

HUNING HIGHLAND GUARDIAN



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

July 2011

Annual Block Party *By Amberley Pyles*

Join us for our fiesta on August 21st from 5:00-8:00 pm The Preservation Station (the old gas station and location of the community garden on the corner of Coal and Walter). **Bring a dish to share and remember to walk or bring your bikes!!**

Our annual block party is right around the corner, and we hope everyone will join us again this year. For those of you who attended last year, you know that we had a terrific time with plenty of good food, drink, and camaraderie. Again this year there will be live music by a local rock band named New Mexico Brown Dog. As we did last year,

we're asking people to bring Mexican style dishes including tortillas, green salads, salsas, guacamole, chips, cheeses, dips, beans, rice, and/or anything else that sounds delicious: The more food the better!

We will be collecting annual membership dues and contact information from anyone interested in becoming a part of building a vibrant neighborhood. A raffle is planned to raise money for the community garden's newest addition: 11 chickens.

There will be plenty of activities for children, so please bring your kids, your neighbors, your friends and your relatives. It's been an

exciting year for us, and we want to show off our community garden and our community center while getting to meet and talk with as many neighbors as possible. This organization belongs to all of us, so join in the fun and find out about our rapidly expanding community-based efforts.

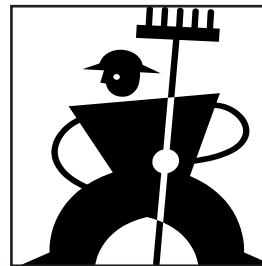
If you would like to help with festivity preparations, please contact Amberley Pyles (apyles505@msn.com) or Joni Neutra at 508 0501. We can always use an extra hand and greatly appreciate everyone's help and participation.

Here's the Dirt *By Bonnie Anderson*

The best part about the Huning Highlands Community Garden is not the vegetables or the flowers or the chickens. It is the community of workers! We get together every Saturday morning around 8:30 and figure out what needs to be done. This involves a fair amount of conversation which leads to discussion of future projects at the garden. After some coffee (Angela and Dylan donate a pot of fresh brewed coffee every Saturday morning), we get to work. As we work, we let the chickens into the vegetable garden to eat bugs. Each week we harvest something new that has reached maturity and frequently eat the vegetable right there on

the spot. As the morning heats up and our work projects are completed, we leave the garden drenched in sweat but with a sense of accomplishment in maintaining one of the most beautiful gardens in the city.

Our most recent drama was figuring out how to protect the chickens from a wayward raccoon that invaded our neighborhood. Lee attached some screening to a back vent window on the coop that we leave open all summer.



Then we had to figure out a way to secure the small trapdoor that the chickens use to exit the coop to get into the fenced yard with the compost pile....something a raccoon couldn't figure out. We decided on a temporary measure of a heavy cement block. Now we close the chickens in every night and let them out every morning. So far so good.

We have 16 families that are participating this year with five families on the waiting list for next year. If you have questions about the garden or want to be added to the waiting list for next year, please contact me at 242-8848.

Walking vs. Driving By Bonnie Anderson

Two of the most difficult issues brought before the HHHDA Board recently are parking lot issues. Currently there is a paved parking lot at the top of the hill by the Press Club. Under the new design for the park, the parking lot would be removed and landscaped since it is part of the park property. The circular drive would be maintained as a city street which would allow access to the Press Club. The Press Club feels that the removal of the parking lot would cause their business to close. Even though they have an agreement with the nearby Greek church to use their parking lot for customers, the Press Club feels that customers would not be willing to walk the extra steps from that parking lot and that they would go elsewhere with their business.

Several Board members have participated in the open meetings conducted by the design team selected by the City to remodel our

park. Those Board members support this redesign effort and spoke to the full Board about how a remodeled park would enhance our neighborhood. While the Board is appreciative of the willingness of the Press Club to allow neighborhood activities on Press Club property, they decided that the benefit of a remodeled park outweighed the benefit of allowing customers of the Press Club to park very close to that business. In addition, one neighbor spoke to the Board about the noise level on the outside patios late at night as a disturbance rather than an asset to the neighborhood. The Board sent a letter to the City in support of the park design which includes the removal of the hilltop parking lot.

Another difficult parking lot issue involves the empty lot at 119 Arno (close to the Standard Diner) that is being used as a parking lot. The owner of that dirt lot has requested a zoning variance so that

it could be paved, landscaped, and used as a parking lot. The Board notes that once a property turns into a parking lot, it never is used for any other purpose. Further, the strength and vitality of our neighborhood depends on a rich mix of residential and commercial uses. We support walkability and want to reduce the impact of vehicles in our neighborhood. Instead of using a property in the middle of a block for parking, we suggest that the Standard Diner work with the City to use the parking garage across Central, only a block away. In addition, on street parking is also allowed on Arno and the adjoining neighborhood streets. The Board has participated in one facilitated arbitration meeting with the property owner. Following this meeting, the property owner withdrew his request.

HHHDA Contact Information

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Secretary • Bonnie Anderson
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Treasurer • Lee Spittler
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Check out HHHDA on the web:
www.hhhda.org

If you have a Community Event you would like to publicize, please send information to the Editor at neutra@gmail.com.

There is no charge for this service. All events will be added on a "space-available" basis.

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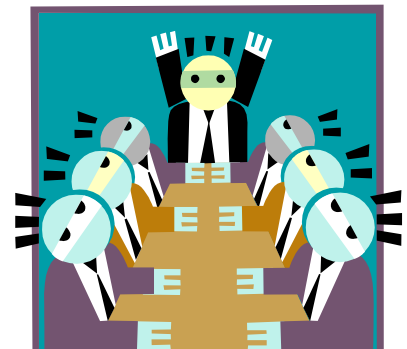
HHHDA 2011 Annual Meeting and Elections

Please join us for the annual meeting and elections! This general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 pm at The Preservation Station at 601 Coal SE, on the northeast corner of Coal and Walter

Every year, our association hosts an annual meeting to report to the membership on activities, accomplishments, and financials of the previous year and to hold elections. 2010-2011 has been a busy and productive year, so there's much to discuss, including the annual block party, the annual yard sale, the annual Easter Egg tour, the biannual Mother's Day tour, Dickens of a Dinner, the community garden, the chicken co-op, parking, and design plans for Highland Park. The board will present financial statements for each of these events and account for monies raised and spent.

After reporting on the board's activities and accomplishments, we will hold our annual elections. The table lists those board members up for re-election. Please note that there is one vacancy at this time, but we can accept an unlimited number of candidates.

Term ending August 2011	Term ending August 2012
	Anderson, Bonnie
Bromberg, Ryan	Donaldson, David
Carson, Ann	vacant
Forrester, Phoenix	Gonzalez, Moises
Grassel, Kathy	Grant, Steve
Hoch, Liam	Pyles, Amberley
Thornton, Karla	Spittler, Lee



If you wish to run for the board, you may either contact me (Amberley Pyles - 573 5544 or apyles505@msn.com) before the annual meeting, or you may attend the meeting and nominate yourself before the elections. In order to have your name appear on the ballot, please contact me no later than 8/21/11. Only HHHDA members may vote, so please renew your membership at our website <http://hvhda.squarespace.com/become-a-member/> or in person at the start of our annual meeting. As the website explains, family, resident, business, and property owner memberships cost \$5 each, while individual resident memberships cost \$3. Each membership receives one vote, except family resident memberships, which receive 2 votes.

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