

# HUNING HIGHLAND GUARDIAN



The newsletter for the Huning Highland Historic District Association, Albuquerque, NM since 1977

November 2009

## **Next Board Meeting Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 PM**

The next regular board meeting will be at the old Horn Gas Station at the corner of Coal and Walter. This old gas station is the home of The Albuquerque Conservation Association (TACA) and also the community center for the Huning Highland Historic District Association (HHHDA). Please come and join us!

## **Understanding the LUCC by Lauren Austin**

Have you ever noticed the bright pink or yellow posters hanging on a neighbor's fence or in their window?

Living in a Historic District brings its special rewards that are found nowhere else in Albuquerque: beautiful homes, wonderful neighbors, and events like the Dickens of a Dinner, the Mother's Day Tour, & the Easter Egg Hunt. It also brings special responsibilities to the home owners and residents.

The Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission is a part of the City of Albuquerque's Planning Department and responsible to protect the four historical overlay districts and help maintain the unique flavor of each district.

Huning Highland was the first subdivision of Albuquerque and was called "New Town" as it set the eastern boundary of the growing city in contrast to the original city now called "Old Town." Franz Huning purchased the land and subdivided it for the growing population of people coming from back east in the 1890's to work on

the railroad. Our neighborhood certainly shows the diversity of styles popular around the turn of the 20th Century.

The LUCC is charged with maintaining the exterior appearance of the homes to reflect their historical integrity and must be contacted whenever you want to make certain changes to the exterior of your home like replacing windows, building a fence, or adding a room to name a few (remembering even after LUCC's decision you may still need to obtain building permits.) For some projects you may be able to obtain a staff approval but for larger ones you may have to appear in front of the Commissioners for approval.

So how do you go about the process? First get a clear idea of what you want to do. Get information or samples of the products (windows, fencing, etc) that you plan to use. Draw up a site plan. It doesn't have to be fancy but make sure your measurements and perspectives are accurate. Call Maryellen Hennessy at LUCC (924-3891) and set up an appointment. She'll discuss your

plans with you and provide you with the forms you will need to complete ( not hard) and either approve it on a staff decision or help you apply for a Commission hearing. She'll send you downstairs to the planning counter to file your paperwork, pay your application fee (if required), and get your signs to post. There are a few exceptions: paint color is yours to choose without discussing it with the LUCC as well as repairs in an emergency situation (leaking roofs) as long as the work maintains the character of the home and complies with the Huning Highland Design Overlay requirements which are available on the City of Albuquerque's website. I would suggest speaking with Maryellen anyway.

What happens if you ignore the proper process? Possible fines and, in some cases, (aluminum or vinyl windows as an example) the unapproved work must be removed and replaced with approved materials. Has it happened? Yes! Will it happen to you? No, not as long as you understand the process and follow all the right steps. •

## Community Garden News By Bonnie Anderson

Several interested neighbors and Board members have contacted me about participating in a community garden at the community center at Coal and Walter. The Huning Highland Historic District Association Board is considering a budget for the start up costs which would include some bobcat work to remove a foot of soil from

the proposed garden space, 60 cubic yards of topsoil, rental of a trencher to prepare for the irrigation system, irrigation supplies, permits and plumbing services. Board members Lee Spittler and Steve Grant have been especially helpful in getting this preliminary budget work completed. When the budget is approved, in-

terested gardeners will be invited to a meeting at the site to make plans for volunteering to help get the site preparation completed. We still have room for a few more gardeners. If you are interested, please leave a message for me at 242-8848. •

## Dickens of a Dinner Volunteers needed! By Kay Adams

Our neighborhood's big fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 from 3-10 PM. The money raised from this event pays for our newsletter, website, and various community activities such as our annual Easter Egg hunt and Annual meetings. This is your chance to get involved in some fun activities while helping out the neighborhood. We need the following volunteers:

Tour Guides - Lead house tours from 3 PM to 4:30 PM (info & maps provided)  
Wait Staff - serve & bus tables from 5 PM to 6:30 PM

Kitchen Staff - prepare plates for wait staff from 4:45 to 7:00 PM (also run dishwasher)  
Decorations - help decorate the church from 9 AM to about 1 PM  
Exterior Decoration - help decorate homes in the neighborhood (as time allows).

All volunteers will be able to attend the Victorian Ball for \$20/person (half off the admission price). The Ball is some of the most fun you can have with your clothes on! If you can walk, you can dance! All of the dances are "called" much like a square dance,

but easier!

If you want to volunteer, contact Ann Carson at 242-1143 or Kay Adams 417-9519.

If you'd like to attend the Dickens of a Dinner to support your neighborhood association. Costs are \$40/person Dinner and House Tours only, \$40/person Victorian Ball Only or \$65/person House Tours, Dinner & Ball.

Call Ann Carson for reservations. Victorian costume is requested for the ball, however, formal evening-wear is also acceptable. •

## Yard Sale/Tree Program By Joni Neutra

The neighborhood sponsored a yard sale on October 3rd which was a success in several ways. Twelve households participated in the event and the association manned several tables at Preservation Station that raised money for various projects thanks to donations from our neighbors. The total profit was over \$370.00.

There were other benefits such as visiting with people who were stopping by for maps to the sale locations and meeting new folks interested in our future garden plots at the Station.

Thanks to all of you who donated

items for the Association to sell and those that helped in the selling.

We plan to host a spring yard sale in April or May stay tuned. •

### Memorial Tree Program

The city Parks Division has a wonderful tree program which you can purchase a tree and plaque to commemorate a loved one, event, anniversary graduation, you name it. They will plant the tree and maintain it in Highland Park. We have space in our park and need new trees planted for the future. For more info contact Michelle at 857-8650. •

### HHHDA Contact Information

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jgarofalo@hotmail.com

Vice President  
Amberley Pyles  
apyles505@msn.com

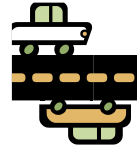
Secretary  
Bonnie Anderson  
505-242-8848

Treasurer  
Ann Carson  
a.louisa.carson@gmail.com

## Lead-Coal Project Update *By Bonnie Anderson*

Maybe you had the same thought I did when I read that \$150 million in capital outlay projects were frozen due to the budget crisis in our state. I thought, "There goes the Lead/Coal project." But I was wrong. Since the money for this project is coming from federal (stimulus) sources, the project is still going ahead. While there are still several steps before final

approval by various agencies looking at historical, environmental, and traffic safety aspects of the project, city project managers are optimistic that construction will begin in January. If every agency takes its full statutory time for project review, the start could be delayed until May. The project is slated to be completed



within 18 months, including all of the irrigated landscaping. If you want to look at detailed plans for the project, leave a message on my home machine (242-8848) and I will call you back with the logon and password for the site for the contractor Wilson and Company. •

## October 7th Board Meeting Notes *By Karen Doty*

It's election time for the new year and the new and returning of-ficers are as follows:

President  
Joaquin Garofalo

Vice President  
Amberley Pyles

Secretary  
Bonnie Anderson

Treasurer  
Ann Carson

We appreciate all of the volunteers that give their time to serve the Neighborhood Association.

Our largest fundraiser is fast approaching. Dickens of a Dinner that is now combined with the Victorian Ball, is scheduled for December 12th. We are starting to send out the first flyers next week and hope to have a great turnout and a wonderful event. This is a huge endeavor and we can use lots

of volunteers. We have been trying to improve the event, while trying to make things easier on all who participate. The dinner this year will be a catered affair and many of the activities will be centered at the Greek Church, but we will still have great houses in the neighborhood to tour and the added charm of the Victorian Ball to work off some of those calories. This is a great time to show off the charm of our neighborhood and fund some of our yearly activities at the same time. If you would like to participate, please contact Ann Carson or any of the other Board members.

The Lead – Coal construction project has progressed forward with the bond proposal that passed in this past election. We didn't accomplish everything that we wanted, but it is a vast improvement over what was originally planned. Thanks to all the people that have worked so hard to follow the progress of this issue. While

things have been set in motion, be patient, things may take some time before they are completed.

Our fall yard sale was a success and raised over \$370 for the neighborhood with the combined sale of donations and the advertising of participating homes. We hope to repeat the event next spring and combine it with a plant exchange, so continue to look for items that would be more than welcome in a new home. We are actively pursuing setting up a new website for the neighborhood, which will provide additional services and give us more control over the content of the site. Luckily, we have lots of people that have looked out for our presence on the internet over the years and will continue to bring us into the future. If you have an interest in helping with the website operation, please contact one of the Board members. •

## RR Underpass Upgraded *By Ann Carson*

The city has glamorized the walk-ways under the tracks on Central. Metal arches lead to the path that is lit with changing colored lights. Due to the suggestion of downtown restaurant owner,

Nick Manole, the inside panels are lined with historic photographs. Rail runner guards now monitor pedestrians. So - check it out! •

If you have a Community Event you would like to publicize, please send information to the Editor at [neutra@gmail.com](mailto:neutra@gmail.com). There is no charge for this service. All events will be added on a "space-available" basis.

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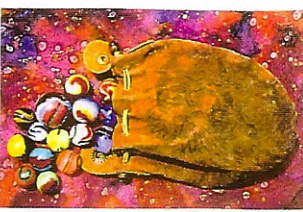
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