NPNA was able to host a series of community events throughout the summer and fall. The highlights were the July 4th Parade and Balloon Blast. The Food Trucks in the Park event was shortened due to low turnout but that sped up the recent water-saving irrigation improvements to the full park. Additionally, the Chuck Maguire Golf Scramble, neighborhood clean-ups, and garage sales were all part of the community's efforts.

Here are some highlights:

July 4th in the Park

What a fantastic day it was! The weather at Netherwood Park was ideal, with fresh coffee, an abundance of donuts, and watermelons galore! Children lined up with their bicycles adorned with red, white, and blue streamers, following an impressive 1962 MG convertible driven by 89-year-old JD Stroud. The parade wound its way around Princeton, Cutler, Morrow and finally returning to the park! The music from Skeleton Crew captivated over 200 people who gathered at the park that day. Exciting activities like three-legged races, egg tosses, and, of course, breaking open piñatas kept everyone buzzing with anticipation for their evening fireworks and family time.



Fiesta Fanatics Cleanup Event

While the official Fiesta Fanatic Cleanup on September 28th saw fewer participants than usual in the Netherwood Park area, the community spirit remains strong. A dedicated group of three neighbors took the initiative to clean up Urban Forest Park and its surroundings, collecting an impressive SIX bags of trash, including several syringes. It's important to note that the park's cleanliness is a year-round effort. Many neighbors consistently pick up litter in the neighborhood and along Indian School Road. We encourage all residents to continue their efforts in keeping Netherwood Park clean and inviting. Let's work together to maintain a beautiful and safe community for everyone.

Annual Chuck Maguire Memorial Golf Scramble



On Saturday, September 28, 2024, the annual scramble was hosted by the Netherwood Park Neighborhood Association at the UNM North Campus.

Five teams of four players competed for the tournament honors this year. All proceeds of the FUNd-raiser will go to the Chuck Maguire fund to support youth sports.

Prizes were awarded to:

The **Longest Drive**-Pat Shipman

She exceeded the men's longest drive by 10 - 15 yards!

Closest ball to the pin-

Barb Hanrahan (Women) Glen Coontz (Men).

And the much-coveted tournament trophy **Team prize** went to Mary Lipscomb, Robert Rozzell, Pat Shipman & Jack Shipman.

Mark your calendars and get your team together for Sept 2025!



Balloon Blast



On October 12th the Balloon Blast marked the final event of the year and gathered in a celebration of community, neighborhood, and the park itself. We began our set-up bright and early at around 6:30 AM. We offered hot coffee, chocolate, donuts, and breakfast burritos as we hoped for a balloon to land in the park. That didn't happen, so we took the opportunity to socialize, catch up, or meet new friends while enjoying the sight of balloons drifting by. Approximately 200 people attended this year. While no balloons appeared this time, we embraced the arrival of Fall and cherish the gift of life!



NPNA Board Meetings Wrap up



- The Board met three times since our last newsletter and discussed current and upcoming business for our neighborhood.
- Shane Judge was appointed as an experienced parliamentarian to assist in monitoring and impartial advice on NPNA Board meeting rules.
- Discussion on the good acts occurring around the neighborhood – picking up trash, calling in graffiti, helping other neighbors. We have so many good people and that should be recognized.
- Proposal to create a mural wall project on TCA north wall (Euclid). This would be similar to the mural wall on Constitution across from Smiths. The Tennis Club approved and are in discussions on how to move forward.
- In NPNA effort to continue communications with our elected officials, Marianna Anaya NM House Rep-Elect for District 18 attended the Sept NPNA board meeting to update on her priorities. She is keeping in touch with UNM on the Golf course. UNM doing a geothermal development. Housing, healthcare facility groundbreaking, repeal state limitations on sexual assault, clarity on Children's code, crime, safety, homelessness, and mental health all top priorities. She will continue to work for NP issues as well as the other neighborhoods in district 18.
- Continuing to monitor the status of the former Whole Foods building as the Spirit Halloween store has closed after end of Halloween season. Monitoring property variance filings with the city on this site as well as the former Alpine Kitchen for development details.

- Girard Streetscape meetings continue. reps from the 3 neighborhood associations (NP, Summit and North Campus), Councilor Fiebelkorn and Planner Tom Menicucci continue to meet via Zoom and will be providing updates soon.
- 2025 Calendar of Events is being discussed. There have been several changes within the NPNA board. Priorities of the board and allocation of resources (NP donations) are being reviewed. The board wants to continue its community-building events utilizing our great park.
- A BIG THANK YOU to Liz and Monica at the Tennis Club of Albuquerque for opening their doors for our neighborhood meetings with a smile! Thank you TCA!



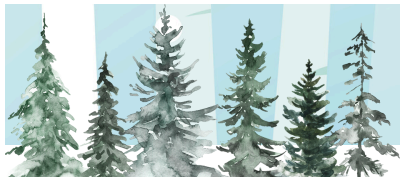
around the netherwood



Psst! Guess what?



Netherwood Park has a book club, and it has been meeting up since 1990! Imagine, they gather monthly at a cozy restaurant to chat about their latest literary obsessions. If you're ready to embark on a bookish adventure, contact Mary Lipscomb for all the details! 505-255-4031 mlipsco38@aol.com.



Urban Forest Park - City Meeting

With an increase of “campers” (homeless), a few violent encounters, trash, needles and feces some Urban Forest Park neighbors requested a City and Residents meeting. Their request was accepted by Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn, APD Commander Ray Del Greco, ABQ Parks & Rec Asst Director Robert Friedrichs, Forester Sean O’Neal and APD’s Laura Kuehn representing ACS.

The meeting was hosted at a neighbor’s home and well attended (about 35). The attendees did a quick walk through the park and highlighted safety issues and the degradation (non-maintenance). Commander Del Greco even engaged several “campers” who were in the park at the time. The response by both ABQ Parks and Commander Del Greco was positive and reassuring.

The commander emphasized reducing park clutter to increase visibility to make it easier for officers to patrol and that patrols would be increased. The Parks Dept. will start planting more “climate change” friendly trees and shrubs, and pollinator plants. Also, they will work on the irrigation system which the “campers” have stripped of copper wire and used control boxes as their own personal “lockers”.

Councilor Fiebelkorn talked about the City’s responses and her frustrations getting real solutions forward to deal with homelessness, lack of housing, as well as drug addiction and mental health.

Laura Kuehn heads up the APD community efforts including the Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain program and is our liaison with APD and ACS officers and staff.

Meeting attendees heard many good comments and suggestions such as noting illegal activity, feeling unsafe in the park, drug use issues and need for more support for small business as well as park maintenance, trash, reporting, and such. The installation of three “Mutts-Mitts” (dog poop bag) stations was appreciated.



Guest Speakers re-stated the importance of reporting issues to appropriate agencies.

Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn

<https://www.cabq.gov/council/find-your-councilor/district-7>

Call 311 - Ask **Parks Dept** to check sprinklers that have been running day and night, there are unattended homeless camps and trash, broken signs, or facilities.

Call 311 - Ask for **ABQ Community Services (ACS)** if homeless camps are set up and occupied.

Call 242-COPS – (242-2077) if illegal activity or folks acting strangely but **NOT** life threatening or aggressive; or to check out “campers” (people setting up to stay the night)

Call 911 – if weapons, or dangerous situations occur, or confrontations that may feel violent

Call ABQ Fire and Rescue – if there is ANY kind of fire – they have a crew that responds 24 hours a day

How?

- REPORT CRIME
- MAKE DONATIONS
- CONTACT US



**THE BOARD REQUESTS
THAT NEIGHBORS RESPOND AND REPORT
WHAT CRIMES/EVENTS THEY SEE**

- GO TO NPNA WEBSITE AND FOLLOW CRIME TAB
- GO TO APD WEBSITE DIRECTLY OR APD APP AND FILE A CRIME REPORT
- CALL 242-COPS OR 911 AND REPORT YOUR CRIME
- DO NOT CONFRONT CRIMINALS OR TAKE ACTION INTO YOUR OWN HANDS.
- KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR BLOCK CAPTAINS.
- BLOCK CAPTAINS CAN PROVIDE SUMMARIES TO THE BOARD. YOU CAN BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN!
- THE MORE CRIMES DOCUMENTED BY APD, THE MORE PATROLS THE NEIGHBORHOOD RECEIVES



*More
info*

NETHERWOODPARK.ORG

NETHERWOODPARK@GMAIL.COM

BOARD MEETINGS

EVERY SECOND WED OF THE MONTH
(EXCEPT FOR JULY AND DEC)



VOLUNTEER!

Attention, awesome residents of Netherwood Park! We need YOU to sprinkle your magic and join the board! Use your fabulous talents and hop onto a committee. Let's team up to create a buzzing community and dive into all the fun that activities can bring!
Let's make some memories together!

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH AN ANNUAL DONATION



NPNA WELCOMES NEW AND OLD NP RESIDENTS AND ENCOURAGES ALL TO MAKE A SUPPORTIVE ANNUAL DONATION OF \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD TO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS.

FILL OUT THIS FORM AND WRITE A CHECK **PAYABLE TO: NPNA**

MAIL TO CHERYL GERWIN 1711 STANFORD NE ABQ 87106

NAME (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOW DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY NPNA NEWSLETTER?

_____ I WILL JUST READ IT AT NPNA WEBSITE

_____ PLEASE EMAIL NEWSLETTERS TO: _____

_____ I PREFER A MAILED COPY

(REMEMBER, THE NPNA MUST PAY TO COPY AND FOR POSTAGE!)

*THANK
YOU!*