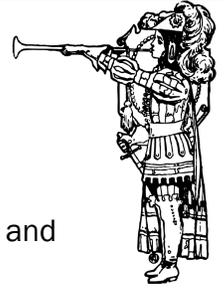


The Heritage East Herald

Volume XXVI, Issue I March 2016



HEAR's Mission: Heritage East Association of Residents is committed to preserving and enhancing the beauty, safety, and enjoyment of our neighborhood.

Message from the President - We're not in this alone

Last night, the first night of APS's Spring Break, we had our first ever (in 15 years in the neighborhood) doorbell-ditch. Given the issues with folks casing houses by ringing doorbells, knocking on doors and otherwise coming up with seemingly harmless excuses to come onto a property, we were concerned. After hearing what sounded like a firecracker about a block away we looked out our window and saw several individuals on the next corner. Long story short, we investigated, encountered three individuals running in front of and between our neighbor's houses, and knocked on the door of one of our neighbors to let them know that these three had run between their house and the house next door. We also called Tru Security to ask them to please come check the area for any further activity. Tru Security arrived quickly and though they didn't encounter the individuals, they check out a vehicle that was loitering in the area that quickly left when they realized that they were being monitored by security.

If you talk to your neighbors (I hope you are), receive emails from HEAR, follow the discussions on NextDoor (<https://heritageeast.nextdoor.com>), or watch the local news, incidents like this will not be news to you. The reason I share this story is that it illustrates some key things that all of us need to do to contribute to the safety and security of our neighborhood: pay attention, if you see something odd, take action (though always be careful), communicate with your neighbors, and use all of the resources that you have available to you:

- Your neighbors - the better you know your neighbors the better position you are in to recognize when something is amiss, and communicate your observation with those closest to you.
- Tru Security - we pay them to do more than drive through our neighborhood, they also respond to calls reporting suspicious behavior. While you may wait hours to get a response (if any) to a 242-COPS call, Tru Security is our resource for checking out those things that we are suspicious of but aren't crimes (yet). Their contact numbers are on page 4 of the newsletter and also on the HEAR website (<http://hear-online.org/useful-information/>)
- APD - if you see a crime in progress call 911 (and stay safe). If a crime has been committed but there isn't an ongoing threat to life or property call 242-COPS (2677). While it is critical to report all criminal activity to APD, understand that they are understaffed and must prioritize their responses so you're not likely to get a quick response to your 242-COPS call.
- HEAR - once you have taken care of the immediate neighbor/security/police communication needs, let us know (through the hear.newsletter@gmail.com or our web site - <http://hear-online.org/contact/>) so that we can get the information shared with the HEAR membership through our email list so that our neighbors are aware of the incident and can keep an eye out for themselves and each other.

Continued on pg. 7

HEAR General Membership Meeting

HEAR will be holding the next general membership meeting in April. All Heritage East residents are invited and encouraged to attend!!

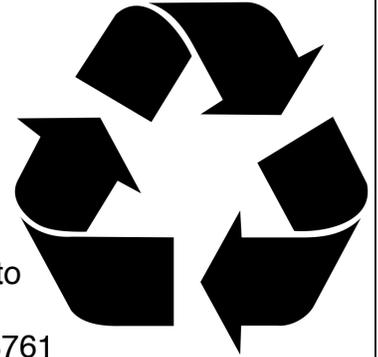
Date: Thursday April 21, 2016

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm (join us at 6:45 for a meet and greet).

Location: North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave NE
(west of Wyoming, just north of Paseo del Norte).

Aluminum Recycling Report

Total for 2015:1,017 lbs. \$514.16 (averaged 44 cents per pound)
 January 2016: 92 lbs., \$36.80
 February 2016: 112lbs., \$44.80
 March 2016: 77 lbs., \$34.05



Please save your recyclable aluminum for HEAR’s monthly recycling collection every first Saturday of the month from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at Rotary Park (7725 Quintana Dr.). All proceeds benefit HEAR. If you can’t make it to

the park, call Susan Tackman, HEAR Recycling Chair at 822-8761 to arrange an alternative way to donate your aluminum.



Photo Credit: Virginia DeBolt. Signs of Spring in New Mexico. <https://flic.kr/p/7ZL5UB>. CC-BY-NC-SA 2.0

Please note that the recycling company is under new management, and while it can still be recycled, **aluminum foil must now be separated from the aluminum cans.** Thanks for your help with separating the foil and cans prior to bringing them to the park.

Thanks to everyone who participates in our recycling program! -**Susan Tackman**

SOLD

Once you make the decision to buy or sell a home, you should call a trusted agent with experience. Dianna has 25+ years’ experience and has been trusted by over 150 Heritage East homeowners.

Dianna Johnson

Dianna@JohnsonTeam.com

798-9222



HEAR is recruiting a new Newsletter Coordinator. This position will become vacant in October 2016, but we would like to find a volunteer now so we can coordinate the transition next Fall. If you’re interested, or want more information, please contact Karl Benedict at hear.president@gmail.com or call 289-3943.

For The Birds (and Planet Earth)

This column is a short one; just a few words about what birds I am seeing in the yard, and a few tips from the National Audubon Society on how to make your yard more bird friendly.

Spring, or weather just like it, seems to have arrived early this year with trees, shrubs, forbes, and grasses already greening up. Birds seem to be starting courtship early too. Courtship is known to be triggered by day length, but I suspect that it may also be influenced by temperature.

The birds I am seeing in the yard right now are the usual ones such as Bushtits, House Sparrows, House Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Red-shafted Flickers, White-winged and Mourning Doves, Western Scrub Jays, Downy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, American Robins, and Pine Siskins. I have seen a couple of rapidly expanding Eurasian Collared Doves, and a few days ago I heard one of the last flocks of Sandhill Cranes as they flew overhead on their migration North.

On March 1 I saw my first butterfly for the year; a Sulphur, moving very fast in the back yard. While walking Maggie, the dog, I noticed a flowering plum already in bloom, and western fence lizards sunning themselves on the warm patio walls. Snakes will be next, so watch and listen for rattlesnakes.

For your consideration, here are the tips from the National Audubon Society on how to make your yard more bird friendly:

- Identify the non-native invasive plants in your region, and work to remove them from your yard. Don't bring new invasives into your backyard habitat! Invasives don't provide as much good food or habitat as natives do, and can threaten healthy ecosystems.
- Create and protect water sources in your yard—birds need water to drink and bathe in, just like we do. Be sure to keep birdbaths clean and change the water three times per week when mosquitoes are breeding.
- Let your yard get a little messy. Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
- Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations, and bright lights from windows and sky lights can disrupt their steering senses.

Happy Spring,

Bob Buttery, *Heritage East resident*



Image Credit: Cathy Calamas. <https://lic.kr/p/9vJ65>. CC-BY-SA 2.0



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Neighborhood Security



For emergencies call 911.
For non-emergencies call
APD at 505-242-COPS (2677)

For any non-emergency incidents and suspicious activity TRU Security can be contacted, day or night, at:
DAY (7am-7pm):
505-515-0067
NIGHT (7pm-7am):
505-712-8721



While we encourage you to send an email to HEAR at hear.newsletter@gmail.com about suspicious or criminal activity in the neighborhood, this should not take the place of calling 242-COPS for non emergency law enforcement issues, and 911 for Emergencies.



All of us play a role in keeping our neighborhood safe!

As you all know by now, our neighborhood association has been using "TRU Security" for some time to patrol our streets. I suspect that many have you have seen their patrol cars at some time or another. The officers drive white Ford Crown Vic's which are now clearly marked on both sides of the vehicles with the TRU Security logo.

There are a couple of things I'd like to make note of in this update. I want to thank all of you for the fact that, the number of incidents of 'Open Garage Doors' has gone down dramatically! Since last December TRU Security has reported only eight (8) open garage doors. In all cases the residents were informed by the patrol officer. Interestingly, however, one specific address accounted for four (4) of the incidents. Historically, we might see 8 open doors in a month or less. So, great job, neighbors!

Many of us in the Heritage East neighborhood are probably familiar with the website "Nextdoor". And, if so, you've seen many different notifications posted on all sorts of subjects, which sometimes include reports of various types of crimes as well as notices of suspicious vehicles or persons being spotted in our neighborhood.

If you witness a crime in progress, **call 911**. If you see ANY suspicious activity, regardless of what it is, TRU Security can be the perfect resource to be called upon, day or night! TRU will always respond (that's what we pay them for), often faster than APD is able to.

In addition to the dispatch numbers on the left, you may also directly call Captain Rodriguez: 505-321-8817 or Lieutenant Hall: 505-321-8818

So, bottom line: If you see something, don't hesitate to call TRU Security. They will respond!

Last word on TRU Security: Based on the responses we receive during our general membership meetings, the attending members are very supportive of maintaining TRU Security's services. In order to do that, we need to be able to pay the (discounted) \$1000+ per month fee that they charge. This means that, to sustain their service, we need an annual membership rate of approximately 600 households! And, neighbors, we aren't there yet! Our neighborhood has about 1240 homes, and, in 2015 we only had 476 paying households. PLEASE do your part and tell your neighbors we need their support by becoming HEAR dues paying members! Thank you all for your support in 2016 and onward!

Neil Schwartz, *Vice President*

HEAR Considering Neighborhood Watch Volunteers (Again)

Before HEAR contracted with TRU Security, HEAR volunteers organized and operated a neighborhood watch program. It included Friday and Saturday night patrols with two volunteers in a vehicle and another who responded to the patrol car calls and, in turn, contacted residents or the APD, as appropriate.

HEAR's President has explained how HEAR membership has declined over the past few years. TRU's monthly costs are \$1,071. Unless memberships increase, HEAR will have to suspend TRU's security contract.

How can we add security measures in addition to TRU? What could HEAR do if TRU is suspended? At the last Board meeting, the members discussed this and decided to share the ideas with you.

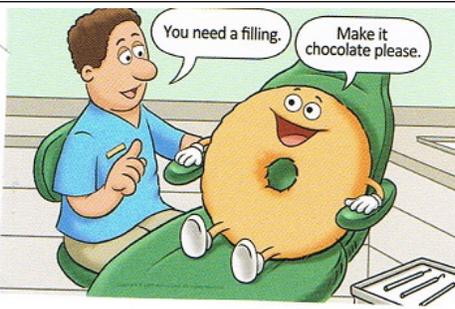
- A volunteer patrolling program requires a coordinator (co-coordinator is ideal) and monthly scheduling. About twelve, dedicated volunteers are needed to share the tasks to maintain such a program. They would be expected to coordinate use of personal vehicles and cell phones.
- A day-time volunteer walk/run initiative was discussed. This would not require a coordinator or monthly scheduling. Essentially, anyone who would like to be neighborhood day-time watch member would receive training and wear identifying attire (such as shirt below) or a vest and report suspicious activity to the APD (242-COPS or 911, as appropriate) while on a walk or run around the HEAR neighborhood. This activity would be best with at least two resident participants and require the use of the volunteer's cell phone.

Interested in helping us develop the ideas further? Want to discuss this with the Board? Come to the spring General Membership meeting on Thursday April 21st, or the next HEAR Board meeting on Monday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the North Domingo Baca Center, or contact the President at hear.president@gmail.com



Brenda McKenna, HEAR Board Member

"Something to smile about."




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Words of Wisdom
 Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Renew or Sign Up For Your
HEAR
Membership Now !**



Through our new online
signup and secure
payment page



<http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form/>

HEAR Treasurers' Report Summary

For the year ending 12/31/2015, there were 476 paid members. That represents 38% of the homes in our neighborhood. 2015 membership was down compared to 2014 when we had 493 paid members.

Our income in 2015 was \$12,424. Most of our income is generated by membership. Other major sources of income were from the newsletter ads (\$264) and aluminum recycling (\$441). Major expenses for the year were the security patrol at \$12,857, printing and mailing newsletters at \$2,204, and beautification efforts at \$1,500. Total income for the year was \$14,040 and expenses totaled \$17,096. The checking account balances at the end of 2015 totaled \$9,166. Thank you to those 476 members, and please encourage your neighbors to join HEAR.

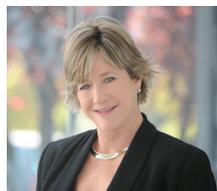


Jeff Figiel, *Treasurer*

<http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form/>

Email Updates

HEAR sends out frequent email updates with helpful information regarding things like lost and found animals and items of value, suspicious activity, upcoming events, and notifications of proposals that have a potential to impact our neighborhood. Paid members are eligible to receive these updates. If you wish to receive these updates, please include your email address when you fill out the form to join or renew your membership. If your email address changes after you have sent in your membership form and dues, please contact Cynthia Benedict at: hear.newsletter@gmail.com and provide an updated address. **Note:** After April 30, 2016 email updates will only be sent only to those residents who are paid members of HEAR in 2016 and who have provided a current email address.



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President's Message (cont. from pg. 1)

While Tru Security is a valued service that your membership dues support, they are not the only tool in our toolbox for maintaining the security of our neighborhood. We all must take responsibility for contributing to our neighborhood's safety and security. In addition to the critical communication and sharing actions above we also need everyone's support in helping to cover the costs of the service that Tru Security provides. If we can't increase our annual membership numbers to at least 600 (about 130 more than we had last year) out of our 1240 homes in Heritage East, we won't collect enough funds to cover the annual costs of the security patrols. This is not sustainable and if we don't meet our membership target we will have to discontinue the service.

For those of you who have already joined or renewed for 2016 - THANK YOU! For those of you who have been waiting, the time is now. You can join or renew your membership through our website (<http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form/>) or by mailing in the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Thanks in advance for your continued support of the neighborhood and for your contributions to making HEAR the place we want to live.

Karl Benedict, *HEAR Board President* - hear.president@gmail.com

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

How do I report a zoning or weed ordinance violation?

To report a violation for zoning, weeds, or litter, call 311. You will have the option to remain anonymous.

Can an RV be parked on private property in an R-1 zone?

RVs, boats, and boat trailers may be parked outside in a side or rear yard, provided that no part of the unit extends over the public sidewalk. The unit can only be used for dwelling purposes for a maximum of 14 days. Cooking is not permitted and there can be no permanent connection for water, sewer, or electricity.

How long is a dumpster permitted to sit in a driveway or on private property?

Construction dumpsters and/or temporary storage units (i.e. "pods", "mobile minis" etc.) are allowed by Code enforcement to be placed on private property in conjunction with a city-permitted construction project for the duration of the work. For projects that do not require a city permit, Code Enforcement typically allows a property owner to place them on their lot for up to 180 days. Dumpsters or units that are placed in the street are not regulated by the Code Enforcement Division, but the homeowner does need to obtain a barricading permit from the Department of Municipal Development for dumpsters placed in the street.

— excerpts from <https://www.cabq.gov/planning/planning-faqs/building-safety-faqs>

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- Walter Blood**- Secretary
- Jeff Figiel**-Treasurer 856-0042
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Heritage East Association of Residents (HEAR) Membership Form

If you have already sent in your dues for 2016, **Thank You!**

You may use this form to *renew* your membership or *join for the first time*.

You can also sign-up and pay online at: <http://hear-online.org/online-membership-form>



Last Name(s) _____

First Name(s) _____

HEAR Street Address _____

Physical address in the neighborhood

Newsletter Delivery Preference:

- Paper Copy (via mail)
- Electronic Copy (via provided email)
- Both Paper & Electronic
- None

Email Address _____

For delivery of the Neighborhood Newsletter (if requested) and email updates. Please differentiate between "1" and "0" (zero) and similar letters

Alternative Mailing Address _____

If you would like the Neighborhood Newsletter delivered to a different address than your HEAR Street Address

Phone Number: Home _____ Other _____

Notes or Comments _____

Membership Dues are \$25/calendar year per household. Please make your check or money order out to HEAR and mail it, along with this form to:

HEAR, PO Box 92465, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2465