

## BOARD MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the next Board meeting of the Las Americas Owners Association 7:00 pm, Tuesday, July 22, 2008, in the Breakfast Room of The Comfort Suites, 1435 Avenida de Las Americas. Board meetings are held every three months on the Fourth Tuesday of the month. Check future editions of the newsletter for exact dates.

## LAS AMERICAS HELP LINE

Residents are expected to be considerate and respectful neighbors. The Las Americas Owners Association encourages residents to resolve any differences by 1) discussing concerns with the other neighbor(s) involved and 2) coming to a satisfactory agreement with your neighbor(s). If you are still unsuccessful, individuals from the Board of Directors volunteer to assist with settlement of issues. For the months of July, August and September, you may contact Babette Hartman at 577-6808.

## ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

Copies of Las Americas Owners Association documents are available online. Point your browser to [www.RealEstateInSantaFe.com/americas/](http://www.RealEstateInSantaFe.com/americas/).

## BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Miller, *President, Newsletter Author/Editor* 471-4026 (2009)

Susan Laskowski, *Vice President, Architectural Review Committee* 954-4482 (2009)

Vicki Bowser, *Secretary, Architectural Review Committee* 473-2657 (2010)

Anke Mihalas, *Treasurer* 474-0870 (2008)

Babette Hartman, *Architectural Review Committee* 577-6808 (2011)

Meredith D. Brown, *Bookkeeper* 466-4969

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

We recently held our first Neighborhood Watch meeting. It was great to see so many of you there, along with some people from Kachina Ridge.

Officer Louis Montoya from the Santa Fe Police Department gave a great presentation and answered questions. Some highlights of his presentation follow:

- ✓ Call in suspicious activities to 428-3710. At approximately 6:10 p.m. he noted that there were only 9 officers on patrol in the city so they need our help. All calls are important, and they will respond. When the police and the community work together, it creates a safer community.
- ✓ If you see a suspicious vehicle in the neighborhood, get the make, model and license plate number and then call the police.
- ✓ If you have minor issues with a neighbor, try to work things out (see the information at the left under the Help Line.) Most problems arise out of lack of respect or consideration for the other person. **For serious problems such as possible drug trafficking or continued problems with noise or pets, call the police at 428-3710. The police monitor how many complaints are made about a residence and if there are a significant number they can invoke the Nuisance Abatement Law and turn the information over to the City Attorney, who can take action.**



*Continued on Page 2*

## LANDSCAPING

Most of you have probably noticed that two trees were removed and concrete work has been done near the third entrance to our complex. Roots from the trees had spread under the sidewalks, cracking the cement and pushing sidewalks up, making them unsafe and a liability.



Now it's time to decide whether to replace the trees with ones with a non-invasive root system, or plant some ornamental cactus.

This is an agenda item for the next board meeting on July 22nd. We welcome input from everyone, particularly those who live close to the area and will see it every day, so please come and share your ideas.



Neighborhood Watch, Continued from Page 1

- ✓ Dial 911 for emergencies. Emergencies include fights where there is physical contact and break-ins.
- ✓ In the six (6) months prior to the meeting, there were 19 calls to the police from Avenida de Las Americas (4 came from Comfort Suites) for burglaries, domestic violence, larceny, and motor vehicle accidents.
- ✓ 90% to 95% of residential burglaries occur during the day, so it's important that we watch out for each other. Burglars, who often work in pairs, are usually in and out within minutes. In addition to the usual TV's and computers, they tend to target bedrooms since most people keep valuables in the bedrooms. Try to find an alternate room to keep some of your smaller valuables, such as jewelry that you don't often wear.
- ✓ If you purchase an alarm system for your home, get an audible alarm; it might deter the burglars. Also, if possible, purchase your alarm system locally since the response time will be quicker, and it will be quicker to repair your system.
- ✓ Engrave your valuables. Use your driver's license number (starting with the 2-letter state abbreviation) on larger items. Photograph items that you cannot or do not wish to engrave, such as jewelry or artwork. Many associations purchase an engraver and loan it out to residents. This will be an agenda item at the next board meeting.
- ✓ A neighborhood of our size typically has 2-3 block captains. Block captains coordinate activities of Watch participants, visits with residents to encourage participation, acts as a liaison with the Police Department, and holds new meetings. More information will be available at the July meeting.

## CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

There are just a few qualifications:

- Attendance at quarterly meetings
- Help Line participation
- Commitment to serve
- Association Membership dues must be up to date



If you would like to become a Director, please attend the next board meeting on July 22nd to express your interest.

## VEHICLES IN LAS AMERICAS

Many neighbors are excited to be taking an active part in Neighborhood Watch! The first step we are taking is to clear the neighborhood of unlicensed, abandoned, or unauthorized vehicles.



Our Rules and Regulations, amended 10/15/02, state: "Owners and Residents shall maintain all vehicles in an operating condition with valid license and registration. The Association may remove from the Properties and dispose of any vehicle that is inoperable, unlicensed, unregistered or abandoned. The Association may deem a vehicle abandoned if it has not been moved from its location for a period of at least sixty (60) days, even if the vehicle is operable, licensed and/or registered...."

A recent walk through Las Americas revealed a vehicle with expired license tags, an abandoned vehicle with a flat tire, and an unlicensed vehicle. To keep our neighborhood safe and clean, any unlicensed, abandoned, or unauthorized vehicle will be towed from Las Americas private property by Express Towing. Owners of the towed vehicles may call 471-9605 for more information.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 5th is National Night Out around the country. This is an opportunity for the community to get to know law enforcement agencies. Santa Fe's event will take place on the Plaza. Come on down and talk with some of our local agencies.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have any suggestions for our Newsletter? Send news items or ideas to Linda Miller, LAOA, P.O. Box 15456, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87592-5456, or email me at psalm@cnsf.com.

Would you like to be on the mailing list? Just mail us your name and address. **Owners of investment property are reminded to provide a copy of this newsletter to tenants.**

